

PARKS AND RECREATION

MASTER PLAN



MAY 2021 DRAFT





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Payson would like to thank the many individuals who contributed to the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. We wish to acknowledge:

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1 INTRODUCTION

MASTER PLAN OVERVIEW

The Payson City Parks and Recreation Master Plan creates a vision for a system of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation opportunities that promotes health and wellness, equitable access, and environmental conservation as integral elements of the Payson community. This plan establishes a road map to guide Payson's efforts to provide high quality, well-maintained parks, trails, open spaces, and recreational opportunities for existing and future community members.

This plan identifies existing parks and amenities and provides strategies for the expansion of recreation programs, the protection of critical natural areas, and the development of a connected park network. This plan will:

- ➔ Establish park and recreational opportunities in all neighborhoods.
- ➔ Expand the existing trails system in Payson to link open spaces and parks throughout the city.
- ➔ Identify neighborhoods with lower park access and work to expand access.
- ➔ Use geographic analysis from the Imagine Payson General Plan to analyze future needs and set targets and benchmarks for parks access.
- ➔ Address funding constraints and identify potential funding mechanisms.

This plan considers the park and recreation needs of Payson residents, now and into the future. It outlines a community vision for the future of parks and recreation in Payson, existing park and recreation facilities and program inventories, demographic

conditions, and level of service analysis. The Plan establishes specific goals, strategies, and implementation actions for developing, conserving, and maintaining high-quality parks, trails, recreation programs, facilities, and open spaces across the city.

The Plan creates a unified vision for both the Payson Parks Department and the Recreation Department addressing current needs and future growth. The Vision for the Imagine Payson General Plan incorporates one major theme that impacts park planning and design:

Payson can accommodate growth and maintain access to outdoor recreation.

Payson residents want to protect existing parks and open spaces and invest in future green space. Connecting new and existing parks and open spaces with a series of trails through the city and its open spaces will enhance Payson's natural areas and enhance the community's quality of life.

Parks and open spaces offer significant health, economic, environmental, and social benefits to the community:

- ➔ Improved physical and physiological health.
- ➔ Access to local parks increases physical activity and makes people healthier.
- ➔ Local parks and open space offer recreational opportunities for people of all ages and socioeconomic backgrounds.¹
- ➔ The planting of trees improves air quality and aids in the management of stormwater.
- ➔ Community development, economic sustainability, and tourism often rely on the local quality of life, view corridors, and the attractive and inviting sense

of place and community character associated with access to parks and nature.²

- ➔ Protection of natural areas including hillsides, wetlands, canyons, waterways, etc.

In Utah, the outdoor recreation economy generates 83,000 direct jobs and results in \$737 million in state and local tax revenue³ and drives the economy through the management and investment in parks, trails, and access to natural areas. Parks also offer opportunities for people to engage with family, friends, and neighbors, thereby increasing a sense of community. Access to parks and recreational facilities has also been linked to reductions in crime, particularly juvenile delinquency.⁴

1 National Recreation and Park Association. 2010. "The Benefits of Physical Activity Provided by Parks & Recreation." Accessed on February 2, 2021 via <https://prescriptiontrails.org/files/BenefitsofPhysicalActivityProvidedbyParks&RecreationNRPA.pdf>

2 The Trust for Public Land. 2005. "The Benefits of Parks: Why America Needs More City Parks and Open Space" Accessed on February 2, 2021 via <http://cloud.tpl.org/pubs/benefits-park-benefits-white-paper12005.pdf>

3 Outdoor Industry Association figures accessed on February 2, 2021 via <https://outdoorindustry.org/state/utah/>

4 National Recreation and Park Association. 2015. "Structured Recreation Programming Can Help Reduce Juvenile Crime" Accessed on February 2, 2021 via <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2015/sep-tember/structured-recreation-programming-can-help-reduce-juvenile-crime/>

PAYSON CONTEXT

Payson residents embrace the city's small-town character and cherish the region's agricultural roots, rural character, beautiful canyons, and natural areas. These areas provide breathtaking views, easy access to outdoor recreation, and have become a hallmark of Payson. The community already benefits from what has been accomplished in the park system today but understands that forward thinking planning must account for both future challenges and available improvements.

Payson, like the rest of Utah County, will experience significant growth in the coming decades. The population of the city is expected to double by 2040. Payson can shape how and where this growth will occur, anticipate the infrastructure it will require, and take full advantage of the opportunities presented by the future Utah Valley University campus and FrontRunner commuter rail extension into the city. Thoughtful planning will help Payson retain its character and a strong sense of community and civic pride.

The recently adopted Imagine Payson General Plan (2020) represents these shared values and will position Payson as a thriving and welcoming community, complete with high-quality neighborhoods, easy access to necessary services such as parks, and a strong sense of place. The plan will develop Payson as a distinct city along the Wasatch Front. It will accommodate growth while preserving open space and avoiding the pitfalls and inefficiencies of unchecked urban sprawl.

PLAN BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

A parks and recreation master plan is a document that guides the decisions and actions of City officials, administrators, and staff in connection with the planning, development, and implementation of City parks, open space, and recreational facilities and programming. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan articulates a vision for a connected system of parks, trails, and natural spaces that promote a sense of community through neighborhood involvement, outdoor recreation, and a shared value of health and environmental conservation that forms the backbone for what it means to live in Payson.

Payson's Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the first of its kind for Payson, is intended to be updated periodically to reflect new opportunities, constraints, and community interests. This Plan has been designed to reflect current community choices and opportunities related to the recent general plan update.

The Imagine Payson General Plan replaced the previous version adopted in 2003 and incorporates elements of three recent area specific plans: East Side Comprehensive Plan, South Meadows Specific Plan, and Bamberger Ranch P-C Zone Plan. It was drafted in coordination with Sewer, Stormwater, Culinary Water and Irrigation, Transportation, and this Parks and Recreation Master Plans. The goals and strategies of each master plan are incorporated into the corresponding Imagine Payson General Plan chapters. The Imagine Payson General Plan takes into consideration areas anticipated to be

annexed and developed over the next 30 years.

Payson residents value having easy access to outdoor recreation opportunities and have expressed a desire for new and improved park and recreation facilities linked by a series of trails throughout the city. Recreational opportunities and the ability to enjoy the natural environment is a major quality of life indicator across all demographics. This Plan documents those values and provides a framework for addressing facility and programming development and funding in the near-term.

PLANNING PROCESS

Payson's Parks and Recreation Master Plan was drafted with significant input from the community to reflect a shared interest in the use and design of parks and recreational areas and programming. In connection with the Imagine Payson General Plan Update, consultants and staff conducted a variety of public outreach activities, an intense review of the existing recreation system, level of service review, and a future needs assessment.

The Imagine Payson General Plan – together with the Strategic Implementation Plan and the master plans – provides the city with tools to make Payson's Vision a reality. These plans incorporate the best features of earlier plans and the creative ideas of forward-thinking residents and community leaders. It is now up to the community to continue collaborating and working to implement the goals and policies expressed in these plans. The

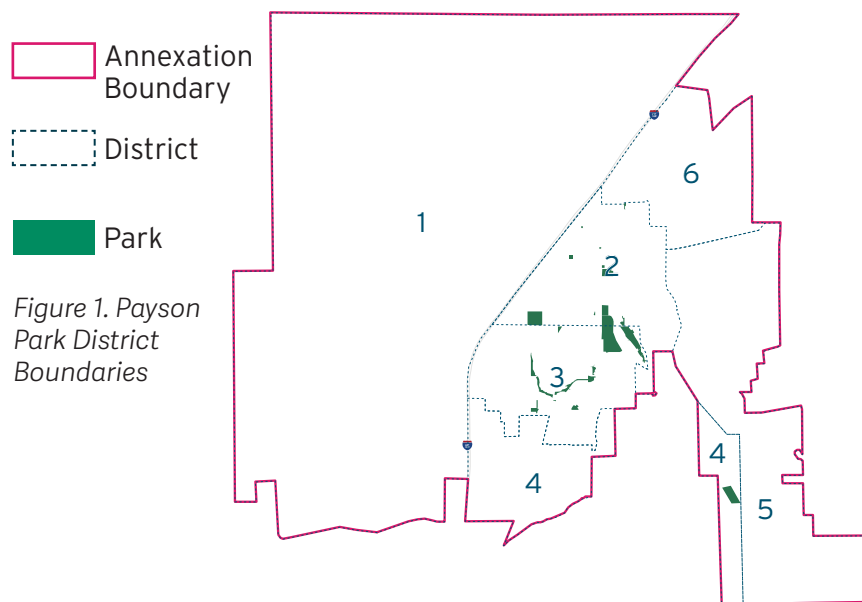
Plan is a component of the City's Imagine Payson General Plan and direct park system service delivery for the next five to ten years.

PLAN STRUCTURE

The Payson Parks and Recreation Master Plan contains:

- ➔ Introduction focused on Payson's city profile, and overview of how the plan was developed, and how it relates to planning decisions and documents
- ➔ Public outreach results and the community's vision for the future of Payson Parks and Recreation
- ➔ Assessment of existing parks and recreation facilities and programming
- ➔ An analysis of existing level of service
- ➔ Future growth and development needs and priorities
- ➔ Plan goals and strategies
- ➔ Implementation action items





PAYSON PROFILE

Planning Area

Payson is situated west of the Wasatch Range at the southern end of the Wasatch Front Metropolitan Area. Park and recreation planning occurred within Payson's annexation boundary. The annexation boundary captures growth that may occur over 20+ years in the future.



City History and Culture

The pioneers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints renamed the area settled by Native Americans of the Ute and Shoshone tribes Fort Peteetneet after Chief Peteetneet of the Timpanogos Band. The Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center, established in 1989, continues to honor Chief Peteetneet today.

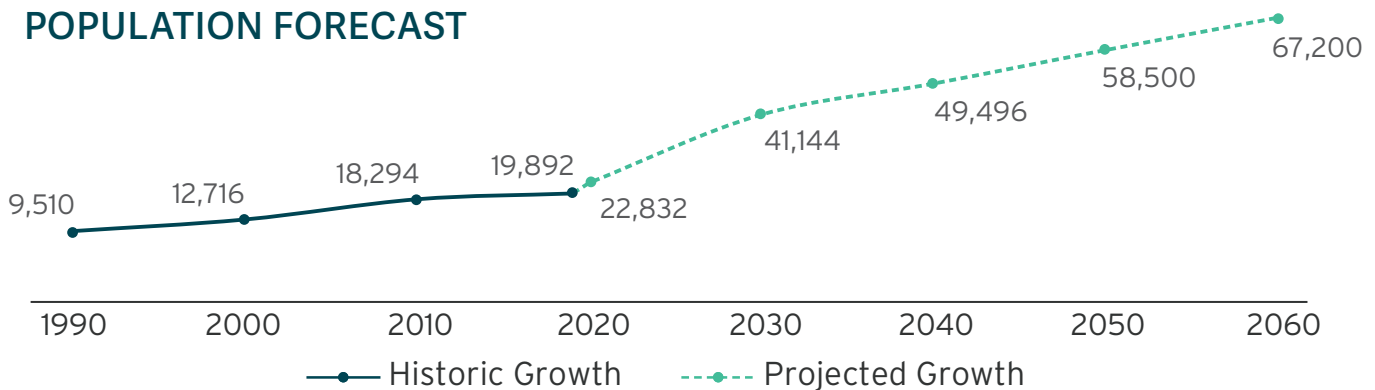
Payson offers many natural and cultural amenities, including the Mt. Nebo National Scenic Byway (commonly known as Nebo Loop), the Forebay Recreation Area, and the Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center. Every year, Payson hosts events and celebrations at parks and recreation areas around the city. From summer ballgames and concerts to the Salmon Supper and Onion Days, Payson's parks provide gathering spaces and entertainment for the community.



Demographics

In 2018, Payson was home to 19,826 residents.⁵ While population growth has slowed slightly since 2010, future growth estimates indicate substantial growth over the next 40 years across Utah County and particularly in Payson.⁶

POPULATION FORECAST

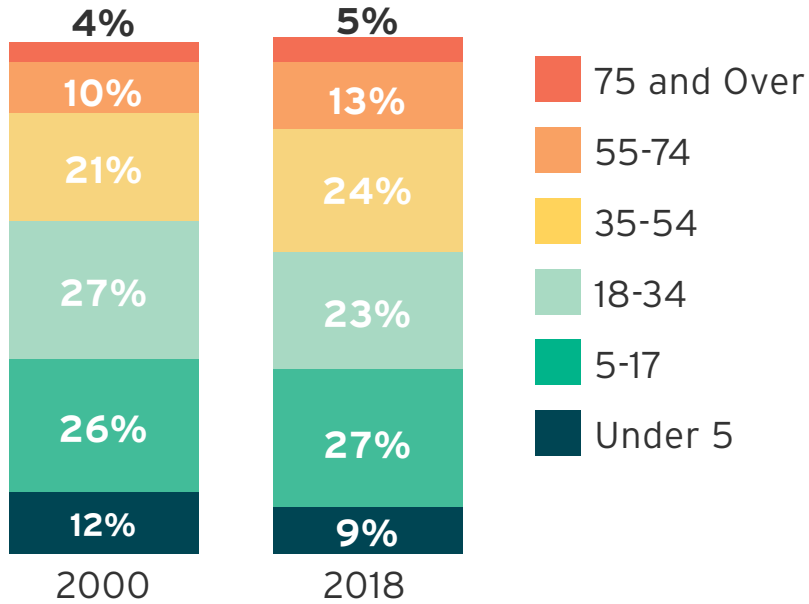


Sources: US Census Bureau, Utah Governors Office of Management and Budget Municipal 2012 Baseline Population Projections.

⁵ US Census Bureau.

⁶ Municipal Populations Projections 2012 Baseline Projections-Utah Governor's Office of Management and Budget (2010 to 2060) via Mountainland Association of Governments.

AGE DISTRIBUTION



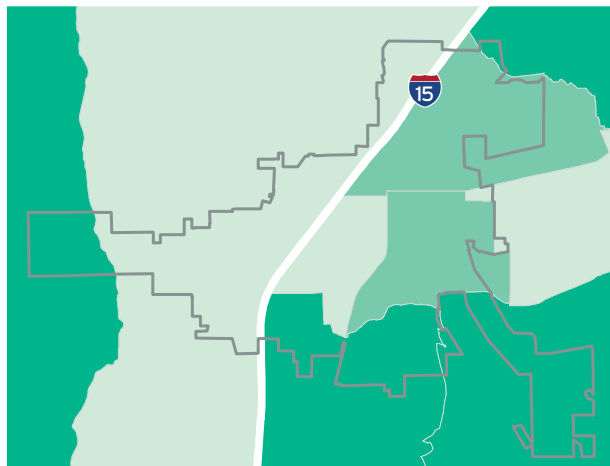
MEDIAN AGE



2000

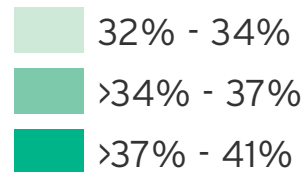


2018



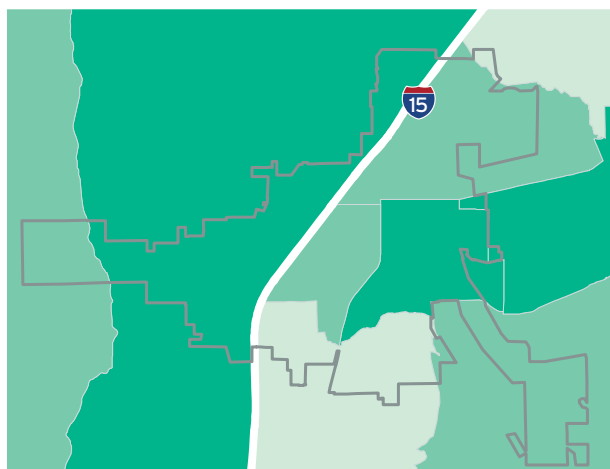
% SCHOOL AGE (Under 18)

by census tract



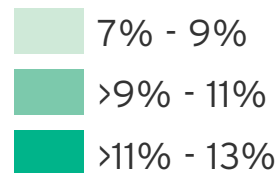
Payson Boundary

Source: US Census Bureau TIGER/
Line shapefiles.



% SENIOR (65 and Older)

by census tract



Payson Boundary

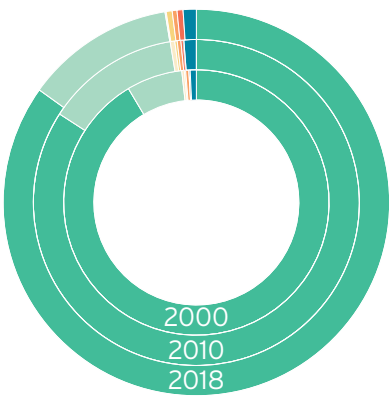
Source: US Census Bureau TIGER/
Line shapefiles.

Payson has a young population, with 36% of its residents under 18 and 47% of its residents 18 to 54. Payson's median age has increased by three years since 2000, from 24 to 27 years old. Overall, seniors and school age children are dispersed relatively evenly throughout the city.

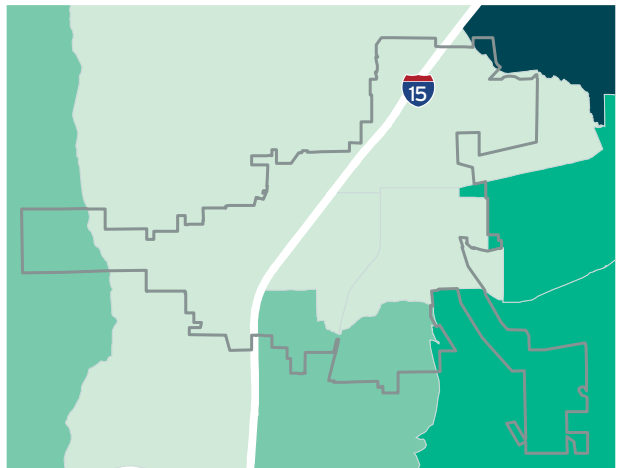
*Unless otherwise noted, all data reflects Payson City limits and is available from the US Census Bureau, ACS 5-Year Estimate 2014-2018.

RACE AND ETHNICITY

	2000	2010	2018
White	91.4%	84.1%	84.9%
Hispanic or Latino	6.8%	13.3%	12.5%
Black or African American	0.3%	0.4%	0.1%
American Indian + Alaskan	0.2%	0.2%	0.5%
Asian	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%
Native Hawaiian + Other Pacific Islander	0.1%	0.2%	0.5%
Some Other Race	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%
Two or More Races	0.7%	1.2%	1.1%

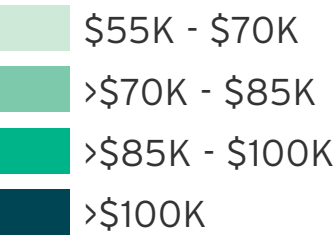


Payson’s population has become slightly more diverse overtime, with the Hispanic population growing from 6.8% in 2000 to 12.5% in 2018.



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

by census tract



Payson Boundary

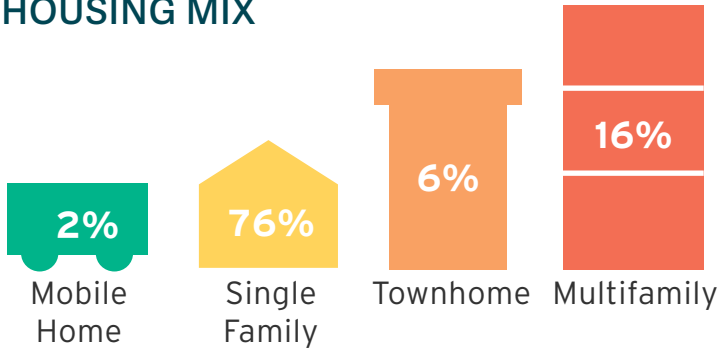
Source: US Census Bureau TIGER/Line shapefiles.

Payson’s median household income is \$63,276. Higher concentrations of wealth (Census tracts with median household incomes greater than \$70,000) are located in southern and western Payson.

HOUSING TENURE



HOUSING MIX



Payson’s housing stock is primarily owner occupied (76.7%) and largely comprised of single-family homes (75.7%).

Some Relevant Plans and Studies

Imagine Payson General Plan 2020

The Imagine Payson General Plan updates the previous Payson General Plan (2003) and incorporates elements of three recent area specific plans: East Side Comprehensive Plan, South Meadows Specific Plan, and Bamberger Ranch P-C Zone Plan. The Imagine Payson General Plan lays out a community vision for land use over the next 30 years.

Payson City Eastside Comprehensive Plan Parks, Trails, and Open Space Chapter 2007

The 2007 plan addresses future park and open space needs and demands and identifies existing open spaces and recreational areas that should be preserved and maintained. The plan also identifies locations for new parks, trails, natural open spaces, and green corridors.

Transportation Master Plan 2020

The 2020 Transportation Master Plan provides a long-term strategy for Payson's circulation system, including building on the existing trails system to provide a more connected trail network.

Storm Drain Master Plans 2020

Several of Payson's parks feature basins that capture stormwater runoff. The Storm Drain Master Plans identify how to solve existing storm drain deficiencies and determine how best to manage these systems with future development.

Pressurized Irrigation Water Master Plan 2020

The 2020 plan prepares the City to create and maintain an efficient and cost-effective irrigation system that will serve many of Payson's parks.

Southern Utah County Active Transportation Plan 2016

In this plan, Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG) provides specific recommendations and funding strategies for future bike lanes and local and regional trail connections in Payson.

**Open space and park areas will be addressed in all adopted and future specific plan documents*

Trends

Demand for parks and recreation services will likely increase along with Payson's growing population. Ensuring access across the city to a variety of park types and recreation opportunities will be a priority for both new and existing households. In addition to access, Payson should continue to offer diverse recreation opportunities for people of all ages and abilities.





2 VISION

The Payson City Parks and Recreation Master Plan is centered on a vision developed through conversations with Payson City staff and stakeholders, as well as through community input received through multiple engagement opportunities. The vision guided the creation of this plan document, and forms the basis of its goals, strategies, and implementation actions.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Payson City Parks and Recreation Departments serve the Payson community by providing and maintaining city-owned parks and recreation facilities and running community sports and recreation programs for adults and children.

The work of the Payson City Parks and Recreation Departments are guided by the following Mission Statement:

"The mission of Payson City Parks and Recreation is to support leisure and recreational activities and facilities that will enrich the physical, mental, and intellectual health of the citizens of Payson."

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Outreach for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan was conducted during the 2018-2020 Imagine Payson General Plan update process. While the community was invited to comment on parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation in Payson at all engagement events, two outreach efforts were specifically focused on receiving input for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan – the Parks and Recreation Open House, and the Parks and Recreation Survey.

Parks and Recreation Open House

The Parks and Recreation Open House was held in April 2019. Approximately 70 community members attended the event. During the Open House, the project team gave a brief presentation and conducted instant polling. After the polling, attendees were able to visit stations around the room to share their thoughts on the future of parks and recreation in Payson. A survey on parks and recreation was given to workshop participants and was available online after the event.

Parks and Recreation Survey

A total of 70 paper surveys were returned at the workshop and an additional 462 complete responses were recorded through the online survey. The online survey was shared via social media and the Imagine Payson General Plan project email list, and available on the Imagine Payson website from April to June 2019. The survey asked respondents about their experience with and perception of Payson's public park and recreation programs and their priorities for the future of Payson parks and recreation.



The input received through the open house and survey was recorded and analyzed, and several common themes were identified:



Many residents are satisfied with Payson's parks and recreation, but there is room for improvement. Nearly half of survey respondents indicated that they were mostly satisfied or very satisfied with parks and recreation opportunities in Payson. Two thirds of respondents felt that Payson's parks were in excellent or good condition.



Many community members want additional or improved park amenities. Of those respondents who indicated that they seldom use parks in Payson, the top reason given was a lack of desired amenities or programs. Some of the most desired amenities included restrooms, splash pads, and walking/biking trails connecting parks.



Many residents travel to other nearby communities to fulfill their park and/or recreation needs. Nearly two-thirds of respondents indicated that they or members of their household traveled to another city to take advantage of their parks and recreation facilities. Indoor pools, recreation centers, playgrounds, trails, and splash pads were some of the top facilities that Payson residents use in other communities.



Community members value being able to walk to a park from their homes. More than 80% of survey respondents indicated that it is either very important or slightly important to have a park or open space within walking distance of their home.



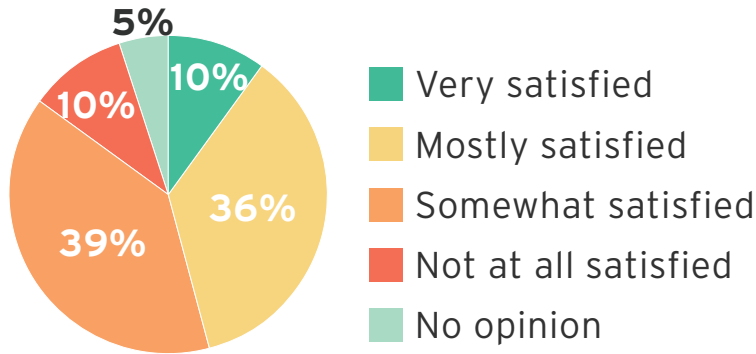
There is a need for a community recreation center. Both survey results and conversations at the Open House revealed that many Payson residents would like to have a community recreation center where children and adults could participate in indoor sports and recreation activities.



Covering the pool is a popular idea, but opinions are divided. Many survey respondents and Open House attendees indicated strong support for efforts to convert the city's pool from outdoor to indoor. However, many also said that they preferred that the pool remain outdoor.

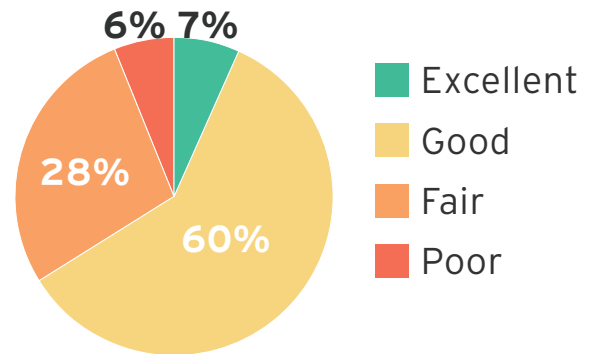
PAYSON PARK AND RECREATION SURVEY SNAPSHOT

In general, how satisfied are you with the parks and recreation opportunities currently available in Payson?



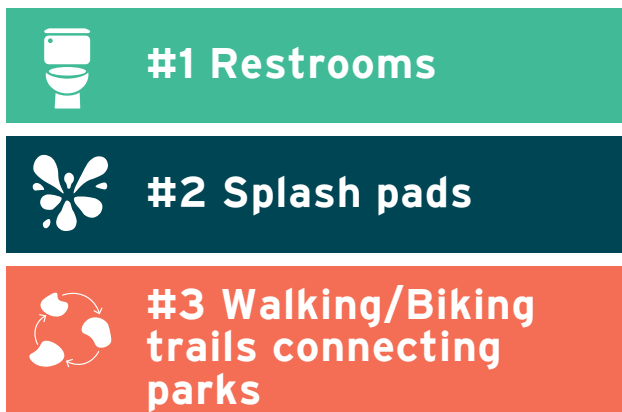
Total responses: 545

How would you rate the physical condition of Payson's parks?



Total responses: 543

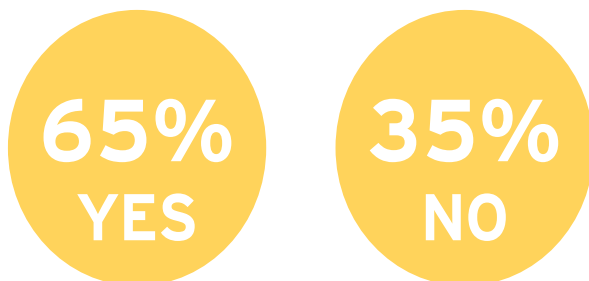
What amenities would you like to have in Payson parks?



Which parks have you or someone in your household visited in the past year?



Do you or members of your household travel to another city for their parks and recreation programs?



Total responses: 537

What is the biggest issue or need concerning the Payson parks and recreation system?



What do you think of Payson Parks?

- Indoor pool!
- Memorial Park splash pad
- Sidewalks on the east side of the pool!
- I like having an outdoor patio



- Bicycle trails
- Keep Four Bay trails open to public use!
- Create a "Tour of Payson" cycling event
- Have a trail that leads to Memorial Park
- Dirt bike area

West Mountain?



Trees! If you cut down any, 2 should be planted somewhere else in town. Trees make a city!

- Toddler friendly playground **Yes!**
- Sun screens over playground
- Shade over Memorial Park play area.

- Indoor walking track
- Multi-use space with senior center, library, banquet hall
- What about a recreation center for concerts?
- A full list and description of Payson parks online **Yes!**



Trails connecting points of interest and schools.

Make city center green space usable - playground, picnic tables, community garden



VISION

This Mission Statement, what we heard from the community, and the Imagine Payson General Plan Vision creates the basis for the vision of this plan. **This plan aims to provide high-quality, accessible parks and recreation opportunities for all current and future Payson community members.**

Goals, strategies, and implementation actions in this Plan are further defined by the “Three Pillars” of the National Recreation and Park Association: Health and Wellness, Equity, and Conservation.



Health and Wellness

Parks and recreation programs should provide opportunities for community members of all ages and abilities to improve and maintain health and wellness.



Equity

All community members should have access to high-quality parks, trails, open spaces, recreation facilities, and recreation programs, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability, or income level.



Conservation

Parks, trails, and open spaces should provide the opportunity for community members to connect to nature and engage in conservation practices.

MASTER PLAN GOALS

Public Engagement

Provide ongoing opportunities for community engagement.

- ➔ *In order to best serve the Payson community, the Parks and Recreation Departments must understand the community's needs and aspirations. Ongoing public engagement will allow the department to make decisions that will best benefit the community.*



Level of Service

Ensure that Payson's current and future residents are well-served by a comprehensive system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space.

- ➔ *Level of Service sets a benchmark for the provision of parks and recreation facilities. As Payson grows and develops, the City should monitor its progress towards meeting, maintaining, or exceeding this benchmark.*



Land Acquisition

Acquire land for parks, trails, and open space that will meet the needs of current and future Payson residents.

- ➔ *As Payson grows, it will be critical to identify and acquire lands for future parks ahead of new development. This will ensure that future residents enjoy the same level of service and access to parks that is enjoyed by much of Payson today.*



Connectivity

Create a well-connected network of parks and trails that serves all Payson community members.

Provide opportunities for Payson residents to build connections within their communities.

- ➔ *Parks should be well connected to the surrounding community, accessible by all means of transportation, and create a comprehensive city wide network of parks, trails, and open spaces. Parks also provide an opportunity for making connections, as gathering places where community members can meet with friends and neighbors.*



Park Quality

Provide a high-quality parks and recreation system that is a source of pride for the Payson community.

- ➔ *While many community members are satisfied with the quality of Payson parks, the Parks and Recreation Departments should focus on and budget for maintaining a high standard of quality for new parks and upgrades to existing parks.*



Recreation Facilities

Explore options for a recreation center that serves the community with a wide range of recreation amenities and programming.

Work with experts and the community to determine the best future for the aquatic center.

- ➔ *Many Payson community members expressed a desire for an expansion of recreation facilities, including a new recreation center and an indoor pool.*



Maintenance

Ensure that current and future parks and recreation amenities are well maintained.

- ➔ *Ongoing maintenance of parks and recreation facilities will ensure that they remain attractive, safe, and usable for years to come. An inventory of existing facilities and plan for their continued maintenance will help Department staff keep Payson's parks in good condition.*



Funding

Obtain and provide adequate funding for park construction, park maintenance, recreation programs, and parks and recreation departments operations.

- ➔ *The recommendations within this plan – new park development, park upgrades, new recreation facilities and programming, and appropriate staffing levels are all dependent on adequate funding for parks and recreation. Funding can come from a variety of sources such as taxes, bonds, grants, and public-private partnerships.*



Programming

Promote public health and a sense of community through a wide range of recreation programming that serves Payson residents of all ages, abilities, and activity levels.

- ➔ *While the Parks and Recreation Departments currently provide a popular range of programs for children and adults, department leadership and staff should work to ensure that programs remain relevant and accessible for all community members.*



Community Resilience

Increase community resiliency to natural hazards.

Promote sustainable practices in parks.

- ➔ *Resilient communities respond to change quickly and thrive under new conditions. Whether a community is facing an economic recession or a natural disaster, parks provide valuable gathering spaces for people to come together, receive aid, and communicate with one another.*



Department Staffing/Capacity

Ensure staffing is sufficient to meet the desired level of service.

- ➔ *Properly-staffed Parks and Recreation Departments are critical for implementing all parts of this plan – from developing and maintaining parks, to managing recreation programs and public engagement.*





③ EXISTING FACILITIES

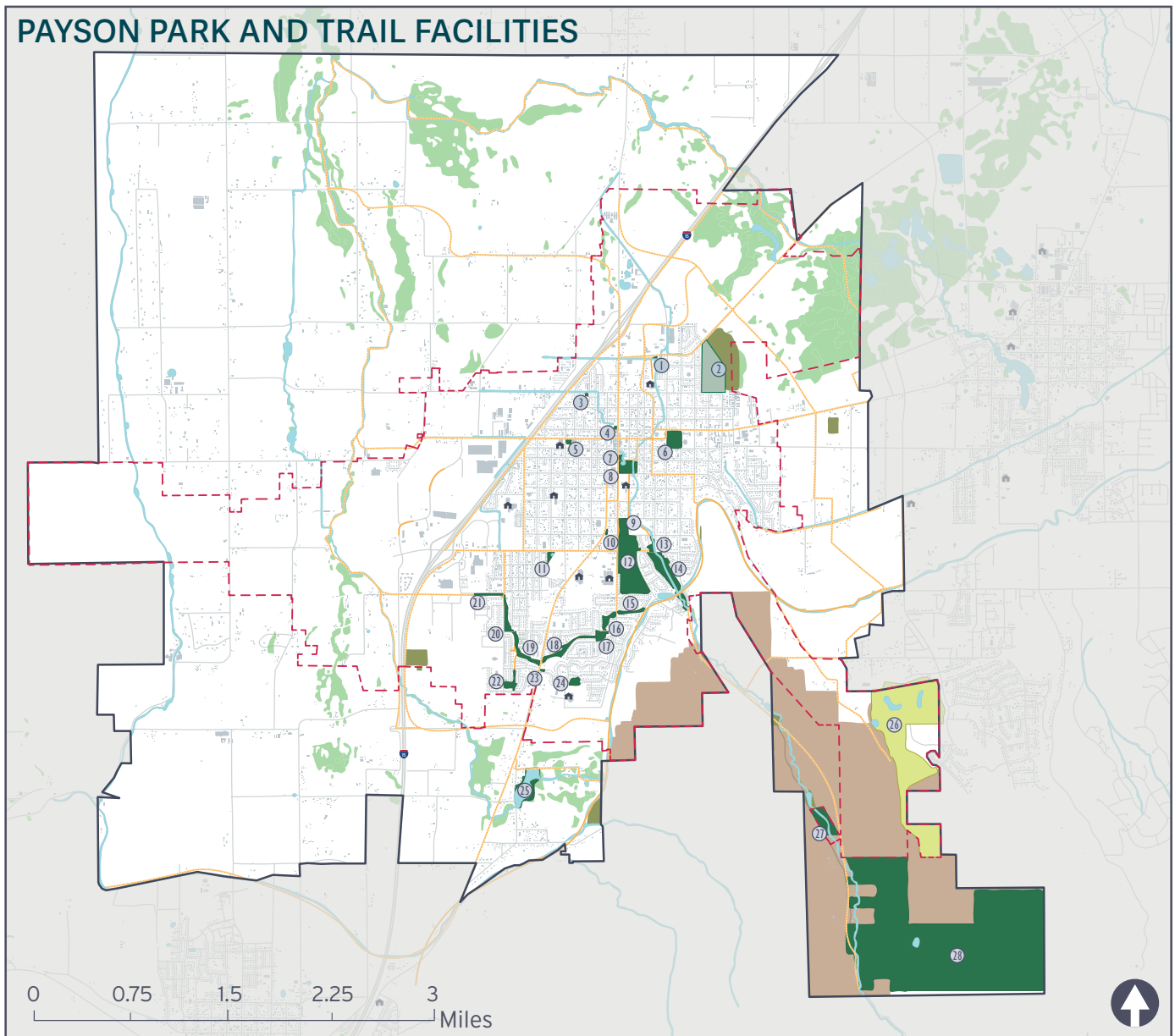
INTRODUCTION

From small neighborhood parks to large recreation complexes, Payson offers an array of indoor and outdoor recreation options, social gathering spaces, and educational opportunities. Conducting a thorough inventory of existing park facilities ensures that facilities will be well maintained and park staff will have the resources they need to operate efficiently.

In addition to park facilities, this chapter reviews existing recreation programs and public art. By identifying future opportunities for recreation and public art in Payson, staff can better anticipate recreation trends and generate community interest and participation.

PARK FACILITIES

Payson's park system is made up of 28 parks and a connected trail system. These parks are categorized into community parks, neighborhood parks, pocket parks, linear parks, natural areas and open spaces, and special use. An inventory and opportunity analysis was completed for each of Payson's parks to identify opportunities for future improvement.



- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| ① Arrowhead Park | ⑮ Dry Creek Trail Parkway | Public Park |
| ② Payson Cemetery | ⑯ Hideaway Park | Cemetery |
| ③ Wightman Park | ⑰ Dry Mountain Park | Golf Course |
| ④ Centennial Pioneer Plaza | ⑱ Hidden Cove Park | Public Open Space |
| ⑤ Pioneer Square | ⑲ Walkara Park | Critical Habitat |
| ⑥ Peteetneet Museum | ⑳ Jesse Taylor Park | Wetland |
| ⑦ Library Corner | ㉑ Dry Creek Parkway Extension | Water Body |
| ⑧ Memorial Park | ㉒ Temple View Park | Existing Trail |
| ⑨ Constitution Park | ㉓ Saddlebrook Park 70 | Future Trail |
| ⑩ Monument Park | ㉔ East Hill Park | Payson City Boundary |
| ⑪ McMullin Park | ㉕ Spring Lake Park | Annexation Boundary |
| ⑫ Gene Hillman Recreation Complex | ㉖ Gladstan Golf Course | Road |
| ⑬ Blackhawk Park | ㉗ Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park | Building Footprint |
| ⑭ Hollow Park | ㉘ Forebay Recreation Area | School |

Figure 3. Payson Park and Recreation Facilities, 2021.

EXISTING FACILITIES

Figure 4. Payson Park Facilities

*Facilities at schools are included because they serve the public. Not all of these facilities are City-owned.

Figure 4. Payson Park Facilities

*Facilities at schools are included because they serve the public. Not all of these facilities are City-owned.

Park Name	Amphitheater	Aquatic Center	Baseball Field	Basketball Court	Bench	Clubhouse	Concessions Stand	Dock	Driving Course	Fire Pit	Frisbee Golf	Gazebo	Historical Marker	Information Sign	Kitchen	Kiosk	Lake	Mountain Bike Track	Parking Lot	Pavilion	Pickleball Court	Picnic Facilities	Playground	Pond	Restrooms	Rose Garden	RV Park & Camping	Shaded Playground	Skateboard Park	Soccer Fields	Swings	Tennis Court	Trail	Total	
Arrowhead Park														•																			•	2	
Blackhawk Park														•								•												•	3
Centennial Pioneer Plaza					•								•			•										•								•	5
Constitution Park		•					•							•					•	•			•		•				•		•		•	10	
Dry Creek Trail Parkway					•																	•												•	3
Dry Creek Parkway Extension																																		•	1
Dry Mountain Park					•									•					•	•		•	•									•		•	8
East Hill Park														•					•													•		3	
Forebay Recreation Area																		•	•					•										•	4
Gene Hillman Recreation Complex			•				•							•					•	•			•		•						•			8	
Gladstan Golf Course						•	•							•					•					•	•		•							•	8
Hidden Cove Park					•									•					•			•	•											•	6
Hideaway Park					•									•						•		•	•		•						•			•	8
Hollow Park					•									•					•			•	•											•	6
Jesse Taylor Park														•																				•	2
Library Corner																																			0
McMullin Park															•				•	•		•			•										5
Memorial Park	•			•	•								•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•				•		•	16
Monument Park												•	•			•			•								•								5
Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park										•	•			•		•			•	•		•			•										8
Payson Cemetery												•		•											•									•	4
Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center	•				•							•	•	•	•	•			•						•	•								•	11
Pioneer Square													•			•			•			•				•		•							5
Saddlebrook Park 70																																		•	1
Spring Lake Park					•			•					•	•			•					•													6
Temple View Park				•	•									•					•	•		•	•									•		•	9
Wightman Park													•	•								•	•												4
Walkara Park and Trail														•					•															•	3
Barnett Elementary*				•															•				•												3
Mt Nebo Middle School*				•															•														•	3	
Park View Elementary*				•															•				•												3
Payson High*			•						•										•												•		•	5	
Payson Junior High*																			•														•	2	
Spring Lake Elementary*				•															•				•												3
Taylor Elementary*				•																			•												2
Wilson Elementary*				•															•				•												3

PARK TYPE	NAME	ADDRESS	DISTRICT	ACRES
Community Park	Constitution Park	655 South Main Street	2	5.95
	Gene Hillman Recreation Complex	955 South Main Street	2,3	43.49
	Hollow Park	800 South 300 East	3	16.08
	Memorial Park	250 South Main	2	7.23
	Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park	Nebo Loop Road	4	14.08
Neighborhood Park	Blackhawk Park	300 East Jay Lane	2	1.79
	Dry Mountain Park	1400 South 200 West	3	4.27
	East Hill Park	400 West 1650 South	3	2.27
	Hidden Cove Park	1450 South 500 West	3	4.68
	Hideaway Park	1300 South 200 West	3	1.87
	Jesse Taylor Park	930 West 1400 South	3	4.54
	McMullin Park	600 West 800 South	3	1.34
	Pioneer Square	439 Utah Avenue	2	0.91
	Temple View Park	1600 South 910 West	3	3.18
	Walkara Park and Trail	1500 South 700 West	3	5.25
Pocket Park	Arrowhead Park	400 East 700 North	2	0.72
	Centennial Pioneer Plaza	100 N Main Street	2	0.27
	Library Corner	200 South Main	2	0.62
	Monument Park	700 South 100 West	2	0.30
	Saddlebrook Park 70	SR 198 Saddlebrook Drive	3	0.26
	Wightman Park	240 West 400 North	2	0.21
Linear Park	Dry Creek Parkway Extension	1130 South 930 West	3	0.89
	Dry Creek Trail Parkway	1250 South Main	3	3.15
Natural Areas and Open Spaces	Spring Lake Park	12240 South Spring Lake Road	4	21.07
	Forebay Recreation Area	13216 S Nebo Loop Road (FR15)	5	472.81
Special Use	Gladstan Golf Course	1 Gladstan Drive	5	208.29
	Payson Cemetery	805 East 400 North	6	30.60
	Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center	10 South 600 East	2	7.48
School	Barnett Elementary	456 North 300 East	2	NA
	Mt Nebo Middle School	851 West 450 South	2	NA
	Payson High	1050 South Main Street	3	NA
	Payson Junior High	1025 UT-198	3	NA
	Park View Elementary	360 South 100 East	2	NA
	Spring Lake Elementary	1750 South 500 West	3	NA
	Taylor Elementary	40 South 500 West	2	NA
	Wilson Elementary	590 West 500 South	2	NA

Figure 5. Payson Park Type and Acreage, 2021.

*Facilities at schools are included because they serve the public. Not all of these facilities are City-owned.

C

COMMUNITY PARKS

- ➔ Larger in size and designed to serve several neighborhoods. Can be very diverse in nature and typically offer both day and evening activities. Mix of active and passive activities and attract users of all ages.¹
- ➔ Easily accessible by multiple modes of transportation with on-site parking available.
- ➔ Range in size from 15 to 50 acres. These parks are designed for a 1-mile radius of service and usually serve two or more neighborhoods. The service area for community parks can vary based on the size and scope of activities offered. These parks typically provide 5-8 acres per 1000 people.
- ➔ Typical features include:
 - Large play structures
 - Baseball diamonds
 - Football fields
 - Soccer fields
 - Hiking trails
 - Sled hills
 - Swimming pools
- ➔ Payson parks that qualify as community parks: Constitution Park, Gene Hillman Recreation Complex, Hollow Park, Memorial Park, and Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park.

¹ American Planning Association. Standards for Outdoor Recreation Agencies. <https://www.planning.org/pas/reports/report194.htm>.



C Constitution Park



Address	655 South Main
Acreage	6.0
Facilities	Aquatic center, concessions stand, information sign, parking lot, pavilion, playground, restrooms, skate park, swings, trail

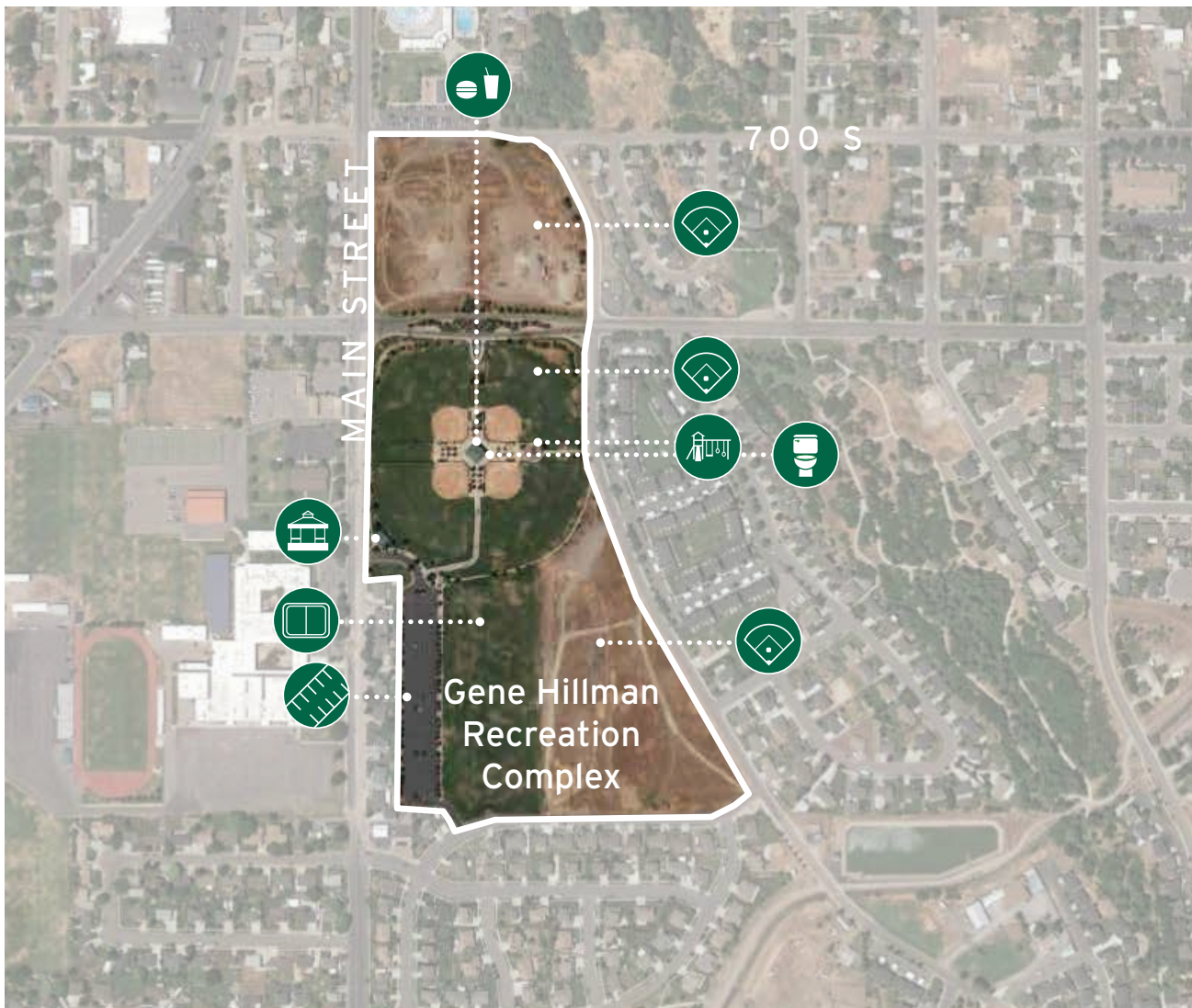
Park Description

Constitution Park is located just north of the Gene Hillman Recreation Complex.

Opportunities

Constitution Park provides a variety of amenities to the community including the city's only aquatic center and skate park. As a community park, the city needs to continue to maintain and upgrade existing facilities.

C Gene Hillman Recreation Complex



Address	955 South Main Street
Acreage	43.5
Facilities	Ballpark, concessions stand, information sign, parking lot, pavilion, playground, restrooms, soccer fields
Notes	Subgrade trail crossing

Park Description

Gene Hillman Recreation Complex is located next to Payson Junior High and High School.

Opportunities

Gene Hillman Recreation Complex is undergoing new athletic field construction, with an anticipated completion of 2022. This park will continue to serve as a recreation hub for the city and will require continued maintenance and upgrades as facilities age.

C Hollow Park



Address	800 South 300 East
Acreage	16.1
Facilities	Bench, information sign, parking lot, picnic facilities, parking lot, playground, trail
Notes	Peteetneet Creek, subgrade crossings

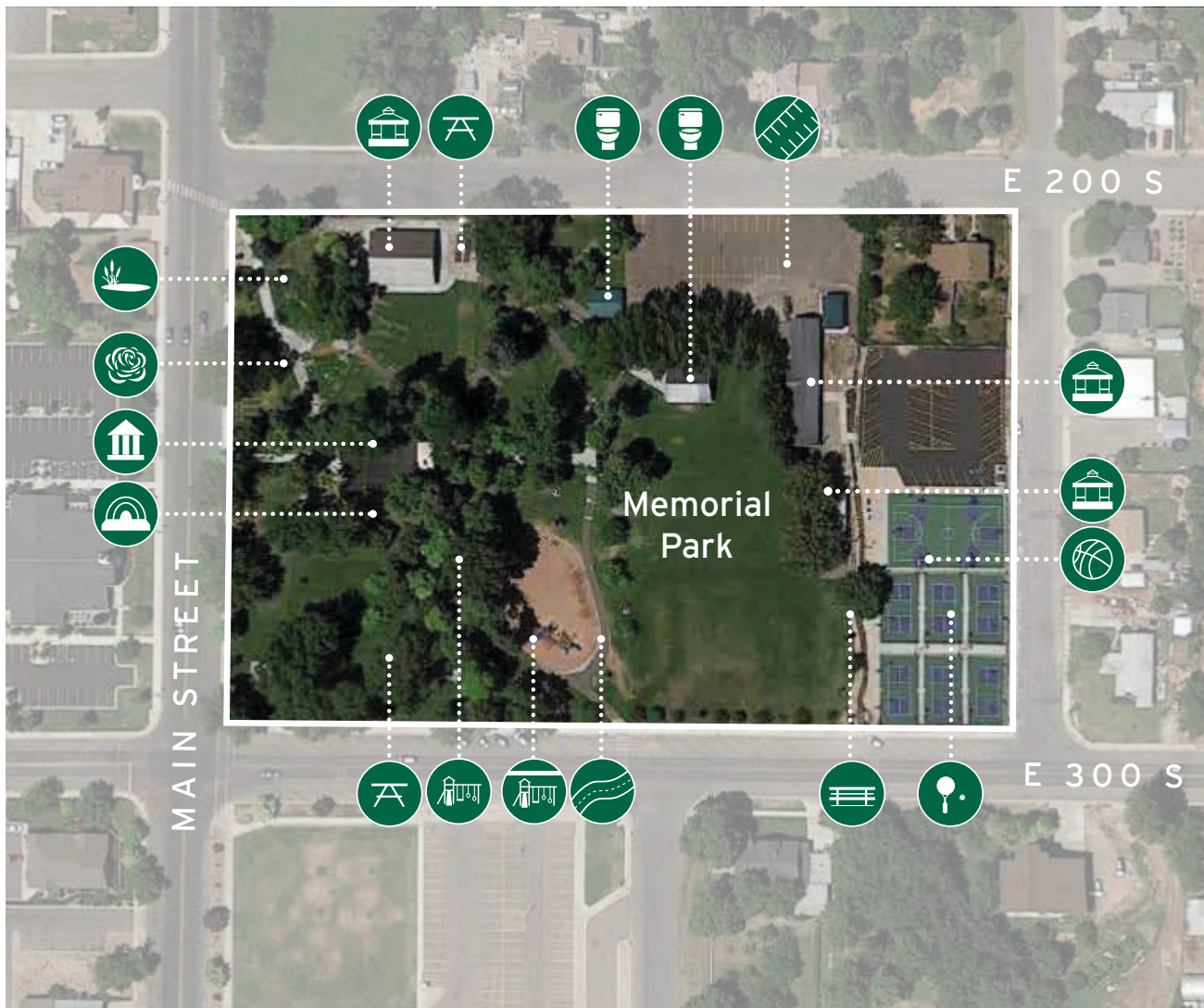
Park Description

Hollow Park is located east of the Gene Hillman Recreation Complex. The park includes a small private parcel owned by the United States and managed by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Opportunities

Hollow Park is intended to remain a nature park with natural qualities. Amenity improvements should only be made if they do not compromise the area's unique qualities. The park may benefit from the addition of benches along the trail and additional picnic facilities or a pavilion.

C Memorial Park



Address	250 South Main
Acreage	7.2
Facilities	Amphitheater, basketball court, bench, historical monuments, information sign, parking lots, pavilions, pickleball court, picnic facilities, playground, pond, restrooms, rose garden, shaded playground, swings, trail
Notes	Drinking water well and pumphouse, Peteetneet Creek Channel, restrooms are seasonal (replaced with portable toilet in winter)

Park Description

Memorial Park is located close to Downtown Payson, just south of Library Corner Park and north of Park View Elementary.

Opportunities

Memorial Park provides a variety of amenities to the community including a pickleball court and historical monuments. The park is home to many city events and celebrations. As a community park, the city needs to continue to maintain and upgrade existing facilities.

C Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park



Address	Nebo Loop Road
Acreage	14.1
Facilities	Fire pits, frisbee golf, information sign, kiosk, parking lot, pavilion, picnic facilities, restroom
Notes	Note that there is open space and canyon area Peteeneet Creek runs through with a bridge, kiosk for Mt Nebo National Scenic Byway

Park Location

Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park is located in Payson Canyon along the scenic byway and near the Forebay Recreation Area.

Opportunities

Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park provides unique amenities including fire pits and frisbee golf. Recreation opportunities in this area should only be expanded if they do not compromise the "canyon" feel of the park.

N NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

- ➔ Form the foundation of the park district and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Concentrated intense recreation activities are common and usually designed within a limited amount of space. Serve residents in a variety of age groups.
- ➔ Range in size from 5 to 10 acres but can be as small as two acres in size depending on amenities offered and relationship to larger network. Designed for ½ mile radius of service. Service levels are 1-2 acres per 1,000 people.
- ➔ Should be easily accessible, and access should be uninterrupted by major roads or other barriers. Parking is usually necessary due to the scope of activities and size, but can be served by street parking (off-street parking is not required).

N Blackhawk Park



Address	300 East Jay Lane
Acreage	1.8
Facilities	Information sign, picnic facilities, trail
Notes	Subgrade crossing

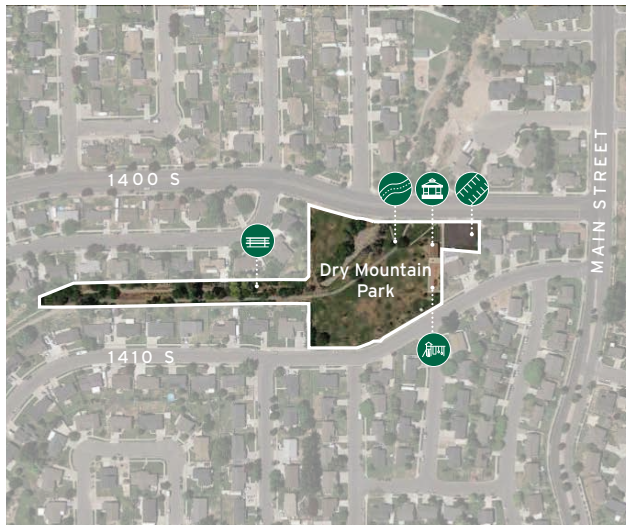
Opportunities

Blackhawk Park may benefit from small amenity additions including benches along the trail or a playground.

Park Location

Blackhawk Park is located east of the Gene Hillman Recreation Complex and north of Hollow Park.

N Dry Mountain Park



Park Location

Dry Mountain Park is located south of Hideaway Park.

Address	1400 South 200 West
Acreage	4.3
Facilities	Bench, information sign, parking lot, pavilion, picnic facilities, playground, swings, trail
Notes	Storm drain pond, subgrade crossing

Opportunities

Dry Mountain Park provides a variety of amenities appropriate for a neighborhood park. These amenities should be maintained and upgraded as needed.

N East Hill Park



Park Location

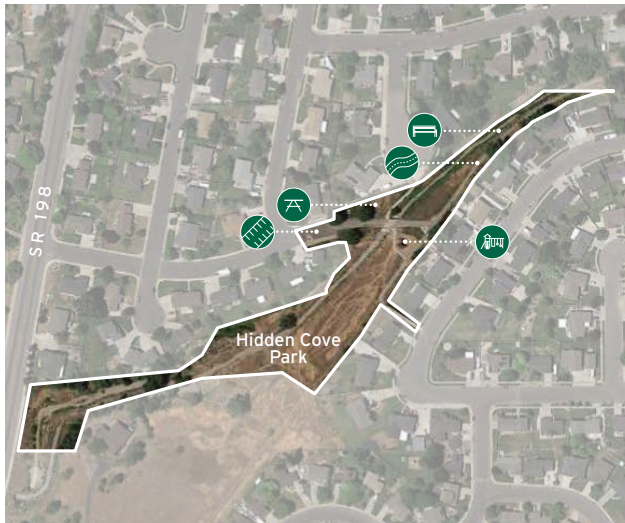
East Hill Park is located north of Spring Lake Elementary.

Address	400 West 1650 South
Acreage	2.3
Facilities	Information sign, parking lot, swings

Opportunities

As a neighborhood park, East Hill Park may be suitable for additional amenity investment.

N Hidden Cove Park



Address	1450 South 500 West
Acreage	4.7
Facilities	Bench, information sign, parking lot, picnic facilities, playground, trail
Notes	Subgrade crossing

Opportunities

The City has acquired property for a trail connection to SR 198. The park layout has been designed and the estimated date of trail and park completion is 2022-2023.

Park Location

Hidden Cove Park is located southwest of Dry Mountain Park along the Dry Creek Trail Parkway.

N Hideaway Park



Address	1300 South 200 West
Acreage	1.9
Facilities	Bench, information sign, pavillion, picnic facilities, playground, restrooms, swings, trail
Notes	Bridge, subgrade crossing

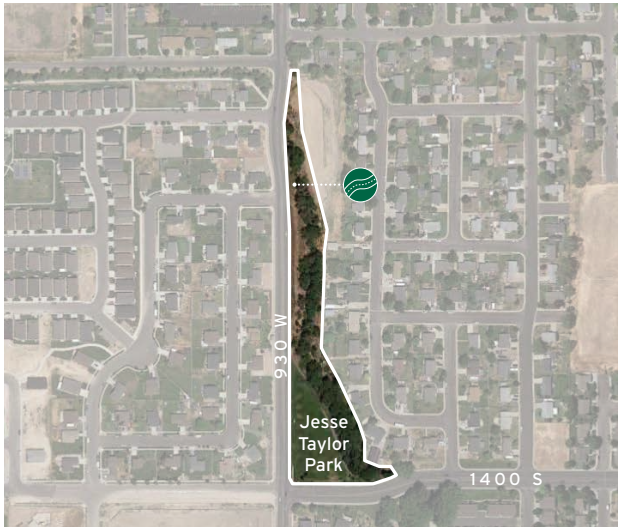
Opportunities

Hideaway Park provides a variety of amenities appropriate for a neighborhood park. These amenities should be maintained and upgraded as needed.

Park Location

Hideaway Park is located south of Gene Hillman Recreation Complex and the Dry Creek Trail Parkway.

N Jesse Taylor Park



Park Location

Jesse Taylor Park is located just north of the Walkara Park and Trail.

Address	930 West 1400 South
Acreage	4.5
Facilities	Information sign, trail
Notes	Dry Creek Channel, stormwater basin, subgrade crossing

Opportunities

Jesse Taylor Park connects to the Walkara Park Trail. This trail connection should be maintained and prioritized for investment overtime. Additional amenity construction is limited at this park because it serves as a stormwater basin.

N McMullin Park



Park Location

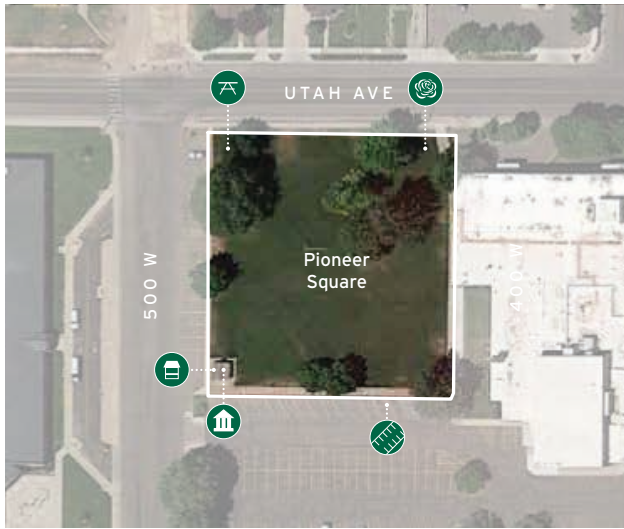
McMullin Park is located in central Payson, northwest of Payson Junior High School.

Address	600 West 800 South
Acreage	1.3
Facilities	Kitchen, parking lot, pavilion, picnic facilities, restrooms
Notes	Filter building for irrigation system

Opportunities

McMullin Park's kitchen is a unique public amenity that should continue to be maintained and upgraded as needed.

N Pioneer Square



Park Location

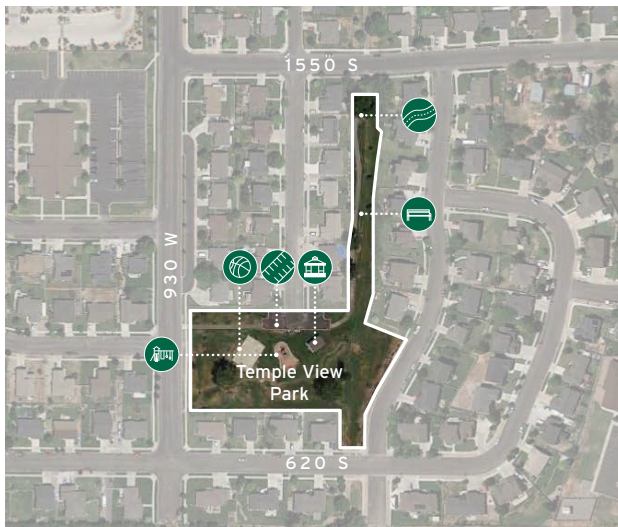
Pioneer Square is one of the oldest parks in Payson. It is located northwest of Library Corner and Memorial Park.

Address	439 West Utah Ave
Acreage	0.9
Facilities	Historical cabin, kiosk, parking lot, picnic facilities, rose garden

Opportunities

Pioneer Square provides greenspace for surround businesses and homes and is currently used for youth football practices.

N Temple View Park



Park Location

Temple View Park is located south of the Walkara Park and Trail near the Payson Utah LDS Temple.

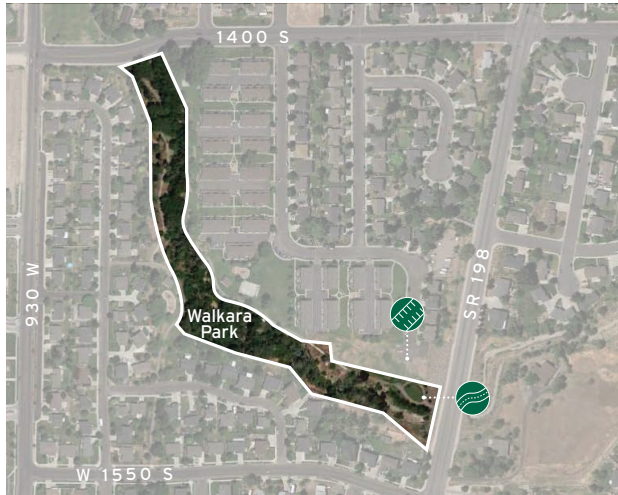
Address	1600 South 910 West
Acreage	3.2
Facilities	Basketball court, bench, information sign, parking lot, pavilion, picnic facilities, playground, swings, trail

Opportunities

Temple View Park has a variety of amenities suitable for a neighborhood park. The park may have space for additional amenities in the future.

N

Walkara Park and Trail



Address	1500 South 700 West
Acreage	5.3
Facilities	Information sign, parking lot, trail
Notes	Subgrade crossing

Opportunities

Walkara Park and Trail connects to Hidden Cove Park's trail. This trail connection should be maintained and prioritized for investment overtime.

Park Location

Walkara Park and Trail is located west of Hidden Cove Park on the west side of SR 198 and connected by a subgrade pedestrian crossing.

P

POCKET PARKS

- ➔ Urban open spaces on a small-scale that provide a safe and inviting environment for surrounding community members. Typically a small outdoor space most often located in a developed area surrounded by homes on small lots with a few places for people to gather, relax, or to enjoy the outdoors. Function as small event spaces, play areas for children, spaces for relaxing or meeting friends, taking lunch breaks, etc.²
- ➔ Smaller than 1 acre and designed for residents within a ¼ mile of the park.
- ➔ Does not service an entire city in the same way as a neighborhood or community park. People do not generally drive to this type of park. Focuses on the specific interests and needs of the immediate community.
- ➔ Existing urban eyesores can present a perfect opportunity for conversion to pocket parks, often developed in connection with local community groups.
- ➔ Successful "pocket parks" have four key qualities:
 - Accessible
 - Comfortable & inviting
 - Sociable
 - Offering recreational activities

² NRPA Pocket Park Bulletin with definitions, facilities, funding, and design discussion. Accessed on February 2, 2021 via <https://www.nrpa.org>.

P

Arrowhead Park



Park Location

Arrowhead Park is located in north Payson, west of the Payson Cemetery.

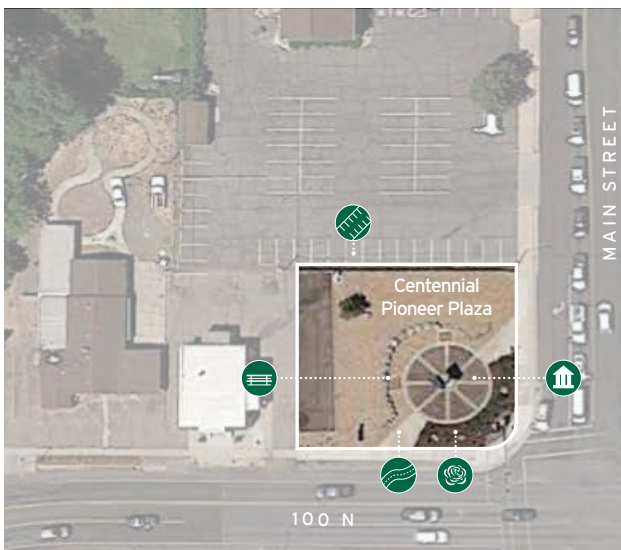
Address	400 East 700 North
Acreage	0.7
Facilities	Information sign, trail
Notes	Stormwater basin

Opportunities

As a pocket park, Arrowhead Park provides greenspace for the surrounding neighborhood. This park may be suitable for small amenities like a picnic table.

P

Centennial Pioneer Plaza



Park Location

Centennial Pioneer Plaza is located in the Downtown Payson commercial district north of Library Corner.

Address	100 North Main
Acreage	0.3
Facilities	Bench, historical marker, kiosk, parking, rose garden, trail

Opportunities

Centennial Pioneer Plaza provides pedestrian space for surrounding businesses. This park may benefit from the addition of benches and other amenities that facilitate public use.

P

Library Corner



Park Location

Library Corner is located just north of Memorial Park.

Address	200 South Main Street
Acreage	0.6
Facilities	None

Opportunities

With its proximity to Memorial Park, Library Park offers additional greenspace. The park will continue to be used to support events at Memorial Park.

P

Monument Park



Park Location

Monument Park is located just west of the Gene Hillman Recreation Complex.

Address	700 South 100 West
Acreage	0.3
Facilities	Gazebo, historical marker, kiosk, parking lot, rose garden
Notes	Bus stop

Opportunities

Monument Park's location and space constraints limits the opportunity for additional amenities.

P Saddlebrook Park 70



Park Location

Saddlebrook Park 70 is located southeast of the Walkara Park and Trail.

Address	SR 198 Saddlebrook Drive
Acreage	0.3
Facilities	Trail
Notes	Mailboxes

Opportunities

Saddlebrook Park is constrained by land availability, but additional amenities like a bench or picnic table may be appropriate additions.

P Wightman Park



Park Location

Wightman Park is located in north Payson.

Address	240 West 400 North
Acreage	0.2
Facilities	Historical marker, information sign, picnic facilities, playground

Opportunities

As a pocket park, Wightman Park provides greenspace for the surrounding neighborhood. This park has already has several amenities and space constraints may limit any additional facilities.

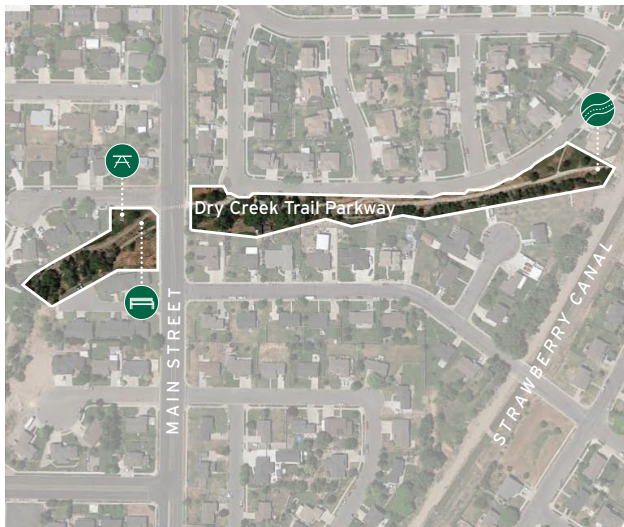
L

LINEAR PARKS

- ➔ Support trail-oriented recreation activities and provide linkages to other parks or local destinations.
- ➔ Primary amenities include trails and benches but may include other amenities if space is available.
- ➔ Payson parks that qualify as linear parks: Dry Creek Trail Parkway and Dry Creek Trail Parkway Extension.



L Dry Creek Trail Parkway



Address	1250 South Main Street
Acreage	3.2
Facilities	Bench, picnic facilities, trail
Notes	Dry Creek Channel, storm drain pond

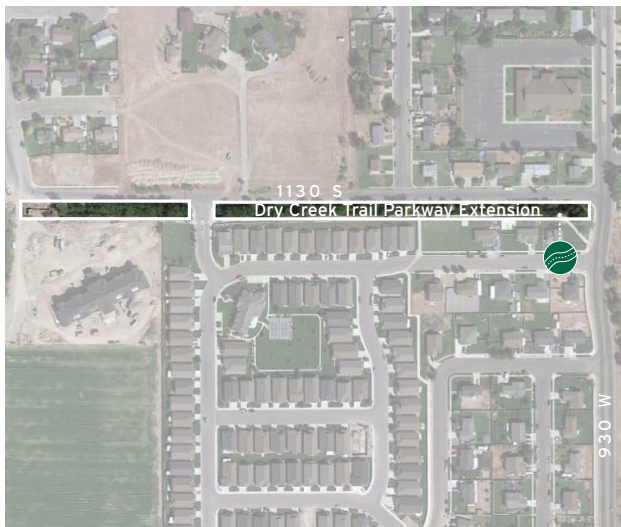
Opportunities

Dry Creek Trail Parkway has many of the amenities associated with linear parks. The park may benefit from the addition of new benches along the trail and an additional picnic area near High Line Canal.

Park Location

Dry Creek Trail Parkway is located south of the Gene Hillman Recreation Complex.

L Dry Creek Trail Parkway Extension



Address	1130 South 930 West
Acreage	0.9
Facilities	Trail
Notes	Dry Creek Channel

Opportunities

Dry Creek Trail Parkway would benefit from common amenities for linear parks including benches.

Park Location

Dry Creek Trail Parkway Extension is located west of Jesse Taylor Park.

o

NATURAL AREAS AND OPEN SPACES

- ➔ Undeveloped lands primarily left in a natural state and typically geographically or geologically unique. No standards exist or are proposed for natural resource areas or open spaces.
 - Active recreation opportunities in natural areas and open spaces in Payson include hiking, mountain biking, nature walks, fishing, and picnicking. These areas are also suited to more passive recreation opportunities, including nature observation.
 - Open spaces are individual or isolated tracts of land that are not connected to a larger natural area network.
- ➔ Payson parks that qualify as natural areas and open spaces: Spring Lake Park and the Forebay Recreation Area.



O Spring Lake Park



Park Location

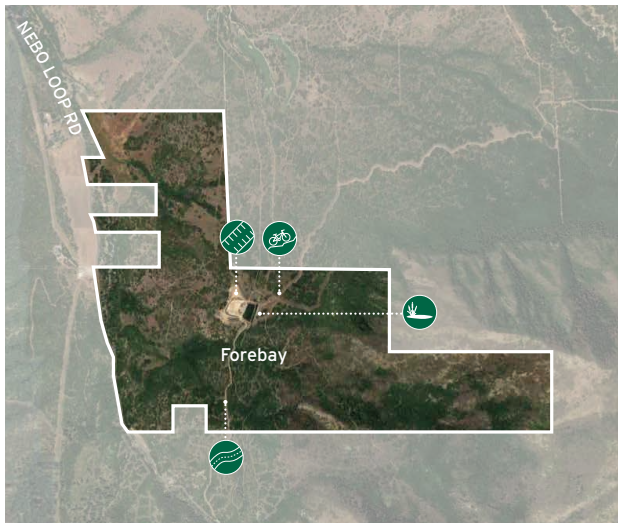
Spring Lake Park is located in south Payson off of SR 198. Spring Lake is located outside of Payson city limits.

Address	12240 South Spring Lake Road
Acreage	21.1
Facilities	Bench, dock, historical marker, information sign, lake, picnic facilities, portable toilets

Opportunities

Spring Lake provides a variety of amenities suitable for a natural area, including a dock and benches.

O Forebay Recreation Area



Park Location

Forebay Recreation Area is located south of Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park and Gladstan Golf Course.

Address	13216 S Nebo Loop Road (FR15)
Acreage	472.8
Facilities	Mountain biking trails, parking lot, pond, hiking trails
Notes	City-owned, unincorporated

Opportunities

Forebay Recreation Area provides a unique natural area for the city. The city should continue to expand outdoor recreation opportunities in this area while protecting water resources, wildlife, and the view corridor.

O SPECIAL USE

- ➔ Usually stand-alone sites to support specialized uses and recreational activities. The National Recreation and Park Association does not have specific standards for special use parks; however, these parks usually provide amenities that serve the entire district as well as visitors from beyond the district.
- ➔ Can include:
 - Sport field complexes
 - Field houses
 - Outdoor theaters
 - Nature centers
 - Museums
 - Other sites of historical or cultural significance
 - Golf courses
- ➔ Payson parks that qualify as special use parks: Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center, Gladstan Golf Course, and Payson Cemetery.

S Gladstan Golf Course



Address	1 Gladstan Drive
Acreage	208.3
Facilities	Clubhouse, concessions, information sign, parking lot, pond, RV sites, trail, 18 hole golf course

Opportunities

Gladstan Golf Course provides amenities in addition to golf including RV sites. These are unique amenities and should be maintained as the city grows.

Park Location

Gladstan Golf Course is located in southeast Payson near the city limits and north of the Forebay Recreation Area.

S Payson Cemetery



Park Location

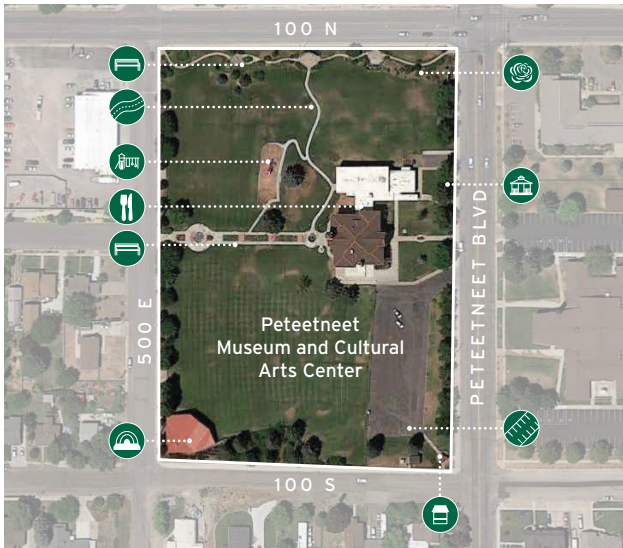
Payson Cemetery is located in northeast Payson near the Bamberger Ranch.

Address	805 East 400 North
Acreage	30.6
Facilities	Gazebo, information sign, restrooms, trail
Notes	Storm water basin

Opportunities

Continue maintenance and add additional amenities for visitors, such as benches.

S Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center



Park Location

Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center is located northeast of Memorial Park.

Address	10 South 600 East
Acreage	7.5
Facilities	Amphitheater, bench, gazebo, historical marker, information sign, kitchen, kiosk, parking lot, restrooms, rose garden, trail
Notes	Kiosk is for the Mt. Nebo National Scenic Byway

Opportunities

Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center provides a variety of amenities for the public. The city needs to continue to maintain and upgrade these facilities overtime.

OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

Park operations and maintenance includes actions and investments that keep a park safe, efficient, and enjoyable for recreators. Landscaping, irrigation and drainage, and facility repairs are a few of the many tasks required to keep a park operating smoothly. Deferred maintenance and insufficient funding can lead to safety issues, higher costs in the future, and parks falling into disrepair.

Payson's Park and Recreation staff are responsible for operating and maintaining 28 parks, natural areas, and special use areas. Staff face ongoing challenges from the availability of funds for facility maintenance to department meeting space and supply storage.

Figure 6 (p.50-51) ranks the condition of facilities at each park. This table will be used to prioritize maintenance and plan for future needs. Tracking the condition of facilities at each park will also ensure that parks throughout the city are receiving adequate funding.

ASSESSMENT OF PARK NEEDS

Park needs were determined through conversations with staff, the Payson Parks and Recreation Survey, and the Parks and Recreation Open House.

A new community splash pad received strong support from the community. Splash pads offer inclusive play opportunities and allow children to develop motor skills. In addition, splash pads provide cooling benefits during hot summer months.

An additional community park or regional park received strong support from the community and will be necessary as Payson grows and develops. Community parks have a large service area and offer a variety of amenities that are typically not found in smaller neighborhood or pocket parks. The community or regional park should be located in a gap area identified in the Level of Service Analysis and areas in the community where physical barriers exist such as Interstate 15, railroad tracks, or topography. Identifying and purchasing suitable parcels of land for the park early will provide the City with time to prepare for a new park and design it in a way that meets community needs.

Shade trees, seating, and restrooms

received moderate support in the Parks and Recreation Survey. High use parks with limited shade should be targeted for new plantings and restrooms. Additional opportunities for amenity placement have been identified for each park on pages 28-47.

An all abilities park would provide Payson with valuable inclusive play opportunities. All Abilities Parks are inclusive to people of all cognitive and physical abilities. An existing park could be retrofitted as an All Abilities Park or the City could site an All Abilities Park on a new site or within a future community or regional park.

Dog parks are receiving increasing support from staff and the public. A dog park is currently being considered and additional parks could be added as population and demand grows.

Trailhead parks and a connected trail system received strong community and staff support. Approximately 57 miles of new trails are proposed as a vital part of an active transportation strategy in the Payson Transportation Master Plan (2020), in the Payson General Plan as Figure 43 (pg. 94) and in the South Utah County Active Transportation Plan (2016).³ Trail connections to parks and other important destinations should be a priority for the City. Individual trail improvements and construction should be planned in connection with other active transportation infrastructure, such as sidewalks and bike lanes. Identifying future land acquisitions that will provide additional connectivity is imperative in planning for the future of the trails system.

There is also a need for the variety of trail types offered to be expanded. New trail offerings could include off-highway motor vehicle trails.

A storage shed is an immediate need for Parks and Recreation staff. Staff currently has extremely limited capacity to store equipment and no capacity to store spare parts and other equipment that would increase the efficiency of park operations. Retrofitting a shed at Memorial Park would satisfy this immediate need and makes sense given that community events are frequently held at the park. Longer term, the department plans to construct storage facilities at a future community park.

An education facility or classroom is needed to provide access to nature-based education and to offer additional opportunities for the public to become involved in parks and recreation.

Community gardens and demonstration gardens would provide new spaces for the community to participate in gardening. Community gardens support local food initiatives and demonstration gardens can attract visitors outside of the city.

A meditation and reflection park is an easy way to diversify the types of parks Payson offers. This park type would provide a calm space for the community to sit with nature.

Additional full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and meeting space will be required to increase the efficiency and capacity of the Department as Payson grows and develops. For departments in cities with less than 49,999 people, the median number of FTE staff ranges from six to nine people. The department currently employs two FTE with seasonal employees. In addition to increasing the number of FTE staff, the department is in need of sufficient space to conduct meetings and complete office work.

³ Plan available for download at <https://mountainland.org/mag-active-transportation/>

PARK CONDITION	
1	POOR
2	NEEDS REPAIR
3	FAIR CONDITION
4	GOOD CONDITION
5	EXCELLENT/ LIKE NEW

Figure 6. Payson Park Condition Assessment.

PARK NAME	AMPHITHEATER	AQUATIC CENTER	BASEBALL FIELD	BASKETBALL COURT	BENCH	CLUBHOUSE	CONCESSIONS	DOCK	FIRE PIT	FRISBEE GOLF	GAZEBO	HISTORICAL MARKER	INFORMATION SIGN	KITCHEN	KIOSK	LAKE	MOUNTAIN BIKE TRACK	PARKING LOT	PAVILLION	PICKLEBALL COURT	PICNIC FACILITIES	PLAYGROUND	POND	RESTROOMS	ROSE GARDEN	RV PARK & CAMPING	SHADED PLAYGROUND	SKATEBOARD PARK	SOCCER FIELDS	SWINGS	TENNIS COURT	TRAIL
Arrowhead Park													4																		3	
Blackhawk Park													4								4										4	
Centennial Pioneer Plaza					3						3			5											5						3	
Constitution Park		4					5						4					4	4			4		4				4		4	4	
Dry Creek Trail Parkway					4																	4									2	
Dry Creek Parkway Extension																															3	
Dry Mountain Park					3								4					3	3		3	4								4	3	
East Hill Park													4					3												5		
Gene Hillman Recreation Complex			4.5				4						3					4.5	4.5			2.5		4					3.5			
Gladstan Golf Course						4	4						4					4					4	5		5					5	
Hidden Cove Park					3								5					4			4	4									3	
Hideaway Park					4								4						3		3	4		3						3	2	
Hollow Park					4								4					4			4	3									5	
Jesse Taylor Park													5																		2	
McMullin Park														3				3	4		4			4								
Memorial Park		3		4	4							3	4					3	5,3,2	4	4	3	2,3	4	3		4			3	4	
Monument Park											5	3			5			3							3							
Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park									3	2			3		3			4	4		3			2								
Payson Cemetery											3		4											2							3	
Peteetneet Museum and Cultural Arts Center		4			5						3	4	3	3	3			4						4	3						3	
Pioneer Square												4			4			3			3				4							
Saddlebrook Park 70																															3	
Spring Lake Park					4		3					2	2			4					3											
Temple View Park				3	4								4					3	3		3	2							3		3	
Wightman Park												3	4								3	4										
Walkara Park and Trail													5					3													3	

RECREATION PROGRAMS

Recreation programs provide valuable opportunities for improving physical fitness and building connections within the community. Payson Parks and Recreation runs more than 20 recreation programs for youth, adults, and seniors. These recreation opportunities accommodate a broad range of interests, skill levels, and physical ability, and

are available to Payson residents and those from surrounding communities. According to the parks and recreation survey, the most popular youth activities are swimming lessons, basketball, soccer, and baseball. The most popular adult activities are men's softball, women's volleyball, and coed volleyball.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- ➔ Badminton
- ➔ Baseball
- ➔ Basketball
- ➔ Cheerleading
- ➔ Dance
- ➔ Fishing
- ➔ Flag Football
- ➔ Tackle Football
- ➔ Gymnastics
- ➔ Snowboarding
- ➔ Soccer
- ➔ Softball
- ➔ Swimming Lessons
- ➔ Swim Team
- ➔ Tennis
- ➔ Track & Field
- ➔ Wrestling
- ➔ Volleyball

ADULT PROGRAMS

- ➔ Men's, Women's, and Coed Softball
- ➔ Women's & Coed Volleyball
- ➔ Men's Basketball
- ➔ Men's Flag Football

SENIOR PROGRAMS

- ➔ Chair Yoga
- ➔ Discover Our World
- ➔ Game and Library Room
- ➔ Lunches and Social Time
- ➔ Silver Sneakers Seated Classics
- ➔ Tai Chi
- ➔ Yogalates

ARTS AND CRAFTS

- ➔ Ceramics
- ➔ Oil Painting
- ➔ Wood Carving

EVENTS

- ➔ Christmas Boutique
- ➔ Mariachi Festival
- ➔ Onion Days
- ➔ Salmon Supper
- ➔ Western Heritage Night

EVENT SUPPORT

- ➔ Half Marathon
- ➔ Marathon
- ➔ Scottish Festival

RUNNING EVENTS

- ➔ 1 mile, 5k, 10k

**Programs listed are a sample - additional programs may be available.*

ASSESSMENT OF RECREATION NEEDS

While Payson's current recreation programs are popular, there are some considerations that will help maintain and improve future participation, relevance, and accessibility of the programs:

Ongoing engagement with the Payson community will allow Parks and Recreation staff to determine whether current recreation programs are meeting community needs. The outreach may be conducted by a formal survey or open house event, or through tabling at community events and informal discussions with residents. Information gathered from these outreach efforts can help inform whether the department should eliminate or modify existing programs or add programs to their offerings. Programs such as racquetball, cycling, and water sports received support from the community in the Parks and Recreation Survey.

Monitoring local and regional recreation trends will allow the Department to adapt to the needs of the community and maintain a relevant roster of programs. These trends can be followed through industry publications such as those from the National Recreation and Park Association, Recreation Management Magazine, the Outdoor Industry Association, and the Sports and Fitness Industry Association.

Additional recreation facilities, particularly a new community recreation center, is one of the top recreation needs identified by both department staff and

community members. A recreation center would provide a dedicated city-owned space for athletic programs, an indoor pool, and other community gatherings and events.

Additional recreation facilities may include tennis courts, outdoor volleyball, a horseshoe pit, an indoor or outdoor climbing wall, a lacrosse field, a shooting range, a pump track or bicycle skills track, a motocross track, and a zip line.

Maintaining adequate staff and volunteer levels is essential to keep recreation programs running smoothly. This includes staff and volunteers for administration and facilitation of programs, both seasonally and year-round. Adding additional staff and volunteers will be necessary as Payson grows and demand for recreation programs increases.

PUBLIC ART AND CULTURE

Public art provides cultural, aesthetic, and economic value to a city. In Payson, the Payson Mural Project works to increase access to art through mural installations in downtown Payson. The group successfully created a mural of local agriculture and received approval and funding for another mural by the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture Tax Committee in the summer of 2020.

Payson offers many unique cultural activities, including Payson City Band Concerts, Civic Chorale, and the Payson Community Theater.



④ LEVEL OF SERVICE

Determining level of service (LOS), a standard for providing park land, is one way to ensure park and recreation agencies are meeting the public need. LOS allows agencies to measure their progress each year and to plan for the provision of future park land. Level of service is typically measured by calculating the number of park acres per 1,000 residents or by establishing a dollar amount to be spent on park land per person. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) stresses that “there is not a single set of standards for parks and recreation because different agencies serve different communities that have unique needs, desires and challenges”.⁹ For example, the number of park acres provided per 1,000 people often varies depending on the size of the city. While the median number of park acres provided per 1,000 people for all cities in the sample was 9.9, for cities with less than 20,000 people the median number of park acres provided was 12.0. LOS should be established by local park and recreation agencies with detailed knowledge of the needs and expectations of the population they are serving.

⁹ National Recreation and Park Association. (2020). NRPA Agency Performance Review. <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf>

PAYSON LEVEL OF SERVICE

Payson’s 2002 level of service was 7 acres per 1,000 people. Today (2021), Payson is providing 7.18 acres of park land per 1,000 people. In addition to measuring level of service by acreage, Payson will establish a monetary LOS that sets a standard for dollars spent on park land per person. Payson’s established LOS will reflect anticipated population growth and infrastructure needs.

PARK SERVICE AREAS

In addition to establishing a level of service, looking at the provision of different park types and the service area

of these parks can provide agencies with a more detailed understanding of potential gaps and needs. Payson’s park land is divided into six categories: community park, neighborhood park, pocket park, linear park, natural area and open space, and special use. Service areas were established for community parks (1 mile radius), neighborhood parks (1/2 miles radius), and pocket parks (1/4 miles radius). These buffers were used to identify gaps for the entire park system and for each park type. Service areas were not determined for the remaining categories given the limited number of parks, large acreages, or limited amenities.

2018 Population	19,984 people
Total Park Acres	143.4 acres
City Level of Service (Acres)	7.18 acres/1000 people
2002 Established LOS	7 acres/1000 people
Able to accommodate	20,484 people

Figure 7. Payson Level of Service. LOS is calculated using city limits, 2018 population, and 2021 park acreage. Source: US Census Bureau ACS 2014-2018.

PARK TYPE	TOTAL ACRES	SERVICE AREA
Community Park	109.4 acres	1 mile radius
Neighborhood Park	30.7	1/2 mile radius
Pocket Park	3.29 acres	1/4 mile radius
Linear Park	4.04 acres	NA
Natural Area and Open Space	493.88	NA
Special Use	246.36	NA

Figure 8. Payson Level of Service. LOS is calculated using 2018 population and 2021 park acreage. Source: US Census Bureau ACS 2014-2018.

*Due to its size, Pioneer Square was classified as a Pocket Park for this analysis.

Overall, Payson is serving about half (45%) of its existing residential acres and 86% of its existing population (Figures 9-10). Payson's total park service area (including community, neighborhood, and pocket parks) is concentrated in the center of the city. While the service area extends into all six park districts, large gaps exist in districts one, four, five, and six (Figure 11).

Payson's population is projected to reach over 60,000 people by 2060. If Payson's park service areas remain the same, the percentage of residential land served and the percentage of people served would decrease as the population grows and expands into new areas of the city (Figure 12).

	TOTAL RESIDENTIAL ACRES	ACRES SERVED	% SERVED	ACRES NOT SERVED	% NOT SERVED
Existing	3,278 acres	1,477 acres	45.1%	1,801 acres	54.9%
Future	8,193 acres	2,972 acres	36.3%	5,221 acres	63.7%

Figure 9. Park Service for Existing and Future Residential Acres. Future totals are projected for the year 2050.

	TOTAL POPULATION	POPULATION SERVED	% SERVED	POPULATION NOT SERVED	% NOT SERVED
Existing	23,195 people	19,997 people	86.2%	3,198 people	13.8%
Future	60,962 people	32,071 people	52.6%	28,891 people	47.4%

Figure 10. Park Service for Payson's Existing and Future Population.

*Payson's annexation boundary was used for service area calculations. Future totals are projected for the year 2050.

PAYSON PARK SERVICE AREA WITH EXISTING RESIDENTIAL LAND

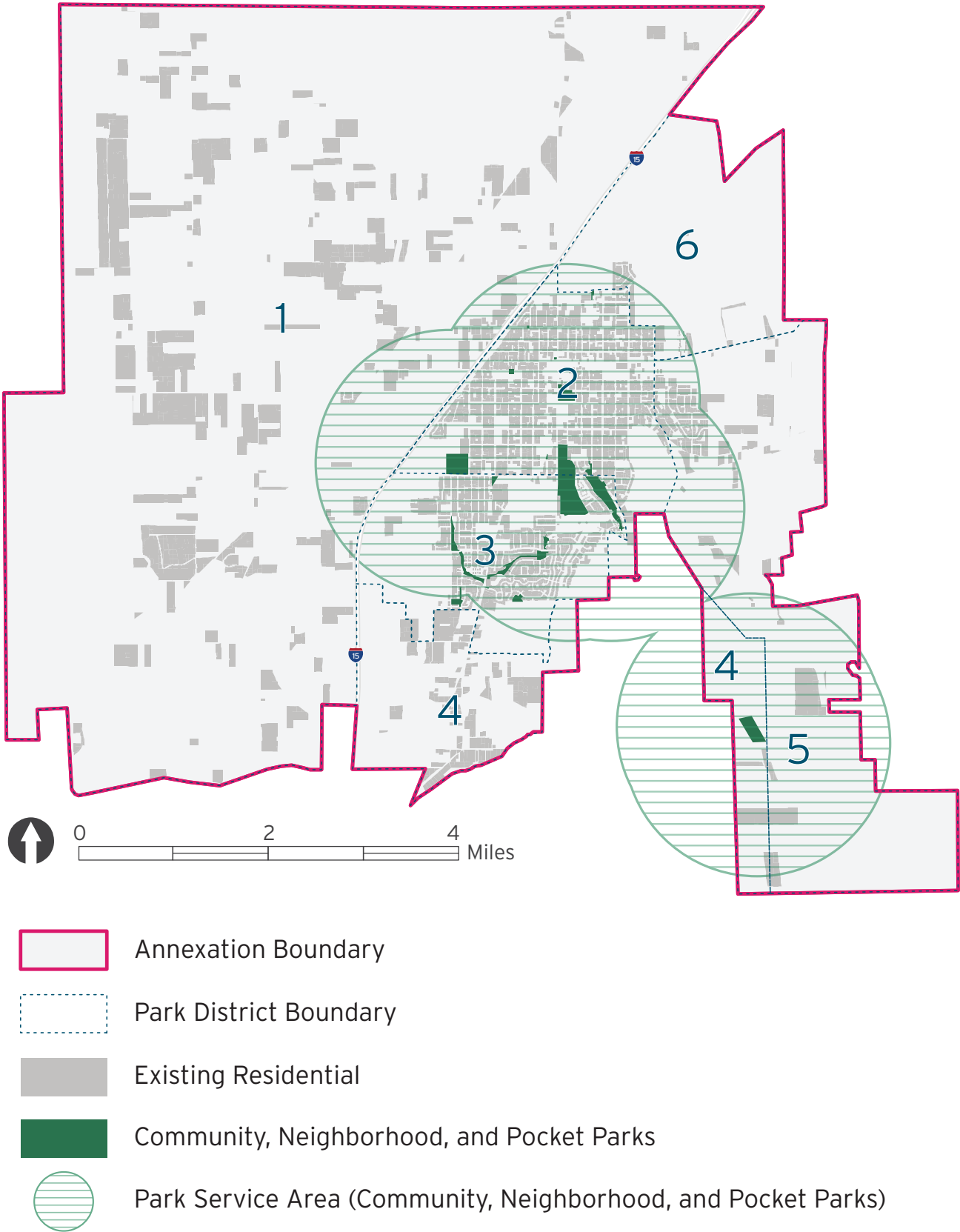


Figure 11. Combined Park Service Area Buffers with Existing Residential Land

PAYSON PARK SERVICE AREA WITH FUTURE RESIDENTIAL LAND

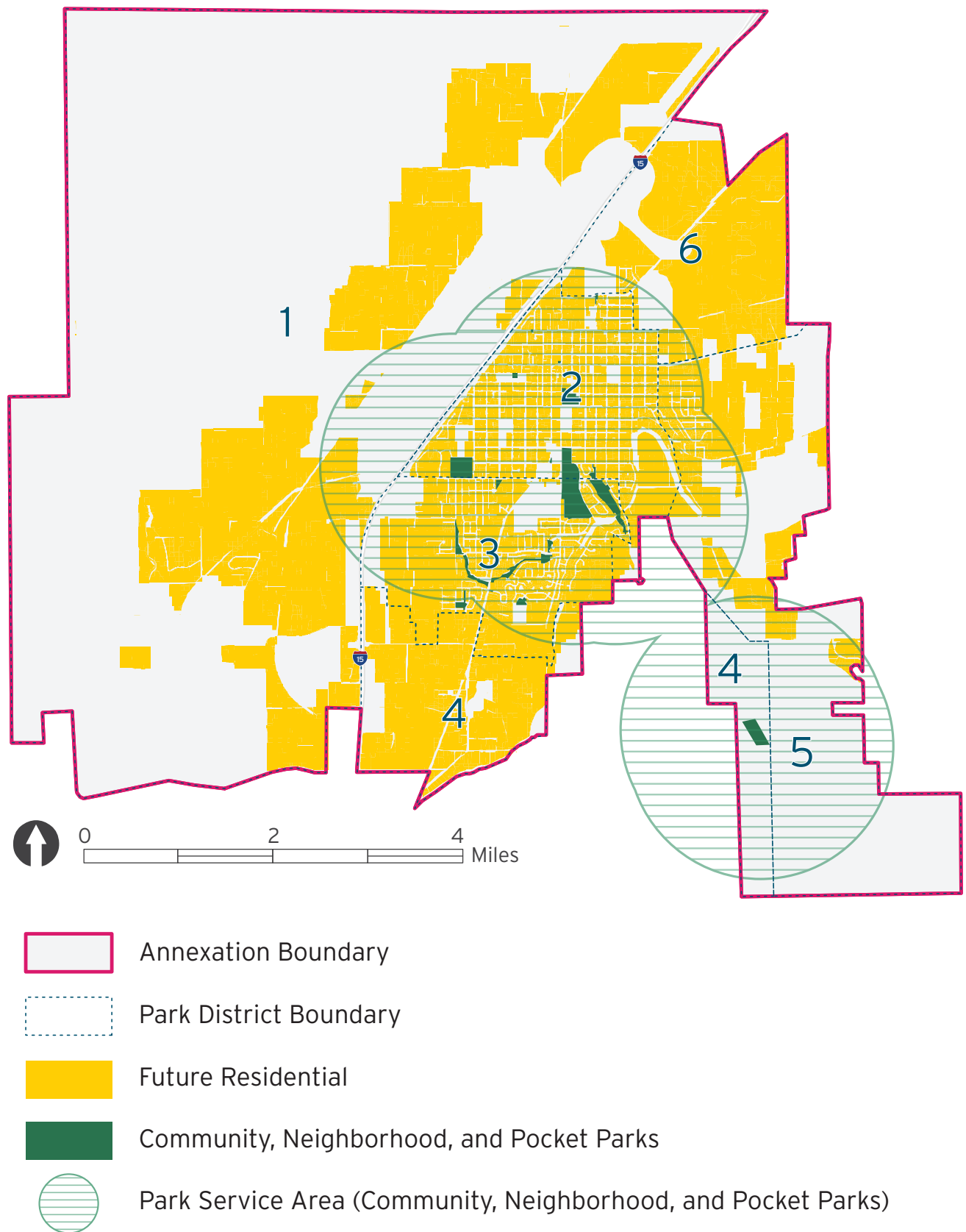


Figure 12. Combined Park Service Area Buffers with Future Residential Land for the year 2050.

Taking a closer look at the service areas of individual park types reveals additional gaps. Payson's community parks serve 45% of existing residential land and 86% of the existing population (Figures 13 and 15). The combined service areas for community parks are primarily in central Payson (park districts 2 and 3), with the exception of Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park. Payson's neighborhood parks serve 23% of existing residential land and 49% of the total population and Payson's pocket parks serve 12% of existing residential land and 27% of the total population (Figures 13 and 15). Neighborhood parks have a centralized service area in park district 3, similar to community parks,

while the service areas for pocket parks are distributed throughout the park districts 2 and 3 (Figures 17-19).

Expanding the number of parks in Payson and expanding the distribution of parks will better serve existing and future populations. For community parks, there are large service gaps in districts one, four, and six. Neighborhood and pocket parks require investment in park districts one, four, five, and six. By identifying appropriate locations for future park investment and land acquisition now, serving future populations will be more feasible.

PARK TYPE	EXISTING RESIDENTIAL ACRES SERVED	% OF EXISTING RESIDENTIAL ACRES SERVED
Community Park	1,477 acres	45.1%
Neighborhood Park	757 acres	23.1%
Pocket Park	377 acres	11.5%

Figure 13. Existing Residential Acres Served by Payson Parks. Source: Envision Tomorrow.

PARK TYPE	FUTURE RESIDENTIAL ACRES SERVED	% OF FUTURE RESIDENTIAL ACRES SERVED
Community Park	2,599 acres	31.7%
Neighborhood Park	1,646 acres	20.1%
Pocket Park	564 acres	6.9%

Figure 14. Future Residential Acres Served by Payson Parks. Source: Envision Tomorrow, Payson Future Land Use Map 2020. Future totals are projected for the year 2050.

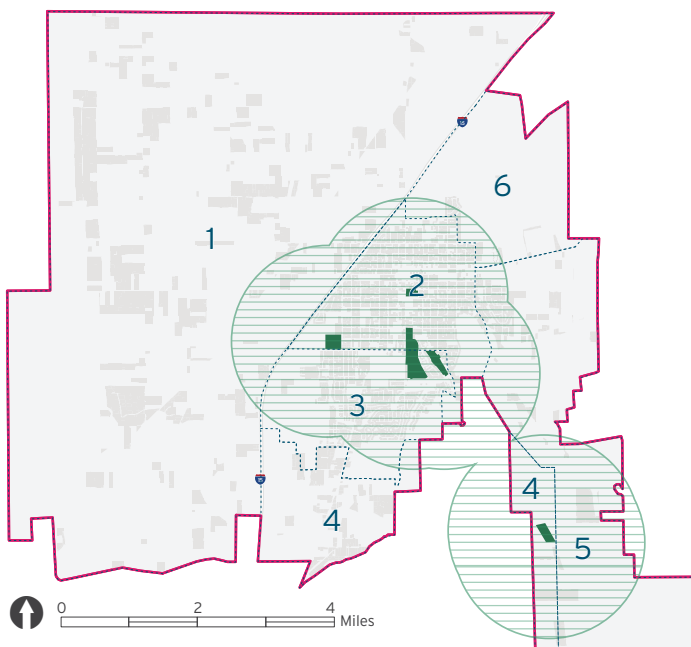
PARK TYPE	EXISTING POPULATION SERVED	% OF TOTAL POPULATION
Community Park	19,997 people	86.2%
Neighborhood Park	11,240 people	48.5%
Pocket Park	6,157 people	26.5%

Figure 15. Existing Residential Population Served by Payson Parks. Source: Envision Tomorrow.

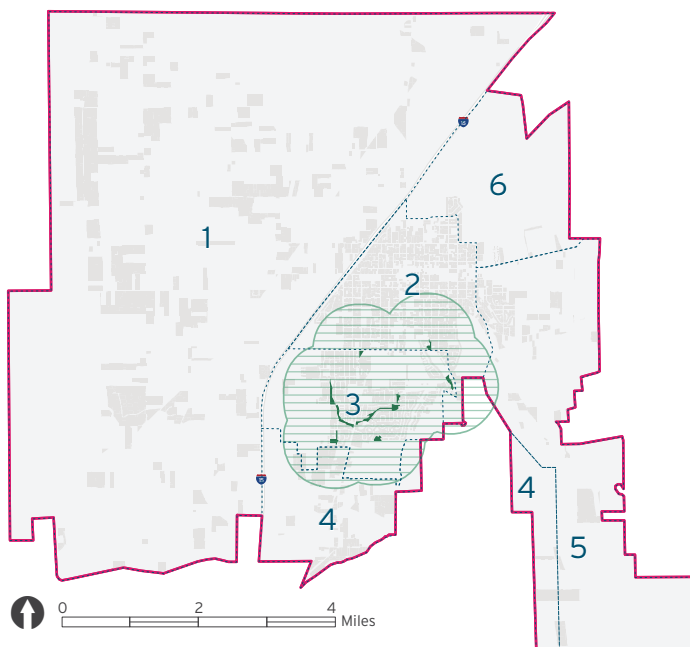
PARK TYPE	FUTURE POPULATION SERVED	% OF TOTAL RESIDENTIAL POPULATION
Community Park	29,388 people	48.2%
Neighborhood Park	19,492 people	32.0%
Pocket Park	8,849 people	14.5%

Figure 16. Future Residential Population Served by Payson Parks. Source: Envision Tomorrow, Payson Future Land Use Map 2020. Future totals are projected for the year 2050.

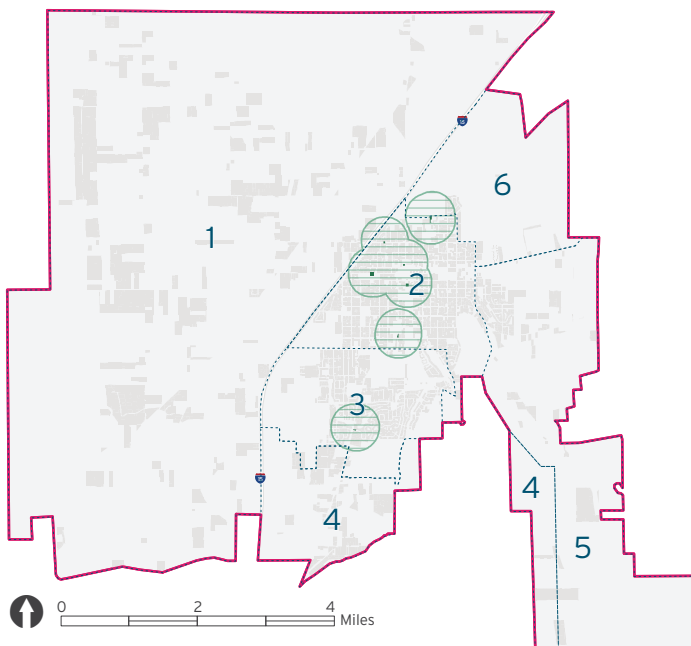
COMMUNITY PARK SERVICE AREA (1 Mile Buffer)



NEIGHBORHOOD PARK SERVICE AREA (1/2 Mile Buffer)



POCKET PARK SERVICE AREA (1/4 Mile Buffer)



- Annexation Boundary
- Park District Boundary
- Existing Residential
- Community, Neighborhood, and Pocket Parks
- Park Buffer

Figure 17-19. Community, Neighborhood, and Pocket Park Service Areas for Payson.

PARK AMENITIES

From common amenities like swing sets, to more unique amenities like skateparks, facilities make parks more enjoyable and more valuable to the community. Providing new amenities or upgrading existing amenities can be costly but is a necessary component of park planning. Common and unique amenities should be equitably distributed throughout the city. The NRPA provides data on the median number of residents per facility for different city sizes (Figure 20).

For more common amenities, like playgrounds and basketball courts, Payson performs better than national medians for cities with populations under 20,000. Payson could increase the provision of tennis courts, skate parks, and swimming pools to be more in line with NRPA’s findings.

Payson is in an interlocal agreement with the school district to fund tennis courts on district property. Coordinating amenities with the district should continue when possible.

FACILITY	NRPA POPULATION PER FACILITY (CITIES UNDER 20,000)	PAYSON POPULATION PER FACILITY
Playground	1 per 2,523 people	1 per 1,427 people
Basketball Court	1 per 4,090 people	1 per 2,498 people
Tennis Court	1 per 2,922 people	1 per 6,661 people
Skate Parks	1 per 10,118 people	1 per 19,984 people
Swimming Pools	1 per 8,023 people	1 per 19,984 people

Figure 20. Facility Provision Comparison: Payson to Cities under 20,000. Source: National Recreation and Park Association. (2020). NRPA Agency Performance Review. <https://www.nrpa.org/siteassets/nrpa-agency-performance-review.pdf>. NRPA Figure 3. Outdoor Park and Recreation Facilities – Population per Facility.



FUTURE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

Payson's natural landscape - its farmland, foothills, and wetlands - is an integral part of quality of life in Payson. As of 2020, approximately 83% of Payson's 20,168 acres (31.5 square miles) of land remains undeveloped within the annexation boundary. The development of this land will take many years; how it is developed or preserved will greatly impact the city's identity and quality of life for future generations. There will also be updates to the Imagine Payson General Plan and the Parks and Recreation Master Plan in that time.

While there are many aspects of the community that can be admired, there are opportunities for change as Payson grows and expands. Land Use planning is one way to implement new strategies to assist in addressing today's needs.

Payson's current land use pattern is a combination of several factors, including historical trends, the location of transportation facilities, the housing market, socioeconomics, the political environment, and natural constraints. Land use and development also depend on soils, seismic faults, climate, and floodplains. Wetlands, mountain slopes, highways, and railroad tracks constrain development. These natural and artificial constraints need to be identified and assessed when making regional and local land use decisions, including the siting of new developments and parks.

Design must also be community driven given the important role that streets and public spaces, such as sidewalks and open areas, play in the neighborhood and in promoting economic activity.

The Imagine Payson General Plan states an objective to manage growth while maintaining the rural and natural character of our community as much as possible:

Concentrated Growth: Recognizing that any new growth alters our community, we have determined that the best way to preserve our community feel is to concentrate growth. Concentrating growth consumes less land and preserves open space and recreational opportunities.

Neighborhood Based Approach: For Payson, this neighborhood-based approach will mostly focus on infill development Downtown and new mixed-use development as Payson expands outward. In these areas, Payson should focus on integrating residential with neighborhood serving commercial uses, where there is enough density to support those uses. Existing, exclusively residential neighborhoods, such as Spring Lake, may remain residential with services located in adjacent centers.



FUTURE LAND USE

The Future Land Use Map illustrates the goals and ideas from the Imagine Payson Vision and translates them into specific development parameters. It serves as a basis for the Zoning Ordinance as it is used to modify the zoning map, which makes it a vital instrument for future land use decisions as Payson City continues to grow and change.

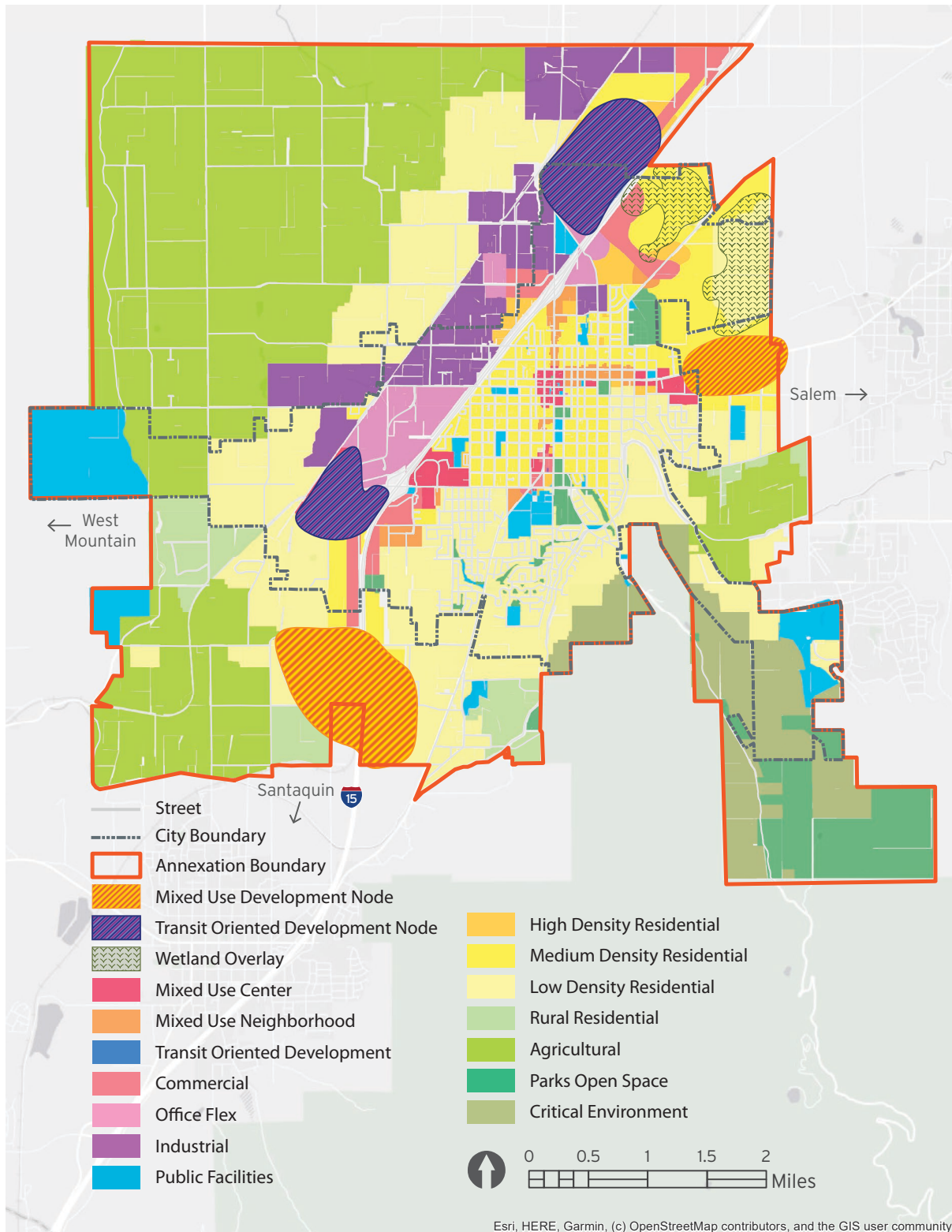


Figure 21. Imagine Payson General Plan Future Land Use Map (Adopted 2020). This map may change, refer to the Imagine Payson General Plan 2020.

IMAGINE PAYSON GENERAL PLAN LAND USE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

- ➔ Plan neighborhoods where all residents have access to nearby jobs, healthcare, education, services, shopping, parks, and open space.
- ➔ Ensure that residential and commercial design complements and contributes to our community.
- ➔ Future development should protect historic Main Street, existing neighborhoods, and agricultural resources while enhancing urban areas and creating new mixed-use centers.

ANNEXATION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

Planning for future development and infrastructure requires articulating an Annexation and Development Priority Map to reflect estimates on which areas around Payson will be the first to develop and to set anticipated time frames for that development.

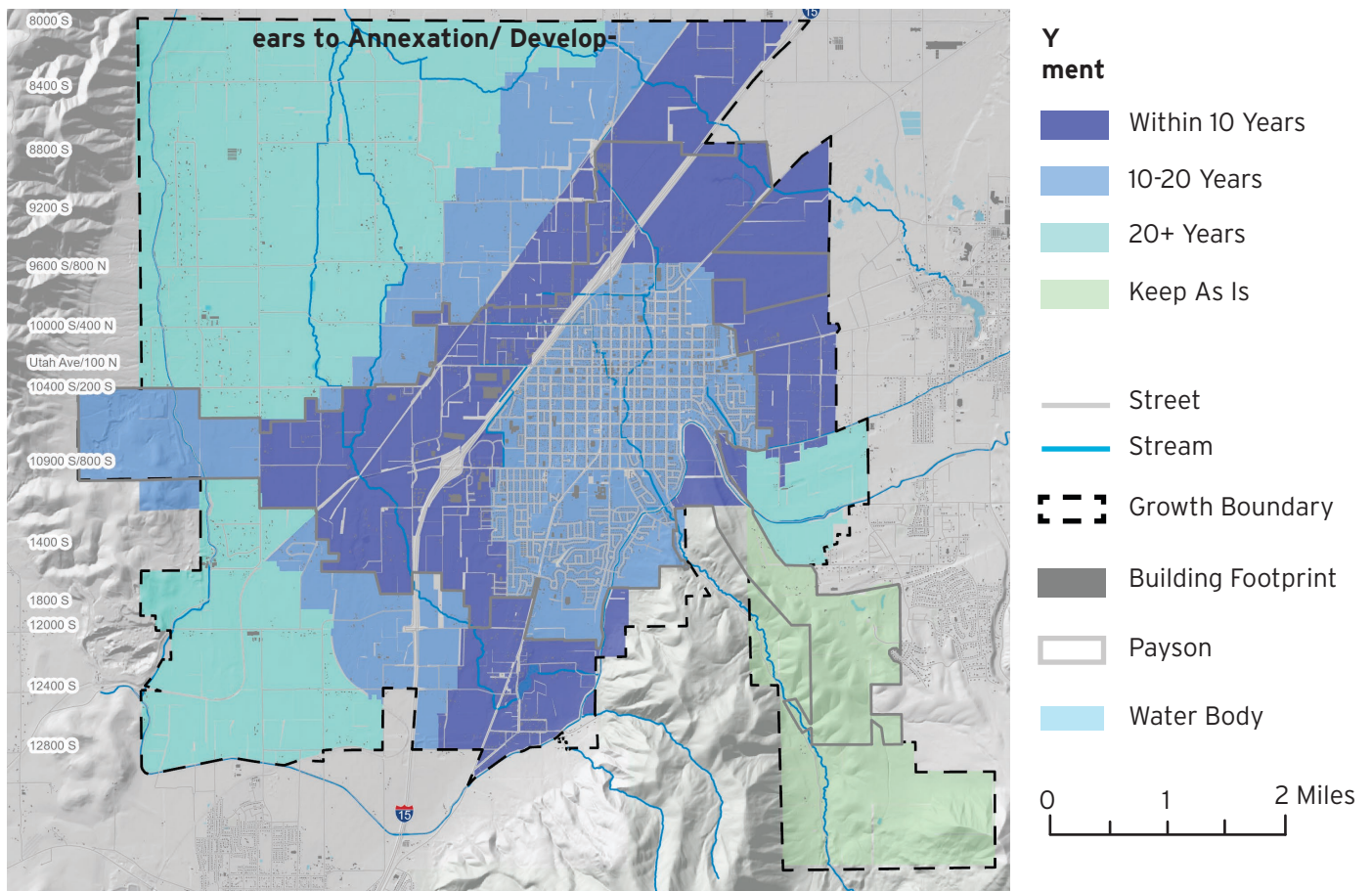


Figure 22. Imagine Payson General Plan Land Use Annexation and Development Prioritization Map (2020)



GOALS AND STRATEGIES

These goals and strategies set out a path to achieve the community's vision for the future of Payson Parks and Recreation. Goals are aspirational statements of an outcome that the city wishes to achieve, whereas strategies provide more specific actions that work towards achieving the goals.

These recommendations reflect the extensive input provided by residents and stakeholders throughout the planning process, as well as national best practices. This Master Plan, in coordination with other elements of the Imagine Payson General Plan, acts as a guide for development, capital improvement, budget, and policy decisions made by Payson.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT GOAL

Provide ongoing opportunities for community engagement.

- ➔ **Strategy** Promote and distribute information about park and recreation activities and programs, events, and volunteer opportunities.
- ➔ **Strategy** Offer park improvement and maintenance volunteer opportunities.
- ➔ **Strategy** Provide a variety of opportunities to engage with parks and recreation staff throughout the year.
- ➔ **Strategy** Use community engagement to identify opportunities for new programming that aligns with needs and trends.
- ➔ **Strategy** Allow community members to comment on the design/amenities of proposed new parks/recreation facilities.
- ➔ **Strategy** Create web page with park descriptions and maps that highlight current and future park improvements.

LEVEL OF SERVICE GOAL

Ensure that Payson's current and future residents are well-served by a comprehensive system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space.

- ➔ **Strategy** Identify and acquire areas suitable for future parks as the City expands geographically.
- ➔ **Strategy** Provide parks to a service area of 7 acres/1000 residents.
- ➔ **Strategy** Update development code to require parks as part of new subdivisions/residential developments.
- ➔ **Strategy** Identify/acquire park land in currently underserved areas or neighborhoods.

LAND ACQUISITION GOAL

Acquire land for parks, trails, and open space that will meet the needs of current and future Payson residents.

- ➔ **Strategy** Identify parcels of land to target for acquisition, based on existing geographic and level of service needs.
- ➔ **Strategy** Prioritize park land acquisition as Payson grows by identifying and acquiring land that will meet the parks needs of future residents.
- ➔ **Strategy** Acquire and set aside land to preserve as open space and natural areas as the city continues to develop, with a focus on sensitive areas such as wetlands and significant wildlife habitats.

CONNECTIVITY GOALS

Create a well-connected network of parks and trails that serves all Payson community members.

- ➔ **Strategy** Develop a network of multi-use trails that connects the city's parks, neighborhoods, and amenities.
- ➔ **Strategy** Coordinate trails development with the goals of the Payson City Transportation Master Plan.
- ➔ **Strategy** Continue to develop and acquire right-of-way along canals, streams, utility corridors, and roadways for the development of a trails network.
- ➔ **Strategy** Develop a citywide wayfinding signage system to direct residents and visitors to parks, open space, and trails.
- ➔ **Strategy** Coordinate with and guide local trail users to maintain and modify trails, as appropriate, in alignment with the Forebay Management Plan.

Provide opportunities for Payson residents to build connections within their communities.

- ➔ **Strategy** Design parks and facilities to encourage and facilitate interaction between community members.
- ➔ **Strategy** Continue to sponsor community-focused events such as Golden Onion Days and the Salmon Supper.

PARK QUALITY GOAL

Provide a high-quality parks and recreation system that is a source of pride for the Payson community.

- ➔ **Strategy** Ensure that park design allows for use and enjoyment by people of all ages and abilities.
- ➔ **Strategy** Adopt minimum development/design standards for future parks, based on recommended minimum amenities for each park type.
- ➔ **Strategy** Incorporate public art into park design wherever possible, prioritizing work by local artists.
- ➔ **Strategy** Examine existing parks for opportunities to improve the site, add amenities, and make it more user friendly.

RECREATION FACILITIES GOALS

Explore options for a recreation center that serves the community with a wide range of recreation amenities and programming.

- ➔ **Strategy** Explore opportunities for construction of a new recreation center.
- ➔ **Strategy** Continue to engage with members of the community to determine what type of facilities and amenities should be provided in a new recreation center.

Work with experts and the community to determine the best future for the aquatic center.

- ➔ **Strategy** Conduct a study to determine feasibility and costs of covering the aquatic center or incorporating a pool into a future recreation center.
- ➔ **Strategy** Conduct additional formal and informal community outreach efforts to gauge interest in converting the aquatic center to an indoor facility, including outreach and education about the costs involved.

MAINTENANCE GOAL

Ensure that current and future parks and recreation amenities are well maintained.

- ➔ **Strategy** Develop an up-to-date inventory of parks and facilities that documents condition, needed improvements, and ongoing maintenance schedules.
- ➔ **Strategy** Prioritize maintenance of existing park facilities based on cost and community need.
- ➔ **Strategy** Ensure that the annual budget provides sufficient funding for the operation and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities.
- ➔ **Strategy** Maintain adequate staffing levels to ensure that parks are well-maintained.

FUNDING GOAL

Obtain and provide adequate funding for park construction, park maintenance, recreation programs, and operations of parks and recreation departments.

- **Strategy** Pursue a diverse array of funding sources, such as grants, bonds, and public-private partnerships to fund the correction of current deficiencies and for on-going maintenance of facilities and programming
- **Strategy** Evaluate recreation users fees to determine and/or maintain appropriate user fee levels to assist in operation costs
- **Strategy** Pursue appropriate impact fee assessments to support new growth and development

PROGRAMMING GOAL

Promote public health and a sense of community through a wide range of recreation programming that serves Payson residents of all ages, abilities, and activity levels.

- **Strategy** Tailor recreation offerings based on local and nation recreation trends and the needs of the community as determined by ongoing public outreach.
- **Strategy** Partner with outside public and private agencies to expand recreation program offerings.
- **Strategy** Promote special events to enhance community identity in alignment with recent branding strategies.
- **Strategy** Assess current programs and look for ways to improve them to better serve the community.
- **Strategy** Explore partnership opportunities with Mountain View Hospital and local health care providers to promote local recreation opportunities and Park RX America.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE GOALS

Increase community resiliency to natural hazards.

- ➔ **Strategy** Design parks with green infrastructure to capture stormwater and reduce the impacts of flooding.
- ➔ **Strategy** Design parks to facilitate social gathering and resource sharing in the event of a disaster.

Promote sustainable practices in parks.

- ➔ **Strategy** Improve water efficiency by utilizing Smart and WaterWise irrigation systems.
- ➔ **Strategy** Provide educational installations in parks that showcase sustainable management practices.

DEPARTMENT STAFFING AND CAPACITY GOAL

Ensure staffing is sufficient to meet the desired level of service.

- ➔ **Strategy** Determine the number of full-time employees, equipment, and facilities needed to keep up to date on parks maintenance and management.
- ➔ **Strategy** Budget for adequate staffing levels in the parks and recreation departments.
- ➔ **Strategy** Explore the development of a dedicated parks and recreation building to accommodate department staff and equipment.
- ➔ **Strategy** Promote professional development and training such as URPA, NRPA, and STMA.



7 IMPLEMENTATION

IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS

- ➔ Retrofit the Memorial Park shed into a storage shed for maintenance equipment and supplies
- ➔ Secure land through contracts, acquisitions, and right of refusal
- ➔ Secure funding to complete deferred maintenance at community parks
- ➔ Secure funding for a community splash pad
- ➔ Complete a feasibility study for a community recreation center, including research on potential funding options
- ➔ Provide professional development opportunities for existing staff
- ➔ Send out a survey to the public every two years to assess park and recreation needs
- ➔ Send out a survey to existing recreation program users annually to gather feedback on the quality of the programs and interest in additional programs
- ➔ Identify short-term programming opportunities reflective of recreation trends

FUNDING

Land Water and Conservation Fund

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) is a federal program established in 1964 to help communities conserve land and fund recreation projects. The program is federally funded, but administered by the State of Utah. Grant recipients receive a 50-50 match and must be able to fund the entire project.²

Recreational Trails Program

The Recreational Trail Program was established in 1991 and provides federal funds to states for motorized and non-motorized recreational trails. The funds may be used for a variety of projects including land acquisition, maintenance, construction, and signage.³

Safe Routes to School Grants Program

The Safe Routes to School Grants program provides funding for projects that improve walking and biking routes to schools. These grants can be used to fund trail connections and other, non-infrastructure related projects like bike parking.⁴

Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant

In 2015 the Office of Outdoor Recreation began offering grant matching for communities to fund trails and recreation infrastructure. The grants include funding for small projects between \$500 and \$10,000, tier one projects between \$10,000 and \$150,000, and up to \$500,000 for regional asset tier projects with project values of at least \$2 million.⁵

Park Bonds

Communities may vote to provide funding for new parks in the form of a municipal bond. Bonds are a loan from a private lender that the government pays back over a fixed period of time. There are several different types of bonds, including sales tax revenue bonds and general obligation bonds, that can be used to finance large capital projects like recreation centers.

Impact Fees

Fees set by local government to offset the impact of new growth. Developers pay fees to cover a portion of the improvements necessary to accommodate new development. They can be used for parks, bike infrastructure, and pedestrian projects, such as trails.

2 Utah DNR. Land and Water Conservation Fund State-Sided Grant Program. Utah State Parks Office. Accessed February 12, 2021. tinyurl.com/3cr4chy8.

3 Utah DNR. <https://stateparks.utah.gov/resources/grants/recreational-trails-program/>. Utah State Parks Office. Accessed February 12, 2021. tinyurl.com/pd4u8ks5.

4 Safe Routes Utah. Safe Routes Grants. Accessed February 12, 2021. tinyurl.com/6crfa7dr.

5 Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development. 2021 Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation Grant Programs Guide. Accessed February 12, 2021. tinyurl.com/m9ke5v6u.

Multi-Jurisdictional Agreements

Multi-jurisdictional agreements can be initiated by governing entities to collaboratively fund projects. Payson could enter into an agreement with Utah County or the US Forest Service to fund park improvements or other projects.

PARC (Parks, Arts, Recreation, and Culture)

Funds come from sales tax revenues distributed to Payson City. May be used for publicly owned or operated parks, playgrounds, golf courses, athletic fields, gymnasiums, swimming pools, trail and bicycle systems, museums, theaters, art centers, music halls, or other cultural/arts/recreation facilities.

Public Private Partnerships

Partnerships can be formed between Payson and non-profit organizations, school districts, or private developers to fund new projects or improvements.

Surface Transportation Block Grant Program Set-Aside

Funds are distributed locally by MAG to fund planning and design of multi-use trail and rail to trail projects (including land acquisition) and the construction of sidewalks, walkways, and off road trails. Additional trail funding ideas are included in the South Utah County Active Transportation Plan (2016).



CONCLUSION

By critically thinking about Payson's park and recreation system assets and challenges, this plan creates strategies for the Parks and Recreation Departments that leverage their existing strengths and opportunities to overcome challenges.

OPPORTUNITIES

Park Improvements and Renovations

Many existing Payson parks have potential to be upgraded with new or renovated equipment that will better serve the community. For example, East Hill Park currently has a small parking lot and swing set. However, at 2.27 acres in size, there is space to include additional neighborhood-serving amenities such as shelters, or a splash pad.

Development of New Parks and Open Space

As Payson continues to grow, the City has the opportunity to create new parks that will serve both new and existing residents, including those who live in areas currently underserved by parks. As land is developed for commercial and residential uses, the City must act to acquire land for new parks and set aside areas to be preserved as open space, especially environmentally sensitive areas.

Public Support for a New Recreation Center

Public outreach indicated a good amount of support for the construction of a community recreation center. This support is an opportunity for the City to conduct additional feasibility studies and explore potential bond measures or other funding

sources that would support a new recreation center.

Partnerships

Local and regional groups such as non-profit organizations, church organizations, or school districts who share a similar vision present opportunities for collaboration and partnerships in developing new parks and recreation programs for the Payson community. Many communities have had success in creating public-private partnerships to further the development of new parks.¹

CHALLENGES

Insufficient Funding

Lack of adequate funding will create a significant barrier to many Plan recommendations, including the development of new parks, renovation of existing parks, parks maintenance, new recreation programs, and additional FTE staff.

Rapid Growth and Development

The speed at which Payson is growing in population and developing vacant land means that the City must act now to ensure that adequate land is set aside for park development and preserved for open space to serve residents of new neighborhoods and the Payson community as a whole.

Insufficient Staffing Levels and Facilities

Like a lack of funding, an insufficient number of full-time staff will hinder

the implementation of many plan recommendations. The Payson Parks and Recreation Departments are already understaffed for a city of its size, and existing staff will be stretched thin as the city grows and new parks are developed.

The current lack of a dedicated Parks Department facility has left the department without a 'home base' where they can conduct meetings and store equipment in a central location.

The Recreation Department is currently housed within Payson High School, which is scheduled to be replaced by 2025. A maintenance building for the athletic fields will eventually house the field foreman's office within the Gene Hillman Recreation Complex. Adequate and potentially consolidated office space for staff should be a priority.

CONCLUSION

Regional Destinations

Payson's parks and recreation programs are extremely valuable to the community and attract regional attention. Unique parks and natural areas like Payson Canyon Kiwanis Park, the Forebay Recreation Area, and Gladstan Golf Course should continue to receive investment and be treated as regional destinations. When designing future community or regional parks, Payson should look at regional needs in addition to local needs.

¹ National Recreation and Park Association. "Leveraging Public-Private Partnerships". July 23, 2020. Accessed February 12, 2021. <https://www.nrpa.org/parks-recreation-magazine/2020/august/leveraging-public-private-partnerships/>

Ongoing Public Outreach

The Parks and Recreation Departments need to continue working with the community to identify needs and prioritize future decisions. When designing a new recreation center or community park, the public needs to be a central part of design and programming decisions. Community engagement should also focus on ensuring park amenities are distributed equitably throughout the city and that a variety of amenities exist to fulfill the needs of different populations.

Connected System

The Imagine Payson General Plan and Transportation Master Plan should be consulted when planning for additional trail connections and improvements. Connecting trails to key destinations like shopping, schools, and jobs will not only provide recreational benefit, it will elevate the city's transportation system. The park system is valuable infrastructure, providing social, environmental, and physical benefits to the public. Maintaining it as a critical resource will

benefit the city now and in the future.

Equitable Access

The NRPA defines equity as "Ensuring all people have fair and just access to the benefits of high-quality parks and green spaces, recreation facilities, youth sports and programs that create healthy, resilient and economically vibrant communities."² To ensure equitable access to parks, Payson needs to work to fill gaps identified in the level of service analysis. In the future, level of service considerations, demographics, and income are a few of the many factors that should go into siting a park. The benefits of parks are widespread and should be enjoyed by all members of the community.

² National Recreation and Parks Association. Equity. Accessed on February 11, 2021. <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/equity/>.