



WEST POINT CITY

PARKS, RECREATION, & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

ADOPTED MAY 2, 2023



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The *West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* is the first plan that specifically addresses the city's parks and recreation system in for a comprehensive manner. The plan provides extensive information, recommendations, vision, and priorities for parks, recreation, and trails system for the next ten years and beyond.

1 DEMOGRAPHICS



West Point is...

- » Projected to add approximately 23,249 residents by 2050 including 12,600 for the annexation area
- » A relatively young community with large families with children
- » Gradually aging

2 PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



Top Public Involvement Takeaways

- » Existing parks need upgrades
- » There is desire for a recreation center by some residents
- » Proximity to home is the number one reason residents use their most-used park
- » City parks and trails are frequently used by residents
- » Additional walking and biking trails tied with pickleball courts for top priorities

3 PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Existing Level of Service



Future Level of Service



Park Acres Needed to Fill Distribution Gaps



Planned Park Acres to be Developed by 2032



Planned Park Acres to be Developed Between 2032-2050



Additional Park Acres to be Acquired & Developed by 2050



Top Recommendations

- » Maintain recommended park LOS of 3.9 acres per 1,000 residents
- » Upgrade existing parks and build new parks to meet park standards
- » Add additional amenities to parks and open space system
- » Acquire park land to fill gaps and meet LOS needs as soon as possible*
- » Acquire open space on an opportunistic basis

** Acquisition may include donation/dedication by development or other means than outright purchase.*

4 RECREATION, ARTS, & COMMUNITY EVENTS

TOTAL YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 2003

656

TOTAL YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS 2021

1,816

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Lighting Ceremony
- Luminary
- Movies at the Park
- Party at the Point
- Senior Lunch
- Take Pride in West Point Day

Top Recommendations

- » Explore public/private partnerships to potentially fund a recreation center and other large-scale projects when appropriate
- » Expand programs and events to meet a broad variety of interests
- » Support opportunities for the arts
- » Develop a marketing plan to improve the distribution of information about city programs and events

20.8 MILES

**PROPOSED
REGIONAL
SHARED USE
PATHWAYS**

6.5 MILES

**PROPOSED
LOCAL
SHARED USE
PATHWAYS**

13.9 MILES

**PROPOSED
LOCAL
ROUTES
(SIDEWALK/
BIKE LANES)**

Top Recommendations

- » Expand the existing trail system, prioritizing regional shared use pathways
- » Provide a well-distributed network of trailheads (stand-alone and in parks) to provide access
- » Add lighting and safety elements where appropriate
- » Develop system-wide signage and wayfinding

TOTAL PROBABLE COSTS FOR MEETING PARK NEEDS & DEVELOPING THE PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK

ITEM	PROBABLE COST
Probable costs to acquire new park land and develop planned and proposed parks through build-out	\$55,667,500
Probable costs for trails and trailhead improvements through build-out	\$13,333,000
Wayfinding and signage master plan (for entire parks, recreation, and trails system)	\$50,000
Wayfinding and signage installation (for entire parks, recreation, and trails system)	\$200,000
Grand Total	\$69,250,500

Top Recommendations

- » Implement the suggested improvements contained in the Action Plan in Chapter 6 according to the recommended schedule
- » Explore the various funding opportunities outlined in this plan and elsewhere

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The background of the slide is a monochromatic blue-tinted photograph of tree leaves and branches. The leaves are of various sizes and are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern. The lighting is soft, creating a gentle glow through the foliage. The branches are dark and provide a structural framework for the leaves.

INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

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PURPOSE & USE OF THE PLAN

The *West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* is an essential tool for ensuring the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, recreation facilities and programs, and trails in West Point City keep pace with the demands and needs of the growing community. Prior to the creation of this master plan, parks, recreation, and trails were addressed on a high level as part of the *West Point City General Plan*, which was adopted in 2008¹. The *West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* is therefore the first plan that specifically addresses the city's parks and recreation system in a comprehensive manner, building upon the recommendations in the General Plan, and addressing new visions and future needs in a comprehensive manner.

The Plan begins by analyzing existing conditions and needs and concludes with goals, policy guidance, and implementation priorities that ensure city resources keeps pace with needs and demands during the next ten years and beyond.

¹ The Land Use element of the general plan has been updated since the original adoption date, most recently in May 2022.



ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAN

The *West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* is organized into six chapters, as follows:

CHAPTER 1 - INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

Summarizes the purpose and organization of the master plan and relationships with other planning documents, and concludes with a summary of community demographics, focusing on future projections and needs.

CHAPTER 2 - PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Describes the planning process, summarizes feedback and issues identified during the public involvement process, and verifies the planning vision.

CHAPTER 3 - PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Examines existing parks and open space amenities in the city. Existing and future needs using Level of Service (LOS) and distribution analyses are also included. The chapter concludes by assessing park standards and establishing a rational approach for meeting future park and open space needs.

CHAPTER 4 - RECREATION, ARTS, & COMMUNITY EVENTS

Investigates recreation facilities and programming, arts, community events and similar community needs and demands.

CHAPTER 5 - TRAILS

Addresses the community's trail network and includes a forward-looking vision for an interconnected network.

CHAPTER 6 - IMPLEMENTATION

Summarizes specific actions and translates priorities into probable cost estimates for meeting requirements during the next ten years and beyond. The chapter includes an action plan that details short and long-term implementation actions and an updated list of potential funding sources to help facilitate plan implementation.

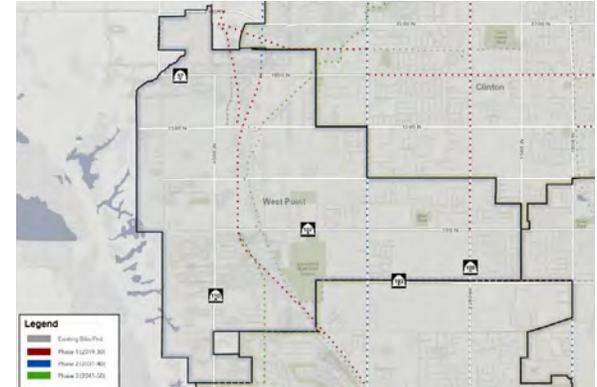


COORDINATION WITH OTHER PLAN DOCUMENTS

The *West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* works in concert with the other official and adopted planning and policy documents as described below. While not required by the Utah Land Use, Development, and Management Act (LUDMA), the master plan supports the vision and goals established for the city in its general plan and supporting documents. The master plan highlights specific park, recreation, trail, and open space enhancements and implementation measures that will help make West Point a more vibrant and livable community for residents and visitors alike.

WEST POINT CITY TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN 2022

The city recently adopted the *Transportation Master Plan 2022* which encapsulates existing conditions, planned investments, and community transportation goals to provide guidance for future transportation investments. The plan addresses vehicular travel conditions, public transit service, and active transportation infrastructure now and at build-out in 2050. Existing trails and nearby bike lanes are described, and planned facilities are documented, including connections to neighboring cities.

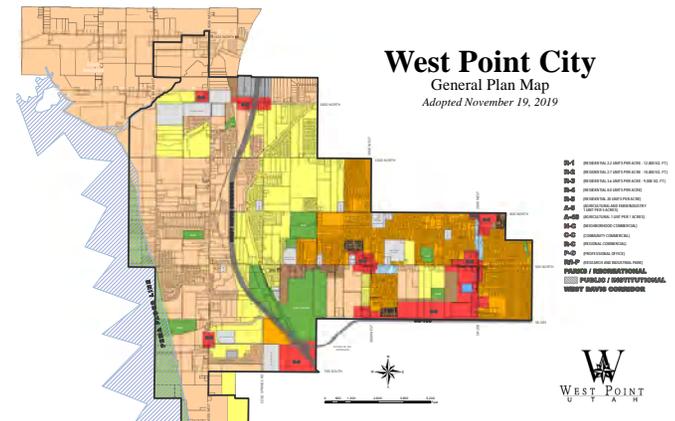


WEST POINT CITY GENERAL PLAN 2008

The *West Point General Plan 2008* addresses parks, recreation, and trails at a high level. The general plan describes the location of existing parks within the city's four planning districts and recommended the expansion of East Park to its current size. The location of parks in close proximity to schools is highlighted as an important consideration. The general plan also recommended the development of additional neighborhood parks to help meet needs in the western portion of the community.

At the time of the general plan, Loy Blake Park was designated as the primary location for recreational programming in West Point. Additional facilities recommended at the time included a swimming pool, additional ball diamonds, an updated tennis court, and other amenities.

The plan supports the provision of bike lanes and walking paths as part of a comprehensive trail system to connect neighborhoods and activity centers and provide health benefits to the community. It specifically mentions locating trails along natural drainages and canal corridors.



WEST POINT CITY PROFILE

PHYSICAL & SOCIAL STRUCTURE

As shown in **Figure 1**, West Point City is located in the northwest corner of Davis County. It is bounded by the Great Salt Lake shorelands to the west, Hooper City in Weber County to the north, Clinton to the north and east, Clearfield to the east and Syracuse to the south. The city is relatively flat, sloping gently from east to west where it features a southeast-to-northwest running bluff that descends abruptly nearly 30 feet towards Great Salt Lake and the Howard Slough State Waterfowl Management Area which define the western edge of the community. Lands below the bluff to the west are characterized by high water tables while those above it to the east are generally well-drained. The elevation of West Point ranges from nearly 4400 feet in at the highest points on the east side of the city to less than 4220 feet near Great Salt Lake.

“West Point City is a great city to live in. Thank you for all you do!”

-Survey Respondent

Figure 1: West Point City Context Map



The rich landscape adjacent to lake provided abundant resources that attracted a variety of human populations over time. The history of West Point stretches back to the early nomadic Paleo-Indians who roamed the area about 12,000 years ago in search of mammoths, camels, bison, and other wild animals. They were later followed by the horticulturist Fremont people, and later by the ancestors of the Southern Paiute, Ute, Goshute, and Shoshone tribes, who made the Davis region their home beginning around A.D. 1300. The area was frequented by the Shoshone when Latter-day Saints settled the area in the mid-1800s.

Davis County was established as a territory in 1850². The area where West Point City is currently located began to be settled in approximately 1867³ and was originally called South Hooper⁴. West Point officially incorporated as a city in 1935. The Latter-Day Saint settlers in the West Point area made a living with subsistence farming, ranching, and mining. Agriculture grew in scope as irrigation projects extended the area of arable land. Large tracts of West Point remain rural, though agricultural lands are continuously giving way to residential and supporting uses as the city has rapidly expanded, developed and urbanized in recent years.



1000 South Canal, Utah State Historical Society



Huntington Research Farm

2 <https://www.daviscountyutah.gov/county-info/county-history>

3 Powell, Douglas L., et al., Come, Come, Ye Saints: Images of the Western Mormon Colonization, Cedar Fort Incorporated, 2009.

4 <https://www.onlineutah.com/westpointhistory.shtml>

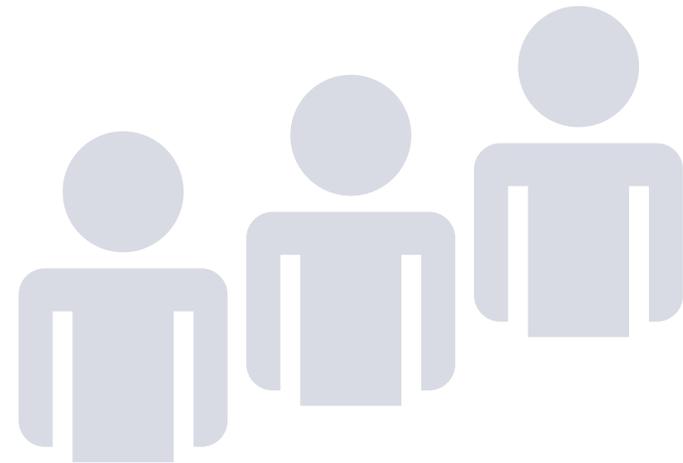
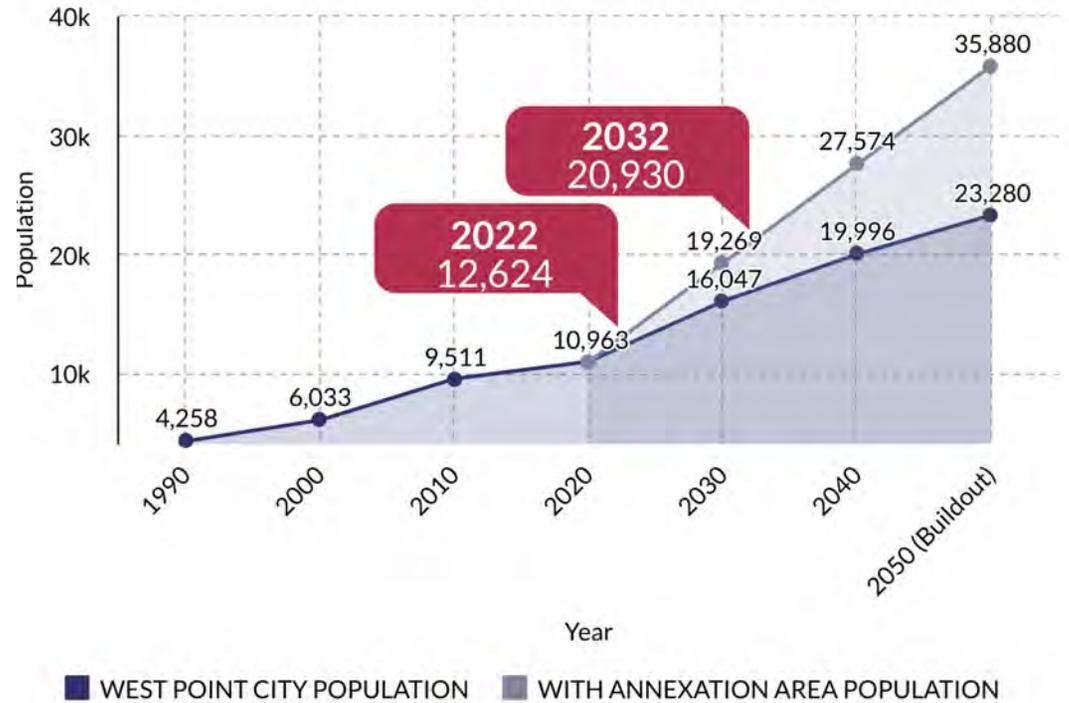
DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE & PROJECTIONS

Understanding current and future needs for parks, recreation, and trails in West Point begins with understanding existing and future demographic characteristics. The following summarizes the population, age, and household attributes which are generally most relevant for evaluating parks, recreation, and trail system needs⁵.

Population

Similar to other communities in Davis County and the Wasatch Front region, West Point City has experienced significant growth in recent years. The population increased from 6,033 in 2000 to approximately 10,963 in 2020, representing an 81.7 percent increase (see **Figure 2**). The current population is estimated at 12,624, representing an annual growth rate exceeding five percent since 2020. According to data provided by West Point City staff for the existing city boundary, population growth is projected to slow slightly by 2050 compared to current and recent trends, increasing by 89.8 percent before reaching a build-out population of 23,280 in 2050. An estimated 12,600 new residents may potentially be added with the annexation area, for a total of 35,880 by 2050, representing a total increase of 192.5 percent by 2050.

Figure 2: West Point Population History & Projections (1990-2050)

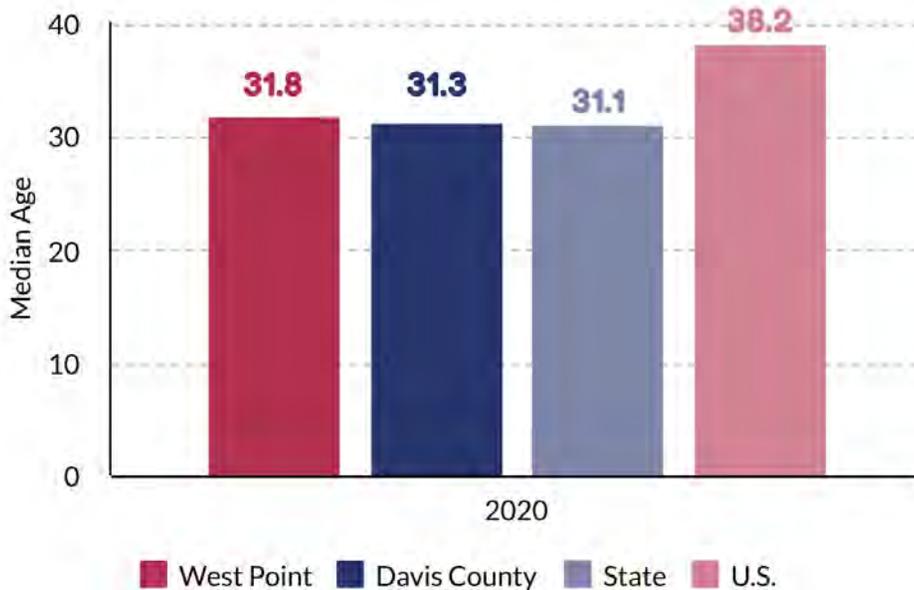


⁵ Demographic information was obtained from West Point City staff and supplemented with information from the U.S. census bureau as needed.

Figure 3: West Point Median Age (1990-2020)

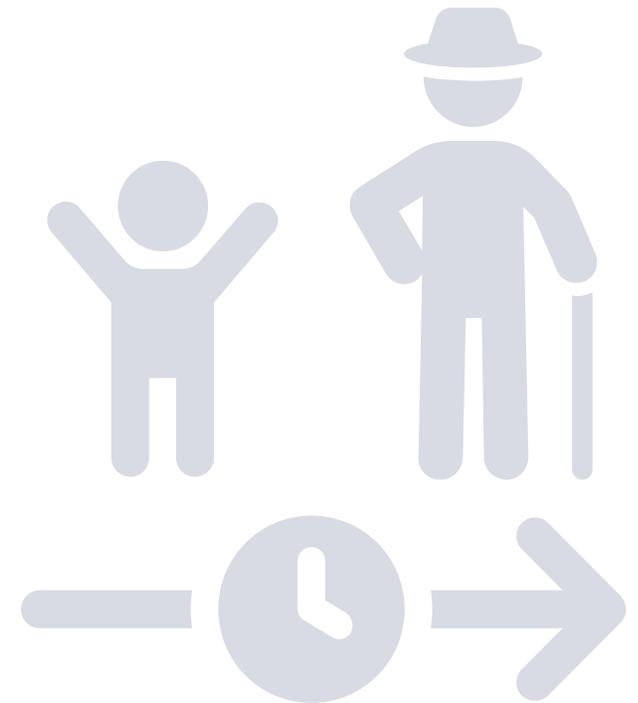


Figure 4: Median Age Comparison (2020)



Age

As shown in **Figure 3**, the median age of West Point City has steadily increased over time, from 22.3 in 1990 to 31.8 in 2020. As illustrated in **Figure 4**, the city is slightly older than both the county (31.3) and the state (31.1) but significantly younger than the nation (38.2).



Looking more closely at broad age groups between 2000 and 2020 (see **Figure 5**), the percentage of people under age 20 has declined while the 45 to 64 age group has increased. During the same time-frame, the 20 to 44 age group has fluctuated with a slight decrease from 2000 levels, and the over 64-year age group has seen a slight increase. This indicates that overall, the population is aging, as reflected in the previous median age analysis.

Figure 6 shows the changes within the community age profile between 2000 and 2020, with children “aging up” over the last twenty years. The 20 to 24, 55 to 64, and over 85 years age groups have steadily increased during that last twenty years, there have been some fluctuations with overall decreases in the 35-to-44-year age group, the number of people ages 75 to 84 has remained relatively consistent, and there have been overall increases in the 25 to 34, 45 to 54, and 65-to-74-year age groups. Taken as a whole, these changes indicate a general increase in age over the last twenty years.

Figure 5: West Point Age Groups (2000-2020)



Figure 6: West Point Detailed Age Groups (2000-2020)

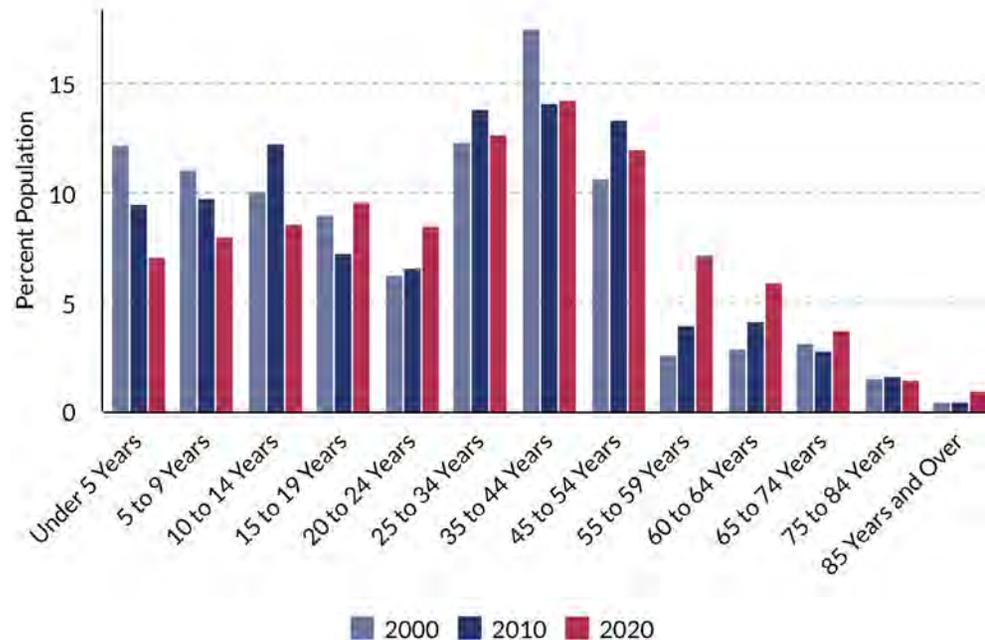


Figure 7: West Point Average Household Size (1990-2020)

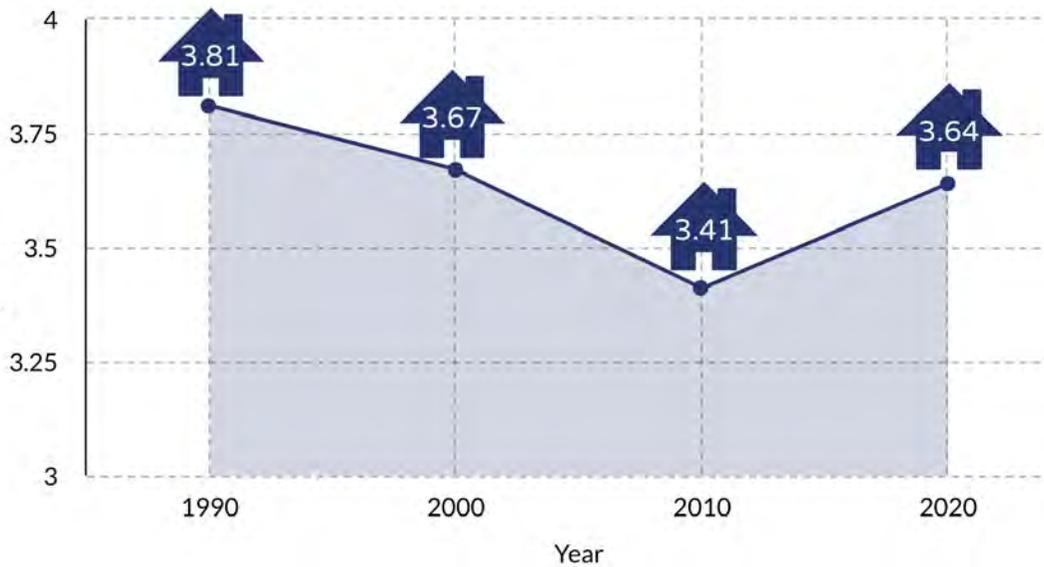
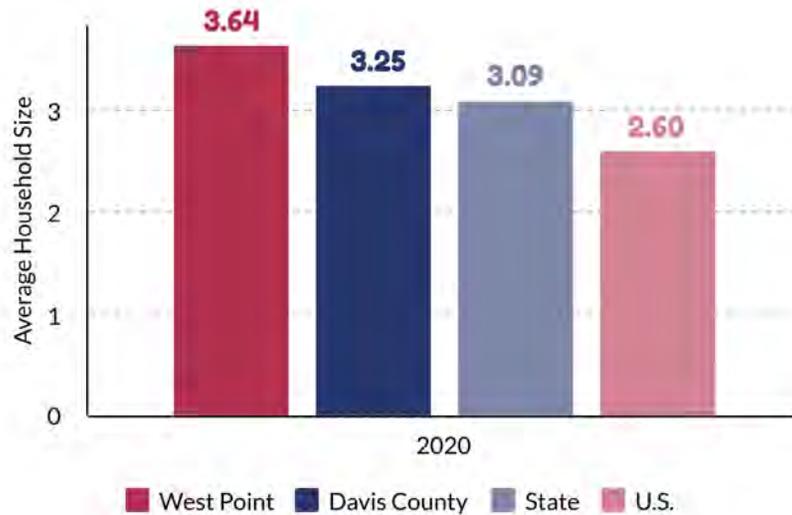


Figure 8: Average Household Size Comparison (2020)



Household Size

The average household size in West Point City decreased from 3.81 in 1990 to 3.64 in 2020 (see **Figure 7**). The lowest household size during that period was 3.41 in 2010, which is likely a result of lower birth rates during the economic downturn of the “Great Recession”. The current household size of 3.64 is significantly larger than the county (3.25), the state (3.09) and the nation (2.60), as shown in **Figure 8**. While the previous age analysis indicates that the city is gradually aging, the proportion of children as a percentage of the population is still significant, correlating with the city’s large household size.



Household Income

The median household income in West Point City increased steadily from \$56,985⁶ in 2000 and \$79,553⁷ in 2010 to \$99,226⁸ in 2020 (see **Figure 9**). As illustrated in **Figure 10**, the city had a significantly higher median household income in 2020 than the county (\$87,570), state (\$74,197) or nation (\$64,994). The larger median income of West Point City households is typical of communities with maturing populations in contrast to those with younger families, which tend to have lower household incomes.

SUMMARY

West Point City has grown steadily during the past two decades and is anticipated to grow at a higher rate during the next thirty years, adding approximately 23,349 residents by 2050 with annexation. The city has a significant portion of families with children, yet it is also gradually aging. West Point has larger households than the county and state, is also older than county and state averages, and household income has increased consistently over the past 30 years. All of these factors are indicative of a community composed of maturing families and households with children who are older.

These characteristics indicate that the West Point City parks, recreation, and trails system should be focused on serving families with children while also meeting the needs of a maturing population over time. Although there will be significant pressure to meet the demands of families with young children and teenagers, it is essential that the city also address the needs of older adults now and in the future.

6 In 2000 inflation-adjusted dollars
 7 In 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars
 8 In 2020 inflation-adjusted dollars

Figure 9: West Point Median Income (1990-2020)

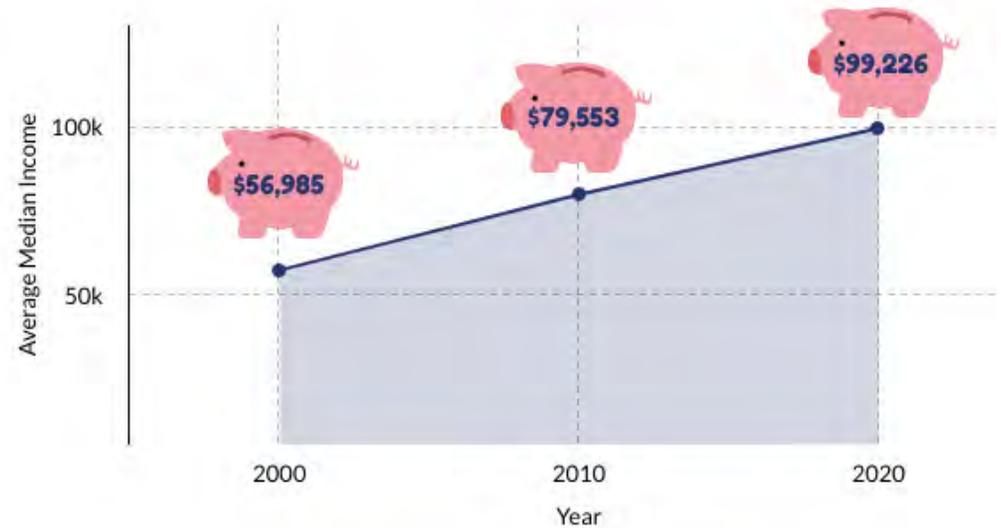
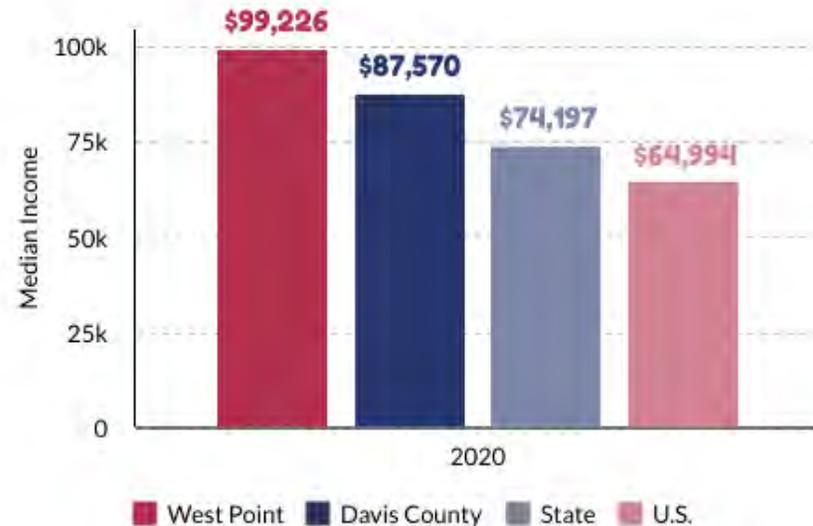


Figure 10: Median Income Comparison (2020)





**PLANNING
PROCESS & PUBLIC
INVOLVEMENT**

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PLANNING PROCESS & PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Community engagement is an essential step for ensuring long-range planning documents such as this master plan reflect public needs and visions. *The West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* was informed by a comprehensive community engagement process that provided opportunities for residents and stakeholders to give input and be engaged in the development of the plan.

Figure 11 provides a graphic representation of the public engagement process that was utilized, including a community survey, project website, the use of an interactive online participation and mapping tool called Social Pinpoint, and coordination with the Technical Committee and city leaders. A summary of each component of the planning process follows, and the Appendix contains a detailed *Community Engagement Analysis Report* which details the input received.

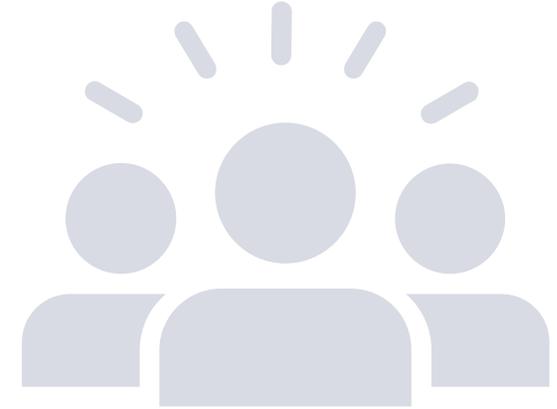


Figure 11: Planning Process



TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

A Technical Committee composed of representatives from the City Council, Planning Commission and city staff was established in the earliest stages of the planning process. The Technical Committee met two times at key stages of the process, providing critical guidance and feedback as the plan was developed.

PROJECT WEBSITE & SOCIAL PINPOINT INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

A dedicated project website was developed for this project that was structured to be accessible to the public throughout the planning process. The website (www.westpointparks.org) included online comment tools to enable members of the public to express their needs, desires, and issues related to this planning effort. The website also provided a comprehensive documentation of meetings, results and directives, serving as a clearinghouse of information and updates on the planning progress. In addition, information regarding meetings, presentation materials, notes, and recordings of meetings were provided on the website throughout the process, in addition to the dissemination of survey results. Finally, the website provided an opportunity for the public to join an email list and access to a document library, including a copy of the draft plan documents for public review and comment.

The website received over 873 unique visits through September 1, 2022. The Social Pinpoint interactive mapping tool was visited by 79 unique users who provide a total of 30 comments on the online map (see the summary graphic). Two comments were submitted through the website comment form.

TOP FIVE ISSUES ON SOCIAL PINPOINT

- 1 Add perimeter walking path at Loy Blake Park.
- 2 Develop pickleball courts - desired at Bingham Park or Loy Blake Park.
- 3 Install more benches around playground at Loy Blake Park.
- 4 Develop a recreation center (near 300 North 3000 West).
- 5 Add more trees at East Park.



Project website home page

COMMUNITY SURVEY

An open access community survey was conducted by the planning team utilizing the Survey Monkey survey platform. The purpose of the survey was to gather community input on parks, recreation, and trails from any residents wishing to participate. The survey was advertised through the city's social media accounts, newsletter, and website.

The survey sampled residents from March through mid-April 2022. A total of 455 responses were received during that period, though it should be noted the survey platform did not have a means to ensure each person responded only once. Key takeaways from the community survey are summarized on this page (see summary graphic).

TOP TAKEAWAYS OF THE COMMUNITY SURVEY



- 1** City parks are heavily used by respondents, with 63.5 percent indicating they use city parks a few times a month or more.
- 2** Loy Blake Park is the most frequently used park.
- 3** Proximity to home is the number one reason respondents use their most used park.
- 4** Approximately 41.7 percent of respondents or members of their households have participated in city sports and recreation programs over the past twelve months.
- 5** City trails are used frequently by respondents, with nearly 56.4 percent using them a few times a month or more.
- 6** Additional walking and biking trails tied with pickleball courts for the top priority when respondents were asked to allocate a hypothetical \$100 for recreation facilities, programs, and amenities.



CITY LEADERSHIP BRIEFINGS AND ADOPTION PRESENTATIONS

The planning team briefed the City Council on February 10, 2023. The final draft of the *West Point City Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan 2023* was presented to the West Point City Planning Commission on March 9, 2023, and it was forwarded to the City Council with a positive recommendation for adoption. The West Point City Council adopted the master plan on May 2, 2023.

"As the city grows we need more open space and trails. Please expand our current parks and connect the trails. Open space is so important for mental and physical health."

-Survey Respondent

"We would love to see a pickleball court and more bike trails. These are both wonderful activities that can be done by all ages. Thank you."

-Survey Respondent

"Even if I personally don't use every park, I love having them. I love having them for our youth, for our families, and even just because they had peace and beauty to our city."

-Survey Respondent





PARKS & OPEN SPACE

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Parks and natural open space are places for community members to actively recreate and improve their physical fitness. They also offer community members a place to come together in celebration or exercise in the fresh outdoor air. They comprise special landscapes that provide physical and visual relief from the built environment, assist with stormwater management and flood control, help improve air and water quality, and regulate temperature fluctuations.

This chapter begins by examining the current state of existing parks and open spaces in West Point City. It documents the number, size, amenities, and distribution of these places, which are then analyzed to determine how they help meet current needs. With an understanding of existing conditions, future needs are analyzed by applying population growth projections and establishing future trends to help determine the best way to meet long-term park and open space needs. The chapter concludes with the identification of goals, policies, and implementation measures to ensure park and open space needs are met now and in the future.

PUBLIC INPUT ON PARKS & OPEN SPACE

As detailed in Chapter 2: Planning Process and Public Involvement, the planning process included a range of public engagement opportunities to ensure the needs and desires of West Point residents were well-vetted and understood. The following is a summary of the results related to parks and open space.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

The community survey included several questions specifically related to park use in West Point City. As shown in **Figure 12**, survey respondents use city parks frequently, with nearly two-thirds visiting city parks a few times a month or more. Approximately one in five use parks a few times a year and nearly ten percent use city parks once a month. Less than three percent of respondents use parks once a year or never use or visit city parks at all.

When asked how often they use specific city parks, respondents indicate that they use Loy Blake Park most often, with more than half of respondents visiting the park a few times a month or more and less than one percent of respondents never using or visiting the park (**Figure 13**). In contrast, approximately a third of all respondents indicate that they never use or visit East Park or Bingham Park.

The most important reason for visiting their most used park, field, or recreation facility, is proximity to home, as shown in **Figure 14**. Nearly two-thirds of survey respondents note that this is the primary factor, followed closely by the playground equipment provided. Sports fields/courts and trees/atmosphere round out the top tier, with more than thirty percent of respondents indicating these are also important reasons for park, field, or facility use.

Figure 12: Frequency of Park Usage

Q1: How often do you use or visit West Point City parks?

Answered: 455 Skipped: 0

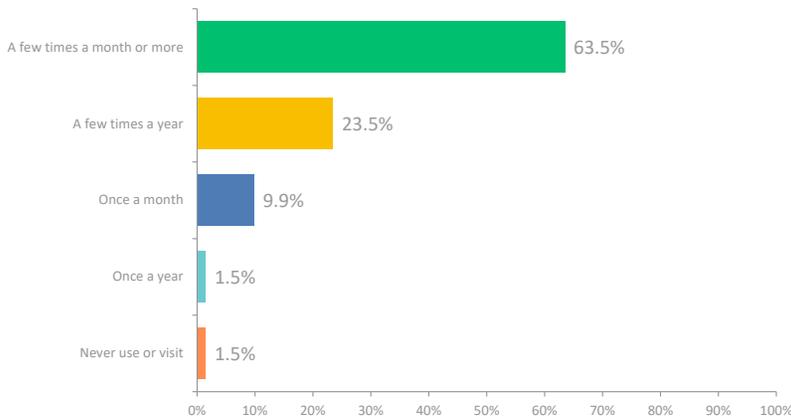


Figure 13: Park Use

Q2: How often does your household use the following West Point City parks?

Answered: 430 Skipped: 25

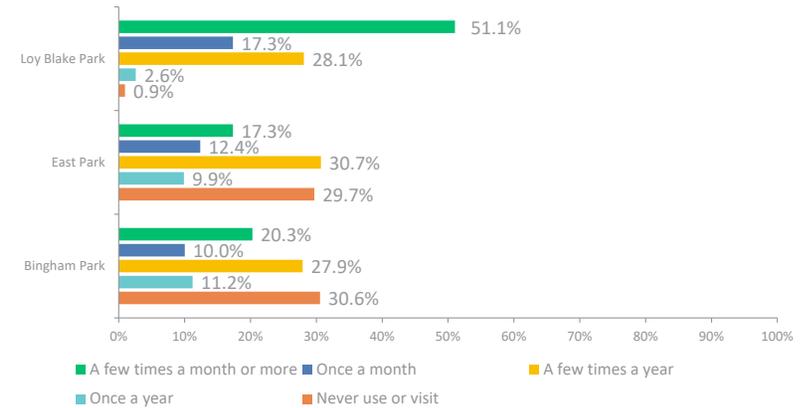


Figure 14: Park Use Reasons

Q3: What is the most important reason that you use your MOST USED park, field or recreation facility? (Select up to three.)

Answered: 420 Skipped: 35

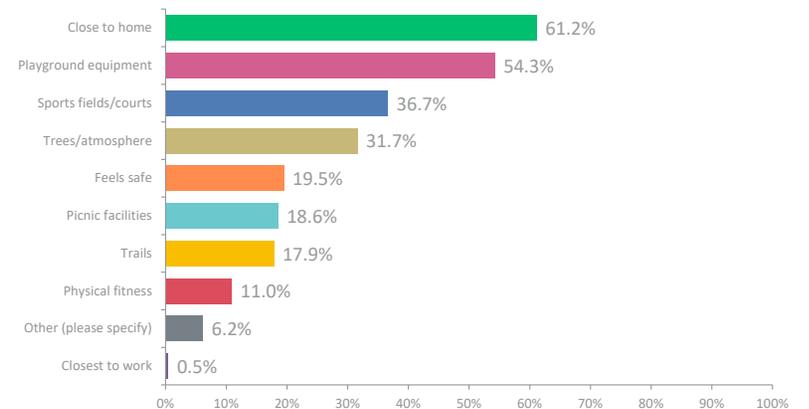
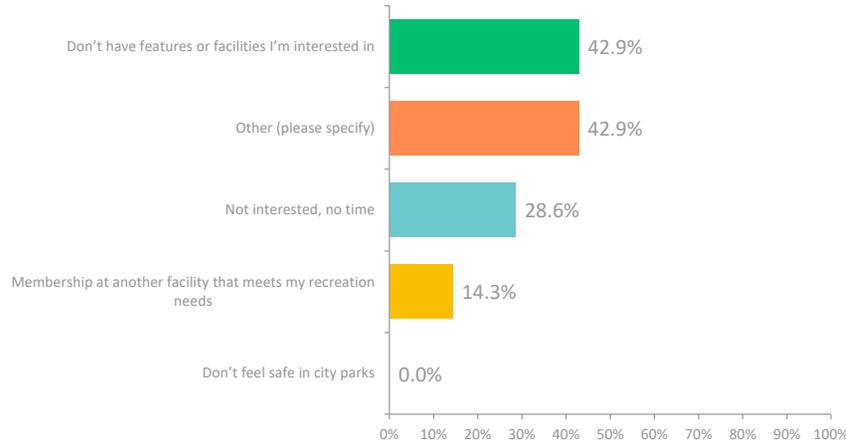


Figure 15: Reasons for Not Using Parks

Q4: Which of the follow reasons explains why you DO NOT use or visit West Point City parks? (Select up to three.)

Answered: 7 Skipped: 448



For the small number of respondents that do not use city parks, the top reasons include not having features or facilities they are interested in or “other”, as shown in **Figure 15**. “Other” includes answers such as “no trail for walking”, “didn’t know there were parks in West Point”, and “too far from my house”. A small percentage indicate that they are not interested, do not have time, or have a membership at a recreation facility that meets their needs.

The survey indicates that respondents use a wide variety of recreation amenities located outside of West Point City, including splash pads (55.1 percent), trailhead parks (45.8 percent) playgrounds (44.9 percent), and athletic courts (41.8 percent) (**Figure 16**). The most common response to “other” facilities used beyond city limits includes skate parks, dog parks, amphitheater events, disc golf courses, and pickleball.

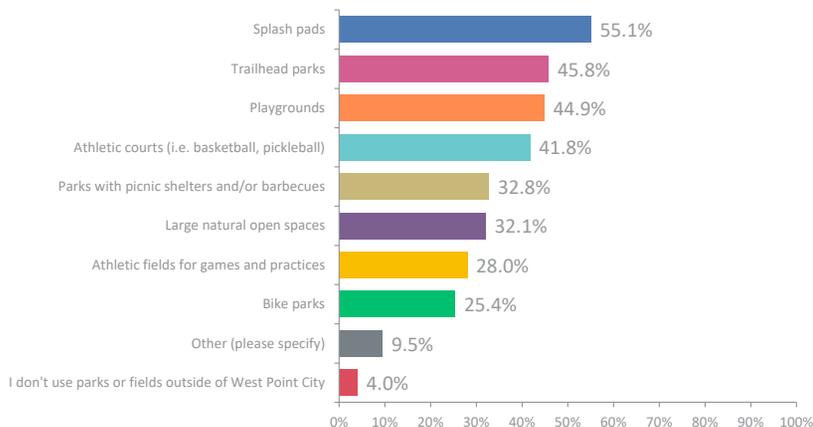
WEBSITE & SOCIAL PINPOINT INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

Community members submitted 30 comments through the Social Pinpoint Interactive Mapping Tool. Top comments related to parks and open space in West Point include requests for a perimeter pathway at Loy Blake Park, pickleball courts at Bingham Park or Loy Blake Park and more trees at East Park. Additional amenities or improvements desired by residents include additional benches at Loy Blake Park, a skate park/pump track and dog park at East Park, basketball courts and a playground upgrade at Bingham Park, the addition of park amenities at the city owned detention basin on 1300 North and 4000 West, and more parks and playgrounds on the west side of the city in general.

Figure 16: Amenities Used Outside of the City

Q5: Which of the following types of parks or fields, if any, do you or members of your household use or visit OUTSIDE of West Point? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 421 Skipped: 34



- 

4 **Playgrounds**
- 

5 **Restrooms**
- 

2 **Reservable Pavilions**
- 

5 **Multipurpose Fields**
- 

0 **Pickleball Courts**
- 

2 **Tennis Courts**
- 

6 **Baseball/Softball Fields**
- 

4 **Sand Volleyball Courts**
- 

2 **Multi-Sport Courts**

EXISTING PARKS

As summarized in the callout below and described in more detail in the following pages, West Point City is fortunate to have a network of parks and amenities that are well-distributed throughout the community.

PARK SYSTEM “AT-A-GLANCE”

Residents expressed appreciation for the existing parks and amenities and how they help meet the community’s recreational needs. The park system is shown in **Map 1**, which also includes city open spaces, schools, special use parks, and unique amenities.

Table 1 provides a detailed inventory of the existing parks and amenities that are available at each site. To summarize, the table indicates that 53.7 acres of existing parks and other special use parks and facilities and 40.9 acres of open space are currently located in the city to serve West Point residents. The table also includes notes regarding additional facilities and changes that could help meet the city’s recreation needs.

53.7	4	1
Public Park & Special Use Parks & Facility Acres	Public Parks	Special Use Facility



Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan

MAP 1: EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- City Park
- City Open Space
- City Cemetery
- City Facility
- Private Park
- Private Open Space
- Private Detention Basin
- Golf Course
- School
- Church Bowery
- Park in Adjacent Community
- Golf Course in Adjacent Community
- West Point City Boundary
- Annexation Declaration Area
- Parcel Boundary
- FEMA Flood Boundary
- Lake/Waterbody
- Wetland
- Perennial Stream
- - - Canal

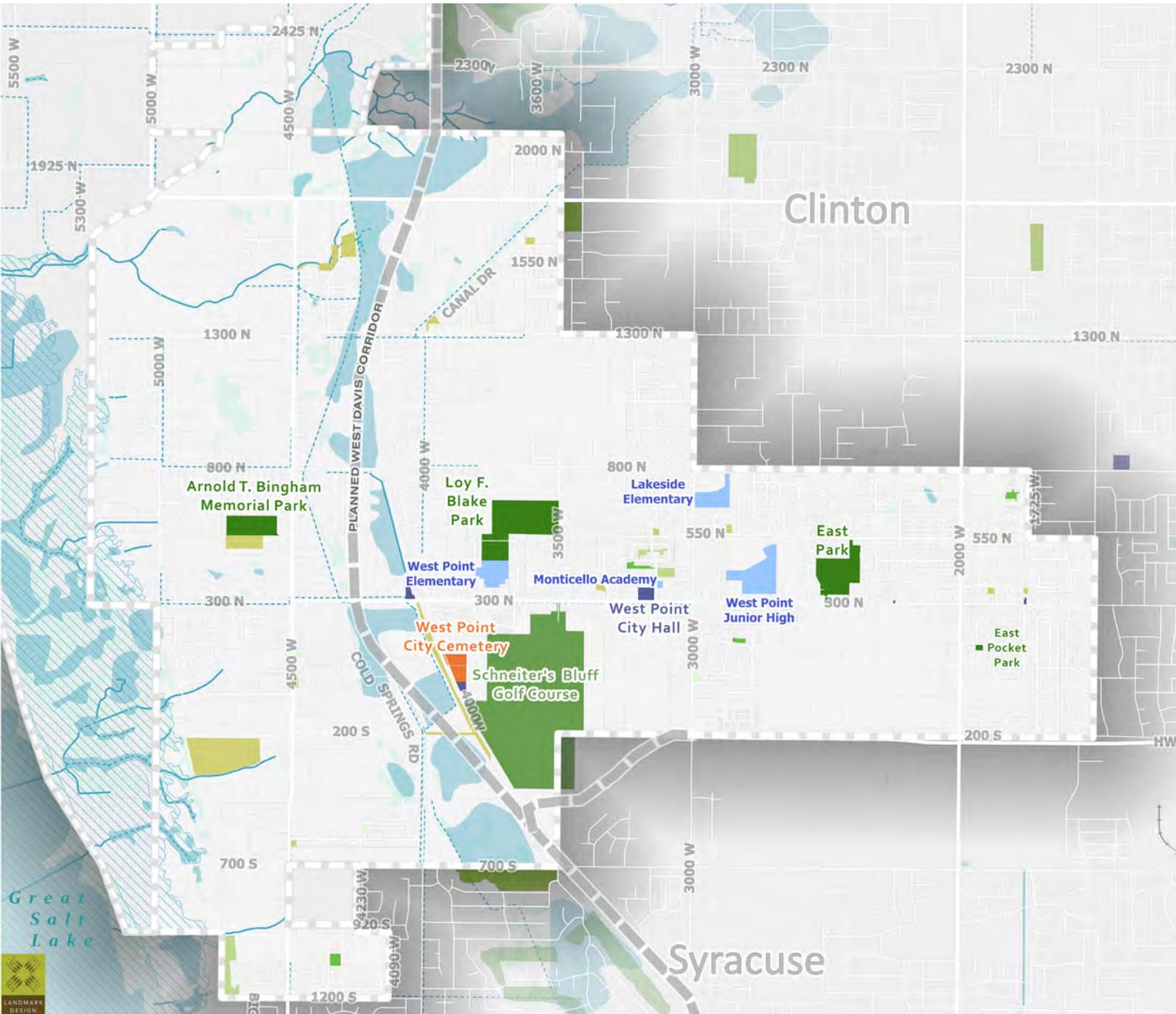


TABLE 1: PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY

PARK NAME	ADDRESS	ACRES	PARKING TYPE	PARKING SPACES	RESTROOMS	RESERVABLE PAVILIONS	MEDIUM/SMALL PAVILIONS	MULTIPURPOSE FIELDS	BASEBALL/SOFTBALL FIELDS	TENNIS COURTS	PICKLEBALL COURTS	VOLLEYBALL COURTS	MULTI-SPORT COURTS/BASKETBALL	PLAYGROUNDS
REGIONAL PARKS														
Loy F. Blake Park	550 North 3500 West	26.3	Paved	298	3	1	4	4	3	2	0	1	1	2
COMMUNITY PARKS														
East Park	2550 West 330 North	14.2	Paved	153	1	1	3	0	2	0	0	1	0	1
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS														
Arnold T. Bingham Memorial Park	4550 West 550 North	8.8	Paved	57	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	0	1
POCKET PARKS														
East Pocket Park	1897 West 150 North	0.2	On-street	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
TOTAL PARK AMENITIES		49.5		508	5	2	10	5	6	2	0	4	2	4



TABLE 1: PARK FACILITIES INVENTORY (CONT.)

PARK NAME	SKATE/BIKE PARK	SPLASH PAD	PICNIC TABLES	FIRE PITS	BENCHES	BIKE RACKS	DRINKING FOUNTAINS	PERIMETER WALKING PATHS (MILES)	OPEN LAWN AREAS	TRAILHEAD	WATER ACCESS	NOTES
REGIONAL PARKS												
Loy F. Blake Park	0	1	29	1	10	0	7	0.0	Y	N	Y	Swing Sets (2); Fire Pit (1); Horseshoe Pit; Pavilions (1-300 person, 4-60 person); Basketball Court has 6 half court hoops: Two major multipurpose fields have multiple mini breakdowns: Water and Power.
COMMUNITY PARKS												
East Park	0	0	22	1	5	0	1	0.61	Y	N	N	Swing Sets (2); Fire Pit (1); Pavilions (1-100 person, 2-30 person); Water. No Power.
NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS												
Arnold T. Bingham Memorial Park	0	0	15	1	6	0	1	0.54	Y	N	N	Fire Pit (1); Pavilions (3-30 person); No power or Water.
POCKET PARKS												
East Pocket Park												
TOTAL PARK AMENITIES	0	1	66	3	21	0	9	1.15				



Typical pocket park amenities

The following is a description of typical park types, beginning with the smallest (pocket parks), followed by neighborhood parks, community parks, and concluding with the largest type (regional parks). The chapter also addresses special use parks and facilities that are not generally used for traditional park needs. The section concludes with a discussion of public open space and how it is distributed throughout the community. Appendix A - West Point City Park System Inventory and Conditions Assessment includes more detail about the individual parks currently located in the city.

PARK TYPES

Pocket Parks

With a typical size of 3 acres or less, pocket parks are the smallest type of park that might be considered in West Point. Due to the small size of these parks, they usually include only basic park amenities, such as open lawn areas, picnic tables, small shelters, benches, and trees. They are designed to serve the needs of the immediate residential neighborhood and to provide access to parks that is equitable. These parks are often provided in locations to help fill distribution gaps, where access to larger parks may not be feasible, or where large tracts of land are not available.

West Point currently has one pocket park totaling 0.2 acres.

East Pocket Park

East Pocket Park is located at 1897 W. 150 N on the east side of the city. The park is a grassed detention basin with one single-hoop basketball court.



Typical pocket park amenities



Basketball Court at East Park

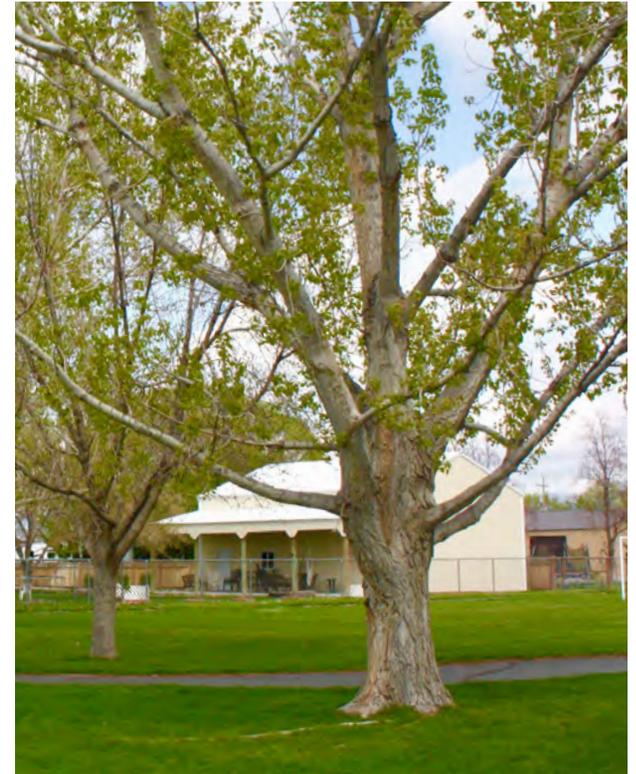
Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks typically range between 3 to 10 acres in size, providing amenities to meet the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. These parks include the same features as pocket parks, albeit larger. They also typically include a restroom, a playground, sports court or sports field, pavilions and other facilities that help meet neighborhood needs.

West Point currently has one neighborhood parks comprising 8.8 acres.

Arnold T. Bingham Memorial Park

Bingham Park is located at 4550 West 550 North on the west side of the city, below Schneider's Bluff. Amenities at the park include a baseball field, multipurpose field, playground, restroom, fire pit, two sand volleyball courts, three medium pavilions with picnic tables, a perimeter pathway, park name sign, open lawn areas and benches and picnic tables throughout the park. A single paved lot provides parking for 57 vehicles.



Mature trees at Bingham Park



Baseball/softball diamond at Bingham Park



Pavilion and open lawn at Bingham Park



Playground at Bingham Park



Fire pit at East Park

Community Parks

Community parks generally range in size from 10 to 20 acres, though they may be larger, especially if they contain large undeveloped open lands that are accessed by trails, or smaller due to challenges with land availability. Community parks are sometimes located adjacent to unique facilities such as recreation, senior, or performing arts centers. They typically accommodate community events and gatherings and can provide for a broad variety of activities and recreation opportunities.

West Point currently one community park in this category, encompassing 14.2 acres of land, which is described in greater detail below.

East Park

East Park is located on the East side of the city at 2550 West 330 North. The park includes two baseball/softball fields, a playground, restroom, large reservable pavilion, three small pavilions, a sand volleyball court, fire pit, perimeter pathway, open lawn areas, and benches and picnic tables throughout the park. Two paved lots provide parking for a total of 153 vehicles.



Reservable pavilion at East Park



Playground at East Park



Perimeter pathway at East Park

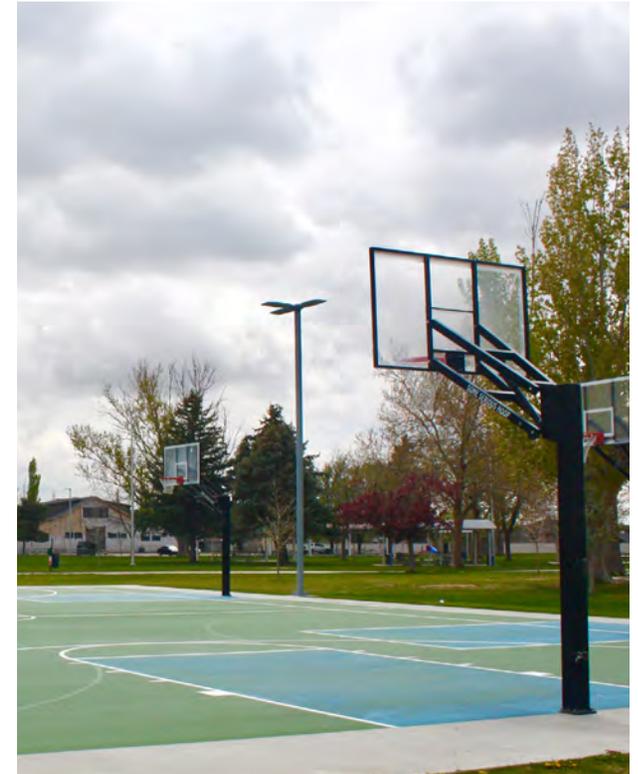
Regional Parks

The largest type of park is the regional park, which serves the city and the region with special features and amenities. Regional Parks are generally 20 acres or greater but may be smaller depending on land availability or other factors or needs. They are also the most diverse park type, providing a large range of amenities and features.

West Point currently has one regional park in this category, totaling 26.3 acres of land, which is described in greater detail below.

Loy F. Blake Park

Loy F. Blake Park is centrally located at 550 North 3500 West and serves the community and region with three baseball/softball fields, four multipurpose fields, three restrooms, two tennis courts, a large playground and smaller tot lot, sand volleyball court, splash pad, large reservable pavilion, four medium pavilions, a veterans' memorial, fire pit, two horseshoe pits, park name sign, open lawn areas, and benches and picnic tables throughout the park. Four paved lots provide parking for a total of 298 vehicles.



Multi-sport court at Loy Blake Park



Playground at Loy Blake Park



Reservable pavilion at Loy Blake Park



Splash Pad at Loy Blake Park



SPECIAL USE PARKS & FACILITIES

Special use parks and facilities are typically unique facilities that contribute to the open feel of a community, are focused on non-traditional park and recreation needs, or are “pay to play” facilities not accessible without payment of an entrance fee. The West Point City Cemetery is the only city-owned special use facility in the West Point at 4.2 acres.

Schneider’s Bluff Golf Course is a privately owned and operated facility which helps meet the needs of residents of the city and region. While not owned by the city, the 18-hole course totals 136.3 acres and contributes to the green, open feel of the community.

OTHER PUBLIC LAND MAINTAINED BY THE CITY

In addition to parks, West Point also maintains a range of public landscapes located in the vicinity of public buildings, such as City Hall and the public works yard, and street right-of-way, totaling approximately 7.7 acres. While such uses often enhance the community’s aesthetics or fulfill key functions, they place additional demands on the city’s maintenance staff and do not fulfill a park function. The city also owns approximately 40.9 acres of open space.

PRIVATE PARKS

Private parks are typically designed to meet the needs of residents who live in private subdivisions. Such parks are generally not open to public access and use, and often focus on providing open lawn areas, playgrounds, sports courts and small pavilions. In contrast, public parks usually include “big-ticket” features and elements expressly to meet public needs and demands, such as active sports fields and other major recreation facilities. Since private parks and recreation facilities are generally not open for public use, they are not included in the assessment of service levels and distribution that follow.



Typical regional park amenities

EXISTING PARK NEEDS & SERVICE LEVELS

Two separate analyses were used to determine how the existing parks system in West Point meets community needs. The first of these is a **Level of Service (LOS) Analysis**, which examines park acreage in relation to population. The second is a **Distribution/Service Area Analysis**, which evaluates the distribution of parks in the city to determine if gaps in service to residential areas exist.

LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) developed the Level of Service (LOS) Analysis to help communities evaluate whether their amount of park land is sufficient for meeting resident needs. The LOS analysis is a ratio calculated by dividing the total acres of park land by the population and multiplying by 1,000. This resulting figure represents the number of park acres provided for every thousand residents.

Until recently, national LOS standards were the benchmark for assessing park needs, providing the framework for a community to compare its performance against other cities and minimum national standards. The method has fallen out of favor as a standard benchmark in our region, in large part because such comparisons do not reflect the unique conditions and goals of individual communities. This is especially true in the Intermountain West, where cities such as West Point have access to significant amounts of state and federal public lands and publicly owned open space that help meet recreation needs. As a result, the analysis serves instead as a reference point for gauging where a community stands over time rather than a recommendation or for direct comparisons with other communities, which can show the amount of park acreage currently available in context to the surrounding area, and whether adjustments are required as the community grows and matures.

As previously indicated, West Point City has approximately 53.7 acres of land available to meet a broad spectrum of park uses and needs. However, only a portion of that total has been used for calculating the current Level of Service (LOS) since some of the existing facilities do not contribute to meeting park needs. For example, the cemetery is not a park, and the acreage of this facility was therefore deducted from the total, reducing the total acres of traditional park land to 49.5 acres, which includes Pocket, Neighborhood, Community and Regional Parks.

The existing LOS was determined by dividing the acreage of existing city parks (49.5) by the 2022 population (12,624) and multiplying by 1,000 to calculate the number of park acres per 1,000 residents ($49.5 / 12,624 \times 1,000 = 3.9$). This calculation indicates that the city has an **existing LOS of 3.9 acres of park land for every thousand residents**.

LOS Park Acres



Existing Level of Service



A NOTE ABOUT LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS) & IMPACT FEES

The LOS discussion in this document is related specifically to planning for future parks. The intent is to understand the level of service currently existing in the community, and to determine the means for maintaining that level of service or establishing a more appropriate level of service for the future.

LOS is based on a quantity (acres, miles, numbers) per a determined number of persons (population), and results in a ratio of facilities to population. For example, the parks ratio is typically expressed as the number of acres of park land per 1,000 persons.

It is important to distinguish this discussion of LOS for planning purposes from the LOS typically used in determining impact fees. Impact fees are a means of charging new development its proportionate share of the cost of providing essential public services. While a LOS for planning is used to establish a standard or guideline for future facility development, an impact fee is used to assess new development for the actual cost of providing the service. For example, if there are five acres of parks in West Point for each 1,000 residents at present, new development cannot be charged at a rate for ten acres of park land for each 1,000 residents. West Point may elect to provide a higher LOS in the future because its current residents desire a higher level of service, but it cannot require new development to pay for the higher LOS. Utah law is clear on this point, as follows:

“A local political subdivision or private entity may not impose an impact fee to raise the established level of service of a public facility serving existing development.” UC11-36-202(1)(a)(ii).”

The parks and recreation master plan should provide a foundation for developing a Capital Improvements Plan, Impact Fee Facilities Plan (IFFP), and Impact Fee Analysis (IFA). The IFFP is designed to identify the demands placed upon the existing facilities by future development and evaluate how these demands will be met by the city, as well as the future improvements required to maintain the existing LOS. The purpose of the IFA is to proportionately allocate the cost of the new facilities and any excess capacity to new development, while ensuring that all methods of financing are considered. While the IFFP and IFA typically serves as a companion to this master plan, information may differ due to the specific requirements related to the calculation of impact fees as defined in Utah Code 11-36a – the Impact Fee Act.

DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS

Analyzing the distribution of parks and service areas helps clarify the spatial and locational characteristics of the city’s parks. As indicated in the public input received, the distribution of parks is important, as many survey respondents indicated that having parks within walking distance of their homes is important.

Map 2 illustrates the distribution and service areas of existing parks, which were assigned service radii as follows:

- » **Pocket Parks**
1/4-mile radius
(typical walking distance for park with minimal amenities)
- » **Neighborhood Parks**
1/2-mile radius
(typical walking distance for park with a small variety of amenities)
- » **Community Parks**
1-mile radius
(typical driving distance for park with a variety of amenities)
- » **Regional Parks**
2-mile radius
(typical driving distance for park with a large variety of amenities)

The map also indicates where existing residential areas are located, helping to clarify where parks serve existing and future neighborhoods and where there are existing and potential gaps. As illustrated in the map, most areas are within driving distance of a park, but fewer have a park within walking distance.



Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan

MAP 2: EXISTING PARK SERVICE AREAS

- City Park
- City Open Space
- City Cemetery
- City Facility
- Private Park
- Private Open Space
- Private Detention Basin
- Golf Course
- School
- Church Bowery
- Park in Adjacent Community
- Golf Course in Adjacent Community
- Existing Residential
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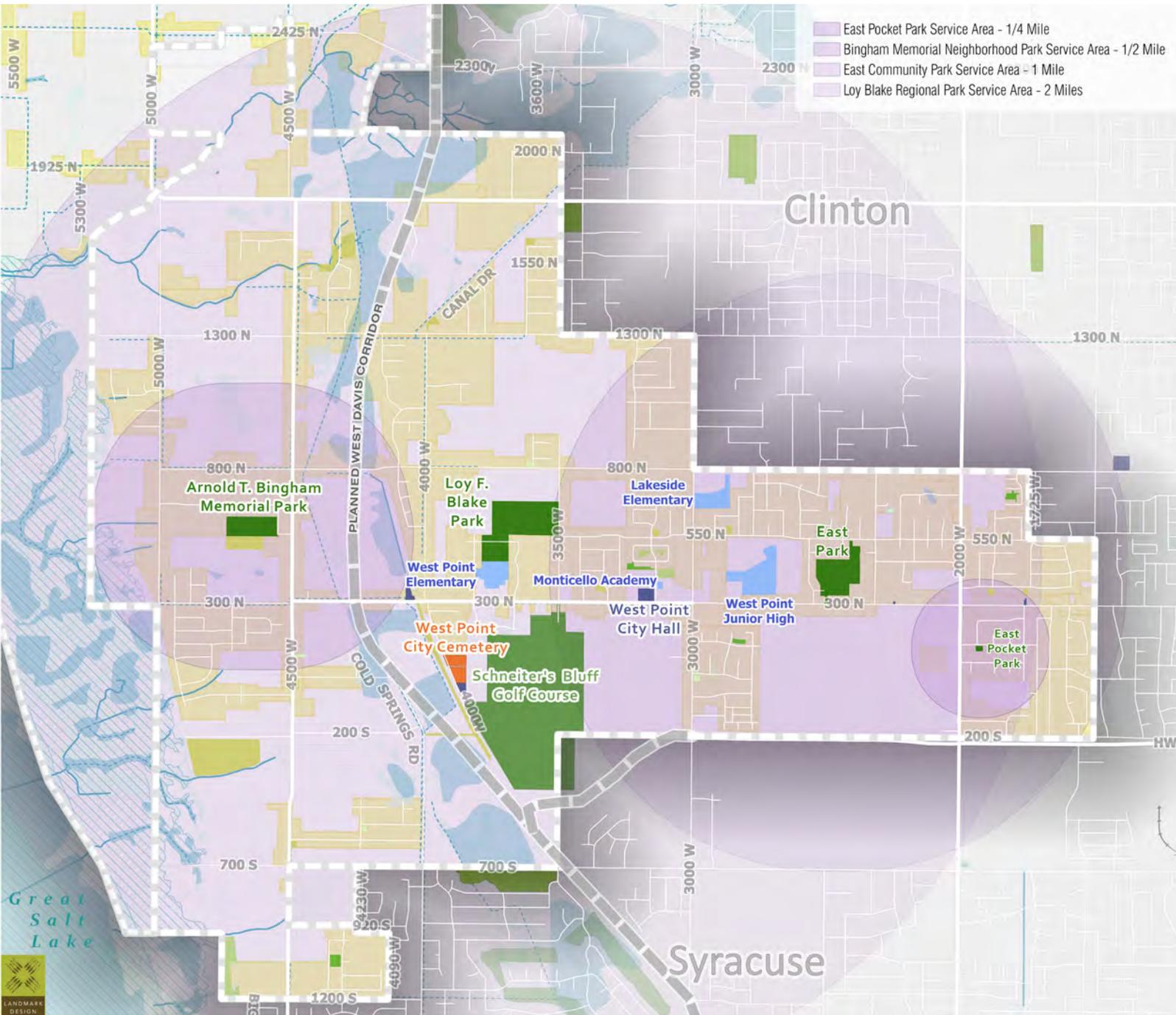


TABLE 2: PARK LEVEL OF SERVICE COMPARISON

COMMUNITY	PARK LEVEL-OF-SERVICE (LOS)
St. George	5.7
Mapleton City	4.9
Provo	4.8
Spanish Fork	4.7
South Jordan	4.4
Salem	4.3
West Point City	3.9
Sandy	3.8
Draper	3.7
Herriman	3.7
Saratoga Springs	3.7
Lehi	3.6
West Jordan	2.9
Orem	2.8

MEETING EXISTING & FUTURE PARK NEEDS

This section addresses the types, acreage, and distribution of parks required to meet existing and future needs in West Point City. The recommendations are based on the analyses in the previous section and are aligned with projections of future growth and park demands. The recommendations also take into consideration input from city staff, the Technical Committee, and the public.

FUTURE LEVEL OF SERVICE FOR PARKS

As previously mentioned, direct comparisons to national standards are not recommended although reviewing situations closer to home can provide a general sense of where West Point stands in comparison to similar communities in the region, some of which have similar goals and needs. As illustrated in **Table 2**, the city's LOS falls in the middle of the sample of other Utah communities, many of which are larger than West Point.

The range in LOS can be dramatic, depending on the parks vision of each community. For example, some cities aim to become regional recreation destinations for tourists and are willing to finance major investments in park development. Others choose to include open space acquisition in their park acre calculations. West Point's LOS moving forward should be based on the city's vision for its park system paired with what the community is able and willing to fund.

Future Level of Service



Recommended LOS

Community input indicates an overall satisfaction with the parks in the city, although improvements to existing parks and providing parks in under-served areas are important to residents. The recommended future LOS is based on general satisfaction with the current provision of parks and the city's desire to maintain a high-quality park system with a variety of facilities, amenities, and options. Therefore, this plan recommends **maintaining a future LOS of 3.9 park acres per 1,000 people and increasing it slightly if possible.**

Vigilance and care are required to ensure new parks are located in a manner that fills distribution gaps and provides equitable access to parks as the city continues to develop. It is also important to note that since it is common for LOS to decline slightly as cities mature. For example, as West Point continues to mature, a broader variety of amenities such as trails and amenities in natural open space should be provided to meet resident needs, many of which fall outside traditional LOS analysis methods and may contribute to a slight decline in LOS.

FILLING DISTRIBUTION GAPS

As described previously, there are several gaps in parks within walking distance, primarily around the perimeter of the city at the north, east and south (see **Map 2**). There are a number of planned parks described below, which move the city closer to filling existing and future gaps.

Planned Parks

Table 3 and **Map 3** describe and illustrate new or expanded city parks in relation to existing and planned residential areas in West Point and the annexation declaration area. Expansions include a potential addition of 19.8 on the north side of Loy Blake Park, and 4.3 acres at the south end of Bingham Park, which will provide additional options for amenities desired by the community.

TABLE 3: PLANNED PARK EXPANSIONS & NEW PARKS

PARK PROJECT	ACRES	TYPE	STATUS
Loy Blake Park	19.8	Park Expansion	City still needs to acquire the land
Bingham Park	4.3	Park Expansion	City-owned land
Detention Basin Upgrade (4350 West near 1650 North)	3.5	New Neighborhood Park	City-owned land
Public Works Park	10.0	New Community Park	City-owned land
Junior High Park	10.0	New Community Park	City still needs to acquire the land
Total Acres	47.6		

Two new parks are also planned on land that the city already owns, including 3.5 acres at the detention basin in the north end of the community and 10 acres on the east end of the future Public Works yard on 200 South. The city also intends to acquire and develop 10 acres adjacent to the new junior high school on 700 South. West Point plans to partner with the school and contribute funds to expand the gym and add offices and restrooms in the school for use by city recreation programs. The city hopes to develop multipurpose fields and a playground in a 10-acre park next to the school.

The planned parks and expansions total 47.6 acres, which together help fill existing and future needs but does not completely fill all gaps. As illustrated in the map, a small gap in walkable parks still remains on the city's east side and the annexation area has a large gap area in the northwest.

“The northwest corner of our city desperately needs a park and/or safe routes to get to a park. Currently our choices are a road that is 45 mph or a road that is 35 mph with no shoulder!”

-Survey Respondent

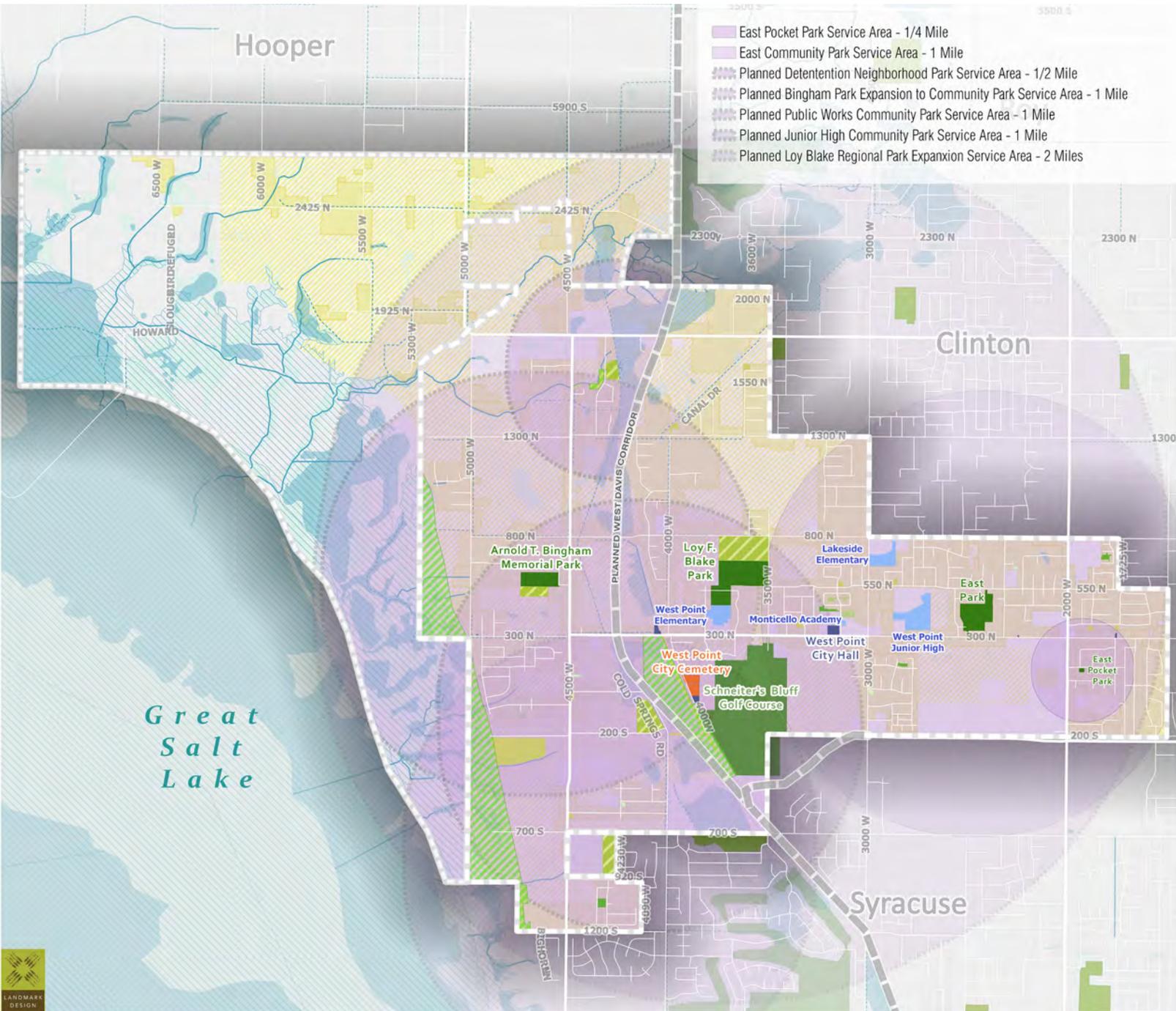


Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan

MAP 3: EXISTING & PLANNED PARK SERVICE AREAS

- Planned Parks
- City Park
- City Open Space
- City Cemetery
- City Facility
- Private Park
- Private Open Space
- Private Detention Basin
- Golf Course
- School
- Church Bowery
- Park in Adjacent Community
- Golf Course in Adjacent Community
- Existing Residential
- Planned Residential
- West Point City Boundary
- Annexation Declaration Area
- Parcel Boundary
- FEMA Flood Boundary
- Lake/Waterbody
- Wetland
- Perennial Stream
- Canal

- East Pocket Park Service Area - 1/4 Mile
- East Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Detention Neighborhood Park Service Area - 1/2 Mile
- Planned Bingham Park Expansion to Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Public Works Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Junior High Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Loy Blake Regional Park Expansion Service Area - 2 Miles



Proposed Parks

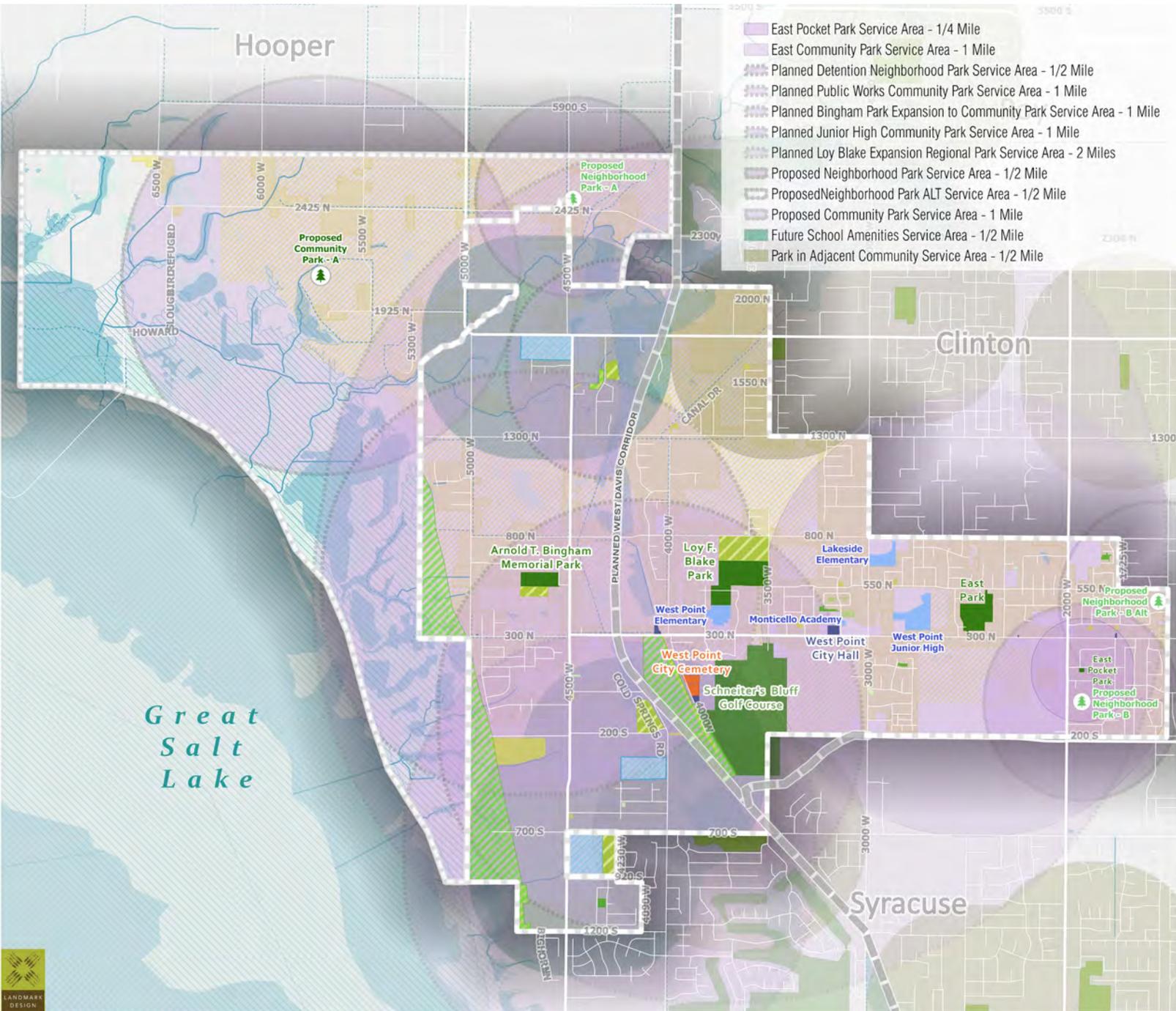
Map 4 details the additional neighborhood and community parks that are needed to help fill existing and future gaps in the city's park system. As shown, one additional community park is needed in the future annexation area. Two neighborhood parks are also recommended to provide a finer grain of park distribution and help provide parks closer to home. One neighborhood park is proposed in the annexation area to help meet needs as the city continues to develop (proposed neighborhood park A). The second proposed neighborhood park (proposed neighborhood park B) is in the east end of the city, just east of 2000 West. An alternate location for proposed neighborhood park B is also shown on the map in the event the preferred location cannot be secured. This approach will fill current gaps and ensure equitable park access by build-out.

Parks in adjacent communities and fields and amenities at schools also help supplement the recreation needs of West Point residents, as noted in the community survey results. Service areas for these amenities are shown on **Map 4** to illustrate how they enhance the service areas for West Point City parks.

Assuming a recommended minimum of three acres per neighborhood park and ten acres for community parks, the city will need a total of 16.0 acres of additional park land to meet present and future distribution needs assuming all currently planned parks are constructed.

“We need more creative parks like Chloe’s Sunshine (Syracuse), Creekside Park (Bountiful), Thunder Junction (St George), Forest Giants (Kentucky’s Bernheim Forest)”

-Survey Respondent



- East Pocket Park Service Area - 1/4 Mile
- East Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Detention Neighborhood Park Service Area - 1/2 Mile
- Planned Public Works Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Bingham Park Expansion to Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Junior High Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Planned Loy Blake Expansion Regional Park Service Area - 2 Miles
- Proposed Neighborhood Park Service Area - 1/2 Mile
- Proposed Neighborhood Park ALT Service Area - 1/2 Mile
- Proposed Community Park Service Area - 1 Mile
- Future School Amenities Service Area - 1/2 Mile
- Park in Adjacent Community Service Area - 1/2 Mile



MAP 4: EXISTING, PLANNED, & PROPOSED PARK DISTRIBUTION & SERVICE AREAS

- Proposed Neighborhood Park
- Proposed Community Park
- Planned Parks
- City Park
- City Open Space
- City Cemetery
- City Facility
- Private Park
- Private Open Space
- Private Detention Basin
- Golf Course
- School
- Church Bowery
- Future School
- Park in Adjacent Community
- Golf Course in Adjacent Community
- Existing Residential
- Planned Residential
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- Annexation Declaration Area
- Parcel Boundary
- Future West Davis Corridor
- FEMA Flood Boundary
- Wetland
- Lake/Waterbody
- Perennial Stream
- Canal

0.5 0.25 0 Miles MAY 2023



MEETING NEEDS DURING THE 10-YEAR PLANNING HORIZON

Carrying the recommended future LOS of 3.9 forward to meet park needs through the 10-year planning period results in a total of 81.6 acres of public park land required by 2032 to meet requirements ($20,930 / 1,000 \times 3.9 = 81.6$). There are 49.5 acres of existing public park land already provided, which results in a need to develop 32.1 acres of the planned 52.6 acres¹ by 2032 to maintain the recommended LOS ($81.6 - 49.5 = 32.1$). This leaves the city with a surplus of 15.5 acres of park land to help meet future needs.

It is recommended that Proposed Neighborhood Park B be acquired and developed by 2032 to help meet existing distribution needs. In addition, if the land north and west of the city is annexed by 2032, it will be important to acquire and develop the Proposed Community Park A and Proposed Neighborhood Parks A, shown in the annexation area on Map 4, to provide parks close to neighborhoods. This is a total of 16.0 acres of park land potentially needed to meet distribution needs by 2032 in addition to park land needed to meet LOS demands.

Planned Park Acres to be Developed by 2032



Park Acres Needed to Fill Distribution Gaps



“My children’s (9 and 6) biggest complaint is that there is always broken equipment at Loy Blake park. My biggest complaint as a parent is that there are not enough places for parents/ grandparents to spectate and sit. There is close to no shade at the parks. Some kind of canopy or more trees would be fantastic.”

-Survey Respondent

¹ The city still needs to acquire the 19.8 acres of park land to expand Loy Blake Park.

Planned Park Acres to be Developed Between 2032-2050



Acres to be Acquired & Developed by 2050



MEETING NEEDS THROUGH BUILD-OUT

The projected West Point population at build-out (2050) requires a total of 139.9 acres of public park land ($35,880 / 1,000 \times 3.9 = 139.9$) to meet park needs. There are 49.5 acres of existing developed public park land. Assuming 32.1 acres of planned parks and 16.0 acres for proposed community and neighborhood parks to fill gaps are developed by 2032, and the remaining 15.5 acres of planned parks are developed between 2032 and 2050, the city will need to acquire and develop an additional 26.8 acres of park land to meet LOS needs between 2032 and build-out ($139.9 - 49.5 - 32.1 - 16.0 - 15.5 = 26.8$). It is important to note that the proposed expansions to existing parks are important for providing room for additional requested amenities, and other planned and proposed parks are essential for ensuring existing and future residents have parks within walking distance of home.

Staying Ahead of the Park Demand Curve

Many rapidly growing communities in Utah find themselves behind in the provision of necessary park acreage, usually due to the lack of proper foresight, funding and prioritization. The city should therefore consider acquiring the necessary land as soon as possible to meet future park needs, which is particularly critical given rapidly increasing land costs and the fact that land prices rarely decrease in value.

FUTURE PARK TYPES

The city does not currently own or manage any pocket parks and the plan recommends that the city not develop or acquire any pocket parks, if possible, as they are small, difficult to maintain and operate and place a significant burden on maintenance staff and resources. The city should instead focus on expanding existing parks to the greatest degree possible and developing neighborhood, community and regional parks, as they provide the most “bang for the buck” and more efficiently utilize maintenance and operations funds. Furthermore, they serve the surrounding neighborhoods and community with more desirable amenities than pocket parks.

PARK STANDARDS & UPGRADES

Park development standards ensure that West Point's existing and future parks meet resident expectations and needs. Public input indicates that residents are generally satisfied with the city's parks but upgrading existing parks is important. Feedback from the online mapping indicates the need for additional or upgraded amenities in the city's parks, and improvements system wide. This feedback signifies that there is both a desire to upgrade amenities at existing parks and a need to ensure that future parks meet standards and expectations.

Another consideration to keep in mind is that while West Point is a young community with many children, it is aging and maturing. This dichotomy means that parks should be designed and implemented with some flexibility in order to meet the needs of the broadest range of users and age groups, all of whom have unique demands. The following minimum standards will help ensure parks meet existing and future needs and expectations.

PARK STANDARDS BY TYPE

The city should upgrade existing parks to meet the minimum requirements for the designated type. Where acreage would qualify a park for a "higher" park classification, but the amenities are lacking, the city should add amenities to bring the park up to the higher standard, which aligns with residents' desire to make the most of existing city parks. The city should also design future parks from the outset with features and amenities typical for each park type. The master plan recognizes that each park will need to be evaluated on an individual basis and designed according to site constraints, community needs and available funding.

“More places to sit and enjoy quiet nature (benches areas separated from sports areas by landscaping)”

-Survey Respondent



Typical pocket park amenities

POCKET PARK STANDARDS

Pocket parks are typically less than 3 acres in size. While the construction and acquisition of additional pocket parks is not recommended due to the maintenance burden and limited recreation value that smaller parks may place on the city, they may be the only option in some locations as the city continues to develop. If pocket parks are introduced in the future, they should be implemented to help ensure access to nearby residential neighborhoods within a quarter mile walking distance.

Pocket parks typically have limited amenities which include the following:

- » Trees
- » Open lawn area
- » Site furnishings such as picnic tables, benches and trash receptacles
- » Playground
- » Small Pavilion
- » On-street parking
- » Signage including park name and rules and regulations

NEIGHBORHOOD PARK STANDARDS

Neighborhood parks generally range from 3 to 10 acres in size, but they may be larger depending on land availability. They are intended to serve residential neighborhoods or developments within a one-half mile radius to be easily accessed by walking or biking.

Neighborhood parks typically have the following amenities:

- » All the amenities and features listed in pocket parks
- » Athletic programming grass areas
- » Sport fields
- » Sports courts
- » Paved walking paths/perimeter trails
- » Restrooms where appropriate
- » Medium and small pavilions
- » Off-street paved parking lots with the appropriate number of parking spaces for site uses
- » Other neighborhood-desired facilities



Typical neighborhood park amenities



Typical community park amenities

COMMUNITY PARK STANDARDS

Community parks generally range in size from 10 to 20 acres. They may be larger, especially if they contain large undeveloped open lands that are accessed by trails, or smaller due to challenges with land availability. They have a one-mile service radius and help meet the needs of residents throughout the community. Community parks are sometimes located adjacent to unique facilities such as senior, recreation or performing arts centers. They accommodate community events and gatherings and can provide for a broad variety of activities and recreation opportunities.

Community parks typically include a selection of the following amenities:

- » All the amenities and features listed in neighborhood parks
- » Large group pavilions that are typically available for rent
- » At least one specialty recreation feature such as:
 - » Multi-use playing fields
 - » Sport fields/complexes
 - » Sports courts/complexes
 - » Unique amenities such as bike parks, skate parks, splash pads, swimming pools or other facilities and community gathering areas for larger groups
- » Additional amenities depending on size and neighborhood or city needs

REGIONAL PARK STANDARDS

Regional parks generally range in size from 20 acres and greater but may be smaller depending on land availability or other factors or needs. They are also the most diverse park type, providing a range of amenities and features.

Regional parks typically have the following amenities the following amenities:

- » All the amenities and features in community parks but with two or more specialty recreation features.



Typical regional park amenities

“We definitely need more parking at our parks. We continue to let people buy every piece of land but forget that growth will always be a problem.”

-Survey Respondent

PARK AMENITIES

A wide range of characteristics contribute to the quality and character of a park, including the setting, design and individual components. The planning team conducted a detailed inventory and assessment of individual amenities and their current condition, ranked as good, fair or poor according to specific criteria outlined in the document which is available in the Appendix. The Conditions Assessment also contains potential improvements and upgrades for each park based on the site assessment.

In addition to evaluating current conditions, an amenity level of service (LOS) analysis and an examination of amenities within the context of the park standards were undertaken to understand West Point’s needs for specific amenities. This two-pronged review summarizes the deficiencies and needs system-wide and for specific park sites. It should be noted that these recommendations are based on projected needs and desires for specific types of facilities, however, the master plan recognizes that needs and trends change over time and the city should continually touch base with residents to confirm the direction of park development.

AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE

Table 4 summarizes the total quantity of existing amenities, compares the population per amenity to the suggested LOS and outlines the total surplus or deficit. The "Suggested Level of Service" was determined by starting with National Recreation and Parks Association's (NRPA) annual Park Metrics report which provides data on comparable park systems nationwide. The NRPA levels of amenity provision were then adjusted to meet the unique conditions, needs and demands of the West Point community based on conversations with city staff and public input. The resulting suggested amenity LOS reflects the unique needs and expectations in West Point.

This analysis indicates that West Point has a slight surplus of sand volleyball courts and tennis courts and is currently well served with playgrounds, splash pads/water features, and multi-sport courts. The city has immediate needs for one baseball/softball field, one multi-purpose field, one dog park/off-leash area, and three pickleball courts.

While West Point does not currently have a skate or bike park, the suggested level of service indicates that even at build-out the population will not necessarily warrant the construction of these amenities, particularly as there are skate and bike parks available in other communities that help meet the needs of West Point residents. Nevertheless, interest and demand for such amenities may increase in the future, requiring a level of creativity and options to be considered, such as providing individual skate features in community gathering places and plazas or within an existing park. The feasibility of adding a bike park within city open space may need to be studied in greater detail if interest increases in the future.

TABLE 4: AMENITIES LOS ANALYSIS FOR MEETING IMMEDIATE NEEDS (2022)

AMENITY	QUANTITY OF EXISTING AMENITIES	EXISTING AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (POPULATION PER AMENITY)	SUGGESTED LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)	QUANTITY REQUIRED TO MEET SUGGESTED LOS FOR 2022 POPULATION	2022 SURPLUS OR DEFICIT OF AMENITY	TOTAL REQUIRED TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS
Baseball/Softball Fields	6	2,101	1,800	7	-1	1
Multipurpose Fields	6	2,101	1,800	7	-1	1
Playgrounds	4	3,152	3,500	4	0	0
Splash Pads/Water Play Features	1	12,607	13,000	1	0	0
Sand Volleyball Courts	3	4,202	25,000	1	2	0
Skate Parks	0	0	45,000	0	0	0
Bike Parks	0	0	40,000	0	0	0
Dog Parks/Off-leash Areas	0	0	25,000	1	-1	1
Tennis Courts	2	6,304	10,000	1	1	0
Pickleball Courts	0	0	4,000	3	-3	3
Multi-Sport Courts	1	12,607	10,000	1	0	0

Table 5 illustrates amenity needs beyond the immediate needs mentioned above, from 2022 to 2032, which includes the annexation area. With the growth anticipated during this timeframe, the city will need to provide a total of six baseball/softball fields, six multipurpose fields, two playgrounds, one bike park, one dog park/off leash area, five pickleball courts, and one multi-sport court to meet immediate and future needs through 2032.

TABLE 5: AMENITIES LOS ANALYSIS FOR MEETING FUTURE NEEDS (2022-2032)

AMENITY	QUANTITY OF EXISTING AMENITIES	EXISTING AMENITY LEVEL OF SERVICE (POPULATION PER AMENITY)	SUGGESTED LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)	QUANTITY REQUIRED TO MEET SUGGESTED LOS FOR 2032 POPULATION	QUANTITY REQUIRED TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS (2022)	2032 AMENITY DEFICIT OR SURPLUS	TOTAL TO MEET NEEDS BETWEEN 2022 & 2032
Baseball/Softball Fields	6	3,488	1,800	12	1	-5	6
Multipurpose Fields	6	3,488	1,800	12	1	-5	6
Playgrounds	4	5,233	3,500	6	0	-2	2
Splash Pads/Water Play Features	1	20,930	13,000	2	0	-1	1
Sand Volleyball Courts	3	6,977	25,000	1	0	2	0
Skate Parks	0	0	45,000	0	0	0	0
Bike Parks	0	0	40,000	1	0	0	1
Dog Parks/Off-leash Areas	0	0	25,000	1	1	0	1
Tennis Courts	2	10,465	10,000	2	0	0	0
Pickleball Courts	0	0	4,000	5	3	-2	5
Multi-Sport Courts	1	20,930	10,000	2	0	0	1



OPEN SPACE

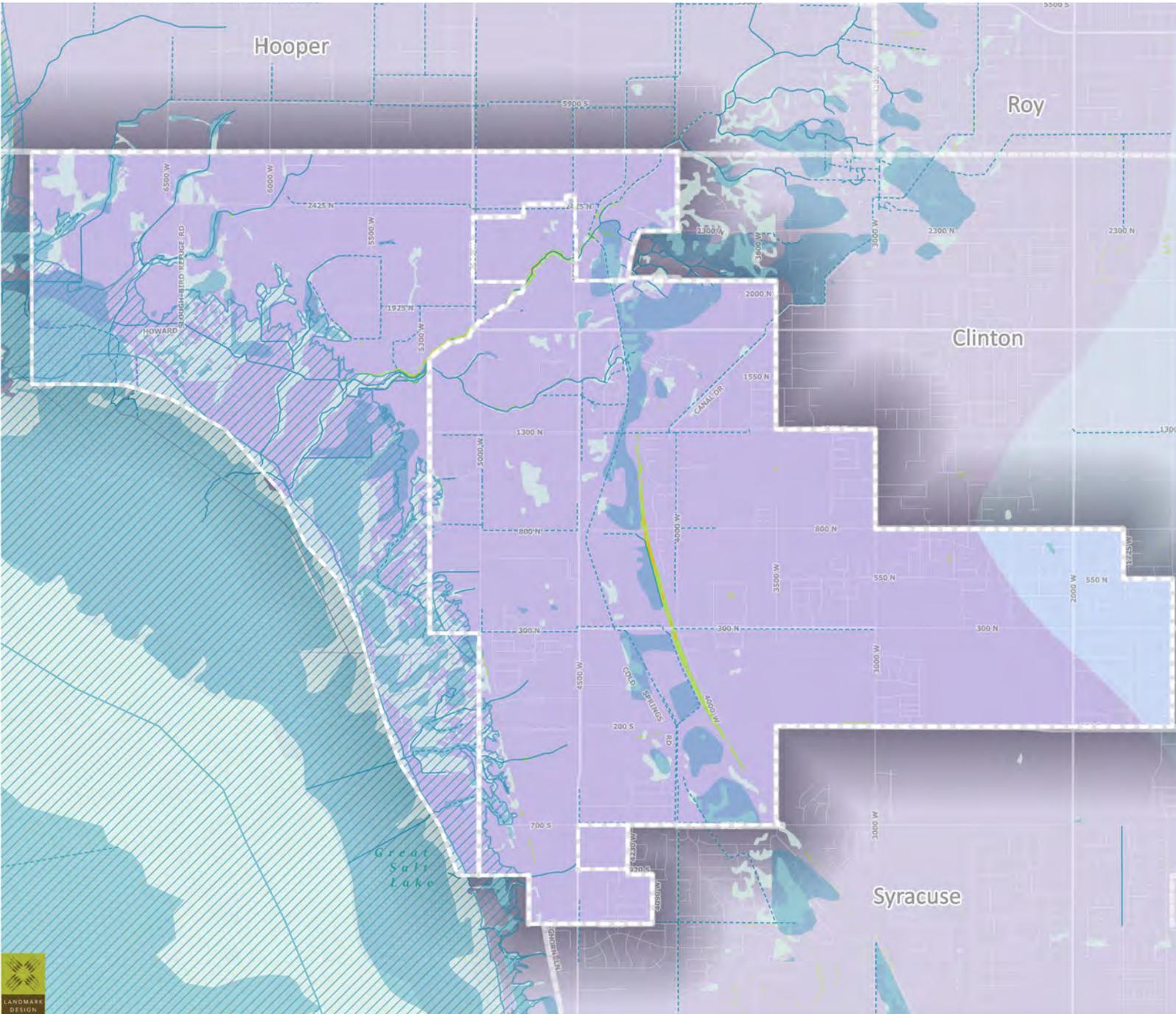
Open space, whether publicly or privately owned, provides physical and visual relief from the more developed areas in a community. West Point is fortunate to border Great Salt Lake to the west and to have Howard Slough running through the northern end of the city. Open space of this scale, quality and magnitude provides a host of ecological benefits. It provided critical habitat for animals and birds, and when carefully developed with trails, can serve as connections to parks and neighborhoods. It can also help purify the soil, water and air, can absorb and deflect noise, wind, and visual disturbances, absorb carbon, and reduce urban heat. These valuable lands ensure that natural drainages are available to convey stormwater and assist with stormwater infiltration into the soil. Map 5 illustrates some of the critical environmental conditions in the West Point. These include wetlands, steep slopes, FEMA flood boundaries and liquefaction potential. Preserving open space will help mitigate some of these potential hazards and preserve habitat for wildlife.

There is no standard Level of Service (LOS) for providing open space in West Point. Cities typically acquire open space on a case-by-case basis where opportunities emerge. A list of open space acquisition tools to assist with the acquisition is listed on this page and detailed in the Appendix: Open Space Preservation Tools. Chapter 6: Implementation includes additional funding resources and options.

West Point is fortunate to own 40.9 acres of existing open space, as shown on **Map 1**. This land encompasses nearly more than 20 acres in the southwest part of the city and several other smaller detention basins and undeveloped parcels throughout the community. While the acquisition of open space ranked in the middle of the pack when respondents were asked to allocate hypothetical funding, the funding of trailhead parks came in second place, indicating that residents appreciate the natural open space that already exists in the community and may be willing to fund the acquisition of more. It is therefore recommended that West Point acquire open space when opportunities exist or arise in the future, particular as part of expanding and enhancing existing parks and open spaces, preserving natural drainages, viewsheds or agricultural land, and expanding the trail system.

PARK & OPEN SPACE ACQUISITION TOOLS

- » **Conservation Subdivisions**
Allow a higher level of development on a smaller area of land in exchange for open space
- » **Zoning and Development Restrictions: Sensitive Lands Overlay**
Zoning tool requiring additional regulation of unique resources and sensitive lands
- » **Fee Simple Title (Outright Purchase)**
Purchase and hold land in public ownership (most expensive option)
- » **Purchase and Sell-back or Lease-back**
Purchase land, remove/restrict development rights then lease/sell land back
- » **Open Space Dedication Requirements or In-Lieu Fees**
Require developers to provide park land for new developments or offer the option to instead pay fees, construct facilities or establish private parks
- » **Conservation Easements**
Remove the right to develop land through donation, purchase or transfer of rights
- » **Land Banking**
Purchase and hold land to be developed at a future date
- » **Proactive Property-Owner Negotiation**
Negotiate with property owners to provide optimal open space



MAP 5: ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

- 10-20% Slopes
- 20-30% Slopes
- 30% + Slopes
- Moderate Liquefaction Potential
- High Liquefaction Potential
- West Point City Boundary
- Annexation Declaration Boundary
- FEMA Flood Boundary
- Lake/Waterbody
- Wetland
- River/Stream
- Perennial Stream
- Canal



MAY 2023



PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS: PARKS & OPEN SPACE

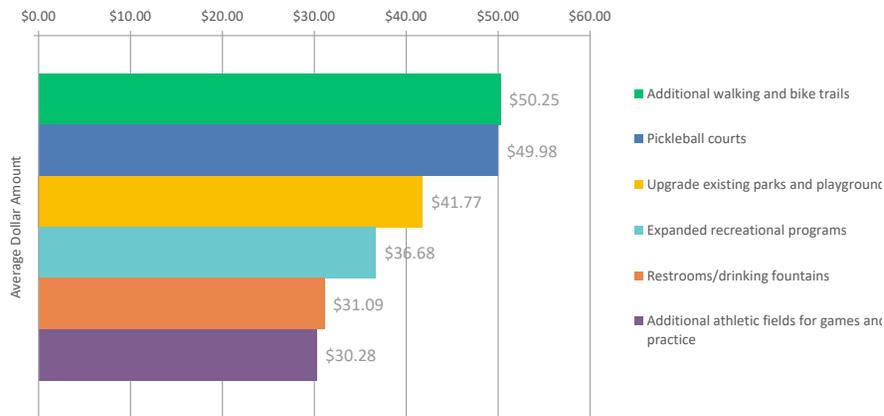
WEST POINT PARK VISION

The survey results indicate that residents value having parks close to home and they would like to see improvements made to existing parks. More than half of the survey respondents travel to other communities to use splash pads, and more than 40 percent use trailhead parks, playgrounds and athletic courts in other communities, which indicates a need for more or improved versions of these amenities in West Point City. The top three priorities when asked to allocate a hypothetical \$100 toward additional parks, recreation programs, facilities or trails in West Point are additional walking or biking trails, pickleball courts and upgrading existing parks and playgrounds, as shown in **Figure 17**.

Figure 17: Spending Priorities

Q11: Suppose you had \$100 to spend on additional park, recreational programs, facilities or trails in West Point. How would you divide your \$100 among the various services and amenities that could be funded? (You may spend the \$100 all in one category or divide it up, but the total must be \$100)

Answered: 385 Skipped: 70



“We would love the expansion of Bingham park to include more parking, basketball court, and a skate park!!”

-Survey Respondent

The following recommendations for parks and open space help ensure the needs of West Point residents are met. The recommendations are based on the findings of the community survey results and input from the website and Social Pinpoint online engagement tool and are supplemented with information from the Conditions Assessment¹ and guidance from the Technical Committee.

It is important for West Point to maintain the recommended LOS of 3.9 acres per 1,000 residents, and possibly increase it as described previously if possible, in order to maintain the city's high recreation standards in the future. West Point will need to acquire and develop 19.8 acres of park land to expand Loy Blake Park. In addition to developing the currently planned parks, West Point will need to acquire and develop three neighborhood parks and one community park to ensure equitable park distribution now and by build-out.

¹ The Conditions Assessment includes recommendations for each existing city park, including interim projects to improve function, aesthetics and safety.

SYSTEM PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Specific improvements or projects requested by the community or recommended to help meet needs based on the West Point City Park System Inventory and Conditions Assessment (see Appendix A) or best practices include:

- » Construct pickleball courts (possible locations include Bingham Park, Loy Blake Park or public works site)
- » **All city parks:**
 - » Provide more passive recreation areas in city parks and open space
 - » Improve accessibility, such as parking, accessible pathways, and amenities
 - » Add more shade and benches at playgrounds
 - » Update/replace older restrooms to provide individual unisex/family restrooms
 - » Update/replace older pavilions
 - » Provide more parking
 - » Update fire pits
 - » Ensure consistent maintenance (i.e., address broken play equipment quickly, ensure restrooms have soap, safety surfacing is added regularly, repair scoreboards)
 - » Replace unused lawn areas with additional trees and waterwise landscaping and increase the number of trees throughout the parks
 - » Provide additional benches and picnic tables
 - » Provide signage and public art to help enhance the unique identity of each park
 - » Incorporate more creative park design
 - » Provide amenities for kids and teenagers: more tot lots (ages 0-3 years), non-traditional options
 - » Add more spectator seating around fields
 - » Provide wi-fi and electrical outlets in parks

INDIVIDUAL PARK IMPROVEMENTS

- » **Loy Blake Park:**
 - » Redesign northwest corner of the park to create four-plex of baseball fields with updated concessions plaza, seating and pathways
 - » Provide a perimeter pathway that also connects to parking lots, major amenities, and pathways within the park
 - » Add more benches at the playground
 - » Replace picnic tables
 - » Update the splash pad, include pavilions for shade (evaluate options for converting it to a recirculating system, or a system that treats and reuses the wastewater) (only built 3 years ago)
 - » Evaluate the addition of lighting for sports fields and courts where appropriate
- » **Bingham Park:**
 - » Add lighting for safety
 - » Evaluate the addition of lighting for sports fields and courts where appropriate
 - » Provide multi-sport/basketball courts similar to Loy Blake Park
 - » Build more multi-purpose fields
 - » Update the playground and replace sand with engineered wood fiber safety surfacing
- » **East Park:**
 - » Plant more trees
 - » Add a skate park/pump track
 - » Add a dog park
 - » Add park name signage
 - » Consider additional passive recreation activities

Other potential amenities in requested for future parks or park renovations include:

- » Bike park
- » Disc golf course
- » Outdoor ice skating
- » Fishing pond
- » Dog parks

The city should acquire park land required to fill gaps and meet LOS requirements as soon as possible to avoid escalating land costs. Existing development ordinances should be reviewed to ensure they are consistent with the recommendations in this plan. Ordinances can require new developments to provide a minimum percentage of parks and open space and incentivize projects that go beyond the requirements. Other options can encourage developments to donate park land or developed parks to the city or pay fees in lieu of park development. Spanish Fork City, for example, prefers to collect fees and develop larger parks in strategic locations rather than accepting numerous small parks scattered throughout developments that may not meet community needs.

New and existing parks should generally feature the types of typical amenities described in the park standards. Individual park amenities that are deficient according to the amenities LOS analysis should be provided where feasible. The city should also explore other options for expanding the use and benefit of existing facilities, such as adding lights to existing unlit baseball/softball and multipurpose fields or other facilities. Other required or recommended improvements should be made to existing parks to maintain the city's high quality of parks.

Additional open space should be acquired when it expands the city's existing parks, open space and trails system. Land that mitigates natural hazards or preserves natural drainages, wildlife corridors, key agricultural lands, or other valuable community resources should be prioritized.

GOALS & POLICIES: PARKS & OPEN SPACE

GOAL 1 ASSURE THAT RESIDENTS OF WEST POINT CITY HAVE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY PARKS.

Policy 1.1 Meet the recommended Level of Service (LOS) for parks of 3.9 acres per 1,000 population in the future while filling existing and future gaps in service areas.

- a. Implementation Measure: Develop 32.1 acres of planned parks to meet LOS needs by 2032.
- b. Implementation Measure: Acquire and develop 16.0 acres of park land for one Community Park and two Neighborhood Parks to fill gaps in residential areas by 2032, assuming annexation moves forward.
- c. Implementation Measure: Implement an amenity level of service standard as identified in Tables 3 and table 4 of this chapter.
- d. Implementation Measure: Implement the park walkable service areas and distribution standards as identified on Map 4.
- e. Implementation Measure: Acquire and develop the 19.8 acres of land to expand Loy Blake Park.

f. Implementation Measure: Develop the remaining 15.5 acres of planned parks to meet distribution needs between 2032 and build-out.

g. Implementation Measure: Acquire and develop 26.8 acres of park land by 2050 to ensure that the recommended LOS is maintained.

h. Implementation Measure: Develop and implement a signage and wayfinding system for the city, so residents have ample information about available facilities, amenities and regulations.

i. Implementation Measure: Acquire park land to meet LOS and distribution needs as soon as possible to avoid escalating land costs.

Policy 1.2 Ensure that existing and new parks and open space provide high-quality recreation opportunities for the community.

a. Implementation Measure: Develop each park with a combination of unique design, themes and amenities to encourage strong identities for each park.

b. Implementation Measure: Upgrade existing parks to include the typical amenities and features described in the park standards as applicable or appropriate.

c. Implementation Measure: Adopt the recommended park standards as city policy.

d. Implementation Measure: Consider strategies such as lighting existing unlit amenities and including lighting with new amenities to extend use times and other benefits for the community.

e. Implementation Measure: Design and develop all new parks with amenities and features described in the park standards as applicable or appropriate.

f. Implementation Measure: Broaden the types of amenities offered in the city by constructing pickleball courts, a dog park and other unique amenities.

g. Implementation Measure: Explore options to extend the use of city facilities by using strategies such as lighting existing facilities to allow play later into the evening.

h. Implementation Measure: Periodically evaluate existing parks to ensure designs and amenities are still meeting the needs of the community, and make updates or improvements as needed to ensure parks and open space remain a beloved part of the city's parks and recreation system.

- i. Implementation Measure: Secure funding for new parks, which will require periodic re-evaluation of the impact fee structure, pursuing grants, and partnering with other entities.
- j. Implementation Measure: Consider the development of non-traditional park types in the future, such as detention basin parks, urban parks and plazas, community gardens, hybrid sports parks and plazas, nature parks and agricultural heritage parks to help meet the demand for parks and open space as the city becomes more built out.

Policy 1.3: Seek to meet the diverse parks and open space needs of the community.

- a. Implementation Measure: Encourage and support participation by diverse community members in the planning and design of the city's parks and recreation system.
- b. Implementation Measure: Explore options to provide amenities in parks and open space that serve a broad range of users, age groups, abilities and interests where appropriate.
- c. Implementation Measure: Consider integrating accessible features within parks and open space areas dispersed throughout the city where appropriate, in addition to concentrated features such as all-abilities parks or playgrounds.
- d. Implementation Measure: Regularly evaluate requests for parks and open space improvements to assess need, feasibility and level of community support.

Policy 1.4 Ensure that new developments provide adequate parks, trails, open space, buffering and landscaped areas.

- a. Implementation Measure: Modify zoning and other city ordinances as needed to require developer participation in the provision of parks, open space and trails.
- b. Implementation Measure: Require that new developments allocate a minimum percentage of land toward parks, trails and open space and incentivize projects that go beyond the requirements.

GOAL 2 CONTINUE TO MAINTAIN A HIGH STANDARD OF MAINTENANCE FOR WEST POINT PARKS IN THE FUTURE.

Policy 2.1 Continue to improve the best management and maintenance procedures to protect the city's park and recreation investments.

- a. Implementation Measure: Protect the city's investment in sports fields by resting fields regularly to prevent damage by overuse.
- b. Implementation Measure: Update annual budgets to ensure funding for the operation and maintenance of city parks and other land the city maintains is sufficient to meet needs.
- c. Implementation Measure: Ensure staffing levels meet the desired level of maintenance for public parks and other land.
- d. Implementation Measure: Maintain an up-to-date inventory of all parks, park facilities and other lands.
- e. Implementation Measure: Update parks in a way that helps reduce maintenance requirements while promoting better long-term use of public parks and recreation amenities.
- f. Implementation Measure: Increase the variety of amenities in parks to promote better long-term use of parks.
- g. Implementation Measure: Provide amenities and facilities to help residents "self-maintain" their parks and park facilities (trash receptacles, animal waste containers, hose bibs, pet clean-up stations, etc.).
- h. Implementation Measure: Avoid the development of Pocket Parks unless there is simply no other land available, and the neighborhood is under-served by parks.
- i. Implementation Measure: Explore options for enhancing the aesthetics and use of the city's parks and open space system, through avenues such as a tree planting program, an interactive art program/plan or an interpretive signage system.
- j. Implementation Measure: Improve the safety of the city's parks and open space system through the addition of lighting and safety features where appropriate and by addressing safety concerns specific to individual sites.

GOAL 3 INCREASE THE AMOUNT AND VARIETY OF NATURAL OPEN SPACE IN THE CITY.

Policy 3.1 Secure and expand the West Point City open space system as part of a flexible and opportunistic approach.

- a. Implementation Measure: Acquire open space that preserves natural drainages, waterways, wetlands, wildlife habitat, viewsheds, iconic agricultural land and other highly valued community resources, such as the Howard Slough corridor or wetlands near Great Salt Lake.
- b. Implementation Measure: Work with Davis County and the State of Utah to ensure that new facilities meet city, county and state statutes and regulations.

GOAL 4 PROMOTE WATER CONSERVATION AND SIMILAR PRACTICES TO HELP ENSURE THE WEST POINT PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM IS SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT.

Policy 4.1 As new parks, open space, recreation facilities and trails are developed, utilize the most up-to-date technologies to conserve water and other resources in public parks and associated facilities.

- a. Implementation Measure: Utilize drip irrigation, moisture sensors, smart central irrigation control systems, appropriate plant materials, soil amendments and other city requirements as applicable to create a more sustainable West Point City parks and recreation system.
- b. Implementation Measure: Utilize industry best practices to ensure plants are water-wise, regionally appropriate and as low maintenance where appropriate to reduce maintenance and water demands.
- c. Implementation Measure: Convert non-active areas of parks and other public lands to water-wise plantings and mulches, using native plants where possible, to reduce water and maintenance demand.
- d. Implementation Measure: Upgrade existing parks and require new parks to include resource-wise lighting and stormwater management strategies such as Low Impact Development (LID) practices.

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's legs in soccer gear, including white socks and dark shorts, positioned on a grass field. A soccer ball is visible near the person's feet. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

**RECREATION, ARTS, &
COMMUNITY EVENTS**

Recreational programming, arts and community events in West Point City broaden the opportunities for residents to enrich their lives, improve their health and well-being and recreate, learn and celebrate together.

This chapter examines the city’s recreation facilities and programs, describes the growing arts activities and summarizes the community events sponsored by the city. It concludes with the identification of goals, policies, and implementation measures to help ensure the public takes full advantage of recreation, arts, and community events and activities that are provided.

PUBLIC INPUT ON RECREATION, ARTS, & COMMUNITY EVENTS

As detailed in Chapter 2: Planning Process and Public Involvement, the planning process included a range of public engagement opportunities to ensure the needs and desires of West Point residents were well-vetted and understood. The following summary encapsulates comments related to recreation, arts, and community events.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

Just over two in five survey respondents (41.7 percent) or members of their households, have participated in city sports and recreation programs over the past twelve months (see **Figure 18**). This is a relatively high participation rate considering the city offers a relatively small number of youth recreation programs, and no adult or senior recreation programs.

Youth soccer is the most popular program, with nearly two-thirds of respondent family members (61.9 percent) participating (see **Figure 19**). This is followed closely by baseball/softball and basketball, both of which have with well over half of the respondent households participating. Football and volleyball have the lowest levels of participation.

Figure 18: Recreation Program Participation

Q6: Have you or any members of your household participated in any West Point City sports or recreation programs in the past 12 months?

Answered: 420 Skipped: 35

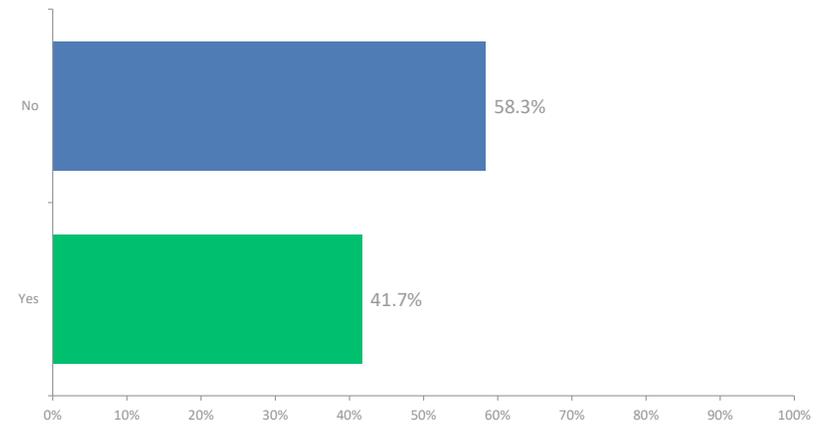


Figure 19: Recreation Programs

Q7: Which of the following West Point sports or recreation programs have you or members of your household participated in during the last 12 months? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 176 Skipped: 279

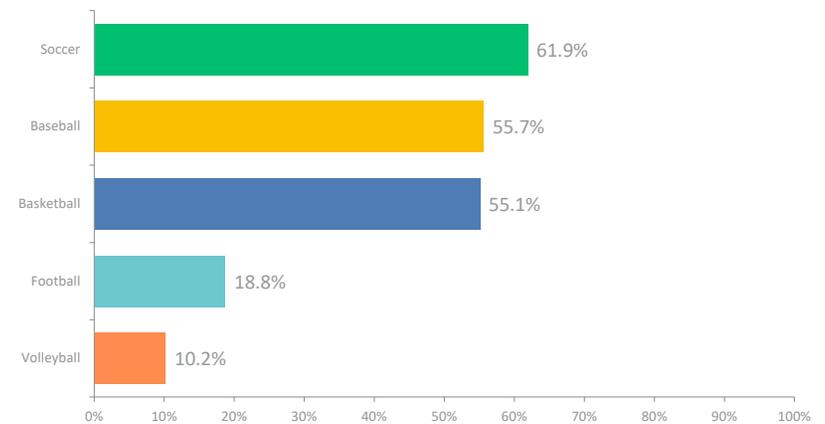
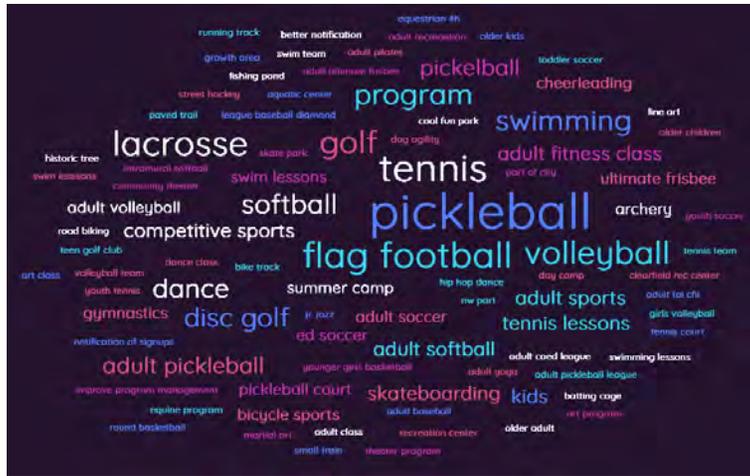


Figure 20: Requested Programs

Q8: Are there any sports or recreation programs you would like to see offered in the community that are not currently available?



When asked about desired programs that are not currently offered in the city, the top responses include pickleball, flag football, volleyball, lacrosse, tennis and golf (see Figure 20). Other popular requests include softball, swimming, disc golf, dance and adult programs. These results speak to desire for programs that serve a more diverse spectrum of residents.

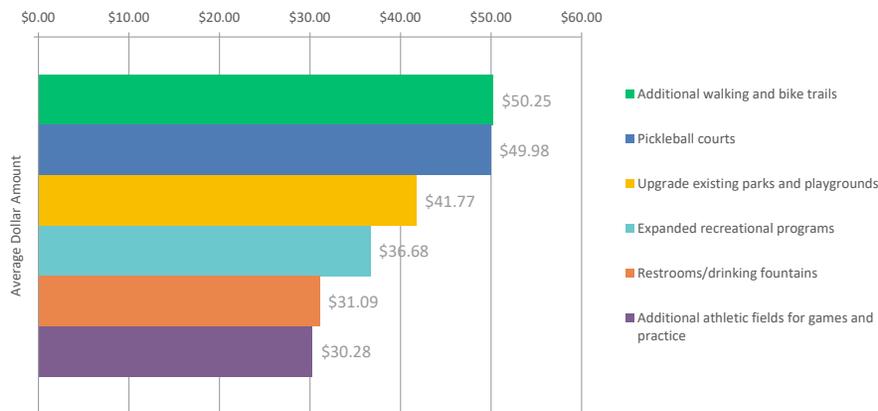
The community survey asked participants to allocate a hypothetical \$100 budget amount to additional parks, recreation programs, facilities or trails in West Point. As shown in Figure 21, expanded recreation programs ranked fourth with an average allocation of \$36.68, behind additional walking and biking trails (\$50.25), pickleball courts (\$49.98) and upgrading existing parks and playgrounds (\$41.77). Restrooms/drinking fountains and additional athletic fields for games and practices ranked near the bottom of the list at \$31.09 and \$30.28 respectively.

In addition to the specific questions above, survey participants submitted a number of additional comments in the open-ended feedback portion of the survey, as summarized below.

Figure 21: Spending Priorities

Q11: Suppose you had \$100 to spend on additional park, recreational programs, facilities or trails in West Point. How would you divide your \$100 among the various services and amenities that could be funded? (You may spend the \$100 all in one category or divide it up, but the total must be \$100)

Answered: 385 Skipped: 70



General comments:

- » Better visibility of available programs
- » Provide more activities for kids and teenagers
- » Save historic sites, including historic trees

Recreation:

- » Would like a recreation center with pools
- » Desired programs: tennis, swim lessons (at our own pool), frisbee golf, pickleball, crafts, lacrosse, rugby, and classes and programs for home schoolers (i.e., arts, science and community classes and sports)
- » Recreation programs should require mandatory practices
- » Fund other sports as well as football is funded
- » Would be helpful to label fields for soccer games and make staff easier to spot with logos or vests

Arts:

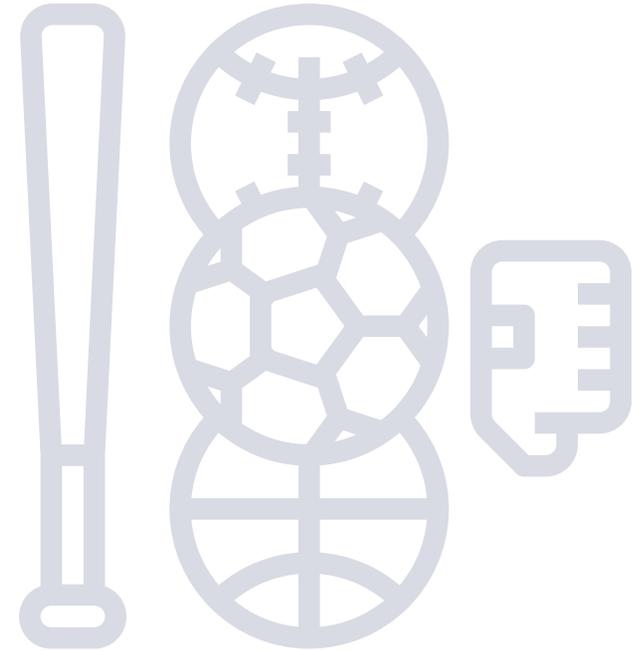
- » Would like a visual and performing arts center
- » Desire for an amphitheater for arts and community events

Community Events:

- » More community events (i.e., car shows and West Point Days in August)

WEBSITE & SOCIAL PINPOINT INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

The Social Pinpoint interactive mapping tool included a single recreation comment to develop an indoor recreation center near 300 North and 3000 West. The comment received five additional “likes”, indicating some support from others who utilized the tool.



RECREATION

The following discussion summarizes the recreation programs offered by West Point City, including an analysis of participation trends in recent years. The section also describes the facilities and locations where recreation programs are held.

RECREATION PROGRAMMING & FACILITIES

Programs

West Point provides a limited number of recreation programs for youth, including Junior Jazz basketball, spring and fall soccer, baseball/softball, football and volleyball. The community survey indicates participation in city recreation programs in the past twelve months, with soccer, baseball/softball and basketball the most utilized and popular programs for local households.



Figure 22 and **Table 6** illustrate the total participants in youth recreation programs since 2003. According to participation rates tracked by the city, baseball/softball and Junior Jazz basketball are the most popular programs. Both programs have maintained more than 400 total participants since 2005, with baseball softball surpassing 600 participants in 2016 and basketball serving more than 500 in 2018. The figure also indicates a data anomaly in early 2020, corresponding with the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the resulting postponement and cancellation of programs. Today all programs are fully functioning again and participation rates once again approaching their pre-pandemic levels (see 2019, 2020 and 2021 for comparison in **Table 6**).

Figure 22: Youth Program Participation

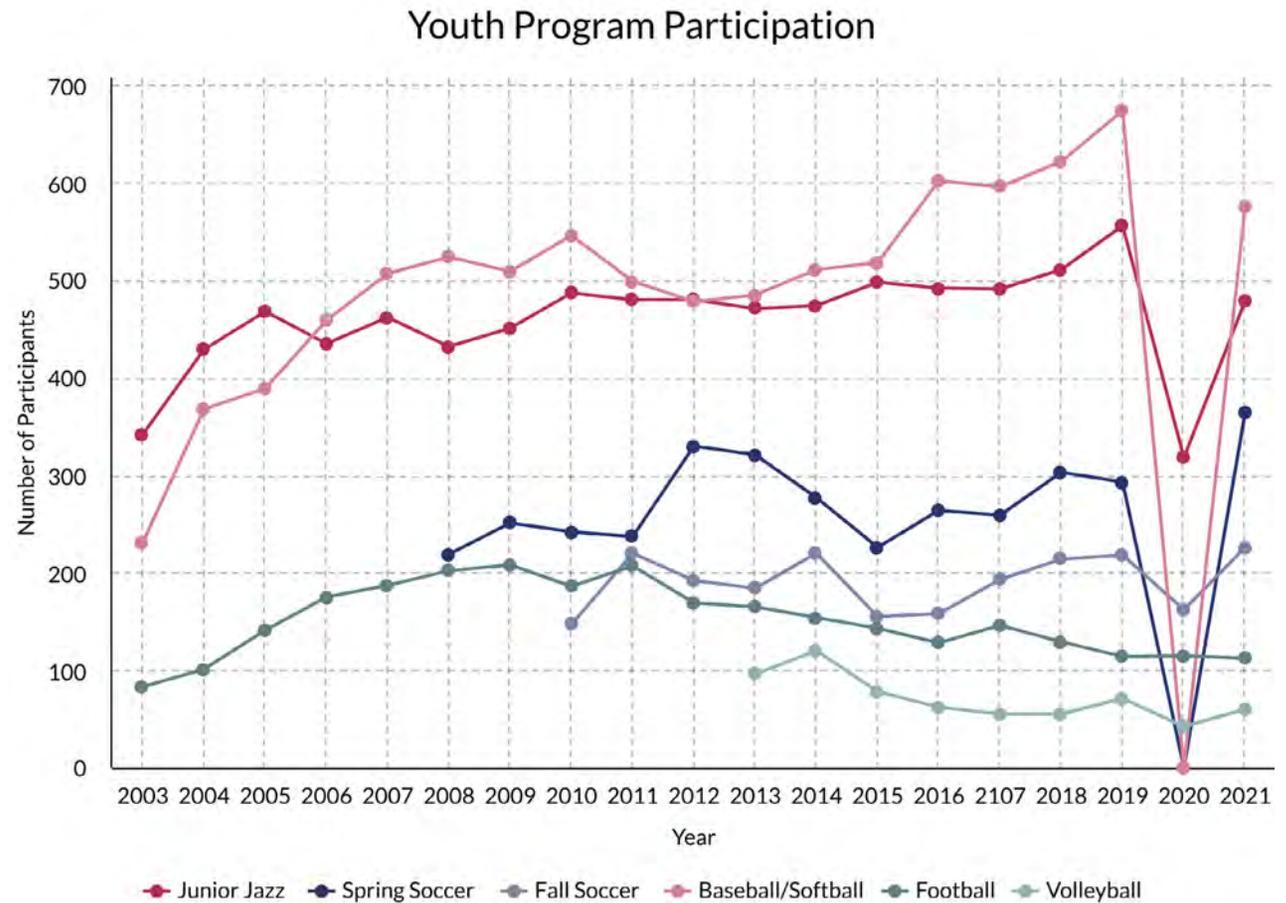


TABLE 6: YOUTH PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (2003-2021)

PROGRAM	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Junior Jazz	342	429	468	435	462	432	451	487	480	480	471	474
Spring Soccer	-	-	-	-	-	219	251	242	237	330	321	277
Fall Soccer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	147	220	192	184	220
Baseball/ Softball	231	368	389	459	507	524	509	546	499	478	485	511
Football	83	101	141	175	187	202	208	186	207	169	165	154
Volleyball	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	96	120
Total	656	898	998	1,069	1,156	1,377	1,419	1,608	1,643	1,649	1,722	1,756

TABLE 6: YOUTH PROGRAM PARTICIPATION (2003-2021) CONTINUED

PROGRAM	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Junior Jazz	498	492	491	511	556	318	479
Spring Soccer	226	264	259	303	293	-	364
Fall Soccer	155	158	193	214	218	162	226
Baseball/ Softball	518	602	596	622	674	-	575
Football	143	128	146	129	114	115	112
Volleyball	78	62	55	55	71	42	60
Total	1,618	1,706	1,740	1,323	1,926	637	1,816

“I would like to see basketball courts at Bingham park, an updated baseball complex, community center with swimming pool, offer comp sports in West Point city, updated football field, working score boards for all sports, updated football helmets and equipment, better quality football uniforms, update pitching machines, offer training for coaches in all sports, parents meetings for all sports before the season starts as well as coaches meetings.”

-Survey Respondent

Spring and fall soccer are the second-most popular recreation programs. Participation in city soccer programs has fluctuated over time, trending slightly upward overall. Spring soccer has exceeded 300 participants in recent years while fall soccer has surpassed the 200-participant threshold. Football participation peaked between 2009 and 2011 with just over 200 participants and has gradually trended toward fewer participants over time with approximately half of the participants in recent years (under 120), including before the pandemic. Volleyball has the lowest participation levels of city programs. Participation has gradually declined over time from a peak of 120 in 2014 to less than 75 in recent years.

Facilities

Indoor city recreation programs, including Junior Jazz basketball and volleyball, are held in the West Point Junior High School gymnasium. Soccer and football are held at Loy Blake Park and Bingham Park on the multipurpose fields (four at Loy Blake Park and one at Bingham Park). Baseball/softball programs utilize all six city fields (three at Loy Blake Park, one at Bingham Park, and two at East Park).

Recreation Programming Summary

City staff actively monitors participation rates and demands for programs, reducing or discontinuing programs when steep declines occur and adding new programs and additional leagues when demand increases.

It is hard to accurately assess general program trends in recent years, primarily due to the impact and influence of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some programs experienced a rebound or slight increase in 2022, while others still have lower numbers. It is clear that the city will need to continue to assess program participation for several more years in order to get a clear picture of trends and needs.

THE ROLE OF PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES IN NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Syracuse City and other communities in Davis County have recreation and community centers that offer programs and classes that serve residents in the region, including West Point. Kaysville, Roy, Bountiful and Clearfield were specifically mentioned in the survey as communities that serve West Point residents, though survey participants indicated they would prefer that local facilities and programs are provided to improve access and availability and to offer more affordable opportunities.

THE ROLE OF PRIVATE & SCHOOL DISTRICT RECREATION FACILITIES

A handful of privately-owned and operated health and fitness facilities in surrounding communities serve West Point residents on a fee or membership basis. These facilities provide residents private recreation and fitness opportunities. Although fees for private facilities may be higher than publicly owned facilities, public facilities require local taxes and funding mechanisms that are not without cost implications as well.

Some communities actively strive to join forces with private gyms and organizations to enhance the range of recreational facilities and services available to the public. For example, Layton City has a policy that acknowledges the role of private gyms for providing opportunities not provided by the city. Layton also helps finance gyms at public schools, which are then available to residents during non-peak days and times.

West Point has a similar cooperative relationship with Davis School District, sharing outdoor fields and other facilities between students and the general public. Interlocal agreements formalize the partnership, designating conditions of use, access, maintenance, and financial responsibilities of both parties.

While the city uses these facilities extensively for recreation programming purposes, they are available only with the continued agreement of the school district. Since cooperative agreements are not typically guaranteed in perpetuity, city use and access are not guaranteed. Partnering with local schools is nevertheless an important tool for maximizing the benefit provided, particularly for communities like West Point that have a high demand for limited resources. Furthermore, such partnerships minimize the duplication of park and recreation facilities in the city. While West Point has a strong relationship with the school district, relationships with other community partners, such as private businesses, could be explored.



ARTS



West Point City has hosted several arts related events and activities through the years and has been making efforts to increase the arts presence in the community in more recent years. Existing arts events in the city include the following:

- » Essay Contest – Sponsored by the West Point City Youth Council, Elementary and Junior High/Adult Categories, Focused on Appreciation for the West Point Community and Neighborhoods
- » Paint the Town Art Contest - Open to All Ages and Abilities, Elementary/Junior High and High School/Adult Categories, Focused on Two-Dimensional Art Pieces in Any Medium, Held Each Summer



The city recently established an Arts Council to help facilitate a greater number and variety of arts events and activities. The community survey responses include requests for several arts specific programs and activities which include:

- » Art Classes and Programs
- » Theater Program
- » Fine Art

"We need either an amphitheater or building that can house a larger number of people for community events...not just sports related, but for the arts... evening concerts, movies, a place rentable for dance, singing, piano recitals etc."

-Survey Respondent

COMMUNITY EVENTS

West Point City sponsors several large community events each year as follow:

- » Easter Egg Hunt
- » Lighting Ceremony
- » Luminary
- » Movies at the Park
- » Party at the Point
- » Senior Lunch
- » Take Pride in West Point Day

The **Easter Egg Hunt** is held each year on the Saturday before Easter at Loy Blake Park. Individual hunts are held by age group, including a hunt for children with special needs. The Easter Bunny makes an appearance and also poses for photos.

The **Lighting Ceremony** takes place at the end of November each year at West Point City Hall. The celebration includes Christmas music, hot chocolate, fireworks and a visit from Santa Claus.

West Point hosts a **Luminary Event** just before Christmas each December at West Point City Cemetery. Luminary bags filled with sand and candles are placed on each headstone and lit in remembrance of loved ones.

Summer brings the city's **Movies at the Park** program. Outdoor movies are held monthly June through September at Loy Blake Park. Food trucks and games are also part of the celebration.

Party at the Point is the city's largest celebration. Events for this Independence Day celebration take place at multiple venues throughout the city and a variety of community activities including a parade, vendor booths for food and crafts, games, contests, concerts, movie and fireworks. There are also numerous athletic events and competitions including golf, basketball, horseshoe, baseball and volleyball tournaments and a 5-k/2-mile walk as part of the Party at the Point celebration.

The city hosts a **Senior Lunch** at West Point City Hall each month for a nominal fee. Seniors 55 and older are welcome, including those from other communities.

Take Pride in West Point Day is the city's annual volunteer day. This volunteer labor gathering is held at a different location each year, wherever assistance is needed.



PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS: RECREATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY EVENTS

“We've been Here about a year and love the area but I don't know much about the parks and Rec department. More visibility (social media, etc.) would be great to spread awareness about services and locations.”

-Survey Respondent

The community survey indicated that just over 40 percent of respondent households have participated in city recreation programs during the previous year, while the open-ended responses indicate that some residents utilize programs in surrounding communities to help meet their recreation programming needs. While most recreation programs have adequate capacity, the city's baseball and softball programs often exceed capacity due to the limited number of fields. Survey respondents requested a broader variety of recreational programming, including, non-traditional programs and activities and programs for adults, seniors and home school children. The city has also expressed interest in offering adaptive recreation programs. Adaptive sports and recreation programs are activities that anyone can do, regardless of their level of physical and intellectual abilities. As a result, anyone can enjoy health, leisure, social, and competition benefits.

There is also a desire in the community for more space for indoor programs. As part of meeting this need, the city is purchasing ten acres of excess land from the Davis School District at the site of the new junior high school near 4500 West and 700 South, and is partnering with the school district to expand playing fields and indoor facilities, including gymnasiums, restrooms and offices. This partnership will benefit students and the community at large through the shared use and funding. The city should continue to explore similar partnerships and partnerships with other communities to help provide big-ticket facilities such as a recreation/community arts center, which would not otherwise be feasible. This will become more important as the region grows and interest increases.

As noted, West Point provides a limited range of recreation programs and community events. It should continue to work with existing partners, regularly survey participants for feedback, monitor program participation and make adjustments based on interest and participation levels. The city should also explore options for providing innovative programming for the community and develop a comprehensive marketing plan to increase knowledge of and participation in public programs and events.

GOALS & POLICIES: RECREATION, ARTS, & COMMUNITY EVENTS

GOAL 1 ASSURE THAT RESIDENTS OF WEST POINT CITY HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY RECREATION FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

Policy 1.1 Investigate opportunities to provide facilities and programming requested by residents.

- a. Implementation Measure: Explore public/private partnerships to potentially fund a recreation center.
- b. Implementation Measure: Conduct a pre-programming study to determine the scope, cost and funding opportunities for the development of a recreation center once demand is high enough to warrant it.
- c. Implementation Measure: Continue to partner with Davis School District to meet community recreation facility and programming needs in the future.

Policy 1.2 Identify and work with other partners to provide additional access and recreational opportunities to residents.

- a. Implementation Measure: Coordinate with Davis County and surrounding communities to evaluate potential partnerships on large-scale projects requested by the community.
- b. Implementation Measure: Continue to partner with the Davis School District through interlocal agreements, funding agreements and other forms of cooperation for the use of school fields, gymnasiums and other facilities.
- c. Implementation Measure: Continue to create partnerships with sports organizations and groups, as well as non-competitive recreational organizations and groups to expand the offerings available to West Point City residents.

GOAL 2 ASSURE THAT RESIDENTS OF WEST POINT CITY HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY ARTS FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS.

Policy 2.1 Explore ways to expand opportunities for arts in the community.

- a. Implementation Measure: Continue to support the newly formed West Point City Arts Council in providing high-quality arts events and activities.

- b. Implementation Measure: Explore ways to integrate art into public parks and spaces, both as features and as part of overall design.
- c. Implementation Measure: Extend arts programming into the city's parks and public spaces.
- d. Implementation Measure: Partner with the Davis School District and community organizations to offer drop-in activities for youth, including visual arts, music and dance or other educational/environmental opportunities.

Policy 2.2 Support and encourage collaboration through partnerships to enhance the city's arts facilities and programming

- a. Implementation Measure: Explore partnerships with public and private entities to fund the potential construction of a community arts center, perhaps co-located with a potential recreation center.
- b. Implementation Measure: Conduct a pre-programming study to determine the scope, cost and funding opportunities for the development of a community arts center once demand is high enough to warrant it.

GOAL 3 ASSURE THAT RECREATION AND ART PROGRAMS AND COMMUNITY EVENTS CONTINUE TO MEET RESIDENTS' NEEDS.

Policy 3.1 Continue to broaden offerings and increase awareness about and participation in city programs and events.

- a. Implementation Measure: Regularly survey participants and the community-at-large to ensure the city is providing programs, activities and community events that serve a broad variety of users and interests.
- b. Implementation Measure: Investigate opportunities to provide diverse, innovative programming to a broad variety of participants, including non-sports related programming.
- c. Implementation Measure: Develop a marketing plan/strategy to collaborate on improved marketing and communication efforts for recreation and arts programs and activities.





TRAILS

Trails are an essential connection of the city – threads that weave the fabric of a community together. They are integral components of an interconnected and healthy city, providing direct and easy access to local parks, open spaces and recreation opportunities. When well planned, a trail system connects homes and businesses to each other, essential services and regional transportation systems.

In April 2022 West Point City adopted a new Transportation Master Plan (TMP) that includes an active transportation component and recommendations for infrastructure and policy improvements to enhance travel options for bicyclists, pedestrians and other modes of human-powered transportation. The trail recommendations contained in this plan build upon those concepts as part of establishing a comprehensive, interconnected recreational trail network that serves a full range of trail users and connects the city’s parks, open spaces and destinations.

This chapter begins by documenting the existing West Point trail system and is followed by a trail concept to meet immediate and long-term needs for trails and trail facilities. The chapter concludes with recommended goals, policies, and implementation measures to guide decision-making and resource allocation processes during the coming years.



PUBLIC INPUT ON TRAILS

The planning process included several public engagement opportunities that helped clarify community values, needs, desires, and priorities (see Chapter 2 and the Appendix for details). A summary of the input that specifically addressed trails follows.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

According to survey results trails are well used, with nearly 56.4 percent of respondents indicating they use trails a few times a month or more (**Figure 23**). Just under a quarter use trails a few times a year, 10.1 percent use them once a month, and less than ten percent of respondents use trails once a year or less.

Figure 23: Trail Use Frequency

Q9: How often do you or members of your household use trails in West Point? (For the purpose of this question, trails include established trails and walking trails in parks.)

Answered: 415 Skipped: 40

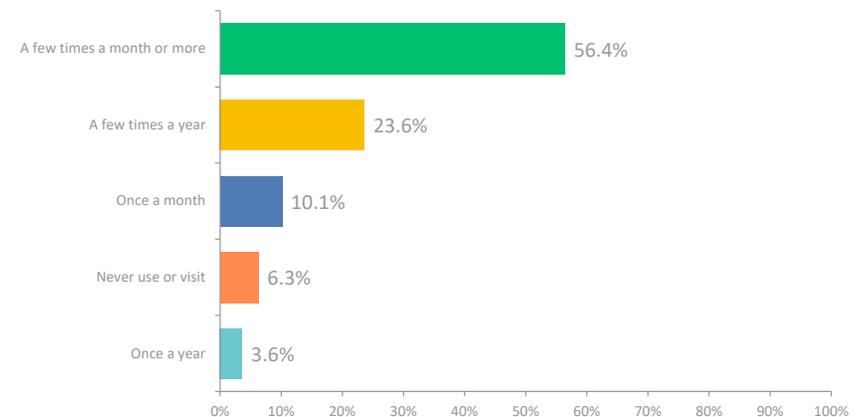
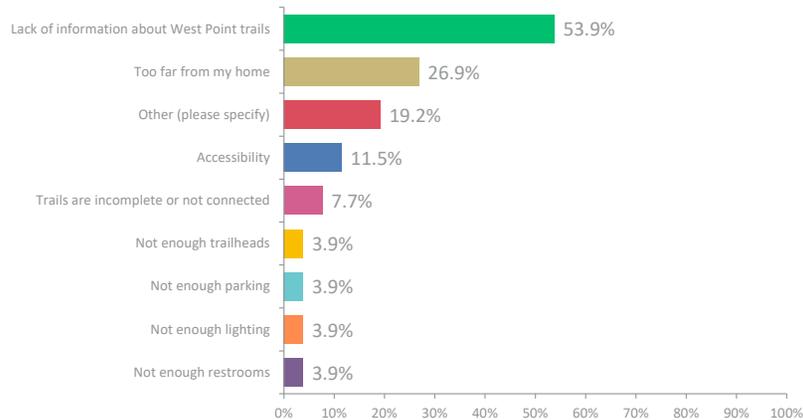


Figure 24: Reasons for Not Using City Trails

Q10: Which of the following reasons best explains why you DO NOT use the trails in West Point? (Select up to three.)

Answered: 26 Skipped: 429



The few respondents who indicate they do not use trails in the city (6.3 percent of respondents) indicate the lack of information regarding trails as the primary reason. Other primary reasons for the lack of use include trails being too far from home, accessibility issues, and an incomplete/disconnected trail network. Nearly one in five of those who do not use trails fell into the “other” category, which included the following responses:

- » I don’t want to
- » I don’t walk or bike - prefer horses
- » I have no use for them (trails)
- » There are no sidewalks to get to our trailhead and the road is too busy to bike or walk on

There is strong public support for the development of additional trails in West Point. When survey respondents were asked how they would allocate a hypothetical \$100 on additional parks, recreation or trail facilities and programs, additional walking and biking trails topped the list with an average allocation of slightly more than \$50 but followed closely by new pickleball courts at \$49.98.

PROJECT WEBSITE & SOCIAL PINPOINT INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

The project website offered several options for public feedback, including an online comment and mapping tool called Social Pinpoint. The input that was received that is specifically related to trails includes a desire for a perimeter walking path around Loy Blake Park and the inclusion of streetside sidewalks to provide safe access to trails.

EXISTING & PLANNED TRAILS

The existing trail network in West Point is limited. As illustrated in **Map 6** and summarized in **Table 7**, the current West Point trail system consists of 4.9 miles of regional shared use pathways and slightly more than a mile of perimeter park pathways¹. It should be noted that many of the roads in West Point lack sidewalks, which is a direct result of the city’s rural/agricultural roots and road standards.

Since the community desires a better trail system, the establishment of a trail concept is a critical first step for ensuring the future trail system meets those needs. The planned trail network consists of an expansive shared use pathway system and local routes that builds upon the existing regional shared use pathways. The proposed trail system includes an additional 20.8 miles of shared use pathways, 6.5 miles of local shared use pathways, and 13.9 miles of local routes. At build-out, the envisioned system will connect the city and annexation area with a total over 46.1 miles of trails.

TABLE 7: EXISTING AND PLANNED TRAILS

TRAIL TYPE	MILES
Existing Regional Shared Use Pathways	4.9
Proposed Regional Shared Use Pathways	20.8
Proposed Local Shared Use Pathways	6.5
Proposed Local Routes (Sidewalks/Bike Lanes)	13.9
Total Regional Shared Use Pathways	25.7
Total Local Shared Use Pathways	6.5
Total Local Routes (Sidewalks/Bike Lanes)	13.9
Total System Trails at Build-Out	46.1

¹ While perimeter park pathways provide options for residents to walk or bike short loop systems within two of the city’s parks, they are typically considered to be park amenities and alignments are determined at the time of park design and development and are therefore addressed as part of the park standards in Chapter 3: Parks.

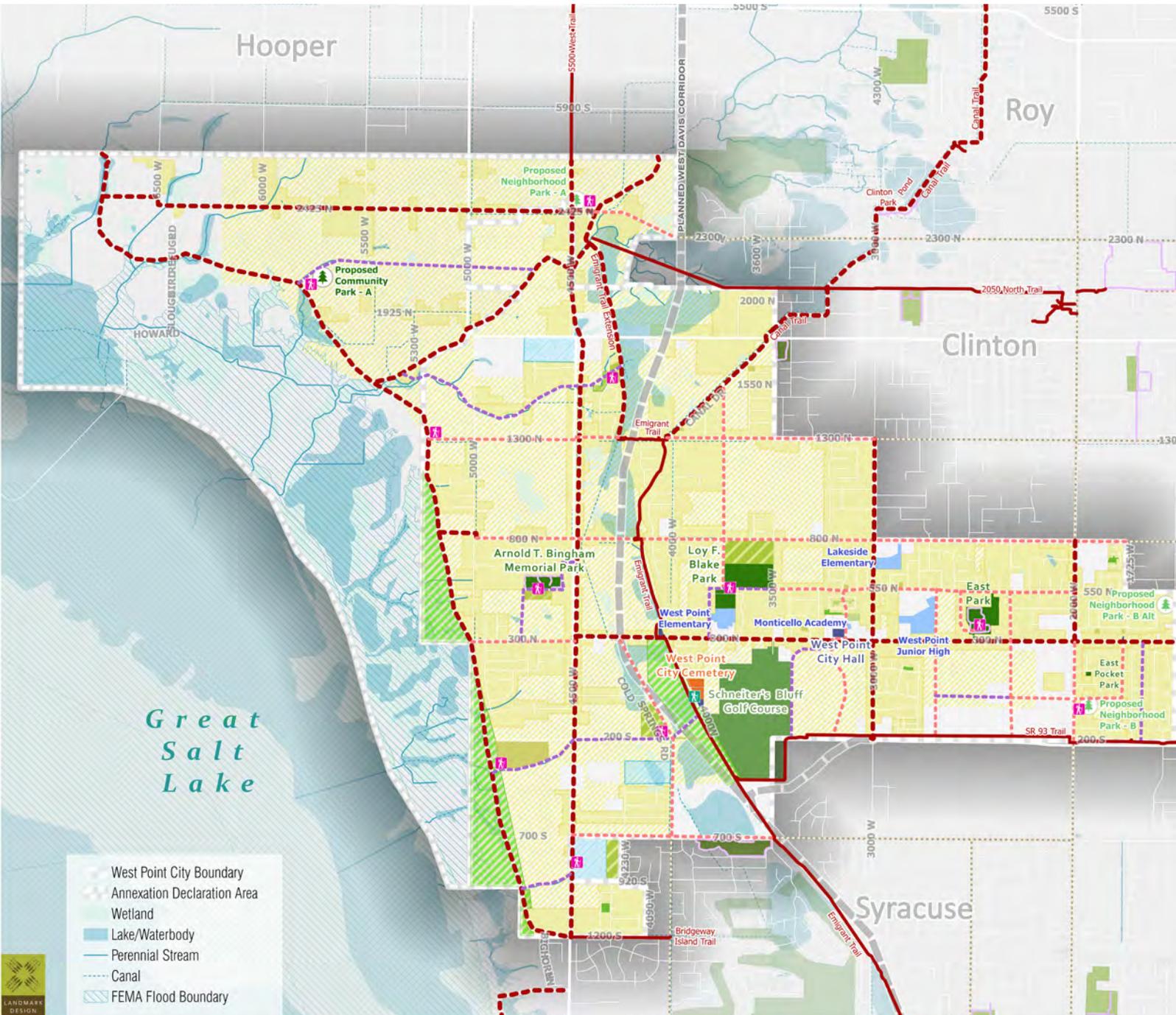
“I walk all over West Point and don’t feel there’s enough community paths and trails to entertain safety for me or bicyclists. It would be nice to have the ability to enjoy the safety trails and walkways provide instead of walking along weedy narrow roadsides.”
-Survey Respondent



Parks, Recreation, & Trails Master Plan

MAP 6: EXISTING & PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK

- Existing Trailhead
- Proposed Trailhead
- Existing Regional Shared Use Pathway
- Existing Perimeter Park Pathway
- Proposed Regional Shared Use Pathway
- Proposed Local Shared Use Pathway
- Proposed Local Route (Sidewalk/Bike Lane)
- Planned On-Street Bike Facility (Other Community)
- Proposed Neighborhood Park
- Proposed Community Park
- City Park
- City Open Space
- City Cemetery
- City Facility
- Private Park
- Private Open Space
- Private Detention Basin
- Golf Course
- School
- Church Bowery
- Planned Park
- Future Open Space
- Future School
- Park in Adjacent Community
- Golf Course in Adjacent Community



- West Point City Boundary
- Annexation Declaration Area
- Wetland
- Lake/Waterbody
- Perennial Stream
- Canal
- FEMA Flood Boundary



REGIONAL SHARED USE PATHWAYS

Regional Shared Use Pathways form the primary trail framework. They are paved trails that serve a broad variety of user groups including pedestrians, bicyclists, and other active transportation users. Such trails typically connect to major trails in adjacent communities.

Emigrant Trail is the main north-south regional shared use pathway in the city, tracing the route of the Old Emigration Road that “once ran from Salt Lake City to City of the Rocks, Idaho where it linked to the California Trail”². The trail connects West Point to Syracuse, terminating at 1300 North just west of the planned West Davis Corridor. The trail is also known as the Syracuse Trail and Bluff Trail, in reference to Schneider’s Bluff, a geologic feature that parallels the route, with 2.5 miles of the trail located with city boundaries.

SR 93 Trail is the other existing regional shared use pathway in West Point, providing an east-west connection between Emigrant Trail to the west and Syracuse, Clearfield and destinations further to the east. The trail is located along the southern edge of the city, just south of Schneider’s Bluff Golf Course before jogging north and then east between 200 South and SR 93. The trail eventually links with the Denver and Rio Grande Western Rail Trail far to the east, which extends from Roy to Centerville through Weber and Davis County. The trail extends for 2.2 miles in West Point.

As previously documented, West Point has a good start on a establishing a regional trail system to serve the city. However, Emigrant Trail is incomplete, the city’s parks and other key destinations are not connected by trails, and many areas of the community lack any meaningful trail access.

The future regional shared use pathway system includes extension of Emigrant Trail to the north, adding new regional routes along 2425 North, 2050 North (Clinton Drain Trail), and Canal Drive (Layton Canal Trail). Other recommended segments include north-south trails along 4500 West and 3000 West, and an east-west trail along 300 North Howard Slough that would connect the Emigrant Trail extension to a proposed trail along the floodplain boundary on the western edge of the city. A minor segment is also recommended along 2000 West between 300 North and 800 North. Once complete, the Regional Shared Use Pathway system will be 25.7 miles in length.

LOCAL SHARED USE PATHWAYS

In order to provide a finer grain of recreational and commuting trail options, a series of **Local Shared Use Pathways** are proposed, complementing the regional trail framework and providing more complete access to local parks, open spaces, schools and neighborhoods. These routes are located where rights-of-way and proposed alignments can accommodate a wider trail similar to regional shared use pathways. There are a total of 6.5 miles of proposed local shared use pathways in the trail concept.

2 Davis County Trails Map (<https://gisportal-pro.daviscountyutah.gov/portal/apps/webappviewer>), accessed 11/28/2022.

“The thing that I would most like to see would be good bike infrastructure. Paths that are separated from traffic that have direct and pleasant travel. It should connect to neighborhood, business, and parks.”

-Survey Respondent

“More trails. We feel the trails and land taken over by the freeway have cut the space in half. It would be nice if there were more closer to home in West Point.”

-Survey Respondent

LOCAL ROUTES

Local Routes are the final component of the West Point trail system. These trails provide critical links between community destinations and the regional trail network but are located where rights-of-way and alignments are not wide enough to accommodate local shared use pathways, though wider fully-separated trails/sidewalks should be implemented where space allows. These routes provide opportunities to walk and bike between local and regional trails on roadways that are less-trafficked by vehicles. They are separated from adjacent roadways by landscaped park strips and buffer strips, resulting facilities that are more pleasant, safer, and better suited to serve as part of the local trail system than standard sidewalks. There are approximately 13.9 miles of proposed local routes in the trail concept.

TRAILHEADS

Trail users are currently served by a single trailhead just west of the West Point City Cemetery on 4000 West (see Map 6). The trailhead consists of a large parking lot that provides direct access to Emigrant Trail and indirect access to SR 93 Trail less than a quarter of a mile to the south. There are no trailhead amenities at this location other than parking.

As illustrated in Map 7, two additional standalone trailheads are proposed - one at the west end of the city at the junction of proposed trails along 1300 North and the FEMA flood boundary and one in the city-owned open space in the southwest part of the city. Parking, restrooms, site furnishings and kiosks/signage with informational signage should be developed at these locations when the city’s trail system is extended to the vicinity.

Other proposed trailheads shown on the map are assumed to be part of the development of planned and proposed parks. Trail access in these future parks should be located near restrooms if possible, and should include kiosks/signage and site furnishings.

Other trails should be incorporated into the design of existing and future city parks as they are connected to the trail network. Using parks as trailheads maximizes the efficient use of land and funds since restrooms and other amenities can meet the needs of diverse user groups. Kiosks or signage with trail maps and general trail system information should be included near the trail access points to help orient users.

DESIGN STANDARDS

Figure 25: Shared Use Pathway | Fully Separated

Map 6 illustrates the city's planned network of trails. It should be noted that private trails located in private developments may be developed in the future beyond the illustrated system. As shown in **Table 7**, the city is planning to construct 21.0 miles of regional shared use paths, 6.5 miles of local shared use paths, and 13.9 miles of local routes in the future, including an expansion of the Emigrant Trail, Canal Trail, the 2050 North Trail, and trails along major roadways and natural features.

The city's engineering standards do not currently establish clear design parameters and details for these trail types. The following trail cross sections are recommended for the proposed trail network in West Point. **Figure 25** illustrates a street adjacent shared use pathway.

a fully separated shared use pathway, both paralleled by an optional unpaved shoulder where space allows, and (3) a local route that includes both a bike lane and sidewalk, with a wider sidewalk/pathway where space allows. Since bike lanes are typically installed as part of roadway construction, the city should ensure that the proposed alignments are included in future road projects.

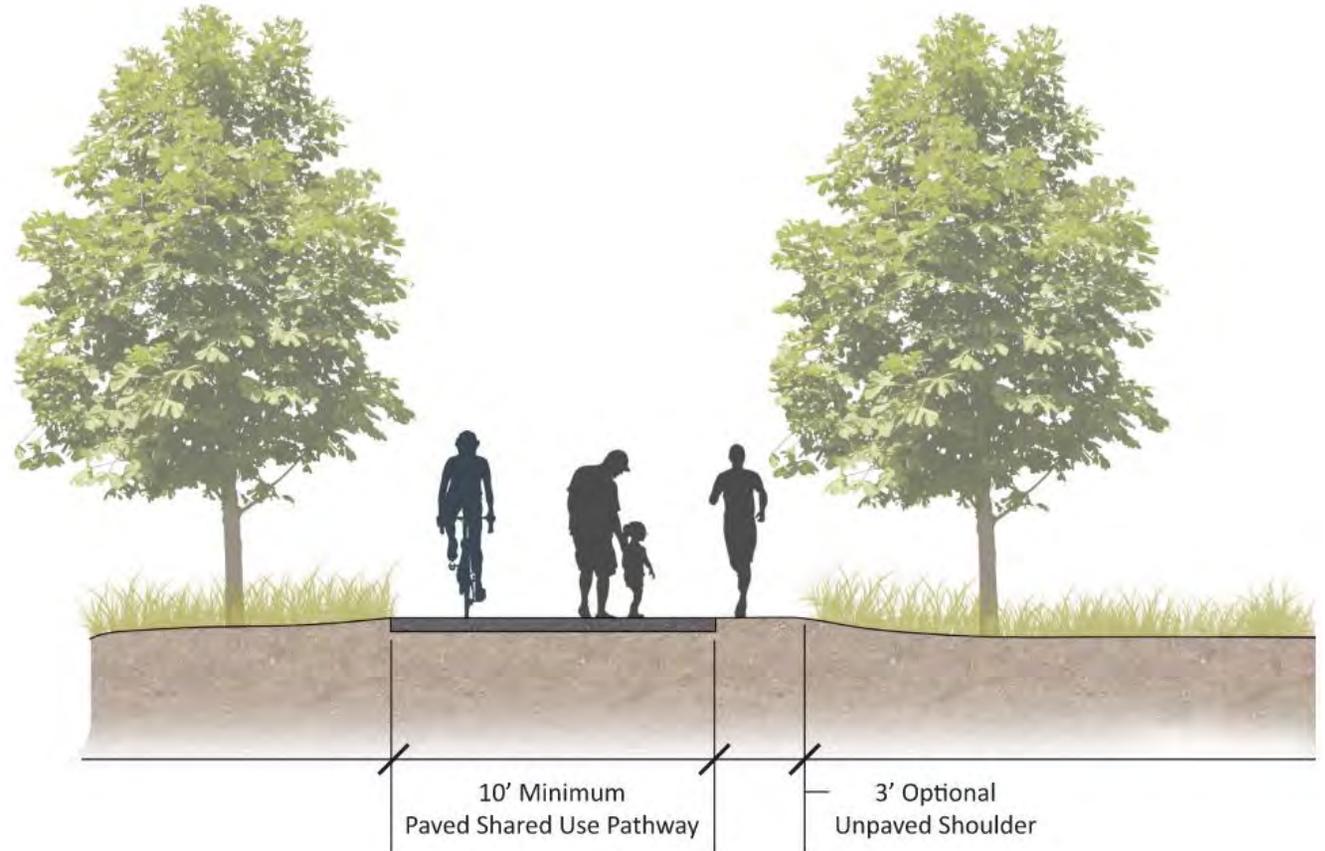


Figure 26: Shared Use Pathway | Street Adjacent

“I would love to see the new bike trail include a bridal dirt trail next to it. The horse community would love to retain some of its rural feel.”

-Survey Respondent

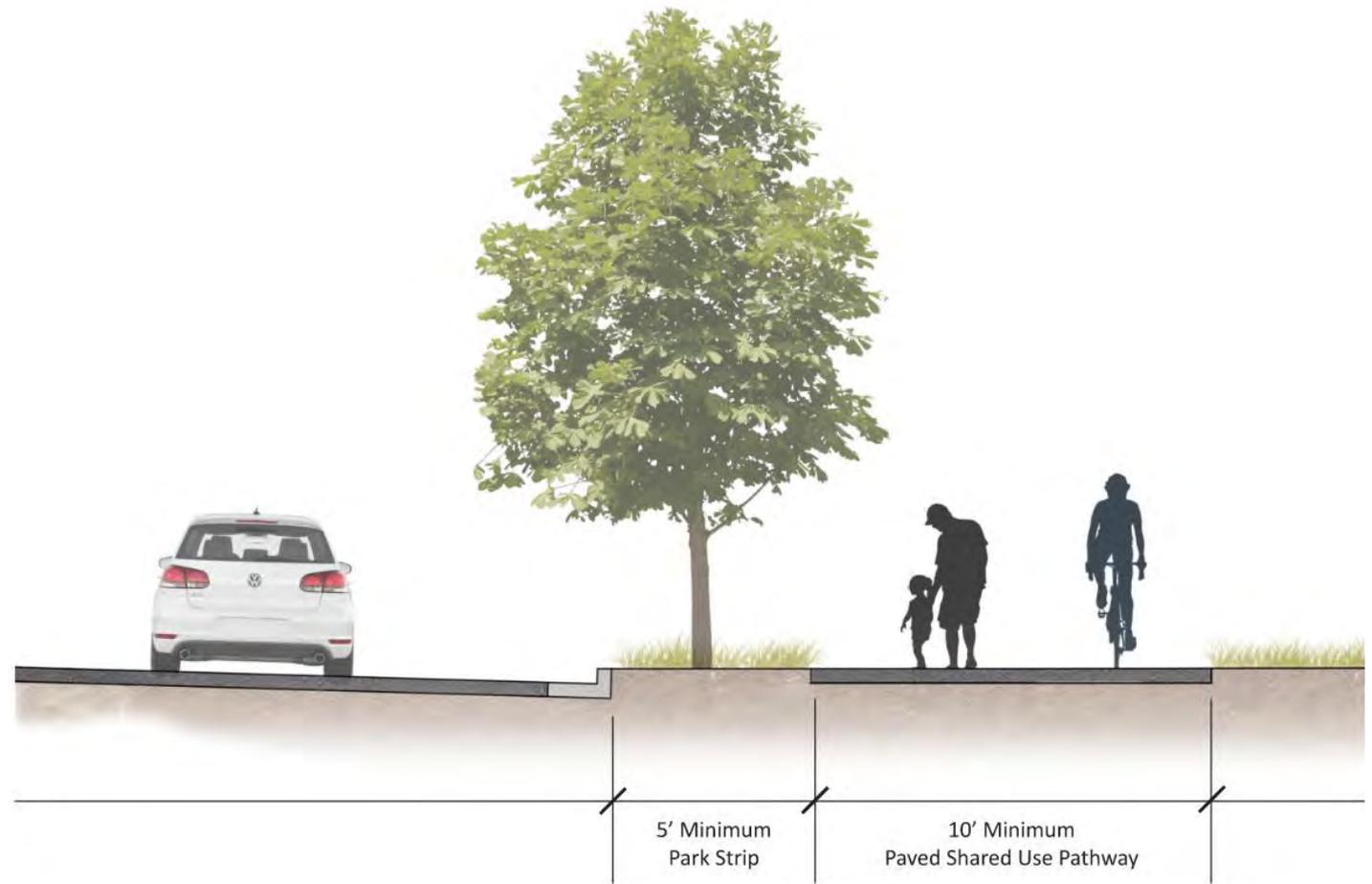
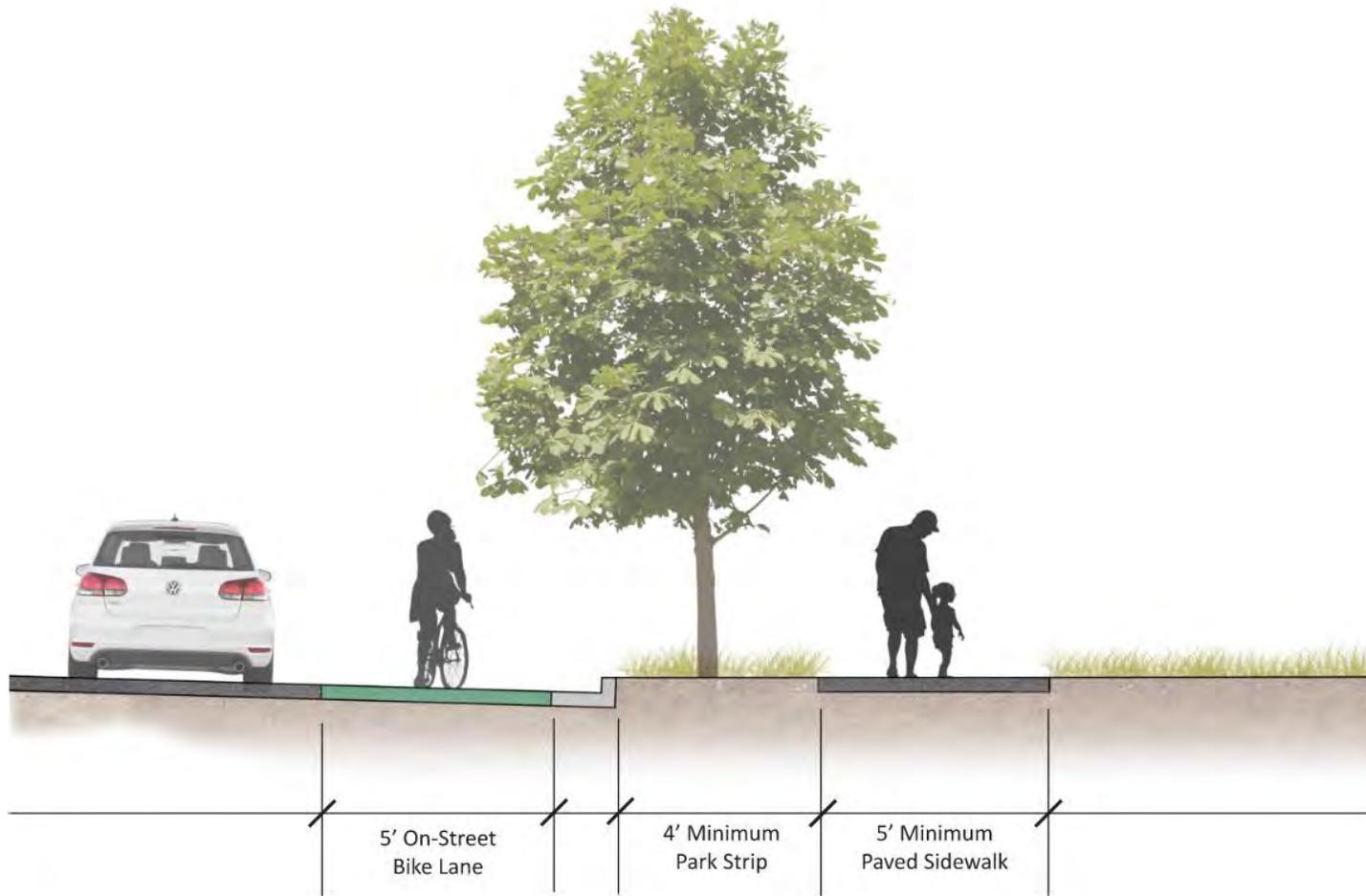


Figure 27: Local Route | Sidewalk/Bike Lane



“I would appreciate better sticker/thorn control on our walking/bike trails. Also improve all the cracks and fissures on the surface of the trails.”

-Survey Respondent



OTHER TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

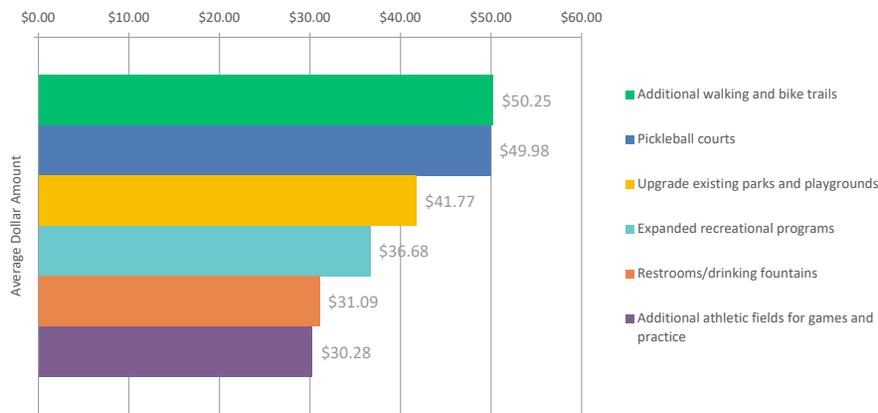
In addition to providing a complete and interconnected network of trails, safe trail crossings at major roadways and the establishment of a consistent regulatory, wayfinding and interpretive sign system are recommended. The establishment of a comprehensive trail signage system is particularly important for informing trail users about trail regulations and etiquette, the location of key destinations, and for improving awareness and stewardship of the trail and open space system. Up-to-date trail maps are recommended at trailheads with links to online information as well. The inclusion of interpretive signs at key locations would particularly enhance public understanding of the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the West Point parks and trail system. Other key amenities include restrooms and trash receptacles at trailheads and the inclusion of benches and lighting along key regional trails.

PRIORITIES & RECOMMENDATIONS: TRAILS

Figure 28: Spending Priorities

Q11: Suppose you had \$100 to spend on additional park, recreational programs, facilities or trails in West Point. How would you divide your \$100 among the various services and amenities that could be funded? (You may spend the \$100 all in one category or divide it up, but the total must be \$100)

Answered: 385 Skipped: 70



While only a very small percentage of survey respondents indicate they do not use trails in the city, they indicate that the primary reason is due to the lack of information about trails and the fact that existing trails are too far from home. In order to ensure the needs of as many residents as possible is met, the city should expand the trail system as opportunities arise, thereby bringing access closer to home. Key actions include: (1) purchasing and otherwise securing trail alignments and easements, (2) actively negotiating for trails as part of development approvals, focusing on segments that complete and expand the existing regional trail network, and (3) providing the finer grain of trails and tactically filling gaps in the trail system that will help achieve the long-term trail vision and meet the community priorities indicated in the survey (see **Figure 28**).

The Jordan River Trail in Salt Lake County and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail in Davis Salt Lake Counties are clear cases that illustrate how the adoption of long-term trail plans decades ago eventually led to the establishment of successful trail systems. When first conceived nearly three decades ago, the Jordan River Trail was only a dream of county leaders. Today the 45-mile-long trail is complete, linking more than a dozen communities and providing access to a wide range of parks and destinations from the north shores of Utah Lake in Utah County to the shorelands of Great Salt Lake and the Legacy Parkway in Davis County to the north. The project took decades to realize, with the last remaining gap completed in 2017.

Completing the proposed regional shared use pathways through West Point is one of the top priorities of this plan, facilitating regional access and linkages to local and regional amenities and destinations. The regional system should be complemented by completion of the proposed local shared use pathways and local routes, which will facilitate close access to the greater trail system from every home and help ensure the system is both safe and pleasant. These actions should be complemented by the completion of a comprehensive system of trailhead enhancements, including the conversion of local parks into de-facto trailheads, and the development of a unified trail wayfinding and signage system.

The master plan acknowledges that implementation of the trail vision may take many to realize. It is therefore recommended that interim solutions be considered in locations where landowners are unwilling to provide trail easements for public trails, or where overcoming physical man-made or natural barriers, such as roadways and steep grades, may be cost-prohibitive.

GOALS AND POLICIES: TRAILS

GOAL 1: COMPLETE A COMPREHENSIVE, INTERCONNECTED TRAIL NETWORK BY BUILD OUT IN 2050

Policy 1.1: Complete a non-motorized transportation network focused on recreational users

- a. Implementation Measure: Develop the regional shared use pathway system as soon as possible.
- b. Implementation Measure: Develop the finer grain trail network, including local shared use pathways, local routes, and associated trailheads by 2050.
- c. Implementation Measure: Upgrade the existing trailhead west of the Cemetery.
- c. Implementation Measure: Develop two new standalone trailheads to support the proposed trail network.
- c. Implementation Measure: Embrace and develop multi-jurisdictional cooperation and funding relationships with the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Davis County and neighboring cities focused on regional trail connections.

d. Implementation Measure: Update the Transportation Master Plan to support the proposed trail network proposed in this master plan.

e. Implementation Measure: Update the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan on a regular/ five-year basis.

Policy 1.2: Assure that the West Point trails system meets public needs and expectations

a. Implementation Measure: Continue to work with local residents to ensure the proposed trail network meets public needs and expectations.

b. Implementation Measure: Coordinate efforts between city departments to ensure the proposed trail network is fully understood and implemented as envisioned.

c. Implementation Measure: Develop trail maps for distribution to the public both online and in printed form at kiosks.

d. Implementation Measure: Develop an accessible network of supportive pedestrian infrastructure, including sidewalks, curb ramps, and trails near existing parks and other high-use destinations.

Policy 1.3: Incorporate trail master planning and acquisition needs into the established West Point City planning, engineering, and development review processes to ensure the proposed trail system is implemented as envisioned.

a. Implementation Measure: Continually evaluate system-wide trail needs as part of future planning efforts, focusing on eliminating system-wide gaps and improving connections with existing and future neighborhoods, destinations, parks, recreation facilities and future transit stops.

b. Implementation Measure: Require private development projects to contribute, finance, and/or install trails as recommended in this plan.

c. Implementation Measure: Require pedestrian walkways between sidewalks along public streets and developments adjacent to those streets.

d. Implementation Measure: Require sidewalks, pathways, plazas, or other pedestrian-friendly entrances to buildings.

Policy 1.4: Maintain trails as safe, attractive and comfortable amenities for the community.

- a. Implementation Measure: Implement a Safe Routes to School program with an emphasis on the development of a comprehensive separated trail system.
- b. Implementation Measure: Work with Davis School District, local law enforcement, UDOT, Davis County, local developers, public safety staff and neighborhood groups to identify and clearly-mark appropriate trails.
- c. Implementation Measure: Ensure that maintenance routines include the control of weeds (particularly thorny species), removing trash and debris and selective plowing of crucial routes to facilitate winter trail use.
- d. Implementation Measure: Promote an “Adopt a Trail” program to encourage trail user assistance in maintaining the trail system. Encourage participants to become involved in all aspects of trail development through maintenance and long-term improvements.
- e. Implementation Measure: Develop a wayfinding and signage program that provides clear information to users about trail access and proper trail behavior, including allowed uses and other regulations.
- f. Implementation Measure: Install a safe system of trail lighting, emergency response stations, and other safety improvements along regional shared use pathways where appropriate.
- g. Implementation Measure: Adopt a Complete Streets policy for the city, clarifying the role and function of trails, sidewalk and pathways as part of the city-wide street and roadway network.



A wide, flat landscape under a cloudy sky, possibly a beach or a large field, with a few small figures in the distance. The sky is filled with various cloud formations, and the ground is a mix of light and dark patches. In the far distance, a range of mountains or hills is visible. Two small figures are standing on the right side of the horizon line.

IMPLEMENTATION

As described in the preceding chapters, numerous improvements and actions are required to ensure existing and future needs related to parks, recreation and trails in West Point City are met. The following is a summary of the specific tasks and projects associated with probable costs.

PUBLIC INPUT ON SPENDING PRIORITIES

The community survey purposefully addressed funding priorities for additional parks, recreational programs and facilities, and trails in West Point. When asked to prioritize spending for a hypothetical \$100, participants indicated that additional walking and biking trails and pickleball courts are their top priorities, with an average of approximately \$50 each (see **Figure 29**). Upgrading existing parks and playgrounds was the third priority with an average allocation of nearly \$42. Expanding recreational programs, developing restrooms and drinking fountains, and providing additional athletic fields for games and practices rounded out the lower tier of priorities for participants, with average allocations between \$30 to \$37.

The survey also touched on the amenities that respondents are using outside of West Point, which can indicate the types of facilities that may be used by residents if they were more readily available or accessible within city limits. The most popular recreation amenities outside of the city are splash pads, trailhead parks, playgrounds, and athletic courts such as basketball and pickleball courts (see **Figure 30**).

The last question in the community survey asked participants to provide any additional information or ideas in an open-ended format. Top mentions for the parks, recreation, and trail system include providing a dog park, pickleball courts, a new/better splash pad, and more shade trees and benches.

In general, the survey results convey residents' desires to make the most of existing parks, recreation programs, and trails in the city by expanding those that

Figure 29: Spending Priorities

Q11: Suppose you had \$100 to spend on additional park, recreational programs, facilities or trails in West Point. How would you divide your \$100 among the various services and amenities that could be funded? (You may spend the \$100 all in one category or divide it up, but the total must be \$100)

Answered: 385 Skipped: 70



Figure 30: Amenity Use Outside of West Point City

Q5: Which of the following types of parks or fields, if any, do you or members of your household use or visit OUTSIDE of West Point? (Select all that apply.)

Answered: 421 Skipped: 34

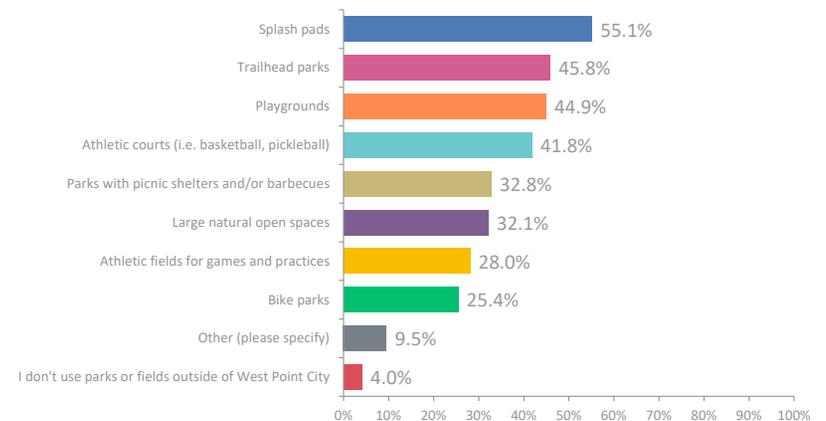


TABLE 8: SUMMARY OF MASTER PLAN PRIORITIES WITH DIRECT COST IMPLICATIONS

CHAPTER 3: PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

- » Develop 32.1 acres of planned by 2032 to meet LOS needs
- » Acquire and develop 16.0 acres of proposed parks to meet distribution needs
- » Develop 15.5 acres of planned parks to meet needs by build-out in 2050
- » Acquire and develop 26.8 additional acres of parks to meet LOS needs by 2050
- » Meet current and future Amenity LOS requirements
- » Upgrade existing parks to meet standards and community demands

CHAPTER 4: RECREATION, ARTS, AND COMMUNITY EVENTS

- » Partner with Davis School District to provide fields and recreation facilities at the new junior high

CHAPTER 5: TRAILS

- » Construct 20.8 miles of regional shared use pathways
- » Construct 6.5 miles of local shared use pathways
- » Construct 13.9 miles of local routes (sidewalks/bike lanes)
- » Develop standalone trailheads
- » Upgrade Cemetery trailhead
- » Install lighting and safety improvements along regional shared use pathways

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

- » Develop a signage and wayfinding system for parks, open space, and trails

are used by a wide range of residents and upgrading and making improvements to existing parks and trails.

PLAN PRIORITIES

West Point can make significant progress toward implementing community priorities by making the most of the city's existing parks and trails and expanding the trail network. Coupled with filling existing and future gaps by providing parks and trails close to home, these improvements will put the city in good standing to successfully meet community needs as the city continues to grow. **Table 8** summarizes the recommendations from Chapters 3 through 6 that have direct cost implications for implementation.



PROBABLE COSTS

PARK AND OPEN SPACE COSTS

Table 9 summarizes the costs required to construct the additional amenities needed by 2032 to meet current and future amenity Level-of-Service (LOS) needs¹. The probable costs to develop the recommended baseball/softball fields, dog parks/off-leash areas, multipurpose fields, pickleball courts, playground, and multi-sport court by 2032 totals \$5,030,000.

TABLE 9: PROBABLE COSTS TO MEET AMENITY LOS NEEDS THROUGH 2032

AMENITY	QUANTITY TO MEET AMENITY LOS (2022-2032)	PROBABLE COST	UNIT	TOTAL
Baseball/Softball Field (lighted)	6	\$350,000	Each	\$2,100,000
Multipurpose Field (lighted)	6	\$100,000	Each	\$600,000
Playground	2	\$250,000	Each	\$500,000
Splashpad/Water Play	1	\$500,000	Each	\$500,000
Bike Park	1	\$400,000	Each	\$400,000
Dog Parks/Off-Leash Area (1 acre)	1	\$450,000	Each	\$450,000
Pickleball Court (lighted)	5	\$80,000	Each	\$400,000
Multi-sport/Basketball Court (lighted)	1	\$80,000	Each	\$80,000
Total				\$5,030,000

¹ *Amenity needs have not been double counted. This analysis assumes that if a given amenity is required to meet LOS needs it will be installed in a park that needs that particular facility to be brought up to standard.

“We would love the expansion of Bingham park to include more parking, basketball court, and a skate park!!”

-Survey Respondent

The total probable costs required to bring existing parks up to standard and help provide the amenities and improvements requested by the community through the public engagement process are summarized in the following tables. The total costs of improvements recommended for Loy Blake Park are \$3,941,000 (see **Table 10**), costs for East Park are \$1,591,500 (see **Table 11**), costs for Bingham Park are \$1,705,000 (see **Table 12**), and costs to upgrade East Pocket Park are \$100,000 (see **Table 13**). As shown, total probable costs to upgrade all three of the city’s existing parks are \$7,337,500 (see **Table 14**).

TABLE 10: PROBABLE COSTS TO UPGRADE LOY BLAKE PARK

IMPROVEMENT	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Loy Blake Park (26.3 acres existing)				
Accessibility upgrades	1	lump	\$50,000	\$50,000
Add lighting for sports fields and courts	4	each	\$200,000	\$800,000
Add perimeter looped pathway	1	miles	\$300,000	\$300,000
Add shade to playground	3	each	\$40,000	\$120,000
Additional benches and picnic tables (10 benches/5 picnic tables)	1	lump	\$30,000	\$30,000
Elements for kids/teens	1	lump	\$100,000	\$100,000
More spectator seating around fields	1	lump	\$50,000	\$50,000
Plant more trees	60	each	\$450	\$27,000
Public art element	1	lump	\$50,000	\$50,000
Redesign/rebuild baseball complex	1	lump	\$800,000	\$800,000
Replace fire pit	1	lump	\$10,000	\$10,000
Replace large reservable pavilion	1	each	\$100,000	\$100,000
Replace medium/small pavilions	3	each	\$40,000	\$120,000
Replace picnic tables	29	each	\$2,000	\$58,000
Renovate restrooms (4 unisex stalls)	3	each	\$150,000	\$450,000
Update/replace splash pad (treat/reuse wastewater)	1	lump	\$250,000	\$250,000
Waterwise landscape/design upgrades (approx. 10% of total existing park area)	2.6	acres	\$200,000	\$526,000
Wi-fi/electrical outlet upgrades	1	lump	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total Loy Blake Park				\$3,941,000



TABLE 11: PROBABLE COSTS TO UPGRADE EAST PARK

IMPROVEMENT	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL
East Park (14.2 acres existing)				
Accessibility upgrades	1	lump	\$10,000	\$20,000
Add lighting for sports fields and courts	2	each	\$200,000	\$400,000
Add shade to playground	2	each	\$40,000	\$80,000
Additional benches and picnic tables (8 benches/4 picnic tables)	1	lump	\$24,000	\$24,000
Elements for kids/teens	1	lump	\$80,000	\$80,000
More spectator seating around fields	1	lump	\$20,000	\$20,000
Plant more trees	30	each	\$450	\$13,500
Public art element	1	lump	\$40,000	\$40,000
Replace fire pit	1	lump	\$10,000	\$10,000
Replace large reservable pavilion	1	each	\$100,000	\$100,000
Replace medium/small pavilions	3	each	\$40,000	\$120,000
Replace restrooms (4 unisex stalls)	1	each	\$350,000	\$350,000
Waterwise landscape/design upgrades (approx. 10% of total existing park area)	1.4	acres	\$200,000	\$284,000
Wi-fi/electrical outlet upgrades	1	lump	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total East Park				\$1,591,500

TABLE 12: PROBABLE COSTS TO UPGRADE BINGHAM PARK

IMPROVEMENT	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Bingham Park (8.8 acres existing)				
Accessibility upgrades	1	lump	\$30,000	\$30,000
Add lighting for safety	1	lump	\$300,000	\$300,000
Add lighting for sports fields and courts	1	each	\$200,000	\$200,000
Add shade to playground	2	each	\$40,000	\$80,000
Additional benches and picnic tables (6 benches/4 picnic tables)	1	lump	\$20,000	\$20,000
Elements for kids/teens	1	lump	\$60,000	\$60,000
More spectator seating around fields	1	lump	\$20,000	\$20,000
Plant more trees	20	each	\$450	\$9,000
Public art element	1	lump	\$30,000	\$30,000
Replace fire pit	1	lump	\$10,000	\$10,000
Replace medium/small pavilions	3	each	\$40,000	\$120,000
Replace playground	1	lump	\$250,000	\$250,000
Replace restrooms (4 unisex stalls)	1	each	\$350,000	\$350,000
Waterwise landscape/design upgrades (approx. 10% of total existing park area)	0.9	acres	\$200,000	\$176,000
Wi-fi/electrical outlet upgrades	1	lump	\$50,000	\$50,000
Total Bingham Park				\$1,705,000

TABLE 13: TOTAL PROBABLE COSTS TO UPGRADE EAST POCKET PARK

IMPROVEMENT	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL
East Pocket Park (0.2 acres existing)				
Replace basketball half court with community amenity	1	lump	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total East Pocket Park				\$100,000

TABLE 14: TOTAL PROBABLE COSTS TO UPGRADE EXISTING CITY PARKS

PARK	COST
Loy Blake Park	\$3,941,000
East Park	\$1,591,500
Bingham Park	\$1,705,000
East Pocket Park	\$100,000
Grand Total	\$7,337,500

“I and neighbors with children of the same age, have had multiple discussions about how hard it is to get our kids into swim lessons with the surrounding pools. We have also discussed how busy those pools always seem to be. I feel that it would be beneficial for our city to look into the potential feasibilities of starting a city aquatic center.”

-Survey Respondent

Table 15 illustrates the total costs required to meet park needs through anticipated build-out in 2050. As indicated in the table, a total of \$55,667,500 is required to meet amenities LOS requirements, park LOS needs, upgrade existing parks, fill gaps, and meet needs through 2050².

It should be noted that park land acquisition may include donation/dedication by development or other means than outright purchase.

TABLE 15: TOTAL PROBABLE COSTS TO MEET AMENITY LOS NEEDS, UPGRADE EXISTING CITY PARKS, FILL GAPS, AND MEET PARK LOS NEEDS

ITEM	PROBABLE COST
Upgrading Existing Parks and Meeting Amenity LOS Needs	
Develop amenities required to meet current and future needs through 2032	\$5,030,000
Upgrade existing parks (by build-out)	\$7,337,500
Subtotal Existing Park Upgrades and Amenities LOS	\$12,367,500
Meeting Park Needs by 2032	
Develop 32.1 acres of planned parks by 2032 to meet LOS requirements	\$11,235,000
Acquire and develop 16.0 acres of proposed parks to meet distribution needs	\$8,800,000
Subtotal 2032 Needs	\$20,035,000
Meeting Park Needs by Build-Out in 2050	
Develop 15.5 acres of planned parks by 2050 to meet LOS needs	\$8,525,000
Acquire and develop 26.8 acres of additional parks by 2050 meet LOS needs	\$14,740,000
Subtotal Build-Out Needs	\$23,265,000
Grand Total	\$55,667,500

² Note: All costs assume \$200,000 per acre acquisition cost and \$400,000 per acre development cost

Several additional amenities were requested by the community during the public engagement process. **Table 16** summarizes the typical probable costs of these amenities, which total \$2,950,000. The requested amenities may or may not be included in future park and open space development, therefore these costs are not included in the total to meet park needs and are provided for reference and planning purposes only.

TABLE 16: PROBABLE COSTS FOR POTENTIAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE AMENITIES

POTENTIAL AMENITY (NO DESIGNATED LOCATION)	QUANTITY	UNIT	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Bike park	1	each	\$400,000	\$400,000
Disc golf course	1	each	\$50,000	\$50,000
Fishing pond	1	each	\$200,000	\$200,000
Outdoor ice skating	1	lump	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000
Skate park/pump track	1	lump	\$300,000	\$300,000
Total Potential Park Amenities				\$2,950,000

“Please give our kids more to do around here. Young kids and teenagers. Thank you.”

-Survey Respondent

RECREATION, ARTS & COMMUNITY EVENTS COSTS

Recreation facilities are major investments and commitments that require more detail than can be addressed in a comprehensive planning study of this nature. The city is currently acquiring land from the school district to build additional fields and provide indoor recreation facilities. Since this process is already underway, opinions of probable cost are not included in this plan.

No other specific facilities or programs are proposed for recreation, arts, or community events as part of this plan. Costs are therefore not included.

“We need a dog park.”

-Survey Respondent

TRAIL COSTS

Probable costs for developing the proposed trail network are summarized in **Table 17**. The costs for local routes are not included since they are assumed to be part of roadway construction and private development projects. The plan also includes recommendations for trailhead improvements at the existing trailhead just west of the West Point Cemetery, and one new trailhead at the west end of 1300 North. The probable costs to develop the proposed trail network are \$13,333,000³.

TABLE 17: PROBABLE COSTS TO DEVELOP THE PROPOSED TRAIL NETWORK

POTENTIAL AMENITY	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	TOTAL
East Park (14.2 acres existing)			
Probable costs to develop 13.9 miles of local routes* (sidewalks/bike lanes)	0.0	\$0	\$0
Probable costs to develop 6.5 miles of local shared use pathways (per mile)	6.5	\$300,000	\$1,950,000
Probable costs to develop 20.8 miles of regional shared use pathways (per mile)	20.8	\$300,000	\$6,240,000
Standalone trailheads (assumes restroom, kiosk/signage, paved parking 20 stalls, trash receptacle, benches, trail connections, land acquisition of 1.5 acres)	2.0	\$650,000	\$1,300,000
Trailheads in existing parks (assumes kiosks/signage, trash receptacle)	3.0	\$1,000	\$3,000
Upgrades to Cemetery Trailhead (restroom, kiosk/signage, trash receptacle, benches)	1.0	\$200,000	\$200,000
Lighting and safety improvements for regional shared use pathways (per mile)	20.8	\$175,000	\$3,640,000
Grand Total			\$13,333,000

³ *assumes bike lane costs part of roadway construction projects and sidewalks are part of developer projects

TOTAL PROBABLE COSTS

As shown in **Table 18**, the total probable costs for developing the proposed parks and trails improvements through build-out in 2050⁴ is \$69,250,500. Projected costs include the development and installation of a city-wide wayfinding and signage master plan for the parks, recreation, open space and trails system.

TABLE 18: TOTAL PROBABLE COSTS TO MEET PARK NEEDS AND DEVELOP THE TRAIL NETWORK

ITEM	PROBABLE COST
Probable costs to acquire new park land and develop planned and proposed parks through build-out	\$55,667,500
Probable costs for trails and trailhead improvements through build-out	\$13,333,000
Wayfinding and signage master plan (for entire parks, recreation, and trails system)	\$50,000
Wayfinding and signage installation (for entire parks, recreation, and trails system)	\$200,000
Grand Total	\$69,250,500

DEFERRED MAINTENANCE

West Point residents appreciate and value their existing parks and trails. The city is constantly looking for ways to would like to make sure they are well maintained to meet community expectations in the most cost-effective and efficient ways possible. The results of the West Point City Park System Inventory and Conditions Assessment conducted as part of this master planning process (see Appendix), indicate that there is a need to replace aging and failing playground equipment, pavilions, and other amenities, and to address ongoing maintenance and capital replacement needs. **Table 14** summarizes the probable costs to upgrade the city's three existing parks, many of which are deferred maintenance items. To help ensure that the city does not fall behind on maintenance in the future, it recommended that an annual budget be established to replace other amenities within the city's parks, recreation, and trails system. An annual budget amount of approximately \$247,000⁵ per year for is recommended. These funds will help meet the needs summarized in Appendix D: Estimated Replacement Costs, for amenities and infrastructure like playgrounds and parking lots, but also for smaller amenities such as benches and picnic tables.

⁴ Accounts for annexation population.

⁵ This amount was determined by calculating ten percent of the total system costs in Table X divided by the 28 years remaining until build-out.

ACTION PLAN

The following Action Plan (**Table 19**) is a summary of short, medium and long-term implementation actions and priorities. Section 1 of the table addresses recommended capital facility improvements and operations and maintenance need, while Section 2 describes the associated policies in Chapters 3 through 6. To meet future needs, it is essential that West Point City implements the suggested improvements according to the corresponding schedules.

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
Capital Facility Improvements					
Parks and Open Space					
1	Utilize 3.9 acres per 1,000 population as the future level of service through build-out.				
2	Upgrade existing parks to meet amenity LOS requirements and park standards.				
3	Develop 32.1 acres of the park land already owned by the city to meet LOS needs by 2032.				
4	Acquire and develop 16.0 acres of park land for one Community and one Neighborhood Park to fill gaps in residential areas by 2032.				
5	Implement an amenity level of service standard as identified in Chapter 3 of this master plan.				
6	Implement the park walkable service areas and distribution standards as identified in Chapter 3 of this master plan.				
7	Acquire and develop the 19.8 acres of land to expand Loy F. Blake Park				
8	Acquire and develop 10.0 acres of land adjacent to the future junior high school to help meet LOS and distribution needs by build-out				

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
9	As the community grows, develop the remaining 15.5 acres of planned parks to ensure that the recommended LOS is maintained, and distribution needs are met.				
10	Acquire and develop an additional 26.8 acres of park land to meet LOS needs by 2050				
11	Develop and implement a signage and wayfinding system for the city, so residents have ample information about available facilities, amenities and regulations.				
12	Acquire park land to meet LOS and distribution needs as soon as possible to avoid escalating land costs.				
13	Upgrade existing parks to include the typical amenities and features described in the park standards as applicable or appropriate.				
Trails					
14	Develop the regional shared use pathway system as soon as possible.				
15	Develop the finer grain trail network, including local shared use pathways, local routes, and associated trailheads by 2050.				
16	Upgrade the existing trailhead west of the Cemetery and add trailhead amenities in existing parks as trails are connected.				
17	Develop two new standalone trailheads to support the proposed trail network.				
18	Install a safe system of trail lighting, emergency response stations, and other safety improvements along regional shared use pathways where appropriate.				

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
Policy Actions					
Parks and Open Space					
19	Develop each park with a combination of unique design, themes and amenities to encourage strong identities for each park.				
20	Adopt the recommended park standards as city policy.				
21	Consider strategies such as lighting existing unlit amenities and including lighting with new amenities to extend use times and other benefits for the community.				
22	Design and develop all new parks with amenities and features described in the park standards as applicable or appropriate.				
23	Broaden the types of amenities offered in the city by constructing pickleball courts, a dog park and other unique amenities.				
24	Explore options to extend the use of city facilities by using strategies such as lighting existing facilities to allow play later into the evening.				
25	Periodically evaluate existing parks to ensure designs and amenities are still meeting the needs of the community, and make updates or improvements as needed to ensure parks and open space remain a beloved part of the city's parks and recreation system.				
26	Secure funding for new parks, which will require periodic re-evaluation of the impact fee structure, pursuing grants, and partnering with other entities.				
27	Consider the development of non-traditional park types in the future, such as detention basin parks, urban parks and plazas, community gardens, hybrid sports parks and plazas, nature parks and agricultural heritage parks to help meet the demand for parks and open space as the city becomes more built out.				

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
28	Encourage and support participation by diverse community members in the planning and design of the city's parks and recreation system.				
29	Explore options to provide amenities in parks and open space that serve a broad range of users, age groups, abilities and interests where appropriate.				
30	Consider integrating accessible features within parks and open space areas dispersed throughout the city where appropriate, in addition to concentrated features such as all-abilities parks or playgrounds.				
31	Regularly evaluate requests for parks and open space improvements to assess need, feasibility and level of community support.				
32	Modify zoning and other city ordinances as needed to require developer participation in the provision of parks, open space and trails.				
33	Require that new developments allocate a minimum percentage of land toward parks, trails and open space and incentivize projects that go beyond the requirements.				
34	Protect the city's investment in sports fields by resting fields regularly to prevent damage by overuse.				
35	Update annual budgets to ensure funding for the operation and maintenance of city parks and other land the city maintains is sufficient to meet needs.				
36	Ensure staffing levels meet the desired level of maintenance for public parks and other land.				
37	Maintain an up-to-date inventory of all parks, park facilities and other lands.				
38	Update parks in a way that helps reduce maintenance requirements while promoting better long-term use of public parks and recreation amenities.				
39	Increase the variety of amenities in parks to promote better long-term use of parks.				

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
40	Provide amenities and facilities to help residents “self-maintain” their parks and park facilities (trash receptacles, animal waste containers, hose bibs, pet clean-up stations, etc.).				
41	Avoid the development of Pocket Parks unless there is simply no other land available, and the neighborhood is under-served by parks.				
42	Explore options for enhancing the aesthetics and use of the city's parks and open space system, through avenues such as a tree planting program, an interactive art program/plan or an interpretive signage system.				
43	Improve the safety of the city's parks and open space system through the addition of lighting and safety features where appropriate and by addressing safety concerns specific to individual sites.				
44	Acquire open space that preserves natural drainages, waterways, wetlands, wildlife habitat, viewsheds, iconic agricultural land and other highly valued community resources, such as the Howard Slough corridor or wetlands near Great Salt Lake.				
45	Work with Davis County and the State of Utah to ensure that new facilities meet city, county and state statutes and regulations.				
46	Utilize drip irrigation, moisture sensors, smart central irrigation control systems, appropriate plant materials, soil amendments and other city requirements as applicable to create a more sustainable West Point City parks and recreation system.				
47	Utilize industry best practices to ensure plants are water-wise, regionally appropriate and as low maintenance where appropriate to reduce maintenance and water demands.				
48	Convert non-active areas of parks and other public lands to water-wise plantings and mulches, using native plants where possible, to reduce water and maintenance demand.				



TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
49	Upgrade existing parks and require new parks to include resource-wise lighting and stormwater management strategies such as Low Impact Development (LID) practices.				
Recreation, Arts, and Community Events					
50	Explore public/private partnerships to potentially fund a recreation center.				
51	Conduct a pre-programming study to determine the scope, cost and funding opportunities for the development of a recreation center once demand is high enough to warrant it.				
52	Continue to partner with Davis School District to meet community recreation facility and programming needs in the future.				
53	Continue to support the newly formed West Point City Arts Council in providing high-quality arts events and activities.				
54	Explore ways to integrate art into public parks and spaces, both as features and as part of overall design.				
55	Extend arts programming into the city's parks and public spaces.				
56	Partner with the Davis School District and community organizations to offer drop-in activities for youth, including visual arts, music and dance or other educational/environmental opportunities.				
57	Explore partnerships with public and private entities to fund the potential construction of a community arts center, perhaps co-located with a potential recreation center.				
58	Conduct a pre-programming study to determine the scope, cost and funding opportunities for the development of a community arts center once demand is high enough to warrant it.				

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050+
59	Regularly survey participants and the community-at-large to ensure the city is providing programs, activities and community events that serve a broad variety of users and interests.				
60	Investigate opportunities to provide diverse, innovative programming to a broad variety of participants, including non-sports related programming.				
61	Develop a marketing plan/strategy to collaborate on improved marketing and communication efforts for recreation and arts programs and activities.				
Trails					
62	Embrace and develop multi-jurisdictional cooperation and funding relationships with the Wasatch Front Regional Council, Davis County and neighboring cities focused on regional trail connections.				
63	Update the Transportation Master Plan to support the proposed trail network proposed in this master plan.				
64	Update the Parks, Recreation and Trails Master Plan on a regular/ five-year basis.				
65	Continue to work with local residents to ensure the proposed trail network meets public needs and expectations.				
66	Coordinate efforts between city departments to ensure the proposed trail network is fully understood and implemented as envisioned.				
67	Develop trail maps for distribution to the public both online and in printed form at kiosks.				
68	Develop an accessible network of supportive pedestrian infrastructure, including sidewalks, curb ramps, and trails near existing parks and other high-use destinations.				

TABLE 19: ACTION PLAN (CONT.)

#	ITEM	IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION	SHORT-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 0 - 9 YEARS 2023-2032	MEDIUM-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 9 - 20 YEARS 2032 - 2042	MEDIUM / LONG-TERM IMPLEMENTATION 20 YEARS+ (BUILD-OUT) 2042 - 2050 +
69	Continually evaluate system-wide trail needs as part of future planning efforts, focusing on eliminating system-wide gaps and improving connections with existing and future neighborhoods, destinations, parks, recreation facilities and future transit stops.				
70	Require private development projects to contribute, finance, and/or install trails as recommended in this plan.				
71	Require pedestrian walkways between sidewalks along public streets and developments adjacent to those streets.				
72	Require sidewalks, pathways, plazas, or other pedestrian-friendly entrances to buildings.				
73	Implement a Safe Routes to School program with an emphasis on the development of a comprehensive separated trail system.				
74	Work with Davis School District, local law enforcement, UDOT, Davis County, local developers, public safety staff and neighborhood groups to identify and clearly-mark appropriate trails.				
75	Ensure that maintenance routines include the control of weeds (particularly thorny species), removing trash and debris and selective plowing of crucial routes to facilitate winter trail use.				
76	Promote an “Adopt a Trail” program to encourage trail user assistance in maintaining the trail system. Encourage participants to become involved in all aspects of trail development through maintenance and long-term improvements.				
77	Develop a wayfinding and signage program that provides clear information to users about trail access and proper trail behavior, including allowed uses and other regulations.				
78	Adopt a Complete Streets policy for the city, clarifying the role and function of trails, sidewalk and pathways as part of the city-wide street and roadway network.				

ESTABLISHING FUNDING & IMPLEMENTATION PRIORITIES



Establishing funding priorities for parks, open space, recreation facilities and trails is a challenge for communities with limited resources and diverse needs. The following are some key considerations when prioritizing specific projects properly prioritized:

- » Do they help fill a critical need or service gap?
- » Do they address life and safety concerns?
- » Do they support on-going maintenance of existing facilities (thereby protecting existing resources and investments)?
- » Do they meet future needs in clear and logical phases?

It should be noted that budgets should be established for the acquisition of future land as soon as possible. This will help avoid escalating acquisition costs over time.

EXISTING FUNDING SOURCES

The following are some of the key funding sources currently available for implementing the plan recommendations.

- » **General Funds** - funds that come through government levies such as property and sales taxes that are divided up as the city sees fit.
- » **Park Improvement Funds** - impact fees assessed with new development and redevelopment to provide a comparable level of service for parks as the city grows.
- » **Enterprise Funds** - business-type funds where governments charge fees for programs and services and then use the money to pay for those services.
- » **Bonds** - debt obligations issued by government entities.

Details regarding the various bonds, special assessments, service districts, grants, partnerships and other funding options and sources that are available to help implement the plan vision follow.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND OPTIONS FOR LARGE PROJECTS

General Obligation Bonds

The lowest interest cost financing for any local government is typically through the levying of taxes for issuance of General Obligation Bonds. General Obligation Bonds, commonly referred to as “G.O. Bonds,” are secured by the unlimited pledge of the taxing ability of the community, sometimes called a “full faith and credit” pledge. Because G.O. bonds are secured by and repaid from property taxes, they are generally viewed as the lowest credit risk to bond investors. This low risk usually translates into the lowest interest rates of any municipal bond structure.

Under the Utah State Constitution, any bonded indebtedness secured by property tax levies must be approved by a majority of voters in a bond election called for that purpose. Currently, bond elections may only be held once each year on the November general election date.

If the recreation improvements being considered for funding through a G.O. bond have broad appeal to the public and proponents are willing to assist in the promotional efforts, G.O. bonds for recreation projects can meet with public approval. However, since some constituents may not view them as essential-purpose facilities for a local government or may view the government as competing with the private sector, obtaining positive voter approval may be a challenge.

It should also be noted that a G.O. bond election, if successful, would only cover the financing of capital expenditures for the facility. Facility revenues and/or other funds would still be needed to pay for the operation and maintenance expenses of the facilities. State law limitations on the amount of General Obligation indebtedness for this type of facility are quite high with the limit being 12-percent of an area’s taxable value. Pursuant to state law the debt must be structured to mature in 40 years or less, but practically the entity would not want to structure the debt to exceed the useful life of the facility.

Advantages of G.O. bonds:

- » Lowest interest rates
- » Lowest bond issuance costs
- » If approved, a new ‘revenue’ is identified to pay for the capital cost

Disadvantages of G.O. bonds:

- » Timing issues, limited dates to hold required G.O. election
- » Risk of a “no” vote while still incurring costs of holding a bond election

Can only raise taxes to finance bonds through election process to pay for physical facilities, not ongoing or additional operation and maintenance expense. This would have to be done through a separate truth-in-taxation tax increase.

Creative Financing

Non-traditional sources of funding may be used to minimize the amount that needs to be financed via the issuance of debt. The city's approach should be to utilize community support for fund-raising efforts, innovative sources of grants, utilization of naming rights/donations, corporate sponsorships, contracting services, partnership opportunities involving other communities and the private sector, together with cost-sharing arrangements with school districts. To the extent debt must be incurred to complete the financing package, bonding structures, as discussed above, should be evaluated to find the optimal structure based on the financial resources of the city.

Special Assessment Areas

Formerly known as Special Improvement Districts or (SIDs), a Special Assessment Area (SAA) provides a means for a local government to designate an area as benefited by an improvement and levy an assessment to pay for the improvements. The assessment levy is then pledged to retire the debt incurred in constructing the project.

While not subject to a bond election as General Obligation bonds require, SAAs may not, as a matter of law, be created if 40 percent or more of the property owners subject to the assessment, weighted by method of assessment, within the proposed SAA, protest its creation. Politically, most city councils would find it difficult to create an SAA if even 20-30 percent of property owners oppose the SAA. If created, the city's ability to levy an assessment within the SAA provides a sound method of financing although it will be at interest rates higher than other types of debt that the city could consider issuing.

The underlying rationale of an SAA is that those who benefit from the improvements will be assessed for the costs. For a recreation facility or similar major project, which is intended to serve all residents of the community, and in this case possibly serve multiple communities, it would be difficult to make a case for excluding any residential properties from being assessed, although commercial property would have to be evaluated with bond counsel. The ongoing annual administrative obligations related to an SAA would be formidable even though state law allows the city to assess a fee to cover such administrative costs. Special Assessment notices are mailed out by the

entity creating the assessment area and are not included as part of the annual tax notice and collection process conducted by the county.

If an SAA is used, the city would have to decide on a method of assessment (i.e. per residence, per acre, by front-footage, etc.) which is fair and equitable to both residential and commercial property owners.

The ability to utilize this mechanism by cities joined together under an inter-local cooperative would need to be explored with legal counsel. There are several issues that would need to be considered such as ownership of the facility as a local government can only assess property owners within its proper legal boundaries.

Advantages of SAA Bonds:

- » Assessments provide a ‘new’ revenue source to pay for the capital expense
- » No general vote required (but those assessed can challenge the creation)

Disadvantages of SAA Bonds:

- » Higher financing costs
- » Significant administration costs for a city-wide Assessment area

Note – Due to the costs of administering a city-wide SAA and given that special assessments cannot be deducted from income taxes, but property taxes can, it seems more rational to seek for G.O. election approval rather than form a city-wide SAA.

Lease Revenue Bonds

One financing option which, until the advent of sales tax revenue bonds, was frequently used to finance recreation facilities is a Lease Revenue Bond issued by the Local Building Authority (formerly Municipal Building Authority) of the city. This type of bond would be secured by the recreation center property and facility itself, not unlike real property serving as the security for a home mortgage. Lease revenue bonds are repaid by an annual appropriation of the lease payment by the city Council. Generally, this financing method works best when used for an essential public facility such as city halls, police stations and fire stations. Interest rates on a lease revenue bond would likely be 15 to 30 basis points higher than on sales tax revenue bonds depending on the market’s assessment of the “essentiality” of the facility.

Financial markets generally limit the final maturity on this type of issue to the useful life of the facility and state law limits the term of the debt to a maximum of forty years. As the city is responsible to make the lease payments, the

financial markets determine the perceived willingness and ability of the city to make those payments by a thorough review of the city's general fund monies.

As this type of bond financing does not generate any new revenue source, the city council will still need to identify revenue sources sufficient to make the lease payments to cover the debt service.

Creative use of this option could be made with multiple local governments, each of which could finance their portion through different means – one could use sales tax, another could issue G.O. bonds, etc.

Advantages of Lease Revenue Bonds:

- » No general vote required
- » No specific revenue pledge required

Disadvantages of Lease Revenue Bonds:

- » Higher financing costs than some other alternatives
- » No 'new' revenue source identified to make up the use of general fund monies that will be utilized to make the debt service payment

Transient Room Tax Revenue Bonds

Transient Room Tax Revenue Bonds are similar to Sales Tax Revenue Bonds and are paid from excise tax revenues governed pursuant to Utah state code. Without the need for a vote, cities and counties may issue bonds payable solely from excise taxes levied by the city, county or those levied by the State of Utah and rebated to the city or county, such as gasoline taxes or sales taxes.

For all sales and excise tax bonds, there exists in state law a non-impairment clause that restricts the state's ability to change the distribution formula in such a way that would harm bondholders while local governments have debt outstanding.

Tax Increment Financing (Utah Community Development & Renewal Agencies Act) (CDRA)

Tax increment financing can be an attractive option to communities, developers and landowners because it provides public assistance and funding for improvements, infrastructure, land write-downs, etc., in partnership with private investment in an area. The purpose is to encourage development to take place in areas that are deteriorating, to create jobs, or to assist with important community projects.

The main steps in establishing a tax increment area include:

- » Formation of a Community Development Redevelopment Agency (must only be created once by a community, not for each project) –this step has already been completed by the city.
- » Creation of a project area plan and budget
- » Approval of taxing entities

Short-Term Financing

Short-term financing options are obligations that are re-marketed or become due over a relatively short period of time. They are issued to provide working capital to pay operating expenses or provide interim short-term financing for capital projects.

There are several tools that can be used under this mechanism including:

- » Tax & Revenue Anticipation Note (TRANS)
- » Bond Anticipation Notes (BANs)
- » Grant Anticipation Notes (GANs)
- » Interim Warrants

Social Impact Bonds

Through Social Impact Bonds (SIB), or Pay for Success Bonds, governments collaborate with investors/funders and service providers to improve services for a disadvantaged population. In exchange for funding, a governmental entity sets specific, measurable goals for early prevention programs that will achieve clearly defined outcomes. The investors/funders provide the initial capital support and the municipality makes payments to the program as outcomes are reached.

Creation of a Special Service District

A city, or several cities via inter-local agreement, can create a recreation district charged with providing certain services to residents of the area covered by the district. A special district can levy a property tax assessment on residents of the District to pay for both the bond debt service and operations and maintenance. It should be noted that the city already can levy, subject to a bond election and/or the truth-in-taxation process, property taxes. The creation of a recreation special service district serves to separate its designated functions from those of the city by

creating a separate entity with its own governing body. However, an additional layer of government may not be the most cost effective.

Creative Financing

Non-traditional sources of funding may be used to minimize the amount that needs to be financed via the issuance of debt. The city's approach should be to utilize community support for fund-raising efforts, innovative sources of grants, utilization of naming rights/donations, corporate sponsorships, contracting services, partnership opportunities involving other communities and the private sector, together with cost-sharing arrangements with school districts. To the extent debt must be incurred to complete the financing package, alternative bonding structures, as discussed above, should be evaluated to find the optimal structure based on the financial resources of the city.

FUNDING OPTIONS FOR SMALLER PROJECTS

Private and Public Partnerships

The city or a group of communities acting cooperatively and a private developer or other government or quasi-government agency may often cooperate on a facility that services the public yet is also attractive to an entrepreneur or another partner. These partnerships can be effective funding opportunities for special use sports facilities like baseball complexes or soccer complexes; however, they generally are not feasible when the objective is to develop community parks that provide facilities such as playgrounds, informal playing fields and other recreational opportunities that are generally available to the public free of charge. A recreation center, community center, or swimming/water park is also potentially attractive as a private or public partnership.

Private Fundraising

While not addressed as a specific strategy for individual recreation facilities, it is not uncommon for public monies to be leveraged with private donations. Private funds will most likely be attracted to high-profile facilities such as a swimming complex or sports complex and generally require aggressive promotion and management on behalf of the city.

Service Organization Partners

Many service organizations and corporations have funds available for park and recreation facilities. Local Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs and other service organizations often combine resources to develop park and recreation facilities. Other for-profit organizations such as Home Depot and Lowes are often willing to partner with local

communities in the development of playground and other park equipment and facilities. Again, the key is a motivated individual or group who can garner the support and funding desired.

Joint Development Partnerships

Joint development opportunities may also occur between municipalities and among agencies or departments within a municipality. Cooperative relationships between cities and counties are not uncommon, nor are partnerships between cities and school districts. Often, small cities in a region can cooperate and pool resources for recreation projects. There may be other opportunities as well which should be explored whenever possible to maximize recreation opportunities and minimize costs. To make these kinds of opportunities happen, there must be on-going and constant communication between residents, governments, business interests and others.

Point of Sale Fundraising

Point of Sale Fundraising allows businesses the opportunity to collect voluntary donations from patrons of hotels, restaurants, grocery stores or other service providers at the time they pay for the primary service. Patrons may elect to round up their bill or contribute a self-designated amount to go towards the city designated fund, park or project.

LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

Local Sales Taxes

Many communities have implemented local sales taxes, at the city or county level. This type of funding is very effective in raising funds to complete parks, recreation, trails and arts projects and is generally administered by a municipality or county and is distributed based on population. A small percentage of sales tax revenue is redistributed to qualifying projects and must typically be re-approved by voters on a recurring basis, such as every ten years.

Parks, Trails and Open Space Impact Fees

Impact fees are used by cities to offset the cost of public parks, trails and open space needed to serve future residents and new development. Impact fees are especially useful in areas of rapid growth or redevelopment. They help the city to maintain a current level of service as new development puts strain on existing facilities. It assures that new development pays its proportionate share to maintain quality of life expectations for community residents.

Dedications and Development Agreements

The dedication of land for parks and open space has long been an accepted development requirement and is another valuable tool for procuring these amenities. The city can require the dedication of park land through review of projects such as Planned Unit Developments (“PUDs”), for example. The city may require developers to provide park land or open space for new developments or offer the option to instead pay fees, construct facilities or establish private parks or open space. The dedicated land or fees may only be used for acquiring or constructing park or open space facilities.

In-Kind and Donated Services or Funds

Several options for local initiatives are possible to further the implementation of the master plan. These kinds of programs would require the community to implement a proactive recruiting initiative to generate interest and sponsorship and may include:

- » Fundraising and volunteer support of the community’s parks, trails and open spaces
- » Adopt-a-park or adopt-a-trail, whereby a service organization or group either raises funds or constructs a given facility with in-kind services
- » Corporate sponsorships, whereby businesses or large corporations provide funding for a facility, as per an adopt-a-trail and adopt-a-park program
- » Public trail and park facility construction programs, in which local citizens donate their time and effort to planning and implementing trail projects and park improvements

Park Utility Fee

A park utility fee is charged as a specified amount per housing unit in connection with the utility bill. The revenue may be used to pay for park and public lands maintenance and operations. A park utility fee provides a dedicated stream of funding for parks and public lands regardless of appropriations from the general fund. The fee may be determined by a set project cost or ongoing maintenance, based on the number of units within the city. The fee is collected simultaneously with the utility fee each month.

Special Taxes or Fees

Tax revenue collected for special purposes may be earmarked for park development. For instance, the room tax applied to hotel and motel rooms in the city could be earmarked for parks, recreation and trails development but is generally earmarked for tourism-related projects.

Community Development Block Grants

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can be used for park development in areas of the city that qualify as low and moderate income areas. CDBG funds may be used to upgrade parks, purchase new park equipment and improve accessibility (Americans with Disabilities Act). Additionally, CDBG funds may be used for projects that remove barriers to access for the elderly and for persons with severe disabilities.

User Fees

User fees may be charged for reserved rentals on park pavilions and for recreation programs. These fees should be evaluated to determine whether they are appropriate. A feasibility study may be needed to acquire the appropriate information before making decisions and changes.

Local, State and Federal Programs

The availability of these funds may change annually depending on budget allocations at the local, state or federal level. It is important to check with local representatives and administering agencies to find out the status of funding. Some of these programs are funded by the Federal government and administered by local State agencies and others are funded by the State of Utah. These include:

- » Utah Watershed Restoration Initiative
- » Utah Forestry, Fire and State Lands Grants
- » Utah Division of Water Quality Nonpoint Source Grants
- » Utah Department of Agriculture and Food Invasive Species Management Grants

Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation Grants

The Utah Division of Outdoor Recreation administers several grant programs. Funds are matched with local funds for acquisition of park and recreation lands, redevelopment of older recreation facilities, trails, accessibility improvements and other recreation programs /facilities that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for youth, adults, senior citizens and persons with physical and mental disabilities. (www.recreation.utah.gov/grants.)

Programs include:

- » Land and Water Conservation Fund (for the create of high quality, public outdoor recreation facilities such as swimming pools and parks)
- » Recreational Trails Program (for non-motorized and motorized trail development and maintenance, trail educational programs, and trail-related environmental protection projects)

Additional information on these grants can be found at www.recreation.utah.gov/grants.

Federal Recreational Trails Program

The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division administers these Federal funds. The funds are available for motorized and non-motorized trail development and maintenance projects, educational programs to promote trail safety and trail-related environmental protection projects. The grant requires a 50-percent match from the community.

IMBA Trail Accelerator Grants

The International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA) provides matching grants between \$5,000 - \$30,000 to help communities get their trail projects up and running. The grant can be used to fund professional trail planning and consultation services for projects that mountain bike and other multi-purpose human powered trail uses. Priority is given to projects that focus on expanding diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program of the National Park Service is not a granting program but provides technical assistance in the implementation of outdoor recreation and natural resource conservation projects. The RTCA coordinators assist local organizations and governments to collaboratively preserve open space, conserve rivers, and develop greenways and trails. Projects must have broad community support to receive approval, and be supported by a group of partners with substantive and well-defined roles. Preference is given for projects that include both resource conservation and recreation, provide physical connections among resources, engage youth, develop relationships between NPS areas and local communities, and partner with health organizations or the NPS. Applications for assistance are found on the RTCA website. An RTCA coordinator is located in Salt Lake City to serve projects in Utah.