



CITY OF ST. GEORGE

PARKS, RECREATION, ARTS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

August 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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CONSERVATION
TECHNIX



SUNRISE
ENGINEERING

On the Cover

- Biker on Venom Drops course at Snake Hollow Bike Park (top center)
- Swim Race at Sand Hollow Aquatic Center (lower left)
- Spider Art Sculpture as part of Art Around the Corner (lower center)
- Family bike ride on Santa Clara River Trail (lower right)

Adopted on August 1, 2019

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Snow Canyon Half Marathon in Snow Canyon State Park



This Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan is a ten-year guide and strategic plan for managing and enhancing park and recreation services in St. George. It establishes a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven park, recreation, art and trail opportunities.

PURPOSE OF THE PLAN

This citywide Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan, or PRAT Plan for short, is an update to the 2006 PRAT Plan, builds on the recreation planning foundation provided in that plan and incorporates the diverse feedback from the extensive community engagement program conducted for this plan update. This Plan creates a vision for an innovative, inclusive and interconnected system of parks, trails and open spaces that promotes recreation, health, art and conservation as integral elements of a thriving, livable St. George. The Plan will establish a path forward to guide the City's efforts to provide high-quality, community-driven park, recreation, art and trail facilities and programs across and throughout St. George.

St. George has experienced significant changes since the adoption of the 2006 PRAT Plan, and this Plan update has been revised to reflect current community interests and opportunities related to a strong demand for locally-provided recreation services and to plan for an expansion of the park system in response to continued residential and commercial development in the city.



The PRAT Plan is a document that will guide City elected and appointed officials, management and staff when making decisions or taking actions regarding planning, acquiring, developing or implementing park, recreation, art and trail facilities and programs. This 2019 PRAT Plan considers the park and recreation needs of residents citywide. It provides updated inventories, demographic conditions, needs analysis, management considerations and capital project phasing. The Plan establishes specific goals, objectives, recommendations and actions for developing, conserving and maintaining high-quality parks, recreation and arts facilities and programs, and trails across the City.

PLANNING PROCESS OVERVIEW

This citywide Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan is a reflection of the community's interests and needs for parks, recreation programs, facilities and trails. The planning process was aimed to encourage and enable public engagement in the choices, priorities and future direction of the City's park and recreation system. The Plan project team conducted a variety of public outreach activities to solicit feedback and comments, in concert with a review of the parks system inventory, level of service review and the current and future needs assessment.

Efforts to update the St. George PRAT Plan began in summer 2018. Current community interests surfaced through a series of public outreach efforts that included a mail-based survey, open house meetings, stakeholder discussions, online engagement, website content and Master Plan Oversight Committee meetings. An assessment of the existing park inventory became the basis for determining the current performance of the system. An overarching needs analysis was conducted for recreation and arts programs and facilities, parks and trails to assess current demands and project future demand to account for population growth and shifting demographics.

To guide the implementation of the goals of the Plan, a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) was developed with a set of strategies that identified costs and potential funding sources. Together, this process is represented in this planning document, which has been reviewed by the public, Master Plan Oversight Committee, Planning Commission and City Council. The Plan will become a component of the City's General Plan and direct park system and recreation program service delivery for the next 10 years.

CONTEXT: CURRENT CHALLENGES

As with any citywide strategic planning effort, current community challenges provide a context for developing and assessing strategies for the future. The following macrorends are anticipated to be important priorities over the next decade.

Growth & Development

The St. George community has witnessed tremendous growth in recent years, and the city's population has risen over 97% between 2000 and 2018. With a strong uptick in new development, concerns over the pace of growth and its impacts on the community, such as traffic and access to open spaces, are becoming key issues to livability in St. George. In response, the City has undertaken an aggressive suite of strategic planning efforts to guide its future growth.

Obesity Epidemic

The nation is facing an obesity epidemic that has prompted the U.S. Surgeon General to issue a call to action to recreation planning professionals. His call is to “reclaim the culture of physical activity” in our country. Scientific research now indicates that walking a minimum of 22 minutes a day can greatly decrease one’s chances of acquiring diabetes or heart disease. These two health issues cause 70% of deaths in the U.S. and account for over \$1 trillion in costs.

This call to action is now re-emphasizing the preventative side of health where the costs are much lower. Despite the array of outdoor recreation opportunities and the existing aquatic center facility, the system of parks and trails in St. George still includes several barriers that prevent residents from potentially reaching these goals. This Plan makes specific recommendations on how the City can reduce barriers within its recreation infrastructure and support improved access to safe and accessible places to walk, bike and play.

Active, Aging Population

The challenges of planning for an active, aging population have been affecting communities across the country. Today’s active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are transitioning for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for the City to take a comprehensive approach to their aging populations’ needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing recreational programming for today’s older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities.

Recreation & Art Facilities

The development of the Sand Hollow Aquatic Center and the renovation of the Electric Theater building and Recreation Center have been a significant boon for indoor recreation and activities in St. George and have provided improved gathering places for the community. Recent conversations with community members suggest a strong interest in expanding, or having access to additional, indoor recreation facilities, in addition to a unique arts center for performances, exhibits, classes and events.

Park Facilities & Conditions

While park settings tend to have a wide range of facilities to encourage physical activity, research has revealed there are specific amenities that promote higher levels of activity. Park users engage in higher levels of physical activity in parks that have playgrounds, sport facilities and trails. The physical condition of the park and its facilities also determines its use. Park aesthetics and amenities are important to usage patterns. Also, a user’s perception of personal safety is a determining factor in how one uses and feels in and around parks, trails and open spaces.

Research on recreation also provides information on how park distribution, park proximity, park facilities and conditions have an impact on people’s desire to engage in physical activity. It may be valuable to re-evaluate current park designs and maintenance policies to ensure barrier-free, engaging park environments and operational efficiencies. The City will continue to play a major role in enabling healthy lifestyles for St. George citizens and should continue to adapt the park and trail system and recreation offerings.



Social Equity

Much has been written lately about this subject. Maintaining social equity across programs and facilities can be difficult enough in communities with stable demographics. In St. George, rapid population growth and shifts in demographics will create a challenge to keep up with local changes. The City must continue to find ways to provide complete and safe access to parks and facilities and strive to ensure that all residents have equitable access to recreational resources and services, while balancing the financial and operational capacity of the Leisure Services Department in the care and growth of the system.

LEISURE SERVICES OVERVIEW

The St. George Leisure Services Department is Southern Utah's largest provider of parks and recreation services. The Department provides a comprehensive system of facilities and programs to meet the park and recreation needs of the community. The Department acquires parkland, designs and develops parks and recreation facilities, operates and maintains parks and facilities, and provides a wide variety of affordable art and recreational based activities and programs for all age groups.

The St. George area is a sports mecca, hosting many world-class events, including the St. George Marathon – the 5th largest in the United States. The Huntsman World Senior Games welcomes over 10,000 athletes from around the world. The IRONMAN 70.3 U.S. Pro Championships brings 2,500 athletes, and nearly 100 of the sport's top professionals. Also, the Canyons Softball Complex is home to more than 40 softball events each year. Pickleball tournaments have also become a regular event as well as a variety of other youth based tournaments held within the city.

The Leisure Services Department is comprised of several divisions which provide community and neighborhood parks; paved and natural trails; recreation facilities, programs for adults, youth, and special needs community; arts facilities, programs and events; convention center, special events; and other quality-of-life services and amenities which foster positive health and well-being of our citizens. These divisions along with their responsibilities include:

- **Parks Division.** This is the largest Leisure Services division and is currently responsible for maintaining 47 city parks, over 50 miles of trails, 4 splash pads, and over 150 public rights-of-way areas (road medians and roundabouts); manages the City's greenhouses and tree farms; maintains the landscape for all city facilities; and provides support to the many community events held throughout the year, such as the Marathon and Arts Festival. Parks Division staff are responsible for maintaining the City's softball, baseball, soccer, pickleball and multi-sport complexes to a high caliber standard for both local athletes and those traveling to St. George tournaments. They also provide support to a variety of sports tournaments and are responsible for maintaining the city carousel and the Thunder Junction Train. The Parks Division is also responsible for the management, maintenance, and burial plot sales at the City's two cemeteries.
- **Park Planning Division.** This division provides long-range master planning, park design, project management and construction oversight of new parks, regional trails, streetscapes, open space, recreational facilities, and major upgrades to existing parks and trails. They also review development agreements and submissions as well as negotiating with developers on landscape and open space

requirements. They work with developers on easements and land acquisitions related to park and trail planning and development. The Park Planning Division also supports a variety of other city departments with landscape planning and design needs.

- **Recreation Programs & Facilities Divisions.** This division provides administrative support, general supervision, programming and coordination for the City's sports and recreation facilities and events. Youth and adult sports provide our citizens with organized team sporting programs and activities; programs administered are youth soccer, basketball, baseball, and flag football; adult programs include basketball, volleyball, flag football and futsal. Youth and adult sports provide citizens with organized team sporting programs and activities; programs administered are youth soccer, basketball, baseball, and flag football; adult programs include basketball, volleyball, flag football and futsal. Softball Programs promotes and manages year-round softball leagues and tournaments at three high-quality ball field complexes (14 fields) which take pride in hosting competitions for youth, high school, collegiate, and senior teams from St. George, throughout the state, the nation and around the world. The Recreation Programs Division manages the City's Recreation Center which is an indoor fitness facility with a weight room, basketball and racquetball courts, aerobics area, and pottery and lapidary area. The Sand Hollow Aquatics Center (indoor year-round) and city pool & hydrotube (outdoor, seasonal) are two swimming facilities that provide area citizens of all ages with a variety of water-related activities, lessons, fitness classes, and competitions.
- **Arts and Events Division.** This division includes a variety of special events and programs intended to promote recreational opportunities for the community, and as an economic draw for participants to the area; these include running events such as the well-known St. George Marathon, and other races (5k, 1/2 marathons), triathlons, and the City's 4th of July celebration. This division also encompasses art exhibits and collections, community arts, the St. George Opera House, Social Hall and Electric Theater. The division actively promotes art programs, events, and opportunities for the City's art community to gather and collectively support all forms of art. It also encourages art preservation by administering a permanent art collection at the City's Art Museum and through the purchase and placement of sculptures placed throughout the City. The St. George Nature Center and associated youth programs provide younger citizens with a facility and programs where they can learn about the natural environment, wildlife and outdoor recreation opportunities, and after school programs.

The Leisure Services Department has a total of 87 full-time positions and 300 part-time employees with a general fund budget of \$15.1 million (FY19/18). The Department relies heavily on part time employees to carry out its mission; the range and scope of activities and programs is so extensive that, without part-time employees, the City would not be able to serve the community as it does.

Currently the Department devotes 37% of the total wages to part-time employees. Most times the part-time employees are the front line and interact with the public. These employees represent the Department and City government to St. George residents. It is important that the City continues to provide training and oversight to staff to ensure that they are able to meet community expectations. The Leisure Services Department is funded through several sources. These include user fees, general fund property tax revenue, facility and programming charges, Recreation, Arts, and Parks (RAP) Tax, Park Impact Fees (PIF) related to development, lodging tax and a variety of grants.

RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The 2006 PRAT Plan has been a strong guide for City officials, management and staff in making decisions about planning, acquiring, developing and implementing park development, recreation programs and recreation facilities. Highlighted projects from the St. George capital improvement program include master planning parks, design and permitting for new facilities and improvements, construction of new facilities, existing park upgrades and major repairs, trail expansion and access projects.

The following represents a short list of the major accomplishments realized following the adoption of the previous plan.

- Renovated the Electric Theater as a downtown anchor for the arts
- Designed and built Thunder Junction Park, an all-abilities, dinosaur themed park
- Expanded programming to include:
 - After School Programs
 - Additional Youth Sports Leagues & Clinics
 - More Special Events, such as the 4th of July
 - More Adult Sports offerings
- Expanded tournaments & events
 - Soccer, Pickleball, Tennis, Softball, Art Shows
- Supported 32 different art organizations with over \$500,000 per year
- Designed and built Town Square Park as St. George's downtown outdoor living room & event space
- Designed and built Hela Seegmiller Historical Farm
- Designed and built The Fields at Little Valley sport complex
- Designed and built Cottonwood Cove Park
- Designed and built 3 new community parks: Hidden Valley, Snake Hollow Bike Park & Royal Oaks (Phase II)
- Designed and built 6 new neighborhood parks: Millcreek, Brooks Pond, Sunset, Crimson Ridge, Crosby Family Confluence, Silkwood
- Added 24 miles of new trails

GUIDING DOCUMENTS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, recreation, arts and trails opportunities across St. George. The development of each plan or study involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body. The following list of plans was reviewed, and summaries for each appear in Appendix F.



- St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan Update (2006)
- St. George Park & Trail Master Plan (2017 & 2019)
- Washington County 2035 Housing Study: Dixie Vision 2007 Final Report
- St. George Open Space Master Plan (2006)
- Vision Dixie: Making a Better Washington County (2007)
- St. George General Plan (2016)
- City of St. George Active Transportation Plan (2017)
- The General Plan of Washington County, Utah (2010)
- Washington County Critical Lands Plan (2009)
- Utah's Outdoor Recreation Plan (2019 draft)

PLAN CONTENTS

The remainder of this Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan is organized as follows:

- Chapter 2: Community Profile – provides an overview of the City of St. George and its demographics.
- Chapter 3: Community Listening – highlights the methods used to engage the St. George community in the development of the Plan.
- Chapter 4: Goals & Objectives – provides a policy framework for the parks and recreation system grouped by major functional or program area.
- Chapters 5: Parks & Open Space – describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for park and open space properties.
- Chapter 6: Recreation – describes community feedback, trends, local needs and potential improvements for recreation services and special events.
- Chapter 7: Arts – describes community feedback and potential improvements for art facilities and programs.
- Chapter 8: Trails – describes community feedback, local interests and potential improvements for the recreational trail network.
- Chapter 9: Projects & Implementation Strategies – describes a range of strategies to consider in the implementation of the Plan and details a 10-year program for addressing park and facility enhancement or expansion projects.
- Appendices: Provides technical or supporting information to the planning effort and includes a summary of the community survey, stakeholder notes, funding options, among others.

BENEFITS OF PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

A number of organizations and non-profits have documented the overall health and wellness benefits provided by parks, open space and trails. The Trust for Public Land published a report in 2005 called *The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space*. This report makes the following observations about the health, economic, environmental and social benefits of parks and open space:

- Physical activity makes people healthier.
- Physical activity increases with access to parks.
- Contact with the natural world improves physical and physiological health.
- Value is added to community and economic development sustainability.
- Benefits of tourism are enhanced.
- Trees are effective in improving air quality and assisting with stormwater control.
- Recreational opportunities for all ages are provided.



Physical Activity Benefits

Residents in communities with increased access to parks, recreation, natural areas and trails have more opportunities for physical activity, both through recreation and active transportation. By participating in physical activity, residents can reduce their risk of being or becoming overweight or obese, decrease their likelihood of suffering from chronic diseases, such as heart disease and type-2 diabetes, and improve their levels of stress and anxiety. Nearby access to parks has been shown to increase levels of physical activity. According to studies cited in a 2010 report by the National Park and Recreation Association, the majority of people of all ages who visit parks are physically active during their visit. Also, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports that greater access to parks leads to 25% more people exercising three or more days per week.



Social & Community Benefits

Park and recreation facilities provide opportunities to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing social capital and community cohesion, which can improve residents' mental health and overall well-being. People who feel that they are connected to their community and those who participate in recreational, community and other activities are more likely to have better mental and physical health and to live longer lives. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.



Economic Benefits

Parks and recreation facilities can bring positive economic impacts through increased property values, increased attractiveness for businesses and workers (quality of life), and through direct increases in employment opportunities.

In Utah, outdoor recreation generates \$12.3 billion in consumer spending annually, \$3.9 billion in wages and salaries and \$737 million in state and local tax revenue. Preserving access to outdoor recreation protects the economy, the businesses, the communities and the people who depend on the ability to play outside. According to the *Outdoor Recreation Economy Report* published by the Outdoor Industry Association, outdoor recreation can grow jobs and drive the economy through management and investment in parks, waters and trails as an interconnected system designed to sustain economic dividends for citizens.



2 | COMMUNITY PROFILE

Snow Canyon Half Marathon in Snow Canyon State Park

St. George is a vibrant city and a community of families. St. George has been one of the fastest growing communities in the U.S. for the past ten years. Residents are actively involved in the decisions that shape the community and ensure a special sense of place. The following profile includes a description of the planning area and demographics.

St. George is a rapidly growing city of nearly 100,000 residents located in the southwest corner of Utah. The City was incorporated in 1862, and it remained a small city through much of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. However, St. George has experienced rapid growth over the past twenty years and is expected to continue to grow over the coming decades. It is home to many families with children and a growing population of older adults - all of whom have diverse interests in local options for recreation.

LOCATION

St. George is located in the far southwestern corner of Utah, along the Arizona border and just east of the State of Nevada. The city lies along Interstate 15, which connects Las Vegas (118 miles to the south) and Salt Lake City (300 miles to the north). St. George's unique topography and proximity to the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, Zion National Park, and other major Utah State Parks and national parks, drives a thriving tourism industry. St. George is also home to the area's regional airport.

DEMOGRAPHICS

St. George experienced pronounced growth within the past 25 years. While this growth has moderated recently, the city remains one of the fastest growing communities in the nation. The city is currently home to approximately 98,000 residents (2018) and is expected to double in population over the next two decades.

St. George has a relatively young population, with a median age of 32.5, and a high percentage of families. However, the city has aged slightly in the past decade and is seeing an increase in older, retired and seasonal residents.

Household Characteristics

The 2010 average household size in St. George was 2.88 people, lower than the state (3.16) average but higher than the national (2.51) average. Average household size remained the same since 2010. The average family size in St. George is larger, at 3.65 people. Of the 26,939 households in the city, 72% were families, including 42% with children under 18, and 22.5% were individuals living alone (see Figure 1).

Employment & Education

The 2016 work force population (16 years and over) of St. George is 59,946 (76%). Of this population, over half (57%) is in the labor force, 3% is unemployed, and 44% is not in the labor force. St. George's economy centers on health, education and government services, as it is the seat of Washington County – which together employ more than one in three workers. St. George's proximity to Zion, Bryce, and Grand Canyon National Parks drives a thriving tourism industry – the arts, entertainment, recreation and hospitality sector employs about 15% of workers and contributes significantly to the local economy.

According to the 2016 American Community Survey, approximately 29% of St. George residents have a Bachelor's degree. This level of education attainment is similar to that of Washington County and the state (27% and 32%, respectively). Additionally, 93% of City residents have a high school degree or higher, slightly higher than the statewide average.



Watching sunset on Dixie Rock in Pioneer Park

Figure 1. Population Characteristics: St. George, Washington County & Utah

Demographics	St. George	Washington County	Utah
Population Characteristics			
Population (2018)	98,028	171,040	3,166,647
Population (2010)	72,897	138,115	2,763,885
Population (2000)	49,663	90,354	2,233,169
Percent Change (2000-16)	97%	89%	42%
Persons w/ Disabilities (%)	14.3%	13.0%	9.6%
Household Characteristics (2012-16)			
Households	26,939	50,256	918,367
Percent with children	32%	35%	42%
Median HH Income	\$51,228	\$52,865	\$62,518
Average Household Size	2.88	2.99	3.16
Average Family Size	3.31	3.40	3.65
Owner Occupancy Rate	65.70%	70.70%	69.60%
Age Groups (2010)			
Median Age	32.5	32.5	29.2
Population < 5 years of age	8.7%	9.0%	9.5%
Population < 18 years of age	28.1%	30.2%	31.5%
Population 18 - 64 years of age	52.9%	52.5%	59.5%
Population > 65 years of age	19.0%	17.3%	9.0%

Sources: Utah Population Committee Population Estimates, Bowen Collins & Associates, 2018 Water Master Plan, 2010 Census, 2000 Census, 2016 American Community Survey

KEY NEEDS

Meeting the needs of a growing community

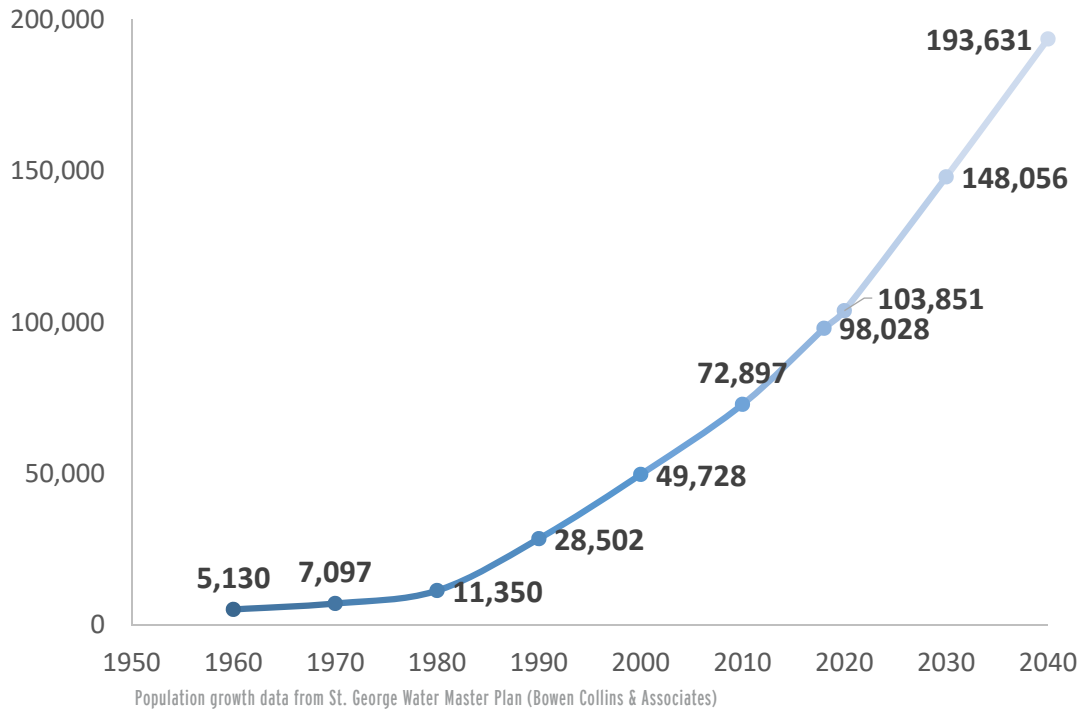
The City of St. George, incorporated in 1862, has grown significantly over the past fifty years – from 5,130 people in 1960 to approximately 98,028 in 2018 (see Figure 2).

St. George experienced rapid growth between 1980 and 2000 when annual growth approached 17% per year. Growth has slowed in more recent decades, though remains at a strong 3.6% per year (2000 to 2016). St. George makes up about half of the population of Washington County (151,959 residents in 2016) and contributes significantly to the County's population growth.

According to the recently prepared St. George Water Master Plan, the forecast for the city's future population shows significant and continued growth through 2055. The Water Master Plan projects a 2020 population of 103,851 and a 2055 population of 223,435 when all areas within the current city limits are built out.



Figure 2. Population Change - Actual and Projected: 1960 - 2040



In the future, more residents will likely translate to more demand on the City's recreational facilities and programs. As St. George grows, the City will need to acquire and develop additional park land to meet these community needs. Residential growth in these areas will require the City to plan for and provide parks to serve existing and new residents. In addition, the population growth anticipated for coming decades may offer an opportunity to reinvest in existing facilities and proactively plan for new park land acquisitions.

Providing age-appropriate recreational services

St. George's youthful population, with a median age of just under 32.5 (2010), has important implications for park and recreation needs. Youth under 19 years old make up the city's largest 20-year population group, comprising 32% of the overall population in 2010.

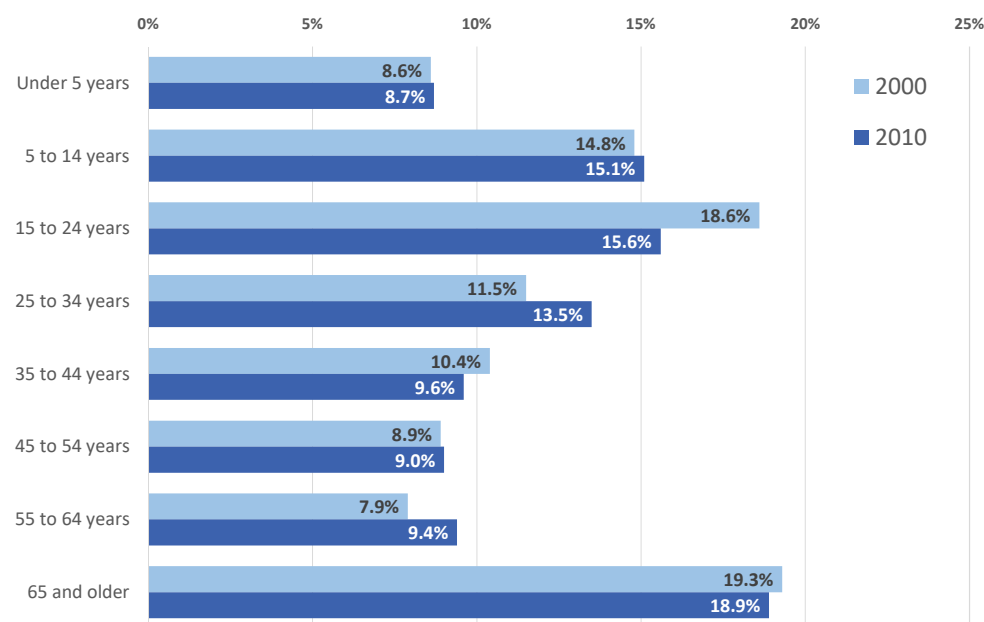
- Youth under 5 years of age make up 8.7% of St. George's population, see Figure 3. This group represents users of preschool and tot programs and facilities, and as trails and open space users, are often in strollers. These individuals are the future participants in youth activities.
- Children 5 to 14 years make up current youth program participants. Approximately 15% of the city's population falls into this age range.
- Teens and young adults, age 15 to 24 years, are in transition from youth program to adult programs and participate in teen/young adult programs where available. Members of this age group are often seasonal employment seekers. About 16% of St. George's residents are teens and young adults.

While approximately 28% of St. George residents are youth up to 18 years of age, 53% are 20 to 55 year olds, and 19% are 65 and older. The City's population has aged since 2000, when the median age was 31.4 years. The increasing percentage of adults also has impacts on recreational needs.

- Adults ages 25 to 34 years represent users of adult programs, and approximately 14% of residents are in this age category. These residents may be entering long-term relationships and establishing families. Thirty percent of St. George's households are families with children.
- Adults between 35 and 54 years of age represent users of a wide range of adult programs and park facilities. Their family characteristics include having young children using preschool and youth programs to becoming empty nesters. This age group makes up 19% of St. George's population.
- Older adults, ages 55 years plus, make up approximately 28% of St. George's population. This group represents users of adult and senior programs. These residents may be approaching retirement or already retired and may be spending time with grandchildren. This group also ranges from very healthy, active seniors to more physically inactive seniors.

The city's median age (32.5) is identical to that of Washington County (32.5), older than the State of Utah (29.2) and significantly younger than the nation (37.2).

Figure 3. Age Group Distributions: 2000 & 2010



Recreation for all community members

In 2010, St. George was 87.2% White, 0.8% Asian, 0.7% African American, 1.5% American Indian or Alaskan Native, 1.0% Pacific Islander, 6.1% other race, and 2.6% from two or more races. Nearly 13% of people identified as Hispanic or Latino of any race. This represents an increase of 5% in the percentage of communities of color since 2000.



According to the 2016 American Community Survey, approximately 11.6% of St. George's population speaks a language other than English at home, and 4% speak English less than very well. This is a lower percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home than in Utah as a whole (5%).

The City should consider how it could best provide recreational opportunities, programs, and information that are accessible to, and meet the needs of, all community members.

Serving residents of all income levels

A community's level of household income can impact the types of recreational services prioritized by community members, as well as their willingness and ability to pay for recreational services. Perhaps more importantly, household income also is closely linked with levels of physical activity. Low-income households are three times more likely to live a sedentary lifestyle than middle and upper-income households, according to an analysis of national data by the Active Living by Design organization.

In 2016, the median household income in St. George was \$51,228. This income level was \$1,637 (38%) lower than the median income for Washington County residents, \$11,290 (22%) lower than residents of Utah.

At the lower end of the household income scale, approximately 21% percent of St. George households earn less than \$25,000 annually, relatively more than households in Washington County (19.6%), the State of Utah (15.4%), and across the United States (23%). In 2016, 10.6% of St. George's families were living below the poverty level. The poverty threshold was an income of \$24,250 for a family of four. This percentage is slightly higher than the countywide (10.2%) and statewide (8.4%) levels. Poverty affects 20% of youth under 18 and 7% of those 65 and older. The percentage of local families accessing food stamp or SNAP benefits (9%) is on par with the state average (8.3%).

Lower-income residents can face a number of barriers to physical activity including poor access to parks and recreational facilities, a lack of transportation options, a lack of time, and poor health. Low-income residents may also be less financially able to afford recreational service fees or to pay for services, like childcare, that can make physical activity possible.

Higher income households have an increased ability and willingness to pay for recreation and leisure services, and often face fewer barriers to participation. Approximately 17% of City households have household incomes in the higher income brackets (\$100,000 and greater), lower than in the County (18%), Utah (25%) and across the nation (25%).

Providing services for community members with disabilities

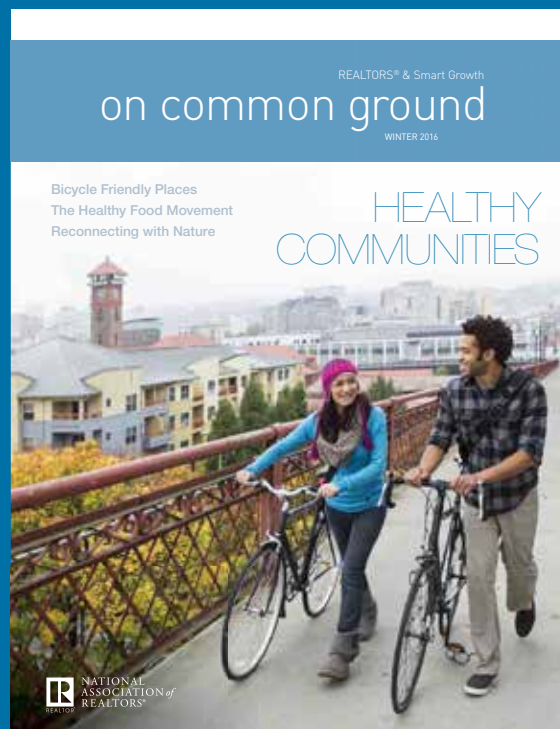
The 2016 American Community Survey reported 14.3% (11,165 persons) of St. George's population 5 years and older as having a disability that interferes with life activities. This is higher than state and national averages (both 9.6 and 12% respectively). Among residents 65 and older, the percentage rises to 39%, or 6,337 persons, which is only slightly higher than percentages found in the general senior population of the State of Utah (35%). It signals a potential need to design inclusive parks, recreational facilities, and programs. Planning, designing, and operating a park system that facilitates participation by residents of all abilities will also help ensure compliance with Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

From the winter 2015 issue of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) magazine, the direct link between how communities are built and grow is tied to health and quality of life. More walkable and bike-able environments with better access to nature and parks have become essential for personal well-being and needs to be integrated into community planning. The NAR articles identify walkable communities as a prescription for better health.

Even the U.S. Surgeon General sounded a call to action challenging communities become more walkable to allow more Americans to increase their physical activity through walking. The Center for Disease Control and its Healthy Community Design Initiative focuses on walkability and the need to better integrate into transportation planning.

The NAR magazine issue also reported on the value of bicycle-friendly communities and the direct tie to healthy and sustainable living. Access to healthy, locally-grown food choices is reported with the value of community gardens and urban food hubs for healthy diets, as well as connection to community engagement.

Realtors have long been aware that housing near a good system of parks and trails will hold strong appeal to buyers. The winter NAR issue illustrates the recognition that community design for healthy living goes beyond the single house location. People want choices, and these healthy community design traits of walking, biking, trails and parks all play an important role in housing prices, sales and re-sales.



Recreation for health

Information on the health of St. George residents is not readily available. However, Washington County residents rank as some of the healthiest residents in Utah (7th out of 29 counties), according to the County Health Rankings. Approximately 23% of Washington County adults are overweight or obese, compared to 25% of Utah adults.

Approximately 18% of Washington County adults age 20 and older report getting no leisure-time or physical activity – on par with the statewide average of 17%. This may be due, in part, to the large number of places to participate in physical activity, including parks and public or private community centers, gyms or other recreational facilities. In Washington County, 85% of residents have access to adequate physical activity opportunities, which is slightly lower than the 87% average for all Utah residents.

According to the County Health Rankings, Washington County also ranks in the top third compared to all Utah counties for health outcomes, including length and quality of life, and health factors (such as health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment).



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3 | COMMUNITY LISTENING

Community Open House at Dixie Academy

St. George is expected to continue rapid growth in the coming decade, and greater diversity and density will come with that growth. Recognizing and understanding the community's needs and interests will guide the delivery of the right balance and mix of recreational services. This planning process leaned on public forums, stakeholder meetings, surveys and a comprehensive inventory assessment to provide a baseline of local demand and need.

Over 1,500 community members participated in the park system planning process.

Community engagement and input played a crucial role in revealing current interests and needs for park, recreation, arts and trail opportunities, as well as establishing the future recreational framework that reflects community priorities. Public outreach methods were varied and extensive, including:

- Two community workshops
- Community survey
- Online engagement
- Two stakeholder focus group discussions
- Six stakeholder interviews
- Master Plan Oversight Committee & City Council meetings
- Social media content & emails

Throughout this process, the public provided information and expressed opinions about their needs and priorities for park, recreation, art and trail facilities and programs in St. George. Residents seemed to care deeply about the future of St. George's parks and recreation system and appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback. This feedback played an important role in updating policy statements and prioritizing the Capital Improvements Plan project list contained within this Plan.



COMMUNITY SURVEY

The City of St. George Leisure Services Department contracted for the administration of a community survey, which was conducted between September and October 2018. The purpose of the survey was to gather input to help determine park, trail, land acquisition and recreation priorities of the community. In close collaboration with staff and the Master Plan Oversight Committee, Conservation Technix developed the 18-question survey to assess residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. This allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks, recreation, arts and trail system.

The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of St. George. The four-page print survey was sent to 2,500 randomized addresses in the city, with reminder postcards mailed about two weeks later. It was administered as a mixed-method survey, and survey respondents had the option to return the print version or take the survey online. Additionally, an online version of the survey for the general public was posted to the City's website a week later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. The datasets between the random-sample and the general public were kept separated to allow for comparisons between the two groups. In all, 567 responses were completed from the print version mail survey, and 796 responses were generated via the online link published on the City's website. A total of 1,363 completed surveys were recorded. The response rate of 23% for the random-sample dataset was an exceptional showing for the community and above average for typical mail-based survey response rates. The sample size was sufficient to assess community opinions generally and allowed for a review by multiple subgroups including age, gender and other demographics.

Major survey findings are noted below, and a more detailed discussion of results can be found in the Needs Assessment chapters of this Plan. The survey and a summary of the response data are provided in Appendix A.

Major Findings

- **Liveability:** Nearly all respondents (98%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in the City.
- **Overall Satisfaction:** A large majority (86%) of respondents indicated that they are very or somewhat satisfied with the overall value they receive from St. George's parks, recreation, arts and trail services.
- **Usage:** Nearly seven in eight (86.4%) respondents replied that they, or member of their household, visited a park or recreation facility at least once per month in the past year. Almost half visited at least once a week (49%).
- **Park Amenity Priorities:** Trails for walking and biking ranked as the amenity of highest need (83% overall). A second tier of facilities of need included picnic shelters, performing arts venue, nature / wildlife viewing, aquatics center, and recreation center.
- **Program Priorities:** A plurality of respondents feel there are 'not enough' of indoor recreation/aquatics facilities (47%) and arts and culture programs (40%).
- **Programming:** A majority of respondents (73.6%) noted a need for a performing arts center. A second tier set of programming needs included enrichment, fitness and education classes.
- **Pricing:** The majority of survey respondents (75%) feel that City recreation programs are inexpensive or fairly priced.

- **Event Attendance:** Significant percentages of respondents noted their participation in three core types of events: the Arts Festival (69.7%), 4th of July (54.4%), and Concerts in the Park (48.9%).

Figure 4. Wordcloud of “other” comments by frequency



OPEN HOUSE MEETINGS / WORKSHOPS

The project team sought feedback from local residents and program users at two public meetings. City newsletter articles, social media and email announcements publicized the events and encouraged participation. Summary responses from each of the meetings are provided in Appendix B.

Community Workshop #1

Community members were invited to the first open house meeting for the St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan update on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Children's Museum. The purpose of the meeting was to inform the community about the Plan, provide opportunities for the public to give input and respond to questions about the project.

The project team prepared informational displays and a presentation to share with attendees. The presentation offered an overview of the planning process and timeline, along with information about the City's parks, recreation, arts and trail system, along with a summary of current trends in recreation.

Following the presentation, attendees were asked to work in small groups to discuss project ideas and prioritize ideas by ‘voting’ with dots for their top priorities for park system needs and for arts, events and programming needs. Attendees were encouraged to talk with each other, record their comments and complete two written comment cards. City staff and project team staff aided the small group discussions by facilitating and answering questions. A representative from each table provided a short summary of their table’s discussion for the benefit of the whole gathering. Approximately 160 people attended the meeting and provided comments. In all, 897 unique comments were recorded and tabulated from attendees at the meeting.

During the first table-based exercise, attendees were asked to think about what improvements to the St. George system would add the greatest value for them. The following list represents the top five individual ideas noted based on the number of ‘dots’ scored for each.

1. Trails / Connections
2. Pickleball
3. Trail maintenance & safety
4. Playgrounds
5. Sport Facilities (excl. pickleball)

A second table-based exercise asked attendees if anything missing or needs to be added / expanded to improve local options for arts and activities. The list below represents the top five individual ideas noted.

1. Festivals / Concerts
2. Outdoor theater / amphitheater
3. Communication / Information
4. Art venues / studios
5. Performing Arts Center



Community Workshop #2

Community members were invited to the second open house meeting on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Dixie Middle School. The project team prepared informational displays and a presentation to share information from the previous meeting and community survey. Following the presentation, attendees were asked to work in small groups to discuss project ideas for their top priorities for park system needs, trail corridors and overall priorities for the city. Approximately 80 people attended the meeting and provided comments.

Several rounds of prioritizing were conducted at the tables, built around themed topics: parks, trail corridors and art center amenities. Following the prioritization of each topic, the top two ideas from each group were ranked against each other. In compiling the data using the weighted scores, the overall priorities for all the tables were identified, as shown below (top five listed).

1. Performing Arts Center
2. Virgin River south trail
3. Expand natural greenway systems
4. Recreation center
5. Complete the inner ring of regional trails

STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS

Input about the provision of park and recreation services was sought from specific individuals and stakeholder groups who represent a broad set of user interests. The consultant team interviewed seven individuals and conducted three focus group discussions to explore how parks and open space are used, and what recreation needs should be considered by the master planning effort. Stakeholders represented residents, non-governmental organizations, local business, community education, government officials and staff. Stakeholders shared their history and views on the park and recreation system with ideas on what's missing and specific needs.

Focus Groups

Three focus groups sessions were conducted in September.

- **Sports group** - intended to learn and understand how youth and adult sports leagues and organizations currently use the park system, the challenges they face in sharing limited facilities, and ideas for future sport fields and facilities.
- **Arts group** - intended to learn and understand existing challenges and future needs for community arts facilities and programming.
- **Recreation program group (city staff)** – intended to learn and understand how current programs and facilities align with resident needs for recreation programming and what ideas exist to expand or strengthen offerings.

Stakeholder Interviews

Several leaders representing their agencies were interviewed to determine how they view their ongoing partnerships with the City and what, if any, improvements could be pursued



to enhance the future of parks, recreation, arts and trails for St. George. The following stakeholder interviews were conducted in October and November 2018.

- Washington County School District
- Washington County Commissioner, along with county Community Development staff
- Chamber of Commerce
- Washington County Board of Realtors
- Hotel Association
- Southern Utah Home Builders Association (SUHBA)

Stakeholder comments were often specific to the particular perspective or interest of the stakeholder group. Overall, comments were generally favorable in regard to existing City amenities and the potential for future improvements across St. George. Stakeholders were often quick to offer suggestions for potential partnerships or other means to accomplish specific projects. Suggested projects ranged from coordinating the development of trail connections, identifying opportunities to expand sport field capacity, and improving recreation facilities and programs. Specific recommendations are reflected in the needs assessment chapters, and stakeholder discussion summaries are provided in Appendix C.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The Master Plan Oversight Committee provided feedback on the Plan during multiple sessions throughout the 10-month planning process. Early in the project, the Committee heard an overview of the project scope and timeline, and they offered comments regarding current issues and challenges. Committee meetings built on information gathered during the community outreach process and provided the opportunity for ongoing input as the draft master plan was developed. The Committee also reviewed and discussed the draft Plan that included an overview of community input, key themes and preliminary recommendations for parks, recreation, arts and trail opportunities.

OTHER OUTREACH & PROMOTIONS

In addition to the direct outreach opportunities described above, the St. George community was informed about the planning process through a variety of media platforms. The following methods were used to inform residents about the project and about opportunities to participate and offer their comments:

- City website home page
- Project website & online engagement tool
- Email blasts
- Facebook

Project Website

A unique webpage was created for the Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan on the City's website. The website included a brief overview of the planning project including public outreach event dates, links to the online engagement tool and project announcements.

Email Blasts

Email blasts were sent to the project's interested parties list, key stakeholder groups and other community organizations. The emails informed the public about public open house meetings and what to expect and provided the opportunity to provide feedback online.

Social Media

Facebook posts were used to generate and maintain ongoing interest in the project, drive traffic to the project website and inform the public about upcoming engagement activities for the Plan. Notifications were frequently posted on the City's Facebook page leading up to open house meetings and other project milestones.

In addition to the City's social media feeds via Facebook, the project team utilized the Mindmixer platform as an integrated, on-going online community discussion. The tool allowed for integration with the traditional public meetings, and it enabled residents to submit ideas, offer feedback and answer questions about key issues and topics. The Mindmixer site was also linked to the City's social media accounts and website.

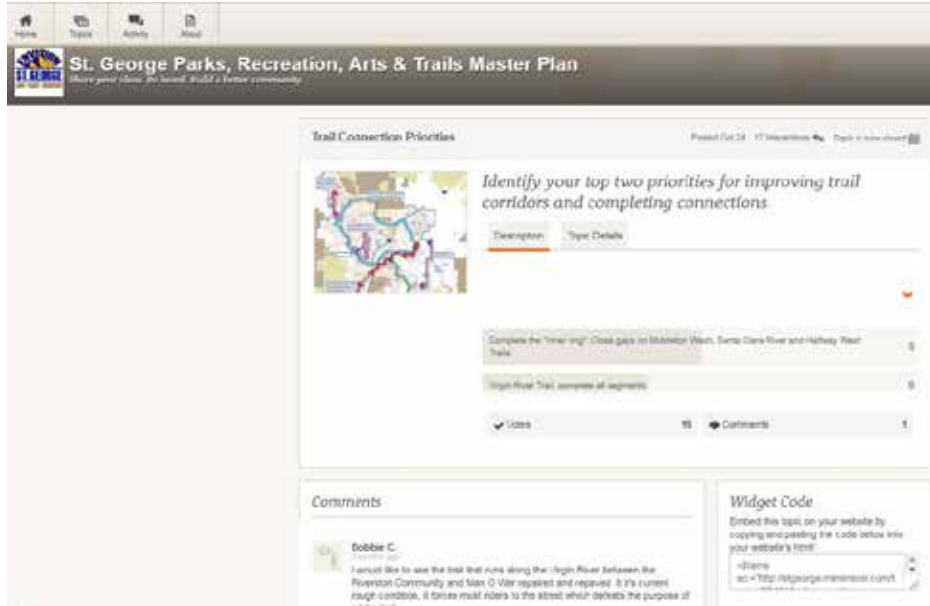
Figure 5. Screenshot of Facebook Posting for Community Survey



Figure 6. Screenshot of Online Engagement Page



Figure 7. Screenshot of Online Engagement Page





4

4 | GOALS & OBJECTIVES

Rock climbing near the Chuckwalla Trailhead in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

The goals and objectives described in this chapter define the park and recreation services that the City of St. George aims to provide. These goals and objectives were derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff and officials, Master Plan Oversight Committee and community members.

Goals and objectives provide a framework for the 2019 Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan. A goal is a general statement describing an outcome the City wishes to provide. Goals typically do not change over time unless community values shift. Objectives are more specific, measurable statements that describe a means to achieving the stated goals. Objectives may change over time. Recommendations are specific actions intended to implement and achieve the goals and objectives and are contained in subsequent chapters of the Plan.

CITY & REGIONAL GOALS FOR RECREATION PLANNING

The City of St. George is the largest city in Washington County, and providing recreational space is an important element in adopted planning recommendations for both the city and the county. The goals described below are intended to complement, reinforce and focus the City's vision for parks, recreation, arts, open space and trails that has been established in other planning efforts, including the City of St. George General Plan, the City of St. George Active Transportation Plan, the Washington County Vision Dixie

Plan, the Washington County Critical Lands Plan and the previous St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan.

The General Plan provides vision statements for open space and parks that continue to guide city planning.

“A city with ample open space, such as along the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers, along major drainage washes, the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve habitat area, Webb Hill and other environmentally sensitive areas.” (Open Space Vision, 4.1.(2))

“Neighborhood parks are conveniently located throughout the City and a hike and bike trail network connects residential areas with major parks using river and wash corridors as well as designated street rights-of-way.” (Parks Vision, 4.1.(3))

The goals also were influenced in part by the National Recreation and Parks Association’s (NRPA) Three Pillars, which are foundational concepts adopted by the national organization in 2012. These core values (conservation, health & wellness, social equity) are crucial to improving the quality of life for all Americans by inspiring the protection of natural resources, increasing opportunities for physical activity and healthy eating and empowering citizens to improve the livability of their communities.

- **Conservation** – Public parks are critical to preserving our communities’ natural resources and wildlife habitats, which offer significant social and economic benefits. Local park and recreation agencies are leaders in protecting our open space, connecting children to nature and providing education and programs that engage communities in conservation.
- **Health and Wellness** – Park and recreation departments lead the nation in improving the overall health and wellness of citizens, and fighting obesity. From fitness programs, to well-maintained, accessible, walking paths and trails, to nutrition programs for underserved youth and adults, our work is at the forefront of providing solutions to these challenges.
- **Social Equity** – We believe universal access to public parks and recreation is fundamental to all, not just a privilege for a few. Every day, our members work hard to ensure all people have access to resources and programs that connect citizens, and in turn, make our communities more livable and desirable.



The goal statements from past City plans and the values represented in the Three Pillars guided the development of the goals and policies for this Plan.



Community Open House at Dixie Academy

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT & INFORMATION

Goal 1: Encourage and support active and ongoing participation by diverse community members in the planning and decision-making for parks and recreational opportunities.

OBJECTIVES

- 1.1 Involve residents and stakeholders in park, recreation, arts and trail planning and program development in order to solicit community input, facilitate project understanding and promote public support.
- 1.2 Continue to use a variety of methods and media to publicize and increase resident awareness about recreational opportunities available in local neighborhoods and citywide.
- 1.3 Continue to publish and promote a park and trail facilities map for online and print distribution to highlight existing and proposed sites and routes.
- 1.4 Continue to promote and distribute information about parks, recreational amenities, events and volunteer activities sponsored by the City and partner organizations.
- 1.5 Survey, review and publish local park and recreation preferences, needs and trends at least once every five years to stay current with community attitudes and interests.



Tournament at Canyons Softball Complex

PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Goal 2: Acquire a diversified system of parks, recreation facilities and open spaces that provides equitable access to all residents.

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Proactively seek park land identified within this Plan, in both developed and undeveloped areas, to secure suitable locations for new parks and open spaces.
 - 2.1A Strive to locate and provide a distributed network of parks, such that all city residents live within a ½-mile of a neighborhood or community park, trail or open space, with a focus in priority on higher density residential areas as appropriate.
 - 2.1B Provide a service standard of 1.5 acres per 1,000 persons of developed neighborhood parks.
 - 2.1C Provide a service standard of 3.5 acres per 1,000 persons of developed community parks.
- 2.2 Identify and prioritize lands for inclusion in the parks and open space system based on factors such as contribution to level of service, connectivity, preservation and scenic or recreational opportunities for residents.
- 2.3 Establish acquisition guidelines for future parks to ensure the future sites have the necessary characteristics to provide recreational value and maintain development standards to ensure sound park design.
- 2.4 Follow the latest City of St. George Parks & Trail Master Plan for future park and trail development.
- 2.5 Continue to coordinate with the Community Development Department for development site plan review, such that Park Planning staff review and comment on development proposals to improve park siting and community planning; Update the development code and zoning as necessary to accommodate development review for park infrastructure.
- 2.6 Continue to explore opportunities to work with land developers for park land set-asides and the potential for park lands to be deeded to the City.
- 2.7 Seek and implement opportunities for the acquisition and use of contiguous school and park facilities for recreational purposes beneficial to both the City and local school district.
- 2.8 Evaluate opportunities to acquire lands declared surplus by other public agencies for park and recreation use if such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property.



- 2.9 Periodically coordinate with Washington County, SITLA, BLM, the school district and other partners to strategize for the acquisition of open spaces within or in close proximity to the St. George city boundaries.
- 2.10 Work with the Hillside Review Committee to continue to review for the conservation of open space lands that are currently unprotected and identified as important to the scenic identity of St. George and its critical natural resource lands.
- 2.11 Preserve and protect in public ownership areas with significant environmental features such as view corridors, landforms, steep slopes and plant and animal habitats from the impacts of development.
- 2.12 Conserve significant natural areas to meet habitat protection needs and to provide opportunities for residents to connect with nature.
- 2.13 Follow the latest City of St. George Park & Trail Master Plan for future park development.

SITE DESIGN & DEVELOPMENT

Goal 3: Design and develop high-quality parks and recreation facilities to ensure the safety and enjoyment of users and maximize recreational experiences.

OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 When developing new facilities or redeveloping existing facilities, review and consider the projected maintenance and operations costs prior to and as part of initiating design development.
- 3.2 Design and maintain parks and facilities to ensure universal accessibility for residents of all physical capabilities, skill levels and age as appropriate; assess planned and existing parks and trails for compliance with the adopted Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Standards for Accessible Design.
- 3.3 Incorporate sustainable development and low impact design practices for design, planning and rehabilitation of new and existing facilities; consider the use of native vegetation for landscaping in parks to minimize maintenance requirements.
- 3.4 Develop park sites based on master plans, management plans, or other adopted strategies to ensure parks reflect local needs, community input, recreational and conservation goals and available financial resources.



Splash pad at Town Square

- 3.5 Create illustrative master plans for park development or redevelopment, as appropriate, to take maximum advantage of grant or other funding opportunities.
- 3.6 Design and manage special facilities to accommodate compatible, multiple purposes and uses, when appropriate.
- 3.7 Ensure that Parks maintenance staff are consulted and included in the design process for facility development to provide insights on maintenance and be informed of future maintenance obligations.
- 3.8 Ensure that park and trail design and construction is overseen by qualified/ licensed landscape architects.
- 3.9 Standardize the use of graphics and signage to establish a consistent identity at all parks and facilities.
- 3.10 Consider local needs, recreational trends and availability of similar facilities within the City and region when planning for specialized recreational facilities, such as skateboarding, BMX, mountain biking, ultimate Frisbee, disc golf, pickleball, climbing and parkour.
- 3.11 Encourage the development of specialized facilities that generate revenues to offset the cost of their operation and maintenance.
- 3.12 Explore opportunities to partner with local organizations, such as service clubs and non-profit organizations, to develop and manage specialized facilities.
- 3.13 Provide additional large picnic shelters for events, such as family gatherings, community events and other meetings.
- 3.14 Provide shade structures for playground and picnic areas to ensure more comfortable year-round use.



Family bike ride on Virgin River North Trail

TRAILS & PARK CONNECTIONS

Goal 4: Develop a network of shared-use trails and bicycle & pedestrian corridors to enable connectivity between parks, neighborhoods, commercial areas and other destinations.

OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 Support the implementation of the St. George Active Transportation Plan.
- 4.2 Connect and coordinate the City's pedestrian and bicycle trail network with Washington County's regional system of on-street and off-street trails.
- 4.3 Connect the existing trail network to link and complete the city-wide regional trail system.
- 4.4 Integrate the siting of proposed trail segments into the development review process; require development projects along designated trail routes to be designed to incorporate trail segments as part of the project.
- 4.5 Establish a maximum spacing standard for trail linkages within new developments, such that multiple entry points to a trail corridor are provided to improve access and convenience for residents.
- 4.6 Work with local agencies, utilities and private landholders to secure trail access and rights-of-way for open space for trail connections.
- 4.7 Provide trailhead accommodations, as appropriate, to include parking, wayfinding signage, benches, restrooms and other amenities.
- 4.8 Follow the latest City of St. George Park & Trail Master Plan for future trail development.



Exercise class at Sand Hollow Aquatic Center

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Goal 5: Facilitate and promote a varied and inclusive suite of recreation programs that accommodate a spectrum of ages, interests and abilities.

OBJECTIVES

- 5.1 Continue to support special events, festivals, concerts and cultural programming to promote arts, health and wellness, community identity, tourism, the benefits of recreation, and to foster civic pride, while balancing between those activities for residents and those that draw from a wider area.
- 5.2 Expand the City's role as a primary provider of recreation programs and services and increase programming to meet changing demographics and growing community needs.
- 5.3 Monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by available programming.
- 5.4 Emphasize programming for children, teens, seniors, people with disabilities and other populations with limited access to market-based recreation options.
- 5.5 With the provision of recreation programming, prepare and conduct periodic evaluations of program offerings in terms of persons served, customer satisfaction, cost/subsidy, cost recovery, local and regional recreation trends, and availability of similar programs via other providers.
- 5.6 Establish recreation program scholarships, fee waivers, and other mechanisms to support recreation access for low-income program participants.
- 5.7 Continue working with the Washington County School District and Dixie State University to maximize public use of recreation facilities on school sites, especially athletic fields and gymnasiums, and to encourage provision of community education programming at schools.
- 5.8 Leverage City resources by forming and maintaining partnerships with other public, non-profit and private recreation providers to deliver recreation services and secure access to existing facilities for community recreation.
- 5.9 Coordinate with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects to expand facilities for athletics.
- 5.10 Study and create cost recovery guidelines for planned recreation programs and services; Determine subsidy levels that align with Council direction.
- 5.11 Explore and consider opportunities to develop a recreation center, potentially in partnership with the county and other organizations. Consider financial feasibility and long-term operations needs prior to design or construction of any new facility.



Performance at Electric Theater

ARTS & CULTURE

Goal 6: Cultivate the continued development of the arts in St. George to expand and enhance existing programming, facilities and opportunities for community participation.

OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 Support and encourage the collaboration of partnerships and related efforts to further the implementation of a new, inclusive community arts facility.
- 6.2 Utilize strategic capital investments in key art-related facilities to encourage and support arts and cultural education and enhancement as well as economic development.
- 6.3 Work with the community and local organizations to foster a greater number and variety of cultural events and support community celebrations.
- 6.4 Reflect the City's identity by incorporating art, history and culture into the park and recreation system.
- 6.5 Partner with the Washington County School District, community organizations and other providers to offer both drop-in and structured programs in art, music and dance, as well as educational and environmental activities for youth.
- 6.6 Identify appropriate locations within parks and greenways for the installation of public art, interpretive signs, or cultural displays.
- 6.7 Encourage the collaboration of arts and culture marketing and communication efforts through shared event calendars and social media management.



Sunrise at Dixie Red Hills Golf Course

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Goal 7: Provide a parks and recreation system that is efficient to maintain and operate, provides a high level of user comfort, safety and aesthetic quality, and protects capital investments.

OBJECTIVES

- 7.1 Maintain all parks and facilities in a manner that keeps them in safe and attractive condition; repair or remove damaged components immediately upon identification.
- 7.2 Maintain an inventory of assets and their condition; update the inventory as assets are added, updated or removed from the system and periodically assess the condition of park and recreation facilities and infrastructure.
- 7.3 Establish and monitor procedures to document the costs of maintaining City-owned facilities by their function, including public buildings, infrastructure, parks, trails, natural areas and public art pieces.
- 7.4 Maintain a revolving replacement fund for capital repairs and replacements over time.
- 7.5 Consider the maintenance costs and staffing levels associated with acquisition, development, or renovation of parks or natural open space areas, and adjust the annual operating budget accordingly for adequate staffing and maintenance funding of the system expansion.
- 7.6 Encourage and promote volunteer park improvement and maintenance projects, as appropriate, from a variety of individuals, service clubs, local watershed councils, faith organizations and businesses.



ADMINISTRATION & MANAGEMENT

Goal 8: Provide leadership and management of the park, recreation and open space system throughout the City.

OBJECTIVES

- 8.1 Provide sufficient financial and staff resources to maintain the overall parks and recreation system to high standards.
- 8.2 Maximize operational efficiency to provide the greatest public benefit for the resources expended, including landscaping, waste management or other needs.
- 8.3 Periodically review and update the park impact fee rates and methodology.
- 8.4 Pursue alternative funding options and dedicated revenues for the acquisition and development of parks and facilities, such as private donation, sponsorships, partnerships, state and federal grant sources, among others.
- 8.5 Plan for and establish a non-profit organization, such as an Arts N Parks Foundation, to provide fundraising for facilities and programs.
- 8.6 Promote professional development opportunities that strengthen the core skills and promote greater commitment from staff and key volunteers, to include trainings, materials and/or affiliation with professional organizations, such as the National Recreation & Park Association, Utah Recreation & Parks Association, American Society of Landscape Architects and the Society for Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP).
- 8.7 Periodically evaluate user satisfaction and statistical use of parks, facilities and programs, including trail counts; share this information with City Council as part of the decision making process to revise program offerings or renovate facilities.
- 8.8 Work with the Chamber of Commerce and the Washington County Tourism Office to develop and update information packets that promote City services to tourists and new residents.



Electric Theater

PARTNERSHIPS

Goal 9: Engage in active support for partnering organizations that contribute to the quality of life for St. George residents and visitors through parks, recreation, arts and trails.

OBJECTIVES

- 9.1 Pursue and maintain effective partnerships with governmental agencies and private and non-profit organizations to plan and provide recreation activities and facilities in an effort to maximize opportunities for public recreation.
- 9.2 Provide staff support to maintain partnerships that are critical for the implementation of community-wide programming and facilities that enhance parks, recreation, arts and trails in St. George.
- 9.3 Continue to partner with public, private and non-profit providers, such as organized sports leagues, to plan for projects and expand specialized facilities.
- 9.4 Continue to coordinate with cities and towns in Washington County to provide a connected trail network that provide continuous walking and biking access between parks and other key destinations.
- 9.5 Develop written agreements to clarify and memorialize the many partnerships involved in the provision of parks and recreation facilities and programming to document the specific roles and responsibilities and terms of engagement.
- 9.6 Explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as the Dixie Regional Medical Center, and the Washington County Public Health Department, to promote wellness activities, healthy lifestyles and communications about local facilities and the benefits of parks, recreation, arts and trails.

5 | PARKS & OPEN SPACE

Biker on Sidewinder Slopestyle course at Snake Hollow Bike Park

Parks and open space are the foundation of the outdoor recreation system for St. George. City parks provide residents with a variety of active and passive recreational amenities. They offer places where people can spend time with friends and family, exercise, play and relax, and explore the unique St. George landscape, wildlife and natural history.

By improving existing parks and developing new parks as St. George grows, the City can actively support the mental and physical health of residents and ensure its park and recreation system meets the needs of the whole community. This chapter identifies current trends in outdoor recreation, community interests in parks and open spaces, an assessment of levels of service and recommendations for system improvements.

CURRENT TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

The following summaries from recognized park and recreation resources provide background on national, state and local trends that may reflect potential recreational activities and facilities for future consideration in the City of St. George. Examining current recreation trends can help inform potential park and recreation improvements and opportunities that may enhance the community and create a more vibrant parks system as it moves into the future.

National and Regional Trends

National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Benchmarks

The 2018 NRPA *Agency Performance Review* summarizes the key findings from NRPA Park Metrics, their benchmarking tool for park and recreation professional to assist in planning for operations and capital facilities. The 2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review contains data from 1,069 park and recreation agencies across the United States as reported between 2015 and 2017. Park and recreation agencies take on many responsibilities for their communities beyond their “traditional” roles of operating parks and related facilities (95 percent) and providing recreation programming and services (92 percent). In addition to those two functions, the top responsibilities for park and recreation agencies are:

- Have budgetary responsibility for their administrative staff (89 percent of agencies)
- Operate and maintain indoor facilities (88 percent)
- Operate, maintain or manage trails, greenways and/or blueways (75 percent)
- Conduct major jurisdiction-wide special events (73 percent)
- Operate, maintain or manage special purpose parks and open spaces (66 percent)
- Operate and maintain non-park sites (63 percent)
- Administer or manage tournament/event-quality outdoor sports complexes (55 percent)
- Operate, maintain or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks (48 percent)
- Operate, maintain or contract tennis center facilities (46 percent)
- Administer community gardens (41 percent)

Beyond the benchmarks that can assist in gauging agency performance, the 2018 NRPA report offers a look at trends and uncertainties that may affect the future of parks and recreation provision. While strong public support for parks has been comparable to public safety, education and transportation, public officials still exhibit only moderate support for public parks, leaving their budgetary funding susceptible to targeted cuts during lean economic times. Unfunded pension costs continue to plague many local governments who may have granted greater pension benefits than what was funded, leaving deep pension debts that are financially constraining. This economic impact may limit or reduce staff levels and constrain future hiring to meet the needs of growing park systems.

The 2018 State of the Managed Recreation Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine’s 2018 State of the Managed Recreation Industry report summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 21.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports and fitness facilities. The 2018 report indicated that many (86.6%) recreation, sports and fitness facility owners form partnerships with other organizations, as a means of expanding their reach, offering additional programming opportunities or as a way to share resources and increase funding. Local schools are shown as the most common partner (61.3%) for all facility types. Parks and recreation organizations (95.8%) were the most likely to report that they had partnered with outside organizations. Park respondents (56.2%) reported plans to add features at their facilities. The top 10 planned features for all facility types include:

1. Splash play areas (23.6%)
2. Synthetic turf sports fields (17%)
3. Fitness trails and/or outdoor fitness equipment (16.4%)

4. Fitness centers (16.3%)
5. Walking/hiking trails (15.5%)
6. Playgrounds (15.2%)
7. Park shelters (13.6%)
8. Dog parks (13.5%)
9. Exercise studios (12.9%)
10. Disc golf courses 12.9%)

Outdoor Participation Report

According to 2017 *Outdoor Participation Report*, published by the Outdoor Foundation, more than 144.4 million Americans (48.8%) participated in an outdoor activity at least once in 2016. These outdoor participants went on a total of 11.0 billion outdoor outings in 2016, a decrease from 11.7 billion in 2015. Participation in outdoor recreation, team sports and indoor fitness activities vary by an individual's age. Recent trend highlights include the following.

- Twenty-one percent of outdoor enthusiasts participated in outdoor activities at least twice per week.
- Running was the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups.
- Running, including jogging and trail running, was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings.
- Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity between different demographic groups.
- The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise.
- For youth, ages 6-17, biking (road, mountain and BMX) was the most popular activity by participation rate (25%). Running (trail running, running and jogging) was the favorite outdoor activity by frequency of participation (70 average outings per runner).

Parks as Green Infrastructure

The Trust for Public Land (TPL) released their *City Parks, Clean Water* 2016 report citing the intersection of parks and stormwater management and the role of green infrastructure in creating healthier environments. While the TPL report focused primarily on urban parks and their value in promoting best stormwater management practices, the larger concept of parks as green infrastructure can provide valuable ecosystem services as well as outdoor recreation functions. Green infrastructure (GI) is the network of green spaces that protects natural ecosystems and provides associated benefits, such as clean water and air, to communities. For these reasons, its protection should be a high priority for local governments.

The American Planning Association's 2010 PAS QuickNotes on Green Infrastructure assert the need to protect existing green infrastructure, particularly forests and wetlands to preserve their ecosystem functions and values for environmental health. Local, regional and statewide parks and open spaces are important elements of a green infrastructure network and can contribute to the connections and corridors that are vital for biodiversity, flood reduction, air and water quality, wildlife habitat, coastal resilience and the ability for communities to adapt for climate changes. Planning a green infrastructure network is best accomplished in direct correlation with planning for a park, trail and open space network.



Inclusion and Universal Access

Across the country, local municipalities and park and recreation providers with older public infrastructure have been upgrading their facilities to comply with the guidelines for universal access and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The removal of existing architectural barriers in park facilities has been ongoing and will likely continue until renovations, upgrades and newer construction provide barrier-free access to all users. Access and inclusion in public parks extends beyond the physical amenities and incorporates considerations of language, technology, wayfinding, program equity and equitable geographic distribution of facilities.

Technology in Parks

The trend in marketing and information distribution has been utilizing digital and wireless technology as a primary means of communication. This trend has been integrated into park and recreation programming and operations to varying degrees. Easy access to information in a broad range of outreach techniques has been critical for park service providers to maintain contact and relevance with their communities. Social media has become ingrained with most park organizations and will continue to play a role in effective communication and marketing. Fitness monitors are increasingly encouraging individual physical activity. GPS-enabled digital games (such as PokemonGo) motivate gamers to get outdoors and engage in physical activity. Mobile registration and payment processing for recreation programs requires secure financial transactions and data security to minimize financial and reputation risks to park and recreation agencies. On the horizon, cryptocurrencies and blockchain ledger record keeping may present an opportunity to adopt new technologies for data and financial record keeping and, perhaps, donations for park-related causes. Other forms of technology may continue to challenge park providers in the near future, providing opportunities for enhanced outdoor recreation experiences or liabilities due to undesired activities such as drones disrupting park users.

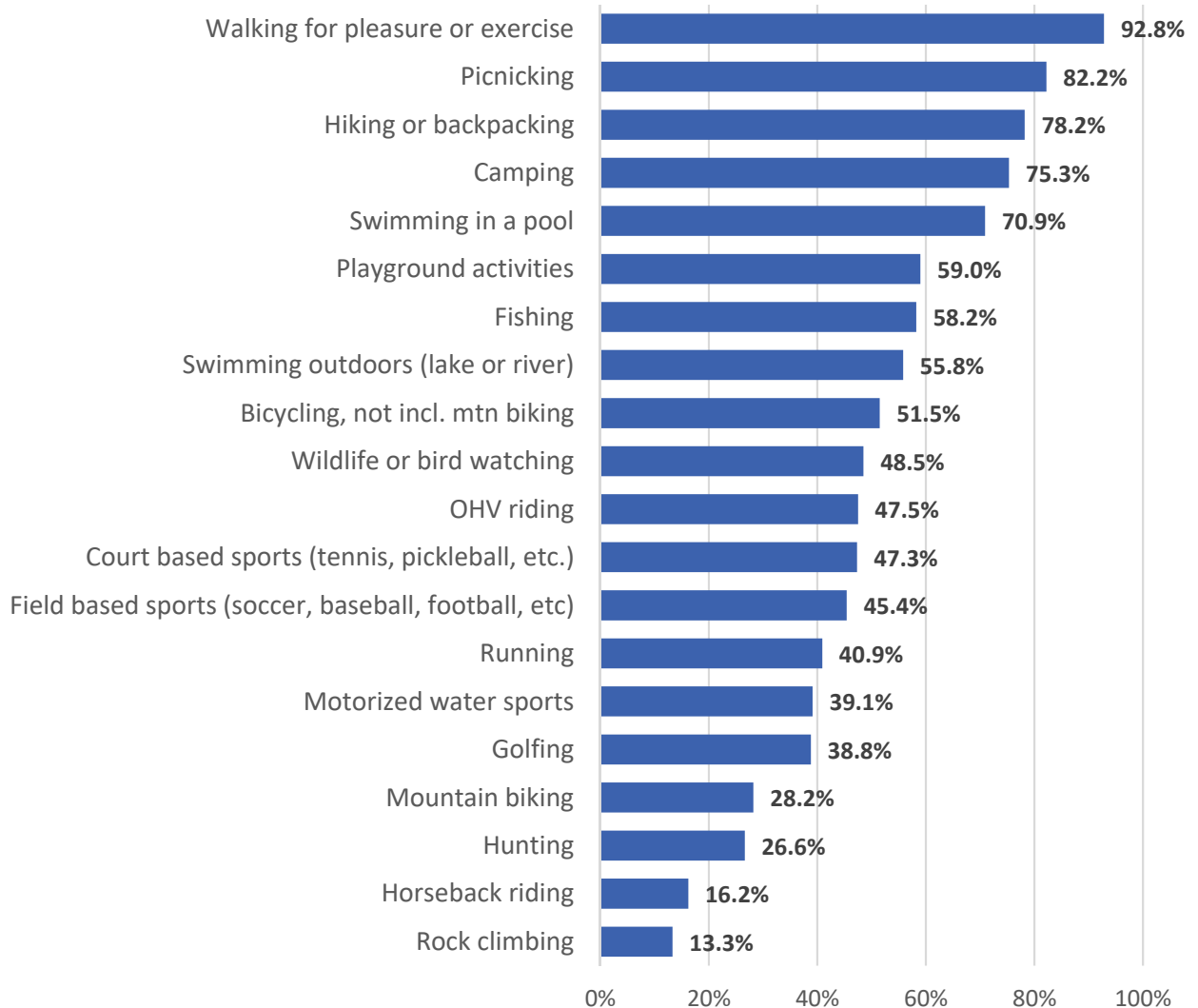
State Trends

Utah's Outdoor Recreation Plan

As an update to Utah's adopted 2014 Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the draft 2019 Utah's Outdoor Recreation Plan evaluates the demand and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state of Utah. The SCORP process helps determine the most pressing outdoor recreation issues to prioritize funding direction for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars. Planning is an important component of professional recreation management. Over 78% of the survey respondents have a system-wide master plan/comprehensive plan/resource management plan for their parks and outdoor recreation sites.

The 2019 draft SCORP reports that trails have ranked at the top for the most needed facilities for Utahns in the last few decades of SCORP planning by State Parks (Figure 8). When professional recreation managers were surveyed about new facility needs, the top three facilities were prioritized as recreation center, sport and play fields and trails and walkways, respectively. Recreation professionals prioritized their needs for renovation by identifying playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures/pavilions, recreations centers, lighting and trails/walkways as the most important needs.

Figure 8. Statewide Outdoor Recreation Activity - % Population Participation



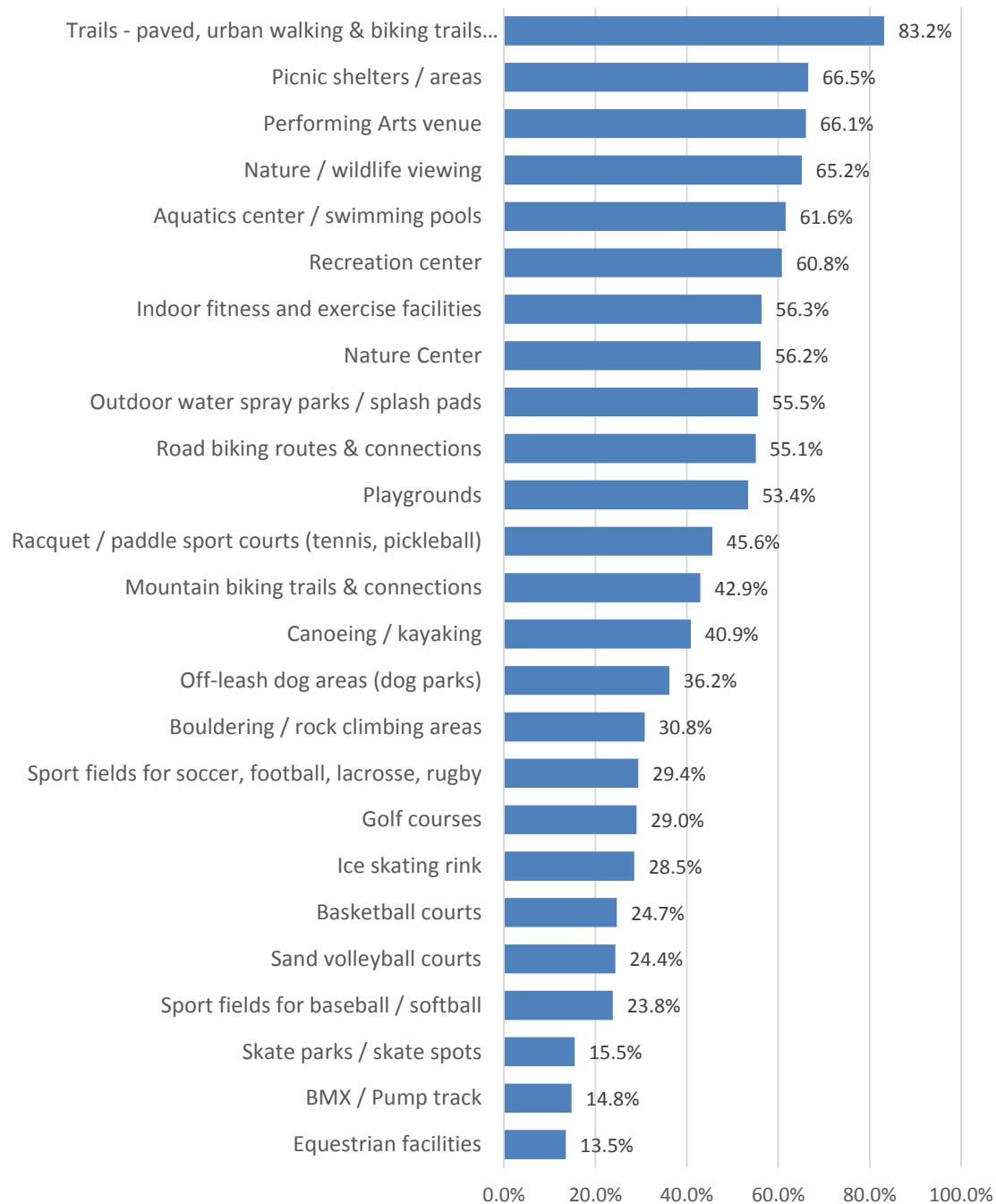
Local Feedback & Interests

Community Survey

When it comes to meeting the needs of the St. George community, more than half (57%) of survey respondents think that there are enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, another one-third (34%) think that there are not enough opportunities. About a tenth (9.5%) think that there are more than enough parks and recreation activities to meet the needs of the community, and the remaining 2% said they didn't know.

Survey respondents were presented with a list of parks, arts and recreation facilities and asked if they have a need for each facility and to what degree their need is met for each facility (see Figure 9). Trails for walking and biking ranked as the amenity of highest need (83% overall). A second tier of facilities of need included picnic shelters, performing arts venue, nature / wildlife viewing, aquatics center, and recreation center.

Figure 9. Identified Need for Various Parks, Arts and Recreation Facilities



In a forced ranking between six different facility types, respondents identified trails as the top priority (see Figure 10). Trails ranked first overall and captured 81% of the sum of the top three priorities. A performing arts center and recreation center ranked second and third, respectively, and these two facility types were ranked almost evenly in looking at the sum of the top three priority choices (57% for the arts center and 59% for the recreation center). The idea of an off-leash dog area ranked sixth overall.

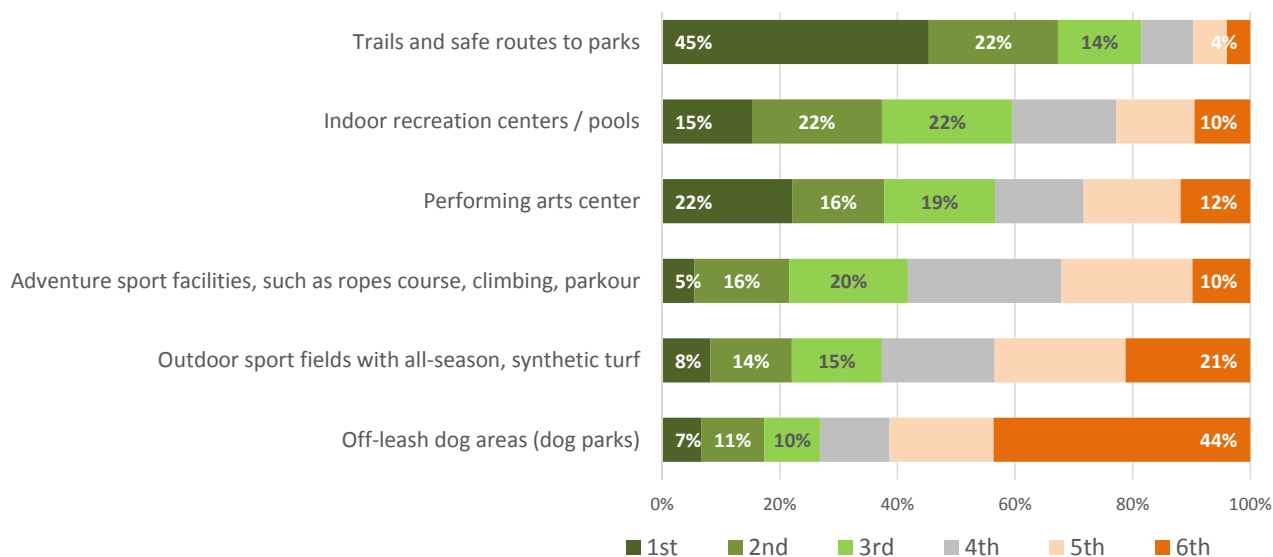
84%

**SAID THAT THEY VISIT PARKS AT
LEAST ONCE A MONTH; 51% VISIT
PARKS ONCE A WEEK OR MORE**

98%

**PUBLIC PARKS AND RECREATION
ARE IMPORTANT OR ESSENTIAL TO
THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE CITY**

Figure 10. Relative Priority between Facility Types



The survey accommodated an open-ended response to a question that asked about one improvement to the St. George system, worded as “If there were ONE park, art or recreation facility you would like to see (or see more of) in St. George, what would it be?”

Over 890 individual responses were collected from the online and mail surveys combined. The specific responses are listed at the end of this summary report. A wordcloud (see Figure 11) was generated using the text from these responses to illustrate high frequency words as a way to illustrate ideas collected from the community.

Attendees were also asked about what improvements to the St. George system would add the greatest value for them. Individual ideas were written on Post-It notes, then as a table, notes were grouped into similar topics. Attendees were then asked to use sticky dots to identify their top three choices, which could have been for a grouped topic or an individual idea. Figure 13 list represents the top ten grouped topics, based on the number of 'dots' scored for each.

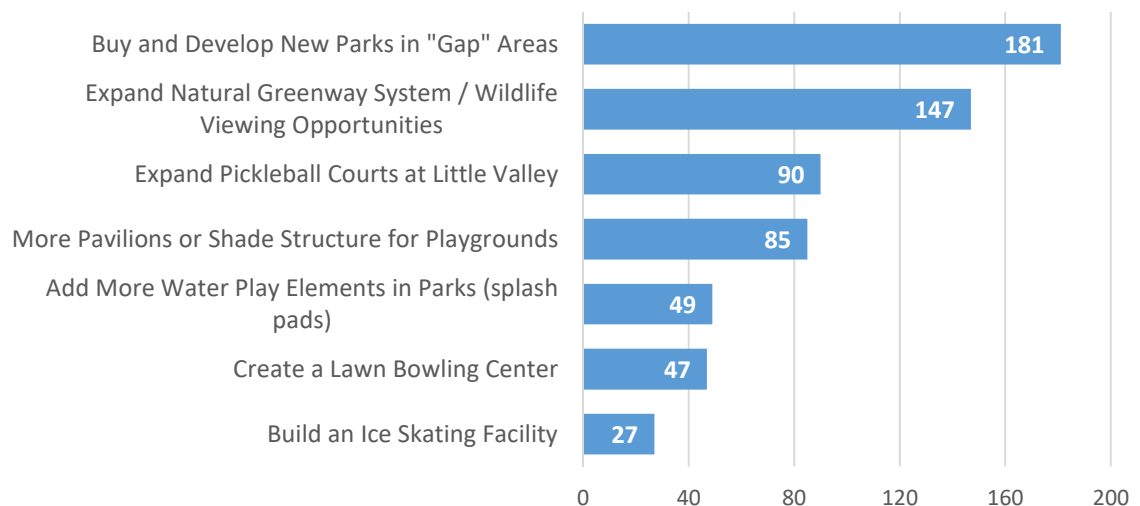
Figure 13. Ranking Results for Park Improvements that Add Personal Recreational Value

	Item	Frequency
1.	Trails / Connections	68
2.	Pickleball	51
3.	Tonaquint Park	35
4.	Sport Courts / Lawn bowling	13
5.	Specialty Parks	9
6.	Open space preservation	7
7.	Trail maintenance & safety	7
8.	Fishing	7
9.	Playgrounds	6
10.	Funding / Land acquisition	5

In October 2018, the City conducted a second public open house to solicit feedback on potential plan recommendations. Participants could provide their feedback in multiple ways, including talking with the project team, writing comments directly on project boards, post-it notes, and comment forms, and participating in tactile exercises to help identify community priorities.

Attendees had a map display and a list of potential park amenity and improvement projects to consider. For this exercise, attendees were asked to rank their top three choices with colored dots. Figure 14 represents the weighted, summed scores for all of the prioritizations. Secure new park lands for gap areas and expanding the natural greenway system ranked as the top two priorities for the park system, based on the number and category of 'dots' scored for each item.

Figure 14. Priorities for Parks & Outdoor Recreation





CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

Park and open space land is classified to assist in planning for the community's recreational needs. The classifications also reflect standards that inform development decisions during site master planning and design. The St. George park system is composed of a hierarchy of various park types, each offering recreational and/or natural area opportunities. Separately, each park type may serve only one function, but collectively the system serves the full range of community needs. Classifying park land by function allows the City to evaluate its needs and to plan for an efficient, cost effective and usable park system that minimizes conflicts between park users and adjacent uses. Several factors are considered when classifying parks and open spaces:

- Specific needs in neighborhood, service area or community
- Suitability of a site for a particular use
- Cost and effort of development
- Possibility for public-private partnerships
- Operating and maintenance costs
- Developer vs. city-built parks

The classification characteristics are meant as general guidelines addressing the intended size and use of each type. The following five classifications are in effect in St. George and are defined as follows.

Community Park

A park owned and maintained by the City that generally ranges in size from 20-50 acres. Community Parks may be much larger especially if they contain large undeveloped open lands that are accessed by trails, or they may be smaller depending on land availability. They serve several neighborhoods with a service area of one to two miles, or more. Community Parks accommodate special events and gatherings, and can provide for a broad variety of activities and recreation opportunities. Community Parks may include large open spaces with sensitive environments such as wildlife habitat, river corridors and flood plains, greenways, and other protected open space and sensitive lands. These lands also provide for recreational use including trails for biking and hiking, picnic facilities, interpretive information, and wildlife viewing. Community Parks may also be highly developed. Community Parks should provide for a variety of amenities and elements as required for neighborhood parks as well as additional special facilities, which may include sport fields for competitive play, group shelters, swimming pools and recreation centers, skate parks, tennis complexes, or other opportunities for recreation activity that involve larger groups, competitions, and community gathering areas.

Neighborhood Park

A developed recreation area owned and maintained as a public park by the City. Neighborhood parks should be located within or adjacent to residential neighborhoods or developments, provide service to an area of one-half mile radius, and provide for a minimum of four acres of park land for each 1,000 individuals wherever possible. The most desirable size for a Neighborhood Park is 4-10 acres of developed park land, but they may be smaller or larger depending on land availability. Neighborhood parks are

deliberately close to residential areas so that they are easily accessed by walking or biking. Neighborhood Parks have limited automobile parking, no lighted athletic fields for team competition, and no schedule for organized programs. Neighborhood Park development includes the following minimum facilities and elements: restroom, picnic shelter, playground structure, open grass areas and shaded areas, and an appropriate number of parking spaces. The park should also include at least one additional amenity such as a basketball standard, tennis court, volleyball court, sport court, paved walking trail, climbing wall, or other neighborhood-desired facility. Whenever possible, neighborhood residents should be consulted regarding the kind of additional facilities.

Public Square

Public squares are city-owned public areas that are in or within 1000 feet of a commercial or manufacturing zone. Squares are designated for public use. The primary difference between a square and a park is that of allowable, nearby land uses, in that some uses, such as a smoke shop, may be allowable near a square but not allowable near a park. .

Special Use Facilities

Special use facilities include single-purpose recreational areas or stand-alone sites designed to support a specific, specialized use. This classification may include fishing ponds, recreation centers, sites of historical or cultural significance, such as museums, historical landmarks and structures. Specialized facilities may also be provided within neighborhood and community parks. No standards exist or are proposed concerning special facilities, since facility size is a function of the specific use.

Reserves / Open Space

Reserves are natural areas intended for conservation, while allowing public access and limited passive use. Sites typically contain sensitive areas such as streams, hillsides and steep slopes, which also provide habitat for wildlife. These sites may serve as trail corridors, and low-impact or passive activities such as walking and nature observation may be allowed, where appropriate, along with limited support facilities, such as parking and restrooms. Open space is land set aside to protect natural resources and/or create breaks from development. Open space is not developed and not geared toward active recreational uses, but should allow trails and other low impact recreation. Size varies with each property for reserves and open spaces.



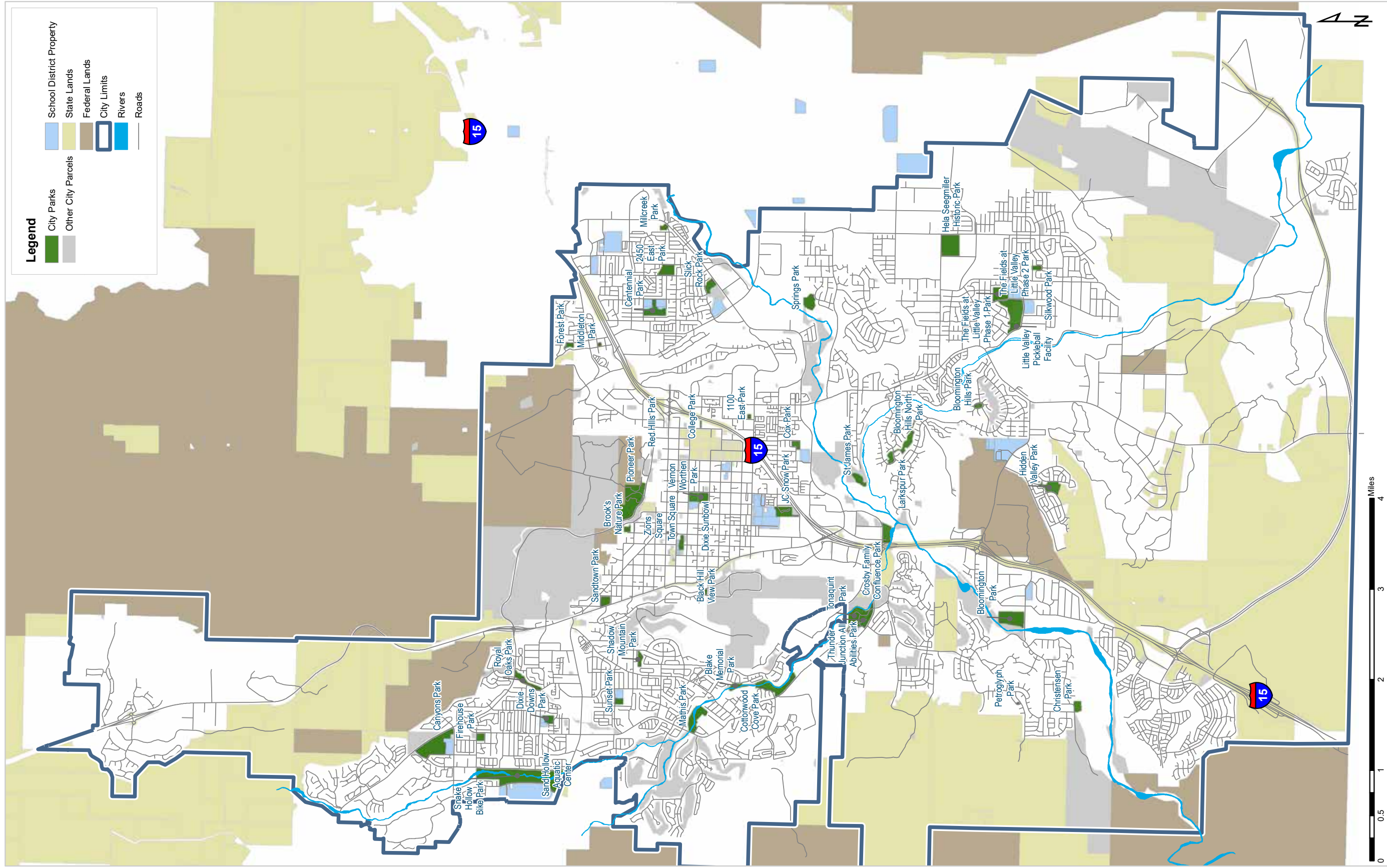
FACILITY INVENTORY

The City of St. George provides and maintains a growing system of parks that supports a range of active and passive experiences. The park and open space inventory identifies the recreational assets within the city.

St. George's park system has 42 parks, two squares and five special facilities totaling 578.5 acres of park land. The following table summarizes the current land inventory in St. George. The map on the following page shows the location of existing parks within the City.

Figure 15. Existing Inventory of City-owned Parks

Community Parks		Acreage
Bloomington Park		26.5
Canyons Softball Complex		40.0
Centennial Park		13.0
Cottonwood Cove Park		19.0
Dixie Sunbowl		5.5
Hela Seegmiller Historic Park		30.0
Hidden Valley Park		12.5
JC Snow Park		14.0
Pioneer Park		44.0
Royal Oaks Park		9.0
Snake Hollow Bicycle Skills Park		80.0
The Fields at Little Valley		49.5
Thunder Junction All Abilities Park		8.0
Tonaquint Park		22.5
Vernon Worthen Park		9.0
Subtotal		382.5 acres
Special Use Facilities		Acreage
City Pool & Hydrotube		1.5
Recreation Center		1.5
Sand Hollow Aquatic Center		12.0
Skyline Pond		3.0
Tawa Pond		2.5
Subtotal		20.5 acres
Public Squares		Acreage
Town Square		7.5
Zions Square		0.5
Subtotal		8.0 acres
Neighborhood Parks		Acreage
1100 East Park		1.5
2450 East Park		10.0
Black Hill View Park		2.0
Blake Memorial Park		6.0
Bloomington Hills North Park		11.0
Bloomington Hills Park		2.5
Brook's Nature Park		3.0
Christensen Park		6.0
College Park		1.0
Cox Park		4.5
Crimson Ridge Park		4.0
Crosby Family Confluence Park		11.5
Dixie Downs Park		4.5
Firehouse Park		4.5
Forest Park		3.5
Larkspur Park		4.5
Mathis Park		19.0
Middleton Park		1.0
Millcreek Park		5.0
Petroglyph Park		0.5
Sandtown Park		6.5
Shadow Mountain Park		4.5
Silkwood Park		3.5
Slick Rock Park		7.5
Springs Park		12.0
St James Park		20.0
Sunset Park		8.0
Subtotal		167.5 acres



Map I: Existing Parks & Open Space



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OTHER RECREATION & OPEN SPACE LANDS

St. George is located in a region with a significantly large concentration of natural recreation areas, including three national parks, two national monuments, two national recreation areas, five state parks, three national forests and four wilderness areas. St. George is within easy reach of Zion National Park, Bryce National Park, Snow Canyon State Park, Lake Powell, Lake Mead, the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, Gunlock Reservoir State Park and Quail Creek Reservoir State Park. Immediately adjacent to St. George are public lands managed by Washington County, the School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA)

The Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration is an independent state agency that manages 3.4 million acres of Utah trust lands for the financial benefit of public schools and other public institutions. SITLA manages these trust lands to generate revenue through energy and mineral royalties, and real estate and surface development. SITLA lands were granted to the western states by the Federal government expressly for the purposes of supporting public education. SITLA has been especially active in creating development value for its land to seek the highest return possible on its school funding stewardship. Many trust lands are open for responsible recreation use such as hunting, fishing, camping and OHV use.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

The Bureau of Land Management manages nearly 22.9 million acres of public lands in Utah, representing about 42 percent of the state. Approximately, 671,545 total acres of federal mineral estate are administered by the BLM under the St. George Field Office (FO) in St. George, UT. The St. George FO manages resources include grazing, wilderness management, visual resources, OHV use, prehistoric/historic areas, habitat management, lands and realty, and areas of critical environmental concern (ACECs). The Bear Claw Poppy Trail and The Gap Trail have trailheads that directly connect into the St. George public roadway and right-of-way system.

The Nature Conservancy (White Dome)

Located southwest of the St. George airport, White Dome is a protected natural area owned by The Nature Conservancy. The White Dome Nature Preserve was established to preserve the habitat of the federally endangered dwarf bear poppy. The 800-acre nature preserve is open to the public, year-round from dawn to dusk. A five-mile network of hiking trails can be accessed from a trailhead on River Road. There are no support amenities on site.



Utah State Parks

Utah State Parks operates four parks in the vicinity of St. George.

Snow Canyon State Park

Snow Canyon State Park is a 7,400-acre scenic park amid lava flows and sandstone cliffs. Located in the 62,000 acre Red Cliffs Desert Reserve, established to protect the federally listed desert tortoise and its habitat, the park offers opportunities for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages. Activities include hiking, nature studies, wildlife viewing, photography, camping, ranger talks, and junior ranger programs. There are more than 38 miles of hiking trails, a three-mile paved walking/biking trail, and over 15 miles of equestrian trails.

Quail Creek State Park

Quail Creek reservoir was completed in 1985 to provide irrigation and culinary water to the St. George area. Most of the water in the reservoir does not come from Quail Creek but is diverted from the Virgin River and transported through a pipeline. The park is a year-round camping and fishing site.

Sand Hollow State Park

Located approximately 15 miles east of St. George, this 20,000-acre park rivals Utah's two largest state parks – Wasatch Mountain and Antelope Island. Sand Hollow is one of the most visited destinations in the Utah State Park system, providing recreation opportunities for a range of users, including boaters, bikers, OHV riders and equestrians. At nearly twice the size of Quail Creek Reservoir, Sand Hollow offers boating and other water recreation.

Gunlock State Park

Located on Gunlock Road about 15 miles northwest of St. George, this park accommodates boating, water sports and fishing. Gunlock Reservoir dam was constructed in 1970 for irrigation water and flood control.

National Park Service

National parks, historic sites and historic trails have unique characteristics that draw visitors from far away. Zion National Park is within easy reach of St. George, less than a 1-hour drive from the city. St. George captures revenues from those visitors as they stay, eat and visit local businesses during their exploration of Zion.

The Old Spanish Trail is a designated national historic trail whose alignment travels through the southern portion of St. George, and the trail served as a major trade route between Santa Fe and Los Angeles between 1829 and 1848.

Red Cliffs Desert Reserve

The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (RCDR) is a multi-jurisdictional region administered by Washington County in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA). The Reserve is approximately 20 miles wide and six miles deep and includes Snow Canyon State Park, Red Mountain Wilderness Area, Cottonwood Canyon Wilderness Areas and the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area managed by BLM. The RCDR was aside for the protection of the Mojave Desert Tortoise, an endangered species. Desert Tortoise habitat is found in much of Washington County. To preserve the most important tortoise habitat, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) was developed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the State, City, County and private land owners. The HCP created a 61,000 acre Desert Tortoise preserve along the northern edge of St. George. The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve contains miles of trails with several trailheads that connect into the St. George right-of-way system.

Dixie National Forest

The largest national forest in Utah, Dixie National Forest covers almost two million acres and stretches across the southern portion of the state. Its Pine Valley Recreation Area is closest to St. George and offers recreation activities including camping, hiking, picnicking, backpacking, rock climbing/bouldering, hunting and fishing.

ASSESSMENT OF EXISTING CONDITIONS

During the summer of 2018, the consultant landscape architects assessed the existing conditions of selected park facilities to identify issues, concerns and opportunities for future improvements. This assessment identified several maintenance and facility improvements that were needed to ensure that St. George’s park and outdoor recreation facilities remain safe and attractive for residents and visitors.


Park conditions for 16 amenity categories were rated based on a numerical scale (see Figure 16 below) which provides a generalized evaluation of the need for repairs, replacement or other attention for a range of park amenities. Overall, the selected sites scored an average 1.26 – indicating conditions are generally very good though the system will need continuing repairs and replacement to maintain the safety, functionality, and attractiveness of parks and facilities. The two lowest scores were given to full compliance with ADA guidelines and electrical outlets in pavilions needing repair, replacement or new covers.

Figure 16. Rating Scale Definitions for Site Conditions Assessment

1	GOOD In general, amenities are in GOOD condition. They offer full functionality and do not need repairs. Good facilities have playable sports surfaces and equipment, working fixtures, and fully intact safety features (railings, fences, etc.). Good facilities may have minor cosmetic defects. Good facilities encourage area residents to use the park.
2	FAIR In general, amenities are in FAIR condition. They are largely functional but need minor or moderate repairs. Fair facilities have play surfaces, equipment, fixtures, and safety features that are operational and allow play, but have deficiencies or time periods where they are unusable. Fair facilities remain important amenities but may slightly discourage use of the park by residents.
3	POOR In general, amenities in POOR condition are largely or completely unusable. They need major repairs to be functional. Poor facilities are park features that have deteriorated to the point where they are barely usable. Fields are too uneven for ball games, safety features are irreparably broken, buildings need structural retrofitting, etc. Poor facilities discourage residents from using the park.

The consultant landscape architects completed a more detailed evaluation, as shown in the Inventory chapter, which evaluated each park amenity type (e.g. playgrounds, structures, landscape, turf, pavement) based on the above rating scale. The matrix in Figure 17 summarizes the results of this assessment. Park amenities and features rated with a “3” (in red) are in poor condition of repair and replacement, or removal is warranted in the immediate or near future to ensure safe enjoyment and use.



<div>St. George THE BRIGHTER SIDE</div>		Parking (# spaces)	Average Rating																											Comments / Observations / Design / Maintenance			
				Covered Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Barbecues	Electrical Outlets	Restrooms	Drinking Fountain	Playground	Sand Volleyball	Basketball	Pickleball	Tennis	Horseshoe Pits	Softball/Baseball Fields	Open Grass Area	Climbing Wall	Futsal	Walking Path	Hiking	Trailhead	Urban Fishing	Splash Pad	Multi Purpose Field	Dog Park	Disc Golf	Benches	Pond		Skate Park	Amphitheater	ADA Compliance
Park / Facility	Location																																
1100 East Park	655 South 1100 East	X	1.4	2	1				2	1	1	1	2					1			1											On-street parking.	
2450 East Park	130 North 2450 East	26	1.2	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1					1			1						1						
Black Hill View Park	265 South Tech Ridge Pkwy.	X	1.3		2	1			1	1								1												2	No accessible path. On-street parking.		
Blake Memorial Park	626 South 1360 West	X	1.2	1	1	1		2	1	1								1								1				2	No signs marking restrooms. No playground ramps.		
Bloomington Hills North Park	839 East Vermillion Ave.	13	1.3		1	3			1	2			1					1		1					1	1							
Bloomington Hills Park	2958 South Redwood Tree Cir.	X	1.9	1	2	3			2	2			2					1								2						On-street parking.	
Bloomington Park	650 West Man O War Rd.	204	1.1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1						1			1		1	1				2	ADA barriers.		
Brooks Nature Park	452 North Main St.	6	1.5	2	1													1	1	2							1		2	2			
Canyons Softball Complex	1890 West 2000 North	342	1.1	1	2	1		1	1	1							1	1		1		1	1			1	1						
Centennial Park	250 North 2200 East	X	1.4	1	1	1	2		2								2	1		1					2				1			Shared Parking with adjacent schools.	
Christensen Park	3780 South 1550 West	11	1.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1			1	2	1		1						2		1						
College Park	201 South 1000 East	X	1.4		1				2	2			1					1														On-street parking.	
Cottonwood Cove Park	1027 South Dixie Dr.	93	1.2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2						1	1		1						1						
Cox Park	1080 South 900 East	10	1.3	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1		1				1		1							1						
Crimson Ridge Park	3100 East Crimson Ridge Dr.	11	1	1	1			1	1	1	1							1		1							1						
Crosby/Confluence Park	1953 South Convention Center Dr.	59	1	1	1			1	1	1								1			1						1						
Dixie Downs Park	1770 West 1100 North	27	1.4	1	1	1	2	2	1	1							2	1		1					2		1			2	Missing H/C sign. No playground ramp.		
Dixie Sun Bowl	150 South 400 East	X	1.3						1	1															2							Gravel parking area.	
Firehouse Park	1929 West 1800 North	11	1.1	1	1		2	1	1	1								1		1					1		1						
Forest Park	1030 North 1800 East	5	1.1	1	1		2	1	1	1								1		1							1	1					
Hela Seegmiller Park	2592 South 3000 East	77	1.1	1	1	1	1	1	1									1		1								2					
Hidden Valley Park	3505 South Barcelona Dr.	51	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		1				1		1		1		1			1						
J.C. Snow Park	275 East 900 South	177	1.6	3	2	3	3	1	2	2	1				1			1		1	1	1				2		1		1		2	
Larkspur Park	815 East Ft. Pierce Dr.	15	1		1			1	1	1	1			1	1			1		1		1					1						
Little Valley Pickleball Facility	2149 East Horseman Park Dr.	90	1	1	1			1	1	1				1				1		1							1						
Mathis Park	1820 West Mathis Park Pl.	78	1.4	2	2	2	2	1	1	1								1		1		1			1		1				2		
Middleton Park	780 North 1700 East	X	1.1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1			1					1									1					On-street parking.	
Millcreek Park	2983 East 110 North Cir.	9	1	1	1			1	1	1	1			1				1		1							1						
Petroglyph Park	1460 West Navajo Dr.	X	2.5																								2				3	On-street parking.	
Pioneer Park	375 East Red Hills Pkwy.	86	1.2	1	1	1		1	2										1	1	1						1			2			
Royal Oaks Park	1250 North 1400 West	13	1.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			2					1		1		1					2						
Sand Hollow Aquatic Ctr	1144 North Lava Flow Dr.	121	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						1	1		1		1									No playground ramp. Indoor swimming pools.	
Sandtown Park	649 North 600 West	79	1.2	1	1	1	2	2	1	1								1							1		1					On-street parking.	
Shadow Mountain Park	305 North Stone Mountain Dr.	8	1.1	1	1			1	1	1	1	1	1					1		1							2	1					
Silkwood Park	3390 South 2710 East	9	1.2	1	1		3	1	1	1	1	1	1					1		1							1			1			
Skyline Fishing Pond	650 East Waterworks Dr.	15	1.4		1			2	2														1					1					
Slick Rock Park	2395 East Riverside Dr.	9	1.3	1	1	1	2	2	2									1	1		1		1				1						
Snake Hollow Bike Park	1470 North Lava Flow Dr.	X	1	1	1			1	1	1								1		1		1										Gravel parking area.	
Springs Park	2395 East Springs Dr.	8	1.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1			1				1		1							2	1					
St. James Park	620 East St. James Ln.	52	1.4	1	1	1	2	1	1									2		1		1			2		3	1					
Sunset Park	1550 West 360 North	12	1.1	1	1			1	1	2	1	1						1	1		1				1		1						
Tawa Fishing Ponds	2070 West Snow Canyon Pkwy.	X	1.5		1															1		1	2				2	2				Shares parking with Canyons Softball Complex.	
The Fields at Little Valley-Softball	2995 South 2350 East	101	1.2	1	1		2	1	1	2								1	1		1					1		1					
The Fields at Little Valley-Soccer	2255 East Horsemans Park Rd.	417	1.2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1							1		1					2	1		2					
Thunder Junction	1851 South Dixie Dr.	134	1	1	1			1	1	1	1							1	1		1				1		1						
Tonaquint Park	1851 South Dixie Dr.	102	1.2	1	1	1	2	1	2	1	1			1				1		1		1					1	2		1			
Town Square	50 South Main St.	278	1.1	1	1		2	1	1									1		1				1			1			1			
Vernon Worthen Park	300 South 400 East	52	1.2	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1			2				1		1							1						
Zions Square	60 North Main		1																	1												No parking area.	
Average Rating:		-	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.3	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.2	1.1	1.2	1.3	1	1	1.4	1	1	1	1	1	1.1	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.2	1.3	1	1.3	2.1	

Note: Rating "1" = Good; "2"= Fair; "3"= Poor

Figure 17: Inventory Conditions Assessment

Playgrounds:

1	In good condition: no drainage issues; 0-10% material deterioration safety surfacing with a border at the site.
2	In fair condition: drainage issues; 10-25% material deterioration; some small compliance issues that could be spot fixed.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues; 25% or greater material deterioration; needs repair or replacement (but workable).

Paved Courts:

1	In good condition: no cracks in surfacing; fencing is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes/passages; painting and striping are appropriately located, whole, and uniform in color.
2	In fair condition: hairline cracks to ¼", surfacing required; fencing has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play; painting and striping have flaking or color fading.
3	In poor condition: horizontal cracks more than ½" wide, surfacing required; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects; painting and striping are patchy and color has faded dramatically.

Sports Fields:

1	In good condition: thick grass with few bare spots; few depressions; no noticeable drainage issues, proper slope and layout; fencing if present is functional, free of protrusions, and free of holes. <small>In fair condition: grass with bare turf areas in high-use locations, some drainage issues in overuse areas, slope is within one percent of proper field slope, infields have grading problems (bump) at transition to grass and have no additive, may not have proper layout and/or orientation, fencing if present has minor protrusions, or holes/passages that do not affect game play.</small>
2	<small>In poor condition: bare areas throughout the year, uneven playing surface that holds water in certain places, drainage issues, slopes not uniform and/or more than one percent from proper field slope, improper layout and/or orientation; fencing has large protrusions, holes/passages or defects.</small>
3	

Pathways / Trails:

1	In good condition: surface generally smooth and even; proper width and material for type of pathway; proper clearances; minimal drainage issues.
2	In fair condition: uneven surfaces in places; some drainage issues; some cracking; narrow widths in some places.
3	In poor condition: uneven surfaces; inadequate width; significant cracking or heaving; clearance issues.

Skate Park:

1	In good condition: little to no signs of cracking; little or no erosion; elements target a diversity of age groups.
2	In fair condition: some cracking, but still usable; furnishings (i.e. - metal rails) might need spot fixes.
3	In poor condition: parts of the structure are damaged or deteriorated, chipped off or broken; edges of the structure are eroded possibly causing safety issues; elements target a specific / narrow age range.

Splash Pad:

1	In good condition: spray pad has little or no cracking; spray furnishings have little or no damage; no vandalism; good drainage.
2	In fair condition: spray pad has some cracking; spray furnishings have signs of wear, but are in working condition; color fading.
3	In poor condition: drainage issues with clogging or sinking pad; large cracks; spray furnishings broken.

Site Furnishings:

1	In good condition; not damaged; free of peeling or chipped paint; consistent throughout park. Trash receptacles, drinking fountain, picnic tables, benches on paved surface.
2	In fair condition; 0-20% furnishings are damaged and require replacing parts; some peeling or chipped paint; furnishings are not consistent, but are operational.
3	In poor condition; 20% or more are damaged and require replacing parts; significant peeling or chipped paint; multiple styles within park site require different maintenance.

Lighting:

Y	Yes.
N	No.

Signage:

1	In good condition: a signage system for the site, appropriate signs, no damaged signs.
2	In fair condition; multiple signage system within one site, a few damaged signs (0-10%), need maintenance.
3	In poor condition; multiple signage systems within one site, signs that are not legible from a reasonable distance, some damaged signs (10-25%), old logos, deteriorated materials, no signage.

Parking Areas:

1	In good condition: paving and drainage do not need repair; pavement markings clear; pathway connection provided to facility; proper layout.
2	In fair condition: paving needs patching or has some drainage problems; has wheel stops and curbs.
3	In poor condition: surfaces (gravel, asphalt, or concrete) needs repair; uneven grading; limited signage; no delineation for vehicles

Public Art:

1	In good condition: no vandalism; no signs of weathering.
2	In fair condition: minor signs of weathering or wear.
3	In poor condition: metal leaching/concrete efflorescence/paint peeling/wood chipped or carved into or warping; vandalized

Park Structures (Restrooms, Picnic Shelters, Concession Building):

1	In good condition: roof has no leaks; floor shows little sign of wear; finishes are fresh with no graffiti or vandalism; all elements are in working order.
2	In fair condition: roof shows signs of wear but is structurally sound; floor shows some wear; finishes show some wear with some marks or blemishes.
3	In poor condition: roof leaks or otherwise needs repair; floor show significant wear and is difficult to maintain; finishes are dull or discolored, have graffiti, or are not easily maintained; some elements not working or in need of repair (e.g., non-functioning sink)

Amphitheater/Stage:

1	In good condition: paving, stage and stair materials have little to no cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy; seating and other furnishings show modest signs of wear; views to stage from all seating vantage points.
2	In fair condition: paving, stage and stair materials have some cracking or peeling; vegetation that is present is healthy, but some soil compaction might be present; seating and other furnishings show signs of wear, but are still usable; stage orientation not be ideal for all viewers.
3	In poor condition: paving, stage and stair materials have significant cracking or peeling; vegetation is unhealthy (pests, disease, topped trees), compacted soil; seating and other furnishings need repair or replacement; redesign of space is needed for proper viewing and access.

Turf:

1	In good condition: lush and full, few weeds, no drainage problems.
2	In fair condition: some bare spots, some drainage problems.
3	In poor condition: irrigation problems, bare spots, weeds, soil compacted.

Park Trees:

1	In good condition: trees overall have good form and spacing; no topping; free of disease or pest infestation; no vandalism; no hazard trees.
2	In fair condition; some crowding may exist but overall health is good; less than 5% of trees show signs of topping, disease or pest infestation; vandalism has not impacted tree health (graffiti, not girdling).
3	In poor condition; Form or spacing issues may exist; evidence of disease or pests; vandalism affecting tree health; some hazard trees or trees in danger of becoming hazard trees.

Landscaped Beds:

1	In good condition: few weeds; no bare or worn areas; plants appear healthy with no signs of pest or disease infestation
2	In fair condition: some weeds present; some bare or worn spots; plants are still generally healthy
3	In poor condition: many weeds present; large bare or worn areas; plants show signs of pests or disease; compacted soils.

Natural Areas:

1	In good condition: barely noticeable invasives, high species diversity, healthy plants
2	In fair conditions: Noticeable invasives, fewer species but still healthy
3	In poor condition: Invasives have taken over, low diversity, unhealthy plants.

ADA Compliance:

1	Appears to comply with ADA standards.
2	Some items appear to not comply, but could be fixed by replacing with relative ease.
3	A number of park assets appear not to comply, including large-scale items like regrading.

ADA Accessibility

Throughout the park system, particularly in older parks, the need to remove barriers and improve universal access is warranted. Accessible ramps into the playground safety surfacing areas are needed in numerous parks to overcome the barrier of elevation differences from the curbing to the safety surface. Connecting park elements through paved walking paths will improve better access in parks without loop paths or paved trails. Other aspects of ADA compliance include the appropriate usage and location of signage for structures and parking areas, along with the installation of tactile warning strips at crosswalks or walkways.

ADA accessibility and compliance should be part of a regular capital repair schedule to ensure the updating of older pavement, parking, playgrounds, picnic amenities, restrooms and recreational elements. A line item has been included in the Capital Improvement Plan for miscellaneous, ongoing ADA improvements. The City should conduct a complete ADA Compliance Checklist to identify and prioritize these deficiencies and develop a methodology for bringing all developed parks into compliance with federal guidelines.

Playgrounds

St. George Parks staff conduct regular inspections of playground equipment through their certified playground inspectors. Replacement scheduling for worn parts may be part of the regular capital repairs process; however, when equipment has aged beyond worthwhile repairs, the need for replacement with new equipment offers the opportunity to bring new life and interest to the subject park. Play equipment is continually evolving and can offer a variety of physical and recreational opportunities. Designers should keep in mind that the tradition of swings and slides continues to be appreciated by parents bringing their children to parks. Beyond that basic provision, many possibilities are available for park play renewal through new playgrounds.

Throughout the older park system, the lack of ADA-compliant access into play areas was noted. While Thunder Junction offers wonderful opportunities and excellent ADA access to play, water, etc., other community and neighborhood parks in the system should address any barriers for persons with disabilities. In some cases, concrete ramps can provide suitable access into the playground surfacing. In a few parks, keeping the level of engineered wood chips up to the level of the curb may provide adequate access without the need for a ramp. Placement of new equipment with access platforms to the adjacent pavement could provide the barrier-free play access. Each playground should be assessed for the best method for providing ADA compliance and universal access to play.

Shade on playground equipment and in concentrated play zones allows for more comfortable conditions for park visitors. Direct hot sun on slides, platforms, swing seats, etc. can be uncomfortable, painful and dangerous for children, particularly when wearing light-weight summer clothing. Many of the park playgrounds are equipped with shade sail structures. However, some older parks lack shade around the play equipment. As part of the regular playground equipment inspection, repair and replacement program, shade structures should be added to parks lacking appropriate shade.

Safety fall surfacing in the park system was a mix of engineered wood chips, poured-in-place rubberized, sand/mat and rubber tile applications. Parks Division staff should continue their current process of keeping up with spot repairs, evaluating upgrades to the best methods and reapplications to engineered wood fiber surfacing.



Pavilions

Existing pavilions have a range of ages with differing levels of repairs needed. While most pavilions were in very good condition, some older pavilions are in need of new surfacing or roof repairs. Replacing deteriorating pavilions provides an opportunity to create some individual character for each park or develop a standardized pavilion style of architecture for the park system. Electrical outlets should have their covers replaced. Missing stone veneer should be replaced. Pavilion support frameworks may need fresh coats of paint to reduce rusting and maintain the visual perception of care.

Sports Court Surfacing

Aging surfaces in basketball courts and tennis courts develop cracks eventually affecting play. Noted in the individual park conditions assessments, several courts have cracks that have widened from hairline threads to larger uneven edges that affect the quality of play. Resurfacing or replacement is due on those sport court surfaces that have cracked enough to affect the quality of play. Spot treatments on courts with hairline cracks may help extend those surfaces for a bit longer before complete resurfacing is necessary.

Park Signs & Identification

Some parks were found without park identification signs at their main entrances. Side entrances often lacked signs identifying the park access. Park identification signs comprised at least three different styles (an indication of changes in signage over time). With a comprehensive approach to park identification and wayfinding, there is an opportunity to develop a consistent sign system and help convey the extensive ownership of St. George parks and its provision of recreational opportunities to the community. Wayfinding signs were present at most trailheads. A coordinated wayfinding and park identification system will help park and trail visitors get oriented and identify the agency that provides the outdoor recreation facility.

Site Furnishings

Picnic tables and benches in some parks are beginning to lose their vinyl coating and exposed metal is rusting and may create sharp edges. Capital repair plans for aging site furnishings should designate the worst worn tables and benches for earliest replacement. During replacement, picnic tables and benches should be chosen for ADA-compliant design and located in accessible places within each park. Several drinking fountains need repairs or adjustments to ensure water availability to park users. Electrical outlets in many pavilions were missing their covers and should be refitted with new covers or replaced to maintain building code compliance.

Walking Paths / Pavement Management

Pavements develop cracks, heaves and uneven surfaces over time and depending on weather extremes and usage. Regular pavement management through inspections and small repairs can help extend the viability of paved paths before needing serious resurfacing or replacement. Several parks need pavement crack repair soon, as they create tripping hazards or universal access barriers.

Parking areas were noted with the need to restripe the parking stall lines. As noted in the individual park conditions assessments and the ADA discussion previously highlighted in this section, handicapped parking stalls should include designated painted travel aisles from the parking space to the nearest park or trail entry.

Grass & Irrigation

Most open grass areas within parks were in very good condition. Some areas with drainage challenges showed bare areas. Bare areas occurred along park perimeters where vehicles had access to park on the grass. In general, turf management was clearly handled well. Since the climate is hot and dry during the primary park use season, all grass lawn areas were directly dependent on irrigation water. In some parks, grass areas are not actively used by park visitors. These areas could be reduced to save water and mowing costs. However, overall, the park system exhibits a clear intention for designating its open grass areas. The irrigation water source predominantly is “secondary water” and offers a good demonstration for the City to showcase its sense of environmental stewardship. The salinity of this water source can create challenges for plant growth and turf management. Despite this horticultural challenge, Parks staff should consider how to convey the environmental message of secondary water use for irrigation in its communications (website, parks brochure, etc.).

Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and Safety

Most of the system’s parks and landscapes meet basic CPTED principles (i.e., provide good visibility; provide overall positive public perceptions of safety based on community survey results), parks with lush vegetation in natural areas could benefit from a few safety improvements. In particular, vegetation management, such as tamarisk removal, along selected trails and park paths will improve visibility for the users.



STANDARDS FOR PARK DEVELOPMENT

The City of St. George, Washington County and neighboring communities have been growing rapidly for the past few decades, and it is projected that population growth will continue into the future. The rapid rate of growth puts pressure on the park and recreation system to maintain an appropriate supply of facilities and programming. New developments in St. George have been significant, and coordinating the implementation of new parks, open space and trails presents an on-going challenge. Adopting a set of standards to guide the location, design and development of new park facilities will help streamline the site review process and ease the burden of growth on Park Planning staff, while ensuring that new facilities meet the goals and expectations for public safety and outdoor recreation use.

Park Acquisition Guidelines

Planning and land acquisition for future parks is a recognized component in land use and urban growth management, since the provision of parks and open space is considered essential to the livability of urban areas. The land acquisition process is an important task for ensuring the availability of future recreation resources for the majority of the community. The established planning goals for a community's framework plan recognize the development of parks and retention of open space with conservation values as a tool for managing the effects of increased density and fostering livability.

Park Site Suitability Considerations

Evaluating a potential land parcel should include consideration of the following property features.

- Access and visibility to the property. An adequate amount of public right-of-way is needed to allow for creating bike/pedestrian pathways, at a minimum, and either on-street parking or a parking lot for park visitors who drive a vehicle.
- Existing publicly owned lands, easements and right-of-way. Are there existing lands under public ownership that could be converted to public park use? What other public amenities are proximate and complementary to a future park development (e.g., schools, police stations, etc.)?
- Connectivity to existing schools, parks, neighborhoods and connectivity to the greater trail system. Connections to and from related land uses can add value to a potential park location.
- Environmental constraints, field assessment, regulatory and permitting requirements and GIS data for critical areas, wetlands and streams. Sensitive environmental lands should be protected, but they often are not the best sites for development of recreational amenities for public parks. Protected and conserved lands can provide complementary value to public parks, while the public park land can create a buffer for the conserved land.
- Topography. Existing landforms, whether flat or hilly, will influence the park's design and best fit for provision of recreational facilities.

Technical analysis using the City's park standards and current development costs should be evaluated to help provide realistic site development costs. For example, existing road improvements within the public right-of-way or lack of potable water and sewer may add

additional park development costs. Federal and state permitting requirements may also impact project timing and budgets. Within identified neighborhoods that may lack or have limited access to public parks, potential properties should be evaluated for suitable site conditions for the development of future recreational amenities and/or access to natural resources. The following list highlights key criteria to consider for neighborhood and community park site suitability:

- Access / visibility
- Parcel size / configuration
- Contiguous public land / connectivity
- Extent of sensitive areas
- Cost factors (acquisition, development & maintenance)
- Compatibility with surrounding uses
- Vacant land preference
- Infrastructure support (roadway sizing and utilities to support park development)

Site-Specific Concerns

Once a targeted park land acquisition has been identified and evaluated with consideration to its potential suitability as a future public park, more specific assessments should be conducted to ensure a measure of known development variables for future park use.

A boundary survey and review of the property title is important to identify any existing encroachments, encumbrances or entitlements that need to be addressed or corrected prior to closing.

Environmental constraints, such as wetlands, waterways, other sensitive habitats and any associated buffers, should be identified to determine their impact on developable park spaces or their value as park development assets.

An environmental site assessment should be conducted to identify environmental conditions that could have resulted from a past release of hazardous substances and determine any potential mitigation requirements to protect public health. Additionally, environmental law typically leaves the burden of responsibility on the property owner, so conducting an environmental site assessment is important to protect the City's liability.

An archeological assessment to review potential cultural resources may also help bring to light future park development costs or to highlight potential park development assets.

Any underground tanks, wells, septic systems and existing structures should be evaluated for the need to remove, decommission or demolish before or after closing of land sale as part of the due diligence process prior to acquiring a property.

Environmental Site Assessment

Considering current use of a property is typically not sufficient for evaluating potential environmental concerns. For example, a vacant lot may have previously been used for agricultural purposes and may contain pesticide residues in the soil, or a current retail building may have formerly housed an auto repair business with underground tanks. Additionally, properties that are considered low-risk, such as a residence, could have



a leaking underground heating oil tank or other concerns. Therefore, conducting an environmental site assessment is an important step in purchasing and managing property.

Prior to purchasing or accepting ownership of a property, the City should conduct an environmental site assessment to determine if contaminated soil, sediment, or groundwater could be present. This process typically begins with a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) per ASTM E1527-13 to identify environmental conditions or other business risk issues that could impact site development, pose a liability to the City, or present a risk to human health or the environment. Depending on the results of the Phase I ESA, a subsequent Phase II ESA may be warranted to sample and test soil, sediment, or groundwater for the presence of contamination.

For property currently owned by the City, conducting an ESA prior to redevelopment can help to identify issues that could affect building design or result in construction delays.

Park Design & Development Guidelines

With the desire to create a unifying identity and enhance park development efficiencies, Park Planning staff have prepared Park and Trail Design Standards. These standards will establish and reinforce a framework for more efficient site plan review and for managing expectations during the often rapid subdivision and land development process. Also, there may be opportunities to partner with residential development projects for providing new parks to be dedicated to the City upon completion. The adoption and implementation of the Park and Trail Design Standards will ensure that new parks could readily fit within the City's on-going park operations and maintenance.

OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

Existing Inventory

The existing open spaces have defined the visual character of St. George and southwestern Utah as a unique expression of geologic processes. The 2016 St. George General Plan, chapter 4, states its primary goal as the preservation of “natural beauty and features that provide a healthy environment and give St. George its unique identity”. Specifically, the plan goal identifies the red cliffs and natural hillsides that provide a striking backdrop to the city; the rivers and streams and their corridors that provide habitat and scenery; and the natural open spaces that define the limits of the city and provide the sense of physiographic character.

In 2006, a student planning team from Utah State University's Landscape Architecture and Environmental Planning Department conducted a high-level Open Space Master Plan for St. George. The Plan identified criteria for prioritizing key targets for preservation. While the Plan made reference to 1,000 acres of public land, it did not distinguish specific open space acquisition targets. The Washington County Critical Lands Plan conducted in 2009 reinforced the goals of the Vision Dixie planning effort by citing the need to preserve those signature scenic landscapes. In addition, the Plan advocated to provide rich, connected natural recreation and open space between neighborhoods and public lands.

The Plan also emphasized that any public land conversion should sustain community goals and preserve critical lands.

After review of the City's GIS data on existing undeveloped and vacant lands, it was determined that not enough data is specific enough at the present to provide an accurate overview of existing open space. Following an examination of publicly-owned federal, state, county and city lands, the GIS data does not distinguish between any status for existing or proposed use or indicate conserved, protected or preserved lands. A more intense review of individual parcels of public property and their current and future/ proposed status would be required to compile an accurate inventory of existing open space that does not include developed parks.

Currently, the City of St. George owns open space lands in the areas of the RCDR, Black Hill, Webb Hill and along many of the washes and rivers that run through the city. In addition to city-owned open spaces, The Nature Conservancy owns over 733 acres of permanently preserved, natural open space lands at the White Dome geologic formation.

Future Risks/Threats to Open Space

Significant public land surrounding St. George is managed by either the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). SITLA lands were granted to the western states by the Federal government expressly for the purposes of supporting public education. SITLA has been especially active in creating development value for its land to seek the highest return possible on its school funding stewardship. These lands are not protected from development, since SITLA may determine the best and highest economic value may be achieved by the sale of the land to other public or to private entities.

A summary of the SITLA development projects being planned on current vacant or partially developed state-owned lands noted in Figure 18 highlights the master planned projects within the City of St. George.

Figure 18. Planned SITLA Development Projects

Current SITLA Projects in St George	Acreage	Land Use
Atkinville Interchange	131	Mixed Use Commercial
Southern Hills / Parkway Town Center	132	General Land Use
Fort Pierce Business Park	600	Industrial/Commercial
New St. George Airport	915	Airport Supporting Business Park
New St. George Airport	402	Mixed Use Commercial/Residential
Tonaquint	600	TBD
South Block / Desert Color	6,800	TBD
Total SITLA projects	9,580	

With close to 10,000 acres being developed in the southern portion of St. George, the open space character from scenic views to viewpoints will change rapidly in the coming years.

BLM also reviews its land holdings and is known to target properties for surplus if they no longer serve the purposes within the agency's goals. While Washington County is a



coordinating agency that reviews land surplus plans, St. George should be taking a more proactive role in determining the disposition of its treasured open spaces. The City also should identify those existing public lands that represent important open spaces that could be sold in the future for private development. The Vision Dixie Plan adopted by Washington County cited three important principles in the preservation of open space:

- Guard our “Signature” Scenic Landscapes
 - Protect unique physical features such as dry washes, ridge lines, hillsides, mesas, river corridors, etc.
 - Preserve our agricultural and ranching heritage by creating mechanisms that allow existing agricultural lands to actively continue.
- Provide Rich, Connected Natural Recreation and Open Space
 - Preserve and connect open spaces and trails.
- Focused Public Land Conversion Should Sustain Community Goals and Preserve Critical Lands
 - Public Lands are valued. Any conversion should be done with care.
 - Explore preservation of critical state and private lands through voluntary exchanges for public land more suitable for development.

As a follow-up to these adopted principles, it is in the interest of the City of St. George to proactively engage with Washington County to ensure that key open space lands are conserved into the future.

Open Space Acquisition Guidelines

One of the supporting objectives within the City’s General Plan Planning and land acquisition for future is to pursue public acquisition of open space. The plan recognized that “The City needs a detailed open space plan to provide specific direction and strategies to protect important natural areas (dry washes, riparian areas, scenic hillsides, wildlife habitats, etc.)” The general plan also targets the preservation of farmland and open pastures to retain the agricultural heritage of St. George. The utilization of river corridors as linear greenway passive recreation areas is another objective for open space conservation/acquisition in the general plan. The general plan identified areas within and around the community that are desirable to be preserved as permanent open space to include:

- scenic areas and views, including the steep mesas and hills that frame the city, such as:
 - the west and east Black Ridges
 - the Red Hill north of St. George
 - portions of Webb and Schmutz Hills
 - Bloomington Ridges
- areas with natural hazards (e.g. steep slopes, geologic hazards, floodplains), such as:
 - the floodplains of the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers
 - the White Dome and gypsum hills area south of Bloomington
 - wetland areas
 - major dry washes, including Halfway, Ft. Pierce, Middleton, Sand Hollow, Atkinville, City Creek and Bloomington.
- significant ecological habitats, such as: the Red Cliffs Desert Tortoise Wildlife Management Area north of St. George (including most of Paradise Canyon and adjacent land to the east and west)

- land that separates neighborhoods and keeps them from growing together

While this Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan is not a substitute for a fully detailed open space plan, those overarching goals and targets can be identified as a next step.

Open Space Use Limitations

Open space and natural areas are primarily intended to conserve places with ecological sensitivity or natural landscape value. Most natural areas have some space where low-impact recreational uses can be accommodated without reducing the environmental integrity of the land or water resource. Since the open space can range from wetlands and riparian corridors to rock formations and canyons, design standards are not applied uniformly across the site. Each natural landscape is treated according to its level of sensitivity, need for conservation/restoration and tolerance for outdoor recreational use. However, where passive recreation opportunities can be provided, the standardized designs for benches, picnic tables, signs, and other site amenities should be applied.

Private Property Conservation

St. George has a variety of park land and open space owned by both public and private entities. Some organizations, like The Nature Conservancy, allow for specific levels of public access for passive outdoor recreation where visitor use does not impact the conserved or sensitive natural resources. In other instances, private land conservation may occur where the resources are permanently conserved and no future development will alter the land use. These conserved lands can provide indirect public value by limiting the necessity and cost of providing public services while preserving the “green infrastructure” and open space functions and character of the land. Promoting private land conservation can be one tool for partnering to conserve the unique environments in and around St. George.

Natural Areas & Environmental Sensitivity

The underlying principles for the conservation of open space in St. George is the retention of its historic visual character and to keep the areas connected for habitat preservation. The preservation and conservation of environmentally sensitive lands is expected to be protected through zoning and development regulations. However, some ecosystem functions can be impacted when development encroaches too close to sensitive resources or when the accumulation of urbanization land uses alters the ecological network. Open space land conservation can provide a buffer to sensitive resources to protect their biological function as well as the physical land.

Design & Maintenance

Open space in the completely natural environment follows somewhat predictable natural cycles and processes. In urban areas or lands with significant human influences, natural areas seldom stay natural without assistance. It should be expected that some level of intentional management and site maintenance will be required for open spaces that allow human access. If interpretive areas, picnic spots and/or trails are incorporated into open space land, the provision of support amenities such as parking, signage, restrooms, and

site furnishings may be warranted. Since each open space or natural area will likely be unique, their design and maintenance approach should be specific to that open space, respecting its original conservation purpose and its ecological value. While a much lower level of maintenance will be required, periodic monitoring should be incorporated into its care and management.

Signs & Place-making

Identification and interpretive signage play an important role in the appreciation and public use for open spaces. Learning about the value of special lands, their history, heritage and ecology can inform visitors to help guide their respect for the land and behavior on the site. Promoting ‘leave no trace’ principles can be a helpful addition to basic site rules as well.

Future Parks & Open Space System

As the City of St. George moves forward proactively to ensure the provision of parks and the preservation of critical open space and unique natural geologic features, the goals and strategies related to this Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan will help guide local initiatives and provide a preliminary framework to allow the energy, dedication and passion of the City and the community to foster walkability. The major limiting factor for reaching a complete and interconnected park and open space plan is the available planning and financial resources to support implementation. St. George will need to continue to actively engage its planning resources and parks and open space partners to ensure the ongoing implementation of its exemplary park and open space infrastructure.



Profile: Snake Hollow Bike Park

These are exciting times for the St. George and Washington County bicycle communities as the recently completed Snake Hollow St. George Bike Park opened on November 17, 2018.

Snake Hollow Bike Park was designed to provide opportunities for people of all ages to develop their biking skills progressively in a concentrated and controlled environment. A variety of skill levels and experiences that range from beginner to advanced are offered throughout the site. The park is divided into several areas including the Dirt Jump Zone, Pump & Bump Skills Loop, Pump Track, Gravity Jump Trails and the Progressive Drop Zone. Each area has a specific series of elements that are designed to help hone the skills of the rider and prepare them to advance to open country riding, similar to that found in the southern Utah region. Along with the bike park elements the City completed a restroom and storage facility, a 60-foot shade pavilion, paved trails that connect the park elements, and xeriscape landscaping designed to tie into the local native environment.

~ by Jeff Peay, Park Planning Manager, City of St. George
(Excerpted from *Inside St. George*, Winter 2019)

LEVELS OF SERVICE & STANDARDS

To assess the current level of park and recreational space, a level of service (LOS) review was conducted to further understand the distribution and acreage needs for park land to assess how well the community can access and enjoy parks, recreational facilities and open space. Service standards are the adopted guidelines or benchmarks the City is trying to attain with their parks system; the level of service is a snapshot in time of how well the City is meeting its adopted standards. Since St. George is growing very rapidly a review of their adopted level of service standards can provide an evaluation of current performance and future directions. This level of service assessment compares park systems across the country with comparable population sizes, population densities and park land acreages. This assessment also provides future direction for ensuring adequate parks are planned for the community based on recognized gaps in the community infrastructure.

The historic National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) park guidelines provide a benchmark that primarily framed level of service in terms of park land acres per capita. Traditionally, the application of numeric standards for parks has applied an acreage of park land per thousand residents as a target measurement for adopted standards. However, many communities are developing guidelines that are customized to their community and its unique and often changing park and recreation demands and needs. The use and application of standards continues to evolve and develop diverse approaches. This Plan evaluates the City's current park land level of service over a variety of characteristics and offers recommendations for a revised set of current and realistic standards.

Comparisons across other agencies and their jurisdictions provide benchmarks for determining the target park land acreage per thousand for St. George. NRPA's Park and Recreation Operating Ratio and Geographic Information System (PRORAGIS) data from 2015 offers comparisons of population density and developed parks with averages across all agencies and for each population density range. The average population density for St. George is 1,301 people per square mile, considered in the lower density range of 500-1,500 population per square mile. In this population density, the median level of service for developed parks is 12.1 acres per 1,000 persons. The level of service for St. George's developed parks (46 neighborhood & community parks totaling 549.9 acres) is currently 5.6 acres per thousand, significantly lower than the median for communities within a similar population density range.

Figure 19. PRORAGIS Level of Service Compared with Density of Population

		Population Density per square mile			
	All Agencies	Less than 500	500 to 1,500	1,501 to 2,500	Over 2,500
Lower Quartile	4.5 ac/1000	4.8 ac/1000	6.3 ac/1000	7.5 ac/1000	3.3 ac/1000
Median	9.9 ac/1000	9.9 ac/1000	12.1 ac/1000	12.9 ac/1000	6.4 ac/1000
Upper Quartile	17.5 ac/1000	17.3 ac/1000	19.9 ac/1000	20.6 ac/1000	13.5 ac/1000

St. George's current level of service is examined using the population data and the existing adopted service standards. The current park acreage standards for community parks is 6.0 acres per 1,000 population and 4.0 acres per 1,000 for neighborhood parks. In reviewing each park classification separately, the City is currently providing approximately 4 acres per 1,000 population for community parks (67% of the current standard). The resulting deficit of community park land citywide is 198 acres based on the current population.



That deficit may grow to nearly 500 acres by 2030 if no additional community park lands are acquired. For neighborhood parks, the City currently provides 1.7 acres per 1,000, approximately 40% of the current adopted standard. The current acreage deficit for neighborhood parks is 225 acres, which may grow to 425 acres if no additional neighborhood park lands are acquired. Figure 20 highlights the measurements for the City's current level of service (LOS) at these proposed current standards.

Figure 20. Current & Projected Level of Service (LOS) for Neighborhood & Community Parks

Classification	Existing Acreage	Current LOS (acres/1,000)	Current Demand	Current Need	Projected Demand (2030)	Projected Need (2030)
Community	390.0	4.0	588.2	198.2	888.3	498.3
Neighborhood	167.5	1.7	392.1	224.6	592.2	424.7
Total Core Parks	557.5	5.7	980.3	422.8	1,480.6	923.1

In reviewing the need for neighborhood and community parks as a combined standard (as core parks), the current park standard (10 acres per 1,000 combined core parks) is at 56%, with a combined deficit of 423 acres. Considering the continued and future growth of St. George and to ensure an adequate provision of park land for the community, additional park acreage will be needed for the estimated 2030 population of 148,056 residents. That population growth would trigger the need for 923 acres of new developed parks by 2030 to meet the current standard for 10 acres per 1,000 residents. Without an aggressive land acquisition strategy and coordination with the land development community, the level of service for park provision in St. George would drop to 3.7 acre per 1,000 by 2030.

Meeting these current adopted park acreage standards creates a seemingly insurmountable challenge for St. George and could over-extend its resources for developing and maintaining such an extensive park land system. In addition, St. George residents have immediate access to thousands of acres of regional, state and national public lands and their trail systems that extend outdoor recreation opportunities. For an urban park system, some adjustments to park acreage standards could be considered.

Revisions to Park Acreage Standards

In all, the existing, aggregate 10 acres per 1,000 population standard, while impressive, should be re-assessed given the large existing and projected acreage deficits and in the acknowledgement of existing and proposed residential development. Within City limits and as growth occurs, the population density will increase, and the competition for land acquisition and costs for real estate will increase. These factors, combined with limited financial resources for park acquisition within the city, make the targeted acreage to meet the 10 acres per 1,000 population highly improbable. While numeric standards are a useful tool to assess how well the City is delivering park and recreation services, the numeric values alone do not provide adequate recognition of the quality of the facilities or their distribution.

While public ownership of a broad range of recreation lands is crucial to the well-being of the City, the simple use of an overall acreage standard does not match with the citizen

input received during this planning process. Residents were particularly interested in the availability of trails and neighborhood and community parks within a reasonable distance from their homes. Acreage by itself does not necessarily provide for an adequate or satisfactory park system. Quality and access can add more value for contributing to health, recreation and community vitality in St. George. To more appropriately measure and target toward that desire, the service standards, and the resulting service snapshot, were re-evaluated and re-aligned during the development of this Plan.

This Plan proposes a decrease in the acreage standard for neighborhood and community parks to 5 acres per 1,000 people, primarily in response to the development pressure on available land and limited opportunity going forward for large acreage tracts. Community and neighborhood parks are the ‘work horse’ parks of the St. George park system inasmuch as they provide the land base to accommodate a range of mixed recreational uses, park infrastructure (i.e., parking, restroom, etc) and the potential for sport fields. As such, the City’s priority should be to secure adequately sized properties for neighborhood or community parks and maximize the recreational utility value of those sites for the future.

Figure 21 illustrates the affect to levels of service based on the proposed, revised standards.

Figure 21. Level of Service Measurements by Type Using Proposed Standards

Parkland Acreage (by Park Classification)	Community Parks		Neighborhood Parks	
Community Parks	390 acres			
Neighborhood			167.5 acres	
Total	390 acres		167.5 acres	
Level of Service	2018	2030	2018	2030
Proposed Service Standard	3.5 ac/1,000		1.5 ac/1,000	
Effective Level of Service based on total acreage (acres/1,000 residents)	3.98	2.63	1.71	1.13
Net LOS to Standard (acres/1,000 residents)	0.48	(0.87)	0.21	(0.37)
Performance to Standard	114%	75%	114%	75%
Acreage surplus (deficit)	46.90	(128.20)	20.46	(54.58)

No numeric standards are proposed for natural areas or open spaces. While numerical planning standards are common for helping to determine a desirable number of neighborhood and community park acres per thousand residents, they do not translate easily to natural areas because of the uniqueness of the land base itself. The City has been working to require developers to set aside tracts of land (or develop parks) through its land use regulations and development review process. The inclusion of future, protected sensitive areas will strengthen and expand the broader network of public and private natural areas and open spaces, particularly for greenways that can link the trail network. The priority for natural area acquisitions or the acceptance of open space dedications from developers should be focused toward those lands that expand ownership of adjacent City-owned properties, ensure preservation of those unique scenic landscapes that define St. George, and/or ensure sufficient property is available to accommodate public access and future trail connections.

Going Beyond Acreage Standards

Using a service standard for park acreage tied to a community's population provides a common measure for guiding the amount of desired park land. However, the acreage of park land per capita method and the investment per capita methods provide only a limited measure of the value of recreational access and park amenities in demand for public uses. As the St. George park system matures with increasing residential density, other assessment techniques should be considered going forward to gauge the community's need for additional lands, facilities and amenities.

Park Pressure

Park pressure refers to the potential demand on a park. One method of exploration examines the proximity of residential populations to a park and assumes that the residents in a 'parkshed' use the park closest to them and that people visit their closest park more often than those farther away. Using GIS, the 'parkshed' is defined by a polygon or a park service area containing all households having the given park as their closest park. The population within this park service area can then be calculated, providing an estimate of the number of nearby potential park users. The acreage of the subject park is then used to calculate the number of park acres available per 1,000 people within the parkshed. This measure of probable park use and population pressure identifies the adequacy of the park land (in acres per 1,000 residents) rather than simply the location and 'walkability' determined by the park accessibility metric. Depending on the amenities and attractions within the park, the higher the population within a parkshed will result in greater use and potential increased maintenance and wear and tear.

Park Amenity Mix

Providing unique outdoor experiences, while working to fulfill basic recreational park amenities, will result in parks with a variety of amenities. The variety and location of amenities available within a community's parks and recreational facilities will create a range of different preferences and levels of park usage by residents. Park systems should ensure an equitable distribution and quantity of the most common amenities like playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms, sports courts, sports field and trails to help distribute the potential usage of load on individual parks. Park planners should also consider that many park users, particularly families, look for a variety of amenities in a park that will provide a range of outdoor recreation activities for every visit.

Park Amenity Condition

In addition to understanding the quantity of park amenities, communities must also assess the condition of each park's general infrastructure and amenities. The condition or quality of park amenities is a key measure of park adequacy and a required assurance of public safety. General park infrastructure may include walkways, parking lots, restrooms, drainage and irrigation, lighting systems and vegetation. Amenities can include picnic shelters, play equipment, site furnishings, sports courts, sports fields and other recreational assets. Deferred maintenance over a long time period can result in unusable amenities when perceived as unsafe or undesirable by park patrons. Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines can also provide a measure of acceptable condition.

Park Distribution - Gap Analysis

St. George residents are fortunate to have great parks and trails, however, the access and distribution of these outdoor recreation assets is not provided evenly across the city, and as the city grows, equitable distribution of new parks for new communities will be essential. Understanding current gaps in the park system and evaluating the City's existing levels of service for parks will provide a foundation for strategic planning to ensure that tomorrow's residents have access to an equitable and distributed system of parks, trails and recreation amenities to stay healthy and active.

In 2014, the Trust for Public Lands produced the *City Park Facts Report*, which defines park access as the ability to reach a publicly owned park within a half-mile walk on the road network, unobstructed by freeways, rivers, fences and other obstacles. Walking distance is most commonly defined as a half-mile or a ten-minute walk. Of the 100 largest cities in the U.S. that have explicit park distance goals, over 60% use a half-mile measurement. Determining the 'walksheds' for a community's existing parks can reveal the gaps where residential areas have no public parks within reasonable walking distance. These gaps provide a measure of need to provide a more equitable distribution of park facilities. Identified gaps within the park system can become targets for future park land acquisition.

To better understand where acquisition efforts should be directed, a gap analysis of the park system was conducted to examine and assess the current distribution of parks throughout the city. The analysis reviewed the locations and types of existing facilities, land use classifications, transportation/access barriers and other factors as a means to identify preliminary acquisition target areas. In reviewing park land distribution and assessing opportunities to fill identified gaps, residentially zoned lands were isolated, since neighborhood and community parks primarily serve these areas.

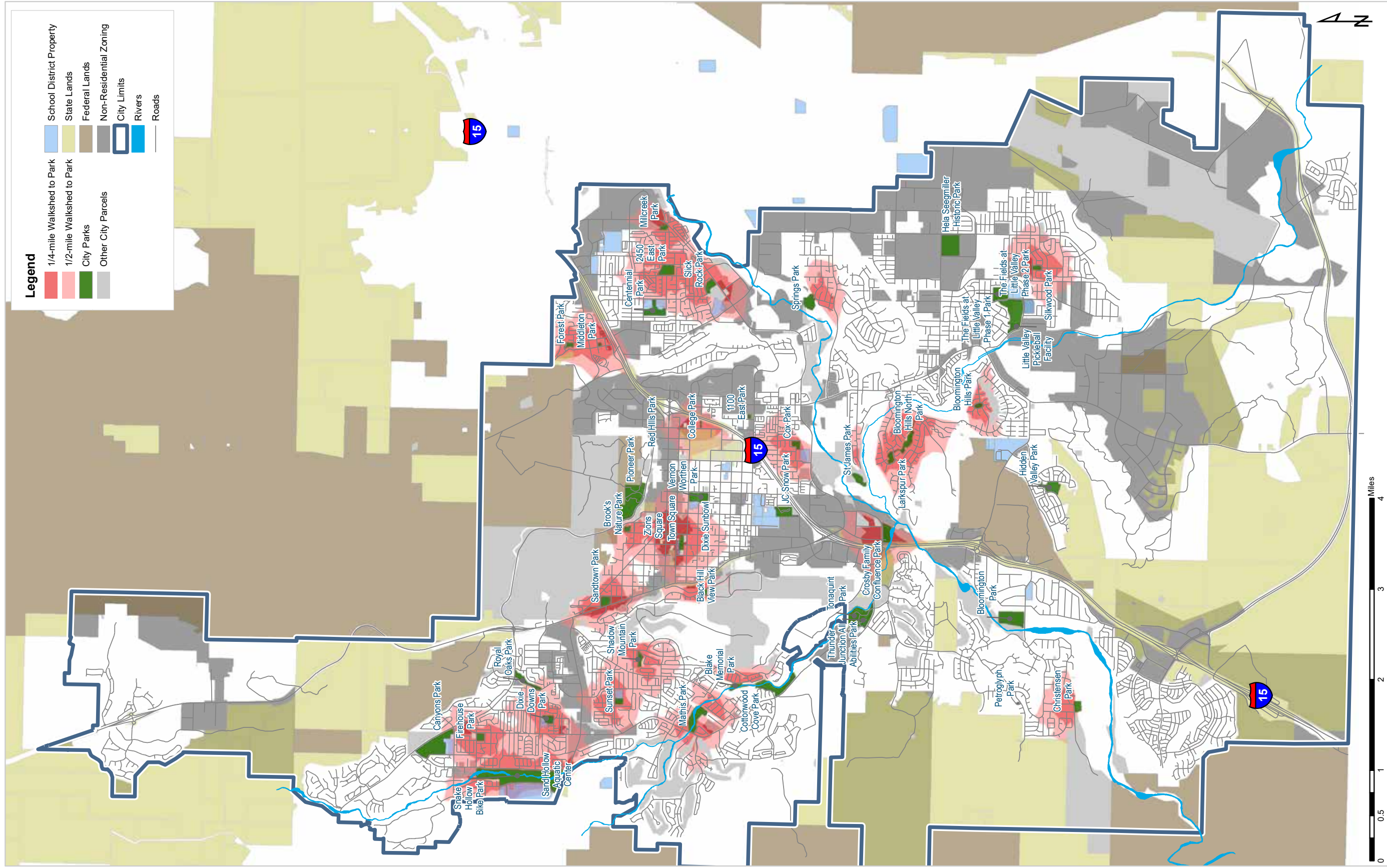
Additionally, walksheds were defined for neighborhood parks using a ¼-mile primary and ½-mile secondary service area with travel distances calculated along the road network starting from known and accessible access points at each park. Walksheds for community parks were derived using ¼-mile, ½-mile, and 1-mile and 2-mile travel distances to acknowledge that community parks serve a wider array of users and driving to such sites is typical.

Maps 2 through 5 illustrate the application of the distribution criteria from existing neighborhood and community parks. Areas in white do not have a public park within reasonable walking distance of their home. From the walkshed mapping, primary target areas for future community and neighborhood parks should become the focus of acquisition efforts.

In alignment with this assessment, potential acquisition areas are identified for future parks on the 2019 Park and Trail Master Plan (Map 6) and are noted in the Capital Improvements Plan section of this Plan. The map identifies 23 sites for future neighborhood parks and 8 sites for new community parks. An aggressive acquisition program must continue in St. George to capture opportunities for park sites that will diminish as residential growth continues to consume developable land. The City should continue to coordinate with proposed residential land development projects to consider when and how a public park can be incorporated into the planning of new residential communities.



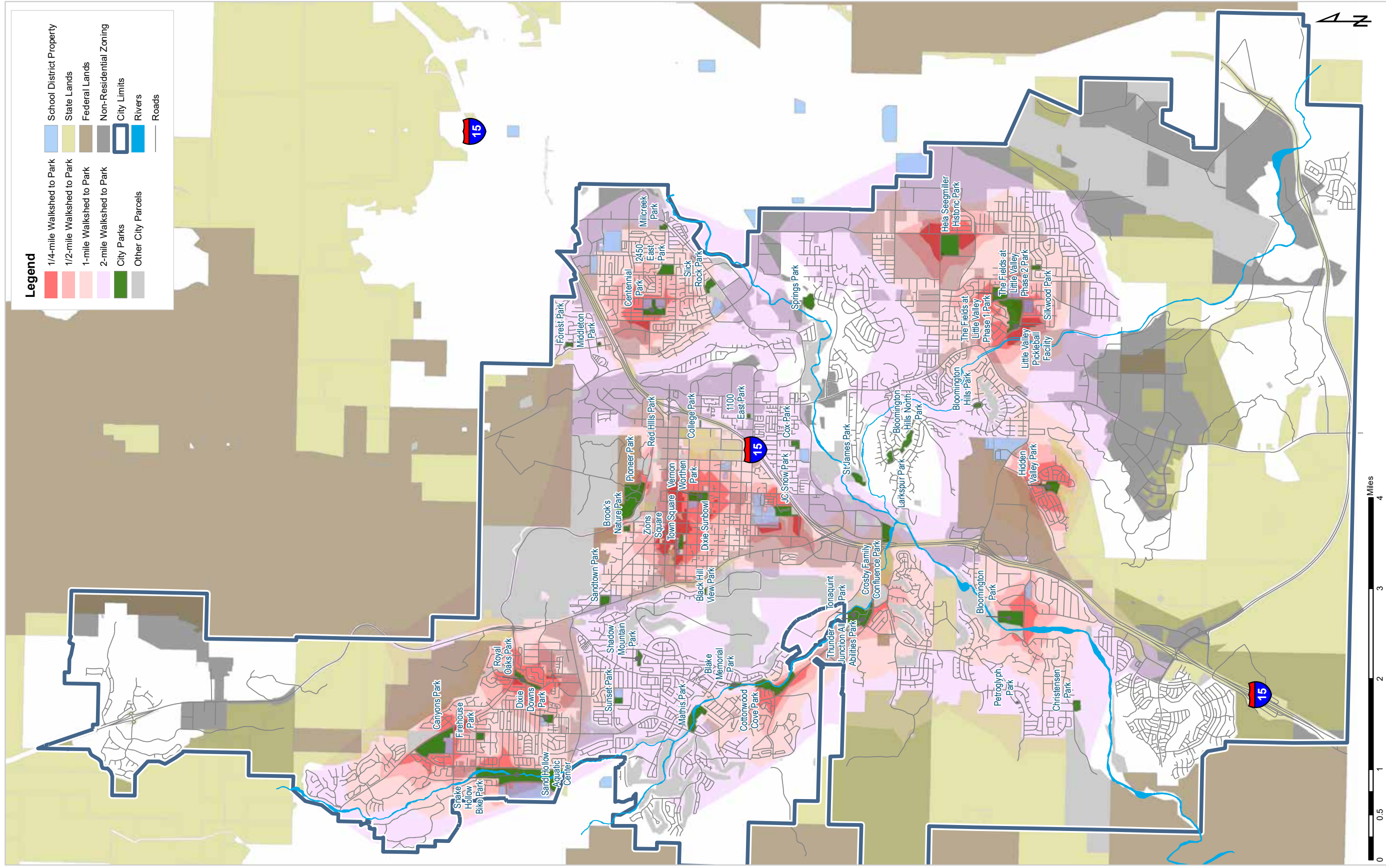
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Map 2: Park Walkshed Map (Neighborhood Parks)



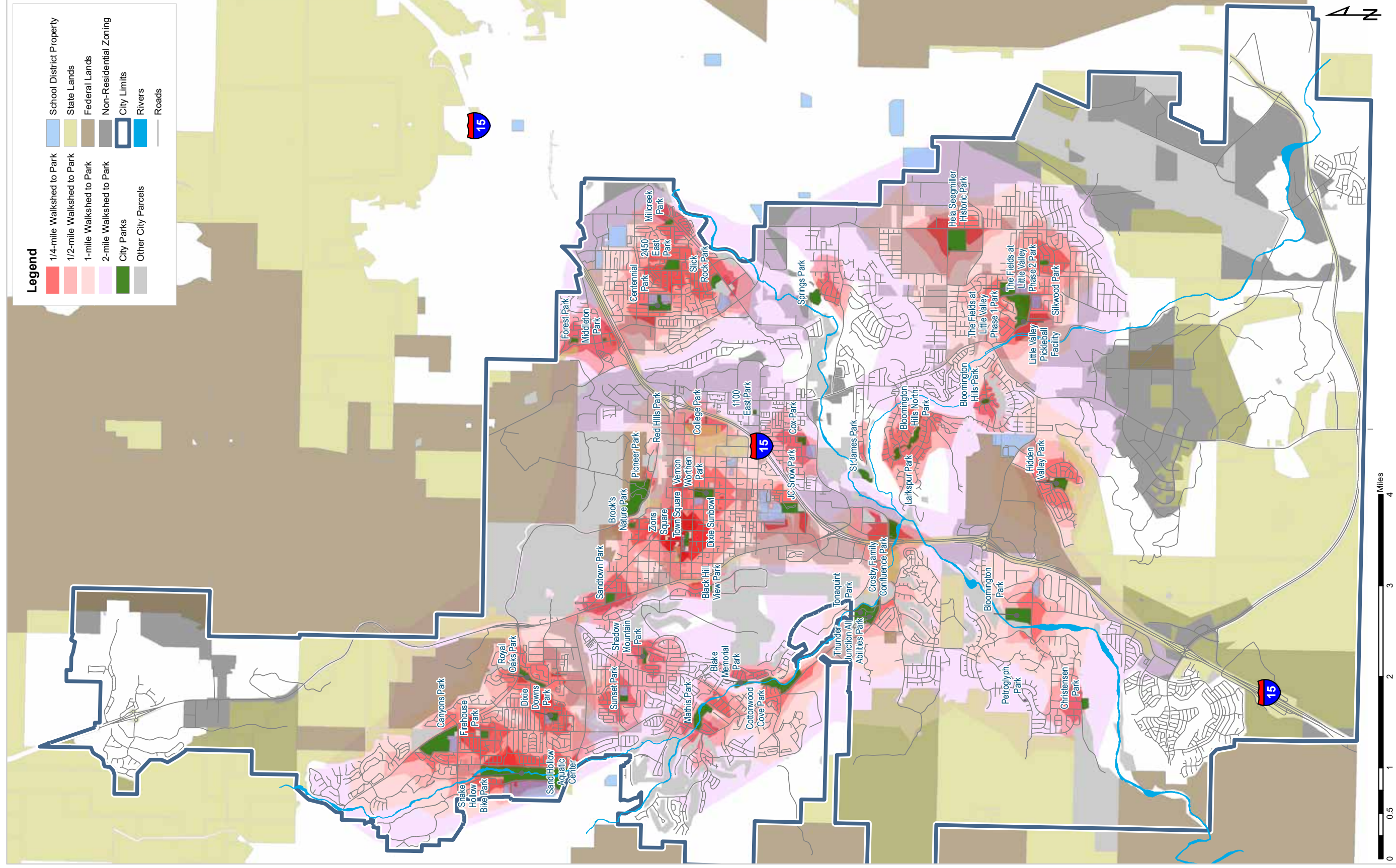
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Map 3: Park Walkshed Map (Community Parks)



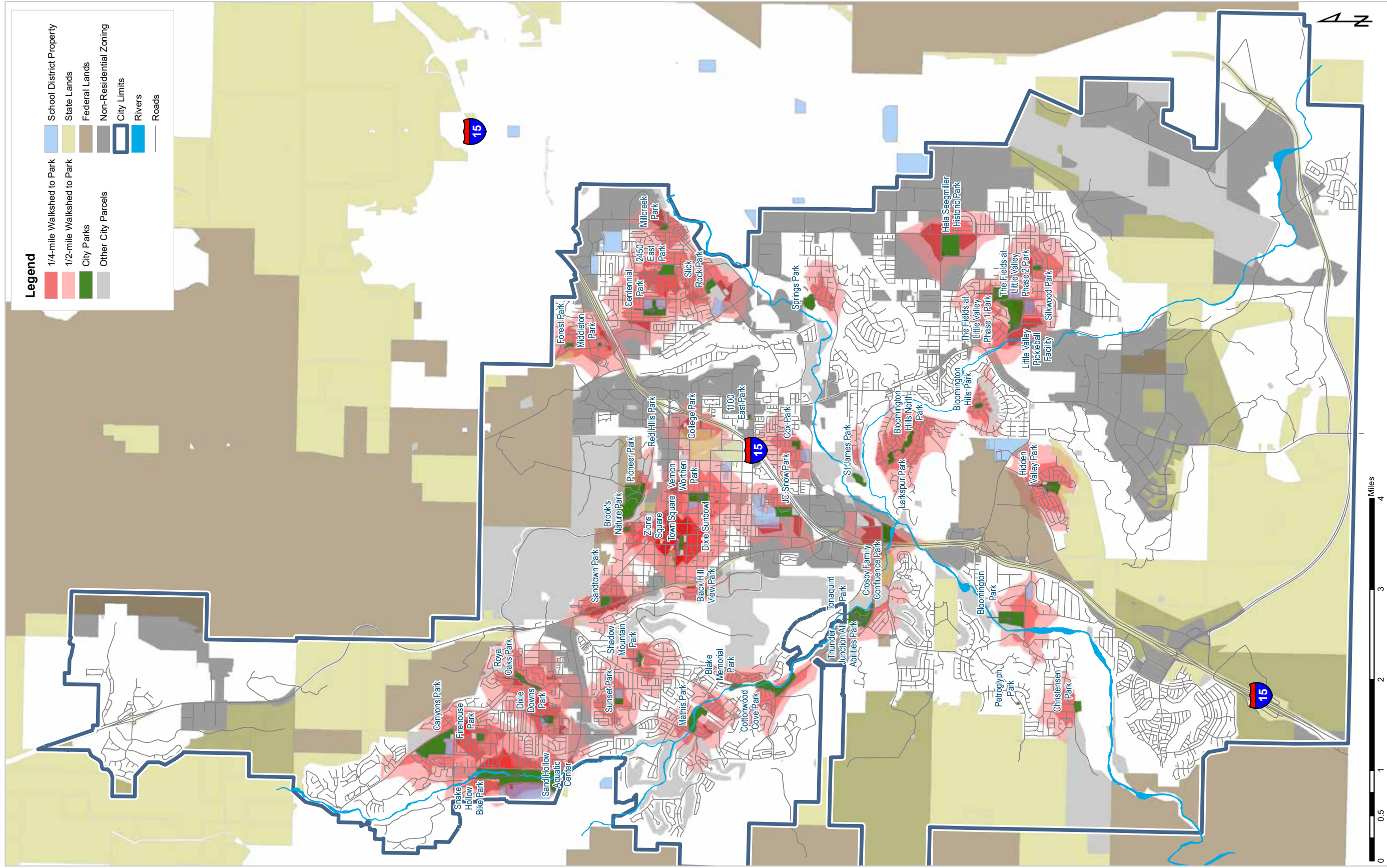
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Map 4: Park Walkshed Map (NH & COM Parks)



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Map 5: Park Walkshed Map (NH & COM Parks to 1/2-mile)



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Map 6: Park Acquisition Target Areas



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The recreation facilities and services available within St. George are a major community asset and support the physical, mental and social health of community members. The City currently offers or promotes programming, including fitness, education and general interest classes, outdoor recreation, day camps and special events to reflect the wide ranging diversity of the St. George community.

The City of St. George operates several major community facilities, including the Sand Hollow Aquatic Center, Recreation Center, and both are heavily used for programs. Recent conversations with community members suggest a strong interest in expanding, or having access to additional recreation facilities and program offerings, especially for youth, teens and active adults.

CURRENT TRENDS & PERSPECTIVES

National and Regional Trends

The 2018 State of the Managed Recreation Industry Report

Recreation Management magazine's 2018 State of the Managed Recreation Industry report summarizes the opinions and information provided by a wide range of professionals (with an average 21.3 years of experience) working in the recreation, sports and fitness facilities.



Respondents from community centers, parks and health clubs were the most likely to report that they had plans to add programs at their facilities over the next few years. The 10 most commonly planned program additions in 2018 include:

1. Fitness programs (planned by 25.9% of those who will be adding programs)
2. Educational programs (25.7%)
3. Mind-body balance programs (23.3%)
4. Teen programs (22.7%)
5. Environmental education (20.7%)
6. Day camps and summer camps (20.3%)
7. Special needs programs (18.9%)
8. Adult sports teams (18.5%)
9. Holidays and other special events (18.3%)
10. Individual sports activities (17.5%)

Relative to costs and revenues, few facilities covered by the industry report survey reported that they cover more than 90 percent of their operating costs via revenue. The percentage recovered varied with type of organization with the average percentage of costs recovered for all respondents hovering near 50%. For parks, the cost recovery rate increased from 43.4 % to 43.9 % from 2017 to 2018.

Over the past decades, public parks and recreation departments and districts have faced a growing expectation that facilities can be run like businesses. Many local facilities are expected to recover much of their operating costs via revenues. While this is the business model for for-profit facilities like health clubs, it's a relatively recent development for publicly owned facilities, which have typically been subsidized via tax dollars and other funding sources. Most recreation providers (80.5%) have been taking actions to reduce expenditures. Cost recovery actions typically involve reduction in expenses with improving energy efficiency as the most common action (48.3% of respondents). Increased fees and staffing cost reductions and putting off construction or renovation plans were reported as other common methods for reducing operating costs.

2018 Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report

Prepared by a partnership of the Sports and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) and the Physical Activity Council (PAC), this 2018 participation report establishes levels of activity and identifies key trends in sports, fitness, and recreation in the US. The largest focus of activities continues to be toward fitness sports. Winter sports gained the most of all categories, increasing 2% over the last year. The interest in activities has started moving toward outdoor recreation. The top aspirational activity for all age segments was outside, ranging from camping to biking to bird watching.

Fitness sports/activities continues to have the highest participation rates; having 64% of the US population ages 6 and over engaging in activities like running/jogging, high intensity/impact training, row machines, and swimming. Outdoor activities remained second but was flat from 2016; seeing a increase in day hiking and backpacking, but lost participants in canoeing and adventure racing.

While age clearly affects how often someone participates, what they do can also be age dependent. Young kids, ages 6 to 17, who tend to be more active overall, focus on team sports and outdoor activities. While Boomers prefer fitness activities, especially low impact such as aquatic exercise, cycling, and walking. Millennials are more likely than the other generations to participate in water sports, such as stand up paddling, boardsailing, and surfing.

Inactivity rates remain higher than 10 years ago despite the promotion of the benefits of an active lifestyle. Over a quarter of the US population (ages 6 and over) did not participate in even the lowest caloric activity in 2017. Trends continue to show how income affects inactivity. Generally, the affluent are getting more active while the less affluent are becoming more inactive.

Despite aspirations to become more active, the biggest influence on engaging more participants is having a friend or family member to take part in the physical activity. First time participation depends on who you are doing it with more than if you have the time.

Outdoor Recreation Trends from “The Leading Edge”

The 2015 spring/summer issue of The Leading Edge offers additional insights from local park and recreation agency trends in sports and fitness. Pickleball is the most mentioned recreational sport that has been added to community facilities. Additional trends include smaller and simple sports activities that require less infrastructure and lower user intensity levels. Mini-soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Baggo (a bean-bag toss game, ladder toss and more casual sports like kickball, wiffle ball, hula hoops and dodgeball. Other emerging sports are foot golf, disc golf, sport climbing and archery. One of the biggest new trends is “wearable technology” in the form of fitness trackers and smartwatches. These biometric measuring devices will eventually impact recreation programs with new opportunities in the future.

Trends in Community Recreation Facilities

In the April 2015 article of Athletic Business, trends in campus fitness and recreation center programming showed that recreation centers regularly produce better-than-expected numbers of annual memberships and daily visitors. Fitness center space allocations are examining building components that are deemed “low cost, high occupancy” as the most cost effective facility amenities. Over the past decade there has been a resurgence in more individual fitness activities (over team sports). The rise of functional training has accelerated with the emergence of suspension training, CrossFit and other similar programs.

Another change in the recreation center environment is the administrative demand for flexibility; square footage must be able to offer multiple functions. The more versatile the space, the more that space can serve additional participants and programs. Accommodating this flexibility requires investment in facilities by boosting the technological capabilities of a multipurpose space to change quickly as well as an increase in dedicated storage space. A strong business plan helps guide this space allocation decision.

As the technological capabilities of rec centers continue to grow, the individual fitness participant is now using tools to track their progress and fitness improvement. Some future trends may directly link fitness tracking to health providers and health insurance companies. Across the range of rec center facilities, 70% identified the most needed additional activity space as weight and fitness space. Group exercise studios were a close second activity space need identified by 65% of rec centers. Cardio equipment exercise equipment areas remain the highest demand for needed space.

In 2018, Recreation Management also looked at trends in community recreation centers through its Industry Report survey. On average, community center respondents said



they reach a population of 68,580 people and the primary audience for their facilities is all ages. The majority (85.8%) of community center respondents have partnered with other organizations, typically, local school, non-profit organizations, local government, local or corporate business and healthcare facilities. Revenues for 47.6% of community center respondents have increased from 2016 to 2017 with expectations for continuing increases over the next two annual cycles. On average, community center respondents recover 57.4% of their operating costs via revenue. Most centers also report that they have taken action to reduce operating costs over the past year. Plans for construction are being considered by 68.2% of respondents through new facilities (15%), additions to existing facilities (29.9%) and renovations (45.8%). Some 42.1% of community center respondents plan to add features at their facilities over the next three years. The 10 most commonly planned features include:

- Splash play areas
- Exercise studios
- Outdoor sports courts
- Fitness trails & outdoor fitness equipment
- Climbing walls
- Fitness centers
- Playgrounds
- Synthetic turf sports fields
- Walking & hiking trails
- Park shelters

Other General Recreation Programming Trends

It is important to understand some of the trends that are being seen nationally with recreation programming over the last 10 years and how that might impact St. George. However, it should be noted that each community is unique, and the region of the country has a strong bearing on trends and other operational factors. Some of the keys to providing recreation programs and services include:

Programming Philosophy

Essential to developing a comprehensive recreation program is strong administrative oversight of the process. It starts with the development of an overall philosophy that will direct any programming efforts by the City and determine the role of other providers. The philosophy should emphasize areas of focus by age group as well as program areas and also prioritize future program development options. As part of the programming philosophy a determination must be completed regarding which programs and services will be offered directly by parks and recreation staff and which will be contracted to other individuals or organizations.

Program Plan

Based on the recreation program philosophy, the Department should develop a well-conceived plan for the delivery of recreation services. This plan should take into consideration the future direction of recreation services in the City along with the primary role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There needs to be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation.

Staffing

In order to continue to grow the number of recreation programs and services that are offered to the community, adequate staffing is necessary to not only conduct the program itself but also to supervise and administer the activities of others. With staffing costs being the single greatest expense item for the parks and recreation department, attempt to minimize the number of full-time staff by continuing to contract for programs or partner with other providers for services for most programs. However, even with this approach, there still needs to be adequate full-time staff to oversee and coordinate such efforts. Part-time staff is still the backbone of most recreation departments and make up the vast majority of program leaders and instructors. Many departments have converted program instructors to contract employees with a split of gross revenues (usually 70% to the instructor and 30% to the city) or developed a truer contract for services that either rents facilities and/or shares a percentage of the gross from another organization.

Program Development Trends

Specific programming development trends include the following:

- Developing programs that are single day or no more than 4 sessions at a time.
- Developing programs for youth during non-school days, Christmas break, spring break and any other extended breaks.
- Providing a variety of summer camp options.
- Offering more Saturday programs and the introduction of some Sunday programming (especially in adult sports leagues).
- Introducing programs that are oriented toward specific ethnic groups.
- Developing a baseline of programs that appeal to the family unit.
- Staggering the days and times of similar programs that are offered at multiple locations.
- Bundling of programs for youth and adults so classes are offered at similar times.
- Offering more drop-in based, pay as you go classes, especially for fitness.
- Expanding senior programming to include a greater focus on the Baby Boomer generation which often means programs and services that are available in the evenings and on weekends (since many younger seniors still work), as well as more active based programs.

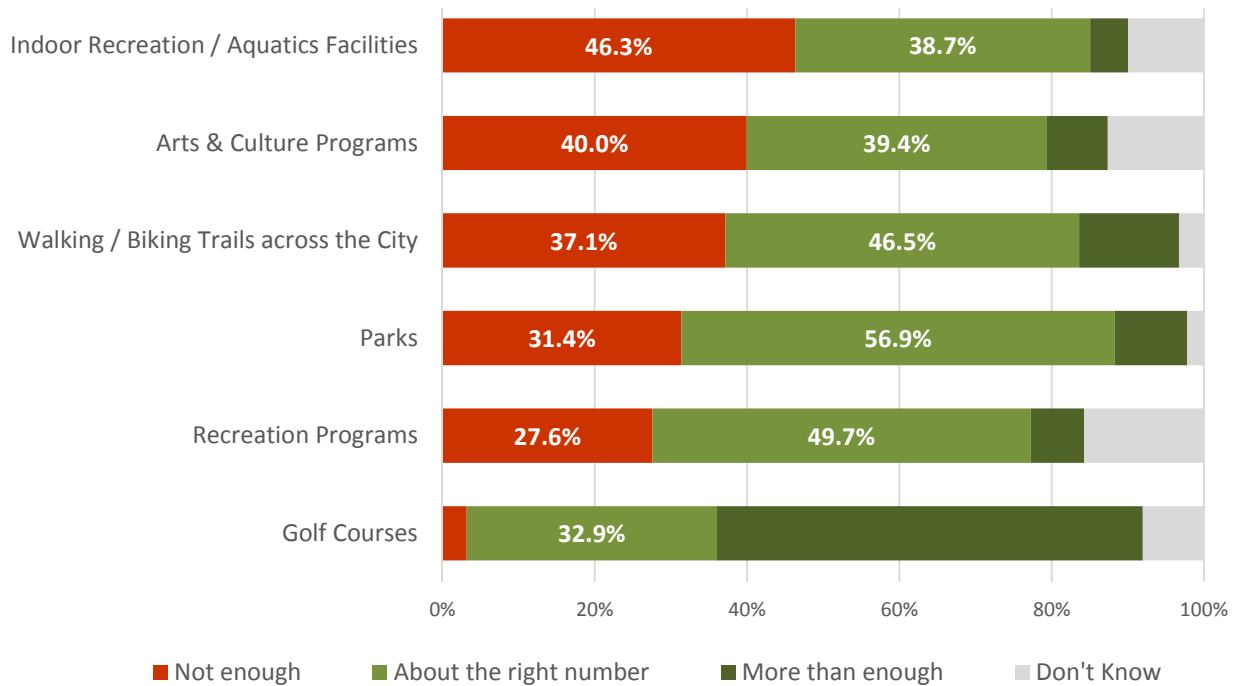
Local Feedback & Interests

Community Survey

The community survey conducted as part of this Plan included one key question pertaining to recreation programs.

Regarding the need for additional indoor recreation facilities and recreation programs, a plurality of respondents feel there are 'not enough' of indoor recreation/aquatics facilities (47%) and arts and culture programs (40%) in St. George. Majorities of respondents feel that the City has "more than enough" or "about the right number" of recreation programs (57%). However, about one-third feel that there are not enough programs or events in the area. There were essentially no differences in responses by age group, geography or households with children. The only demographic subgroup that indicated a minor difference of opinion was the respondents from the subarea that includes Middleton, Panorama and Pine View, who feel there are more than enough parks (19.2% versus 12.5% across all geographies).

Figure 22. Relative Priorities for Recreation Facilities & Programs



When identifying recreation program priorities, a majority of respondents (73.6%) noted a need for a performing arts center. A second tier set of programming needs included enrichment, fitness and education classes. Program types with the highest level of needs being met included youth sports and afterschool programs. One area showing a large gap in need (38%) is for specialized programs focusing on outdoors, such as canoeing, climbing, archery and adventure sports.

Figure 23. Programs & Activities of Interest

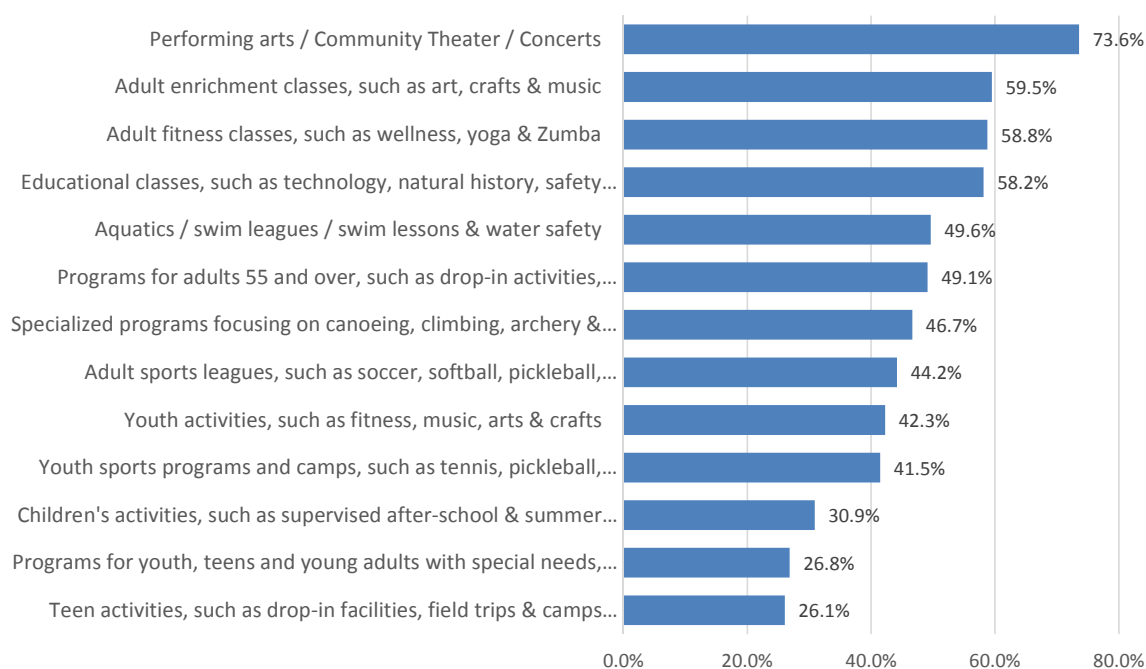
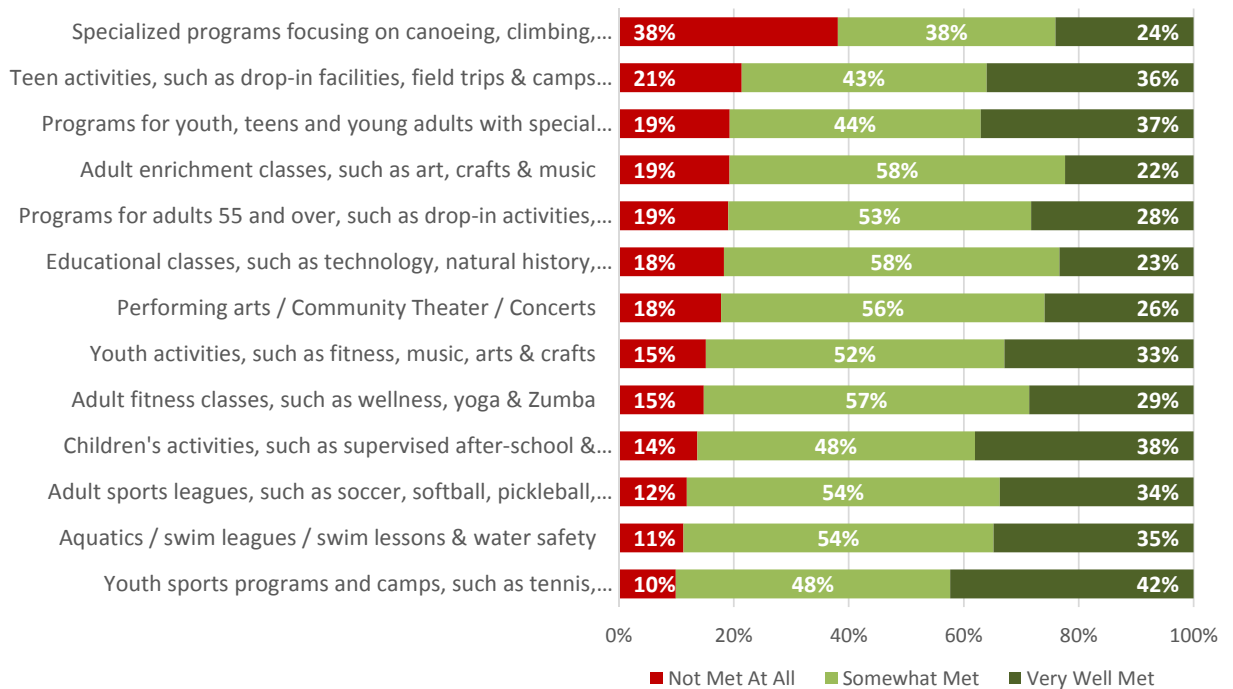


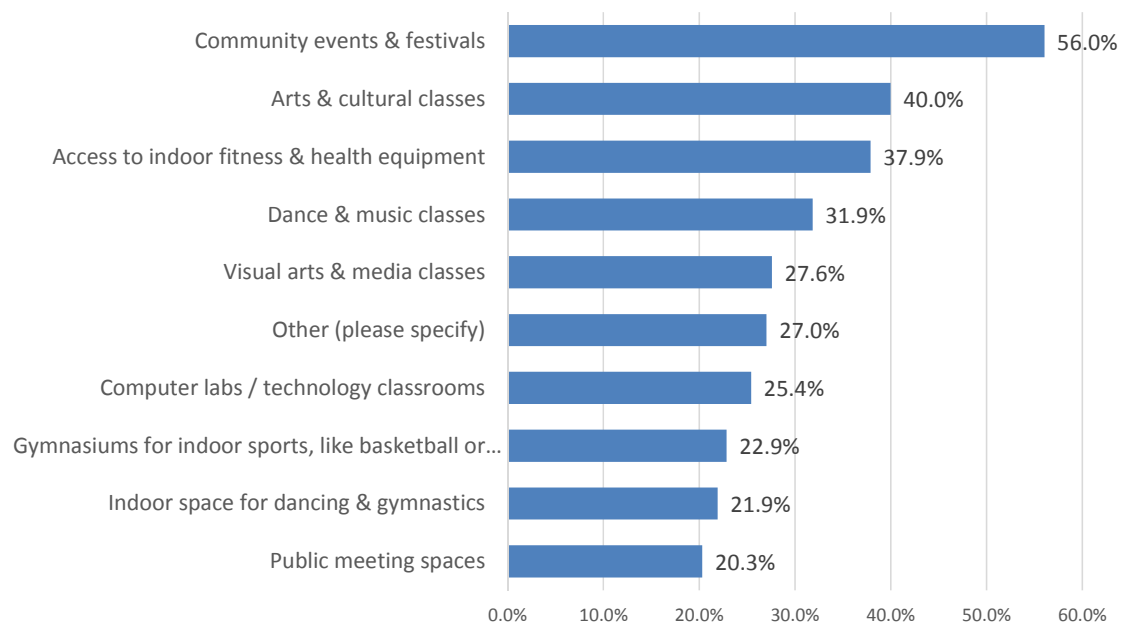
Figure 24. How Well Needs Are Met Locally for Each Program or Activity



In consideration of the affordability of recreation programs, the majority of survey respondents (75%) feel that City recreation programs are inexpensive or fairly priced.

With regard to program options people think the City should expand or improve, a majority of respondents voiced interest in additional community events and festivals (56%). Respondents also showed strong interest in arts and cultural classes and access to indoor fitness equipment.

Figure 25. How Well Needs Are Met Locally for Each Program or Activity



Public Open House Input

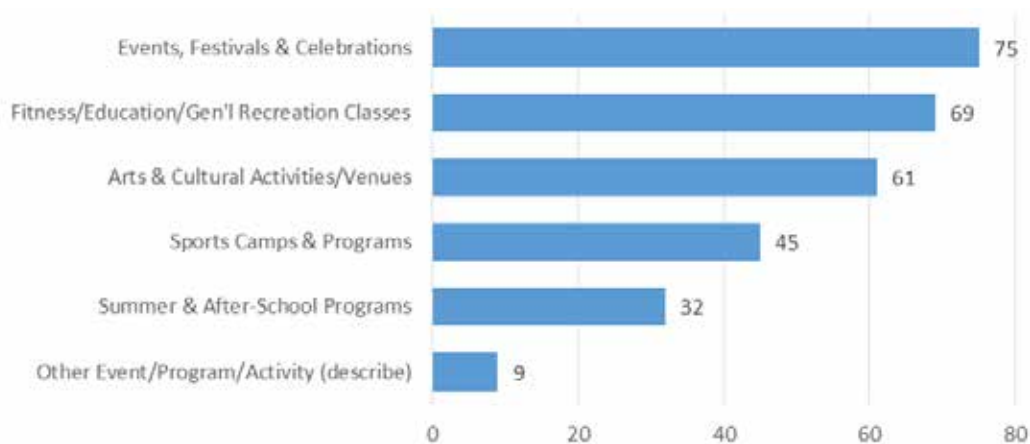
A table-based exercise was conducted with attendees to explore arts, events and programming. Attendees were asked to note their ideas about what is missing or needs to be added / expanded to improve local options for arts and activities. Figure 26 represents the top ten grouped topics, based on the number of ‘dots’ scored for each.

Figure 26. Recreation Program Preference Results from September Open House

	Item	Frequency
1.	Festivals	31
2.	Performing Arts Center	24
3.	Recreation / Community Center	16
4.	Arts/Culture Venues	13
5.	Activities / Programs	11
6.	First Friday	9
7.	Communication / Information	9
8.	Lawn Bowling Tournaments & Classes	8
9.	Cultural & Heritage	6
10.	Beer at events	3

Attendees also were asked to rank priorities for recreation programs and facilities. Highest ranking priorities for Arts, Culture and Recreation included events & festivals and fitness/ education/ general recreation.

Figure 27. Top Priorities Identified for St. George Parks and Recreation



Sports Focus Group Discussion

Selected representatives were gathered on September 11th from a broad range of sports-related groups including youth football, City recreation, lacrosse, soccer, pickleball, bicycling, lawn bowling, and baseball/softball to discuss the parks’ master plan and offer specific considerations for future facilities and programming. Participants shared their current challenges facing their sports programs and their specific needs for accommodating trends in recreation. The group also shared their expertise on the value of synthetic turf fields, facilities that can host tournament play and the effect of sports tournament facilities on tourism and regional economic activity. More specific details from the discussion are included in the sports stakeholder memo in the Appendix.

SUMMARY OF CURRENT OFFERINGS

General Recreation

St. George's recreation services are a major civic asset that support the physical, mental, and social health of the community. The St. George Recreation division is and should remain the primary provider of recreational programs in the community. The City currently offers a variety of programming, including fitness, sports, swimming, outdoor recreation, day camps, creative movement and a variety of other programs and special events for all ages.

There have been steady increases in local youth sports and more local residents using City programs. Recreation staff noted that there has been strong growth in recent years for gymnastics and tumbling, youth volleyball (35% in 2017, 56% in 2018), baseball (20%), and basketball.

Recreation Center

The St. George Recreation Center provides a quality recreation and fitness experience for the citizens and visitors of our community. The facility offers a variety of activities that include fitness and exercise, racquetball, basketball, volleyball, aerobics, arts such as pottery and lapidary, and other opportunities in a family-oriented environment for all ages. Renovations to the Recreation Center should be considered to improve the functionality of the facility and explore options to increase the capacity of indoor, programmable space.

Given limited availability of indoor recreation facilities in the city, the division should explore unique and traditional methods, including mutually-beneficial partnerships, to obtain recreation venues that help connect residents with options to learn and recreate.

Future Recreation Center Needs

Interest and participation in the City's recreation programs are increasing annually. However, the number and types of activities the City can offer in its facilities are limited by a lack of facility capacity. Although school facilities provide additional activity space and while existing private gyms should be taken into consideration, additional recreation, fitness and community space is needed at affordable rates to promote wellness, active recreation and social engagement.

Traditional standards for service demand for recreation centers are based on a population benchmark, with the idea that one recreation center could be supported by a population of 40,000. With the City's current population and projected growth, at least one new center should be planned and constructed in coming ten years.

To meet this need, the City should pursue a multi-use indoor facility to enable comprehensive recreation programs for St. George residents. Such a facility would allow the City to control facility design, programming, scheduling and fees to more effectively meet community needs. Development of an indoor recreation facility requires extensive planning, including a feasibility analysis, appropriate site, and management and operation plans, as well as exploration of potential financial and programming partnerships. The



facility should include gymnasiums, classrooms and multifunctional rooms, and fitness rooms. The facility may also include civic space (i.e., library, city service center/offices, senior center, etc.) or other leasable office space depending on the potential to secure funding partners with interest in co-locating at the facility.

Partnerships may be necessary to offset development and operational costs. The Department should take the lead role in soliciting assistance from other agencies and organizations, as needed. Potential partners may include the school district, Washington County, nearby and Dixie State University.

Aquatics

The City of St. George is a primary provider of indoor, water-based sports and instruction. The Recreation division has a strong aquatics program, with an emphasis on lessons, competitive and recreational swimming, water exercise, and health and safety programs. The Aquatics program offers open and lap swim, along with youth and adult swim lessons, lifeguard training and water aerobics.

Sand Hollow Aquatics Center

The Sand Hollow Aquatics Center (SHAC) is an indoor, state-of-the art, year-round aquatic facility which includes a 25 meter by 25 yard competition and diving pool and a 5,800 square foot leisure pool. The leisure pool has a zero depth entry area, interactive children's water fun toys, a water walk (lily pads) and water slides. SHAC programs include swimming lessons, party rentals, water aerobics, swimming competitions, and other community events such as dive-in movies.

City Swimming Pool

The City Swimming Pool is the city's only outdoor pool and hydrotube facility which operates seasonally from Memorial Day through Labor Day each year. Program options at this pool include swimming lessons, party rentals and community events such as dive-in movies.

Future Aquatic Facility Needs

The SHAC has limited parking and would benefit from a second entrance. The original design for the facility included additional phases, including a recreation center component. The City should continue to explore the potential to build out the SHAC to expand capacity for aquatics and other recreation programs. Other improvements could include stadium seating for swim meets and on-site storage for inflatables and reels for lane lines. Additional space for staff operations and areas for lifeguard trainings and birthday parties would also improve the function of the facility.

The City Swimming Pool is 40+ years old. Due to the age of this pool, the City should continue to monitor the performance of the mechanical systems, decking and pool lining. The City should explore options for upgrading the facility to accommodate use year-round, either as an open-air heated outdoor pool or with the addition of a removable

inflatable cover. The City should do an analysis to determine the future for this facility, given its age, location and relation to the high school, as well as explore whether the school district has a need and use for this site.

Potential Competition from Private Water Park

For some time, there has been talk of a private, for-profit aquatic facility being located in St. George. The Splash City Adventure Water Park began construction in 2019. The development of this project might create challenges for the City's existing aquatic programs, but likely not from a direct impact to attendance, but rather that the private facility would be competitive from a staffing perspective. Local youth might not be motivated to work for City if the economy is strong and other opportunities exist in the private market. Without sufficient staffing, the SHAC might face a capacity issue for the facility and loss of revenue (e.g., without adequate staffing at aquatic center, the facility can't run at capacity). The City should continue to watch for the development of a private aquatic facility and explore options to adjust and address the human resources impacts.

Splash Pads

Splash pads are water play features that are very popular and provide a means of integrating aquatics into parks at a relatively low cost. The expressed desire for more splash pads and water spray parks from the survey and public meetings indicates the recreational need for water play during the hot summer months. The popularity around the Town Square water features demonstrates the community interest in such facilities. St. George should consider at least two more splash pads to accommodate the local need and locate them for equitable distribution across the city. Depending on the design and functionality, these amenities can draw significant numbers of visitors to the park; therefore, the siting of such a facility should consider access to parking and public restrooms.

Athletics

Adult Sports is responsible for the creation, promotion, and administration of adult sports such as indoor and outdoor volleyball, basketball and flag football, as well as youth sports such as soccer, basketball, baseball, softball and flag football. The City aims to provide programs that are not otherwise provided by local community businesses or volunteer organizations, with a mission to provide safe and high-quality programs for the youth and adults of St. George.

The Recreation Division also is responsible for the creation, promotion, and management of both softball leagues and softball tournaments at the City's Canyons Complex, Little Valley Fields Complex and Bloomington Park fields. League events include both a spring and fall league with men, women and co-ed divisions with a participation of approximately 300 teams. Softball tournaments are held throughout the year with a projection of hosting approximately 20 tournaments, with about 675 teams participating annually. While programming for tournaments has been very successful for St. George, the extent of existing tournaments and large events may need to be re-balanced to respond to growing concerns about the localized impacts on residents.

Sport Facility Improvements

- Accommodating sport clubs and tournaments on existing city fields has become more challenging over the years. The City may need explore where to site additional baseball fields to address current demand.
- As parks are designed and developed, the City should continue to explore softball/soccer field overlay designs for how field overlays might help maximize space usage for fields. The City should consider artificial turf to increase use and reduce maintenance and water use.
- The installation of portable fencing for fields (e.g., sportafence) could help enable and manage for multiple use fields and add flexibility. Storage areas for fencing would be required.
- Consider the installation of field lighting to add capacity, especially for soccer.
- The City should continue to monitor the condition, investment needs and usage rates of various field facilities to best plan for long-term maintenance and capital needs.
- Field usage policies should be reassessed on a regular basis to ensure they continue to meet the needs of the City, user groups and neighbors.
- Field usage fees should also be updated periodically – and when significant field improvements are made - to address cost recovery and equity objectives.
- As parks are designed and developed, the City should install additional tennis courts (3-4 more sites with courts). Tournaments could be accommodated with more courts.
- The City should install sun shades for sport courts, especially for pickleball. Pickleball at Little Valley is heavily used in part because of the design – people can sit, socialize, and be in the shade, which allows for more and longer use of facilities.

Xtreme / Adventure Sports Park

The City also should consider the future development of an Outdoor Recreation Center that could focus on alternative sports, including ziplines, aerial challenges, bouldering walls or outdoor parkour features. Depending on the characteristics of the site, such a park also could contain an education center for water sports, an off leash dog area or other amenities to draw a variety of users to activate the site. Such a site could also accommodate storage for kayaks, canoes and climbing gear and include classrooms, maintenance area and a ropes course. Parking and restroom facilities should be provided with a development project of this nature.

Special Needs

It is often difficult for recreation agencies to have significant special needs programs. As a result, recreation departments often offer these programs in partnership with local or regional jurisdictions and service agencies in order to provide high-quality, cost-effective programs. While the City's direct programming for the local special needs population is limited, the Department should strive to provide a robust number of programming, events and activities that are inclusive and accessible to all residents. The City should also provide more programs and amenities to accommodate users with disabilities and make facilities more accommodating (i.e., harness to help special needs users get into their swimsuits at pool venues) and continue to look for ways to employ those with special needs, as it does now at Thunder Junction.

Marathon & Special Events

The City hosts the annual St. George Marathon which is held during the first weekend of October. The St. George Marathon is over 40-years old and is rated as one of the most scenic and fastest marathons in the USA. It attracts approximately 7,800 runners from all over the United States and other countries and is also a Boston-marathon qualifier.

The Special Events program area provides many community events for citizens of all ages. Events include running races, skate boarding, skim boarding, rugby, 4th of July activities and many other events.

Community and special events should continue to be an area of emphasis. Special events draw communities together, attract visitors from outside the community and are popular with residents. However, due to resource requirements of coordinating special events, the overall growth in the number of events should be carefully managed. This will ensure the City can adequately invest in its overall recreational offerings and maintain high-quality special events. The recent reorganization by the City to combine Special Events with the Arts should help address the number and quality of events. If the City decides to offer more events, it should obtain sponsorships to offset costs and develop a series of seasonal activities.

FUTURE PROGRAMMING DIRECTIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the information in the previous sections, the following are future directions and recommendations for the City of St. George in the delivery of recreation programs and services.

Program Development & Assessment

The Leisure Services Department has demonstrated its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. The Recreation division has strong record keeping regarding recreation programs and registration and attendance numbers, and it has a solid track record of collecting data from program users and the general public to both evaluate existing offerings and explore the potential of new programs. Staff should periodically review data from the following sources to determine community needs for programs and services:

- Historical registration trends/success of current programs and services
- Surveys and questionnaires
- Focus groups
- Utah SCORP
- Suggestions provided by current instructors and current employees
- Suggestions submitted by prospective instructors/employees



Staff should continue to evaluate and assess the City's program offerings and prioritize future programs based on a mix of criteria that include:

- Current or potential importance for community-wide or broad individual benefit,
- Community needs or deficiencies,
- Potential for increased participation, and
- Revenue potential, affordability and accessibility.

Also, the City should create a Recreation Program Plan and realign program offerings as necessary to meet the needs of the community and optimize facility usage. The Program Plan should be updated biennially, with major reassessments on a 5-year window. The program plan should identify the priorities for program development, the responsible staff member and the required resources for each major program area.

Programming Administration

- Develop a Programming Philosophy that details how the City will deliver recreation programs and services in the future.
- Develop a Program Plan for recreation services. This plan needs to take into consideration the needs of the community, the role of City, and the expectations and role of other organizations and recreation providers in the area. There should be clearly identified areas of programmatic responsibility to ensure that there is not overlap in resource allocation or that gaps in services are not present.
- Develop and monitor a cost recovery plan and establish initial cost recovery targets by major program area that is linked to periodic fee adjustments.
- Determine and track actual costs and revenues generated by each special event that is offered by the Division. Determine total number of attendees when possible.
- Act as a "clearinghouse" for recreation programs and services provided by others and collaborate with non-profits. This may involve promotion of their activities, coordinating of some programs, and scheduling of facilities.
- Match recreation programming efforts with staff and financial resources. Recognize that increasing the role of the City in providing programs will require an increase in staff and other resources. As a result, the program plan should be developed incrementally with small steps being taken at a time that does not require significant staff or budgetary resources to accomplish.



St. George has a rich heritage and a natural affinity for the expression of art through a wide variety of applications and engagement. The vibrant, local arts culture brings the community together through events, festivals, exhibits and programs, while enriching lives and adding economic value to the community.

The assessment and recommendations described in this chapter provide only a high level view of the arts and cultural activities within and influencing the St. George community. This discussion is not intended to include all artistic or cultural programs, rather it offers a summary of needs reflected by active organizations supporting creative endeavors that are seeking to expand the availability of arts and culture programs for St. George. The assessment was derived from input received throughout the planning process, from city staff and officials, Arts Commission, non-profit and arts organizations, community members and stakeholders.

ARTS & CULTURE IN ST. GEORGE

The City of St. George supports and sponsors successful arts programs through their Community Arts Division and with a variety of supporting facilities, including the Pioneer Center for the Arts, St. George Art Museum, Dinosaur Discovery Site, Electric Theater, and Opera House and Social Hall.

The Arts Commission makes recommendations to City Council and assists with policy planning for art and cultural programming and facility support. The Commission works to support arts activities and education in local schools and throughout the community. A key component of their work is their involvement in assuring the availability of grant monies and matching funding for art activities, including city general fund arts grants and the county RAP Tax grants to fund art, cultural activities, programs and organization in the community. The Arts Commission also stays connected with state and federal agencies and councils that provide assistance to the arts.

The City of St. George has a broad array of community arts organizations and programming that support the exposure, enjoyment and engagement of creative activities that contribute to the quality of life in the community. From arts and crafts programs, pottery, jewelry and dance classes offered by the City to concerts and theatrical performances offered by non-profits, local art and cultural activities provide a range of opportunities for education and enrichment. Washington County School District includes the arts in its education curriculum, and school facilities could provide space for continuing education with the cooperation of school principals.

Additionally, the existing performing and visual art venues in St. George provide some facilities for programming, education and display.

Figure 28. Existing Art Venues

Performing Arts Venues - Public and Private	Visual Arts Venues - Public & Private	
Historic Opera House	Pioneer Center for the Arts	Illume Gallery
Dixie State University	St. George Art Museum	Mission Gallery
Washington County Public Schools	Dinosaur Discovery Site at Johnson Farm	Authentique Gallery
Washington County Library	Robert N. & Peggy Sears Art Gallery	Red Cliff Gallery
Dixie Center	Washington County Library	Gallery 35
St. George Musical Theater	Daughters of Utah Pioneer Museum	11th Street Gallery
St. George LDS Tabernacle	Rosenbruch Wildlife Museum	The Difiore Gallery
Electric Theater	Staircase Galleries	The Tilted Kiln
Local High Schools	Rimrock Gallery	Roland Lee Art Gallery
	Arrowhead Gallery	Arts to Zion
	Wide Angle Gallery	Art Around the Corner
	Art and Soul Gallery	

OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

St. George’s arts and culture programs and activities have a reach that extends well beyond the county – drawing visitors to southern Utah for an array of experiences. The discussion below is intended to summarize, reinforce and focus many of the opportunities and challenges for arts and culture that have been expressed through public outreach and stakeholder input received during this planning process. With a solid foundation of supportive organizations and programming, St. George is poised for advancing its engagement in the arts and has the energy and resources to grasp future opportunities and face the known challenges to enabling a broader suite of visual, creative and performing arts for the community and the region.

In assessing current needs and future priorities, stakeholders repeatedly expressed the lack of adequate infrastructure for the existing and growing demands for performing and visual arts. Artists, craftsmen and special event organizers recognized the community's support for arts and culture and the opportunity to support more education, entertainment, demonstration and engagement for activities in the future. The specific need for a community performing arts center was explored across representative stakeholders and during the two public meetings. A new community performing arts center was a high priority and considerations for its design and programming were gathered from a range of interviews and surveys.

Conceptualizing a New Performing Arts Center

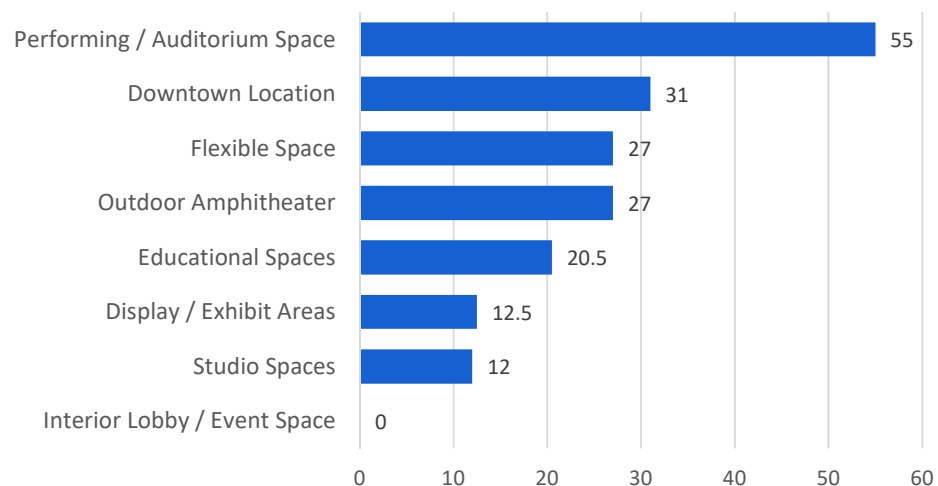
Facility Design & Development

A clear need has been expressed for a number of years for a new performing arts center in response to the shift in availability of the Cox Auditorium as Dixie State University has increased its internal use and limited public use opportunities. Any future facility should be designed to accommodate a broader range of the arts including visual, musical, fiber and other creative expressions and skills. The need for a facility with flexible space to support a variety of activities, events, displays and supportive amenities was identified. Educational spaces and studio accommodations as an adjunct space to new and growing artists should be associated with a new community performing arts center.

Site location considerations covered the range of focusing on the downtown to looking at the airport area and considering potential sites in areas of city expansion. Synergies can be captured when participants in one event or activity can easily engage in other (supportive or sometimes non-related) activities if those venues are within a reasonable proximity. A new arts facility would likely not do as well if located in isolation from other venues.

During the stakeholder engagement from the second open house participants ranked some of the priorities for consideration in the design and development of a future performing arts center. The need for a performance/auditorium space ranked the highest followed by a downtown location.

Figure 29. Priorities for Art Center Spaces





Programmatic Considerations

The need for arts and cultural programming to include the widest feasible range of existing community arts-in-practice was recognized within the reality of possible infrastructure accommodations. Programmatic planning could go beyond performing and visual arts to help support the range of weavers, potters, etc.

A key component of successful programming was identified as the coordination of existing activities and events across St. George and the region. Existing communication and marketing resources, such as “Now Playing Utah” and “Arts to Zion”, could be linked and coordinated to provide a broader outreach for calendar activities and events. Also, a coordinated social media outreach program would help align and reinforce communications. The St. George region’s arts and culture programming has a distinct advantage over northern Utah (Salt Lake City region) due to the more moderate climate. Synchronizing events and activities with local tournaments, concerts at Tuachan and Dixie State University, provide the added opportunity to extend visitor stays and broaden economic contributions.

Stakeholders recognized that the schools have been underutilized for community arts education and that the senior center could provide more opportunities for community art programming if hours were extended into the evening.

Visions for the Future

Clear acknowledgement of the economic benefits and growth triggered by arts and cultural activities, events and other programming centered on the recognition that further public infrastructure was needed to support the potential growth for community (and regional) arts.

The opportunity exists to enhance the image of St. George as a statewide cultural destination and could be balanced with community value and local artistic support and use. Support for developing local and new artists should be related to considerations for facility development, including the new arts center and the use of other existing facilities. The need was expressed for a central organization to lead the effort for the design, development, funding and implementation of a future performing arts center. Stakeholders suggested that the city provide support, direction and operational responsibilities for a proposed new performing arts center to ensure its longevity and broaden its potential supportive funding resources.

The involvement of non-profit volunteer organizations and the passion that drives results was recommended to encourage more community engagement in the design and development of the performing arts center.

New infrastructure proposed by the city should be able to clearly demonstrate how a performing arts center will serve the immediate community and its growth as an arts and culture hub, not just as a tourism attraction. The design of a performing arts center and/or instructional building also should include flexible spaces that can accommodate different uses and events.

The City should continue to encourage the different art groups and non-profits in the community to organize and drive their own successes. The City should continue to support the efforts of these groups possible, but the focused energy and results of these 30+ groups working together create the momentum to bring the vision for arts to a reality.

PUBLIC ART

Many successful cities have used public art to define their public spaces, promote tourism and encourage civic pride and identity. The City should continue planning and implementation of public art in public spaces throughout St. George as a place-making strategy that contributes to the city's unique character. Existing public art pieces help create identity and provoke engaging reactions that distinguish public spaces. The public art collection is one example of the close ties between the infrastructure and programming of parks and recreation and cultural arts. The effort to display public art helps to reinforce the values and future of place-making and community identity in St. George.

ECONOMIC INFLUENCES

Numerous case studies, economic assessments and government estimates have demonstrated that arts and culture related industries positively contribute to the economy. As recently as 2013, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the National Endowment for the Arts partnered to create a program called the Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account (ACPSA) to quantify the impact of and provide in-depth analysis of the arts and cultural sector's contributions to current-dollar gross domestic product. According to the most recent ACPSA estimates, \$764 billion (4.2%) of current-dollar GDP in 2015 was attributable to arts and culture. "Art and culture is a significant part of the U.S. economy. Not just its contributions of ideas and creativity to the innovation economy, but also as an important part of the labor force and our country's GDP. The Arts and Cultural Production Satellite Account is an unprecedented resource for detailed, reliable data on the economic value associated with arts and cultural activity," said Joan Shigekawa, Senior Deputy Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Additionally, the Americans for the Arts organization offers an online economic impacts calculator for public use. The calculator is a generalized model built from the most recent Arts and Economic Prosperity (AEP) national study, and it produces economic impact estimates based on community size, total community expenditures on arts and culture and total attendance at arts and culture events. As a generalized model, the results from the online calculator should be treated as estimates, since the results are based upon the averages of similarly populated communities. For the City of St. George in current dollars, local expenditures of \$14.6 million by local arts organizations translates to a total economic impact of \$32.7 million and the creation of approximately 940 jobs. The results from a specific city's AEP study are derived from customized input/output models built upon specific employment, household income and government revenue data, so the output from the online calculator are not intended to substitute for a more detailed AEP study.

Activities of the arts and culture sector can be connected to economic vitality in a variety of ways. Bringing various disciplines such as visual, performing, literary, and cultural arts and activities together with marketing and economic development can have a positive social and economic impact on the community. Arts and cultural activities can be an avenue to attract visitors from within and beyond the community, which has a tendency to increase social and economic capital. A strong arts sector attracts business and visitors, offers demonstrated positive economic impacts and is a component to a healthy local economy.



The arts and culture organizations of St. George have a direct economic impact upon the local economy. They enable the employment of dozens of individuals on a full-time, part-time or contract labor basis, and they directly provide expenditures of thousands of dollars to vendors in the delivery of arts programs in the region. Also, attendees of arts programs sponsored by arts and cultural organizations create economic benefits in the form of secondary spending on food, transportation and lodging. A number of representatives from the business community affirmed that if the City provided the infrastructure for the venue, their various business venues (hotels, restaurants, etc.) would grow to meet the market needs for increased tourism and generated economic activity. In addition, to prepare for additional funding support, the data compiled by St. George arts organizations would provide a clear snapshot of their local, economic contributions.

ORGANIZATIONS & PARTNERSHIPS

St. George is fortunate to have clearly demonstrated its support for arts and culture as a community value through the creation of its Community Arts division and the appointed Arts Commission. A wide range of non-governmental organizations and non-profits also provide for the communication, education and performance needs for arts and culture across the city. Washington County administers the RAP Tax program, which has helped support community arts. Washington County School District provides for art, theater and music instruction within its curriculum and supports a successful band program. The St. George Musical Theater demonstrated its viability through a ten-year campaign to build its own venue in downtown. A variety of organizations and agencies, including the Southwest Symphony, Southern Utah Arts Commission, Sears Art Museum, Dixie State University and many others, have a stake in ensuring that a future performing arts center and the programming of arts and culture continue to enhance the quality of life in St. George and surrounding communities.

The recommended formation of an organized partnership with the above groups to plan, design, develop and implement could increase the ability of the City to carry through with the expressed need for new and additional infrastructure to support the arts in the community. Solid planning and strong collaborations across community organizations, governmental agencies and academic institutions will be critical to ensure a faster and more fully funded art center development.

MOVING FORWARD

St. George has a vibrant arts and culture community that is at the cusp of expansion to fulfill a demand for broader opportunities in pursuit of creative engagement. To reach its fullest potential, the arts community will need the support of leadership in St. George, including the mayor and City Council, as well as Washington County leaders. While building a richer and more visible arts and culture in St. George will require private sector funding, it should be recognized that public funding support will also be crucial to advancing the goals and implementation of expanded facilities and accommodations. This investment in the future should be expected to both enrich the lives of St. George residents and also add to the economic vitality of the city.

As the City of St. George, Leisure Services Department and the Arts Commission move forward to advance and support the efforts of local arts organizations, the goals and strategies related to this PRAT Plan should help guide their initiatives and provide a preliminary framework to allow the energy, dedication and passion of the City and the community to foster arts and culture in the coming years.



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8 | TRAILS

Bikers on Virgin River North Trail

Trails are critical links in St. George's active transportation network – connecting people to parks, schools and other key destinations and creating opportunities for active lifestyles. Providing access to public places and routes is a critical piece of infrastructure for this healthy and livable community.

The assessment and recommendations described in this chapter provide an overview and assessment of the system of off-street walking and biking trails and pathways for outdoor recreation within the City of St. George.

NATIONAL & REGIONAL TRENDS

Walking and hiking continue to be the most popular recreational activities nationally and regionally, with approximately 47% participating in these activities based on statewide data. Furthermore, over the past ten years national recreation studies have consistently ranked walking and hiking as the most popular form of outdoor recreation. These studies include:

- Sports Participation Survey by the National Sporting Goods Association
- State of the Industry Report by the Recreation Management Magazine
- Outdoor Recreation in America by the Recreation Roundtable

According to the 2017 Outdoor Participation Report published by the Outdoor Foundation, running (including jogging and trail running) was the most popular activity among Americans when measured by number of participants and by number of total annual outings. Running was also the most popular outdoor activity for all ethnic groups. Walking for fitness is the most popular crossover activity. The biggest motivator for outdoor participation was getting exercise. For these outdoor recreation trends and preferences, trails are a required infrastructure.

The 2019 draft Utah SCORP reports that trails have ranked at the top for the most needed facilities for Utahns in the last few decades of SCORP planning by State Parks. When professional recreation managers were surveyed about new facility needs, the top three facilities were prioritized as recreation center, sport and play fields, and trails and walkways, respectively. Recreation professionals prioritized their needs for renovation by identifying playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures/pavilions, recreations centers, lighting and trails/walkways as the most important needs. Top recreation needs identified by the general public in SCORP surveys were trails/pathways, more parks/open space and more public access. The survey also showed the top twenty outdoor recreation activities, in order of preference, with hiking ranked as the top priority. Figure 30 shows the other trail-related activities from the top twenty list.

Figure 30. Top Trail-Related Outdoor Recreation Activities from Utah SCORP

Outdoor Recreation Activity	Rank by Total Responses
Hiking	1st
Mountain biking	4th
ATV/OHV	6th
Bicycling	8th
Horseback riding	9th
Backpacking	13th
Running	14th
Cycling	15th
Snowshoeing	17th
Walking	19th
Bird watching	20th

Local Trail Planning

The City of St. George 2017 Active Transportations Plan identified over 55 miles of shared path, more than 13 miles of bike lanes, almost 24 miles of bike routes, and close to 60 miles of unpaved trails within the city. The Plan recommended the installation of 121.8 additional miles of shared-use paths. The Plan also depicted the locations for the future shared-use path network to guide the integration of the trail system with future growth.

The St. George Park & Trail Master Plan 2019 Map illustrates the existing and future trails as well as their surfacing type and the locations of existing and future trailheads. The 2019

St. George Park & Trail System Map & Guide provides a comprehensive listing of trails and trailheads with their amenities along with a current map of existing paved and natural surfaced trails and on-street bike lanes.

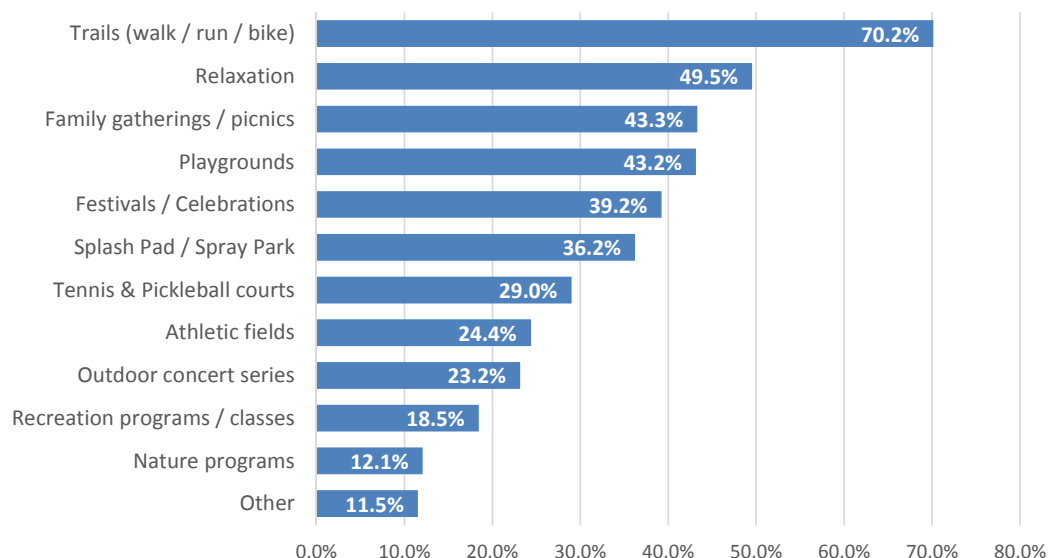
The St. George 2002 General Plan cited a city-wide greenway system along the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers that could serve as the unifying element of an open space network and assure public accessibility. The General Plan also noted that the Park Planning Division designs and manages bike paths. The bikeway policy proposes the implementation of a bikeway system that integrates and interconnects pedestrian paths and on-street bike lanes that will connect major destinations (shopping, schools) with parks and open space corridors.

While Washington County currently does not engage in providing park and recreation services beyond Legacy Park, the coordination of an interconnected trail system linking communities and their internal trail networks has been recognized as an essential contribution to community health, recreation and the local economy. The County works collaboratively with city, tribal, state and federal land management agencies to help facilitate a more connected trail network across the county. The 2010 Washington County General Plan acknowledged trails as an important part of the exceptional quality of life and livability of Washington County.

Local Feedback & Interests

Trails are an integral part of the public infrastructure in St. George where the climate provides for year-round trail use. Trail use is comprised of recreationalists, commuters and active travelers seeking destinations within and connecting to St. George. The community-wide survey conducted as part of this plan revealed that over 70% survey respondents cited the main reason they visited St. George parks in the last year was to use the trails.

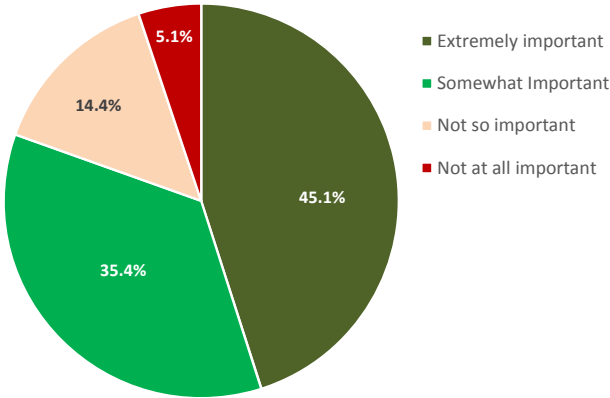
Figure 31. Top Reasons for Visiting City Parks



Survey respondents were presented with a list of parks, arts and recreation facilities and asked if they have a need for each facility and to what degree their need is met for each facility. Trails for walking and biking ranked as the amenity of highest need (83% overall). Also, trails ranked first overall as the top priority in a forced ranking between six different facility types.

When asked how important it is to connect the City’s parks with a trail system, survey respondents emphasized their priority for more connections. Even with a significant network of existing trails for walking, hiking and mountain biking, the survey indicated the importance of connecting city parks to the trail system showing a strong majority (80.5%) of respondents felt connecting parks to trails was very or somewhat important. These data also were consistent with the 2006 Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan, in that trails were ranked as the top priority.

Figure 32. Relative Importance of Connecting City Trail Network



Beyond the community and online surveys, the public open houses conducted during the planning process also revealed trails as a top recreation facility priority. In the first open house, trails and more trail connections were cited by participants as the improvement that would add the greatest value for use and enjoyment in the St. George park and recreation system. During the second open house, participants were asked to rank the most important gaps within the trail system where trail connections should have the highest priority. The Virgin River South Trail ranked the highest, followed by an inner loop around downtown, then thirdly, the Fort Pearce Wash Trail.

Input from local community leaders added to the resounding recognition that trails are an important element of the St. George community. Washington County is willing to partner with St. George to develop projects that serve the dual purpose of economic benefits and tourism promotion. Trail network expansion and connectivity are the primary focus for potential partnering with the Leisure Services Department.

Washington County views the planning, design and development of trail infrastructure as an appropriate tourism-supporting expenditure for the collected revenue from the transient and restaurant taxes. The County also formed a regional Trails Committee with representatives from local cities, RCDDR, SITLA, UDOT, BLM, USFS, Back Country Horsemen and local businesses that seeks to facilitate the coordination and cooperation of a regional trail system. The Trails Committee is promoting a set of unified multi-use shared trail standards to ensure connectivity and function across the greater trail network as cities develop and update their active transportation plans. The need for coordinated wayfinding and unified signage has been suggested as the regional trail network increases

its connectivity across different jurisdictions. A new website (www.swutahtrails.com) has been created to help promote this trail collaboration effort.

County leaders also noted that current public lands under SITLA ownership could be transferred to private ownership and developed, further triggering more growth. An effective trail network that connects public lands with the urban interface is critical.

The Washington County School District (WCSD) recognizes the benefits of trails as a method for providing safe routes to school. WCSD leadership also noted that trails can help link new (or older) affordable housing to outdoor recreation and destination connections.

The Southern Utah Home Builder's Association (SUHBA) recognized the importance of trail connectivity as a method to reduce demand on roads. The SUHBA commonly hears that leisure activity opportunities are a key driver in the lifestyle of St. George, making it a desirable place to live and driving home building activity.

Throughout conversations and engagement with local stakeholders the value and importance of walkability and connectivity has risen to be the top benefit of park and recreation provision in St. George.

BENEFITS OF TRAILS

Trails for Connectivity

As with roadway system and transportation planning, planning for recreational trails should be geared toward connectivity, rather than mileage. Considering only a mileage standard for recreational trails within St. George and its park system would provide a limited and inadequate assessment of need for the community and its plans for growth and better connectivity. This Plan recommends a connectivity goal that reinforces the desire to improve overall connections across the city, links adjacent communities and enhances off-street linkages between parks and major destinations, as feasible.

Connecting the St. George community through bike and pedestrian trails can also enhance the community's sense of place. As part of the southern Utah landscape, trails provide a defining connection to the natural environment that has shaped the history and culture of the St. George and its surrounding community. A connective system of trails provides the social and physical infrastructure benefit for enhancing community.

Trails for Community Health

City parks are known to contribute to a healthier community by providing accessible outdoor recreation space particularly by providing walking trails within each park. In addition, providing walkable streets to park destinations can also offer a healthier choice integrated with the park and its amenities. In the NRPA publication *Safe Routes to Parks*, the elements of walkable, healthy community design are outlined as convenience,



comfort, access & design, safety and the park itself. Sidewalks, bikeways and trails provide an integrated alternative transportation system for residents to access parks and other destinations within their community. As further emphasis for the importance of a walkable community to promote public health, the Surgeon General has issued a *Call to Action* to “step it up” and promote more walking and build a more walkable world. A more connected network of trails, sidewalks, and bike lanes with links to public transit also provides economic values. Community engagement during the park master planning process identified the need for more trail connections and safe bike/pedestrian facilities as a top priority.

Trails for Economic Health

In the 2009 report, *Walking the Walk: How Walkability Raises Housing Values in US Cities* by Joe Cortright for CEOs for Cities, research cited the connection between home value and walkability. Higher WalkScore measurements where more typical consumer destination were within walking distance were directly associated with higher home values. Homes located in more walkable neighborhoods command a price premium over otherwise similar homes in less walkable areas. The National Association of Realtors reports in their *On Common Ground* publication with numerous articles citing the preference of walkable, mixed-use neighborhoods and the role of walkability in creating healthier communities. These preferences translate into higher real estate prices and housing values. Even the National Association of Homebuilders (March 2014 publication: “Walkability, why we care and you should too”) have recognized that walkability is desired by consumers, creates lower development costs and allows flexibility in design. As part of the system of walkability and bike-ability, recreational trails are real estate assets that enhance community connections and contribute to economic health.

Trails for Aging Populations

Today’s active seniors are looking at retirement age differently, as many are retooling for a new career, finding ways to engage with their community and focusing on their health and fitness. It will be critical for St. George’s park and recreation system to take a comprehensive approach to the city’s aging population needs. Accessibility and barrier-free parking and paths, walkability and connectivity will be paramount to future planning. Providing programming for today’s older adults includes not only active and passive recreation, but also the type of equipment needed to engage in certain activities. Trails provide the infrastructure for the most popular and frequent outdoor recreation activity of older adults: walking.

TRAIL SYSTEM INVENTORY

The City of St. George, Washington County and neighboring communities have created a growing system of regional and connector trails with linkages to each other. Clear recognition by the county and cities that trails provide valuable infrastructure is demonstrated by the commitment to continue to connect communities and destinations with trails. Over 13 miles of multi-use trails have been added to the St. George trail system since the 2006 Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan.

Figure 33. Existing City-Maintained Trails within St. George

Trails By Type/Classification	Mileage
Multi-Use Paved Trail	47.9
400 South Underpass	0.1
3000 East (paved)	1.0
Atkinville	0.7
Bluff Street	1.5
Desert Canyons Parkway	0.9
Enterprise Drive	0.6
Ft. Pearce Wash	0.3
Halfway Wash (paved)	1.7
Hidden Valley (paved)	1.0
Hilton Drive	1.3
Horseman Park Drive (paved)	0.7
Larkspur	1.0
Mall Drive	1.0
Middleton Wash	1.5
Red Hills Parkway	3.4
Rimrock	0.3
River Road	1.4
Sand Hollow Wash	1.0
Santa Clara River	3.2
Seegmiller	0.1
Slick Rock	0.7
Snow Canyon	3.0
Southern Corridor	0.4
Springs Park	0.3
SR 18 (Red Hills Parkway to north entrance of Snow Canyon State Park)	7.4
Virgin River North (paved)	7.0
Virgin River South	6.1
Webb Hill (paved)	0.3

Trails By Type/Classification	Mileage
Natural Surface Trail	8.5
Gas Line	1.0
Halfway Wash (unpaved section)	0.8
Hidden Valley (unpaved section)	0.3
Kentucky Lucky Chicken	4.1
Temple Quarry	1.9
Webb Hill (unpaved)	0.4
Sidewalk Trail Connection	2.8
Hidden Valley (sidewalk connection)	0.3
Horseman Park Drive (sidewalk connector	0.4
Santa Clara River	0.1
Virgin River North (sidewalk)	2.0
Equestrian Trail	1.2
3000 East (equestrian)	0.2
Little Valley	0.9
Seegmiller	0.1

Classification Summary	Mileage
Multi-Use Paved Trail	47.9
Natural SurfaceTrail	8.5
Sidewalk Trail Connection	2.8
Equestrian Trail	1.2
TOTAL	60.4



The City of St. George maintains 32 named trails mapped within the city limits with additional trails designated as future trail alignments. The existing trails comprise 60 miles of completed trail facilities providing many opportunities for connecting to outdoor recreation locations and other destinations. However, there are still gaps in the trail network that limit the access and enjoyment of trail use in St. George.

Other Trail Providers

Beyond the local and county land management agencies, a number of other trail providers are adjacent to or within St. George. The Bureau of Land Management manages nearly 22.9 million acres of public lands in Utah with a number of trail systems close to St. George. The Bear Claw Poppy Trail and The Gap Trail have trailheads that directly connect into the St. George public roadway/rights-of-way system. The White Dome Nature Preserve, owned and managed by The Nature Conservancy, has trailhead access from a parking area on River Road where a five-mile network of hiking trails is available for public use, but there are no support amenities on site. The Red Cliffs Desert Reserve (RCDR) - a multi-jurisdictional region administered by Washington County in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Utah Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) - contains miles of trails with several trailheads that connect to the St. George public roadway/rights-of-way system.

National Parks and Utah State Parks own and manage of number of significant park facilities within easy reach of St. George residents, such as Snow Canyon State Park. Each park has its own system of trails for recreational use and represent destinations for outdoor recreationalists.

Figure 34. Other Trail Providers within or adjacent to St. George

Trails - Other Providers	Surface
Bear Claw Poppy (BLM)	Natural
City Creek (RCDR)	Natural
Claim Jumper (Desert Canyons)	Natural
Meditation Rock (Desert Canyons)	Natural
Owen's Loop (RCDR)	Natural
Pushing Tin Loop (Desert Canyons)	Natural
Red Cliffs Desert Reserve	Natural
Sandstone Quarry (RCDR)	Natural
Secret Sauce (Desert Canyons)	Natural
White Dome (TNC)	Natural
Zen Trail (BLM)	Natural

The Old Spanish National Historic Trail, designated by Congress in 2002 because of its significance to the country as a historic route of travel, connected Santa Fe to Los Angeles. The Old Spanish Trail was historically used as a trading route beginning in the early 1800's. The trail covers six states and over 2,700 miles and is part of the National Trails System that calls for establishing trails in both urban and rural settings for people of all ages, interests, skills, and physical abilities. National historic trails recognize original trails or routes of travel of national historic significance including past routes of exploration, migration, and military action. The Old Spanish Trail southern route alignment ran through the southern portion of St. George for over ten miles, generally following the Fort Pearce Wash and Virgin River corridors. Few, if any, traces of the trail exist in the modern landscape. The National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management work in partnership to administer the Old Spanish National Historic Trail to encourage preservation and public use.

RECOMMENDED TRAIL NETWORK

The City of St. George, Washington County and neighboring communities are working together to create an interconnected trail network linking people to places through pedestrian and bicycle facilities that enhance the quality of life in the region. The St. George Active Transportation Plan identifies over 120 miles of future trails and the St. George 2019 Park & Trail Master Plan Map illustrates future proposed alignments as well as connections for existing trail gaps.

Figure 35. Future Trails within St. George

St. George Trails - Future	
1375 North	New Airport
3000 East	Northern Corridor
3210 East	Plantations Drive
700 North	Price City Hills
Airport Butte / Banded Hills	Rim Rock
Airport Parkway	River Road
Atkinville	Sand Hollow Wash (B,C)
Black Hill	Santa Clara River
Brigham Road Trail System	Seegmiller
Copper Cliff	Slick Rock
Desert Canyons Parkway	Southern Corridor
Desert Color Trail System	Tech Ridge Trail System
Fort Pearce Wash (A,B,C)	Temple Quarry
Halfway Wash	The Lakes Trail System
Hidden Valley	The Trails Loop
Hilton Drive	Tonaquint Trail System
Horseman Park Drive	Virgin River North
Middleton Wash	Virgin River South

Of the designated future trail alignments, public engagement explored some highlights for desired connection priorities. The most important gaps within the trail system where trail connections should have the highest priority were identified as the Virgin River South Trail, followed by an inner loop around downtown (includes Virgin River North, Middleton Wash, Red Hills Parkway, Halfway Wash, Sand Hollow Wash and Santa Clara River Trails), the Santa Clara River Trail and the Fort Pearce Wash Trail. Since the downtown of St. George provides connections through a comprehensive system of sidewalks and private property limitations would preclude developing a complete off-street, separated trail system, primary focus should target the needed improvements to the regional trail gaps and needed additional segments. The Fort Pearce Wash Trail and the southern portion of the Virgin River Trail are along the alignment of the Old Spanish National Historic Trail. Focusing on these trail segments could capture wider appeal, support and opportunities for grant funding partners since the interpretive and historic value offers an added bonus for potential tourism value.

Trail Classifications

Defining and reinforcing a recreational trail classification establishes a framework for trail design and enables the prioritization of proposed trail enhancements and development. The recreational trail classification system is based on a tiered network and includes four trail categories:

- Multi-Use Paved Trail
- Trail Connection via Sidewalk
- Natural Surface Trail
- Equestrian Trail

While some sections of trail will accommodate higher volumes of traffic and provide regional connections, other sections may rely on the local street network and be designed to link local or neighborhood scale destinations. Trail types are important to plan for to encourage use of the appropriate trail and to discourage the creation of informal trails destroying vegetation and causing erosion.

Multi-Use Paved Trail

Multi-use paved trails serve as a vital circulation connection that links adjacent developments, neighborhoods, parks, schools, city facilities and natural features. This trail type is paved with either asphalt or concrete and is a minimum of 10' wide with two foot shoulders on each side of the trail. Typical trail users include pedestrians, bicyclists and scooters.

Trail Connection via Sidewalk

A trail connection via sidewalk is used when there is not enough room to install a multi-use paved trail. This serves as a connection between multi-use paved trails and is generally located along roadways. The width of the sidewalk is dependent on the size of the adjacent roadway or space available.

Natural Surface Trail

Natural surface trails provide connections to remote and unique natural areas within or adjacent to the community. Ideally, natural surface trails should connect to multi-use paved trails. Natural surface trails are generally 4' wide. Typical trail users include hikers and mountain bikers.

Equestrian Trail

Equestrian trails are similar to natural surface trails, but in some locations the surface material is not favorable to hikers and mountain bikers. Equestrian-only trails are composed of either sand or rock fines which creates a soft surface. The minimum width for one-way equestrian trails is 6', and the minimum width is 10' for two-way.

Trail Standards

St. George does not have adopted standards for the provision of trail mileage for measuring the performance of its network of trails and pathways. Rather, the city and county have adopted a proactive approach to ensuring a comprehensive active transportation network to provide access to all citizens in a variety of modes of travel. Instead of setting a standard of miles per thousand residents, the standard has been set as an interconnected system of trails to link neighborhoods, parks, schools, businesses, public facilities, local destinations and adjacent communities. As in many communities, the major limiting factor for reaching the fully complete and interconnected trail network is available resources to support implementation. Also, the adoption and implementation of Park and Trail Design Standards will ensure that trails and trailheads are designed and constructed in conformance with City requirements.

TRAIL SYSTEM DESIGN CONSTRAINTS, CHALLENGES & CONSIDERATIONS

Alignment

Future trail connections that will form a more extensive trail network may have proposed alignments that are already established or dedicated for connecting existing trail segments. Some proposed trail extensions may not yet have specific or dedicated locations for the trail alignment. The future growth of the trail network will need to balance between alignments that are optimal from trail user, trail experience and connectivity perspectives and those that are practical from cost, regulatory and availability perspectives. Future consideration should be given toward finding alignment options that can accommodate different trail use types (i.e., commuter vs. recreational/destination oriented), as well as potentially interim solutions that rely on wider sidewalks to serve trail users or routing that utilizes existing or planned sewer or utility corridors.



As anticipated growth and proposed development moves forward in St. George, dedicated trail alignments for the regional and connector trails must be respected and firmly embedded in the site development review process to ensure a reasonable direction and connection for that specific trail. Alignments for local trails as connections to regional trails are important for providing access and reducing the sole reliance on trailheads for providing access to the network.

Access and Trailheads

The trail system has expanded significantly over the years, primarily due to good planning and a vision for a city-wide and regional trail network for the benefit of residents and visitors alike. The 2019 Park & Trail Master Plan Map indicates existing and future trailhead locations. Along greenways and open space corridors where access may be limited, future developments should accommodate new trailhead locations to the regional and connector trail alignments to ensure reasonable distances for convenient access, as well as for safety and emergency access.

Figure 36. Trailhead Inventory

St. George Trailheads	
2450 East Park*	Mathis Park*
Bear Claw Poppy	Pioneer Park*
Bloomington Hills North Park*	Royal Oaks Park*
Bloomington Park*	Riverside
Brooks Nature Park*	Rustic
Canyons Complex*	Slick Rock Park*
Cottonwood Cove Park*	Snake Hollow Bike Park*
Crosby Family Confluence Park*	St. James Park*
Hidden Valley Park*	Tawa Fishing Ponds*
JC Snow Park*	Temple Quarry
Kentucky Lucky Chicken	The Fields at Little Valley*
Larkspur Park*	Tonaquint Park*
Man O War	Webb Hill

*Parks that serve as trailheads

Safe, convenient entryways to the trail network expand access for users and are a necessary component of a strong, successful system. A trailhead typically includes parking, kiosks and signage and may include site furnishings such as trash receptacles, benches, restrooms, drinking fountains and bicycle parking. Trailheads may be within public park land and natural areas or provided via interagency agreements with partner organizations (county, school district, SITLA, BLM, and adjacent cities) to increase use and reduce unnecessary duplication of support facilities. Specific trailhead design and layout should be created as part of planning and design development for individual projects and take into account the intended user groups and unique site conditions.

Trail Development Limitations

Within the developed portions of the city opportunities to develop additional trails and connections may be limited. However, opportunities to determine locations for needed community trail alignments can be coordinated with proposed growth and development to avoid missed opportunities for linkages and trail network connections.

One underlying tenet of the recreational trail system is to enable the placement of trails within or close to natural features to provide access to the city's unique landscapes as well as accommodate outdoor recreational access to rivers, washes and cliffs. The future planning and design of trail routes through natural areas should be based on sensitive and low-impact design solutions that offer controlled access that protects the resource while providing for a positive experience for trail users. Along rivers and washes, special attention must be given to avoid floodways subject to frequent flooding. Determination of future/proposed trail alignments should place high priority on natural resource and natural hazards planning and protections, in part to meet local land use policies as well as State of Utah requirements.

Design & Maintenance

Following trail construction, on-going trail monitoring and maintenance will keep the trails functioning as designed, while working to protect capital investments in the network. The City of St. George shall continue to perform routine trail maintenance through the guidance of its existing trail maintenance program. The trail operations program shall identify best practices for maintaining the different trail types and their adjacent vegetated corridors. Future trail renovation projects should be included in the Capital Improvement Plans as a means to identify and secure appropriate resources for needed enhancement. The City should maintain and expand their connection to and communications with the robust network of trail volunteers to provide support as appropriate.

Recognizing that trail design trade-offs exist and new standards may be developed, future trail development and upgrades to existing facilities should design for the range of users, considering potential conflicts, especially within high density land uses or high user volume areas. The trail surface type will be chosen based on the type of trail use, setting, natural resource and habitat. Some soft surfaces may need regular grooming to repair erosion and surface wear patterns. Also, grading and drainage should be considered when designing trail alignments. On-going vegetation management must continue to be addressed to maintain visibility, trail clearances, perceived safety and enjoyable use. Trailheads will require regular maintenance for trash removal, restroom cleaning and general upkeep.

Trail Signs & Wayfinding

Coordinated signage plays a crucial role in facilitating a successful trail system. A comprehensive and consistent signage system is a critical component for the trail network and is necessary to inform, orient and educate users about the trail system itself, as well as appropriate trail etiquette. Such a system of signs should include trail identification information, orientation markers, safety and regulatory messages and a unifying design



identity or element for branding. The following signage types should be considered and consistently implemented throughout the network:

- Directional and regulatory signage
- Continuous route signage for route identification and wayfinding
- Mileage markers or periodic information regarding distance to areas of interest
- Warning signs to caution users of upcoming trail transitions or potential conflicts with motor vehicles
- Interpretive information regarding ecological, historical and cultural features found along and in proximity to the trail
- Add QR codes to signs to provide links to additional information

The installation of kiosks at trailheads is recommended to provide important trail information and reinforce the visual brand of the St. George trail experience. New kiosks that include a trail map and other helpful information about directional and local information should be considered along the regional trails and at each of the recommended trailheads.

FUTURE TRAIL SYSTEM

As the City of St. George, its Transportation, Public Works and Leisure Services programs move forward to advance and support the efforts of a more connected community, the goals and strategies related to this Parks, Recreation, Arts and Trails Master Plan should help guide their initiatives and provide a preliminary framework to allow the energy, dedication and passion of the City and the community to foster walkability, outdoor recreation and physical health in the coming years. As in many communities, the major limiting factor for reaching a fully complete and interconnected trail network is available resources to support implementation. St. George will need to more actively engage its trail system partners to increase the pace of trail implementation to reach its goal within a reasonable measure of time.

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FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Map 7: Existing & Proposed Trails



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9 | PROJECTS & STRATEGIES

Skimboarding on Virgin River

A number of strategies exist to enhance and expand the park and recreation levels of service for the City of St. George; however, clear decisions must be made in an environment of competing interests and limited resources. A strong community will is necessary to bring many of the projects listed in this Plan to life, and the St. George City Council has demonstrated its willingness to support parks and recreation, park land acquisitions, arts, community events and a high quality of life.

The recommendations for parks, recreation, arts and trails noted in this Plan may trigger the need for funding beyond current allocations and for additional staffing, operations and maintenance responsibilities. Given that the operating and capital budget of the Leisure Services Department is finite, additional resources may be needed to leverage, supplement and support the implementation of proposed objectives, programs and projects. The following implementation strategies are presented to offer near-term direction to realize these projects and as a means to continue dialogue between City leadership, local residents and partners.

Additionally, a review of potential implementation tools is included as Appendix G, which addresses local financing, federal and state grant programs, and acquisition methods.



KEY PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of key project recommendations which will require commitment from the City, its residents and partners to continue to support a healthy system that preserves and enhances the safety, livability and character of the community.

Performing Arts Center

Building on the momentum witnessed through the public process for this Plan, the City should continue to pursue the siting, feasibility and design for a future performing arts center. A new arts facility will provide a clear focal point for the arts community and should be designed to accommodate a broad range of the arts including visual, fiber and other creative expressions and skills.

Acquisitions & Development to Fill Park Gaps

Given the projected growth for St. George and in an effort to provide an adequate level of parks and open space, the City must continue to refine and target its efforts toward acquiring properties to secure lands for active-use, outdoor recreation for the community. As residential growth and expansion continue, opportunities to acquire large park sites will be more difficult and will require St. George to remain vigilant and continue to aggressively coordinate with residential developers for set-asides or purchase options. The 2019 Park and Trail Master Plan map will continue to guide acquisition efforts, and it will be updated annually and formally adopted by City Council.

Trail Connections

St. George will continue to connect and expand its trail system through new access points, safe road crossings and trail segments. Recreational trail corridors, improvements and relationships to streets, sidewalks and bike lanes have been developing as St. George has grown. The City must plan for and implement the recreational trails identified within this Plan and coordinate trail-related projects with transportation system planning and related public works projects, such as the Active Transportation Plan and Three Rivers Plan. The 2019 Park and Trail Master Plan map will guide trail alignment and development efforts.

Recreation Programs & Facilities

Expanded recreational and community programming has been an identified need as the City grows. The City will continue to focus on programs that are in high demand or serve a range of users, while continuing to monitor local and regional recreation trends to ensure community needs and interests are addressed by program offerings. The City will initiate a feasibility study to examine the potential for a new indoor recreation center to enable growth in indoor classes and programs and accommodate the projected population growth. The City also will explore the potential to develop an outdoor skills center that could focus on alternative sports, including ziplines, aerial challenges, bouldering walls or

outdoor parkour features, and also include an education center for water sports or other amenities to draw a variety of users to activate the site.

Sport Field & Court Enhancements

Between the growth in hosted sport tournaments and the projected population growth, the City must continue to plan for the installation of new sport fields and courts. Adding lighting to existing fields and utilizing portable fencing will improve the capacity of existing fields. As new community parks are designed, consideration should be given to multi-use field layouts for baseball and soccer overlays, as well as providing space for additional tennis courts and a multi-court pickleball complex. With the popularity of pickleball, the City should look forward to increasing the number of courts in St. George. The pickleball community has a strong desire to have more courts in one location, rather than fewer courts scattered across the city. If possible, the City should consider installing another large pickleball complex similar to the one in Little Valley. The demand for hosted tournaments and events shall be measured, and the City will work with the county and neighboring cities to distribute the impact of these events.

Online Communications

To broaden public awareness, the City's website will be expanded to facilitate quick links to popular destinations and be designed with mobile users in mind, either through a mobile-friendly site or a web-based application. The website should include easy-to-access park system and facility maps, trail maps and an up-to-date listing of park sites and amenities to enhance the experience of the on-the-go user. The City will consider introducing and utilizing QR codes on signage as a means to share with or receive information from visitors about maintenance, restoration or monitoring data.

Capital Repair & Replacement

The City must continue to monitor and evaluate play equipment and other park amenities and replace outdated equipment, as appropriate. Minor access improvements, such as providing ramped entrances, to site furnishings may be necessary to conform to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and ensure universal accessibility. The Capital Improvement Program includes line items for upgrades and improvements to enable capital repair and replacement projects over the coming 10 years. The City should continue to make improvements to existing parks, as needed, to ensure proper maintenance, usability and quality of park features and grounds.

As the City's Recreation Bond nears the end of its cycle, the City needs to consider its aging park system infrastructure and associated replacement costs. The bond should be renewed through a request to voters as a way to not only replace aging equipment, but also to help fund new recreation and park facilities as the city continues to grow at an accelerated rate.



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Partner Coordination & Collaboration

Specific projects and goals identified in this Plan may demand a high degree of coordination and collaboration with other City departments and outside agencies.

Inter-Departmental Coordination

Internal coordination with the Public Works and Community Development Departments can increase the potential of discrete actions toward the implementation of the proposed trail network, which relies in part on street right-of-way connections, and in the review of development applications with consideration toward potential acquisition areas, planned trail corridors and the need for land set-aside requests.

However, to more fully expand the extent of the park system and recreation programs, these relationships need to be fostered, and the Leisure Services Department must develop strong relationships with the Economic Development Department and other City departments.

Partnerships

Public-private partnerships are increasingly necessary for local agencies to leverage their limited resources in providing park and recreation services to the community. Corporate sponsorships, health organization grants, stewardship programs and non-profit organizations are just a few examples of partnerships where collaboration provides value to both partners. The City has existing partners and should continue to explore additional and expanded partnerships, where feasible, to help implement these Plan recommendations.

Coordination with Washington County, Washington County School District, Dixie State University and private fitness providers should be ongoing to assess the range and type of recreation programs offered in the city and to maximize use of community facilities, such as fields, gymnasiums and other indoor spaces. The City may need to find and coordinate with other recreation program vendors for new programs and services to meet the interests of the community and address current gaps in program coverage. Interlocal agreements with the school district and university should be considered to formalize arrangements for community use of gymnasiums, fields and indoor space for recreation programs or classes. Also, the City should continue to facilitate discussions with local youth and adult sport leagues and staff from the school district for the purposes of sport field planning and consideration for new multi-fields. The inclusion of sport fields in a future community park acquisition should be a strong consideration when conducting site feasibility and design.

Promoting Health Benefits

St. George also should explore partnership opportunities with regional health care providers and services, such as Dixie Regional Medical Center and the Southwest Utah Public Health Department, to further promote wellness activities, healthy living and communications about the benefits of parks and recreation. For example, this group could more directly cross-market services and help expand communications

about local wellness options, and they could sponsor a series of organized trail walks throughout St. George as a means to expand public awareness of local trail opportunities and encourage residents to stay fit. For example, other communities have been successful with funding requests to regional hospitals for the development and printing of community walking guides that highlight the health benefits of walking and include trail system maps and descriptions.

Relationship Building & Management

Developing or strengthening these types of partnerships will be essential for reaching the goals of the Plan and meeting the needs of the future parks, recreation, arts and trails system. Such partnerships may allow the City to share responsibilities for the financial, planning, development and operational activities; however, partnerships, like many relationships, require time to establish the mutual values that keep the partners at the table, leverage resources and enable successful project implementation. As the city continues to grow, the Leisure Services Department staff level will need to increase to maintain the level of service and accommodate the capacity for enabling stronger partnerships.

Volunteer & Community-based Action

Volunteers and community groups already contribute to the improvement of parks and recreation services in St. George. Volunteer projects include tree planting and community event support, among others. St. George should continue to maintain and update a revolving list of potential volunteer-appropriate projects for the website, while also reaching out to the high schools to encourage student projects. While supporting organized groups and community-minded individuals continues to add value to the St. George parks and recreation system, volunteer coordination requires a substantial amount of staff time, and additional resources may be necessary to more fully take advantage of the community's willingness to support park and recreation efforts.

Park Impact Fees

Park Impact Fees (PIF) are imposed on new development to meet the increased demand for parks resulting from the new growth. PIF can be used for park and trail acquisition, planning and/or development. They cannot be used for operations and maintenance of parks and facilities. The City of St. George currently assesses impact fees, and the City should periodically review its PIF ordinance and update the methodology and rate structure, as appropriate, to be best positioned to obtain future acquisition and development financing from the planned growth of the community. Since the PIF is dependent on the capital project list, it is imperative that the list be as complete as possible at the time the fee is calculated. The City should prioritize the usage of PIF to secure new park properties and finance park or trail development consistent with the priorities within this Plan.

Park land Donations & Dedications

Park land donations from development projects, individuals or conservation organizations could occur to complement the acquisition of park and open space lands across the City. Gift deeds or bequests from philanthropic-minded landowners could allow for lands to



come into City ownership upon the death of the owner or as a tax-deductible charitable donation. Any potential dedication must be vetted by the Leisure Services Department to ensure that such land is located in an area of need or can expand an existing City property and can be developed with site amenities appropriate for the projected use of the property.

Grants & Appropriations

Several state and federal grant programs are available on a competitive basis, such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Fast-Act, Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant and UDOT programs. Pursuing grants is not a cure-all solution for park system funding, since grants are both competitive and often require a significant percentage of local funds to match the request to the granting agency, which depending on the grant program can be as much as 50% of the total project budget. The City must continue to leverage its local resources to the greatest extent by pursuing grants independently and in cooperation with other local partners.

Appropriations from state or federal sources, though rare, can supplement projects with partial funding. State and federal funding allocations are particularly relevant on regional transportation projects, and the likelihood for appropriations could be increased if multiple partners are collaborating on projects.

Other Implementation Tools

Appendix G identifies other implementation tools, such as voter-approved funding, grants and acquisition tactics, that the City could utilize to further the implementation of the projects noted in the Capital Improvements Plan.

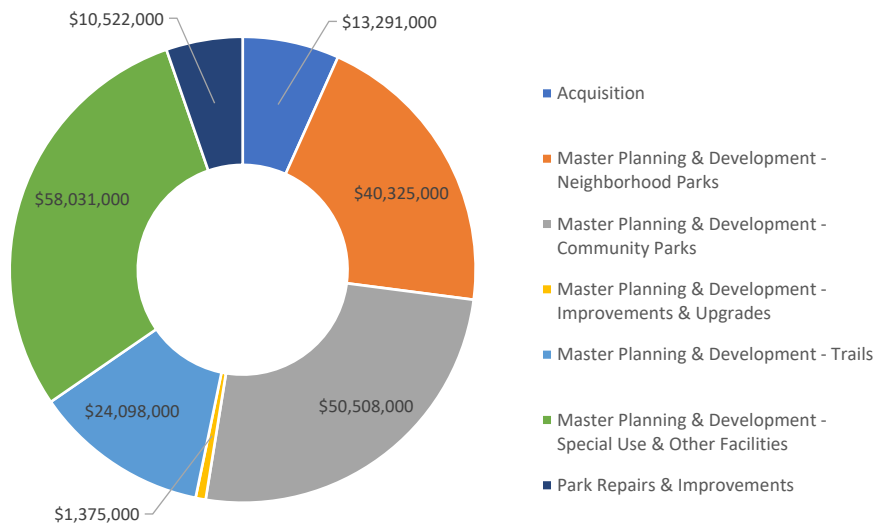
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN

The Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) assigns proposed time frames and estimated costs for specific projects to guide the implementation of this Plan. The CIP is not an official budget and is intended to serve as a guiding document for city staff in the preparation of departmental budgets, inform project priorities and calculate the Park Impact Fee.

The CIP on the following pages lists the park and facility projects considered for the next 10 years. The majority of these projects entail the acquisition and development of parks, renovating or enhancing existing facilities, and expanding trail corridors. The CIP provides brief project descriptions for those projects to assist staff in preparing future capital budget requests.

The projects were selected based on the need to implement long-standing plans for improvements and work toward meeting the goal to better connect and create access to park and recreation facilities. Figure 37 summarizes the aggregate capital estimates from the 2020-2030 CIP by project type.

Figure 37. Capital Improvements Plan Expenditures Summary



Capital Planning & Standards

As described in Chapter 5, this Plan recommends an adjustment to the service standard for neighborhood and community parks to better align the existing inventory and planned development projects with the financial capacity of the City. The existing system of neighborhood and community parks provides a combined level of service of approximately 5.6 acres per 1,000 population. This calculation does not include school grounds, civic areas, golf courses or open space. Currently, the median number of park acres per 1,000 residents for cities the size of St. George is 12.1 acres, and the average is 6.3 acres per 1,000 for the lower quartile of cities the size of St. George. Recognizing that cities are not all the same and that comparisons may be somewhat difficult, it is clear that St. George does not have an excess of park space when compared to other cities.

An analysis of several current development agreements (such as Desert Color, Divario, and Desert Canyons) illustrates the pending population increase of approximately 60,000 new residents to St. George. Through coordination of the Leisure Services Department, these development agreements, on average, provide a combined level of service for neighborhood and community parks of approximately 4 acres per 1,000 residents. Again, this figure does not include school grounds, open space, civic areas or greens.

Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that the current, actual existing park level of service and the standard that has been negotiated with the developers adequately describes the target park standard in St. George. This standard should be 5 acres of combined neighborhood and community parks per 1,000 residents. This number is sustainable and is realistic.

The location of the parks within the city should be placed close to those neighborhoods with higher population densities, such as apartments, condominiums, duplexes and patio homes. The standard noted in the previous Plan was to provide one neighborhood park within a half mile of every home and one community park within one mile of every home. This approach may not be the best measure for locating parks in St. George. The City should continue to place parks equidistant across the city, while placing a priority in those locations with higher population densities. The City should also continue the practice of placing neighborhood parks adjacent to elementary schools, where practicable.



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St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Capital Improvement Program

2019 Parks & Trails Map Code	Project Name	Project Description/Location	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026-2030	Area (Acre)	Length (Mi)	Sq. Ft.	TOTAL
Acquisition													
N-A	Atkin			\$ 412,000						4			\$ 412,000
N-D	Cottam Cove	Existing gap in park distribution							\$ 478,000	4			\$ 478,000
N-E	Desert Canyon 1 (Developer provides land)								0	4			\$ -
N-F	Desert Canyon 2 (Developer provides land)	Existing gap in park distribution				0				4			\$ -
N-G	Desert Canyon 3 (Developer provides land)								0	4			\$ -
N-H	Desert Canyon 4 (Developer provides land)								0	4			\$ -
N-J	Hidden Valley Neighborhood (Developer provides land)							0		4			\$ -
N-T	Tonaquint 1	Existing gap in park distribution				\$ 437,000				4			\$ 437,000
N-U	Tonaquint 2	New growth area					0		\$ 478,000	4			\$ 478,000
N-V	Tonaquint 3								\$ 492,000	4			\$ 492,000
N-N	Sun River West (Developer provides land)	New growth area						0		4			\$ -
N-O	The Lakes (Developer provides land)	New growth area						0		4			\$ -
N-P	The Ledges 1	New growth area							\$ 492,000	4			\$ 492,000
N-Q	The Ledges 2 (Developer provides land)			0						2.7			\$ -
N-R	The Ledges 3								\$ 507,000	4			\$ 507,000
N-S	The Trails	New growth area							\$ 507,000	4			\$ 507,000
	Southern Hills 1						\$ 450,000			4			\$ 450,000
	Southern Hills 2								\$ 538,000	4			\$ 538,000
	Southern Hills 3								\$ 538,000	4			\$ 538,000
	Moorland Park		\$ 400,000							4			\$ 400,000
	Desert Color 1 (Developer provides land)									4			\$ -
	Desert Color 2 (Developer provides land)									4			\$ -
C-H	Tonaquint Community 1	Existing gap in park distribution	0						\$ 2,534,000	18.47			\$ 2,534,000
C-F	The Lakes (Developer provides land)	Existing gap in park distribution			0					26.64			\$ -
C-G	The Ledges (Developer provides land)	New growth area						0		10			\$ -
	Desert Color Community (Developer provides land)	South Block Area							0	10			\$ -
	Santa Clara Trail - Cottonwood Cove to Sand Hollow Wash	Acquire additional alignments		\$ 309,000		0					1.53		\$ 309,000
	Arts Center location	Feasibility study & Land acquisition	\$ 773,000							5			\$ 773,000
	Community Rec Ceter	Feasibility study & Land acquisition					\$ 2,349,000			12			\$ 2,349,000
	Pickleball Complex (2nd or extension)	Feasibility study & Land acquisition						\$ 727,000		3.5			\$ 727,000
	Special Use Rec Facilities	Feasibility study & Land acquisition			\$ 870,000					5			\$ 870,000
		SUBTOTALS	\$ 1,173,000	\$ 721,000	\$ 870,000	\$ 437,000	\$ 2,799,000	\$ 727,000	\$ 6,564,000	177.31	1.53		\$ 13,291,000
Master Planning & Development - NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS (4 ACRES)													
N-A	Atkin	MP, CDs, permitting & construction				\$ 1,311,000				4			\$ 1,311,000
N-B	Banded Hills	MP, CDs, permitting & construction					\$ 1,688,000			10			\$ 1,688,000
N-C	Brigham Road Basin	MP, CDs, permitting & construction		0		\$ 656,000				1.72			\$ 656,000
N-D	Cottam Cove	MP, CDs, permitting & construction			\$ 1,273,000					4			\$ 1,273,000
N-K	Las Colinas	MP, CDs, permitting & construction			0	\$ 2,542,000				7			\$ 2,542,000
N-E	Desert Canyon 1 (Developer build BASIC park)	MP, CDs, permitting & construction			\$ 424,000					4			\$ 424,000
N-F	Desert Canyon 2 (Developer build BASIC park)	MP, CDs, permitting & construction					\$ 450,000			4			\$ 450,000
N-G	Desert Canyon 3 (Developer build BASIC park)	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 492,000	4			\$ 492,000
N-H	Desert Canyon 4 (Developer build BASIC park)	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 492,000	4			\$ 492,000
N-I	Ft. Pearce South Area	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 3,230,000	8.5			\$ 3,230,000
N-J	Hidden Valley Neighborhood	MP, CDs, permitting & construction				\$ 1,311,000				4			\$ 1,311,000
N-L	Red Cliffs	MP, CDs, permitting & construction						\$ 1,159,000		5			\$ 1,159,000
N-T	Tonaquint 1	MP, CDs, permitting & construction					\$ 1,351,000			4			\$ 1,351,000
N-U	Tonaquint 2	MP, CDs, permitting & construction						\$ 1,391,000		4			\$ 1,391,000
N-V	Tonaquint 3	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,520,000	4			\$ 1,520,000
N-W	Tonaquint Rock Park	MP, CDs, permitting & construction				\$ 1,093,000				23			\$ 1,093,000
N-M	Sun River South (Atkinville Wash)	MP, CDs, permitting & construction	\$ 1,200,000							7			\$ 1,200,000
N-N	Sun River West	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,566,000	4			\$ 1,566,000
N-O	The Lakes (Developer to build)				0					4			\$ -
N-Q	The Ledges 1	MP, CDs, permitting & construction			\$ 1,273,000					2.7			\$ 1,273,000
N-R	The Ledges 2	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,566,000	4			\$ 1,566,000
N-P	The Ledges 3	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,566,000	4			\$ 1,566,000
N-S	The Trails	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,613,000	4			\$ 1,613,000
	Southern Hills 1	MP, CDs, permitting & construction				\$ 1,311,000				4			\$ 1,311,000
	Southern Hills 2	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,613,000	4			\$ 1,613,000
	Southern Hills 3	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,613,000	4			\$ 1,613,000
	Moorland Park	MP, CDs, permitting & construction			\$ 1,273,000					4			\$ 1,273,000
	Desert Color 1	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,613,000	4			\$ 1,613,000
	Desert Color 2	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 1,613,000	4			\$ 1,613,000
C-C	Fossil Falls (Neighborhood or Community)??	MP, CDs, permitting & construction			\$ 2,122,000					5			\$ 2,122,000
		SUBTOTALS	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	\$ 6,365,000	\$ 8,224,000	\$ 3,489,000	\$ 2,550,000	\$ 18,497,000	153.92			\$ 40,325,000
Master Planning & Development - COMMUNITY PARKS (10 ACRES +)													
C-H	Tonaquint Community 1	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 6,531,000	18.47			\$ 6,531,000
C-F	The Lakes	MP, CDs, permitting & construction					\$ 9,145,000			26.64			\$ 9,145,000
C-D	Kiwanis	MP, CDs, permitting & construction					\$ 2,250,000		\$ 8,450,000	31.17			\$ 10,700,000
C-B	Desert Canyon	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 4,361,000	10.03			\$ 4,361,000
C-G	The Ledges	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 3,914,000	10			\$ 3,914,000



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St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Capital Improvement Program

2019 Parks & Trails Map Code	Project Name	Project Description/Location	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026-2030	Area (Acre)	Length (MI)	Sq. Ft.	TOTAL
C-E	Slick Rock	MP, CDs, permitting & construction					\$ 2,364,000			12.5			\$ 2,364,000
	Desert Color	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 4,032,000	10			\$ 4,032,000
C-A	Curly Hollow	MP, CDs, permitting & construction	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,200,000			\$ 3,500,000		\$ 2,300,000	23			\$ 8,150,000
	West of Tech Ridge	MP, CDs, permitting & construction				\$ 1,311,000				7.6			\$ 1,311,000
		SUBTOTALS	\$ 150,000	\$ 2,200,000	\$ -	\$ 1,311,000	\$ 17,259,000	\$ -	\$ 29,588,000	149.41			\$ 50,508,000
Master Planning & Development - IMPROVEMENTS & UPGRADES													
	Park loop pathways	Black Hill View, Seegmiller, Middleton, Sandtown, path				\$ 200,000		\$ 200,000			0.59		\$ 400,000
	Bloomington Hills North Park (Long)	Picnic pavilion, shade structure for playground	\$ 375,000										\$ 375,000
	Bloomington Hills Park	Park upgrade/renovation: play eqt, shade structures			\$ 300,000		\$ 300,000				0.17		\$ 600,000
		SUBTOTALS	\$ 375,000	\$ -	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 300,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -		0.76		\$ 1,375,000
Master Planning & Development - TRAILS													
	VR South Trail - Bloomington Park to I-15	Virgin River South: Paved path & support amenities		\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000		\$ 200,000			1.62		\$ 1,200,000
	VR South Trail - Springs Park to Mall Drive (Ph 3)	Virgin River South: Paved path & support amenities		\$ 536,000							0.65		\$ 536,000
	Fort Pearce Wash 1 (St James Park to Desert Canyon)	Fort Pearce Wash Segment: Paved path & support amenities				\$ 1,093,000					1.5		\$ 1,093,000
	Fort Pearce Wash 2 (St James Park to Desert Canyon)								\$ 1,194,000		1.5		\$ 1,194,000
	Fort Pearce Wash 3 (St James Park to Desert Canyon)								\$ 1,194,000		1.5		\$ 1,194,000
	Fort Pearce Wash 4 (St James Park to Desert Canyon)								\$ 1,230,000		1.5		\$ 1,230,000
	Santa Clara Trail - Cottonwood Cove to Sand Hollow Wash	Virgin River South: Paved path & support amenities	\$ 125,000	\$ 534,000	\$ 526,000						1.53		\$ 1,185,000
	Virgin River North to Virgin River South at SunRiver	Fort Pearce Wash Segment: Paved path & support amenities					\$ 100,000		\$ 1,242,000		2.77		\$ 1,342,000
	Banded Hills Trail 1		\$ 550,000								1		\$ 550,000
	Banded Hills Trail 2								\$ 1,267,000		1.5		\$ 1,267,000
	VR South Trail - Fossil Falls to MGF (Missing Link)		\$ 2,000,000								0.5		\$ 2,000,000
	VR South Trail - Rustic Trailhead to Springs Park		\$ 450,000								1		\$ 450,000
	Halfway Wash to RCDR Trail			\$ 412,000							0.5		\$ 412,000
	Middleton Wash Trail 1					\$ 328,000					0.5		\$ 328,000
	Middleton Wash Trail 2							\$ 580,000			0.75		\$ 580,000
	Seegmiller Canal Trail		\$ 750,000								2.1		\$ 750,000
	Slick Rock Trail along Riverside Dr				\$ 159,000						0.25		\$ 159,000
	Rim Rock Trail			\$ 927,000							1		\$ 927,000
	Copper Cliffs Trail		\$ 120,000								0.25		\$ 120,000
	Tech Ridge Trails								\$ 633,000		1		\$ 633,000
	Black Hill Trail			\$ 258,000					0		0.5		\$ 258,000
	Tonaquint Trail System								\$ 2,154,000		3		\$ 2,154,000
	Plantations Dr Trails						\$ 281,000		0		0.5		\$ 281,000
	1385 North Trail								\$ 326,000		0.5		\$ 326,000
	700 North Trail								\$ 326,000		0.5		\$ 326,000
	Northern Corridor Trail						\$ 1,238,000				2		\$ 1,238,000
	Desert Canyons Trails 1				\$ 583,000						1		\$ 583,000
	Desert Canyons Trails 2							\$ 1,043,000			1.5		\$ 1,043,000
	Desert Canyons Trails 3								\$ 739,000		1		\$ 739,000
		SUBTOTALS	\$ 3,995,000	\$ 3,167,000	\$ 1,268,000	\$ 1,921,000	\$ 1,619,000	\$ 1,823,000	\$ 10,305,000		33.42		\$ 24,098,000
Master Planning & Development - SPECIAL USE & OTHER FACILITIES													
	Arts Center Design/Development	Partnering role in planning & implementation			\$ 10,928,000							50,000	\$ 10,928,000
	Community Rec Center	MP, CDs, permitting & construction							\$ 38,100,000			150,000	\$ 38,100,000
	Special Use Rec Facilities	Climbing/Aerial; Splash/Water; BMX/Skate; etc.							\$ 9,003,000			60,000	\$ 9,003,000
		SUBTOTALS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,928,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 47,103,000			260,000	\$ 58,031,000
Park Repairs & Improvements													
	ADA Accessibility Improvements	Access improvements, playground ramps, etc.	\$580,000		\$ 615,000		\$ 653,000		\$ 734,000				\$ 2,582,000.00
	Restroom renovations	Mathis, 2450 East Parks, Worthen		\$200,000	\$ 100,000		\$ 100,000						\$ 400,000.00
	Playground shade structures	Canyons Complex, Cox, Forest, JC Snow, Middleton, Sand Hollow AC, Sandtown, Shadow Mtn, Springs, Tonaquint	\$600,000	\$600,000									\$ 1,200,000.00
	Shelter/pavilion renovations	Cox, JC Snow, Fields @ Little Valley (softball) & (soccer), 1100 East, 2450 East Parks		\$ 340,000		\$ 361,000		\$ 383,000					\$ 1,084,000.00
	Barbeque grill replacements	Mathis, J.C Snow, Bloomington Hills, & B. Hills North, Royal Oaks Parks	\$33,000										\$ 33,000.00
	Picnic table replacements	Black Hill View, Cox, JC Snow, Shadow Mtn., 2450 East Parks		\$15,000		\$20,000							\$ 35,000.00
	Bench replacements	Springs, Upper Tawa,	\$20,000										\$ 20,000.00
	Bleacher retrofit/replacements	Canyons Complex, Fields LV (pickleball)	\$300,000										\$ 300,000.00
	Play equipment upgrades/replacement	Cox, Sand Hollow AC, 1100 East, various			\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$1,500,000				\$ 2,700,000.00
	Sport court resurfacing	College, Larkspur, Middleton, Royal Oaks, Shadow Mtn., Vernon Worthen, 1100 East, Little Valley, various		\$22,000	\$22,000		\$24,000		\$150,000				\$ 218,000.00
	Springs Park	Master plan existing park			\$200,000		\$200,000		\$200,000				\$ 600,000.00
	Bloomington Park	Master plan existing park				\$500,000		\$500,000					
	VR South Trail Repairs - Bloomington Park to SunRiver	Trail repairs	\$350,000										\$ 350,000.00
		SUBTOTALS	\$ 1,883,000	\$ 1,177,000	\$ 1,237,000	\$ 1,181,000	\$ 1,277,000	\$ 1,183,000	\$ 2,584,000				\$ 9,522,000



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APPENDIX A

PARK INVENTORY SUMMARIES





BLACK HILL VIEW PARK

1.91 acres

265 South Tech Ridge Drive

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- The park does not have an accessible path, connecting the park elements. Consider providing a paved path from park edges to playground and picnic table in next phase of park development.

AMENITIES

- Playground
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Drinking fountain
- Bike rack
- Open grass area



BLAKE MEMORIAL PARK

5.90 acres

1360 West Street

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Kiosk
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Future master planned trail.



BLOOMINGTON PARK

26.49 acres

650 W. Man O War Road

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add accessible ramps to play areas.
- Curb cuts for handicapped parking are uneven creating a barrier. Tactile warning strips should be added where walkways meet parking areas.
- Future master planned trail.

AMENITIES

- Softball fields
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Covered pavilion
- Pickleball
- Basketball
- Benches
- Disc golf
- Trailheads: Virgin River North Trail & Virgin River South Trail
- Horse arenas
- Baseball field
- Open grass area



BLOOMINGTON HILLS NORTH PARK

10.75 acres

839 E. Vermillion Avenue

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Playground
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Paved walking path
- Trailhead: Larkspur Trail
- Drinking fountain
- Basketball
- Benches
- Disc golf course (9-hole)

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Clusters of picnic tables offer no shade. Consider adding a few shade structures.
- Playground has no shade or accessible entry.



BLOOMINGTON HILLS PARK

2.77 acres

2859 S. Redwood Tree Circle

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Park has no designated parking area. Cars park on edge of road up on sloped lawn – causing damage to irrigation heads. Consider creating designated (on-street) parking areas with stabilized surface and relocating irrigation heads accordingly.
- Park has no accessible walking path to park amenities. Path could be created in conjunction with designated parking areas and designed to connect park elements.
- Playground has no shade. Equipment platforms beginning to wear (showing rust).

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Basketball
- Benches
- Open grass area
- Drinking fountain



BROOKS NATURE PARK

2.76 acres

452 North Main Street

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Walking path (unpaved, not ADA)
- Trailhead: Owen's Loop Trail
- Pond
- Amphitheater

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Trail access from parking is not clearly designated (for first time visitor). Consider more clearly defining trail alignments and restoring vegetation outside of trail tread.
- Consider creating better ADA-compliant access to pavilion and its picnic tables from the handicapped parking stall.
- Consider adding fishing dock.



THE CANYONS COMPLEX

37.64 acres

1890 West 2000 North

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding shade structure to playground.
- Add safety railing to 3-tiered bleachers or replace with spectator seating that meets the International Building Code.
- Add picnic tables with wheelchair seating as tables are replaced in both pavilions.

AMENITIES

- Softball fields
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Fishing pond
- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- BBQ grills
- Drinking fountain
- Trailhead: Snow Canyon Parkway Trail
- Walking path
- Open grass area
- Concession building



CENTENNIAL PARK

14.15 acres

250 North 2200 East

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Sports fields
- Community garden & greenhouse
- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Drinking fountain
- Amphitheater
- Walking path
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Areas along perimeter paved path could be improved through addition of shade trees.



CHRISTENSEN PARK

5.76 acres
3780 South 1550 West

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.

AMENITIES

- Playground
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Softball/baseball field
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Horseshoe pits
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Walking path
- Open grass area



COLLEGE PARK

0.82 acres

201 South 1000 East

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- On-street parking
- Playground
- Basketball (1/2 court)
- Open grass area
- Basketball (with lighting)
- Drinking fountain

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.



COTTONWOOD COVE PARK

24.80 acres
1027 S. Dixie Drive

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.

AMENITIES

- Playground (with shade structure)
- Climbing wall
- Parking
- Trailhead: Santa Clara River Trail
- Bike rack
- Restrooms
- Walking path
- Volleyball
- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Drinking fountains
- Open grass area



COX PARK (BOOTS COX FAMILY PARK)

4.35 acres

1080 S. 900 East

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Parking
- Walking path
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Tennis
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add shade structure and ADA access ramp to playground. Replacement of equipment needed soon.
- Replacement pavilion (or just roof) could be opportunity for adding unique character to this park.



CRIMSON RIDGE PARK

4 acres

3100 East Crimson Ridge Drive

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Electrical outlets
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Drinking fountains
- Playground
- Open grass area
- Walking path
- Benches



CROSBY FAMILY / CONFLUENCE PARK

11.32 acres

1953 S. Convention Center

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Trailhead: Virgin River North Trail & Santa Clara River Trail
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Walking path
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted



DIXIE DOWNS PARK

5.74 acres

1770 W. 1100 North

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Backstop is aligned uncomfortably close to walking trail. A realignment is recommended when either trail or ballfield undergoes renovation or repaving.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Playground
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Ballfield (backstop in open grass area)
- Drinking fountain
- Walking path
- Benches
- Open grass area



DIXIE SUN BOWL

5.5 acres

150 South 400 East

Special Use Facility

AMENITIES

- Restrooms
- Parking
- Drinking fountains
- Multipurpose field

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted



FIREHOUSE PARK

4.37 acres

1929 West 1800 North

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- As the shorter-lived purple-leafed plums begin their decline, consider planning for ornamental trees being replaced with native canopy trees (both to avoid dropped fruit on sidewalk pavement and to provide more shade value in the park).

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Drinking fountain
- Walking path
- Dog park
- Benches
- Open grass area



FOREST PARK

3.07 acres

1066 N. 1800 East

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Benches
- Walking path
- Open grass area
- Pond

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding shade structure to playground area.
- Consider adding fishing dock.



HELA SEEGMILLER HISTORIC FARM

30.61 acres

2592 South 3000 East

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider creating a more formal walking path through natural areas outside historic farmstead zone to connect to pond and provide environmental educational interpretation.

AMENITIES

- Historic farmstead w/ barn (Pavilion)
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Drinking fountain
- Walking path
- Pond
- Orchard
- Community garden
- Open grass area
- Trailhead: 3000 East Trail



HIDDEN VALLEY PARK

12.37 acres

3505 S. Barcelona Drive

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Volleyball
- Tennis courts
- Basketball
- Drinking fountain
- Splash pad
- Trailhead: Hidden Valley Trail
- Open grass area
- Walking path

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add park identification sign at pedestrian entrances to park.
- Consider formalizing (by design) the user-made bike paths in natural area adjacent to park as a pump track/ bike skills course.



J.C. SNOW PARK

13.20 acres
275 E. 900 South

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Create a more formal entrance with a park identification sign.
- Consider adding shade for playground area.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Playground
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Skate Park
- Horseshoe pits (tournament level)
- Volleyball
- Futsal
- Dog park
- Benches
- Trailhead: Hilton Drive Trail
- Open grass area



LARKSPUR PARK

4.57 acres

815 E. Ft Pierce Drive

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Playground (with shade)
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Tennis courts (pickleball option)
- Volleyball
- Walking path
- Drinking fountain
- Open grass area
- Trailhead: Larkspur Trail

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted



LITTLE VALLEY PICKLEBALL FACILITY

6 acres

2149 East Horseman Park Drive

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Electrical outlets
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Drinking fountains
- Pickleball courts
- Walking path
- Benches



MATHIS PARK

19.45 acres

1820 W. Mathis Park Place

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Walking path
- Open grass area
- Disc golf course (9-hole)
- Trailhead: Santa Clara River Trail

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- User-made path linking trail to sidewalk at Dixie could be made as formal pedestrian entrance to park.
- Add playground ramp for ADA access.



MIDDLETON PARK

1.01 acres

780 North 1700 East

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding a walking loop path connecting park elements, internally.
- Consider adding shade structure to playground.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Basketball
- Benches
- Open grass area



MILLCREEK PARK

2.80 acres

2983 E. 110 N. Circle

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Basketball
- Playground
- Drinking fountain
- Benches
- Walking path
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Newly constructed park.



PETROGLYPH PARK

0.51 acres

1460 W. Navajo Drive

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider providing better access to petroglyphs – paved path may be appropriate.

AMENITIES

- Historic feature
- Bench



PIONEER PARK

47.86 acres

375 E. Red Hills Parkway

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Parking
- Restrooms
- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Benches
- Drinking fountain
- Trailhead: Red Hills Parkway Trail & RCDR Trails
- Driving park loop
- Trails

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding park identification sign at western (smaller) parking lot.



ROYAL OAKS PARK

8.90 acres

1250 North 1400 West

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Overlook has limited value. Could be redesigned for a different purpose.
- Playground lacks ADA access ramp.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Basketball
- Walking path
- Benches
- Open grass area
- Trailhead: Halfway Wash Trail
- Overlook



ST. JAMES PARK

7.09 acres

620 E. St. James Lane

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Trailhead: Virgin River South Trail
- Bike fixit station
- Benches
- Walking path
- Drinking fountains
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Continue adding shade trees to perimeter of park walking loop.
- Consider installing disc golf course



SAND HOLLOW AQUATIC CENTER

3.00 acres
1144 N 2400 W

Special Use Facility

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding shade structure and ADA ramp to playground. Play equipment is aging and will need replacement soon.
- Consider adding shade structure for volleyball spectators.
- Provide clear access and wayfinding for trail from parking lot.

AMENITIES

- Parking
- Picnic tables
- Portable grills
- Fire pits
- Volleyball
- Outside shower/footwash
- Benches
- Bike racks
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Open grass area
- Trailhead: Sand Hollow Wash Trail
- Swimming pool



SANDTOWN PARK

6.69 acres

649 N. 600 West

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking (on-street)
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Open grass area
- Benches

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding loop walking path with additional outdoor recreational amenities to this park. Formalizing areas for soccer mini-mods could help delineate other areas available for park development.
- Consider adding shade structure for playground.
- Park lacks park identification sign.



SHADOW MOUNTAIN PARK

4.41 acres

305 N. Stone Mountain Drive

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add tactile warning strip at curb cut in cul-de-sac of 1160 W.
- Add electrical outlets to covered pavilion.
- Consider adding shade and ADA ramp to playground.
- Pond edge could be buffered with natural vegetation along its entire perimeter to avoid direct (nutrient-laden) runoff from mown grass.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Playground
- Drinking fountain
- Basketball (w/ lighting)
- Volleyball
- Pond w/ overlook
- Walking path
- Benches
- Open grass area
- Pergola



SILKWOOD PARK

3.25 acres

3390 South 2710 East

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Benches
- Amphitheater
- Open grass areas
- Walking path

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Former splash pad area could be redesigned as other recreational amenity.



SKYLINE POND

3.20 acres

650 E. Waterworks Drive

Special Use Facility

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add park identification sign at entry.
- Consider adding more shade trees along perimeter of pond.
- The only ADA access is to the pier. Benches along the pond perimeter have no ADA access and are not ADA-compliant. Consider designing a more accessible space for all users.

AMENITIES

- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Pond
- Fishing pier
- Benches



SLICK ROCK PARK

7.38 acres

2395 E. Riverside Drive

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Walking path
- Open grass area
- Restroom
- Drinking fountain
- Climbing rocks
- Bike rack
- Trailhead: Slick Rock Trail
- Benches

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Potential to add mountain bike skills course in natural area west of developed park.
- Add park identification sign at side entrance at concrete steps.



SNAKE HOLLOW BIKE PARK

80 acres

1470 North Lava Flow Drive

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Develop future phases to include 6 mile cross country track, parking, additional shade pavilions, playground and a strider track.

AMENITIES

- Bicycle skills courses
- Restroom
- Pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Walking path
- Drinking fountains
- Parking
- Open grass area
- Trailhead: Sand Hollow Wash Trail
- Vistas



SPRINGS PARK

11.22 acres

2395 E. Springs Drive

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Basketball with lights
- Playground
- Pond
- Benches (w/ swings)
- Drinking fountain
- Walking path
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider adding shade structure to playground and ADA access ramp.



SUNSET PARK

8.09 acres
1585 W. 340 N.

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- None noted.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Benches
- Playground
- Sand volleyball
- Walking path (with lighting)
- Backstop for grass ballfield
- Open grass areas
- Parking



TAWA FISHING PONDS

2.61 acres

2050 W. Snow Canyon Parkway

Special Use Facility

AMENITIES

- Trailhead: Snow Canyon Parkway Trail
- Parking
- Ponds
- Benches
- Kiosk
- Underpass: access to The Canyons Complex

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Pond has no designed universal access to urban fishing. Consider how to design access from parking area to provide for fishing platform and support amenities.



THE FIELDS AT LITTLE VALLEY / SOFTBALL

14.36 acres

2995 South 2350 East

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Design landscape plantings for bare soil areas.

AMENITIES

- Softball fields (w/ dugout & bleachers)
- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountains
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playgrounds
- Concession building



THE FIELDS / SOCCER, PICKLEBALL & VOLLEYBALL

34.86 acres

2255 E. Horseman Park Drive

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountains
- Soccer fields
- Volleyball courts
- Pickleball courts
- Benches
- Playground
- Walking path
- Splash pad
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Add park identification sign at Pickleball facility entrance.



THUNDER JUNCTION

7.38 acres
1851 South Dixie Drive

Community Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Install additional shade structures and pathways at east end of park.
- Complete landscaping at east end of park.
- Provide more dinosaur sculptures.
- Install monument sign on west end of park.
- Upgrade train maintenance area and storage tunnel.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Drinking fountain
- Climbing wall
- Benches
- Water play features
- Railroad train ride
- Concession building



TONAQUINT PARK

33.42 acres

1851 South Dixie Drive

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Parking
- Drinking fountains
- Restrooms
- Playground
- Volleyball
- Tennis center
- Nature center
- Walking paths
- Amphitheater
- Demonstration garden
- Ponds
- Trailhead: Santa Clara River Trail
- Open grass area

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Nature Center could benefit from wayfinding signage for trail system.



TOWN SQUARE

4.71 acres

50 South Main Street

Public Square

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Install additional restrooms.
- Install additional interactive water features.
- Improve gravel parking.
- Consider adding stage facility.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Parking
- Water play features / Splash pad
- Walking paths
- Open grass areas
- Public art
- Carousel
- Amphitheater
- Fountain
- Tower
- Bike rentals



VERNON WORTHEN PARK

8.11 acres

300 South 400 East

Community Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- BBQ grills
- Parking
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Volleyball courts
- Walking path
- Open grass area
- Benches
- Pickleball courts
- Gazebo

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Consider redesign for former Rotary picnic area improvements to renovate and update outdoor recreational uses.



ZIONS SQUARE

0.5 acres

60 North Main Street

Public Square

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

None noted

AMENITIES

- Walking path
- Benches
- Landscape beds
- Water feature



1100 EAST PARK

1.25 acres

655 South 1100 East

Neighborhood Park

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Drinking fountain
- Playground
- Basketball (adult & junior ½ courts)
- Volleyball
- On-street parking

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Playground could use added shade structure and ADA access ramp. Play equipment platforms showing rust.
- Consider adding park identification signs at park entry from east where handicapped parking is provided in Harmon's parking lot.



2450 EAST PARK

11.12 acres

130 North 2450 East

Neighborhood Park

DESIGN OPPORTUNITIES

- Landscape beds have extensive empty areas. Design replanting with native plant species.
- Tactile warning strip needed where path meets parking area.

AMENITIES

- Covered pavilion
- Picnic tables
- Restrooms
- Drinking fountain
- Parking lots (one shared with Fire Station)
- Playground
- Volleyball
- Basketball
- Pergola
- Trailhead: Slick Rock Trail
- Benches
- Open grass area
- Walking path

APPENDIX B COMMUNITY SURVEY SUMMARY



CONSERVATION
TECHNIX

To: Shane McAfee, Director, Leisure Services Department
From: Steve Duh, Conservation Technix, Inc.
Date: November 2, 2018
Re: **St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan**
Community Survey Summary Results

METHODOLOGY

Conservation Technix is pleased to present the results of a survey of the general population of St. George that assesses residents' recreational needs, preferences and priorities. In close collaboration with staff and the Parks and Recreation Committee, Conservation Technix developed the 18-question survey that was estimated to take approximately six minutes to complete. A total of 1,363 completed surveys were recorded.

The survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,500 households within the boundaries of the City of St. George on September 7, 2018. An online version of the survey was posted to the City's website a week later to allow the mail recipients to receive first notice about the survey. Reminder postcards were mailed to the 2,500 households on September 26th. Information about the survey was provided on the City's website home page and on the Master Plan subpage. It was promoted via multiple City email blasts and social media, as well. The survey was also promoted during a public open house meeting held on September 11, 2018 that served as the first public meeting for the Master Plan. The survey was closed on October 12th, and data were compiled and reviewed. In all, 567 responses were completed from the print version mail survey, and 796 responses were generated via the online link published on the City's website.

This report includes findings on general community opinions. Data are aggregated and summarized for the mail and online surveys to highlight overall community preferences, with clarifying remarks on response differences between the two datasets. The data for the mail and online versions were kept separated. Percentages in the report may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

The main survey data were cross tabulated with the demographic data (e.g., age, location, number of children in household) to examine if differences existed between the different respondent subgroups. The summary below identifies variations in responses per question, if such variations existed and were significant between subgroups.

DEMOGRAPHICS

This section compares the demographics of St. George residents, based on the 2016 American Community Survey (US Census) estimates to the respondents to the community survey. The survey did not use a controlled collection protocol, so response quotas by age or gender are not included.

Of survey respondents, 37% were over 65 years old, 30% were between 45 and 65, 32% were between 20 and 45, and 1% were under 20 years old. Survey respondents were more likely to be older adults as compared to the City's population in general. Respondents with children were also more likely to respond – while over two-thirds of all City households (69%) have no children at home, only 64% of survey respondents did. The remainder of respondents who have children under 18 at home have a single child (8%), two children (11%), or three or more children (18%).

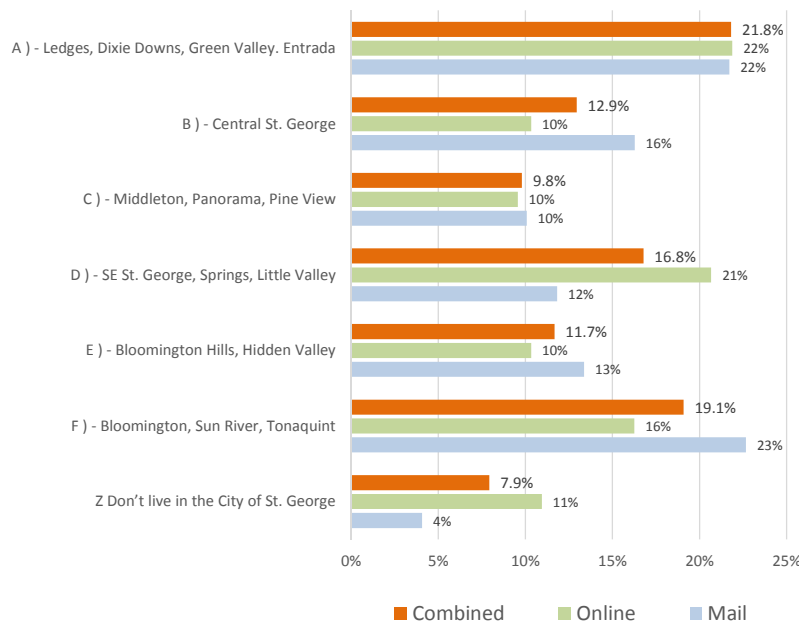
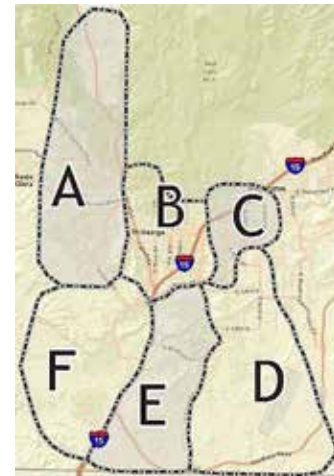
Respondents to the mail version of the survey tended to be older (70% are over 55) with fewer children (76% with no child in the household) and more likely to live in the central and southwestern portions of the city (16% from Central St George and 23% from Bloomington, Sun River & Tonaquint) than respondents to the online survey. In reviewing the subgroup data from the online-only responses, 57% of respondents were under 55 years of age and nearly half (47%) had one or more children at home. There also was a slightly higher percentage of respondents to the online survey who live in the areas of southeast St. George, Springs, Little Valley (21%).

Demographic group	ACS (2016) 78,573	Survey Respondents n = 1,363
Age		
Younger than 20	29%	1%
20 to 34	20%	13%
35 to 44	10%	19%
45 to 54	9%	12%
55 to 64	10%	18%
65 and older	21%	37%
Children Under 18 in Household		
No children	69%	64%
1 child	31% (all households	8%
2 children	with children under 18	11%
3 or more children	combined)	18%

The City received survey responses from residents living in all parts of the city, with a fairly consistent distribution of the regions between the mail and the online versions. Nearly equal percentages of respondents live in the northern half of the city to the southern half of the city (43% and 48%, respectively). Slightly higher response rates came from the areas of the Ledges, Dixie Downs, Green Valley, and Entrada (22%) and Bloomington, Sun River and Tonaquint (19%).

Using the map, in which section of St George do you live? (Q18)

Area	Response Percent
(A) Ledges, Dixie Downs, Green Valley, Entrada	21.8%
(B) Central St. George	12.9%
(C) Middleton, Panorama, Pine View	9.8%
(D) SE St. George, Springs, Little Valley	16.8%
(E) Bloomington Hills, Hidden Valley	11.7%
(F) Bloomington, Sun River, Tonaquint	19.1%
Don't live in the City of St. George	7.9%



KEY FINDINGS

COMMUNITY VALUE OF PARKS

Nearly all respondents (98%) feel that public parks and recreation opportunities are important or essential to the quality of life in the City. More than eight in ten respondents feel that they are essential; while an additional 17% believe that they are important to quality of life, but not essential. Only 1.7% of respondents believe parks are “a luxury that we don’t need”.

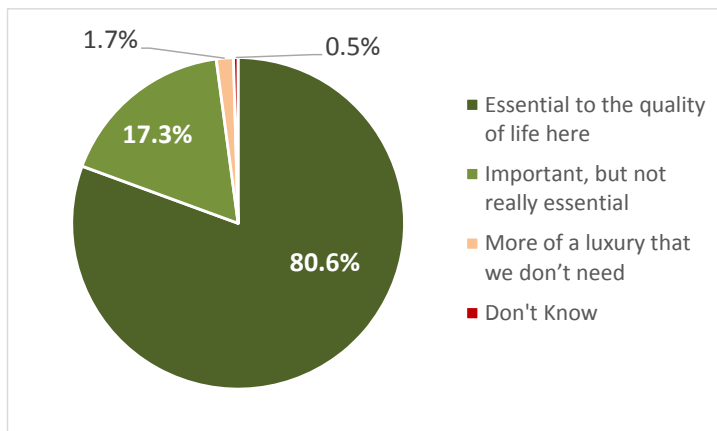
There was no significant difference in responses between online and mail survey respondents or between age, number of children in the household or geographic location of the respondent.

City of St. George

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Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in St. George, would you say that local public parks and recreation opportunities are... (Q1)



SATISFACTION WITH PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

A large majority (86%) of respondents indicated that they are very or somewhat satisfied with the overall value they receive from St. George's parks, trails, arts and recreation services. One in ten (10.4%) of respondents are very or somewhat dissatisfied. Respondents from south and southeast St. George (areas D and E on the map in question 18) were only slightly less satisfied than the average response. There was no significant difference in responses for age groups or households with/without children.

Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the City of St. George for parks, trails, arts and recreation services. (Q3)

Satisfaction rating	Response Percent	
Very Satisfied	41.2%	86%
Somewhat Satisfied	44.7%	
Somewhat Dissatisfied	7.9%	
Very Dissatisfied	2.5%	
Don't Know	3.7%	

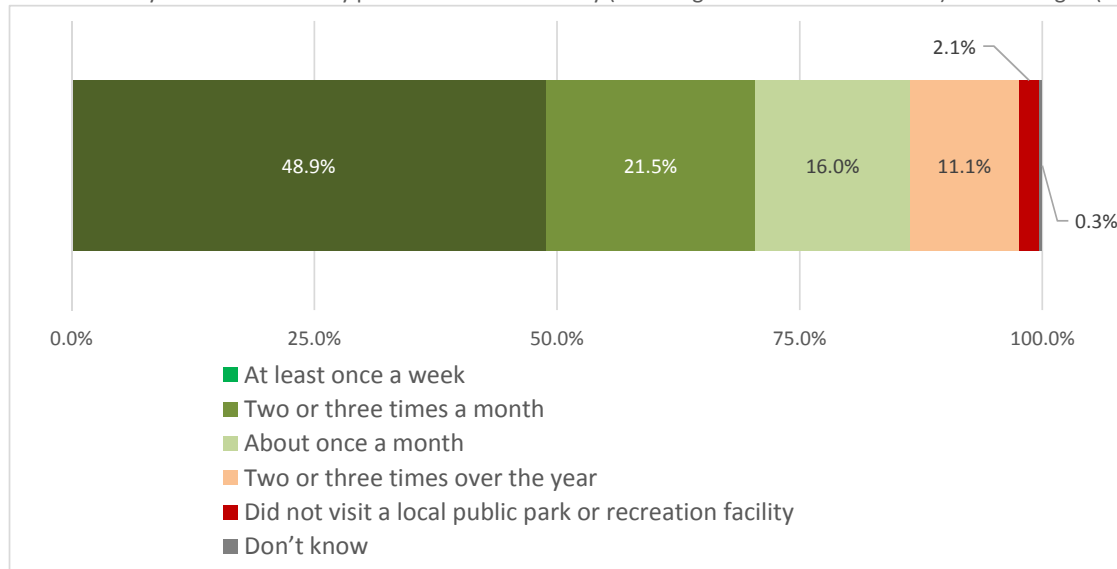
PUBLIC USE OF PARK & RECREATION FACILITIES

Respondents were asked how often they, or members of their household, visited parks or recreation facilities over the past year. Nearly seven in eight (86.4%) respondents replied that they, or member of their household, visited a park or recreation facility at least once per month in the past year. Almost half visited at least once a week (49%). Only 2% of respondents did not visit a park or facility at all.

Younger respondents were more likely to visit parks frequently - 69% of respondents between 20 and

44 years old visit at weekly, as compared to 38% of respondents over the age of 45. Households with two or more children under 18 have a higher rate of frequent park usage. Respondents from the southwest area (area F – Bloomington, Sun River, Tonaquint) have a lower rate of frequent usage (29%), compared to the average of 43% across all geographies. Respondents from southeast St. George and central St. George (areas B and D) had higher than average rates of frequent park usage. Online respondents showed a higher rate of usage, with 91% visiting parks at least monthly, compared to 80% from the mail-only survey respondents.

How often do you visit or use a city park or recreation facility (including art facilities or museum) in St. George? (Q4)



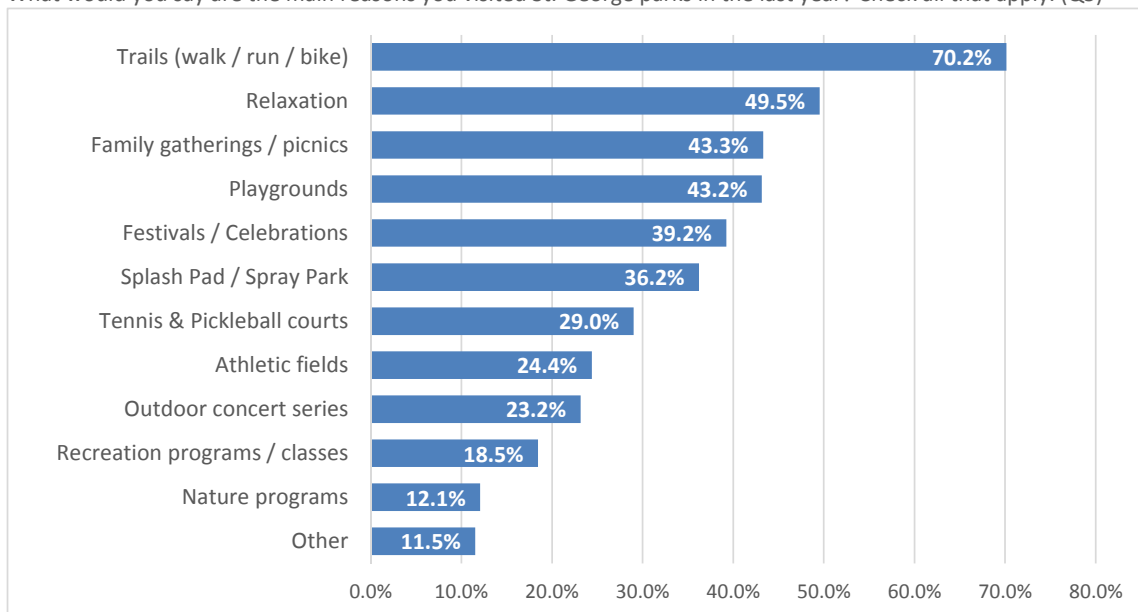
REASONS RESIDENTS VISIT

The survey asked respondents about the primary reasons they visit St. George parks and recreation facilities. The majority of respondents (72%) visit to use trails (walk, run or bike). Just under half visit for relaxation, to use playgrounds, or for family gatherings (49%, 43%, and 43%, respectively). Approximately one-third visit for festivals, splash pads, tennis & pickleball. Mail survey respondents identified a slightly higher interest in visiting parks for family gatherings and outdoor concerts. Respondents under 44 and those with children were more likely to visit parks for playgrounds, splash pads, family gatherings, recreation programs and nature programs. There were no significant differences in responses based on the respondent's region within the city.

City of St. George
Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

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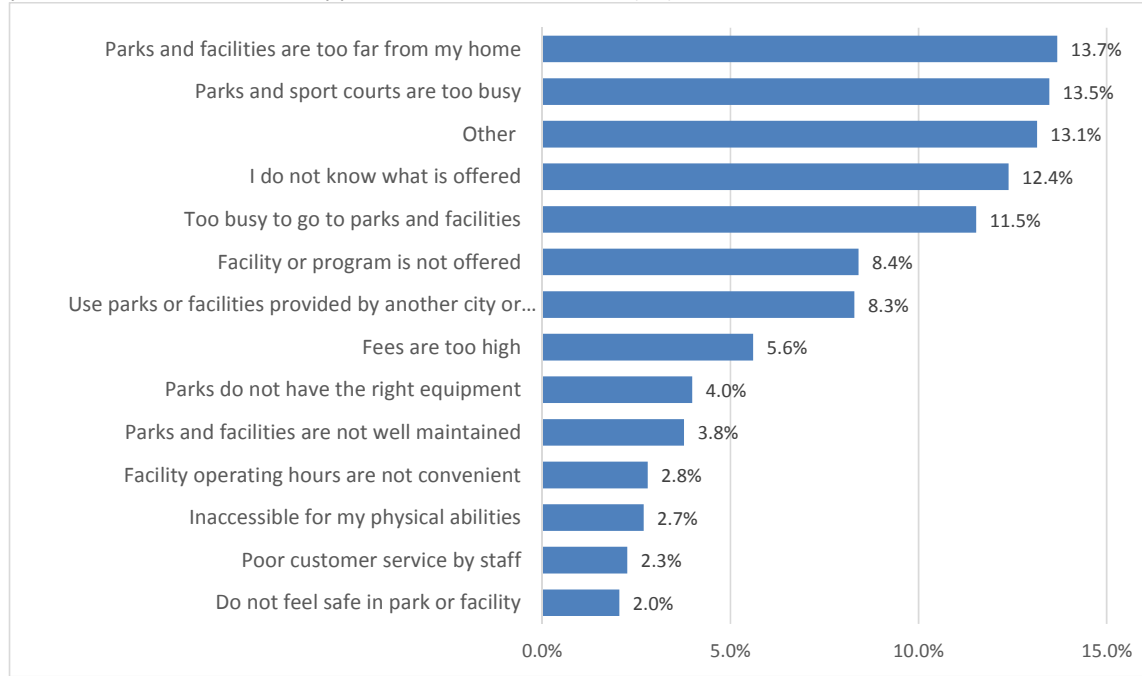
What would you say are the main reasons you visited St. George parks in the last year? Check all that apply. (Q5)



REASONS FOR LESS THAN FREQUENT USAGE OF PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Survey respondents were asked to identify the reasons for less than frequent usage of parks and facilities in the city. Top responses included the limitations that parks are too far from their home (13.7%), sport courts are too crowded (13.5%), they are too busy in their lives (11.5%) and they don't know what is offered (12.4%). Online respondents indicated slightly a higher response for parks being too far from their house (16.2% versus 9.6% for the mail survey). Respondents over 55 years of age noted higher percentage responses for using parks or facilities provided by another city or organization (15% versus 6% for those under 55). Respondents from the southwest area (area F – Bloomington, Sun River, Tonaquint) indicated a higher response rate for sport courts being too busy (18% versus 10.5% across all regions).

If you are not a frequent user of City of St. George parks and recreation facilities, please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household does not use City parks or facilities more often. (Q6)



FACILITY & PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Need for additional parks, indoor recreation facilities, and recreation programs

A plurality of respondents feel there are ‘not enough’ of indoor recreation/aquatics facilities (47%) and arts and culture programs (40%) in St. George. In general, the remaining respondents feel there are about the ‘right number’ of these places, with very few (5% and 8%, respectively) feeling there are ‘more than enough’.

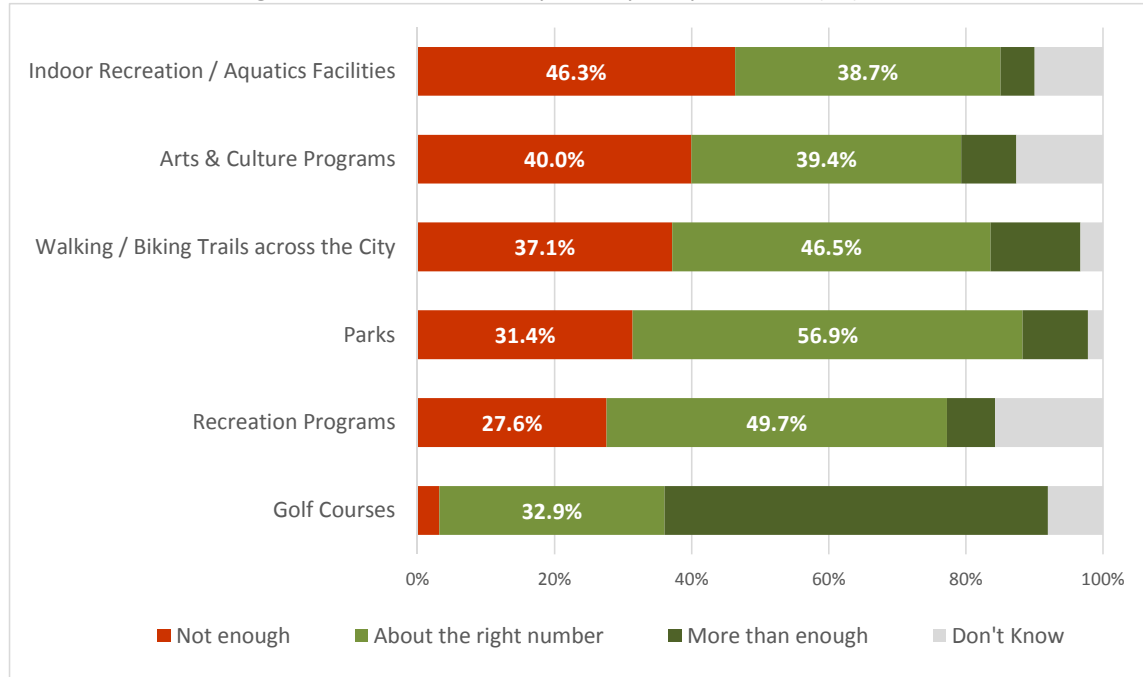
Majorities of respondents feel that the City has “more than enough” or “about the right number” of walking/biking trails (60%), parks (66%), and recreation programs (57%). However, about one-third feel that there are not enough programs or events in the area.

An overwhelming majority of respondents (89%) feel the City has “more than enough” or “about the right number” of golf courses.

There were essentially no differences in responses by age group, geography or households with children. The only demographic subgroup that indicated a minor difference of opinion was the

respondents from area C (Middleton, Panorama, Pine View) who feel there are more than enough parks (19.2% versus 12.5% across all geographies).

When it comes to meeting the needs of the community, would you say there are... (Q2)

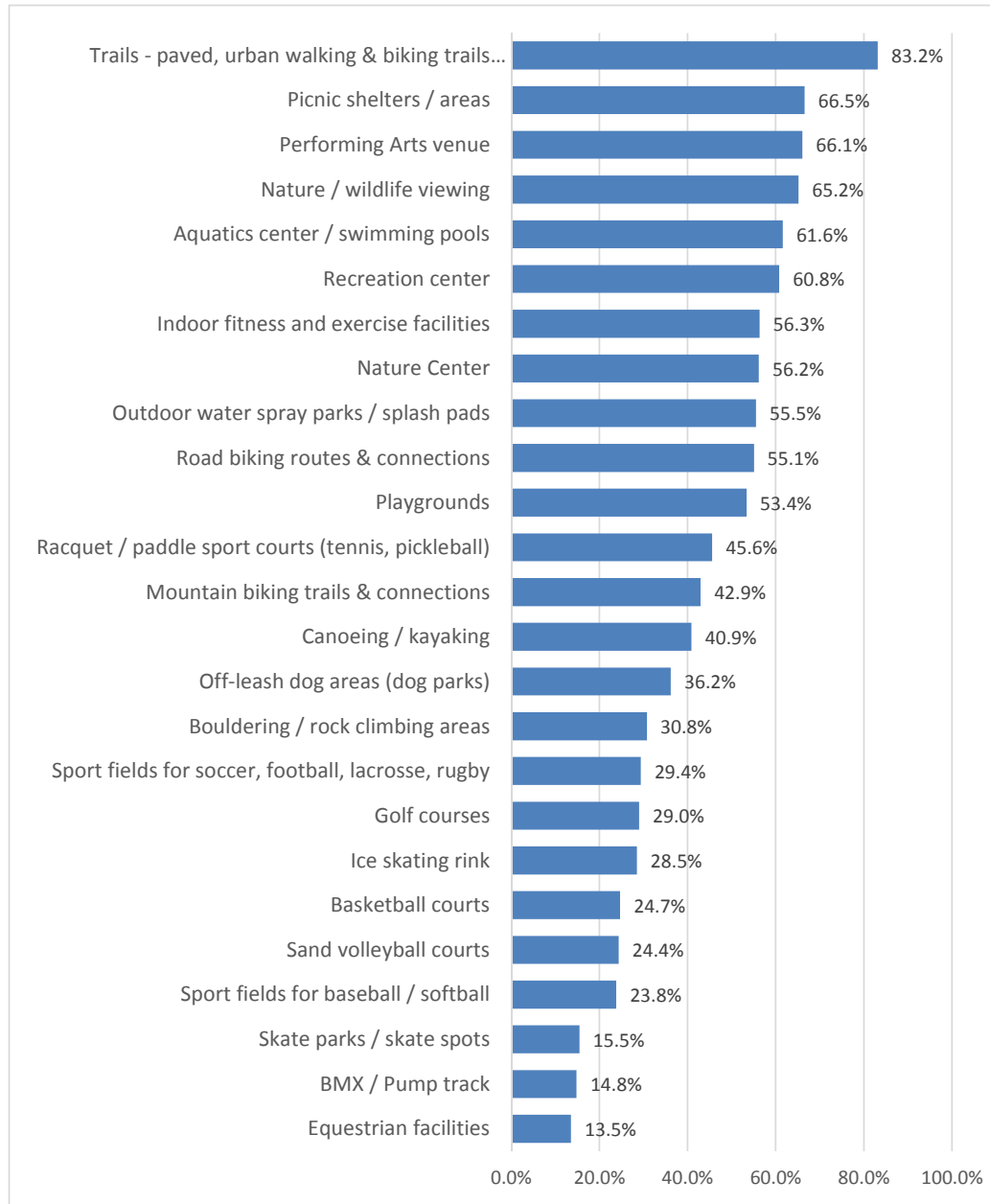


Park and Facility Improvement Priorities

Survey respondents were presented with a list of parks, arts and recreation facilities and asked if they have a need for each facility and to what degree their need is met for each facility. Trails for walking and biking ranked as the amenity of highest need (83% overall). A second tier of facilities of need included picnic shelters, performing arts venue, nature / wildlife viewing, aquatics center, and recreation center.

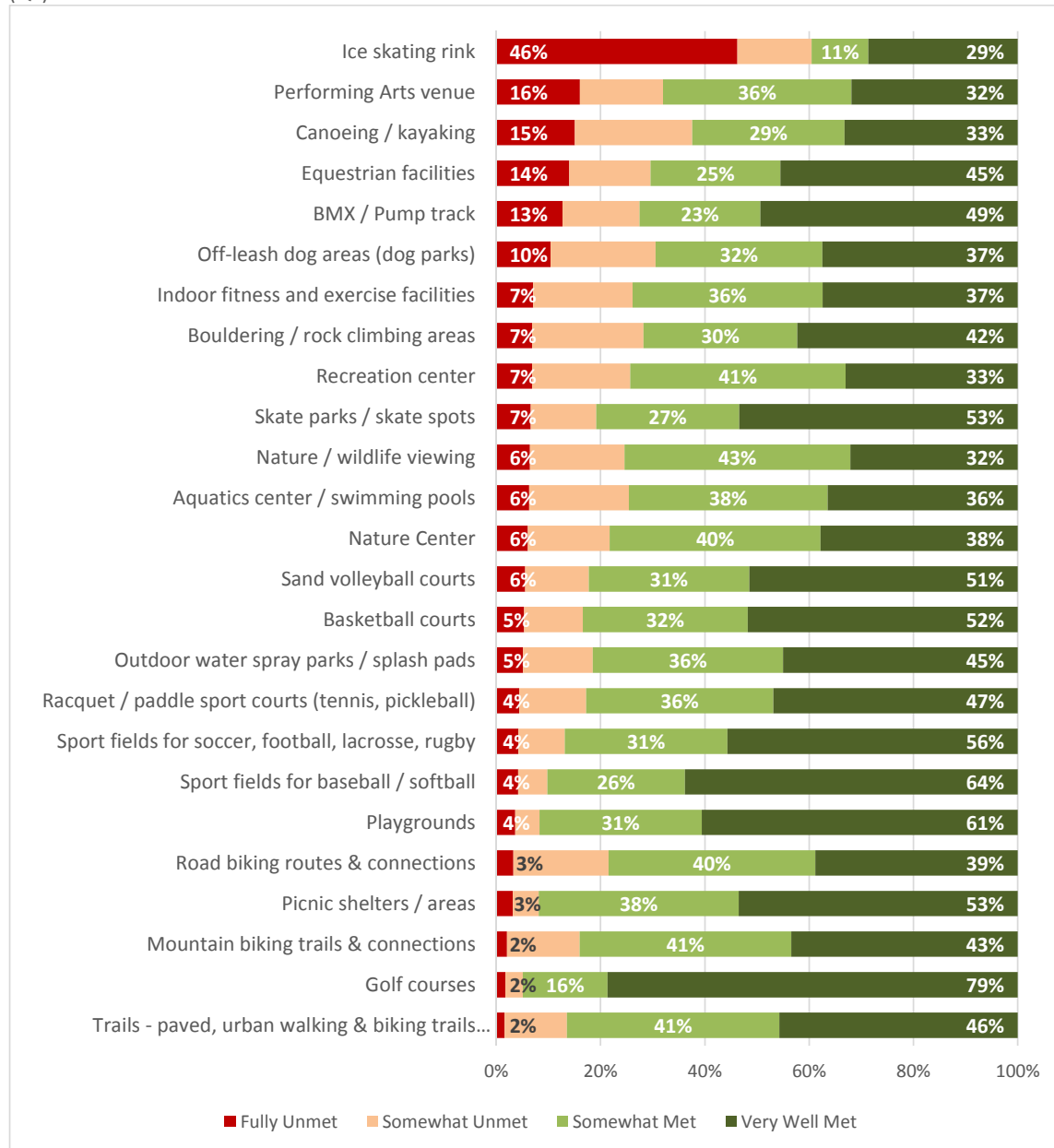
The second part of the question related to how well met their need is for each facility. For nearly every item, respondents noted that their needs are substantially met, with every item except two marked with percentages at/above 66% for somewhat or fully met. The two items that did show as being well met included ice skating rink and canoeing/kayaking facilities. In terms of unmet needs, the ice skating rink was identified with the highest level of unmet need.

Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the parks, arts and recreation facilities listed below. (Q7)



Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

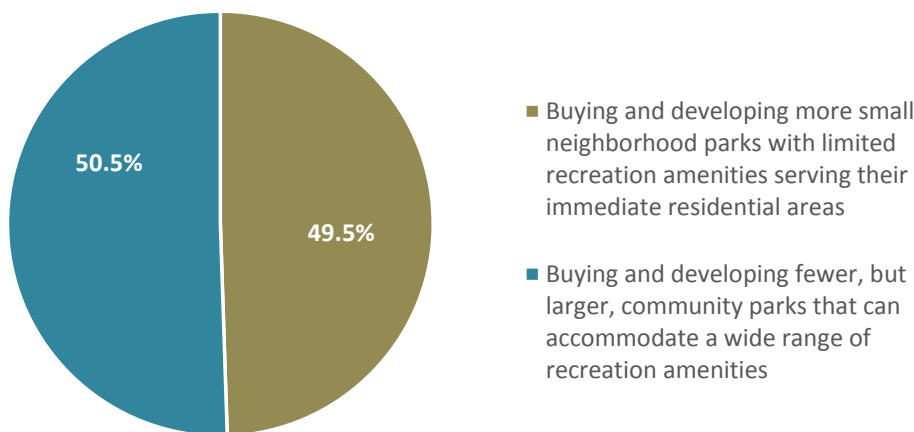
Using the same list as above, please mark how well your needs are met locally for each type of amenity or facility.
(Q7)



Preferences about Park Size & Proximity

The survey included a question to gauge preferences about park size and proximity related to the continued growth of the park system. Respondents were evenly split in their thoughts about whether the City should buy and develop smaller neighborhood parks serving immediate neighborhood areas or buy and develop fewer, larger community parks more spread across the community. Respondents from area E (Bloomington Hills, Hidden Valley) more strongly favored more small neighborhood parks (71% to 29% for larger community parks). No other discernable distinctions were evident between the other demographic subgroups or between the online and mail surveys.

The City of St. George is expected to grow significantly in coming years, and budgeting for park maintenance may need to be re-assessed with the demands of a growing park system. Which of the following better meets your needs? (Q8)



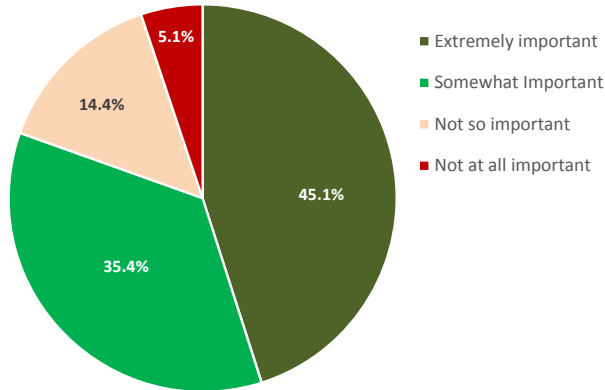
Trail Connections with Parks

With a significant network of existing trails for walking, hiking and mountain biking, the survey posed a question about the importance of connecting city parks to the trail system. A strong majority (80.5%) of respondents felt connecting parks to trails was very or somewhat important. Online respondents felt more strongly that these connections were very important (49% versus 39% for the mail-only survey). Respondents from area C (Middleton, Panorama, Pine View) felt trail connections were less important (36.5% as not so important or not at all important, versus the average of 23.6% across all geographies). No other distinctions existed between other subgroup categories.

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Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

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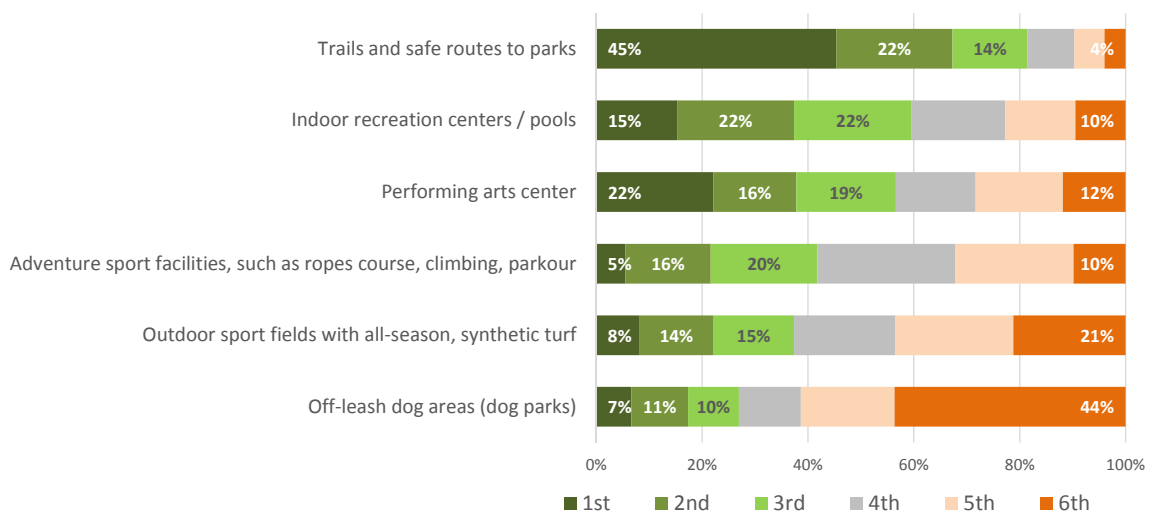
How important is it to connect the City's parks with a trail system? (Q14)



Ranking Between Facilities

In a forced ranking between six different facility types, respondents identified trails as the top priority. Trails ranked first overall and captured 81% of the sum of the top three priorities. A performing arts center and recreation center ranked second and third, respectively, and these two facility types were ranked almost evenly in looking at the sum of the top three priority choices (57% for the arts center and 60% for the recreation center). The idea of an off-leash dog area ranked sixth overall, and respondents from area E (Bloomington Hills, Hidden Valley) were more favorable toward an off-leash area.

There may be some park experiences that are limited in St. George. Expanding these facilities may compete for limited resources. Please rank the importance of the following for your household. (Q9)

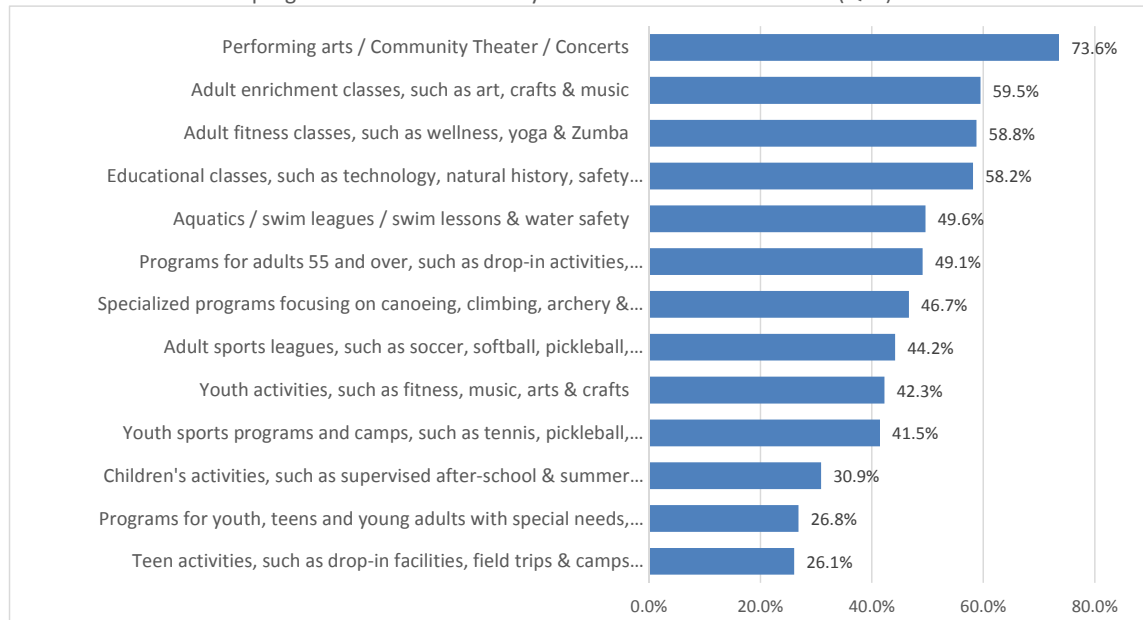


Recreational program priorities

Using a similar question design as for parks facilities, respondents were asked about their overall need for each recreational program or amenity type, as well as how well met their need is being met locally. A majority of respondents (73.6%) noted a need for a performing arts center. A second tier set of programming needs included enrichment, fitness and education classes.

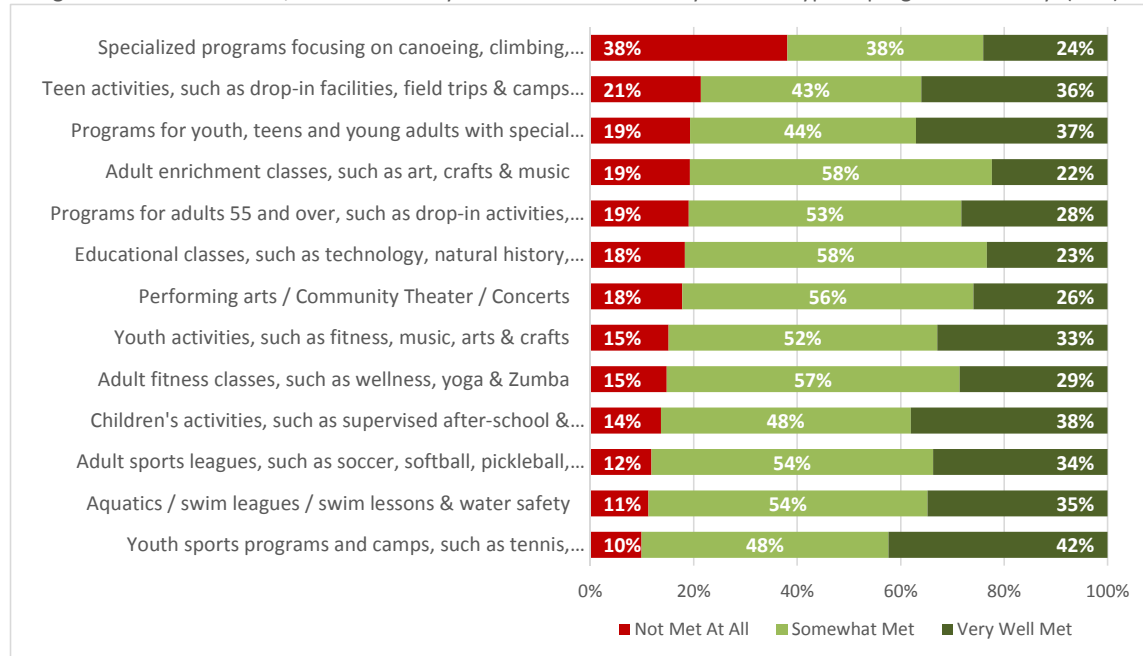
Regarding needs for recreation programs and amenities being met, respondents identified that nearly all items listed were very well met in terms of need only one-third of the time. Program types with the highest level of needs being met included youth sports and afterschool programs. One area showing a large gap in need (38%) is for specialized programs focusing on canoeing, climbing, archery and adventure sports.

Please indicate all of the programs and activities that your household has interest in. (Q11)



Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

Using the same list as above, mark how well your needs are met locally for each type of program or activity. (Q11)

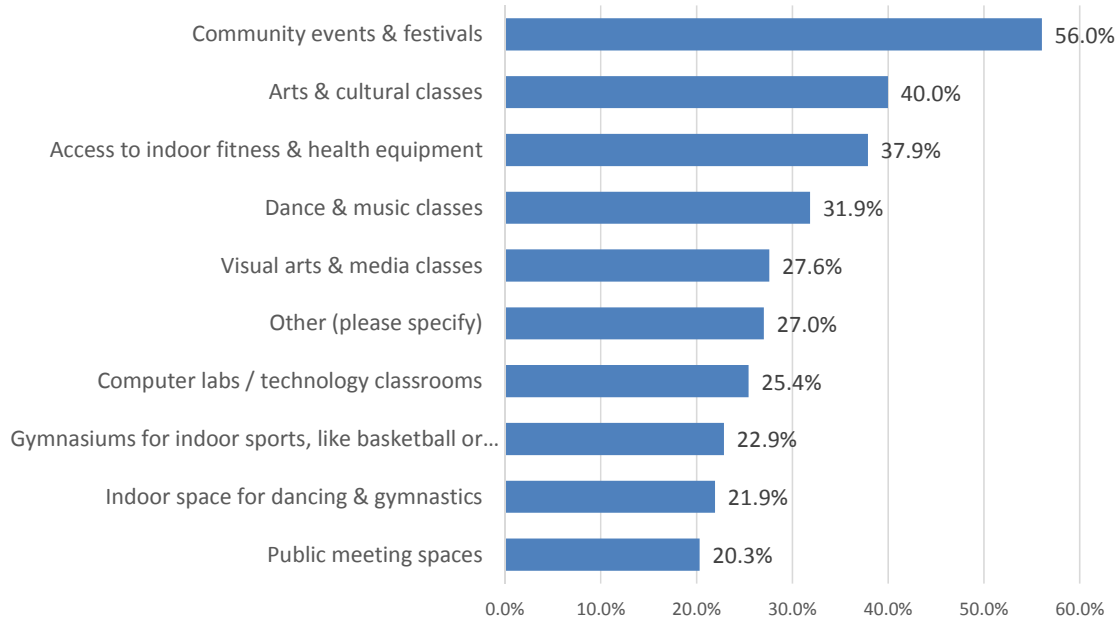


With regard to program options people think the City should expand or improve, a majority of respondents voiced interest in additional community events and festivals (56%). Respondents also showed strong interest in arts and cultural classes and access to indoor fitness equipment. No significant differences existed between the online and the mail-only surveys.

Younger respondents between 20 and 34 indicated more interest in spaces for public meetings, art and culture classes, dance and music classes and community events. For households with children, there was a stronger interest in gymnasium space, dance classes, art classes and indoor space for dancing and gymnastics. Respondents of all ages showed strong interest in community events and festivals and fairly consistent interest in computer labs and technology classrooms.

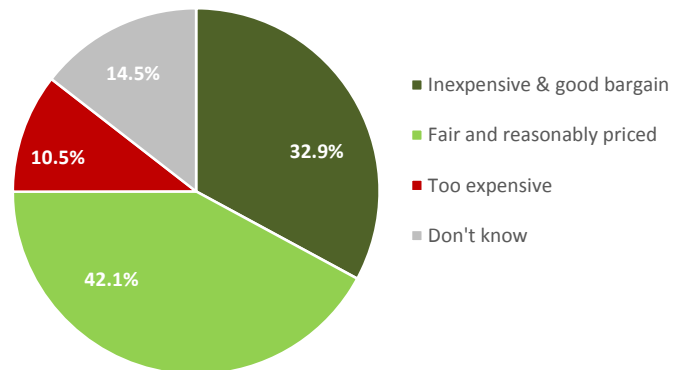
Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

Are there types of recreation, art or educational opportunities that you think the city should expand or improve in St. George? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY. (Q10)



Affordability of Recreation Programs

The majority of survey respondents (75%) feel that City recreation programs are inexpensive or fairly priced. Approximately one in ten believe programs to be too expensive. Few distinctions existed between the mail and online responses and between demographic subgroups. More respondents from area C (Middleton, Panorama, Pine View) felt programs were too expensive (19.2% versus 8% across all geographies). Respondents in households with children and those between 20 and 34 also felt programs were too expensive compared to the averages of each subgroup.

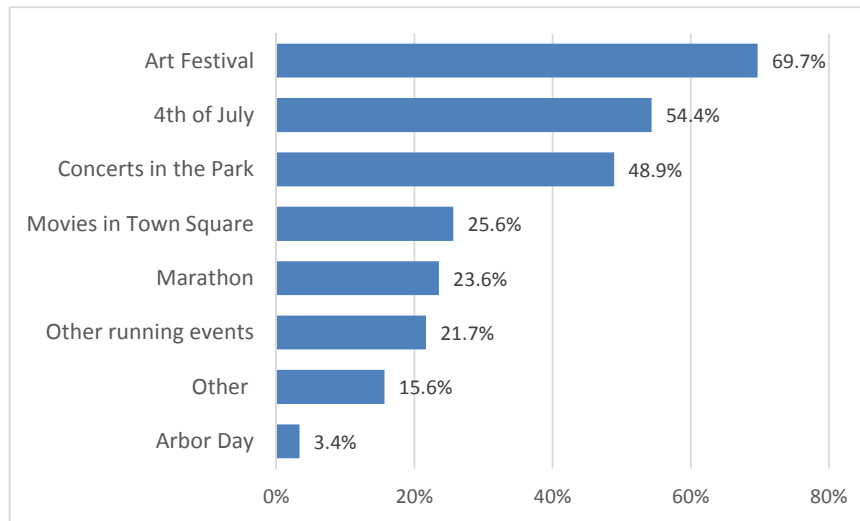


How would you rate the affordability of city recreation programs? Would you say they are... (Q12)

Participation in Community Events & Activities

Significant percentages of respondents noted their participation in three core types of events: the Arts Festival (69.7%), 4th of July (54.4%), and Concerts in the Park (48.9%). Respondents to the online survey showed slightly higher participation in “other running events” (25.3% versus 16.8% for the mail-only survey). Respondents from area A (Ledges) were slightly less inclined to participate in other running events than the average, and respondents from area D (SE St George) were less inclined to participate in the Arts Festival. Few distinctions in responses existed between the age groups or households with/without children.

From the following list, please CHECK ALL of the St. George sponsored special events you and/or members of your household have participated in over the past year. (Q13)





The survey accommodated an open-ended response to a question that asked about one improvement to the St. George system, worded as “If there were ONE park, art or recreation facility you would like to see (or see more of) in St. George, what would it be?”

Over 890 individual responses were collected from the online and mail surveys combined. The specific responses are listed at the end of this summary report. A wordcloud was generated using the text from these responses to illustrate high frequency words as a way to illustrate ideas collected from the community.

Wordcloud of “other” comments by frequency.



A copy of the survey instrument follows.

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Community Survey of Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Preferences

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Attachment A. Survey Instrument



City of St. George

Survey on Parks, Arts and Recreation Preferences

Dear St. George Community Member:

The City of St. George is conducting a short survey to assess the recreational needs of community members to create a citywide Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan. The new Plan will establish a path forward for providing high quality, community-driven parks, recreation amenities and programs across St. George. The Plan will establish goals and recommend policies, along with specific projects for city facilities for the next 5-10 years. Final review of the Plan tentatively is targeted for early 2019.

Your participation is crucial to the success of this project. The survey consists of 18 questions regarding current use of facilities, preferred activities, community needs and support for future improvements. It takes an average of 5-6 minutes to complete, and residents of all ages are encouraged to participate.

Save a stamp. Take the survey now online at www.stgeorgesurvey.com

Thanks for participating!

1. When you think about the things that contribute to the quality of life in St. George, would you say that local public parks and recreation opportunities are... (CHECK ONE OPTION)

- ☐ Essential to the quality of life here
☐ Important, but not really essential
☐ More of a luxury that we don't need
☐ Don't Know

2. When it comes to meeting your needs for parks, programs and facilities, would you say there are... (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX IN EACH ROW)

	More than enough	About the Right Amount	Not Enough	Don't Know
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts & Culture Programs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor Recreation / Aquatics Facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Walking / Biking Trails across the City	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf Courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Please rate your satisfaction with the overall value your household receives from the City of St. George for parks, trails, arts and recreation services.

- ☐ Very Satisfied
☐ Somewhat Satisfied
☐ Somewhat Dissatisfied
☐ Very Dissatisfied
☐ Don't Know

4. How often do you visit or use a city park or recreation facility (including art facilities or museum) in St. George?

- ☐ At least once a week
☐ Two or three times a month
☐ About once a month
☐ Two or three times over the year
☐ Did not visit a local public park or recreation facility
☐ Don't know

5. What would you say are the main reasons you visited St. George parks in the last year?

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.

- ☐ Playgrounds
☐ Athletic fields
☐ Recreation programs / classes
☐ Trails (walk / run / bike)
☐ Splash Pad / Spray Park
☐ Tennis & Pickleball courts
☐ Family gatherings / picnics
☐ Festivals / Celebrations
☐ Outdoor concert series
☐ Nature programs
☐ Relaxation
☐ Other: _____



Take this survey online at the City's website:

www.stgeorgesurvey.com

Or send it back in the self-addressed envelope provided.

Thank you in advance for participating!

6. If you are not a frequent user of St. George parks or recreation facilities, please CHECK ALL the reasons why your household **DOES NOT USE** City parks or facilities more often.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Facility or program is not offered | <input type="checkbox"/> Fees are too high |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks do not have the right equipment | <input type="checkbox"/> Use parks or facilities provided by another city or organization (such as private fitness clubs) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and facilities are not well maintained | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor customer service by staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not feel safe in park or facility | <input type="checkbox"/> I do not know what is offered |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inaccessible for my physical abilities | <input type="checkbox"/> Facility operating hours are not convenient |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and sport courts are too crowded | <input type="checkbox"/> None / I regularly use local parks or recreation facilities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks and facilities are too far from my home | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Too busy to go to parks and facilities | |

7. Please indicate if your household has a need for each of the parks, arts and recreation facilities listed below **AND** indicate how well your needs are met locally.

	Do you have a need?		How well met are your needs for this type of amenity or facility?			
	HAVE NEED	NO NEED	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Somewhat Unmet	Fully Unmet
Picnic shelters / areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Playgrounds	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trails - paved, urban walking & biking trails (excluding state & federal lands)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Road biking routes & connections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mountain biking trails & connections	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sport fields for baseball / softball	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Basketball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Racquet / paddle sport courts (tennis, pickleball)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BMX / Pump track	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skate parks / skate spots	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sand volleyball courts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Golf courses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bouldering / rock climbing areas	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Canoeing / kayaking	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equestrian facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature Center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Indoor fitness and exercise facilities	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ice skating rink	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outdoor water spray parks / splash pads	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics center / swimming pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performing Arts venue	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Recreation center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nature / wildlife viewing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Community Survey on Parks, Arts and Recreation Preferences



8. The City of St. George is expected to grow significantly in coming years, and budgeting for park maintenance may need to be re-assessed with the demands of a growing park system. Which of the following better meets your needs?

- ☐ Buying and developing more small neighborhood parks with limited recreation amenities serving their immediate residential areas
- ☐ Buying and developing fewer, but larger, community parks that can accommodate a wide range of recreation amenities

9. There may be some park experiences that are limited in St. George. Expanding these facilities may compete for limited resources. Please rank the importance of the following for your household. (USE EACH NUMBER ONLY ONCE)

	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
Trails and safe routes to parks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outdoor sport fields with all-season, synthetic turf	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Performing arts center	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Adventure sport facilities, such as ropes course, climbing, parkour	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Off-leash dog areas (dog parks)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Indoor recreation centers / pools	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

10. Are there types of recreation, art or educational opportunities that you think the city should expand or improve in St. George? CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ Community events & festivals
- ☐ Gymnasiums for indoor sports, like basketball or volleyball
- ☐ Indoor space for dancing & gymnastics
- ☐ Computer labs / technology classrooms
- ☐ Public meeting spaces
- ☐ Access to indoor fitness & health equipment
- ☐ Visual arts & media classes
- ☐ Dance & music classes
- ☐ Arts & cultural classes
- ☐ Other: _____

11. Please indicate if your household has an interest in each of the program areas or activities below AND for each, please indicate how well your needs are met locally.

Type of Program / Activity	Do you have interest?		How well met are your needs for this type of activity?		
	Yes	No	Very Well Met	Somewhat Met	Not At All Met
Children's activities, such as supervised after-school & summer day camp programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Teen activities, such as drop-in facilities, field trips & camps during school breaks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth activities, such as fitness, music, arts & crafts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth sports programs and camps, such as tennis, pickleball, basketball & soccer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialized programs focusing on canoeing, climbing, archery & adventure sports	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for youth, teens and young adults with special needs, adaptive & inclusive programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatics / swim leagues / swim lessons & water safety	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Educational classes, such as technology, natural history, safety & health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Performing arts / Community Theater / Concerts	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult sports leagues, such as soccer, softball, pickleball, volleyball, etc..	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult fitness classes, such as wellness, yoga & Zumba.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adult enrichment classes, such as art, crafts & music	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Programs for adults 55 and over, such as drop-in activities, trips, safety & health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12. How would you rate the affordability of City recreation programs? Would you say they are...

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inexpensive and a good bargain | <input type="checkbox"/> Too expensive |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair and reasonably priced | <input type="checkbox"/> Don't Know |

13. From the following list, please CHECK ALL of the St. George sponsored special events you and/or members of your household have participated in over the past year.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art Festival | <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts in the Park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Marathon | <input type="checkbox"/> Movies in Town Square |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other running events | <input type="checkbox"/> Arbor Day |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

14. How important is it to connect the City's parks with a trail system?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Very Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Not so important |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Somewhat Important | <input type="checkbox"/> Not at all important |

15. If there were ONE park, art or recreation facility you would like to see (or see more of) in St. George, what would it be?

These last questions help us understand whether we have a cross section of the community. It's important that you provide a response to each question.

16. How many children under age 18 live in your household?

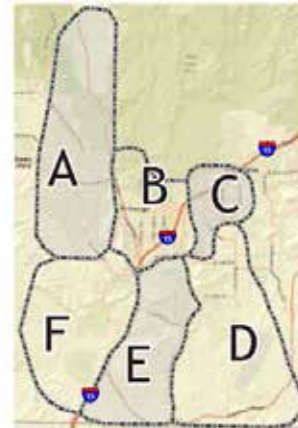
- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 0 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 or more |

17. What is your age?

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger than 20 | <input type="checkbox"/> 45 to 54 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 20 to 34 | <input type="checkbox"/> 55 to 64 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 35 to 44 | <input type="checkbox"/> 65 and older |

18. Using the map, in which section of the St. George do you live?

- | |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> (A) - Ledges, Dixie Downs, Green Valley, Entrada |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (B) - Central St. George |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (C) - Middleton, Panorama, Pine View |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (D) - SE St. George, Springs, Little Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (E) - Bloomington Hills, Hidden Valley |
| <input type="checkbox"/> (F) - Bloomington, Sun River, Tonaquint |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't live in the City of St. George |



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!

Your input and insights will be used to help guide the development of the St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan.

Save a stamp! Take this survey online: stgeorgesurvey.com

Check the City's website for more information about the city-wide Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan project.

The City of St. George is utilizing the services of a consultant team who specializes in park and recreation planning.

Please return your completed survey in the enclosed Return-Reply Envelope addressed to:

Conservation Technix Inc.
PO Box 885
Orinda, CA 94563-0885

APPENDIX C

PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARIES



MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: # 18-110PLN ISSUE DATE: October 1, 2018
PROJECT NAME: St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh, Jean Akers
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
Members of the Parks Plan Committee & City Council
City Staff
Project team members from Conservation Technix & Sunrise Engineering

SUBJECT: Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #1 Notes (Sept 11th)

Community members were invited to the first open house meeting for the St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan update on Tuesday, September 11, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Children's Museum. The project team prepared informational displays and a presentation to share with attendees. The presentation offered an overview of the planning process and timeline, along with information about the City's park and recreation system, along with a summary of current trends in recreation.

Following the presentation, attendees were asked to work in small groups to discuss project ideas and prioritize ideas by 'voting' with dots for their top priorities for park system needs and for arts, events and programming needs. Attendees were encouraged to talk with each other, record their comments and complete two written comment cards. City staff and project team staff aided the small group discussions by facilitating and answering questions. A representative from each table provided a short summary of their table's discussion for the benefit of the whole gathering. Approximately 160 people attended the meeting and provided comments.

In all, 897 unique comments were recorded and tabulated from attendees to the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Table Exercise #1

During the first table-based exercise, attendees were asked to think about and note their ideas responding to the following question. Individual ideas were written on Post-It notes, then as a table, notes were grouped into similar topics. Attendees were then asked to use sticky dots to identify their top three choices, which could have been for a grouped topic or an individual idea.

"Thinking of the City's parks and trails, what improvements to the St. George system would add the greatest value for your use and enjoyment?"

The following list represents the top ten grouped topics, based on the number of 'dots' scored for each.

Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #1 Notes (Sept 11th)

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

Project Number # 18-110PLN

Page 2

	Item	Frequency
1.	Trails / Connections	68
2.	Pickleball	51
3.	Tonaquint Park	35
4.	Sport Courts / Lawn bowling	13
5.	Specialty Parks	9
6.	Open space preservation	7
7.	Trail maintenance & safety	7
8.	Fishing	7
9.	Playgrounds	6
10.	Funding / Land acquisition	5

The second list represents the top five individual ideas noted on Post-It notes, based on the number of ‘dots’ scored for each.

	Item	Frequency
1.	Trails / Connections	37
2.	Pickleball	14
3.	Trail maintenance & safety	13
4.	Playgrounds	11
5.	Sport Facilities (excl. pickleball)	10

To illustrate the breadth and frequency of comment received, the following wordcloud shows the comments by font size for frequently used words. A complete list of comments collected is included at the end of this summary.





Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #1 Notes (Sept 11th)

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

Project Number # 18-110PLN

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Table Exercise #2

A second table-based exercise was conducted in a similar manner to the first. For this one, the topic was regarding arts, events and programming. Attendees were asked to note their ideas in response to the following question.

“Thinking of the events, programs and venues, is anything missing or needs to be added / expanded to improve local options for arts and activities?”

The following list represents the top ten grouped topics, based on the number of ‘dots’ scored for each.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
1.	Festivals	31
2.	Performing Arts Center	24
3.	Recreation / Community Center	16
4.	Arts/Culture Venues	13
5.	Activities / Programs	11
6.	First Friday	9
7.	Communication / Information	9
8.	Lawn Bowling Tournaments & Classes	8
9.	Cultural & Heritage	6
10.	Beer at events	3

The second list represents the top five individual ideas noted on Post-It notes, based on the number of ‘dots’ scored for each.

	<u>Item</u>	<u>Frequency</u>
1.	Festivals / Concerts	28
2.	Outdoor theater / amphitheater	18
3.	Communication / Information	14
4.	Art venues / studios	8
5.	Performing Arts Center	8

The following wordcloud illustrates the comments for arts, events and programming by font size for frequently used words. A complete list of comments collected is included at the end of this summary.

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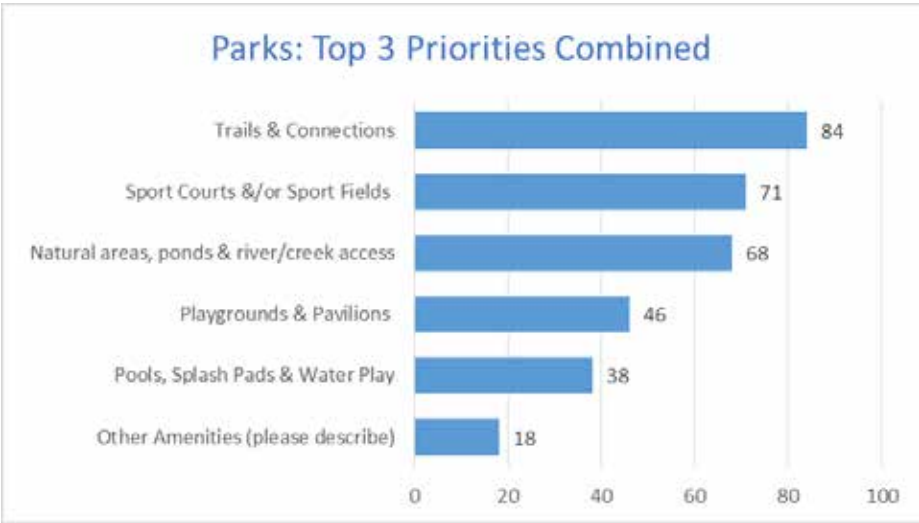
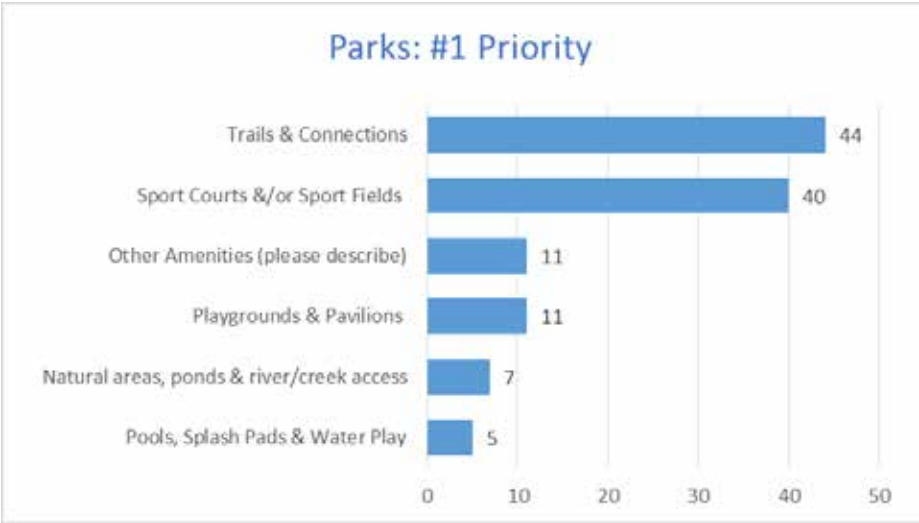
Individual comment cards were completed by attendees, and the summary of those responses follows.



Comment Card #1

Priorities for Park Facilities and Amenities

Highest ranking priorities for park facilities include trails & connections, and sport courts/fields. As choices were made on park priorities, a third category began to catch up to the two highest. Natural areas, ponds, waterways was noted as a third priority as the scores for the top three choices were aggregated. The specific ideas listed within each subcategory were also captured, and they are included at the end of this summary.



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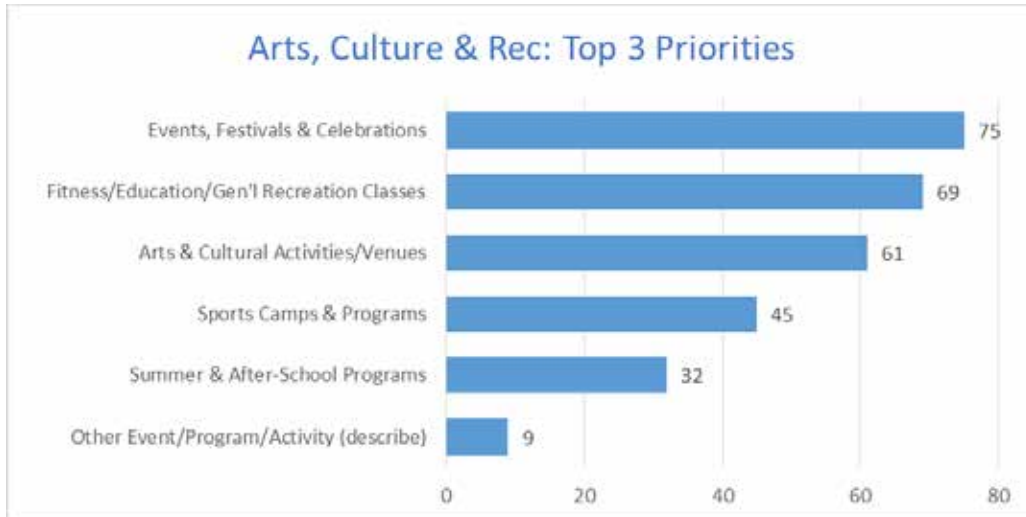
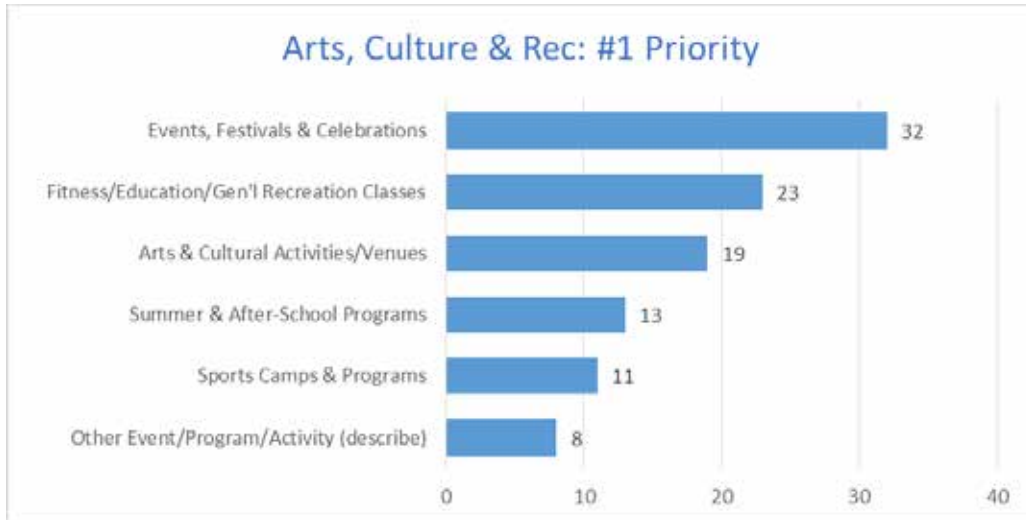
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Priorities for Arts, Cultural and Recreation

Highest ranking priorities for Arts, Culture and Recreation included events & festivals and fitness/education/general recreation. The choice preferences seemed to stay at consistent levels through the top three choices.



Comment Card #2

BIG IDEA: WHAT'S YOUR #1 IDEA OR TOP SUGGESTION FOR THE CITY'S PARKS, ARTS, RECREATION & TRAIL SYSTEM?

Attendees were asked to complete a second comment card, which asked for a single big idea or top suggestion. In all, 86 individual comments were received. The following list represents the top ten words used, in terms of word frequency, and the wordcloud graphic illustrates the comments by font size for frequently used words.

1.	Park	35
2.	Trail	31
3.	Court	28
4.	Pickleball	20
5.	Art	19
6.	Valley	17
7.	Center	16
8.	Little	16
9.	City	15
10.	Tonaquint	14



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The following is a list of the comments received.

- We would love a park to be put in east of Tonaquint Terrace. This would offset the townhomes which are currently under construction. The park would be a buffer between the townhomes and the existing homes.
- Put in a park @ Tonaquint Terrace. This would buffer the 90 townhomes being built next to the parkland the city already owes ("owns"). One pickleball court, one tennis court would fit in nicely there. Also some playground equipment.
- We need a performing arts center to nurture the Arts. Arts always takes a back seat and it is the Arts that create the most healing. It prevents depression and opens the mind for healing and processing hard emotions.
- Walking area that will keep people and cars separate making walking at night safe for both walker and auto.
- A water park such as "wet and wild?"
- Sport field, pickleball courts, playgroup w/ water features & splash pad near Tonaquint Terrace (Curly Hollow & Tonaquint Drive).
- Sports park facilities/soccer/pickleball, children's play area - Tonaquint Terrace
- The need for a visual & performing arts center to provide a venue for dance, theater, music, 2D & 3D art. Workshop space, lecture halls, art galleries, painting studios, for a full spectrum of visual arts.
- Please create a Performing Arts Center for visual, performing and fiber arts. There is so much interest and talent in this area. St George should be a regional center for the Arts, providing culture and education for WA County residents and those from Las Vegas, Reno, Denver, etc. St George Weaving Studio needs a new home! Fiber Arts are big right now.
- Increase L/V. PB courts to 60 so as to draw more National Competition
- PB Expansion.
- Expansion of Little Valley Pickleball courts - add 20-24 more courts to include championship courts and some w/ covered pavilions/more bathrooms. As the major tournaments keep growing, we need to make sure our facility is large enough to bid on bringing them here which translates into more tourists & money spent. Pickleball players are already buying houses just to be near quality facilities.
- More courts @ Little Valley
- Pickleball courts need to be maximized so we can hold National Tournaments that would bring in over 2,500 people to the city/community, boosting the city economy.
- Many people come from out of town to play pickleball. IF they went to these little four or 8 court complexes they have to take a foursome (to even play) BUT they can go to the Little Valley "anytime" and find people @ their level to play & challenge in. We have so many players @ L.V. that we have to go "4 on, 4off". We need to keep these courts together and need more @ L.V. We have outgrown this facility. To put smaller pods all over doesn't make sense. You can go over to Bloomington courts or out to Santa Clara Park AND no one is there or very few. Because they can't just go there and find someone to have a pick-up game with! Keep courts together.

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-
- Complete bicycle trail system. System can be utilized by working people to get to work. Help relieve traffic congestion. Return to cache card. Improve air quality at Little Valley.
 - Build a min. of qty-12 pickleball courts at the Little Valley complex. Only here will pickleball continue to grow. Also think about the courts being covered like the Marinette courts in Sun City, AZ.
 - Leverage existing bike/walking trail system by improving it...adding paths, making more connections, most of all have a good plan to maintain existing and new paths.
 - Expand Little Valley pickleball courts by on less than 12 courts. Anything less won't achieve the goals of parge pickleball community.
 - Expand Little Valley pickleball complex. 12-24 more courts are needed to: 1. Accommodate local recreation players. 2. Hold larger regional/national tournaments. 3. Increase local youth & community events. 4. Keep it so that visitors know when to go to pay pickleball - and now they know to go to Little Valley.
 - Connect the trail system throughout the valley & maintain the trails we have. Specifically, connect the trail going from Confluence Park to Sullivan Park and connect to trail along Dixie Drive.
 - Stop building small underutilized neighborhood parks and instead focus on "linear parks". These are paved trails used by many users of all ages. These linear parks are less expensive to maintain then neighborhood parks and get significantly more use.
 - Make sure kids can bike safely to their schools
 - Tonaquint neighborhood park
 - At Risk youth programming! Rec center, Dixie Center, Sunbowl, DSU, Parks, Arts, There are an abundant amount of locations, formats available along with a very growing need!!!
 - Enlarge Little Valley pickleball courts and bike trails. Community center for groups to use music, mtg, discussing.
 - Expand Little Valley pickleball courts to allow for larger tournaments.
 - More connections to neighborhoods and other trails
 - Musical events in the park
 - Utilize St James Park for sports fields by connecting traffic to I-15 convention center via road/bridge
 - When developing recreational facilities, consult those who have extended experience with the activity, i.e. cyclists to be consulted on trail design, interconnectivity, maintenance, safety issues, best use of the terrain for the intended activity.
 - Enhance bike/hike trails
 - Decentralize control - free up zoning laws & regulations so entrepreneurs can find need and fill those needs without imposing on taxpayers. Reduce taxes and give people ways to voluntarily fund the different ideas (Gofundme.com) style for example. Instead of the city taking money then redistributing it as they choose.
 - Complete promised park at Tonaquint & Curly Hollow. Pending town houses & schools warrant more green space. Legible slides/screen!
 - Please convert unused lawn/grassy area to desert plants similar to desert garden vegetation and use the water saved to water trees for shade on the paved paths!

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- Complete park as promised on Tonaquint & Curly Hollow. 90 new townhomes + 2 schools (to be built) require more green space. More neighborhood parks & greater events in them.
 - Please follow through on a Tonaquint Park - we would love some open space - small playground & pickleball courts.
 - Make sure that future developments are paying a reasonable cost of providing parks, trails, etc. as well as water, sewer and roads. And school properties. We are projected to grow extensively and a principal should be used requiring development and developers to pay their fair share.
 - Have artists design parks and common areas. I love art on main st!
 - Outdoor theater. First Friday needs improvement, have a night/group for residents to leave suggestions & brainstorm. More food/wine festivals. More outdoor theater. More music/art venues. Oktoberfest.
 - Bloomington was a horse community that so many have great memories of. I would love to see some horse friendly trails and for the horse arena in Bloomington to be a nice arena that all can use.
 - I feel like our city is segregated into young families, middle aged and older going east to west. I think communities are stronger when people are mixed and in a melting pot. It would be so good to have more sports facilities on the west side We would love to see sports facilities next to Tonaquint Terrace to assist us moms in keeping our kids close to home and attracting families and mixing our community better.
 - Move the 4th of July Celebration to the 1st week in December
 - Performing Arts Center
 - Expand Lil Valley PB courts!
 - Trail connectivity. Explore additional funding sources. Performing Arts Center.
 - Connect existing trails together
 - Connect trail from Cottonwood Cove to bypass Dixie Drive - along Santa Clara River or elsewhere.
 - 2. Finish trail along Riverside Drive/Virgin River.
 - Build a livable city, one where automobiles are guests not the focus of every street, building a city where one can live without having to spend money to get from one place to another, nor feel unsafe when walking.
 - Provide safe access to our trails from our neighborhoods and schools. For example, provide a bridge, tunnel, or stop light at access the Virgin River trail from Morningside Dr near Heritage Elem.
 - Park in desert canyons (Canyons) with horseshoe pits
 - Construct a lawn bowling center. This should be the #1 priority!!!
 - Build a lawn bowling center
 - Lawn bowling facility - a new facility would be ideal, but if the city could work a deal with Sunbrook to take over management of their currently unused facility (possibly a deal similar to the city managing the Sunbrook golf course), this would be more cost effective. The Sunbrook lawn bowling green was very well made and it would not require much to get it operational. They might be willing to let the city take over their unused facility.
 - Archeological cultural heritage park adjacent to Crosby Family Park.



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- Tribute to ancient peoples that inhabited this area before us! Via informative signs, interpretation, model life size of ancient dwellings in a park.
- The new Tonaquint park in Tonaquint Terrace (south of Tonaquint middle school! That area is set with new street and roads (developed) to more the (than) double the population in the net (next) 3-4 years. Our families need that park to be developed.
- More pickleball courts @ Little Valley - Let's bring National Tournaments here
- More pickleball courts at the Little Valley Court Complex
- The city should build a theater that can accommodate the St George Musical Theater.
- Wheelchair access to all city area's and facilities
- Add pickleball courts at Little Valley in order to attract players, tournaments, event, 1 venue
- Performing Arts Center
- It seems the 1 biggest idea/need was the expansion of the pickleball court @ Little Valley. The second largest/most mentioned topic was the expansion of the bike trail system and perhaps branching out to specific locations.
- Middletown wash trail: fix nail heads protruding on bridge behind event center "The falls"
- Extend Bloomington park across the river by the bike trail to give more green space and help hold the vegetation from washing away. Have bridge on walking bridge to give access to park.
- Complete Virgin River bike trail at Dinosaur Museum
- More pickleball & golf courses & trail system. Outdoor amphitheater.
- Pickleball & tennis facilities. Both Little Valley & Tonaquint are amazing facilities and ideally to expand these current facilities would be ideal to make them the best around. With our weather year round, we are the one place in the state that has weather year round for year round use.
- Parks need more shade sails to keep equipment from being dangerously hot.
- Thank you for hosting this event.
- A cultural performing arts center would benefit so many & seemed to be a top priority along with a community fitness/activity center.
- Our street connectivity to parks, trails, etc. every street should have a bike lane, many on-street bike lanes should have buffered separation (cones, etc.)
- Finish trail on Mall Drive at Bridge - access to trail in front of the new Lin's
- I'd love to see the city buy the "clay mountain" at the intersection of Foremaster and Riverside Dr - and turn it into a hiking/biking park. Especially where it seems to not be suitable for building and is an eye sore whenever it rains and trucks track mud/clay onto the road.
- New shooting range on west side. If not possible divert some funds to the county park. Rifle & pistol.
- Prioritize & fund the main initiatives and projects in the Active Transportation Plan. Better biking and walking facilities to encourage residents to be active.
- Natural history museum of St George
- Better city website. What is happening!
- BIG network of destinations along trails, parks, coffee, shopping, restaurants, scenery.

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- Connecting the trail system throughout the city.
 - Safe connections for trails - occasional bench - table with cover for shade and protection.
 - A common website to have all the fine arts venues posted.
 - Let's connect as many of the bike trails to each other
 - There needs to be one place with info about all the activities going on in St George at any time
 - Construct a museum for St George's Anasazi Heritage & Natural History Museum!

OTHER SUGGESTIONS OR COMMENTS FOR THE PARKS, RECREATION, ARTS & TRAILS MASTER PLAN

- The mayor and city council are doing a great job. Very concerned with the needs of the residents of St George.
- You are doing a great job for our city. Keep up the good work.
- Put in performing pads for festivals!
- Indoor Performing Arts Center
- With younger generation. The St Weaving Studio has been active for 20+ years in St George. Studio provides teaching/training and studio time throughout the week. The investment in learning an equipment is huge. Fiber arts (cotton) were what made 'Dixie' a destination.
- Create family oriented rec areas and open spaces
- Arts center
- Add exercise stations to trails. Extend Sun TRAN so service is provided to sports facility/Little Valley/Sun River
- Art center focal areas. One specific heritage concept - art, expression, a pleasing or satisfying 'sport' - weaving on the floor looms - maintain program by having appropriate space to move to.
- Connecting trails to all of the city so as to have easier access to all of the city.
- City website is terrible. Needs to be redone to make it easier to navigate.
- Add children's playground equipment/splash pads where adults congregate to enjoy recreational sports.
- Please build a public 50-meter pool (indoor or outdoor).
- Centralize pickleball and don't build isolated courts here and there. Expand Little Valley pickleball complex.
- All adults should be able to bike to work/grocery store. Please protect open spaces, too.
- Protect Moe's Valley 2. Signage for bike trails 3. Center for the arts/community center
- Connecting of all trails -
- Increase TRT to city to fund community infrastructure to mitigate tourism impact
- Communication, a master venue where all activities can be found?
- The kids and seniors need a park for them



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- Fewer home builders on planning commission. Fewer high density project.
- Better utilization of art center & opera house & vicinity - maybe as a focal point for performing arts
- Thank you for listening and giving us a voice!!!
- More shows (plays, etc.)
- Ease up on liquor licensing. So many people want more venues but are wary of opening themselves because liquor licensing is hard.
- Website w/ centralized arts, rec & trails info
- Food, music, wine & beer festival
- Thank you for the bike path that is under construction
- Please consider more bike routes/lanes throughout our community
- Archeological cultural park at Virgin/Santa Clara rivers confluence.
- Also would like to see lawn bowling and/or bocce courts in park.
- Make sure before you build anything that you thoroughly solicit and listen to the input of the potential users of the facility well in advance.
- Maintain current dog park
- Central place to go to for "what's going on"
- Finish trails near Mayor's loop - especially near Popeye's Chicken
- Connect the bike trail. Add more bike trails out to airport from Sun River
- Renovate all golf courses. Recycling bins at courses.
- Venue - fine arts
- Keep areas protected under the Endangered Species Act protected. Do not reduce habitat protection, please!
- Preserving & making more safe and effective what we already have - trails, etc.
- Livable, usable safe streets promote recreation activity, health and community in everyone's neighborhood. Maintain trails.
- We love St George trails. Thanks! I'll watch for it to happen!
- More concerts in the park and go later into the fall, perhaps until end of Nov. Up the budget to attract best possible acts including Christian artist. More focus that are for service.
- Work toward a community center & auditorium for the city of S.G or Wash county
- Doing more using the beautiful River as a focal point for gathering - concerts - a river front type of setting. High Ground Anyone!

The following pages include the individual comments gathered from the table exercises and comment cards.

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

cc: Shane McAfee
File

Table Exercise #1

Parks Facilities

Grouped Topic	Group Dots	Individual Idea Dots	Comment
Pickleball	22	4	Large sport arena for national competitions in all sports
		1	Adult Rec soccer programs
		1	More defined bike lanes in town. Expand trails in new communities
		2	Large public open area - picnic shelters; lake for remote control boats; Nature areas
			Regional transportation agency
			Add Suntran route to Sunriver
			Suntran to Springdale
		1	Monorail system
			Expansion of Suntran routes to parks & Little Valley & Arts Facilities
			Hiking trails with exercise stations
			Complete trail system
			Put in quarter mile markers on trail systems
			Audio tapes for walking trails
		2	Want the trail system in Sunriver area connected
		1	Trails - exercise stations
		1	Complete current trail system before moving on to new trails
			Prolific maps for locals and visitors for bike trails, sport facilities, parks, etc.
			Large indoor facility for national sports competition
			Water sports arena
		1	Indoor pickleball court expansion
		3	More pickleball courts at Little Valley
		1	More pickleball courts together. Add the new courts at Little Valley (easy lessons, tournaments, etc.)
Trails	14		Soccer fields - something besides school playgrounds
		2	Safe lane for cyclists
			More rant-a-bikes. Add trikes
		1	Properly maintained bike lanes - surface quality, segregation from cars, swept regularly
		3	Trail conditions updated on City website
			Trail maps available at trailheads
			Better maps at trailheads
			Small foldable trail maps (with park locations) available at trailheads. Small enough to fit in a pocket
		7	Expand the Little Valley pickleball complex so larger tournaments can be held in one location
			Citywide wifi throughout the trail and park system
			wifi at trailheads
		2	Build an additional swimming pool, preferably 50-meter (Olympic)
			Build a public 50-meter pool
			Return to the City Cash Card for use for golf and other events
Trails	14		Pickleball
			Expand Little Valley pickleball complex by adding 12-24 more courts. Please do not add more small pods of courts
			Covered pickleball courts at Little Valley
			Centralize pickleball courts in Little Valley
			Pickleball center court at Little Valley
			More Pickleball courts at Little Valley complex
			More cover for pickleball courts
			Splash pad / playground equipment at Little Valley
			Stop building small neighborhood parks
			More shade covering over playgrounds
			Strict enforcement on trails of unleashed dogs
			Connect the trail system from Confluence Park to Sullivan Park
			Paint dedicated bike lands in a bright color - red, green, whatever. Make it obvious that the lane is for cyclists
			Maintain the current trail system. Priority along Snow Canyon Parkway in front of Entrada
			Connect the current system along Dixie Road
			Connect trail system to current parks - i.e., trails to Little Valley Sports Complex
			Build "linear parks" - trails - that can be used by many users
			Build the missing link trail to connect the Virgin River Trail
			Plan trails so a cyclist can easily transition from one trail to another. Not "T" intersections
			Add separate running / biking trails
			Bike trail or bike lane on Dixie Drive
			Wider bike lanes on the streets



Table Exercise #1 Parks Facilities

		<p>Complete bike path to connect to Sullivan Park</p> <p>Complete and improve the bicycle trail system</p> <p>We need bike lanes that connect - NOT end in the middle of an intersection</p> <p>Link the trails. Confluence Park to Sullivan Park - Sunriver to Bloomington</p>
Pickleball	21	<p>Pickleball bigger venue - 24 courts</p> <p>Add pickleball courts at Little Valley</p> <p>Add more pickleball courts at LV courts - not mini courts</p> <p>Add more pickleball courts at Little Valley</p> <p>Add pickleball courts at Little Valley courts</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>Need more restrooms at Little Valley</p> <p>Expand pickleball courts to one location (instead of pop-ups)</p>
Trails	1	<p>Stop development. Buy land if necessary</p> <p>Wheel chair access</p> <p>Ensure all trails are paved</p> <p>Add more connecting trails</p> <p>Safety</p> <p>Connect all trails throughout city</p> <p>Increase bike trail, Connect all of it</p> <p>Connect Sun River to Little Valley</p> <p>Destination oriented</p> <p>Drinking fountains</p> <p>Water - drinking fountains along the way</p> <p>More shade</p> <p>Exercise stations</p>
Tonaquint Park	11	<p>Playground</p> <p>Playground at Tonaquint Park</p> <p>Pickleball courts near Tonaquint Terrace</p> <p>Sporting fields / courts / Pickleball - Tonaquint Terrace</p> <p>Pickleball courts at Tonaquint Terrace</p> <p>Sporting field near Tonaquint Terrace</p> <p>Park at Tonaquint Terrace</p> <p>Playground near Tonaquint Terrace - covered</p> <p>Splash pad or water feature on property off Tonaquint Drive</p> <p>Using the land already owned by the city to complete the park at Tonaquint Terrace</p> <p>Trace where bikes and cars do not share the road</p> <p>Ninja warrior training area</p> <p>Zip line park</p>
	3	<p>A large wet and wild water park with small restaurants or one large eating pavilion cafeteria style</p>
Sport Courts	4	<p>More pickleball courts</p> <p>More tennis courts</p> <p>More tennis courts</p> <p>Create a busing or transportation pick up system to take tourists or residents out to ATV or off-road areas where ATV rentals can take place</p> <p>Possibly more common garden plots</p> <p>Community garden</p>
Sport Courts / Lawn bowling	13	<p>Bocce courts in parks</p> <p>A lawn bowling facility</p> <p>Add lawn bowling courts</p> <p>Lawn bowling outdoor courts</p> <p>Build a lawn bowling center</p> <p>Construct lawn bowling greens</p> <p>Soccer fields for children</p> <p>Continue and expand Art Around the Corner outdoor art throughout the city</p> <p>It's hot! Children need water features to stay and play outside</p>

Table Exercise #1

Parks Facilities

Trail connections			Complete connector trails for walking and bikes Connecting bike trail between new bike skills park (near Snow Canyon HS) to the Tonaquint trail system
Open space preservation	7		More green space along Virgin River Buy land before it is all developed and green spaces go away Convert Tonaquint property to a park Keep natural areas around Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers Need greenspace throughout the city's neighborhoods (build before developed) Need to build parks before opportunities gone Need to build park and play areas as/or before areas too overbuilt by new housing
Specialty Parks	4		Tribute to ancient native peoples in a park, via interpretive signs, murals, interactive life-sized models of their dwellings Develop an archeological cultural park a rivers confluence for developing awareness of our multiple resources/teaching, etc. Buy property adjacent to Crosby Family Park for an archaeological heritage park location where archaeological excavation site Build replica pit houses like at Lost City, NV or Anasazi State Park for field trips for schools Protect petroglyphs from developers Archaeological park for STEM studies for after school programs on archaeology, science, mapping, research and history studies
Trail maintenance & safety	7	2	Bike prom with police escort i.e. to Georgefest Use recycle glass for path (non bike); Use recycled materials when possible Repave trails to remove cracks Lower speed limits near bike trails Widen existing trails as increased use dictates Trails all develop expansion cracks causing unsafe and unenjoyable travel; better infilling Consult with cyclists to reconfigure the intersection of trails at Confluence Park. Currently unsafe Historical signage at points of interest along bike trails
Water use	3		Minimize turf! Water conservation Offer xeriscape program for homeowners with grass and to remove grass Car clubs in city activities Fundraising events in park for worthy causes More dirt trails for hiking
Connections	6		More connected bike trails Connect cycle/walking trails in city limits Trail connections to other trails Connect all the trails, i.e., Sun River, Bloomington, Dixie Downs, Ivins Connect trails, widen trails, maintain trails and fix the one that exist; bike lanes in town Consult with those who use the trails the most. Many trails were designed with little thought to usage by the greater population Connect the trail that ends on Riverside Drive east to where it begins again - about 1 mile
Land Use	4	1	Close unused parks Most pressing need is two-fold: development; maintenance of what already exists We have limited land/space, so decisions should be made to benefit the greatest number of people Water park (very) minor league baseball Ice rink Zip lines
		2	Renovate golf courses. Do you really need PGA Pros?
Traffic management			Make vehicles yield to bikes (my daughter lives in Amsterdam and we've seen it work) Traffic lights near George Washington Academy People speed up our street (Lakota Dr) up to 60 mph Traffic lights that respond to vehicles not timers
Trails	8	2	Access to the Virgin River - all areas Fix nail heads on bridge behind the falls event center



Table Exercise #1 Parks Facilities

			<p>Complete Virgin River bike trail by dinosaur museum</p> <p>Trail connection - connecting all cities</p> <p>4 wheel trails</p> <p>Finish and add bike trails, especially near Mayor's loop. River Rd near Popeye's chicken</p>
			<p>Extend the Bloomington Park across the river</p> <p>Netherlands has more small parks and few huge parks. Maximize park</p>
	2		<p>More pickleball in Bloomington Park</p>
			<p>Water recreation park - Little Valley, South St. George</p>
Pickleball	4		<p>Add new pickleball courts in Little Valley</p> <p>Addition to Little Valley pickleball complex</p> <p>Another large pickleball area like Little Valley</p>
	2		<p>Safety</p>
			<p>Water park</p>
	2		<p>Park based by river</p>
Trails	13		<p>Little Valley trails</p> <p>Access</p> <p>Virgin River trail from waterfront to power plant</p> <p>Santa Clara trail connection - Cottonwood Cove north</p> <p>Connecting trails</p> <p>Expand on street bike trails and connecting to city destinations</p>
			<p>Safe bike trails</p>
	3		<p>Trailhead signs or notifications near roadways to show when a trail is near</p>
	5		<p>Bloomington damaged trail repaired near manawar</p>
	7		<p>Additional and expanded natural, local hiking trails. Not paved</p>
			<p>More water fountains</p>
			<p>More kid friendly trails</p>
	3		<p>Fund voluntarily not through forced taxation</p>
	6		<p>Park at Tonaquint - Curly Hollow and Tonaquint Parkway (lights no problem)</p>
	4		<p>Equestrian park in Bloomington completed. Trails in Bloomington that are horse friendly</p>
	3		<p>Diversity in parks. Interactive</p>
	3		<p>Shade structures</p>
	2		<p>Sports facilities on westside. Land east of Tonaquint Terrace less segregation of population</p>
			<p>New park in Tonaquint - pickleball, BBQ area, pond</p>
			<p>Fishing pond for kids</p>
			<p>Connect Snow Canyon and Riverdale trails</p> <p>Extend trails to Little Valley</p>
			<p>Recycling of trash, Receptacles at Chuckawalla, Cove Wash and other major trailheads</p> <p>Leave No Trace principles and ethics posted at parks and trailheads to discourage poor practices and educate</p> <p>Limiting growth/development that would negatively impact existing natural habitat that trails go through</p> <p>Signs encouraging respect for the environment. Well-lit areas</p>
Trails	2		<p>More trails and connect</p> <p>River Road to Mall Drive UR South</p> <p>Connect trail system west of Mathis Park</p> <p>Connect trail system</p> <p>Protect Moe's Valley / Zea trail</p> <p>Trail connections from homes to work, school, shops</p>

Table Exercise #1

Parks Facilities

		Mathis Park trail connection
Fishing	7	<p>More fishing opportunities</p> <p>Lake with paddle boarding and beach</p> <p>Reservoir for recreation</p> <p>Reservoir similar to Firerock Res in Ivins</p> <p>Parks with more fishing</p>
Tonaquint Park	24	<p>Tonaquint Terrace Park / Rock Park</p> <p>More tennis courts at Tonaquint tennis facility so better tournaments can be hosted</p> <p>We need a park in the Tonaquint Terrace neighborhood ASAP</p> <p>Tonaquint Terrace Neighborhood Park</p> <p>Tonaquint Terrace Neighborhood Park</p> <p>Make Moe's Valley an official State Park</p> <p>Tonaquint Terrace Neighborhood Park - greenspace, sport fields, reservoir</p>
	2	More modern equipment in older parks
	4	<p>More / huge youth tennis</p> <p>We would love walking/biking options through Middleton</p>
	2	Trails through Desert Color connecting to others
		Music park (Moab, UT)
	2	Partner to create more off pavement hiking near city
Trails	13	<p>4 Connect the recreation paths to the bike routes through town</p> <p>3 Connect paths to dirt trails allowing access to open space without a car</p> <p>More bike lanes/routes throughout the city</p> <p>4 Trail to help bicycles past Dixie Drive at Cottonwood Cove</p> <p>Connecting existing trails together</p> <p>Cross Riverside for students getting to Heritage Elementary</p> <p>A safe route to cross Dixie Drive from Green Valley westside</p> <p>Trail access to DRMC (hospital) would encourage commuting</p> <p>Complete routes accessible from neighborhoods without use of a car</p> <p>Connect existing trails from Sunset Sandhollow area to rest of St George</p> <p>Repair and maintain existing trail systems</p> <p>Many bicycle/walking trails have entries adjacent to major roads which are difficult to cross - better access</p> <p>Having safe access to our trails from our schools and neighborhoods - for example constructing tunnels, bridges and adding traffic lights</p>
	5	<p>Shade sails</p> <p>Rest stops on trails with swings and picnic tables in lieu of more parks</p>
	2	Ice rink
	3	<p>Pedestrian precinct downtown</p> <p>Art department equal to but under Recreation</p> <p>Summer camps, indoor for kids</p> <p>Indoor climbing wall</p> <p>Indoor turf fields</p> <p>Hockey tournaments, soccer tournaments - indoor</p> <p>Actively recruit (perhaps subsidize) "3rd spaces" (i.e., coffee shops, pedestrian streets, etc.) downtown. Promote walkability between downtown venues</p>
	4	St George bicycle collective in conjunction with walkable square with restaurants, coffee shops, places for arts, performing arts, to socialize outside, set back/sheltered from streets
	2	Build new performing arts center
	2	We need venues to have events - namely performing arts



Table Exercise #1 Parks Facilities

		3	Restrooms, Drinking fountains
			River Park / child play equipment, benches
Trails	6	4	Lots more connections on bike paths so we don't have to ride on the streets
		2	Connect north Virgin River trail and south Virgin River trail at Man of War
			Connecting existing bike trails
			Connect existing trails by eliminating center turn lanes
			Connect existing trails - no roads
			Connect as many of the disparate and isolated small pieces all over town with the rest of the trail system
			Connect existing trails where possible, Create bike lanes on wider roads where there are no trails or connections
Funding / Land acquisition	5		Stockpile property for future amenities
			Force new developments to build and fund new parks
			How do we fund it? Security surveillance
Other Amenities	2		Porto potties or restrooms
			Security
			Transportation access
Trails	5		More water stations on trails
			Accurate mile markers
			Learning more about - education trails
			Connectivity
			Extend path on Santa Clara River and Industrial
Sport Facilities	5		Shooting park (westside)
			Low (dark night) light for all
			Large multi-purpose building
			Increase indoor options
			Road safety - more clarification around schools
Playgrounds	6		More shaded playgrounds
			More adult gathering places
Trails			Hike/walking trails
			Child novice mountain bike trails for learners
			Add bike lanes
			Biking and walking trails accessible throughout community
			Tai Chi in parks
			Frisbee golf
			Less grass, more trees
			Landscaping along roads
			Public gardening sites
			Youth tournaments and training camps
			Age and skill level tournaments
			Water features in parks
			Horseback riding
			Roller derby rink
		2	Ice skating pavilion
		2	Neighborhood pickleball courts
			Clean tennis courts
			More city pickleball courts
			Tennis courts with lights
		3	Complete work at Tonaquint and Curly Hollow as promised
		3	Neighborhood playground
			park in our neighborhood

Table Exercise #2

Arts, Events, Programs

Grouped Topic	Group Dots	Individual Idea Dots	Comment
			Concert venues
			Art studios
			Arts center for performing, visual, fiber arts
			Arts conference facilities (bring in national attendees)
		1	Art conference center
		2	Workshop studios
		2	Weaving studio and/or other fiber arts
		2	Visual and performing arts center
		1	Performing arts center
			Dance studios
			Rehearsal studios
		1	Art studios
		1	Art galleries
		2	Visual and performing arts center
		2	Fiber arts center as part of a performing arts complex
		2	Small community sections like Little Valley, Sunriver, etc. - Have art festivals and combine for one large art festival yearly
			Concerts in parks
		1	Live park music, bands, entertainment. No just food, food, food
		3	Host training camps for triathletes, cyclists, runners, etc.
		1	Host a large cycling event annually, like Palms Springs, Tucson, etc. Attract 5000 cyclists
			Improve air quality at Little Valley
		1	Equipment for disabled to participate in sports
		2	Sports geared toward disabled teams, lessons, etc.
		1	More accessibility for special needs or handicapped at events
			When expanding building sport facilities, include areas for food trucks to park. Will need power and water access for the trucks
		3	Clump like-minded sports together: a large soccer complex, a large pickleball complex, a large baseball complex
First Friday	9		Model First Friday after Palm Springs Street Fair
			Food truck alley
			First Friday needs help! Not fun for adults - mostly kids running around - bring in music, artists, serve beer/wine
			Improve First Friday to bring in better displays - Make it adult friendly as well as for children
Performing Arts Center	10		Performing Arts Center
			Performing Arts Center
			Wheel chair dancing access
			Bring in ballroom dancing performance companies that include disabled and wheel chair dancing; There are two major dancing companies (NYC & San Francisco)
			ADA activities
Beer at events	3		Have an Oktoberfest in October
			Make it possible for Beer Garden at special events, for example the Huntsman Games
			Improve the licensing for liquor (restaurants, outdoor events)
			Need sports bars! Sports bars & Sports bars
			Attract sports bars - adult eating establishments are weak in St. George
Races		2	More 5K races
			More races for my husband
			Simple stages and performance pavilions in parks for events
			Activities for children



Table Exercise #2 Arts, Events, Programs

		Display pedestals for school art projects - with Art around the Corner
Celebrations	4	Ethnic celebrations Indian pow wows
Performing Arts Center	14	Large indoor theatre performing arts center Performing Arts Center Performing Arts Center for local groups Performing Arts Center A performing art venue that would teach history of the US Encourage public to engage in arts programs in our area Mindset change about paying performers so that they can rise to a professional level Public awareness of the importance of the arts in healing emotionally, connections
Cultural & Heritage	6	A regular heritage festival Preserve the true pioneer culture of St. George throughout the city Preserve petroglyphs throughout the city: Tonaquint Terrance, Webb Hill, hill behind convention center
Community Center	5	More access to public community pools More access to neighborhood community pools More access to community pools A community center like Washington City - pool, exercise, activity Upgrade recreation center New rec center Community center like City of Washington A big rec center like Washington
Car show & Swap meet	1	Auto car show in park Automotive swap meets
Music festivals and concerts	1	Bluegrass festival Latin fest with music Expand free concerts to weekly vs monthly; saw it in Heber City, UT
Storytelling	1	Storytelling festival Venue for puppet shows More on storytelling opportunities after school Promote storytelling festival
Learning arts and crafts		We saw an area for a Makerspace in Truckee, CA. Very nice City supported Makerspaces (Truckee)
Nature/Bird activities	2	Need more space; Natural gardens and space around Virgin River for birds and wildlife Keep the BirdFest going Bird habitat and birding ID activities for children/families
Lawn Bowling Tournaments	8	Lawn bowlers are underserved Lawn bowling classes Lawn bowling tournaments at new community center venue for lawn bowling tourney Lawn bowling tournaments at new community center Lawn bowling classes
Interactive learning - arts/food	7	Cook offs Monthly cooking contest - different styles Best amateur chefs An art event that teaches various types of art techniques, not just painting; i.e. welding, glass

Table Exercise #2

Arts, Events, Programs

			Lawn bowling / bocce ball
			Add performance center
			Support and grow Southwest Symphony
			Open events/parks/recreation facilities on Sundays
Communication / Information	2		Show all art show dates Missing is a central communication for activities/happenings List of events - "Where it's at" misses many events
Festivals	6		Musical events in the parks throughout town from classical to rock Talent contexts in the parks Enlarge or develop venue for alternative music, bands, dancing Fine food and wine festival
		4	Hops in the Park / Oktoberfest / Wine Fest Polynesian festival; Good food! Farmers Market
			A gaming center (Xbox, PS4)
		3	Organ recital in Tabernacle Outdoor amphitheater for outdoor concerts
		3	Outdoor amphitheater Drive in movie
STEM		2	Observatory; Red Hill or old airport; STEM programs
		2	Natural history museum of St. George (group effort: DSU, DinoDiscovery & city)
Performing Arts			More evening movies
		2	Indoor arena to seat 10-15000
Heritage Festivals	5	2	Scottish Festival
		2	Octoberfest or Greek festival Expand GeorgeFest!
		2	More holiday events like Halloween and Christmas event for kids and families
		4	Social groups/clubs - youth and older - different themes; something for them to get together and have a place to meet/make friends
		7	At-risk youth clubs/programming; poetry (aka rap music), break dancing / dance crews, song writing, team building, support networking
		5	More live music / venue
			Dance and movement activities
			Underserved = working moms options No community center, except senior center
			Outdoor concerts in neighborhoods Diversified outdoor concerts Community orchestra
			Hotline that advertises what is going on - performing arts, historical, public interest programs
		2	Establish or improved arts/culture at the art museum and opera house facility
		3	Hotline to find our current activities Better advertising of activities and resources Volunteer resource center



Table Exercise #2

Arts, Events, Programs

			Outdoor restrooms on trails Shade on existing paved trails Benches with shade
			Historical and public interest programs Lecture series offer in opera house Balloon festival More variety at Tuachan events
		3	Concert facilities / concerts in the parks
		2	Continue to upgrade Children's Museum
		3	Large craft fairs for local crafters; not high-priced crafts. Boutique holiday items Hillside Farms in Norco, CA have craft fairs around Thanksgiving including Xmas gifts/items
		4	Another skate park A mountain bike venue to host state meets
		4	Group of artists creating a park / plan it
		6	Outdoor theaters / free showings
		5	Space like Town Square in Las Vegas - outdoor shopping areas Indoor climbing gym Funding and development of state-of-the-art theater complex (Think Hale Centre Theatre in Sandy) Community vegetable gardens Limiting fast food chain development. Promote small, local business restaurants A health and fitness/wellness expo where experts in their fields can host seminars and workshops for the public to sample how o improve their lifestyles and get involved with the community A summer music festival venue, like in Springdale
Recreation Center	11		Improve rec center Recreation center with better programming for indoor sports Better recreation center (Washington City shouldn't be better than St. George) Bigger and nicer recreation center with multiple basketball courts We need a large sports complex like the Spanish Fork Sports Center which has tennis courts, baseball/softball fields and soccer/football fields Mountain bike events and center/trailhead near Tonaquint or future Tonaquint park Re-surface existing tennis courts
Venues	4	3	Outdoor amphitheater Better outdoor concert venues
Music Festivals	15	2	Music festivals Music venues for more underground music Beer gardens Music festivals with beer garden Music venues Music festival similar to Moab's
		2	Need more venues for art presentations

Table Exercise #2

Arts, Events, Programs

		2	How about an additional indoor facility for kids - The Children's Museum is great!
		7	Better website to find activities Have more places to find out about all the venues. A website or FB
		4	Need to provide/better advertise as much of arts and activities in one place so it is easier to find out what's happening
		3	More Friday night street fests, evening strolls
			DocUtah support and facilitation
		5	Support DocUtah - the facilities behind the mall - the old theater was great this year - support it being used also for more documents and art films throughout the year
Communications	7		County calendar of events Better advertising
		3	Funding for events
			Family activities after school in parks
Arts/Culture Venues	9		Performing art center New performing arts center Art house theater We need an art house that will attract adults (not for Disney films) More adult only events/concerts December parade Food and wine festival
			Encourage people to come to art museum and opera - offer old fashion ice cream parlor in the facility
			Less high density projects
			Book mobiles
			Uniform traffic signals
			Wine and Music festivals
			Dance and movement cultural events Dance venues
			Encourage neighborhood picnics and connections
			Develop a buddy system to help elderly in community More activities aimed at healthy eating and physical exercise for seniors More volunteer opportunities to increase activities and for seniors Utilize community volunteers to do more work
		3	Concerts in parks
			Community orchestra - novice
			Music venues
			Increase the use of the opera building - not being used effectively

MEETING NOTES

PROJECT NUMBER: # 18-110PLN ISSUE DATE: November 1, 2018
PROJECT NAME: St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

RECORDED BY: Steve Duh, Jean Akers
TO: FILE
PRESENT: Members of the public
Members of the Parks Plan Committee & City Council
City Staff
Project team members from Conservation Technix & Sunrise Engineering

SUBJECT: Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #2 Notes (Oct 24th)

Community members were invited to the second open house meeting for the St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan update on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Dixie Middle School. The project team prepared informational displays and a presentation to share with attendees. The presentation offered an overview of the planning process and timeline, along with a summary of results from the recent community survey and highlights from the first open house from September.

Following the presentation, attendees were asked to work in small groups to discuss project ideas and prioritize ideas by 'voting' with dots for their top priorities for park system needs, trail corridors and overall priorities for the city. Attendees were encouraged to talk with each other and record their comments. City staff and project team staff aided the small group discussions by facilitating and answering questions. Approximately 80 people attended the meeting and provided comments.

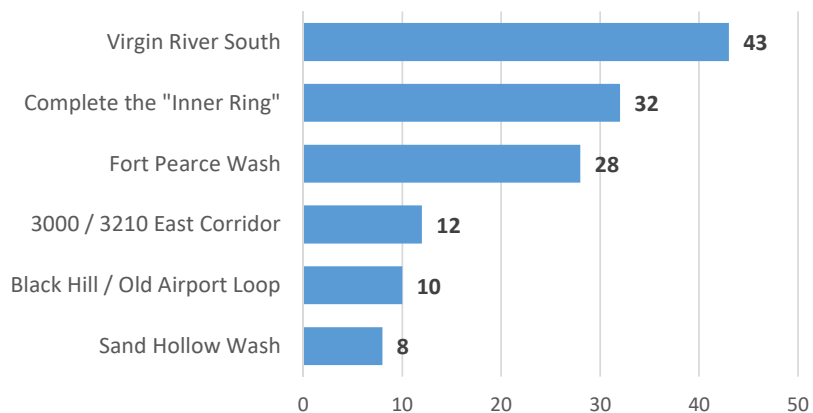
PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following represents a summary of the comments received during the evening meeting.

Table Exercise #1 – Trail Corridors

During the first table-based exercise, attendees were asked to review the trail map display at their table and the list of potential trail corridor options. They were asked to use sticky dots to select their top two priority trail corridors. Results were tallied by the staff table facilitator.

The chart represents the tally of individual choices. Filling the gaps to the Virgin River trail was favored the most, followed by completing the inner loop around downtown and the Fort Pearce Wash Trail.



Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #2 Notes (Oct 24th)

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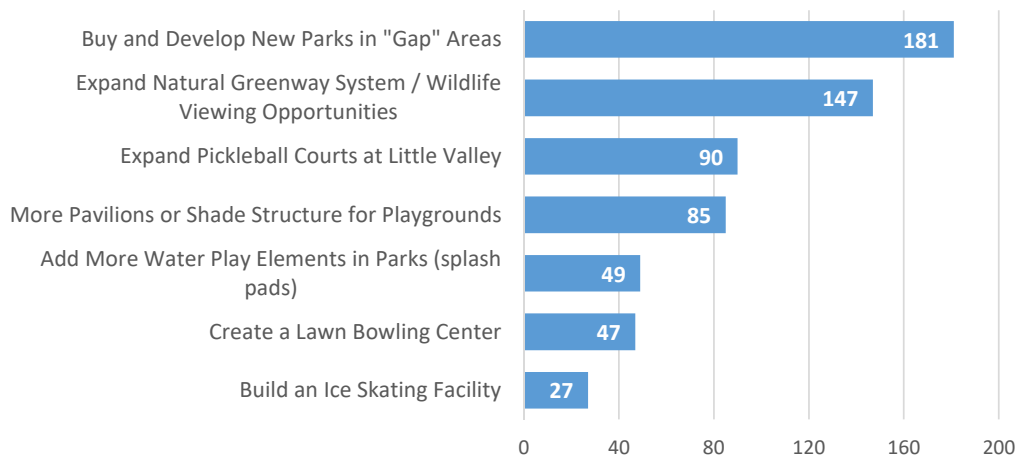
Written comments regarding trails

- More bike lanes
- More downtown on-street bike lanes
- On-street separated bike lane on W Sunset Blvd
- Smith/Lin's – connection to existing trail from top of bridge – V.R. North
- Downtown – I-15 crossing (pedestrian right of way)
- Middleton Wash to Cottonwood Cove – issue of going on Dixie Drive – no safe connection from end of trail at C.C. area to start of trail north of C. C area

Table Exercise #2 – Parks & Outdoor Recreation

A second table-based exercise was conducted in a similar manner as the first. Attendees had a map display and a list of potential park amenity and improvement projects to consider. For this exercise, attendees were asked to rank their top three choices with colored dots that represent their 1st (green), 2nd (yellow), and 3rd (red) priorities. Table facilitators worked with the tables to clarify the top two priorities. To analyze the data, the colored dots were weighted using a scale of “5” for first priority, “3” for second, and “1” for third. The data was tallied, weighted and summed, and the weighting scale helped emphasize priorities.

The chart below represents the weighted, summed scores for all of the prioritizations. Secure new parklands for gap areas and expanding the natural greenway system ranked as the top two priorities for the park system, based on the number and category of ‘dots’ scored for each item.

**Written comments regarding parks & outdoor recreation**

- Note the BLM lands on map
- Coordinate with BLM SGFO, i.e., RPP applications and trail networks
- Buy and develop neighborhood park (1st choice) vs community parks
- More pavilions and shade – important for year-round access

Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #2 Notes (Oct 24th)

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

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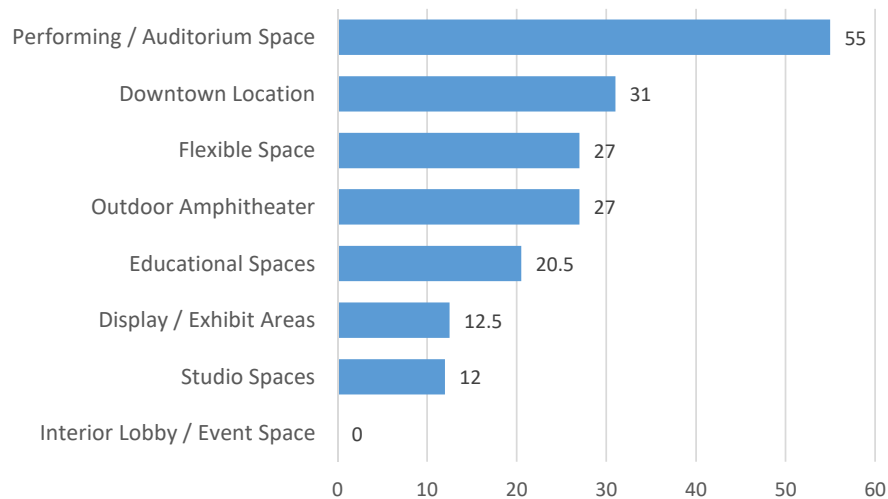
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- Expand natural greenway system – legacy theme and thought; protect and preserve for future; once it's gone, we can't have it; educational; value river and habitat for wildlife

Table Exercise #3 – Arts Center Options

A third exercise focused on the qualities of interest for a potential arts center. Attendees were provided a list of amenities and functional spaces that could be part of a performing arts center, and they were asked to use dots to select three items they see as important.

The dots were not weighted for this exercise, and the chart illustrates the highest scoring amenities for a potential arts center, based on the number of 'dots' scored for each.



Written comments regarding an arts center

- Art center – concern with large events/crowds
- Auditorium space is important to bring in larger scale performers
- Outdoor amphitheater is important for large school groups - place to gather; educational; musical

Table Exercise #4 – Overall Priorities

A final exercise was aimed to prioritize the top ranking items from the previous exercises against each other. Attendees were provided a matrix to insert the top two items from their table for the parks and outdoor recreation category and the trails and connections category. Two items were pre-determined for the matrix based on feedback from the community survey and the first open house: arts center and recreation center. Each table compiled their unique listing of six items based on their prior scoring and were asked to rank these items in priority.

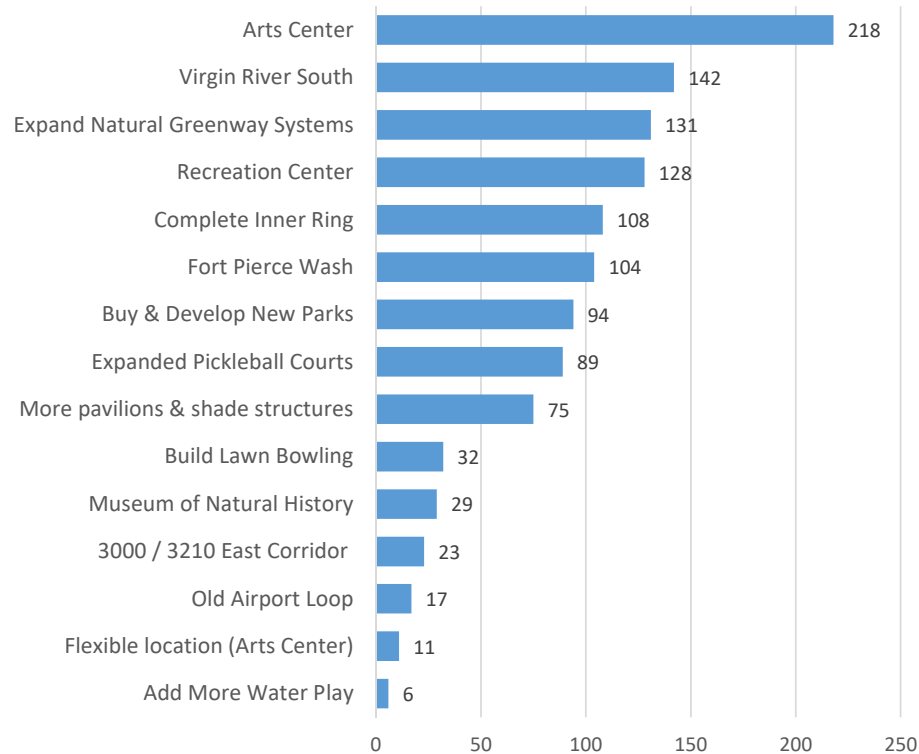
For this exercise, attendees were asked to rank each of the six choices with colored dots that represent their 1st (green), 2nd (yellow), and 3rd (red) priority ranking for each line item. To analyze the data, the colored dots were weighted using a scale of “5” for first priority, “3” for second, and “1” for third. The data was tallied, weighted and summed, and the weighting scale helped emphasize priorities.

Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #2 Notes (Oct 24th)

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In aggregating the data using the weighted scores, the overall priorities for all the tables were identified, as in the table above. The arts center showed as the highest priority, followed by completing the Virgin River South Trail, expanding the natural greenway system and a recreation center.

Other Comments

- Dixie Drive would be disastrous for young people to cross to access a park
- Park needed in Tonaquint area ASAP to meet the needs of present residents and 90 townhouses presently under construction. Pickleball courts would also be well used in said area.
- More pickleball courts needed in Bloomington also
- We are excited for a park in Tonaquint area, especially with the addition of 90 townhouses. Nice that the City owns the property already. The community is willing to help make it happen.
- Disc golf – competitive – the 2 existing 9-hole ‘recreational’ courses are not dedicated spaces. 18-hole competitive level courses - possible dual use golf course. Single basket targets for practice in existing smaller parks? Eagle scout opportunity to help with installation?



Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan: Open House #2 Notes (Oct 24th)

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- Art center – concern with large events/crowds
- Auditorium space is important to bring in larger scale performers
- Outdoor amphitheater is important for large school groups - place to gather; educational; musical

Every effort has been made to accurately record this meeting. If any errors or omissions are noted, please provide written response within five days of receipt.

cc: Shane McAfee
File

APPENDIX D

STAKEHOLDER MEETING SUMMARIES



PROJECT NAME: St George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan **ISSUE DATE:** November 8, 2018

PREPARED BY: Jean Akers, AICP, PLA

TO: Shane McAfee, Leisure Services Director

SUBJECT: St. George Stakeholder Interviews Summary – October/November, 2018

PURPOSE

To discuss existing relationships, with their challenges and opportunities for partnering with St George Leisure Services, several leaders representing their agencies were interviewed to determine how they view their ongoing partnership with the City and what, if any, improvements could be pursued to enhance the future of parks, recreation, arts and trails in the future. These interviews took place from October 24th through November 7, 2018. Interviews were conducted by Jean Akers, Conservation Technix or Joe Phillips, Sunrise Engineering.

PARTICIPANTS

Representatives included:

- Larry Bergeson, Superintendent, Washington County School District
- Victor Iverson, Commissioner, Washington County
 - with Scott Messel, Community Development, Washington County
- Pam Palmero, President, Chamber of Commerce
- Vardell Curtis, CEO, Washington County Board of Realtors
- Shayne Wittner, CEO, Hotel Association
- Mari Krashowetz, Executive Officer, Southern Utah Home Builders Association (SUHBA)

DISCUSSION

The interviews were guided by a set of common questions covering the current status of any cooperative or collaborative partnerships with the City's Leisure Services Department (LSD). The potential for expanding or enhancing their partnership or collaboration was explored as well as any considerations for improving the relationship. Finally, the discussion covered the future expectations and possibilities for partnering with parks, recreation, arts and/or trails as the City faces significant growth and expansion.

Current Collaboration/Coordination:

- The Washington County School District (WCSD) currently shares its facilities and sports fields with LSD for its programming and activities whenever school functions do not limit use of those

St. George Stakeholder Interviews Summary – October/November, 2018

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facilities. The School District also uses City facilities, including parks and sports fields for their programming and events.

- The relationship between LSD and WCSD is strong and collaborative. No fees are charged to either party for shared use. The school district has a schedule for use of their facilities that structures user preference and potential fees. Category 1 is for school use of a facility. Category 2 includes the City and University and takes secondary priority for use, behind school needs, but no fees are charged. Category 3 and 4 cover fees and preferences for non-profit organizations and commercial enterprises, respectively.
- Collaboration between LSD and WCSD extends to major citywide events, like the marathon, where school buses are needed. The District can schedule a professional development day (without kids attending school) so that buses are available for outside event use and older students are available to work at the events.
- Washington County is willing to partner with LSD to develop projects that serve the dual purpose of economic benefits and tourism promotion. Trail network expansion and connectivity are the primary focus for potential partnering with LSD. The County views other infrastructure such as sports complexes or golf courses as less important.
- Washington County has convened a regional Trail Committee (including LSD) to help coordinate the planning, design and development of trail connectivity across the county from city designation to public lands (84% of county land ownership) outdoor recreation amenities. The County considers a more extensive trail network to be a lower cost and much needed infrastructure for the region, particularly as the area continues to grow. Trail connectivity is viewed as essential active transportation for residents as well as tourism activities. A new website, www.swutahtrails.com, has been created to help promote this trail collaboration effort.
- The County views the planning, design and development of trail infrastructure as an appropriate tourism-supporting expenditure target for the collected revenue from the transient and restaurant taxes.
- As a trade association representing 620 building entities in Washington County, SUHBA works together to partner in government affairs issues. SUHBA has supported the City in charity projects. As example, they built/donated the training center at the Marion D. Hanks Scout Camp. They're currently building a habitat for humanity home.
- With the great community partnership, key interactions are in the building department for reviews and development standards. The City has done a wonderful job in meeting the needs of current and future residents. They like the revitalization of downtown, interconnecting trails, the all abilities park, etc. SUHBA commonly hears that the leisure activity opportunities are a key driver in the lifestyle of St. George, which drives building activity.
- The Board of Realtors invites members of the City administration to their luncheons; there's a good feeling of collaboration. The discussions include how the leisure opportunities impact the realtors. Collaboration has been great. The nice thing is that the City is proactive in these efforts. The active lifestyle is tremendous in St. George.



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- The partnership functions well; perhaps the Realtors could be part of the solution by volunteering labor for installation and/or maintenance of the improvements. All the homeowners have opportunity to use City facilities.
- The chamber represents businesses and when it comes to parks, the City isn't friendly at all with businesses; 5,800 businesses in Washington County; 4,600 businesses with 1-9 employees, small businesses, they have no idea how to run a business, they're just trying to make money but they falter and seek out the Chamber to help them succeed. The City makes it impossible for businesses to do events at parks; the City charges the businesses large amounts of money for use of the parks; who's paying taxes for the parks – businesses. Booths are required to have insurance coverage of \$3M; that's impossible for a small business; Businesses can't be seen in the small venues at St. George City; Washington City is business-friendly - if the Chamber has the \$1M coverage, all the small business can come in under that coverage. The \$3M is viewed as a way to keep people out of the parks so the City doesn't end up with the O&M expenses afterwards. The hospitality businesses love the events that come in; so do the tourism based businesses; the events help keep the taxes down. It seems jaded that the outside people can come in and use the parks but the people who pay for the parks, the locals, have such a difficult time using them.
- We do have phenomenal parks; they are tremendous; recreation here is off the charts. Pam has lived in a lot of states and has never seen anything as good our parks system here.
- The Hotel Association thinks of the City as the Palm Springs of Utah. We're known as a mecca for activity. The direct ways that the hotels benefit is through the events, like the marathon, softball tournaments, etc., hosted by the City or other organizations and they fill the whole town, bringing new money in. The rooms fill at a high rate compared to a normal rate. The three-day weekends are some of the biggest hotel weekends of the year. While the City doesn't organize the soccer tournaments, by building the fields, it has been huge for filling the City with tourism dollars. A taxpayer saves \$1,400 per year because of tourism dollars. The landscape of the hotel business has changed due to leisure activity opportunities.
- The events are key. The parks and trails are key as well; people stay an extra day to visit those. The families stay an extra day in the spring season as well. The hotel association has worked on committees with the City and County for recreation; that collaboration has been tremendous and effective; the collaboration should continue. The collaboration should continue, including bringing events on the off weekends; the City doesn't have to always host the events.
- The funding limits capacity. The hotel owners will continue to build as the demand is there and communicated. There is some overbuilding; right now there are a couple thousand rooms that will come empty in the next few years; that overbuild will be absorbed. The further away you get from Zion, the less effect the parks have on room demand. Part of the current overbuild is in Springdale. Vacation rentals by owner are having a huge impact as well; this is a problem to the hotel industry and the City and County suffers because the tax dollars are lost.

St. George Stakeholder Interviews Summary – October/November, 2018

St George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

Page 4**Potential Improvement or Enhancement:**

- Communications between LSD and WCSD are fluid and open. Good collaboration focuses on community benefit rather than territorial needs. Suggested improvement for maintaining regular communication would be a quarterly sit-down meeting between LSD and WCSD.
- Active Transportation Plans are being developed in some of the neighboring cities; the Trails Committee is promoting a set of unified multi-use shared trail (and roadway) standards to ensure connectivity and function across the greater trail network.
- As the regional trail network creates enhanced connectivity the need for coordinated wayfinding and unified signage could be beneficial.
- The County views working together and getting along as an important value. The potential to coordinate with all municipalities to develop a unified signage system is desirable.
- The suggestion of a “pass” for access to a multiple of art and cultural venues, museums, historic sites, etc. within the City could help promote local tourism and connect various cultural and recreational amenities for residents and visitors alike.
- SUHBA sees a need for more building inspectors and improving the efficiencies of permits and inspections. Also, they consider a need for road network/maintenance improvements and are hearing more about affordable workforce housing. High impact fees, the highest in the state, are a concern. For parks, SUHBA would like to see quality over quantity; they should stay nice. Impact fees are affecting the affordability of the lower income housing. Zoning is important to building. Trail connectivity is important allowing other modes of transportation than demand on roads.
- The City could help keep SUHBA informed; just keep SUHBA involved. SUHBA always wants to be seen as coming together with the City to solve problems.
- There will be a lot of O&M; that’s something the City really needs to key in on. We need to keep the facilities nice to keep the culture up.
- The limiting factor might be financial concerns. The Realtors would be concerned about City acts that cause home prices to inordinately rise.
- Perhaps the Realtors could adopt/maintain sections of trail, etc.
- Keeping the parks in great shape, planting trees would continue to help the City’s appearance and keep it cool. The air is kept fresh too. Also, it keeps the City’s character.
- If the facilities were less expensive in terms of overhead for the businesses to use, the small businesses would use them more. Desert Color was talking and wanted to do a partnership with a park, but it sounds like the City wasn’t interested in having more to take care of it (Pam qualified that this was hearsay). We occasionally hear talk of a private sports complex coming in, but we haven’t seen it develop – we don’t get the feeling that they would be profitable – Pam doesn’t feel like there’s a need for another sports park.



St. George Stakeholder Interviews Summary – October/November, 2018

St George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

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- Access to facilities as locals; make a reasonable way to come to the table, maybe a down payment or something more reasonable to take place of the insurance requirements.
- Continue to make the town, business friendly. Make sure there's an accountability factor in all components of the leisure services department; make sure their profit and loss numbers are correct. Who's policing where the money is going, especially with the arts? If the money is being used correctly, could it be used in a better way? Everything doesn't work everywhere; we need to be judicious about what we do.
- The City hasn't asked a lot in return; the hotel association hasn't really done much to scratch the City's back. That's a little embarrassing to Shayne. There is some noise in the City about traffic congestion during heavy weekends. Wayfinding on the streets and trail networks has been heard of as a problem. We could also do better advertising the locality of key events and directions through maps and signage.
- The lodging association could continue to meet lodging needs if collaboration from the City is continued. The hotels near the Dixie Center get full at those events and then the demand spills outward. As for funding, the association is not well funded; there's not much to give other than in-kind effort.

Future Vision and Direction:

- The need to stay ahead of growth and plan for the future drives WCSO to consider how and where to manage the demand for expansion and new facilities. Trails will provide considerable value if they can also help create safe routes to school. Trails would also help connect new (or older) affordable housing to outdoor recreation opportunities and destination connections.
- The need for future sports fields should focus on turf fields to provide all-weather access to team sporting needs. More use for programming and the need to conserve water will be critical future design/development requirements.
- Current public lands under school trust state ownership could be transferred to private ownership and developed, further triggering more growth. An effective trail network that connects public lands with the urban interface is critical.
- A future arts/cultural center should be owned by the City (rather than a nonprofit) to ensure sustainable operations and facility maintenance into the future.
- Public buildings should be designed and developed with multi-functional uses in mind to ensure space is used more efficiently. Schools, civic centers, libraries, and similar venues should allow for integrated uses and flexible spaces to promote sharing.
- Tourism is an introduction to St. George; a significant number subsequently relocate to St. George and provide growth and building opportunities. The builders market homes incorporating the City's lifestyle. Again, it's the lifestyle.
- The City has been doing a good job with planning and involving organizations and receiving input from residents. Keep a balance of adequate parks and open space; don't be too excessive

St. George Stakeholder Interviews Summary – October/November, 2018

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that would drive an increase in impact fees. Consider community living where housing, business, etc. is in proximity to reduce pressure on the roads. We need a good mix of small starter homes and the larger family and middle-age demographic homes. We need sustainability.

- Continued good collaboration and planning is needed to make the future plans a reality. Consistently seek feedback from residents. Be careful to include improvements recommended by the majority rather than the vocal minority. Educate the public as to why decisions are made.
- Build smaller, less cost-to-maintain parks.
- Continued collaboration is key. Certainly, having a seat at the table to provide input is great. The Realtors have a pretty good tab on who's coming to town and what the demographic looks like - what the needs are and are going to be.
- Make sure that what we have now is kept in prime condition. Make sure that what's built in the future is designed to City standards. Make sure good development standards are in place.
- We are growing so rapidly; things are changing; we're on the right track and doing really well. It's a wonderful place (coming from a lady who has lived everywhere); the City has done a fantastic job with the facilities, the walkability, and the connectivity.
- Keep the community developing in a positive way.
- Continued collaboration is key; work together on opportunities; the City has been great in working with the Hotel Association.
- Growth will continue; kudos to the City planners for envisioning this parks and recreation system that makes this City special and unique. It's hard to quantify what effect the arts have on the hotels, they know that there is some demand on hotels from the arts; people come for that but they don't say they come for that; it's a definite part of the overall St. George package – people will come down and go to the lake for the day, then go to the arts. Tuacahn has a tremendous impact on the hotels in the summer months, which used to be terrible. Shayne would love to see a performing arts center built; it gives us another attraction of a different variety that will bring in a different, possibly more affluent, sector of the demographic; it would fill a different market at different times, filling gaps in the market.
- Continue to collaborate. Support but be careful in subsidizing improvements that could be installed by private investment.
- Continue going where the City has gone in the past, we're on the right track. We need to continue to expand the marketing and perhaps the facilities for outdoor recreation. Moab, for example, doesn't have anything we don't. They continue to bustle and we could capture that with better marketing.

These notes attempt to capture all the significant content shared during the discussions that relate to the parks, recreation, arts and trails system provided or managed by the City of St George. Please notify Conservation Technix if there are any errors or omissions.

End of notes.



MEMO

PROJECT NAME: St. George Parks,
Recreation, Arts & Trails
Master Plan

ISSUE DATE: September 19, 2018

PREPARED BY: Jean Akers, AICP, PLA

TO: Shane McAfee, Leisure Services Director

SUBJECT: St. George Arts Stakeholders Discussion – September 12, 2018

PURPOSE

To discuss existing challenges and future needs/demands for community arts facilities and programming that could be coordinated, supported or provided with City resources. Representatives from a variety of arts and cultural organizations contributed to the discussions on current facilities and programs, as well as the potential future direction of visual and performing arts in St. George. This meeting took place on September 12, 2018 at the Electric Theater Center, Classroom 2 from 9:00 – 10:30 am.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the discussion:

Shane McAfee, Director	Jo Campbell, Southern Utah Art Board
Bette Arial, City Council member	Kathy Cieslewicz, Sears Art Museum Director
Angie Mason, Community Arts	Bruce Bennett, St. George Musical Theater Director
Gary Sanders, Community Arts	Sherlynn Davis, St. George Arts Commission Chair
Robert Schmidt, School District, Band(s)	Jean Akers, Conservation Technix
Lucas Darger, Southwest Symphony Director	

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction of participants and an overview of the City's plan update process and master plan expectations and the need for community input regarding specific elements of the arts and cultural aspects influenced by the City. Initial discussion focused specifically on the current need for a performing arts center facility, then broadened to the facility and infrastructure needs for arts in the community.

Arts Facility Design/Development Considerations:

- A performing arts center is a current critical need. The (old) concert hall is now part of Dixie College (soon to be university) and will soon no longer be available for public use.

St. George Arts Stakeholders Discussion – September 12, 2018

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

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- A 1,200-seat auditorium is a reasonable size for performance space.
 - Consider “black box” spaces for supporting a variety of venues, multiple uses, events, and “same time” support for those different uses (efficient staffing requirements).
 - Venue needs flexibility.
 - The Cox Auditorium was built to provide space for concerts, symphony, etc. but was intended to help Dixie College evolve into university status, so it’s not permanently dedicated to broad public uses.
 - Future facility needs to be big enough to have space for all the Arts and their growth, variety and supportive activities.
 - Weavers have space up by the old airport, but the space only allows for six weavers for several months.
 - Plan for a 1,700-seat theater, two black box spaces, reception space, gift shop, food concession, and outdoor flex space.
 - Space should have a huge area for galas and special events.
 - Concern that visual arts might get cut out of performing arts center design and space accommodation.
 - Need to allow for studio space as well as instructional spaces.
 - Performing arts should be more inclusive and provide space for the visual arts.
 - An educational wing could provide supportive uses and rental spaces. (Omaha has example facility.)
 - Big space is needed to support a variety of events – lobby with room for tables, weddings, flexible set-ups.
 - Cox originally planned for a big lobby space but money limitations crimped the final design.
 - Education center can develop future artists. Facility needs to support more education across generations.
 - Flexible spaces are critical – they cost more money, but they are more adaptable.

Programmatic Considerations

- Visual arts should be included in a performing arts center to create regular daily use
- Ten years ago, St. George musical theater operated at 90% capacity and outgrew its space. Creating a new space took five years (putting the theater “out of business” during construction phase). Plan for future without suffering time gaps.
- How do we reach new people and overcome the privacy issues of the wealthier potential patrons? A building would help.
- There is room for collaboration across the different arts organizations (like weavers, painters, dancers, musicians, actors, etc.).
- Could there be a big event? To fill gaps in the calendar?
- Talented mural artists have a 501.3.C in Utah, but have not grown much.
- Look at big events that generate activity and collaboration, including all of the Arts.
- A big ‘umbrella’ organization is needed.
- More collaboration = better participation.
- The demand/desire exists to create a performing arts organization that needs to be inclusive.
- There are 33 entities that have applied for RAP tax grant support. These organization have been growing, but have no supportive space.
- The children’s museum was intended to support art spaces.
- Wyoming Arts Consortium brought in artists to create events that went from city to city. Big events going to multiple venues cost less than one event per one venue. Revenue generation was significant. Draws out-of-state participation.



St. George Arts Stakeholders Discussion – September 12, 2018

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- Coordination of activity/event communication is needed. A comprehensive calendar: City has one & County has one. Central clearinghouse is needed.
- “Now Playing Utah” can support all events. Submit events and get statewide exposure. Tends to be northern Utah and SLC focused.
- No one is coordinating social media for these calendar events. Calendar is static.
- “Arts to Zion” and “Now Playing Utah” could be linked/coordinated. Live feed?
- St. George has a year-round operational advantage.
- Southern Utah does not have a shoulder season and has a full season edge over northern Utah.
- Tuachan as a private entertainment facility has a draw for outside use of its venue. They are creating a southern Utah destination. People from SLC come to Tuachan for the weekend to attend events, concerts, etc.
- Senior center closes at 4pm. Options may exist to expand usage.
- School facilities could provide space for continuing education. Capacity is available but underutilized.
- Schools have space. Custodial fee coverage is needed. Independent results (based on principals cooperation) at each school vary based on approach taken.

Future Vision Comments

- Facilities being built across Utah are triggering economic growth and benefits.
- Key criteria for future facility: 1) meet needs of organization(s), and 2) accommodate taxpayers need. Inform and involve the community in the development process.
- Library development and its tax bond program is an example of community development that required public communications and engagement (voter buy-in).
- What about the value to people outside of St. George?
- World-class performers can be brought in to draw crowds (in & beyond St. George).
- Salt Lake City folks would identify St. George as a location for the marathon, Zion, winter sports and art fest. What more can attract outside involvement?
- Location considerations: the City looked at existing land ownership near the airport.
- Musical theater loves being downtown. Look to 5-10-20 years (of city growth) where future locations would be feasible.
- Individual organizations could design/build their own spaces or a multiple-use shared venue could be created. This effort would require a central lead organization to run and operate the facility. One-stop shop can have bigger outreach, marketing and venue options.
- Create a destination as a prime statewide attraction, but retain community value and support community arts use. A city group is trying to get county participation.
- Marketing can target SLC folks to identify St. George as a southern destination.
- In Gillette Wyoming, the vision to build an art center was accomplished within ten years. Work with non-profit (through volunteerism) involves more passion.
- Provide enough parking.
- Community theater opens the childhood experience and adds to the richness of the human experience.
- For people to come together as a community, the arts help people gather and experience the events, culture, etc. Existing activities are many. Good resources to start. Provides impact to community culture and heritage.
- Make this a place where locals can show their talents. Showcase local arts. Arts can enhance other St. George events and recreational activities.
- I want residents to feel like they belong. Ownership & participation. Ability to express emotion. Shows and symphony can elicit emotion.

St. George Arts Stakeholders Discussion – September 12, 2018

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

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- Education of the arts should go beyond the school curriculum.
- Skill development has value.
- Future facility as a “sanctuary” (saves lives) enhances the quality of life.
- The Southern Utah Arts Commission has 400 members. Be careful of naming future organization. Avoid titling “performing” arts by being more inclusive of all artists.

These notes attempt to capture all the significant content shared during the discussions that relate to the parks, recreation, arts and trails system provided or managed by the City of St. George. Please notify Conservation Technix if there are any errors or omissions.

End of notes.



MEMO

PROJECT NAME: St. George Parks,
Recreation, Arts & Trails
Master Plan

ISSUE DATE: September 18, 2018

PREPARED BY: Jean Akers, AICP, PLA

TO: Shane McAfee, Leisure Services Director

SUBJECT: St. George Sports Stakeholders Discussion – September 11, 2018

PURPOSE

To discuss existing challenges and future demands and needs for sports facilities and programming in St. George with representatives from a variety of sports leagues, clubs and programs. This meeting took place on September 11, 2018 at the Electric Theater Center, Classroom 2 from 4 – 5:00 pm.

PARTICIPANTS

Participants in the discussion:

Shane McAfee (City Leisure Services Director)
Steve Bingham (City Recreation Manager)
Brandon Evanson, (City Recreation)
Jordan Bird (City Recreation)
Joseph Phillips (Sunrise Engineering)
Dallas Buckner (Sunrise Engineering)

Shaad Terrell (Dixie High School softball)
Di Shanklin (Southern Utah bicycling and pickleball)
Darry Alton (Sun WFL-youth football)
Tristan Webb (Southern Utah lacrosse and Seven
Elite soccer)
Jean Akers (Conservation Technix)

DISCUSSION

The discussion began with a brief introduction of participants and an overview of the City's plan update process and master plan expectations and the need for community input regarding specific elements of the park and recreation system. Questions were used to initiate sharing each sports' perspective, growth trends and to consider their current and future status regarding facilities and programming.

Specific elements for consideration from each represented sport are listed below based on comments by participants.

St. George Sports Stakeholders Discussion – September 11, 2018

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Lacrosse

- The least known but fastest growing sport in the United States.
- Division 1 teams are expanding.
- University of Utah is building their teams and will soon offer lacrosse as a sanctioned PAC 12 sport.
- High school sport is soon to be sanctioned, while starting as a club sport.
- Lacrosse uses a field size similar to soccer, but ideally with a fence to stop the ball.
- There is not enough field space for tournaments. They have reserved Sullivan's four fields. Rising Star in Mesquite is competing for fields.
- Lacrosse is a year-round sport, with high school lacrosse offered as a spring sport.
- Field shortages may not be a current problem for regular game play, but referee shortages will be the next limitation for growth.

Softball

- Not enough umpires for the games.
- As an Olympic sport, it's been growing in the last two years.
- The local success in Snow Canyon (national champs) has created renewed interest.
- Two fields are used for varsity and junior varsity games at the same time. The High School uses its own fields.
- St. George City uses park fields for their programming. There has been some coordination and reciprocity between high school and City parks.

Lawn Bowling

- Lawn bowling is not widely known in Utah, but it is in other southern states.
- The sport requires a 120-square foot field.
- Eight "rinks" allow eight (8) teams to play at one time.
- They are looking for a synthetic surface to avoid watering and other maintenance.
- Currently, lawn bowling is being played indoors at the rec center on the basketball court. Game play is affected by the wooden boards and tilt of the surface.
- Currently, lawn bowling has 30 members and could grow more if they had a real outdoor facility.
- Croquet can be played on the same surface as lawn bowling.
- JC Snow Park is the current target for a future lawn bowling location.

Football

- Four years ago, Red Rock was the main youth football league. It had 1,400 members, now they are at 1,200 members.
- There are two leagues in southern Utah that compete for member participation.
- Football attracts the bulk of spectators for youth sports. It is a money-generator, drawing 2,000-3,000 spectators for every Friday night game.
- The league does not use "parks' fields". The youth football games are played on the high school fields to include the grandstands for spectators and the infrastructure to support the events. They pay to practice and play on those school fields.
- Practices can be at schools, and some occur in city park fields.
- Flag football uses simpler fields and requires less infrastructure. City park sport fields work. Seven on seven can play at Little Valley.



St. George Sports Stakeholders Discussion – September 11, 2018

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Soccer

- Soccer goes out-of-town for its tournaments about eight times a year, or almost once a month.
- The Seven Elite Academy has built an indoor/outdoor facility.
- Soccer goes to St. George for spring training.
- Private sport fields are being planned.
- The City could take the opportunity to also make money from field rentals.

Baseball

- Baseball currently needs every field it can use for its leagues and clubs.
- They need a major complex to support tournaments.
- Northern Utah teams come south for training, practice and play.
- St. George could support a 12-month play season for baseball.
- The sport would like to be able to help raise money for the leagues by using volunteers to sell food concessions at games. Instead of the parks' permitted concessionaire?

Pickleball

- It took 12 years to build the existing 24-court complex at Little Valley.
- Pickleball is a very social game. Family-oriented. Competitive and offered at different levels
- Programming, tournaments, and play needs are outgrowing the current courts.
- Sun River has a number of courts.
- Little Valley needs 12-24 more courts.
- Currently have 800 players on 24 courts and can't support any more. Growth continues.
- "Canadian migration" folks come and stay on their way to Arizona.
- Tournaments get filled within 24 hours.
- Court complexes need high numbers of courts together to facilitate play, games, social benefits and tournaments. Don't add a few courts scattered in small parks.
- Not all courts in community are equally maintained. A shift to all courts in one location could be justified and could save maintenance/operations dollars.

General discussion comments regarding the value, considerations and future of sports in the City.

Synthetic turf surfaces

- Do these artificial surfaces work for more sports?
- May need irrigation to cool surfaces and to keep it clean (more sanitary).
- High capital cost with average lifespan of ten years before needed replacement.
- Replacement is also a high cost.

Tournament facilities

- Cities, such as Mesquite, Sullivan, Salt Lake, Park City and Las Vegas, compete as tournament locations to draw the crowds that trigger economic activity (hotels, restaurants, etc.)
- For sport games and tournaments, food and beverage services benefit if offered by more than one concessionaire. Allow food trucks with a variety of offerings.
- Food and beverage services are also a key way for leagues to raise money to support their programming.

St. George Sports Stakeholders Discussion – September 11, 2018

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan

Page 4**Tourism & Economic Growth**

- Could the County contribute to the accommodation of sports field needs?
- Tourism dollars associated with sports tournaments could bring in more money than the county property tax.
- Tourism is a key for sports tournaments. The State funds tourism through the performance fund that has a \$24 million budget. Advertising dollars to support/promote visitation can be funded up to \$200K per year.
- The Utah Sports Commission is lobbying for money as well.
- Canadians and their visitation is a big sports/vacation market that can be tapped.
- Sport groups are willing, ready and able to contribute to developing more infrastructure.
- Transient room tax is a city-controlled potential revenue source that could help fund sports facility infrastructure.

These notes attempt to capture all the significant content shared during the discussions that relate to the park and recreation system provided or managed by the City of St. George. Please notify Conservation Technix if there are any errors or omissions.

End of notes.



CONSERVATION
TECHNIX

MEETING NOTES

Project: St George Parks Master Plan

Location: Leisure Services Office **Meeting Date:** October 25, 2018 **Time:** 9:00 am

Notes by: Steve Duh, Principal

Attendees: Steve Bingham, Deputy Director - Recreation Programs/Facilities Wayne Bullock, Assistant Recreation Manager - Adult Sports
Della Lowe, Admin Assistant Timmy Key, Assistant Recreation Manager - Aquatics
Vanessa McMillan, Recreation Specialist - Aquatics Emerson Watanabe, Recreation Manager – Sports / Assistant Recreation Manager - Rec Center
Brandon Evanson, Recreation Supervisor - Youth Sports
Michele Howells, Recreation Specialist – Aquatics Jordan Bird, Recreation Supervisor - Softball Programs
Tosha Onani, Admin Assistant Steve Duh, Conservation Technix

Subject: **Leisure Services: Recreation Division Staff Discussion**

Following brief introductions with an overview roles and responsibilities, the group discussion generally followed a series of questions to gather perspectives from key professional staff member regarding recreation program and facility needs for the City of St George.

How would you describe the current state of the recreation and wellness in St George?

- The stigma is starting to change for aquatics, recreation, pool. There used to be the idea that recreation programming was low quality, and that there were other/better services out there. Private clubs and leagues were seen as where the ‘good’ kids play. A lot of folks can’t afford the private recreation offerings, and the perception was that city offerings were of low quality.
- St George is the Cadillac for recreation. Outsiders come here to recreate. There have been steady increases in local youth sports and more locals using city programs.
- Strong growth in gymnastics and tumbling; youth volleyball (35% in 2017, 56% in 2018), baseball (20%), basketball.

What can you see happening in the City with regard to opportunities for recreation and activities? What program changes or facilities would you like to see?

- There has been a lot of talk about the potential of a private aquatic amusement facility – and the likely majority of its base will be visitors and tourists. City is likely to keep its base of users at the aquatic center. Aquatics is going

Meeting Notes (continued)

more toward water play, rather than swimming. Locally, there are more personal pools, and people are looking for that experience they can't have at home or on their block.

- A private aquatic facility would be competitive from a staffing perspective. Local youth might not be motivated to work for city if the economy is good. Recreation programs are losing staff to better paying jobs (90% leave for better pay). Without enough staff, there is a capacity issue for facilities and loss of revenue (without sufficient staffing at aquatic center, the facility can't run at capacity). There is a high turnover rate with part-time employees. The City needs to make part-time employment more enticing - more perks, since wages are limited.
- There is no formal cost recovery plan. The City needs to operate programs that bring in adequate returns.
- Major renovation to recreation center – talked with mayor and got his buy-in for the upgrades. The question is about whether there is capacity if renovated – there is not enough peak hour space.

What recreation opportunities are missing? What are the constraints? What are the needs?

- Sand Hollow – expand to include recreation center – part of original site design
- New pool – current outdoor pool is 40+ years old
- Expanded pickleball
- Outdoor recreation programming – high ropes, low ropes, climbing, zip lines, education center for canoeing, biking, Ninja Warrior style routines. Adventure park (walltopia concepts)
- Diversified recreation – now a broader desire for diversity: outdoor rec, Thunder Junction, etc.
- Recently, there were 3,000 high school riders in town for mountain biking championships

Where should the City focus resources & energy?

- More programs and amenities to accommodate users with disabilities. Make facilities more accommodating (i.e., harness to help special needs users get into their swimsuits); 'Miracle Field' that can accommodate walkers and wheelchairs on field space
- Field space – there has been enough field for city-based programs. Accommodating clubs and tournaments is more challenging. May need more baseball fields. Little League may need to be OK with expanding its season from 8 weeks to 12 weeks to balance field demand.
- See BYU Idaho campus facility info on softball/soccer field overlay design for how field overlays might help maximize space usage for fields.
- Portable fencing for fields (sportafence) for multiple use fields – to enhance utility and add flexibility; would require storage for fencing. Very few fields have lighting now; lighting can add capacity, especially for soccer.
- Need more tennis courts (3-4 more sites with courts). Tennis is big in the high schools and for out-of-towners. Could do tournaments with more courts.
- Shaded courts would be nice. The pickleball players generally are done around noon for summer peak heat/sun. Pickleball at Little Valley is packed because of the design – people can sit, socialize, shade.



Meeting Notes (continued)

- At Little Valley, an idea is to shift the road out to add space for 12 more courts to get to 36. There are parking issues now, so parking for tournaments and more intensive use needs to be considered. Pickleball is growing fast because it hits on three personal outlets: competitive, social and fitness. Seniors want to be more active and social; adds variety, mental sharpness.
- Sand Hollow needs more parking and second entrance. Other improvements include stadium seating for meets and on-site storage for inflatables and reels for lane lines. Birthday parties are being pushed to the deck to accommodate demand; overrunning concession area. Need space for staff and for training lifeguard that doesn't conflict with other uses or program areas. Build the next phase to include a recreation center.
- Older plan conceived of need for three 120,000 sq.ft. centers
- If more rec center space added, consider an all-facility pass for folks to use all facilities and add variety

Every effort has been made to accurately capture the content shared during the meeting discussion. Please notify us if there are any errors or omissions.

-- End of Notes --

APPENDIX E

ONLINE ENGAGEMENT SUMMARY



Welcome to St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts & Trails Master Plan's Reporting Interface

The **Reporting Interface** displays all of the activity from your project.





Topic Name: For Kids Sake: Remembering Play...

Idea Title: ICE RINK - Indoor, climate controlled, yearround.

Idea Detail: I am 58 years old and started playing ice hockey up in SLC at the age of 9....I still play to this day with all of my buddies from those many years ago. And now our kids play...and so do our grandkids.

Proven demographics around the country say that STG is now ready for an ice rink / turf fields indoor. The peak season for an ice rink is directly opposite the main activities of Southern Utah that already strain our local infrastructure. With the enormous popularity of our neighboring Vegas Golden Knights, the time is now perfect for an ice rink. When it's 110° outside...it'll be 65° inside.

Idea Author: Mike E

Number of Stars 6

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: This would be a great amenity to the community. Based on our conversation to let the community know is that this would be a Private facility. This is great because the revenue that would be generated would go right back into the facility. The "public" sector can partner to help create and provide programs while benefiting from having a vibrant business.
| By Shane M

Idea Title: More space for outdoor activities.

Idea Detail: There are indoor activities for kids but outdoor parks or areas for other outside activities seem to be limited but would provide a more family oriented and learning activity. Why isn't there a large area without houses, buildings or power lines nearby that is available for kids flying kites when they want to? How about space for kids (with family supervision & participation) wanting to fly small powered airplanes with controls? How about a small permanent outdoor star gazing station (similar to a planetarium) for kids to peek at the universe-their future living space?

Idea Author: Angelo D

Number of Comments 0

**Topic Name: Visioning: What are your ideas about the City's parks?****Idea Title: Extend trails and connect parks**

Idea Detail: We should work to connect the city parks by trails to facilitate access and to get people to exercise more by walking and biking to parks.

Idea Author: Shane M

Number of Stars 6

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: ICE RINK - Indoor, climate controlled, yearround.

Idea Detail: Proven demographics around the country say that STG is now ready for an ice rink / turf fields indoor. The peak season for an ice rink is directly opposite the main activities of Southern Utah that already strain our local infrastructure. With the enormous popularity of our neighboring Vegas Golden Knights, the time is now perfect for an ice rink. When it's 110° outside...it'll be 65° inside.

Idea Author: Mike E

Number of Stars 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Art gallery space, "hands on" for adults and children.

Idea Detail: 1. Maybe adults and children of all ages would enjoy learning some type of visual art. Paint a painting with others who are painting the same thing or and examples and let people create a painting on their own.

2. Artists can take sketchbooks into art museums and sketch famous works of art or photograph pieces of art (unless otherwise noted) It is so educational to be allowed to do this.

3. Native American festivals with full regalia, food and dancing. It is very beautiful and it brings the cultures together.

4. Musical instrument programs or displays.

4. Somehow advertise better about what St. George has to offer..

(We've only been here since April, but we end up missing things because we simply did not know about it.



Idea Author: Susan P

Number of Stars 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: Sounds like great ideas. Do you think that a festival of sorts can help with this, or are you looking at more of a facility? | By Shane M

Idea Title: Senior Citizens Park; Shuffle Board,Bocci/lawn bowl courts

Idea Detail: Even though there is a senior citizen center in St. George (which by the way is constrained with limited staff and state funding), there needs to be a park dedicated for senior citizens outdoor interests & needs to promote social, physical activities & senior health. It would need to be located in an accessible, central and visible area of St. George so seniors can get there more easily (not isolated in a remote area of St.George).

Idea Author: Angelo D

Number of Comments 0

**Topic Name: Making One Change in Our Parks****Idea Title: Connect the bike trails between SHAC and Cottonwood Park**

Idea Detail: It would be REALLY great to connect the bike trail that terminates on Sunset (near the Sand Hallow Aquatic Center) to the bike trail that starts again along the river at Cottonwood Park (and continues down all the way to the Mayor's loop (by the Dixie Center).

The Santa Clara river/wash is BEGGING for a biking/walking trail following that river, and so am I. Please tie the gigantic two systems together so we don't have to risk our lives (and our kids lives) riding bikes on Dixie drive.

Idea Author: Mark T

Number of Stars 6

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Lazy River and Wave Pool Park

Idea Detail: So many hot months in St. George and we need activities to do outside. I doesn't have to be a water park but it just needs to have a very long lazy river. Would provide fun for families. Make it Big for lots of people. All water areas get crowding in St. George and surrounding area.

Idea Author: Jimmy S

Number of Stars 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Expand Little Valley Pickleball Complex

Idea Detail: 1. Pickleball (PB) is the fastest growing sport in the country. PB is hugely popular here. Little Valley (LV) is already very heavily used. The need for more courts will grow commensurate with the population growth here.

2. PB is played by young and old, families and individuals. PB contributes to community, health and well-being of all who participate.

3. PB tournaments are very popular and successful here. The two largest (Fall Brawl and Huntsman) are limited in size by number of courts. A larger complex will address everyday use by residents and support larger nationally known events, which contributes to the local



economy.

4. The trend nationwide is large PB court complexes. Scattering two or four court sites around the area would be unwise. The nature of PB is to gather, mix, play and enjoy the company. St. George is a well-known PB destination. We can grow with the sport and serve our growing population, or risk becoming irrelevant as other regions respond to the growth trend.

Idea Author: Ken S

Number of Stars 3

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: A Really Big Pickleball Court Complex

Idea Detail: I want to see an additional 24 to 36 more courts at Little Valley making a total of 48-60 courts. There are now 24 well designed and loved courts. They are one the best parks in St. George. In 2015, the 24 Little Valley courts were the gold standard in the country and the largest pickleball complex in the country.

Pickleball is growing exponentially in Utah and the country since 2015. A few years back, the Huntsman pickleball tournament was the biggest in the country. It might still be if we had more courts. Large tournaments including City tournaments have a number cap.

St. George is a mecca for pickleball, but the number of courts has become a limiting factor.

On several days of the week, the courts are full and people are waiting to get on. The courts are often at full capacity (day and night).

I want to see Little Valley remain a 'mecca' for pickleball for both locals and visitors.

Idea Author: robert K

Number of Stars 3

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I agree this complex is probably the best over all designed for functionality and use in the entire United States. | By Shane M

Idea Title: More restrooms. Keep restrooms accessible year round.



Idea Detail: This is so basic. When you have older people, or very young people, they can't wait to locate a store, or elsewhere, to use the restroom. Our young people have 'watered' the landscaping around some parks more than I'd care to admit. Either it is winter, and the restrooms are closed and shut off to avoid frozen plumbing, or they are 'out of order'. We are okay with pit toilets, if necessary. A BIG thanks to the parks people that take care of the facilities!!! It is much appreciated!

Idea Author: Judy L

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Add a Workout/Recreation Gym on to the Sand Aquatic Center

Idea Detail: Sand Hallow Aquatic Center has plenty of space to add on a reasonable small sized but useful workout room with gym equipment. You could tie it in at the end of the existing hallway on the north-side of the building that's currently used to access the locker rooms from the lobby. It would be very efficient because you could work-out and still leverage all the existing locker rooms and showers.

Swimming is great, but there's times we'd like to use a treadmill, elliptical, stretch, or some universal weight machines and free weights. The only gym available (with that type of equipment I have described) within the entire St. George recreation system is at the Rec center downtown. That's really inconvenient for those who live and use the SHAC.

Idea Author: Mark T

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Art center

Idea Detail: Add to the Main Street/Tabernacle area. Expand Electric Theatre complex to allow for studio space for variety of art classes/activities that would be available more hours of day/week. Promote niche art opportunities to draw visitors and to allow local residents to develop their skills and explore their creativity and different potential interests. Work with Dixie State ICL to cross promote.

Idea Author: Jodell L

Number of Comments 0


Idea Title: More Handicap Accessible Parks

Idea Detail: With the All Abilities Park as a model I would like to see all new playgrounds be handicap accessible. Let's continue to integrate all children's needs so we can be a truly all inclusive town.

Idea Author: Michelle G

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Connect all of the multi-purpose trails together.

Idea Detail: Right now, several of the trails just end and do not connect with other trails or safe streets to walk or bike along. Connect the dots (trails) so people can bike and walk safely from one end of they valley to the other. Make it easier and safer to commute to work or to run errands via the trail system. Instead of building small green patches of grass type parks, build linear parks that make it easier to get to the larger parks, recreation areas, schools shopping and restaurants.

Idea Author: Diane S

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: More bike trail development out in the Little Valley area

Idea Detail: Would like to see more bike trails running north and south from Little Valley all the way up to Dinosaur tracks. Seems this entire region of St. George is missing decent bike trails/loops. Can't we get something that links up with the bike trails at Dinosaur Tracks and runs all the way down to Southern Little Valley?? Especially with all this runaway development down here, retail development at Mall and River, and increased road traffic/congestion in between.

Idea Author: John D

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Preserve the fields and farmlands

Idea Detail: Can St. George entertain the idea of preserving open spaces and farmlands in the corridor between Little Valley and Dinosaur Tracks before the developers concrete everything over? More heritage sites like Hela Seegmiller park would be nice. Keep some of the



farmlands and ranch lands preserved as well before that heritage of St. George is lost forever to developers.

Idea Author: John D

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: More pickleball courts

Idea Detail: Little Valley pickleball courts are becoming more and more crowded, and recreational use of them is nearly impossible during tournaments and the Huntsman games. Can we get a few more recreational pickleball courts put it in on the east side of St. George? And away from housing so residents won't complain about the noise? Pickleball is perfect for all residents of all ages and requires less real estate than soccer, baseball, and football fields. Thank you.

Idea Author: John D

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Repair and maintain existing facilities.

Idea Detail: 1.The bike trail that runs between the Riverstone Community and Man O War is in desperate need of repair. Eroded by the 100 year flood, it needs to be resurfaced.
2.The pickleball courts at Vernon Worthern park also need a lot of attention.
3.Because of all the dirt that always seems to be present on the pickleball courts at the Little Valley complex, they are going to need to be resurfaced soon.

I would like to see two more court added to the Little Valley Pickleball complex. There is room between the restrooms and the parking lot. Also 2-4 pickleball courts in the North East section of the city would be welcomed by players that don't want to drive to Little Valley.
Thank you.

Idea Author: Bobbie C

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Continue the bike trail into downtown St. George.

Idea Detail: Currently to get downtown, we bike on the Mayor's Loop up past the car dealerships to south Bluff Street. At that intersection we have to begin to ride on the sidewalks



and side streets. As a city we should be encouraging downtown activity and a bike path or lane to help get there will be a positive.

Idea Author: jeanne W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: maintenance

Idea Detail: The parking lots of trail heads are not groomed of dead leaves and stuff. Fire hazard to those cigarettes left behind.

Idea Author: Mario B

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Finish and complete Seegmiller Park with play area

Idea Detail: Finish Seegmiller Park, with play area for children, develop horse trails parallel to some of the existing trails in the city to allow some riding inside city limits.

Idea Author: Bobbye W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Develop more family friendly space at Seegmiller park

Idea Detail: Develop undeveloped area of Seegmiller park to area of play area consistent with historical nature of park but place for children to play during events and throughout the week

Idea Author: Rodney W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Provide improved parking for the Black Hill park

Idea Detail: Development of the Tech Ridge increases the need for improved parking while addressing safety concerns at the park. A solution to this situation is: close the short section of 265 south and replace it with a cross over at 300 south. A new wider road could provide diagonal parking for handicap van's etc. This could be incorporated in the master plan for trails and open space in the Tech Ridge Development plan.



Idea Author: Jerry K

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: More Trails

Idea Detail: Instead of continuing the currently policy of building small parks near every resident, consider instead building more paved trails. Paved trails must be much less expensive to maintain than all the city parks and in my experience the trails system gets much more use than most any park. The trail are also used by a wide variety of residents for commuting, exercise, recreation or just fun. The trails also work for many users whether cycling, running or walking. Trails with park-like amenities along it, are called linear parks in many other communities. This is a cost-effective way to add park features (playgrounds, picnic areas, etc) at a lower cost and allow for easy access to these features as they are all connected by a trail,

Idea Author: Craig S

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Better connecting roadways with WIDE bike lanes

Idea Detail: Major roadways like old. Why. 91 and Dixie drive need bike lanes.

Idea Author: Terry C

Number of Comments 0



Topic Name (Instant Poll): Trail Connection Priorities

Idea Title: Complete the "inner ring": Close gaps on Middleton Wash, Santa Clara River and Halfway Wash Trails

Number of votes: 8

Idea Title: Virgin River Trail: complete all segments

Number of votes: 6

Idea Title: 3000 / 3210 East Corridor: Mall Drive to The Fields at Little Valley

Number of votes: 5

Idea Title: Sand Hollow Wash: complete all segments

Number of votes: 4

Idea Title: Fort Pearce Wash: complete all segments

Number of votes: 3

Idea Title: Black Hill / Old Airport Loop: add to trail system

Number of votes: 1

Comments

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: I would like to see the trail that runs along the Virgin River between the Riverston Community and Man O War repaired and repaved. It's current rough condition, it forces most riders to the street which defeats the purpose of a bike trail. | By Bobbie C



Topic Name (Instant Poll): Park System Priorities

Idea Title: Buy and Develop New Parks in Gap Areas

Number of votes: 6

Idea Title: Expand Pickleball Courts at Little Valley

Number of votes: 5

Idea Title: More Pavilions or Shade Structures for Playgrounds

Number of votes: 4

Idea Title: Add More Water Play Elements in Parks (splash pads)

Number of votes: 3

Idea Title: Expand Natural Greenway System / Wildlife Viewing Opportunities

Number of votes: 3

Idea Title: Build an Ice Skating Facility

Number of votes: 2

Idea Title: Create a Lawn Bowling Center

Number of votes: 1

Comments

Number of Comments 1

Comment 1: It would be easy to add 4 more courts to the Little Valley complex in the current grass area between the restrooms and the parking lot. This small increase would go along way in easing the pressure on the everyday use of the courts. And it would not require the procurement of any additional land. | By Bobbie C



Topic Name (Instant Poll): Arts Center Ideas & Priorities

Idea Title: Outdoor Amphitheater

Number of votes: 5

Idea Title: Flexible Space

Number of votes: 4

Idea Title: Performing / Auditorium Space

Number of votes: 2

Idea Title: Educational Spaces

Number of votes: 2

Idea Title: Studio Spaces

Number of votes: 1

Idea Title: Downtown Location

Number of votes: 0

Idea Title: Display / Exhibit Areas

Number of votes: 0

Idea Title: Interior Lobby / Event Space

Number of votes: 0

Comments

Number of Comments 0



Topic Name: Examples From Other Places: Performing Arts Center

Idea Title: Boardwalk on bike trail

Idea Detail: Under the bridge by Bloomington Park, during rainy times trail is impassable!
Suggest a boardwalk to remedy problem!

Idea Author: Wanda F

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Improve safety around the Black Hill park.

Idea Detail: The development of Tech Ridge results in significant traffic on Tech Ridge Rd & 265 South. Suggestion is made to close the short section of 265 S and provide an alternate road at approx. 300 S that includes diagonal parking & space for handicap vans, etc. utilizing the park. This could be part of the Tech Ridge trail & open space development layout.

Idea Author: Jerry K

Number of Comments 0



Topic Name: Activities & Health: Recreation for Everyone...

Idea Title: Build a RiverWalk like you see in San Antonio, etc

Idea Detail: We have a great opportunity with all our river acreage here to develop long term strategy to develop a river-walk commercial/residential experience like you would see in San Antonio or Paris, France, or San Luis Obispo, CA. There's lots of room across from Walmart on the Bloomington side of the river, or there are other spots where this would really work here. Yes it's a big endeavor but if done right can really add a really amazing 'city center' and 'destination' reason to visit/live here. Something as definitive as 'the strip' is to Las Vegas. The St. George River Walk.

Idea Author: Mark T

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Expand the facilities that are regularly used.

Idea Detail: Expand the Little Valley Pickleball Complex. When building soccer or lacrosse fields, build several in one location so it is easier to have large tournaments or practices. Connect the trail system and fill in the gaps of the trail system so people can get to the parks and recreation facilities safely.

Idea Author: Diane S

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Family friendly play area at Seegmiller Park

Idea Detail: Many families with young and preteen children attend functions and events at the Seegmiller Park Barn. It would be nice if they had some swings, jungle gyms or something typically found in the other SG parks for them to play on

Idea Author: John B

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Further develop the Seegmiller park, add horse trails

Idea Detail: I would like to see further development of Seegmiller park with space for family oriented play area for children which could be a playground area with the historical nature of



the park still intact, but an area where children could actually play not just wonder around and see the animals. I would also like to see horse trails in conjunction with some of the regular trails that parallel the reg trail but is dirt and horse friendly.

Idea Author: Bobbye W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Horse trails in city

Idea Detail: Make horse trails in close proximity to other trails

Idea Author: Rodney W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Safer connecting roads

Idea Detail: Not really related but something needs to be done about the way people drive in this town. Cameras at intersections, automatic speed monitoring machines that generate tickets automatically...

Idea Author: Terry C

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: BIIKE LANES !!!

Idea Detail: All major roads should have wide bike lanes.

Idea Author: Terry C

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: yoga or qigong in the park

Idea Detail: In one of our beautiful city or county parks we should have free yoga or qigong!

Idea Author: Terry C

Number of Comments 0



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Idea Report

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**Topic Name: Focusing Forward****Idea Title: Build a RiverWalk like you see in San Antonio, etc**

Idea Detail: We have a great opportunity with all our river acreage here to develop long term strategy to develop a river-walk commercial/residential experience like you would see in San Antonio or Paris, France, or San Luis Obispo, CA. There's lots of room across from Walmart on the Bloomington side of the river, or there are other spots where this would really work here. Yes it's a big endeavor but if done right can really add a really amazing 'city center' and 'destination' reason to visit/live here. Something as definitive as 'the strip' is to Las Vegas. The St. George River Walk.

Idea Author: Mark T

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Expand the Little Valley Pickleball Complex.

Idea Detail: Pickleball continues to grow at a rapid rate. This is a sport that all ages and all skill levels can play. This is a great way to get people out exercising and staying active in a very social setting. The beautiful Little Valley complex is too small to accommodate the local play today. As this town grows and as pickleball grows, we need a larger facility (in one location). We have enough small, 2-6 court facilities. We really need to expand the one place that all players know they can go to find someone to play with at all skill levels.

Idea Author: Diane S

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Increasing and keeping open spaces for neighborhood parks

Idea Detail: Develop Seegmiller park further to include play area for children that could still have historic theme

Idea Author: Bobbye W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Develop open spaces

Idea Detail: Keep from being over crowded



Idea Author: Rodney W

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Add more paved trails

Idea Detail: Paved trails are potentially used by more residents than most any other park infrastructure. Whether biking, running or walking and whether for commuting, exercise and health, recreation or just socializing with a friend, the trails system is heavily used. I would like to see the gaps filled to make our wonderful current trail system even better. Instead of adding more and more recreation facilities, focus on finishing and polishing one of the things St. George is already known for...our paved trail system.

Idea Author: Craig S

Number of Comments 0

Idea Title: Make the parks safer by making the roadways safer!

Idea Detail: People drive crazy here. We need traffic cameras at all intersections, also machines that automatically ticket drivers over the speed limit...

Idea Author: Terry C

Number of Comments 0



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APPENDIX F

PAST COMMUNITY PLANS





REVIEW OF PAST COMMUNITY PLANS

Past community plans and other relevant documents were reviewed for policy direction and goals as they pertain to the provision and planning for parks, trails and recreation opportunities in St. George. The development of each involved public input and adoption by their respective responsible legislative body.

St. George Parks, Recreation, Arts, and Trails Master Plan Update 2006

The 2006 Parks, Recreation, Arts, and Trails (PRAT) Master Plan Update superseded the previous 1994 parks master plan and was directly coordinated with the 2002 City of St. George General Plan. The PRAT master plan update addressed each element of leisure services as part of an integrated system and combined the policies of the General Plan, community engagement information, projected growth, and a physical needs assessment of the system. The Update recommended a revised neighborhood park acreage of 4 acres per 1,000 residents to be added to the target standard of 6 acres per 1,000 community park acreage. The combined standard would require ten (10) acres of developed parks (neighborhood and community) per 1,000 residents.

The 2006 PRAT Master Plan Update assessed art and recreation needs for facilities and programming and identified the priorities for trail connections and ongoing system development. The report recognized the challenge of funding for implementation of plan recommendations and stressed the need to coordinate with private development and proposed growth as the city expands in the future.

Washington County 2035 Housing Study: Dixie Vision 2007 Final Report

This housing market study focused on the projected housing market for 2012 and 2035. The housing study offered analyses of future housing needs, housing affordability, construction trends and future workforce housing needs for Washington County. Washington County's population increased by almost four times since 1980 and almost doubled in size during each of the past three decades (1970-2000). County population growth rates exceeding 33% between 2000 and 2006 placed the market in the nation's top 30 MSA growth markets. The 2007 report estimated the county population to increase to 410,840 by 2035, based on the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget's 2005 Baseline Population Projections Data Set. The report projected the housing needs and increases in housing costs also making the correlation with employment centers and the relationship between housing affordability and increased transportation costs.

2006 St. George Open Space Master Plan

Prepared in 2006 by a landscape architecture & environmental planning team from Utah State University, the open space plan identified the defining criteria for determining lands valued as open space and the processes for prioritizing key areas for preservation. The master plan applied five criteria – health/safety/welfare, hydrology, biological features, special areas and social spaces for use in inventorying the distinctive and significant places of St. George. The master plan also reinforces St. George’s role as a “gateway community” due to its proximity to Zion National Park. The open space master plan focused on three different types of open space: resource conservation, scenic preservation and parks & recreation. The master plan follows from mapping of identified critical natural areas and viewsapes that were identified for St. George as river corridors, natural features & viewsapes, black rock lava flow and poppy habitat. The plan reaffirms that open space in and around St. George is important as it helps define the city and provide a unique sense of identity. Plan objectives call for the protection of natural resources, scenic vistas and the visual quality of St. George as well as the acquisition and preservation of open space.

2017 & 2019 Park & Trail Master Plan Exhibits

The Park & Trail Master Plan Exhibits are documents that are prepared and regularly updated by the Park Planning Division. These plans are used for specific park and trail identification, land easement and acquisition planning, as well as for long range park and trail planning purposes. These plans are also regularly used for transportation and development coordination, council staff and city management reference, and public presentations. The Park & Trail Master Plans provide direction when working with private developers and when coordinating with local and federal agencies and are often included when making grant applications. These plans are a key component to the success of the city’s overall park and trail system and are updated on an annual basis and available on the city’s website.

2007 Vision Dixie: Making a Better Washington County

The Vision Dixie planning effort created a framework from public input for a series of principles to help plan for the direction of future growth. The Vision and its Principles are intended to guide elected officials and local residents as they make key decisions regarding general plans, zoning and development proposals. Ten (10) Dixie Principles represent the collective input for each county community’s implementation. Relative to St. George’s park, recreation and trail system the following principles should be noted:

- Guard our “Signature” Scenic Landscapes
 - Protect unique physical features such as dry washes, ridge lines, hillsides. Mesas river corridors, etc.
 - Preserve our agricultural and ranching heritage by creating mechanisms that allow existing agricultural lands to actively continue.
- Provide Rich, Connected Natural Recreation and Open Space
 - Preserve and connect open spaces and trails.
- Build Balanced Transportation that includes a System of Public Transportation, Connected Roads, and Meaningful Opportunities to Bike and Walk
 - Build community-friendly streets for a system of walking & biking routes between neighborhoods, schools, parks & commercial areas.



- Get 'Centered' by Focusing Growth on Walkable, Mixed Use Centers
 - Group uses for better pedestrian-friendly environments.
 - Increase number of walk-to destinations within a 1/3rd mile radius.
- Focused Public Land Conversion Should Sustain Community Goals and Preserve Critical Lands
 - Public Lands are valued. Any conversion should be done with care.
 - Explore preservation of critical state and private lands through voluntary exchanges for public land more suitable for development.

The Vision Scenario pictures a comprehensive system of trails and strategic open spaces that preserve beautiful vistas and ridges and help maintain the individual character of cities and towns. The Vision also emphasizes the value of the county's stunning natural resources for recreation, scenic beauty and water supply.

St. George General Plan 2016

Several sections from the St. George General Plan relate directly to planning for the parks, trails and recreation. Chapter 4, Vision and Goals, states Goal 1: Natural Setting should *"Preserve the natural beauty and features that provide a healthy environment and give St. George its unique identity."* Specifically, the goal identifies:

- the Red Cliffs and other natural hillsides that enclose the City and provide a striking red, and green, backdrop;
- the rivers and streams and their riparian wetlands that provide important wildlife habitats and scenery;
- open space to define the limits of the City, separate it from surrounding urbanization and provide it with a unique sense of identity.

Further, the Goal reaffirms that the natural terrain, drainage and vegetation of St. George should be preserved with superior examples contained within parks or greenbelts. One of the Supporting Objectives from Goal 1 is to pursue public acquisition of open space. *"The City needs a detailed open space plan to provide specific direction and strategies to protect important natural areas (dry washes, riparian areas, scenic hillsides, wildlife habitats, etc.)."*

Additionally in Chapter 4, Goal 3 on Smart Growth includes a supporting objective to encourage existing development to become increasingly self-sufficient with shopping, work places, schools, parks and other facilities within easy walking distance of homes. And a supporting objective to preserve farmland and open pastures that recall the agricultural heritage of St. George.

Goal 6 focuses on Recreation to assure that adequate land is set aside in appropriate locations, to provide a wide range of recreational opportunities, for all ages, in an aesthetically pleasing setting. A supporting objective is to utilize river corridors as linear greenway passive recreation areas.

The General Plan's Natural & Cultural Resources, Chapter 5, states that significant public land surrounding St. George is managed by either the Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) or the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). SITLA lands were expressly granted to the western states by the Federal government expressly for the purposes of supporting public education. SITLA has been especially active and creative in creating development value for its land to seek the highest return possible on its school

funding stewardship. These lands are not permanently protected from development since SITLA may determine the best and highest economic value may be achieved by the sale of the land to other public or to private entities. The Chapter also shares the expectation that significant natural resources including steep slopes, floodplains and wetlands will be protected through zoning & development regulations.

In Chapter 6, Land Use, section 6.9 Parks and Recreation states that the size and distribution of Parks needs to be coordinated with the other land uses in the City. Based on the 1994 parks master plan, St. George had a park standard of six acres of developed park land per 1,000 residents. To continue to meet the needs of a growing population and the City's level of service (LOS) goals, additional park land acquisition and development was needed. Planning was recommended to reassess current facilities and develop guidelines for new acquisitions and construction. The subsection 6.9.3. Park & Recreation Policies recommended that the City update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and use it as a guide for locating and prioritizing park development and land acquisition for parks. The current level of service for developed neighborhood parks of 5.4 park acres per 1,000 residents was to be maintained and the City shall raise the total developed park land level of service (including neighborhood and community parks) to 6 acres per 1,000 residents. The Land Use chapter also proposed that standards should be adopted for other recreation amenities (swimming pools, tennis courts, etc.) as set forth in the Parks Master Plan, and implemented through general funds, grants, impact fees, and a general bond obligation. Additionally, a linear park (or greenbelt) system should be created to connect neighborhoods to parks, open spaces and other community facilities. And the cost of community or other special use parks and their amenities shall be equitably shared by all residents. The Plan further stated that new development shall provide neighborhood park facilities or impact fees-in-lieu to meet the demand created by the residents of the development (demand as defined in LOS standards of the Parks Master Plan). And all residents of the City should have a neighborhood or pocket park within ½ mile walking distance.

The Plan defined land designated as Open Space on the Land Use map as intended to be preserved permanently free from development and left in a natural state and/or used for recreational purposes such as parks, golf courses and pedestrian/bicycle trails. (Note that a significant portion of that designated open space land is SITLA land that is subject to sale for current and future development.) An Open Space plan would also help focus the City's efforts and assure that public resources are preserved in the most cost-effective way possible. Greenbelt and open space land can also be used for passive recreation and trails connecting significant facilities (parks, schools, commercial areas) and to provide residents with access to natural resources. A city-wide greenway system along the Virgin and Santa Clara Rivers could serve as the unifying element of an open space network and assure public accessibility.

The Plan identified areas within and around the community that are desirable to be preserved as permanent open space include:

- existing and future park sites
- scenic areas and views, including the steep mesas and hills that frame the city, such as:
 - o the west and east Black Ridges
 - o the Red Hill north of St. George
 - o portions of Webb and Schmutz Hills
 - o Bloomington Ridges



- areas with natural hazards (e.g. steep slopes, geologic hazards, floodplains), such as:
 - the floodplains of the Virgin and Santa Clara rivers
 - the White Dome and gypsum hills area south of Bloomington
 - wetland areas
 - major dry washes, including Halfway, Ft. Pierce, Middleton, Sand Hollow, City Creek and Bloomington.
- significant ecological habitats, such as: the Desert Tortoise Wildlife Management Area north of St. George (including most of Paradise Canyon and adjacent land to the east and west)
- land that separates communities and keeps them from growing together

Bikeways were also referenced in the Land Use chapter as bike/recreation paths that are physically separated from vehicular traffic ways and are usually two-way facilities. Parks and Recreation Department designs and manages bike paths. The bikeway policy proposes the implementation of a bikeway system that integrates and interconnects pedestrian paths and on-street bike lanes that will connect major destinations (shopping, schools) with parks and open space corridors.

St. George Active Transportation Plan 2017

The St. George Active Transportation Plan establishes policies, programs, infrastructure and standards to create a more cohesive walking and biking network for people of all ages to connect within and beyond the community. The Plan analyzed the existing network of bikes lanes, paths and other facilities to determine the need for future connections and improvements. Over 55 miles of shared path, more than 13 miles of bike lanes, almost 24 bike routes, and close to 60 miles of unpaved trails were identified within the city. Through its assessment of existing facilities, projected growth, gaps in the system, and public engagement, the Plan recommended 121.8 additional miles of shared-use paths. The Plan also depicted the locations for the future shared use path network to guide the integration of the trail system with future growth. The Active Transportation Plan's vision states that *"St. George will be a place where residents and visitors of all ages and abilities can easily and confidently walk or ride a bicycle for transportation and recreation."*

Utah's Outdoor Recreation Plan (Draft) 2019

As an update to its adopted 2014 statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP), the Draft 2019 Utah's Outdoor Recreation Plan evaluates the demand and supply of outdoor recreation resources and facilities in the state of Utah. The SCORP process helps determine the most pressing outdoor recreation issues to prioritize funding direction for Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars. Planning is an important component of professional recreation management. Over 78 percent of the survey respondents have a system-wide master plan/comprehensive plan/resource management plan for their parks and outdoor recreation sites.

The 2019 Draft Utah SCORP reports that trails have ranked at the top for the most needed facilities for Utahns in the last few decades of SCORP planning by State Parks. When professional recreation managers were surveyed about new facility needs, the top three facilities were prioritized as recreation center, sport and play fields and trails and walkways, respectively. Recreation professionals prioritized their needs for renovation

by identifying playgrounds, restrooms, shade structures/pavilions, recreations centers, lighting and trails/walkways as the most important needs. Top recreation needs identified by the general public in SCORP surveys were trails/pathways, more parks/open space and more public access. The survey showed top ten outdoor recreation activities, in order of preference, hiking, camping, fishing, mountain biking, hunting, ATV/OHV, skiing, bicycling, horseback riding and climbing.

General Plan of Washington County, Utah 2010

The County's general plan sets a roadmap for development in the unincorporated portions of the county. The general plan cites the rapid increase in population over the past four decades. The county 1970 population was officially 13,669. By 2010 the county population was over 138,000. The general plan references the Vision Dixie Principles as the guide to future development. Washington County is considered a "cooperating agency" - a status that encourages federal land management agencies to coordinate with the county in the preparation of federal land and resource management plans. This status has significance to park planning when agencies like BLM consider the disposal of public lands for private use.

The county general plan recommends continued development of recreation facilities on BLM land and encourages detailed plans for determining the full potential of public recreation and camping facilities in the Pine Valley District of the Dixie National Forest. The general plan cites the significant tourism value of Zion National Park. The general plan recommended that the State Institutional and Trust Lands Administration (SITLA) work together to identify the highest and best use of the trust land in the county for the benefit of the school system. About nine percent of the county land base is owned by SITLA and presents the potential to impacts the overall land use, infrastructure, economy and quality of life in the county.

In general, Washington County does not provide for parks and recreation services, leaving provision to the cities, towns, state and national governments. The Washington County Regional Park and Equestrian Center and the regional sports shooting park, both acquired from BLM, are the only county facilities involved in providing recreation services.

There are maps included in the General Plan showing the major routes for motorized vehicles and for non-motorized vehicle travel. In the general plan, trails are acknowledged as an important part of the exceptional quality of life and livability of Washington County as well as a major draw for tourists and residents alike. The county recognizes the trail systems within incorporated limits and the need to foster and support links between cities and across unincorporated portions of the county.

Washington County Critical Lands Plan 2009

Developed out of the identified need to preserve and protect those critical lands that define the region, the Washington County Critical Lands Plan follows on the goals of the 2007 Vision Dixie planning effort. The Plan supports efforts to "Guard our 'Signature' Scenic Landscapes" by protecting unique physical features and preserving agricultural heritage. In addition, the plan advocates to provide rich, connected natural recreation and open space between neighborhoods and public lands. The Plan also emphasizes that any public land conversion should sustain community goals and preserve critical lands.



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APPENDIX G

IMPLEMENTATION TOOLS



The Plan has identified a significant breadth of new projects and improvements that may exceed the capacity of existing resources. For the capital projects involving acquisition and development, a variety of funding sources may provide options for reaching closer to the projected revenue needs. These funding options range from local sources to state, federal and private entities and programs.

LOCAL FUNDING OPTIONS

St. George possesses a range of local funding tools that could be accessed for the benefit of growing, developing and maintaining its parks, trails and other recreation facilities. The sources listed below represent potential sources though some may be dedicated for other local purposes which limit applicability and usage. Therefore, city leadership will need to consider the feasibility and potential to modify or expand the use of existing city revenue sources in favor of park and recreation programs.

General Obligation Bond

For the purposes of funding capital projects, such as land acquisitions or facility construction, cities have the authority to borrow money by selling bonds. Voter-approved general obligation bonds may be sold only after receiving a majority vote at a general or special election.

Impact Fees

The State of Utah's Impact Fees Act authorizes local governments – including cities, counties and special districts – to charge park impact fees on new development to mitigate the costs of providing necessary park and recreation infrastructure. The impact fee helps ensure new residential and commercial growth is served by adequate park and recreation facilities. Impact fees can be used to fund the acquisition and construction of new park and recreation facilities, generally defined as having a life expectancy of at least ten years. They cannot be used to fund operations or maintenance costs.

Recreation, Arts, & Parks (RAP) Tax

The Recreation, Arts, & Parks (RAP) Tax is a 1/10 of 1% sales tax on non-food items. Proceeds can be used on publicly-owned and operated athletic fields and parks, trails, playgrounds, etc. It can also be used to support and help develop cultural organizations to advance and preserve art, music, theater, dance, etc. Local voters approved the RAP Tax in 2014.

FEDERAL & STATE GRANTS AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

<http://www.nps.gov/orgs/rtca/index.htm>

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program, also known as the Rivers & Trails Program or RTCA, is a technical assistance resource for communities administered by the National Park Service and federal government agencies so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. The RTCA program implements the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of NPS in communities across America.

Community Development Block Grants

These funds are intended to develop viable urban communities by providing decent housing and a suitable living environment, and by expanding economic opportunities, principally for low and moderate income persons. The Five County Association of Governments has been designated by the State of Utah to receive and evaluate applications for (CDBG) funds within the southwest region. The Small Cities CDBG Program is available in all of the five county area (Beaver, Garfield, Iron, Kane and Washington Counties). The only exception is the City of St. George, which is a HUD Entitlement City. The City of St. George receives an annual allocation of funding directly from HUD. Projects within the City of St. George are applied directly to that City. CDBG funds can be used for a wide variety of projects, services, facilities and infrastructure.

Walk-In Access Program

<http://wildlife.utah.gov/walkinaccess/>

The Walk-In Access program, administered by the Division of Wildlife Resources, compensates willing landowners for allowing public access to their lands for public recreational use (hunting, trapping and fishing). Landowners enrolled in the program receive monetary compensation based upon suitable habitat and wildlife, the amount of land and the length of time the land or water is enrolled in the program. Some landowners may also qualify for habitat restoration projects designed to attract and benefit wildlife species. The Division provides public safety patrols and liability coverage for designated sites.

LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund

<http://planning.utah.gov/leraymcallister.htm>

The LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund provided funds to preserve and restore critical open space, such as wildlife habitat and wetlands, culturally or historically unique landscapes, and agricultural lands. The Fund was an incentive program that provided grants that encourage collaborative conservation efforts between communities and landowners.



Utah State Parks Grant Programs

Utah State Parks operates four grant programs and grants money to local agencies, generally on a matching basis, to acquire, develop and enhance outdoor recreation properties.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

<http://stateparks.utah.gov/resources/grants/land-and-water-conservation-fund/>

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provides grants to buy land and develop public outdoor facilities, including parks, trails and wildlife lands. Grant recipients must provide at least 50% matching funds in either cash or in-kind contributions. Grant program revenue is from a portion of federal revenue derived from sale or lease of off-shore oil and gas resources. The legislature recently reauthorized the fund.

National Recreational Trails Program

<http://stateparks.utah.gov/resources/grants/recreational-trails-program/>

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) provides funds to maintain trails and facilities for a range of activities including hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, motorcycling and snowmobiling. RTP funding may be used for the construction and maintenance of trails and trail related facilities, including the development of staging areas, trailheads, restroom facilities, etc. RTP funding may not be used for non-trail related activities such as the development of campgrounds, purchase of picnic tables, landscaping, or irrigation system development. A local match of 50% is required. This program is funded through federal gasoline taxes attributed to recreational non-highway uses.

Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant

The Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant program makes grant monies available with a 50/50 match to communities to build outdoor recreation infrastructure which would become an enhancement in the area. These projects must offer an economic opportunity for the community and should have the potential to attract or retain residents and increase visitation to the region. Eligible infrastructure development projects include but are not limited to youth programs, trails, trail infrastructure, and trail facilities; restroom facilities near recreational areas; ramps and launch sites that would improve water access; whitewater parks; yurts; and infrastructure for wildlife viewing areas. The project areas must be accessible by the public to qualify.

Utah Arts & Museums Grants

<https://artsandmuseums.utah.gov/grants/>

Utah Arts & Museums awards grants to assist arts organizations, museums, schools, educators, local arts councils, cultural organizations, and folk artists across the state of Utah. Grants are competitive and reviewed by community panels. General operating support and project grants are available. Grant funding is provided by the State of Utah and the National Endowment for the Arts.

OTHER METHODS & FUNDING SOURCES

Business Sponsorships/Donations

Business sponsorships for programs may be available throughout the year. In-kind contributions are often received, including food, door prizes and equipment/material.

Interagency Agreements

State law provides for interagency cooperative efforts between units of government. Joint acquisition, development and/or use of park and open space facilities may be provided between Parks, Public Works, school districts and utility providers.

Private Grants, Donations & Gifts

Many trusts and private foundations provide funding for park, recreation and open space projects. Grants from these sources are typically allocated through a competitive application process and vary dramatically in size based on the financial resources and funding criteria of the organization. Philanthropic giving is another source of project funding. Efforts in this area may involve cash gifts and include donations through other mechanisms such as wills or insurance policies. Community fundraising efforts can also support park, recreation or open space facilities and projects.

ACQUISITION TOOLS & METHODS

Direct Purchase Methods

Market Value Purchase

Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Partial Value Purchase (or Bargain Sale)

In a bargain sale, the landowner agrees to sell for less than the property's fair market value. A landowner's decision to proceed with a bargain sale is unique and personal; landowners with a strong sense of civic pride, long community history or concerns about capital gains are possible candidates for this approach. In addition to cash proceeds upon closing, the landowner may be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction based on the difference between the land's fair market value and its sale price.



Life Estates & Bequests

In the event a landowner wishes to remain on the property for a long period of time or until death, several variations on a sale agreement exist. In a life estate agreement, the landowner may continue to live on the land by donating a remainder interest and retaining a “reserved life estate.” Specifically, the landowner donates or sells the property to the city, but reserves the right for the seller or any other named person to continue to live on and use the property. When the owner or other specified person dies or releases his/her life interest, full title and control over the property will be transferred to the city. By donating a remainder interest, the landowner may be eligible for a tax deduction when the gift is made. In a bequest, the landowner designates in a will or trust document that the property is to be transferred to the city upon death. While a life estate offers the city some degree of title control during the life of the landowner, a bequest does not. Unless the intent to bequest is disclosed to and known by the city in advance, no guarantees exist with regard to the condition of the property upon transfer or to any liabilities that may exist.

Gift Deed

When a landowner wishes to bequeath their property to a public or private entity upon their death, they can record a gift deed with the county assessors office to insure their stated desire to transfer their property to the targeted beneficiary as part of their estate. The recording of the gift deed usually involves the tacit agreement of the receiving party.

Option to Purchase Agreement

This is a binding contract between a landowner and the city that would only apply according to the conditions of the option and limits the seller’s power to revoke an offer. Once in place and signed, the Option Agreement may be triggered at a future, specified date or upon the completion of designated conditions. Option Agreements can be made for any time duration and can include all of the language pertinent to closing a property sale.

Right of First Refusal

In this agreement, the landowner grants the city the first chance to purchase the property once the landowner wishes to sell. The agreement does not establish the sale price for the property, and the landowner is free to refuse to sell it for the price offered by the city. This is the weakest form of agreement between an owner and a prospective buyer.

Conservation and/or Access Easements

Through a conservation easement, a landowner voluntarily agrees to sell or donate certain rights associated with his or her property (often the right to subdivide or develop), and a private organization or public agency agrees to hold the right to enforce the landowner’s promise not to exercise those rights. In essence, the rights are forfeited and no longer exist. This is a legal agreement between the landowner and the city that permanently limits uses of the land in order to conserve a portion of the property for public use or protection. The landowner still owns the property, but the use of the land is restricted. Conservation easements may result in an income tax deduction and reduced property taxes and estate taxes. Typically, this approach is used to provide

trail corridors where only a small portion of the land is needed or for the strategic protection of natural resources and habitat. Through a written purchase and sale agreement, the city purchases land at the present market value based on an independent appraisal. Timing, payment of real estate taxes and other contingencies are negotiable.

Landowner Incentive Measures

Density Bonuses

Density bonuses are a planning tool used to encourage a variety of public land use objectives, usually in urban areas. They offer the incentive of being able to develop at densities beyond current regulations in one area, in return for concessions in another. Density bonuses are applied to a single parcel or development. An example is allowing developers of multi-family units to build at higher densities if they provide a certain number of low-income units or public open space. For density bonuses to work, market forces must support densities at a higher level than current regulations.

Transfer of Development Rights

The transfer of development rights (TDR) is an incentive-based planning tool that allows land owners to trade the right to develop property to its fullest extent in one area for the right to develop beyond existing regulations in another area. Local governments may establish the specific areas in which development may be limited or restricted and the areas in which development beyond regulation may be allowed. Usually, but not always, the “sending” and “receiving” property are under common ownership. Some programs allow for different ownership, which, in effect, establishes a market for development rights to be bought and sold.

IRC 1031 Exchange

If the landowner owns business or investment property, an IRC Section 1031 Exchange can facilitate the exchange of like-kind property solely for business or investment purposes. No capital gain or loss is recognized under Internal Revenue Code Section 1031 (see www.irc.gov for more details). This option may be a useful tool in negotiations with an owner of investment property, especially if the tax savings offset to the owner can translate to a sale price discount for the City.

Other Land Protection Options

Land Trusts & Conservancies

Land trusts are private non-profit organizations that acquire and protect special open spaces and are traditionally not associated with any government agency. Virgin River Land is the regional land trust serving the St. George area. Other national organizations with local representation include the Nature Conservancy, Trust for Public Land and the Wetlands Conservancy.



Public/Private Utility Corridors

Utility corridors can be managed to maximize protection or enhancement of open space lands. Utilities maintain corridors for provision of services such as electricity, gas, oil, and rail travel. Some utility companies have cooperated with local governments for development of public programs such as parks and trails within utility corridors.

APPENDIX H

PUBLIC REVIEW COMMENT SUMMARY



Public Comments & Feedback

The City of St. George posted a review draft of this Plan on its website for a month and solicited community feedback on the document. Numerous comments were received, and the following list represents a high-level synopsis of interests noted from comments received.

- Additional pickleball courts, in general, and at the Little Valley Pickleball Complex; remove the reference to scattering courts and at the same time state that courts, tennis or pickleball be concentrated at key locations
- Outdoor concrete racquetball courts
- Connect neighborhoods with all the major recreation complexes by trails
- More trails and more funding in CIP for trails; Increase “in city trails” like the Kentucky Lucky Chicken mountain bike trail and wonderful paved paths
- Install a wheelchair swing
- A large indoor play area for kids to play indoors during the peak months ... with indoor playground equipment, climbing walls, jungle gyms, etc.
- A rec center in Little Valley; pool in Little Valley
- A reservoir for boating, fishing, etc.
- New large parks in Desert Canyon with splash pad, shade structures, etc.
- Upgrades at Bloomington Hills North – playground expansion, signage, turf and tree management, restroom
- A quiet place for adults to enjoy a flower garden or a Japanese lotus pond or a Zen Garden
- Consider taking the number of trails we have in the area and bring them up to standards – address cracking, pavement gaps, surfacing
- Improving the St. James Park disc course to an 18 hole track would make a big hit, and a new layout could be done at Kiwanis Park
- Preserve as much open space as possible and in its natural state as much as possible
- Be more ‘friendly’ towards visitor camping
- Concerts in the park increased to weekly or at least every other week
- Vernon Worthen park needs a splash pad
- All art festivals should run til 7 or 8 p.m.
- Consider a dog park for the Thunder Junction area
- Improvements to the upper Tawa Fishing Pond Complex
- Redesign the irrigation water flow at fields 6 & 7 at Canyons Complex

The City appreciates residents feedback and will continue to review this and other community input as it moves forward with implementation and with periodic updates to the capital improvements plan.



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