

## CHAPTER 8 — PARKS AND RECREATION

This chapter is an overview of present and future parks and recreation in Cowley and includes possible concepts for a walking and biking path.

### COWLEY'S PARKS

The Cowley Town Park, a 3.4-acre park immediately north of the downtown commercial district, is Cowley's main park. The park includes an outdoor swimming pool, outdoor ice rink, a baseball field, horseshoe pits, volleyball courts, a basketball/tennis court, a playground, and a picnic shelter. The Town is currently building a new baseball field on 5 acres of town-owned land south of 4th Street South near the future location of the new Rocky Mountain High School. The Town also owns the Log Gym, the historic structure that is used for indoor recreation. The Cowley Planning Survey (see Chapter 2) found that most Cowley citizens felt that the town parks are in good condition and no additional parks are needed.



*Cowley Town Park*

### FUTURE PARKS

While Cowley has plenty of good park space now, additional park land should be considered in the future as the town grows. It would be preferable if there was a playground within a quarter mile of any residential area in town. Most residences in town are now within a quarter-mile of the town park and the elementary school playground. However, if the town were for instance, to have a new residential development west of the Draw a small park would be needed there. The Town should remain mindful of the need to have neighborhood parks if the town expands outward.

Many communities in the region require subdivision developers to allocate a portion of the land in the development as park land. For instance, Powell requires six percent of the subdivision land or a cash equivalent to be used for future parks. Cowley should consider such a requirement for subdivisions beyond the present town limits. This would ensure that new additions to town have the playgrounds and

small parks that make for pleasant, family-friendly communities.

### WALKING AND BIKING PATHS

A majority of respondents to the Cowley Planning Survey felt that the town needs walking and biking paths. The town presently has extensive platted street rights-of-way with no actual street. The Town also owns some vacant lots in the northwest corner of town. These holdings could form the basis for a trail location particularly if supplemented by easements over private land. The town could have a nice nature trail by including areas along the Wash.