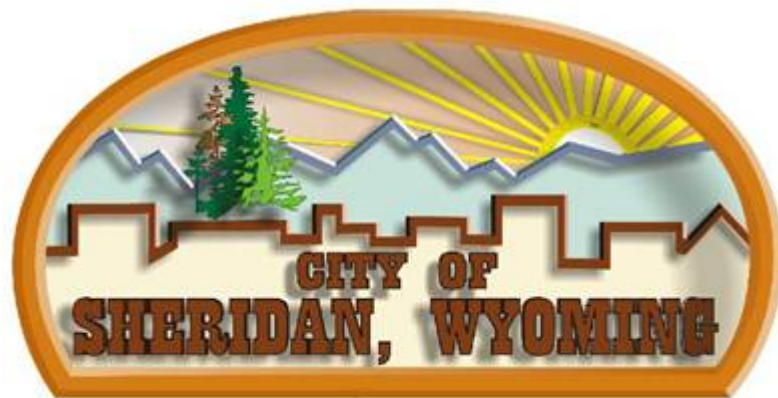


CITY OF SHERIDAN  
PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN  
PLANNING CONTEXT SUMMARY REPORT



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## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

I. INTRODUCTION .....	1
II. PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION .....	3
III. PREVIOUS & CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS.....	9
IV. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE.....	15
V. BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	21



## I. INTRODUCTION

The City of Sheridan has numerous environmental and cultural resources, a socially and economically diverse group of citizens, and a history of many planning processes that all must be considered when developing the parks system master plan. This is the first Parks & Recreation Master Plan for Sheridan, and this process presents a unique opportunity for the City to address how it will meet the needs of its current and future population.

As part of the City of Sheridan Park and Recreation Master Plan, the Planning Context Summary Report provides background information relevant to the planning process. The document:

- Describes the Sheridan planning area;
- Identifies existing geographic, historic and political features;
- Summarizes the recommendations and findings of other major planning and research efforts relevant to the parks planning process; and
- Provides a demographic profile and analysis.

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan process will assess Sheridan's park and open space resources, guide the development of new parks and recreational facilities, address the maintenance needs of existing parks and natural areas, and provide funding strategies that will strive to meet the needs of Sheridan's diverse population, its workforce, and visitors to the community. This report is the first of three reports that will inform the planning process



## II. PLANNING AREA DESCRIPTION

### REGIONAL CONTEXT

The City of Sheridan, the largest city in Sheridan County, Wyoming, is situated between South Dakota's Black Hills and Devils Tower to the east, and Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Tetons to the west. Located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains and nestled between Little and Big Goose Creeks, Sheridan is framed by the backdrop of the Big Horn Mountains and rolling plains.

Figure 1: Sheridan in the Region



### PLANNING AREA

This is the first Parks & Recreation Master Plan for the City of Sheridan. The planning area for this plan is the Joint Planning Area (JPA). The JPA is a study area of 60 square miles, of which approximately 10 square miles are currently incorporated. Currently, the City and County are creating a Land Use Plan to create a growth management strategy for the JPA.

**HISTORY**

Sheridan began as a frontier town of miners, ranchers, and homesteaders. At the turn of the 20th century, settlers discovered that the local coal made a superior fuel due to its low-burning capacity and even heat distribution, making it desirable for both domestic and industrial use. Shaft coal mining brought the railroad and enormous mines operated in six small towns near Sheridan. Founded in 1882 by Mayor John D. Loucks, Sheridan quickly grew to a town of 12,000 by 1910. Between 1911 and 1923, a local electric streetcar line connected the town to the coal mines, and a busy downtown retail corridor developed along this line. This area has been designated an historic district, containing 30 registered buildings. One historic building of particular note is the landmark Sheridan Inn, where Buffalo Bill Cody once auditioned riders for his Wild West Show.



Sheridan is located in the "Valley of the Chiefs," which was so named by the Plains Indians who treasured the area. This valley provided abundant wildlife for the tribes who came here to hunt. The Plains Indians may have left an indelible mark on the region: In the Big Horn Mountains, at 10,000 feet, lies the Medicine Wheel, a near-perfect circle seventy feet in diameter, believed to be of pre-Columbian Native American origin.

The Bozeman Trail, which white settlers followed to the gold fields of Montana, crosses Sheridan County. One historic state park is located in the City of Sheridan, and one other nearby in the town of Banner: Trails End Historic Site and Conner Battlefield State Historic Site. Trails End State Historic Site, within the City of Sheridan and up the hill for Kendrick Park, was once the home of Wyoming Governor and United States Senator John B. Kendrick. The grounds have several hundred trees and shrubs indigenous to Wyoming, as well as an unusual collection of ornamental species. The other historic site in Banner, just south from Sheridan is where General Conner engaged the inhabitants of an Arapaho village at the Battle of Tongue River, and features a park with picnic and play facilities surrounding the battlefield.

## NATURAL RESOURCES



### LANDSCAPE

Sheridan County is largely agricultural, with development concentrated in cities and towns. Ninety-six percent of all private land in the unincorporated county is in agricultural use, the vast majority of which is non-irrigated cropland or livestock grazing range. Agriculture is one of the traditional economic mainstays of Sheridan County, and is the primary source of highly valued open space in the area. As in many rural areas, farmers and ranchers are experiencing pressure to sell or develop agricultural lands.

The 106 million acre Big Horn National Forest provides a wide variety of recreational opportunities for residents and visitors. Anglers can bait trout in stock ponds and lakes, fly fish in streams, and ice fish in the alpine lakes. Hunters pursue such game as deer, elk, moose, pheasants, partridge, grouse, and black bear. For winter recreation, there are over 300 miles of snowmobile trails, cross county ski trails, and downhill skiing at Big Horn Ski Resort. In the heart of the National Forest, above 8,500 feet and only accessible by foot or horseback, lies the picturesque 189,000-acre Cloud Peak Wilderness, which provides hiking, camping, canoeing, rock climbing, and photography opportunities. Big Horn National Forest provides not only recreational opportunities, but is also managed for cattle and sheep grazing and timber harvesting.

### WILDLIFE

Sheridan County is home to a variety of wildlife, including native fish species, birds, and large game. Wyoming Game and Fish has inventoried a growing list of small fish species native to the County's prairie streams. Additionally, there are numerous sage grouse mating sites throughout the County. Other notable wildlife includes the big game species of antelope, elk, mule deer, and moose, as well as large predators such as black bears and mountain lions. With the exception of the antelope, which have main migration routes north of the City of Sheridan, these large wildlife species tend to live in and along the foothills of the Big Horn National Forest.

### WATER

The region has long grappled with water quality problems as a result of septic systems, coal bed methane, and, to some degree, agriculture runoff. In 1998 and 1999 fecal bacteria levels exceeding state regulations were found in the Big Goose and Little Goose Creeks, which run through Sheridan. In 2000, Sheridan County created the Goose Creek

Drainage Advisory Group (GCDAG) to address contamination levels in the streams. Currently, the Downtown Sheridan Association is engaged in a stream restoration project to create a RiverWalk along Little Goose and Big Goose Creeks.

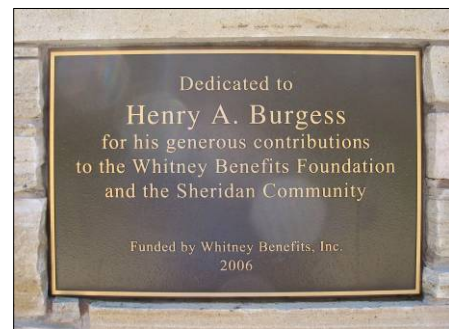
Additionally, according to a study by the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality’s Water Quality Division, groundwater vulnerability is highest in locations where the greatest development pressures exist. (Groundwater vulnerability refers to the relative speed that substances on the surface can reach and pollute the groundwater supply.)

**CLIMATE**

Sheridan is located at an altitude of nearly 4,000 feet. Average temperatures range from 10° to 35° Fahrenheit in the winter, to 55° to 85° in the summer. Typically, snow falls in Sheridan from September through May. During the winter, the average snowfall is 12 inches per month; however, the weather in Sheridan is less extreme than in other parts of Wyoming.

**MINERAL RESOURCES**

Beginning with the discovery of coal, energy-related businesses have been a large part of Sheridan County's economy. Spring Creek mine and Decker Coal mine, located nearby in Decker, Montana are major employers in the area. Currently, the methane industry is strong in Sheridan County, as is research and development within energy-related industries. The coal industry even has a connection to parks and recreation in Sheridan.



In 1977, a coal reserve located within the Powder River Basin was prevented from mining the land when Congress passed the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act, because the property was located in an alluvial valley containing ideal farm land. The property had belonged to Edward A. Whitney who had passed away in 1917, leaving his entire estate to the Whitney Benefits Foundation. The Foundation filed suit under the 5th Amendment, claiming the regulation was a “taking,” which rendered the property valueless. The Foundation was awarded \$60 million and this settlement established the Whitney Benefits Foundation as a leading civic benefactor.

In addition to providing scholarships, establishing a college in Sheridan, and contributing to the library, the Whitney Foundation has been a

significant contributor to developing park and recreation facilities in Sheridan. Among other projects, the Foundation has contributed money to the local YMCA, purchased water rights to irrigate the turf fields, built an ice rink, and developed Whitney Commons, a five-acre park maintained and operated by the foundation.

#### **PRIVATE LAND CONSERVATION**

Private land conservation in Sheridan has been significant, aided by three land trusts that work in the region: the Nature Conservancy, the Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust, and the Sheridan Community Land Trust. In total, 60,279 private acres are under easement.

The Sheridan Community Land Trust works to promote agricultural landscapes; open spaces, wildlife, and recreational opportunities; and affordable housing and historic preservation.

The Wyoming Stock Growers Agricultural Land Trust (WSGALT) is focused on preserving Wyoming's ranching and farming heritage. It provides agriculture landowners with land conservation options to enhance their business planning to remain productive and independent today, and to pass on their tradition to future generations.



### III. PREVIOUS & CURRENT PLANNING EFFORTS

Numerous studies and adopted plans impact Sheridan’s park planning effort. These include:

- the Joint Planning Area Land Use Plan;
- Sheridan County Comprehensive Plan update;
- Sheridan County Growth Management Plan;
- Sheridan Pathways Master Plan;
- Sheridan Transportation Plan;
- Forward Sheridan Strategic Plan;
- Recent zoning code review;
- the North Main Revitalization Initiative; and
- the Downtown Sheridan Association Stream Restoration Project.

In addition to the above listed studies and planning efforts. Two community surveys—the Sheridan County Community Assessment and the Community Attitude and Interest Survey—have been conducted. Where possible and appropriate, the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan should reflect and compliment all of these planning efforts.

#### RELEVANT PLANS

##### JOINT PLANNING AREA (JPA) LAND USE PLAN (DRAFT 2008)

The Joint Planning Area (JPA) Land Use Plan process is a joint effort of the City of Sheridan and Sheridan County to address growth management and agricultural preservation issues in the area surrounding the incorporated city limits. This process, which is occurring concurrently with the County’s Comprehensive Plan update, will result in a more focused land use plan for this area that both jurisdictions can support and follow. The primary goal of this process is to determine the growth strategy for the City of Sheridan.

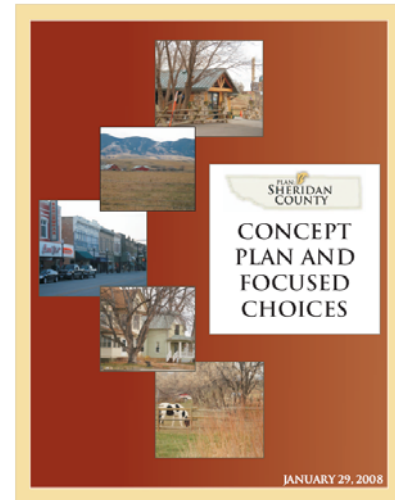
##### SHERIDAN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN - VISION, THEMES, AND GOALS (DRAFT 2007)

Sheridan County is currently updating its Comprehensive Plan. The draft Vision and Goals document is a discussion document that will fold into the final plan. It builds on Vision 2020 (Growth Management Plan, 2001) and the direction of Sheridan County’s most current comprehensive plan (1981). It also takes into account current discussions and comments in the planning process. The following are themes and proposed goals that are particularly relevant to the development of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan.

*Theme 3: Sustain Natural and Scenic Resources and Environmental Quality*

Goals under this theme address clean air and water; productive agricultural land; land conservation and open space priorities; development that does not impair environmental quality, wildlife, or scenic resources; and avoiding hazardous areas. The specific goals include:

- Maintain Sheridan County’s environmental quality, including clean air and clean water.
- Identify and protect sensitive and critical natural resources.
- Protect agriculture land.
- Establish open lands and conservation priorities to create a cohesive system of open lands.
- Ensure new development is wildlife-friendly and protects wildlife habitat.
- Protect visual quality of the County, including hillsides.
- Continue to enhance outdoor recreational opportunities and tourism opportunities in a manner that sustains the resources and contributes positively to the economy.
- Use a variety of flexible, incentive-based mechanisms to conserve resources, including standards to protect sensitive and critical resources and public and private partnerships to achieve open lands.



*Theme 4: Support Economic Opportunities and Jobs for Livable Communities*

There was one goal related to the developed of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan:

- Promote Sheridan County as a destination for visitors and tourists—focusing on expanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, opportunities for lodging and dining, and showcasing history and culture.

*Theme 6: Develop a Connected, Safe Transportation System with Multiple Opportunities*

There were two goals related to the development of the Master Plan:

- Extend the pathways system for bicycles and pedestrians to encourage alternative transportation opportunities and recreation. Determine if additional pathways systems would be beneficial in other parts of the county.
- Provide mechanisms that assure new development and other heavy users pay an equitable share for necessary improvements to the county transportation system.

### SHERIDAN COUNTY GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN/ VISION 2020 (2000)

The Growth Management Plan updated both the Sheridan Master Plan and the Sheridan County Comprehensive Plan of 1981. It provides policies to guide public investment land use decisions that will define the pattern and quality of future development. Key relevant recommendations include:

- Maintain a community character that preserves the quality of life, values, and traditions of the area;
- Maintain natural and historic resources and environmental quality; and
- Enhance recreational opportunities.

### SHERIDAN PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN (2007)

The Pathways Master Plan is a project intended to improve the overall atmosphere of the City of Sheridan by encouraging alternative transportation and exercise. As an update to the 1997 plan, it establishes desired future pathways to connect important destinations for safe and easy access by pedestrians and cyclists. The plan includes improvements to existing trails and related facilities in addition to new trail extensions. Regional multi-use pathways are also planned to be developed to allow travel outside of the City of Sheridan.

The following are the main goals of the Pathways Master Plan:

- Recognize the benefits of safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle circulation.
- Plan for “pedestrian-friendly development” via development of designs that encourage walking by providing site amenities for pedestrians.
- Develop pedestrian-friendly environments that reduce automobile dependence.
- Enhance recreational opportunities by planning for an integrated open space network compatible with existing trails or pathways plans.
- During the subdivision review process, achieve over time a comprehensive open space network that includes pathways and trails.
- Have the Sheridan County Planner investigate and pursue mechanisms that can enable open space to be preserved, and include such open space amenities as pathways, bikeways, and trails.
- Incorporate requirements that new County subdivisions outline how they will accommodate pathways.

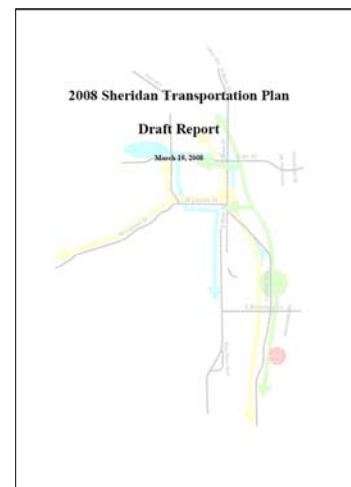


**SHERIDAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN (DRAFT 2008)**

This plan updates the 2001 Traffic Study and establishes a framework that allows transportation, and particularly roadways, to be viewed within the context and perspective of the overall community. The Plan includes proposals for an ultimate street network, addresses local congestion and safety issues, and provides recommendations for prioritizing roadway improvements.

“Complete the Streets” is a campaign to promote roadway designs that effectively accommodate multiple modes and support local planning objectives. The Transportation Plan recommends the following general criteria be kept in mind when developing a street network:

- All new roadways should include sidewalks.
- All new arterial roadways should consider incorporating a separated pathway. This will provide for extension of the pathway system through the study area. Additionally, opportunities for pathways in other places should be considered.
- Opportunities to enhance an equestrian pathway network throughout Sheridan should be considered.
- Opportunities to enhance an ORV or multiuse trail system connecting Sheridan to other communities and the Big Horn Mountains should be considered.



**FORWARD SHERIDAN: A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR DEVELOPING AND MAINTAINING A STRONG ECONOMY IN SHERIDAN COUNTY, WYOMING (2007)**

The Strategic Plan establishes direction for Sheridan County’s short- and long-term economic development, setting forth realistic and strategic goals and actions for the economic development of the County. The plan identified Sheridan’s location as an economic strength; other specific highlights are listed below.

- Sheridan’s abundance of recreational and historic sites gives businesses a competitive edge in attracting employees.
- Sheridan's natural amenities include the Big Horn Mountains on the western edge of the County and open plains that extend to the eastern border.
- A broad range of natural habitat exists within the borders of Sheridan County, providing a diversity of wildlife for viewing, hunting, and fishing.
- The County is rich in public lands and in history, especially from the Indian Wars period. Battle sites, historic trails, and military

outposts make Sheridan County a destination for visitors interested in that era.

- The County is located on one of the major routes to Yellowstone National Park and the Grand Teton National Parks to the west and the Black Hills to the east.

However, the plan also points out that much of the state and federal land in Sheridan County is surrounded by private lands and public access is limited. While this situation is improving, additional work is recommended to improve access by developing easements and walk-in areas.

**ZONING CODE**

The subdivision code requires that when new land is subdivided for development, the land owner must provide a suitable tract(s) of land for parks or open space. Instead of dedicating land to the City, the developer may also choose to pay a \$500 in-lieu-of fee per single family home. The amount of land that a land owner must dedicate to open space depends on the zoning and is summarized in the following chart. Additionally, all new subdivision plans must include a dedication of pedestrian ways that are ten feet wide.

*Table 1: Required Subdivision Land Dedication for Parks & Open Space*

<b>Zone</b>	<b>Percentage Area</b>
R-1 (single family homes)	8%
R-2 (up to four units/building)	10%
R-3 (more than four units/building)	17%
R-4 (manufactured homes)	10%

**NORTH MAIN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE**

The City is currently engaged in a planning effort to revitalize historic North Main Street in downtown Sheridan, and the Wyoming Department of Transportation (WYDOT) is planning to repave and enhance the street in 2010. Using the WYDOT process as a catalyst, the City hopes to create new housing, enhance existing neighborhoods, and create new job opportunities.

**DOWNTOWN SHERIDAN ASSOCIATION STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT**

The Downtown Sheridan Association is beginning a stream restoration project to create a RiverWalk that will establish the confluence of Little Goose and Big Goose Creeks as a northern "anchor" for downtown Sheridan. The project goals include reconnecting the citizens of Sheridan with the creeks' historic role in the founding of Sheridan and realizing the creeks' potential benefit for the aesthetics, recreation, and development of downtown. The project is an opportunity to address water contamination issues.

**POWDER/TONGUE RIVER BASIN PLAN (2002)**

This plan document is one of four River Basin Plans in Wyoming. It presents current and projected future uses of water in Wyoming's Powder/Tongue River Basin. Uses inventoried and analyzed include agricultural, municipal, industrial, environmental, and recreational. Surface and ground water uses are both described as is overall water quality.

**RECENT SURVEYS**

**SHERIDAN COUNTY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT (2004)**

The County conducted a community survey of over 1,000 people to evaluate community concerns; this found that more parks and outdoor recreational activities are desired to improve the standard of living in Sheridan, while also helping to build tourism.

**COMMUNITY ATTITUDE AND INTEREST SURVEY (2006)**

The Sheridan Recreation District conducted a Community Attitude and Interest Survey to help establish priorities for the future improvement of parks, recreation facilities, programs, and services within the community. When asked which recreation facilities they and members of their household need, the five most frequent responses were walking and biking trails (80%), large community parks (75%), large group picnic areas and shelters (69%), small neighborhood parks (61%), and outdoor swimming pools (61%).



## IV. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

Demographic characteristics can influence recreational interests and level of participation. Factors such as age and income can significantly affect an individual's ability to pursue and participate in recreational activities. To a lesser extent, employment and ethnicity also play a role. This section assesses the City of Sheridan's demographic characteristics and their potential influence in the parks planning process. The primary data sources were the US Census Bureau's 2000 decennial Census, and the 2006 Sheridan County Housing Needs Assessment.

### POPULATION

Sheridan is the sixth largest city in Wyoming, with a 2000 population of 15,804<sup>1</sup> within the city limits. Based on the estimate from the Joint Planning Area Land Use Plan, the 2005 population is estimated to be 20,958 within the JPA, which is a 60 square mile area around the City. The Plan's population forecast estimates that there will be nearly 29,000 people living in the JPA by 2025 with an annual average growth rate of 1.64%.<sup>2</sup>

### AGE

The age distribution of a population can indicate the type of recreation opportunities that are most needed. In general, youth tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group. Youth generally favor more active and competitive activities, such as basketball, baseball, and soccer.

Younger adults (ages 18-34) also participate in active recreation and typically form the core of adult competitive sports. Older adults (ages 35-64) typically have less time to devote to recreational activities and tend to have more interest in organized recreation programs. For them, recreational time is scarce and is often limited to weekends and occasional evenings. Typically, as people age, their participation in competitive recreation decreases, but not their interest in walking, jogging, and cycling.

Table 2 compares the population distribution by age between the City of Sheridan and the County for 2000. Twenty-three percent of the City's residents are under 17 and nearly one third of the residents are between

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<sup>1</sup> 2000 U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census

<sup>2</sup> The rate is an average between the low (1.10%) and high (2.18%) rates projected in various studies that have recently been completed or are on-going

the age of 40 and 64. The age distribution is similar between the City and the County.

*Table 2: 2000 Population Distribution by Age, City of Sheridan & Sheridan County*

Age Group	City of Sheridan		Sheridan County	
	Number of Residents	% of Total Population	Number of Residents	% of Total Population
Under 17	3,645	23.1%	6,412	24.1%
18-24	1,503	9.5%	2,123	8.0%
25-39	2,900	18.3%	4,494	16.9%
40-64	5,079	32.1%	9,410	35.4%
Over 65	2,677	16.9%	4,121	15.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,804</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>26,560</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: 2000 Census

While the population in Sheridan has grown by 14% overall, the growth has been uneven between age groups. The number of children under 17 has stayed the same and the number of residents between 25 and 39 has declined by 10%. Two age groups that grew significantly were those 18-24 and those 40-64. Table 3 highlights how the age distribution has changed in Sheridan between 1990 and 2000.

*Table 3: 1990-2000 Population Distribution, City of Sheridan*

Age Group	1990	2000	% Change 1990-2000
17 and Under	3,636	3,645	0.2%
18-24	1,067	1,503	40.9%
25-39	3,228	2,900	-10.2%
40-64	3,601	5,079	41.0%
65 and Over	2,368	2,677	13.0%
Total	13,900	15,804	13.7%

Source: 2000 Census

### ETHNICITY

Sheridan’s ethnic composition is predominantly White with small Black/African American, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, American Indian/Alaskan Native, and Asian populations. The balance between white and non-white residents appears to remain steady with 5.6% of the population in 2000 being non-white. The Hispanic population is the largest non-white demographic at 3%. Table 4 compares the ethnic composition of the City of Sheridan in 1990 and 2000.

*Table 4: Ethnic Composition 1990-2000, City of Sheridan*

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>% of Total Population</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>% of Total Population</b>
White	13,294	95.6%	14,926	94.4%
Hispanic	292	2.1%	417	2.6%
Black	23	0.2%	31	0.2%
American Indian, Eskimo, or Aleut	116	0.8%	137	0.9%
Asian or Pacific Islander	81	0.6%	103	0.7%
Other race	94	0.7%	18	0.1%
Two or more	n/a		172	1.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,900</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,804</b>	<b>100%</b>

Source: 1990 and 2000 Census

### HOUSING

According to the Sheridan County housing needs assessment, there are 7,000 housing units in the City of Sheridan. Sixty-three percent of households are owner-occupied and one-third are rentals. The homeownership rate is slightly lower than the County average (69%).

The average household size in Sheridan is 2.2 and the majority of households in Sheridan are family households. The percent of family households without children at home (31%) is larger than those with children at home (28%). “People living alone” is the largest household type (36%) and almost half of these are elderly households. Table 5 summarizes the household composition.

*Table 5: Household Composition (2000), County and City of Sheridan*

<b>Household Type</b>	<b># of Households, City of Sheridan</b>	<b># of Households, County of Sheridan</b>
Two Parents with Children	1,407	2,404
One Parent with Children	530	783
Family without Children	2,142	3,929
Householder living alone	2,514	3,464
Unrelated roommates	401	589
<b>Total Households</b>	<b>6,994</b>	<b>11,169</b>

Source: Sheridan County Housing Needs Assessment (2006)

Median housing price has increased dramatically in Sheridan between 1990 and 2000; Sheridan County median housing prices for a single family home jumped more than 70 percent, from \$57,800 to \$98,300. By 2004, the median housing price increased another 60 percent to \$162,917.

## INCOME

Income levels also provide important information for recreation planning. In general, people with higher incomes tend to be more active and participate in more expensive types of activities. Due to financial constraints, lower-income communities may face limitations in recreation planning and programming. According to the 2000 Census, the median household income for the City of Sheridan was \$31,000, slightly below the median income for the County (\$34,000). Nine percent of families in Sheridan are living below the poverty line.

The Sheridan County Housing Needs Assessment of 2006 reports that while Sheridan County’s wages are low, Sheridan County has significant income flowing into the County from sources other than wages. Per capita transfer receipts, retirement income and dividends, and interest and rent income are all higher than in the rest of Wyoming, according to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Thirty-seven percent of 2000 income was from rent, interest, and dividends, while 13 percent was transfer income that includes retirement and social security.

## EMPLOYMENT

Between 1990 and 2000, the total number of full and part-time jobs increased 2.9 percent. Private employment grew at the fastest rate, with construction and services picking up the most jobs. The top three employers, Sheridan County School District 2, the VA Medical Center and the Memorial Hospital are all public sector. Wal-Mart is the largest private sector employer and the Spring Creek Mine in Montana is the largest energy-related employer.

Table 6: Labor Force by Employment Type 1990-2000, Sheridan County

<b>Sheridan County Labor Force 1990-2000</b>			
<b>Employment Type</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>% Change</b>
Private			
Agriculture	371	365	-1.8%
Mining	37	55	49%
Construction	785	936	19.2%
Manufacturing	424	437	3.1%
TCPU*	384	392	2.1%
Wholesale Trade	342	333	-2.6%
Retail Trade	2,389	2,410	0.9%
FIRE**	461	453	-1.7%
Services	2,600	2,695	3.7%
<b>Total Government</b>			
	<b>2,750</b>	<b>2,775</b>	<b>0.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,544</b>	<b>10,849</b>	<b>2.9%</b>

\*TCPU- Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities

\*\*FIRE- Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate

Source: Sheridan Housing Needs Assessment (2006)

## CONCLUSION

The Planning Context Summary Report for the City of Sheridan identifies several key issues that will be addressed through out the parks and recreation planning process. Specifically, this Plan will recognize and continue to coordinate with the previous and current planning efforts of the City and the County. As Sheridan's population grows and development continues, it will be important to ensure the provision of park land, recreational facilities, and programming. The current planning effort will suggest the best means of accommodating a Sheridan population that is growing in both size and complexity.



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