

# Circle Park Phase 2 / In-town White River Corridor Enhancements



How did we get here?

# ERBM Public Engagement Feedback

The current ERBM Master Plan 2012 included significant stakeholder feedback on the desire for river access, river-walk implementation, trail connectivity along the river and several park enhancements at Circle Park. This stakeholder feedback was ultimately captured in ERBM Master Plan:

- Goal/Objective 1.2 which identifies specific improvements desired at Circle Park including: accessible walkways, river access, shade shelter, signage and landscaping enhancements.
- Goal/Objective 3.1 specifically addresses the community desire to “identify opportunities to expand river access for recreation programs as well as self-directed recreational needs of the community”.





# ERBM Public Engagement Feedback

- Additionally, Meeker's Circle Park and adjacent Town Park properties were identified in public outreach efforts as part of ERBM's Strategic Plan (2016), as a priority for future development and improvements, including an expressed desire for enhanced access to and utilization of the in-town White River corridor.

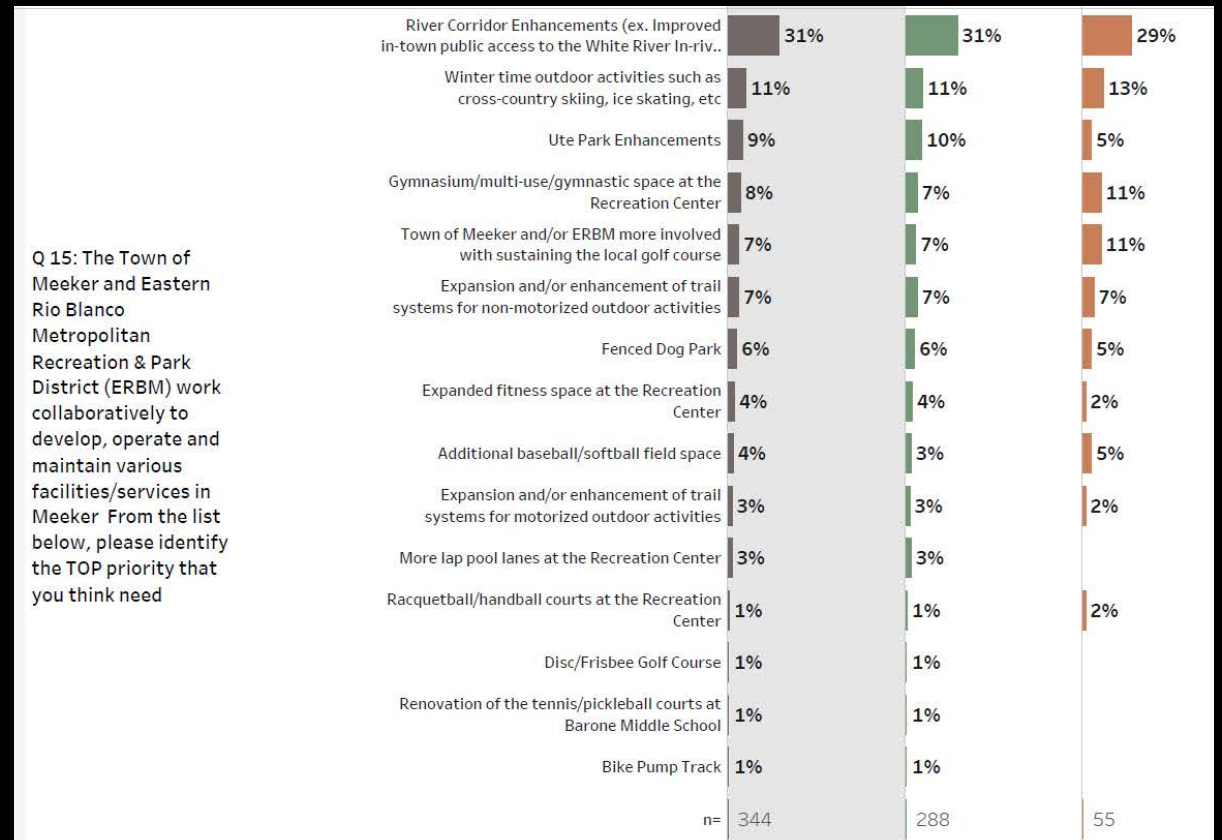


# Town of Meeker Public Feedback

- The Town of Meeker's Comprehensive Plan document from 2006 lends support, not only toward a future river enhancement project, but also in a collaborative approach amongst ERBM and the Town when it states that:
  - *"Parks and recreation, particularly the development and maintenance of a trail system, and improved river access are two top priorities for Meeker residents. The Town desires to maintain its support and working relationship with the Recreation District—while also discovering ways to enhance the parks and trails system and streamline management of these assets with the greatest efficiency."*
- This document offers further policy guidance in support of this aim, including: "Policy 13:
  - *Rather than spending on the acquisition of additional parks, Meeker will concentrate park monies and effort on improving facilities at existing parks." More specifically, P13-Action B points toward "a master plan for the River Park should be developed with fishing access, tubing access, and long term trail improvements and easements."*

# Town of Meeker Public Feedback

- Survey responses received as part of the Town of Meeker's recent Comprehensive Plan Update (Meeker Moving Forward) indicated that river enhancements are the highest desired recreation amenity improvement within the community by a factor of almost 3 to 1.



# Rio Blanco County Public Feedback

- Rio Blanco County Master Plan adopted in 2011 has a stated Goal OP/PL-2 to “promote the preservation of open lands, including: to work with municipalities, public land agencies and special districts to coordinate efforts in preserving access to public lands, including public access to the White River”.



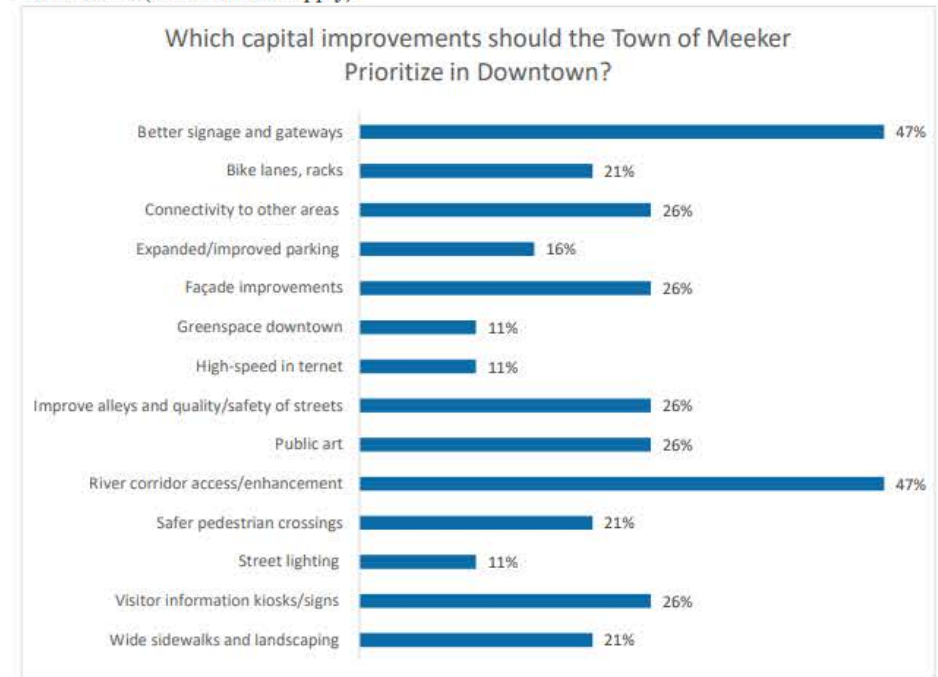
# Local Business Community Feedback

- One final analysis of the key findings from a 2018 survey of Meeker business owners revealed that respondents were most in favor of prioritizing river corridor access/enhancement as a preferred capital improvement project.
  - *RPI Consulting – Meeker Analysis and Opportunity Assessment*

## Meeker Business Survey Results Summary Report

The respondents from the business survey prioritized better signage and gateways and river corridor access/enhancements among the top capital improvements needed. Greenspace, high-speed internet and street lighting received the lowest prioritization for improvements needed (Question 31).

**Question 31:** Which capital improvements should the Town of Meeker prioritize in Downtown? (select all that apply)





# Concept Plan Project background and assumptions:

- Preponderance of public feedback has indicated strong desire for river access, walkways, in-town river corridor master planning.
- River activity already popular, but opportunities exist for expanded usage. Local and regional recreationalists are seeking low impact, convenient, safe access to river recreation.
- Diversification of recreational opportunity and extended durations of stay will have positive economic impact.
- Collaborative approach to master planning of in-town river corridor will better position project for outside funding support.





# Concept Plan Project background and assumptions:

- Several project constraints exist, including:
  - Ice-jamming history of the river.
  - Deteriorated condition of 5<sup>th</sup> St. bridge.
  - Prospective user conflicts.
  - Concerns from adjacent private land owners.
  - Escalating costs of full design, permitting, and construction.

