



metrec

Let's
play

Met Rec connects people to recreation

Our mission is to continually bring Gunnison Valley residents more opportunities to play. Happily, we keep making strides despite the pandemic. In fact, 2021 has turned out to be quite a playful year.

After completing our first ever strategic plan in 2020, our community's recreation outlets and partners are thriving. We funded 22 projects and programs this year, including the development or improvement of four parks. We connected 270 students and 250 seniors to recreation opportunities. And we supported the improvement of 43 miles of trail.

By supporting our community partners, we've given Gunnison Valley residents more ways to play than ever. What's more, as our community's recreation needs continue growing, we will continue responding with more avenues for recreation. Check out our initiatives and progress in this report. We're working constantly to increase the pleasure of living here. It's a privilege. Because it's our pleasure, too.

Met Rec's Community Impact

for funding the fun

Shady Island River Park

Shady Island River Park sits on the Gunnison River just north of Gunnison. It has replaced the old, undersized, crowded, and unsustainable put-in area. The new park is 10.5 acres with improved river access, complete with shoreline fishing, restrooms, picnic tables, playgrounds, trails and a future campground.

This multi-year project began with Gunnison County’s purchase of the land for \$1.3 million in 2017. Since then, Met Rec has awarded \$75,000 in grants to the project, helping Gunnison County secure more funding from sources outside the county. More than a dozen grants were sought to complete the park’s development. As river recreation grows in popularity, the Shady Island River Park will continue to serve as a vital community amenity.



**“It’s an
awesome
recreation
area.
I’m
there once
or twice
a week
from
march to
october.”**

Zoe Rome
River Connoisseur

Zoe Rome is a Gunnison resident and elementary school teacher. She’s also an avid angler and rafter. She loves snagging rainbow and brown trout almost as much as floating the river with her husband and their black lab Rio. Shady Island River Park has taken her passion for the river to a whole new level.

**“It’s great exercise.
It gets you out in
the fresh air and
helps you socialize.
As we get older
it’s important
to try new things.
We aren’t spring chickens!”**

Jan Nixon
Newby Nordic Skier

Despite having never attempted Nordic skiing and admitting that without the incentives she might not have tried, Jan Nixon has participated in the Nordic ski excursions for two seasons. She and her husband Jack plan to keep trekking this winter.

Play

outdoor winter recreation initiative

Connecting residents to outdoor winter recreation was a unique challenge in 2020 thanks to the pandemic. We expected residents to stay indoors and become more isolated. At the same time, an influx of backcountry recreationists raised concerns for their safety. So Met Rec convened four community partners to come up with solutions – the City of Gunnison, Crested Butte Nordic, Crested Butte Avalanche Center, and Gunnison Nordic. We matched \$2 for every dollar contributed to the initiative for a total of \$30,000.

These partners collaborated to bring more residents outdoors for winter recreation and to reduce barriers to participation. They promoted safe, responsible outdoor recreation. Partners created youth and adult Nordic programs that increased participation in youth programs by four times and increased participation in adult and senior Nordic ski sessions by five times.

Creative solutions were developed among partners, making it easier for residents to participate. Met Rec provided funds for Crested Butte Nordic to invest in new rental equipment and a portable gear trailer. The trailer and equipment was brought directly to adult and senior Nordic ski sessions, allowing for easy access to gear. We also funded increased staffing for the Gunnison Senior Center’s winter outings. As a result, older adults increased their level of participation by nearly 500%.



Town Ranch loop grooming

Just about everyone in Crested Butte knows about the Poop Loop, a.k.a. the Town Ranch Loop, a free Nordic skiing loop that lies just south of town. Crested Butte acquired the 175-acre property of Town Ranch in 1996, and Crested Butte Nordic has been grooming its three-kilometer Nordic loop since the early 2000s.

Used by thousands of recreationists and residents every winter, the loop is open to Nordic skiing, snowshoeing, fat-tire biking, walking, and of course, dogs. Crested Butte Nordic estimates that maintaining the groomed trail costs them \$12,000 a year. We at Met Rec maintain that this free winter recreation amenity is exactly what deserves our support. We have been helping fund the grooming and maintenance of Town Ranch Loop since 2019. It's one of the best ways we know to increase access to outdoor winter recreation for two- and four-legged residents.

Meg Antonczyk has lived in Crested Butte since 2005. A restaurant owner who lives just blocks from Town Ranch, she and Terry, her Saint Bernard, make use of the loop five to six days a week. The Poop Loop is easily one of her favorite winter hangouts.

play



“I don’t think I would have gotten into cross-country skiing if it weren’t for the Town Ranch Loop, since it’s free and so close. Terry is a seven-year-old Saint Bernard, and we’ve been poop-looping since he was a year and a half.”

Meg Antonczyk
Town Ranch Loop Lover

Watch Our Progress

Met Rec provides Denver DMA TV channels to residents in parts of Gunnison and Saguache Counties. We use satellite downlink technology and a terrestrial translator network to deliver the channels to you. Here's how it works.



Met Rec receives the signals at Gunnison Studio through satellite dishes.

We combine the signals into a format that we can transmit over TV channels.

We transmit these signals to W Mountain.

W Mountain relays the TV signals from one translator site to the next.

What we've been up to

New software. We purchased new software that allows us to efficiently monitor the TV signals at the Gunnison Studio, W Mountain and Monarch. This helps speed up our response to interferences.

New satellite dish. We installed a new satellite dish at the Gunnison Studio to replace an aging, unreliable dish.

Translator upgrades. We're upgrading the Jack's Cabin translator site. This includes replacing five aging translators and antennas as well as transitioning to a new, improved facility.

Ethernet upgrade. We continue building the ethernet bridge between hub translator sites so we can transition to new technology standards instead of using unreliable receivers.

Since 2020, television observation calls have decreased by 33%, meaning there have been less service interruptions due to system improvements!

This year, we continued improving the system's safety and reliability. We also planned ways to accommodate technological changes. We are always looking for the best options to deliver content to you. Stay tuned.

2021 recreation highlights

developed recreation support

54

developed recreation projects supported

local parks developed or improved

community collaboration & increase access to recreation

25

seniors and adults connected to recreation opportunities

270

youth connected to free recreation programs

outdoor recreation

more than 300

backcountry recreationists provided with avalanche safety information

60

middle school students connected to snow science lessons

850 lbs

trash removed from the backcountry

5

times

increase in the participation of adults and seniors in winter recreation programs

4

increase in youth participation in Gunnison Nordic ski program

117

designated camping sites constructed

43

miles of trails built and improved

2021 fiscal year financials

fiscal year 2021 revenues

Property Tax	\$694,030
CTF*	\$80,450
Other**	\$15,155
Total Revenues	\$789,635

* Total CTF revenues are not known until year-end. This is an estimate.
** Other revenues include interest income, lease payments and matching recreation grants awarded to Met Rec.

fiscal year 2021 expenditures

Recreation Support	\$275,000
Television Operations	\$307,437
CTF IGA*	\$42,000
CTF Recreation Support	\$30,000
Administrative	\$164,935
Total Expenditures	\$819,372

* Half of CTF Funds are re-distributed to local municipalities (5) per Intergovernmental Agreements (IGA). Half are used to support Met Rec’s mission.

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