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PRESS RELEASE

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Sayre Park Master Plan Project Community Open House on May 30

GLENWOOD SPRINGS, CO – The City of Glenwood Springs invites the public to a Community Open House on Thursday, May 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Community Center to view several options for Sayre Park upgrades and provide input on preferred improvements. The City's Parks and Recreation Department has recently launched the "Sayre Park Master Plan" effort to evaluate potential Sayre Park improvements to meet current park use demands and anticipate the future needs of the community.

"Sayre Park is a real gem of a park, a historic park that many consider to be a focal point in our community" said Brian Smith, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City. Sayre Park has the most amenities and variety of programming in the Glenwood parks system. Many of the features in the park are original and in need of repair or replacement. The irrigation system is failing and inefficient, the playground is obsolete and replacement parts are no longer available. There are underutilized and overutilized areas and areas that are used for activities that weren't intended for the space. For many years, the City has received requests for improvements to various elements in the park and the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council requested that a comprehensive planning process be undertaken to evaluate and properly design the various needs together.

Located in the heart of Glenwood Springs, Sayre Park offers a variety of recreation options and infrastructure, featuring grass open space, a playground, volleyball, horseshoes, picnic shelters, basketball and tennis courts, and a baseball field that doubles a soccer field. The park has long been the venue for small to large gatherings for private parties and public events, including the historic 122-year old Strawberry Days festival hosted every June by the Glenwood Chamber Resort Association. A comprehensive review of Sayre Park was one of the action recommendations of the 2016 Parks and Recreation Master Plan Update.

Zehren and Associates, a Landscape Architecture firm from Avon, Colorado has been hired to work with the community and staff to gather park user information and opinions about current and future needs, analyze the physical constraints and opportunities at the park, and evaluate compliance with sport-specific, safety and accessibility standards.

The project's Community Outreach kicked-off in April with park visits and park-user interviews in English and Spanish, and talking with residential, business, church, school, and health-care neighbors, major event hosts, and sport-league organizers. Three scenarios of potential improvements will be presented

by Zehren at the Community Open House meeting based on the input gathered to date blended with the project team's experience in park design projects throughout Colorado.

"Following the May 30th meeting, we'll be releasing an on-line community survey as well as taking the drawings out into the community as exhibits at some of our summer special events. This planning process is an opportunity for residents to shape the spaces where they play, recreate, relax, and rejuvenate" said Smith. "The City would like this to be a citizen driven process where the interests of the family across the street who use the park every day are just as considered as organizations who wish to see a specific amenity put in for their use" said Smith. "Public input will be key to understanding how the park is currently used and how the public would like to use it in the future."

Sayre Park has a rich history and is named after James Sayre who purchased the property in the 1930's for his use as a livestock grazing property. In the late 1930's, Sayre leased the property to the U.S. government for a Civilian Conservation Camp (CCC) that housed 200 men. The CCC was working on improvements to the Red Mountain ski area and the Glenwood Springs airport. The property also served as a prisoner-of-war camp for two years during World War II. Sayre donated the land to the City in the 1940's with the stipulation it would forever be a public park.

A second Community Open House will be held at the Community Center on July 11 to present the scenario that emerges through the steps of the planning process as the "Preferred Option." The master plan product will include preliminary cost estimates with a recommended phasing plan as improvements would likely be completed in phases.

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