

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

As part of the preparation of the Plan of Conservation and Development, a City Department Head Questionnaire was developed and Department Heads were asked to comment on current and/or anticipated needs of their departments during the planning period. In regards to community facilities they were asked to comment on the greatest need for their departments over the next five to ten years and in particular major needs to be considered in the Plan. Their input as well as comments, criticisms and ideas are all reflected in this chapter: Community Facilities.

Hot Springs facilities, places managed by the city or by community partners, are what increase the quality of life for our citizens and make for enjoyable stays by our visitors. By assessing the needs, assets and areas for improvement in each of our facilities on a regular basis ensures that we are addressing the needs of our citizens and the future generations.

Recreational facilities

City Parks

The *City of Hot Springs Parks and Recreation ad hoc Committee* along with city staff worked closely with Tallgrass Landscape Architects in 2014 to develop a Parks Master Plan: Hot Springs City Parks Needs Assessment and the Butler Park Master Plan. The Plan identifies each of the 16 city parks and public open spaces and lays out their plans for improvement or development. The process to develop the plan was painstakingly detailed and it is evident in the plan's comprehensiveness and its ongoing support to be implemented. The goals laid out in the plan are:

The City of Hot Springs is committed to:

- Retain and Protect Cultural Assets
- Reinvest & Rehabilitate historic properties and /or features
- Encourage a variety of recreation facilities and opportunities
- Provide ADA Accessibility – in areas w/ high levels of pedestrian activity
- Offer safe, quality, unique recreational opportunities throughout the city

Hot Springs Park and Recreation Goals

- Maintain and improve upon the existing park system
- Improve upon and expand the Freedom Trail system
- Provide for ADA access to parks and recreational amenities
- Expand the park system if in the best interest of the community
- Provide park amenities based on the needs and values of the citizens of Hot Springs

Comprehensive Plan Goals for Community Recreation

- Obtain land in flood zone for public use
- Continue Revitalization of Evergreen Cemetery
- Obtain vacated railroad rights-of-way for the expansion of the Mickelson Trail to Minnekahta Junction as available

As part of the Plan of Conservation the Parks Master Plan: Hot Springs City Parks Needs Assessment and the Butler Park Master Plan should be adopted in entirety.

Southern Hills Golf Course

Southern Hills Golf Course was constructed in 1978 as a nine-hole public golf course. The original nine-hole course (the front nine) is a relatively short routing with good sightlines, tree-lined fairways and dramatic elevation changes. In 2005, the course was expanded to eighteen holes. The new nine (the back nine) is longer and somewhat more spread out as it was designed as part of a residential housing development. The back nine is not a walkable course as the distances between holes are quite long.¹

The course is owned by the City of Hot Springs and is currently operated as a public daily-fee facility. Overseen by the *Golf Course Advisory Board*, the Southern Hills Golf Course has become a premier public golf course in South Dakota and the region. From the Southern Hills Golf Course website <http://www.hotspringssdgolf.com> :

Situated within the Spearfish Formation, the bright colors of the fairways, greens and ponderosa pine contrast wonderfully with red rock canyons and blue South Dakota skies.

Boasting over 380 feet of elevation change, including one par 3 with a 35' tee to green difference, Southern Hills Golf Course offers a challenge, but also rewards players with its natural beauty and seamless integration into the local topography.

With five different teeing areas, including a new junior tees, all levels of players can enjoy our unforgettable course.

In 2014 the Golf Course Advisory Board, along with key members of the Golf Course staff and active golf enthusiasts contracted with golf course consultants HERFORT NORBY GOLF COURSE ARCHITECTS to develop the Golf Course Master Plan. In it, the plan describes the progressive steps to continue to move the SHGC forward in establishing it as one of the top daily-fee courses in the Upper Midwest. The plan outlines goals specifically for: critical items necessary for safety, goals to make the course more competitive within the region and goals that are more

comprehensive to the overall course management including Audubon International recommendations for environmental stewardship.

As part of the Plan of Conservation the Golf Course Master Plan should be adopted in its entirety.

On a day to day basis the main goal of the staff at the Southern Hills Golf Course is to increase the number of daily rounds; to increase the playability of the course and increase customer satisfaction in play.

SHGC currently employees 2 full-time year round employees and budgets for five 40hr/week seasonal (8 month) employees. The current staffing is only sufficient for maintaining daily upkeep and playability standards. In house improvement projects, increased administrative responsibilities, major repairs and a rise in course standards all would require more staffing.

Quote:

What is the Purpose of a Golf Course?

A municipal golf course serves a vital role in a City, providing value-based recreation and leisure entertainment to its citizens.

It serves as an entry door to the game as it introduces individuals to the sport, its rules, and its defining culture. It is the only sport in which professionals are role models who demonstrate that referees are not necessary for an event to be fair and fun.

For families and friends, golf is an opportunity to enjoy each other's company via a walk through nature's preserve. For the competitive athlete, it is an arena to demonstrate one's ability. For business men and women, it is an office; and for the retired, it serves as a place to meet, exercise, and enjoy the rewards of a life of diligent effort. ~ Golf Convergence, Inc.

Evan's Plunge Mineral Springs

Established in 1890, Evans Plunge is the oldest tourist attraction in the Black Hills. The warm natural spring-fed waters maintain an average pool temperature of 87 degrees F and flow into the pool at a rate of 5000 gallons per minute, completely refreshing the pool's water every 90 minutes. For thousands of years, the valley of healing waters, called "wiwila kata" by the Lakota (meaning warm waters), was prized for the thermal spring-fed river. Both the Lakota and Cheyenne utilized the natural river of warm water springs that flows through present-day Hot Springs.

In 1881 the spring was held by Joe Brimdschmidt. He traded the spring to Joe Petty for a horse valued at thirty-five dollars. Petty then sold the Plunge springs to Dr. Stewart who filed on the surrounding land.

In the end, Evans Plunge, so named after its builder Fred Evans, was built in 1890 over the numerous small, sparkling springs and one mammoth spring of mineral water. Originally, Evans Plunge and the other mineral baths in Hot Springs were sought as a cure-all for a multitude of illnesses.

*"They [the springs] were the resort of the Indians long before the white man found his way into the jealously guarded realms of the Black Hills, and were considered by the red man as a panacea for all ills. This water has been found useful in the treatment of chronic diseases of the gastro-intestinal tract, diseases of the liver and biliary passages, and in rheumatism and arthritic joint disturbances, gout, and others."*³ —Mineral Waters of the United States by Dr. W.E. Fitch.

The largest spring, at the north end of the pool in the interior of the Plunge, is known as the "Original Indian Spring." Here Native Americans drank and bathed in the spring's warm healing water. Today, numerous areas of warm sparkling springs may be felt as one moves through the crystal clear water towards the original Indian Spring.

Much has changed in Hot Springs since 1890. No longer promoted as a cure for ills, the water still invites visitors for rejuvenation, refreshment, relaxation and recreation. Purchased by the City of Hot Springs in 2013, Evans Plunge is forging a new name for itself by looking to its past. With each day the City of Hot Springs is working diligently to restore Evans Plunge to the iconic tourist destination it has been for over a century."⁴ <http://www.evansplunge.com>.

The original Native American name for the Hot Springs area was "Minnekahta," which means "warm water." The founding citizens of Hot Springs chose a slightly misleading name in English. The water at Evans Plunge and in Hot Springs is 87 degrees Fahrenheit year-round, which means it is slightly cooler than body temperature but also quite warmer than other pools. Many "hot" water springs tend to smell of sulphur, but the water here is crystal clear and scentless, which is a huge asset.⁴

Chemical Analysis of Evans Plunge Mineral Springs Water:

Water Temperature: 87 Degrees Fahrenheit

Total Residue: 87.9995

Inorganic and Non-Volatile: 4.9160

Organic and Volatile: 8.050

Sulphate of Sodium: 8.824

Sulphate of Potassium: 3.331
Sulphate of Calcium: 16.290
Nitrate of Magnesium: 0.150
Iron Sesquioxide: 0.260
Alumina: 0.021
Silica: 1.830

EP by the numbers

As statement to the City's commitment to the Plunge as not only a tourist attraction but a year-round amenity for its citizens the Evan's Plunge Advisory Board is working diligently on their own Master Plan. The plan is anticipated to be completed in 2018-2019. A preview into some of their goals show their focus to be around safety, maintenance, staff and customer experience.

Stair climbs and other trails

Hot Springs is blessed with a great trail system linking our parks and the community together. There are walking trails, running trails, biking trails and trails that climb – all the time submersing the user is the vista, sights and sounds of the Hot Springs valley. Some bright-eyed and active souls have started a Climb Hot Springs community to take advantage of the incredible staircase we have throughout the downtown areas. Five major staircases exist, the largest being the Grand Stairs connecting North River Street and the VA. It has over 140 steps! The citizen lead Climb Hot Springs group has held their inaugural race event in 2016. It was a huge success and other annual races are being planned and run. Learn more about this event at www.climbhotsprings.com.

Our stairs have inspired other activities and events. One of the most compelling is the 9/11 Grand Stair Challenge put on by Challenge HS. To remember the first responders during the tragedy of 9/11, hearty souls will set to climbing the Grand Stairs. The climb begins every year since 2014 on September 11 at 6:46 a.m., the time the first plane hit the first tower. Challenge HS also sponsors other events such as the Stars, Stripes and Steps run on Memorial Day to honor our fallen soldiers and has sponsored a 'stair repair' project (Phase 1) to begin the needed and ongoing maintenance of these historic stairs. Find out more at <http://www.challengehotsprings.com>.

The **Freedom Trail** is the heart and soul of our community connecting numerous parks, the schools and our downtown with our water. It is maintained as part of the parks system but holds a place also as an increasingly important transportation connector for bicyclists and

people who just need a safe and beautiful place to walk. Efforts are in place to extend the Freedom Trail north to Chautauqua Park located on Hot Brook Canyon Road. From there, connecting to the Mickelson Trail is possible!

In fact a number of avid hikers are planning just that – a direct, signed connection from the **Mickelson Trail** to Hot Springs. Not only does this make sense for bicycling enthusiasts and regionally for connectivity, it makes sense to provide travelers using the Mickelson to stop for refreshments, stay overnight and explore all that Hot Springs has to offer. Talks have begun with the National Park Service and the US Forest Service to map out the pathway. It is an understatement to say this connection is a ‘must-have’ in Hot Spring’s near future!

Not to be outdone our local chiropractor and counsellor, both avid outdoor enthusiasts started the **Wildcat Classic** mountain bike race. It is an international quality mountain bike course following either a 40-, 28 – or 7-mile course depending on the rider’s experience. With an elevation change of 5300 feet and a variety of climbs, downhills and trail base the Wildcat is quickly drawing a following. Find out more on their website www.wildcatclassic.com

From a Comprehensive Plan standpoint the take-away from this section is that Hot Springs is full of enthusiastic, capable people who want to get out there and explore Hot Springs and its environs. The most important things the city government can do is get out of their way, facilitate connections, help problem-solve and assist these different groups in getting their events out there!

Government Facilities

City Hall

City Hall is located on North River Street directly opposite the pedestrian bridge to Centennial Park. Built in 1893, the city hall is a beautiful historic sandstone structure that resides in the center of the Historic District. The city hall building has at different times held the library, the police station, the fire station and jail as well as a second floor theater. Currently it houses the City offices of the Mayor, Finance Director and Deputy Director, City Administrator, Public Works Director and two support staff that operate the City’s services billing and receiving. All effort should be made to maintain this structure in excellent condition. Goals for this structure should include:

- Installing a new roof with better drainage patterns
- Improve the drainage around the structure including stabilizing the red rock cliff behind
- Reuse the second floor – whether as a theater gain or some other needed community function. New electrical and heating would be required.

Mueller Civic Center

The Mueller Civic Center is located on South 6th Street on the west side of highways 18 & 385. It sits adjacent to the Fall River and the Freedom Trail, and despite it not being located in the downtown core, is very much the center of civic involvement in the community. The civic center is best known for hosting the Miss South Dakota pageant but on a day to day basis supports the whole community. The center is used for voting, City Council meetings as well as other community meetings, dances, plays, movies, entertainment, gymnastics, wedding receptions, and the list goes on and on. The structure itself is heated and cooled using geothermal technology and has been maintained very well over the years. Goals for this structure should include:

- Providing auxiliary generators so the facility can be used as a shelter in times of emergency (second only to the High School)
- Assessing potential flooding impacts and amending the site to protect this valuable asset
- Improve the overflow parking lot across the street. (Consider porous pavers to minimize runoff)

Hot Springs Public Library

The Hot Springs Public Library was organized March 26, 1898, at a mass meeting sponsored by the Shakespeare and Travelers Clubs, with Dr. C.W. Hargens as temporary chairman. Both of these clubs are still active in our community today. The location of the Hot Springs Public Library has changed often through the years. From a spot in City Hall to a gorgeous structure funded by the Carnegie Foundation, the people of Hot Springs' need for all things books and knowledge quickly outgrew that beautiful location on Chicago Street and moved to its present site on a prominent bluff facing the Seven Sisters range and becoming the anchor for the activities at Butler Park.

The library is a cornerstone in Hot Springs social and community connections and is backed by the Friends of the Library citizen group who provides support for extra book purchases, sponsoring special events and who in a large part, funded the new library building. Serving all of Hot Springs and the outlying areas in 2016 the library served over 54,000 people and was awarded the *Most Beautiful Library in South Dakota Award* in 2016.

Hot Springs Public Library is an accredited Library with the South Dakota State Library and as such can provide programs, classes and aid to anyone including history researchers in the Helen MacGee Heritage Room. The library offers many special and unique services including: providing homeschoolers access to educational materials, genealogical research, programming

for all ages and abilities, WIFI, public computers, meeting rooms, computer classes, thousands of books, movies, audio books for study, entertainment and check out. Community activities include a carnival, a Summer Reading Program, a Santa visit and sale books offered at the book barn. Goals for this facility should include:

- Serve: Increased outdoor learning spaces
- Surprise: Working with garden clubs to name the plants in the various gardens surrounding the library and increase gardening activity
- Preserve: Build doors for the black notebook shelves in the Helen Magee room. Continue to catalog the contents of the Heritage room.
- Update: Replace outdated computer hardware/software to keep library services at peak performance. Develop land between the Library and the Book Barn
- Inform: Develop on-line presence. Media coverage of Special events. Speak at Service Clubs.

Currently the Library has four full time employees and also employ one 'Experience Works' worker, paid thru a SD employment program. Volunteers are the backbone of the Library and they have donated over 380 hours to this facility in 2016. If and when the Experience Works worker is no longer available to us an additional part time employee would be required. This position, and the volunteers, provides essential support services to the staff/library.

City Maintenance Shop

Right on the SD Highway 18 Bypass the City Maintenance Shop is the heart of the city operations. The folks there maintain all the city roads, parks and buildings and are a repository for brush and yard waste. Twice a year the City sponsors a 'Free Clean-up Week' allowing residents with proof of residency the opportunity to get rid of unwanted items which are collected and separated right here at the Shop. The Shop is also a leader in reuse where they can pulverize old asphalt and concrete for use as road base and recycle vegetation waste and wood chips as mulch for use in the park and on city property. Goals for this facility should include:

- Obtaining final closure from the State of the closed landfill and find alternate uses for the site
- Reorganizing the traffic in and out of the site to better monitor who is using the facility
- Opening the yard dump to county residents for a fee

County Courthouse

Built in 1891 following the separation of Custer County into two political subdivisions, the three- and one-half-story sandstone structure of Romanesque design, the courthouse still serves as a county office building with Hot Springs as the county seat for Fall River County. The Courthouse is a historic structure and lies within the Historic District. It was built of native sandstone by Fred Evans and currently houses the courts, the sheriff's office as well as most county offices. The County Commissioners have recognized that they are outgrowing the current building and are looking to divide uses into separate stand-alone facilities. With that in mind, the city of Hot Springs would like to see the following goals met in regards to the County Courthouse in the next ten years:

- Relocate the jail, sheriff's office, Emergency Manager's office and 911 Dispatch to a satellite location off of North River Street and out of the historic downtown.
- Redefine and develop an attractive east parking lot and entrance in keeping with the historic nature of the courthouse.

Veteran's Administration Domiciliary and the Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home

Hot Springs is the Veteran's Town. It's no wonder the Federal government and the State of South Dakota felt that there was no better place for our veteran's to heal than in the tranquil beauty and the healing waters of Hot Springs. With two large campuses these facilities don't pay local taxes but they are still the largest employers in the area, joining the City of Hot Springs and the Hot Springs School District.

Michael J. Fitzmaurice State Veterans Home

The Dakota Territorial Legislature met in February of 1889 and passed a bill establishing the Dakota Soldiers' Home to be located in Hot Springs, South Dakota. The bill carried an appropriation of \$45,000 for the construction of the Home. The purpose of the Home was to provide the care and subsistence for veterans and their wives and widows who meet eligibility requirements for admission. The cornerstone of the first building was placed on November 11, 1889.

The Veterans Home grounds covers approximately 193 acres and offers a serene setting carved out of the beautiful hills in the northwest section of Hot Springs. By preserving the old and adding conveniences of the new, a true home environment was created for the veterans.

On October 3, 1998, Governor William J. Janklow and Major General Philip Killey dedicated the South Dakota Veterans Home to Medal of Honor Recipient Michael J. Fitzmaurice.

In January of 2016 residents were moved into a newly constructed home. The newly designed Michael J. Fitzmaurice South Dakota Veteran's Home is a 133,000-square-foot stacked two-story building with a lower level walkout main entrance. The 100-bed facility is used to serve South Dakota veterans and contains 76 skilled nursing beds on the main level and 24 non-skilled living beds on the upper level.

The State Veteran's Home continues to go through changes as Governor Dugaard moves to reduce the amount of real property the State holds. Changes can be expected at the campus but at this point the final impacts, if any, aren't known.

Veteran's Administration Domiciliary

From the National Park Service Website:

"Battle Mountain Sanitarium (now part of the Veterans Affairs Black Hills Health Care System) was part of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, which provided care for Union veterans after the Civil War. It was the first and only National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers built solely as a short-term sanitarium for veterans with lung or respiratory problems, not as a long-term home. Unlike the other National Home branches, veterans went to Battle Mountain Sanitarium for brief intensive treatment. Upon completion of their treatment, they were transferred to another National Home branch. Battle Mountain Sanitarium opened in 1907, offering veterans a complete array of services including plunge baths and an amusement hall. Located in the town of Hot Springs, South Dakota, the Sanitarium, made from local pink sandstone, rises above the town on a bluff to the northeast of the resort section of the town at an elevation of 3400 feet. A majority of the buildings predate 1930, and many of them are still used for their original purposes. The curving road system that winds through the facility is also original. The National Cemetery is located in the eastern section of the campus."

In 2016 the VA opened a call center on campus while efforts were made to remove the hospital from the campus. A very organized and active 'Save the VA' citizens and veterans group continue to work diligently to see the VA hospital stays in Hot Springs. In May 2017 Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David J. Shulkin said the decision to close the Hot Springs VA has been deferred. So we wait and the 'Save the VA' continues the battle.

School facilities

Schools public

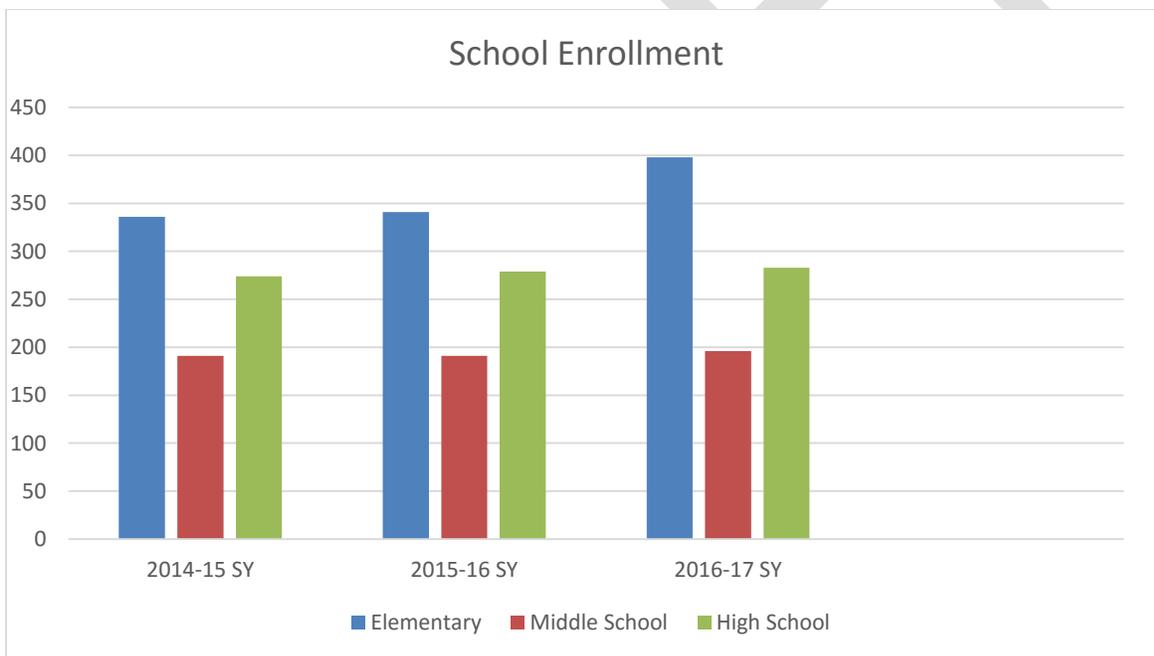
<http://www.hssd.k12.sd.us/>

At Hot Springs High School, the current school population of grades 9-12 is 279 in the 2016-17 School Year. The student body makeup is 53 percent male and 47 percent female, and the total

minority enrollment is 15 percent. Hot Springs High School is the only high school in the Hot Springs School District 23-2 and has a graduation rate of 92%. The test scores show that the high school students are keeping up with State and National trends in English but are behind in Mathematics.

In the 2016-17 School Year there was a significant increase in elementary enrollment. Time will tell if this trend will continue.

The school facilities are a combination of historic buildings and newer (late 20th century) structures. The school buildings and grounds are kept in excellent condition and are an asset to the learning environment on the Bison campus. City-wide, the school has the best facilities to also double as our main emergency shelter and should be furnished with all things necessary to play that role in the community including: emergency generators, cots and enhanced communications. [See Emergency Preparedness Chapter]



Schools Private:

<http://www.gwtc.net/~bethesda/>

Bethesda Lutheran School is a local private school for children Pre-K through 2nd. It is run out of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and is located on Baltimore Avenue. Bethesda provides a core curriculum that includes Reading and Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Journaling, Art, Music, Library, Physical Education and Religion.

Bethesda's multi-level Classrooms allow teachers to give each child the support and encouragement he or she needs to thrive. A developmental approach in teaching is used to integrate subject matter.

The Student enrollment has decreased over the years and the school faces an uncertain future.

<http://www.cornerstonebibleinstitute.com/>

Cornerstone Bible Institute

Cornerstone Bible Institute is an independent, secondary – Bible believing school that holds to the belief that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and that its central theme is Jesus Christ. The courses offered at Cornerstone Bible Institute are designed to implement the philosophy, purposes and objectives of the Institute providing the student with the scriptural and spiritual foundation for ministry, and expose the student to a broad spectrum of knowledge in specialized areas of Christian ministry. Cornerstone Bible Institute is located on Wind Cave Road on the north-eastern border of the City boundary.

1 - Southern Hills Golf Course Master Plan Study, Herfort Norby Golf Course Architects, Kevin Norby 2014

2 - <http://www.hotspringssdgolf.com/>

3 - Mineral Waters of the United States, by Dr. W.E. Fitch, 1927

4 - <http://www.evansplunge.com>