

RESOLUTION NO. 23-1025

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN FOR
THE CITY OF OLATHE, KANSAS.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF OLATHE,
KANSAS:**

SECTION ONE: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan, (attached hereto as Exhibit 1), prepared by the Quality of Life and Infrastructure Focus Areas and dated March 2023, is hereby approved and adopted for use by the City of Olathe.

SECTION TWO: The Parks and Recreation Master Plan shall be used to guide the development or redevelopment of the City's parks and recreation system over the next 10 years.

SECTION THREE: This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED by the Governing Body this 4th day of April, 2023.

SIGNED by the Mayor this 4th day of April, 2023.

Mayor

ATTEST:

City Clerk

(SEAL)

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

City Attorney

EXHIBIT 1

PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN



OLATHE

PARKS & RECREATION

MASTER PLAN

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ##	
----	----------------------------	---

02	COMMUNITY PROFILE ##	
----	----------------------------	---

03	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND RESULTS ##	
----	--	--

04	PARKS AND FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS ##	
----	--	---

05	RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT ##	
----	--	---

06	OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEW ##	
----	--	---

07	STRATEGIC ACTIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN ##	
----	--	--



01

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

01 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 A GAME PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A parks master plan is a guiding document for a community on how a parks system can meet the current and emerging needs of residents and creates vibrancy in a community. The vision for the City of Olathe is “Setting the Standard for Excellence in Public Service.” The park and recreation system of Olathe is the canvas on which so much of that is made possible, and provides the venues through which the community pursues healthy lifestyles, comes together, and builds connections. This Park and Recreation Master Plan is built on that vision, it embraces the history of the community, is accountable to the present, and looks to the future.

This Park and Recreation Master Plan (“Master Plan”) establishes a long-term plan focusing on sustainability and maximizing resources while providing an appropriate level/balance of facilities and amenities throughout the community. The Master Plan is aligned to the Olathe 2040 Future Ready Strategic Plan adopted in September 2019, as well as building on the previous Parks and Recreation Master Plan completed in 2014. This Master Plan creates a new “game plan” for the City to follow for the next 10 years.

The City of Olathe (“City”) maintains 3,596 acres of public park and recreation lands within the city which includes developed parklands, undeveloped parklands, open space, trails, and public facilities and rights-of-way. The City operates and maintains several facilities including the Olathe Community Center, four community pools, Black Bob Bay Water Park, and several historic/cultural sites and facilities. Finally, the City also organizes a robust portfolio of recreation programs and services and community events to fully activate these public spaces and assets and bring the community together.

The Master Plan sought community input to identify and confirm the City’s vision and expectations for the future of the park and recreation system. Community input was received via in-person and virtual focus groups, key stakeholder interviews, public meetings, a statistically-valid needs analysis survey, and a community online open survey as well. The information gathered from the community engagement process was combined with technical research to produce the final Master Plan.



FIGURE 1.1 - Stream Running Through Park

“SETTING THE
STANDARD OF
EXCELLENCE IN
PUBLIC SERVICE.”

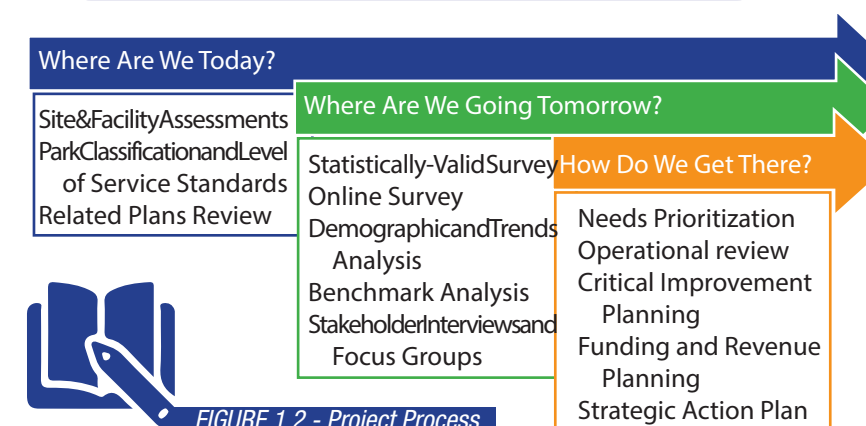


FIGURE 1.2 - Project Process

1.2 MASTER PLAN GOALS

The Master Plan establishes a prioritized framework for future development or redevelopment of the City’s parks and recreation system over the next 10 years. The Master Plan is a resource to develop policies and guidelines related to location, use, resource allocation, and level of service that will provide direction to City Council, City staff, and the community at large.

The goals of the Master Plan include:

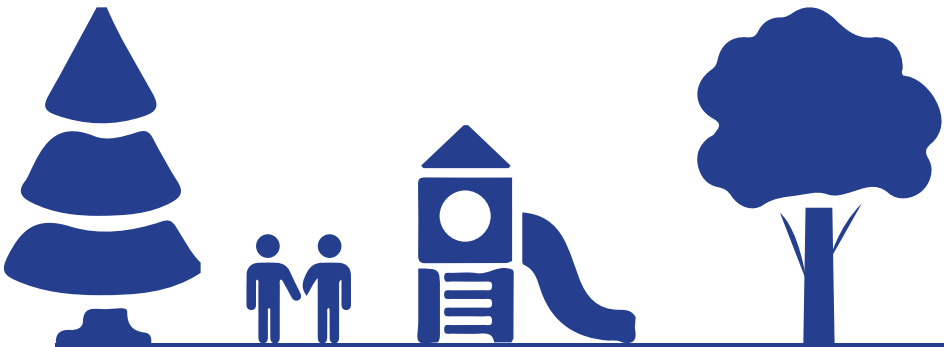
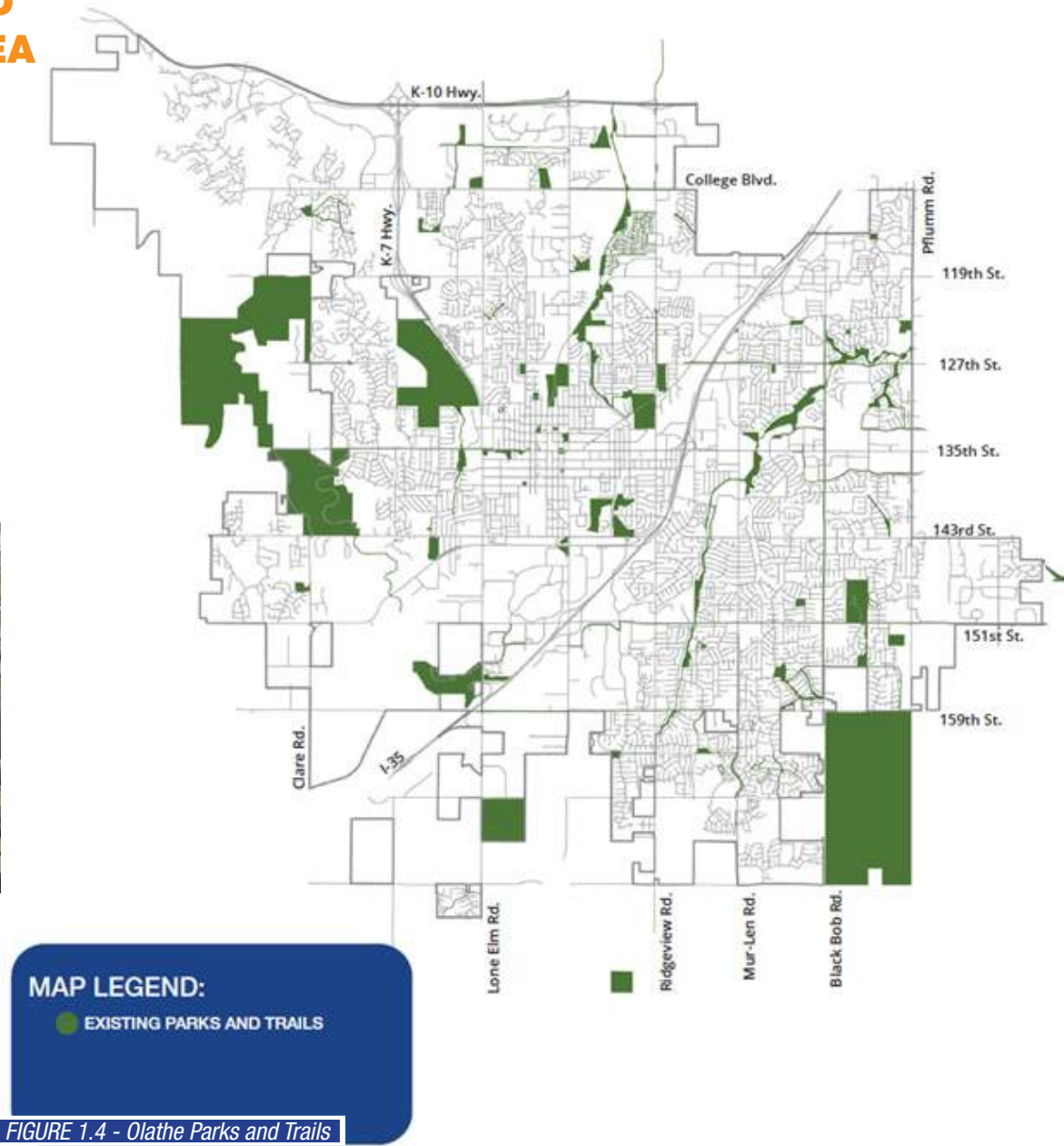
- **Engage the community**, leadership, and stakeholders through innovative public input to build a shared vision for parks, recreation, facilities, and open space for the next 10 years.
- **Utilize a wide variety of data sources and best practices**, including a statistically-valid survey to predict trends and patterns of use and how to address unmet needs in the City.
- **Determine unique Level of Service Standards** to develop appropriate actions regarding parks, recreation, facilities, and greenways that reflects the City’s strong commitment in providing high quality recreational activities for the community.
- **Shape financial and operational preparedness** through innovative and “next” practices to achieve the strategic objectives and recommended actions.
- **Develop a dynamic and realistic strategic action plan** that creates a road map to ensure long-term success and financial sustainability for the City’s parks, recreation facilities, programs, and greenways.

1.3 PROJECT PROCESS

The Master Plan establishes a prioritized framework for future development or redevelopment of the City’s parks and recreation system over the next 10 years. The Master Plan is a resource to develop policies and guidelines related to location, use, resource allocation, and level of service that will provide direction to City Council, City staff, and the community at large.

1.4 CURRENT PARKS MAP AND DEFINITION OF PLANNING AREA

The planning area for this Master Plan includes all areas within the boundaries of the City of Olathe. This plan recognizes the actual service areas of some Olathe parks and facilities extend beyond the defined boundaries of the defined planning area as Olathe has parks that have regional draw. Similarly, there are other public parks and lands within Olathe that also assist to meet the park and recreation needs of Olathe residents. The primary purpose of this plan is to first and foremost identify and address the park and recreation needs of Olathe residents. The map below depicts the planning area and location of city-owned parks and facilities.



1.5 OLATHE PARKS INVENTORY

Current developed park inventory by park name, address, park classification, and size are detailed below.

PARKS	ADDRESS	CLASSIFICATION	SIZE (ACRES)
Arapaho Park	12301 S ARAPAHO DR	Neighborhood Park	4.86
Arbor Landing Park	16305 S LINDENWOOD DR	Neighborhood Park	6.3
Arrowhead park	1701 S LINDENWOOD DR	Neighborhood Park	13.77
Black Bob Park	14500 W 151ST ST	Community Park	80.73
Brougham Park	15501 S BROUGHAM DR	Neighborhood Park	12.7
Calamity Line Park	901 W SANTA FE ST	Neighborhood Park	8.63
Cedar Lake Park	15500 S LONE ELM RD	Community Park	133.18
Civic Center Park	250 E SANTA FE ST	Mini / Pocket Park	2.06
Eastbrooke Park	13000 S GREENWOOD ST	Neighborhood Park	5.76
Fairview Park	400 N WALNUT ST	Neighborhood Park	2.21
Frisco Lakes Park	1100 E DENNIS AVE	Community Park	62.97
Frontier Park	15501 W INDIAN CREEK PKWY	Community Park	20.32
Frontier Pool Park	15909 W. 127TH ST	Neighborhood Park	2.88
Girls Softball Complex	13901 W 151ST ST	Community Park	15.97
Hampton Park	16360 S WARWICK ST	Neighborhood Park	4.75
Haven Park	15475 W 147TH TER	Neighborhood Park	5.18
Heatherstone Park	12310 S PFLUMM RD	Neighborhood Park	11.37
Indian Creek Park	16100 W 135TH ST	Neighborhood Park	2.94
Lake Olathe Park	625 S LAKESHORE DR	Regional Park	418.59
Lone Elm Park	20921 W 167TH ST	Regional Park	154.8

PARKS	ADDRESS	CLASSIFICATION	SIZE (ACRES)
Mahaffie Pond Park	1031 E COTHRELL ST	Neighborhood Park	6.59
Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm	1100 & 1200 E KANSAS CITY RD	Special Use Area	21.51
Manor Park	15355 S ALCAN ST	Neighborhood Park	11.63
Mill Creek Park	320 E POPLAR ST	Neighborhood Park	4.02
North Walnut Park	801 N WALNUT ST	Neighborhood Park	3.41
Oregon Trail Park	1100 S ROBINSON ST	Community Park	19.09
Pellet Park	520 W ELM ST	Mini / Pocket Park	1.28
Prairie Center Park	555 N OLATHE VIEW RD	Community Park	68.95
Quailwood Park	14092 S GREENWOOD ST	Mini / Pocket Park	0.22
Raven Ridge Park	675 W HAROLD ST	Neighborhood Park	5.13
Santa Marta Park	11510 S GREENWOOD ST	Neighborhood Park	4.07
Scarborough Park	1825 E 153RD ST	Neighborhood Park	1.3
Southdowns Park	2101 S LINDENWOOD DR	Neighborhood Park	6.17
Southglen Park	11300 S CLARE RD	Neighborhood Park	6.29
Stagecoach Park	1205 E KANSAS CITY RD	Community Park	46.33
Two Trails Park	1000 N RIDGEVIEW RD	Community Park	19.98
Veterans Memorial	1025 S HARRISON ST	Community Park	2.95
Water Works Park	610 S CURTIS ST	Community Park	48.76
Woodbrook Park	14821 W 123RD TER	Neighborhood Park	1.81
Woodland Hills Park	11795 S. LANGLEY ST.	Neighborhood Park	16.03
TOTAL			1,265.49

1.6 VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

The process to develop this plan was grounded in inclusive, accessible, and creative public input and engagement. This is a plan that reflects the community, its interests and needs, and its directional growth. In the course of the process, the City of Olathe has fine-tuned their mission statement as it pertains specifically to the provision of parks and recreation services, which clearly defines how the City intends to serve the community through this plan over the next 10 years. The vision and core values are those developed in the Olathe 2040 Future Ready Strategic Plan.



1.7 KEY ISSUES AND THEMES

Throughout the Master Plan process there emerged multiple themes and issues that were clear as priorities to address over the next 10 years. These represent input and insights from a broad segment of city residents, leadership, partner organizations, and the observations and assessments of the consultant team.

City Growth and Increased Diversity

Olathe is a community that continues to experience overall growth particularly in certain quadrants of the city. Additionally, Olathe is a very diverse community that continues to increase in its diversity of residents across a number of attributes including race/ethnicity, age, and household income. This is noted within the analyses of this Master Plan as well as that of the Olathe 2040 Future Ready Strategic Plan. This places demands and expectations to continue to advance and evolve offerings of sites, amenities, facilities and services to meet the needs of this evolving community. As outlined in the 2040 Plan, this Master Plan supports the Quality of Life goals:

1. **Improve health of all neighborhoods.**
2. **Diversify housing choices.**
3. **Ensure that people are connected, safe, and have a sense of belonging.**
4. **Cultivate a welcoming community where people feel valued and relationships are built and fostered.**
5. **Create a community where people of all ages and abilities thrive.**
6. **Optimize access to physical and mental health care, physical activity, and healthy food options.**
7. **Improve opportunities for employment, education, and community resources.**
8. **Increase unique experiences and places.**

“East-West” Perception of Inequity

As is common in many communities, there is a perception that exists among some community members and leaders that the city's recent investment in innovative facilities and amenities have been more focused in the areas of the community west of Interstate 35. Some of the older neighborhoods in Olathe are located in the areas of the city east of Interstate 35, as well as some of the older significant park investments such as Black Bob Park and the Girls Softball Complex. Since the 2014 Parks and Recreation Master Plan significant investments have been made on the west side of town including the Olathe Community Center and Lake Olathe Park. There is likely to be continued investment in major amenities in this part of the community in the next 10 years as well including, but not limited to the completion of Cedar Lake Park and the Cedar Creek Trail, and new park development in the northwest quadrant of the city as the community grows in that direction. These realities underpin the importance of investment as recommended in this plan also include the development of innovative sites and facilities in the eastern portion of the city.

Trails and Connectivity are a Priority

Olathe is an active community that enjoys broad ranging recreational opportunities for personal enjoyment, health, and wellness. The highest rated priority from community input, key local stakeholders, City leadership, and the consultant team is additional trail development. Both multi-use paved trails and unpaved trails were identified as the highest rated priorities to add over the next 10 years. Trail development should be considered to improve overall connectivity within the community and among parks. Additionally, the development of multi-use unpaved trails should be considered within existing or new park sites where appropriate to further enhance the recreational opportunities and enjoyment afforded to Olathe residents. The recently completed Trails and Greenways Guiding Plan outlines several ambitious trail and greenway development projects, some of which may be more visionary but still attainable



Equity, diversity, and inclusion are essential building blocks and a driving force of a modern and forward-looking public park system

with innovative funding and partnership practices. This Master Plan focuses on the “low hanging fruit” of natural surface trail development projects within existing parks, as well as the completion of the Cedar Creek Trail, and several connectivity segments between parks or connecting parks with other points of interest in the community.

Integration of Other Providers

There are a significant number of other existing providers that also support the recreational needs of Olathe residents aside from services provided by the City itself. These include significant and popular parks of Johnson County Parks and Recreation District within and directly adjacent to the city, many school properties of multiple school districts, and numerous private homeowner association (HOA) parks within neighborhoods. High and some middle school athletic facilities are not in consideration because of their substantial use and programming by the school system and resulting lack of availability for public access and use. As a result of the substantial presence of other service providers in the Olathe community, it is critical to represent the facilities and offerings of these providers into the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan as a component of the larger ecosystem of meeting the recreation and park needs of residents.

Parks for All

Equity, diversity, and inclusion are essential building blocks and a driving force of a modern and forward-looking public park system today. Park locations, design, and amenities should be reflective of and equitably accessible by the whole community. That core value was evident throughout the community process as well. Specific opportunities to grow the diversity, equity, and inclusion of the Olathe parks system include but are not limited to additional playgrounds and recreation amenities that meet the needs of users of all physical, cognitive, emotional/behavioral, and mobility requirements; amenities that meet the needs of senior adults and other specific age segments; and amenities that meet the needs of residents of diverse cultural backgrounds.

1.8 KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The following key recommendations have been developed through robust community and stakeholder engagement throughout the planning process, consultant assessment and analyses, and industry

Revitalization and Maintenance of Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the heart and soul of the Olathe Parks and Recreation system. They are integral to providing a high quality of life for the neighborhoods in which they sit. Over the last 15 years, the City of Olathe has invested substantially in the development of large community and special use parks that are both local treasures and regional destinations. These parks have been wildly popular and very successful in positioning Olathe as a high-quality park community. Similar investment was not made in neighborhood parks. While several have been refreshed and revitalized more have declined in condition. Therefore, it is a priority area of focus that neighborhood

Enhancing and Upgrading Community and Regional Parks

Community and regional parks are where not only Olathe residents come out to play and celebrate; they are regional draws that bring people from around the KC Metro to enjoy all that Olathe has to offer. These facilities are heavily used and some are considerably older than others, so there are three primary objectives for addressing these sites and facilities in this Master Plan:

- to improve usability and overall versatility of the sites,
- to better meet current and emerging public needs, and
- to further enhance the local recreational value of these sites while also optimizing their ability to drive economic activity in the city.

Trails and Connectivity

One of the more prominent areas of public need and interest that was heard in the various forms of community engagement in this master plan process was the strong desire for more trails (paved and unpaved). The City of Olathe has an extensive network of trails and greenways already as noted in the recently completed Trails and Greenways Guiding Plan. This Master Plan acknowledges and supports the recommendations of that plan. A trail system that improves overall connectivity in the community between existing parks and amenities is the primary priority, as well as trails that provide unique recreational opportunities currently not available in the city.

Growing the System to Meet Community

As it has for decades, the Olathe Parks and Recreation system must continue to grow to serve its growing population. Based on our analysis of the system, it's clear that the city has several park deserts, or areas currently outside the service area of public greenspaces. The Olathe community is a very active population with diverse recreational interests and needs. Needs were identified through a variety of methodologies including public forums, targeted public intercept interviews at community events, website/online public comments, social media, a statistically valid community survey, and assessments of existing parks and amenities. As the community continues to grow and evolve, so should the parks and recreation system evolve to stay aligned with both existing community needs as well as those that are emerging.





02

COMMUNITY PROFILE

02 COMMUNITY PROFILE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

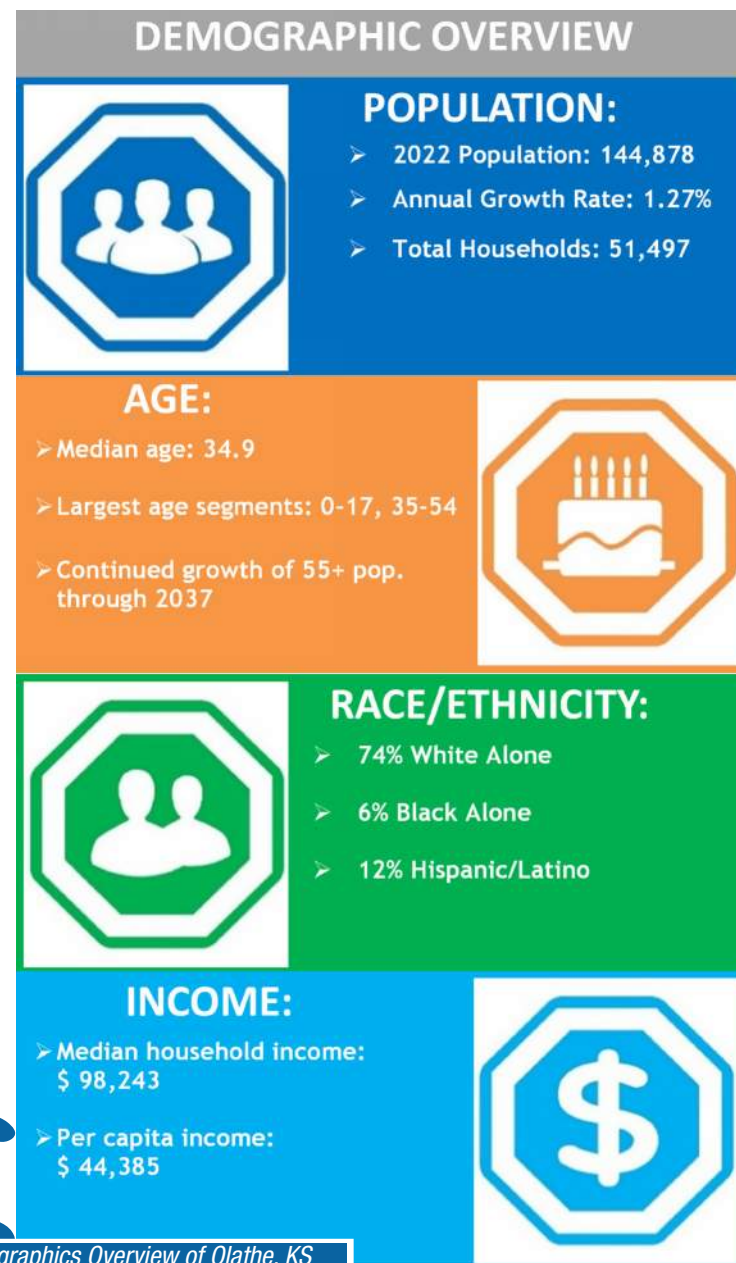
A key component of the plan is a demographics and recreational trends analysis which helps provide a thorough understanding of the demographic makeup of residents within the city, assesses key economic factors, as well as identifies national, regional, and local recreational trends that are relevant to the planning process

2.2 DEMOGRAPHICS ANALYSIS

The Demographic Analysis describes the population within the City of Olathe, Kansas. This assessment is reflective of the City's total population and its key characteristics such as age, race, and income levels. It is important to note that future projections are based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances during or after the time of the analysis could have a significant bearing on the validity of the projected figures. **Figure 1** provides an overview of the City's populace based on current estimates of the 2022 population. A further analysis of each of these demographic characteristics (population, age segments, race, ethnicity, and income) can be found in **Section 1.1.3**.



FIGURE 2.1 - Demographics Overview of Olathe, KS



“THE CITY OF OLATHE IS THE FOURTH LARGEST CITY IN THE STATE OF KANSAS AND HAS A RAPIDLY GROWING POPULATION TO MATCH”

Methodology

Demographic data used for the analysis was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau and from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the largest research and development organization dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and specializing in population projections and market trends. All data was acquired in May 2022 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2010 Census. ESRI then estimates the current population (2022) as well as a 5-year projection (2027). PROS then utilized straight line linear regression to forecast demographic characteristics for 10 and 15-year projections (2032 and 2037).

Demographic Analysis Boundary

The City boundaries shown below were utilized for the demographic analysis. (See Figure 2)

FOR THE FITNESS ACTIVITY CATEGORY REVEALS THAT ALL ACTIVITIES ARE WELL ABOVE THE NATIONAL

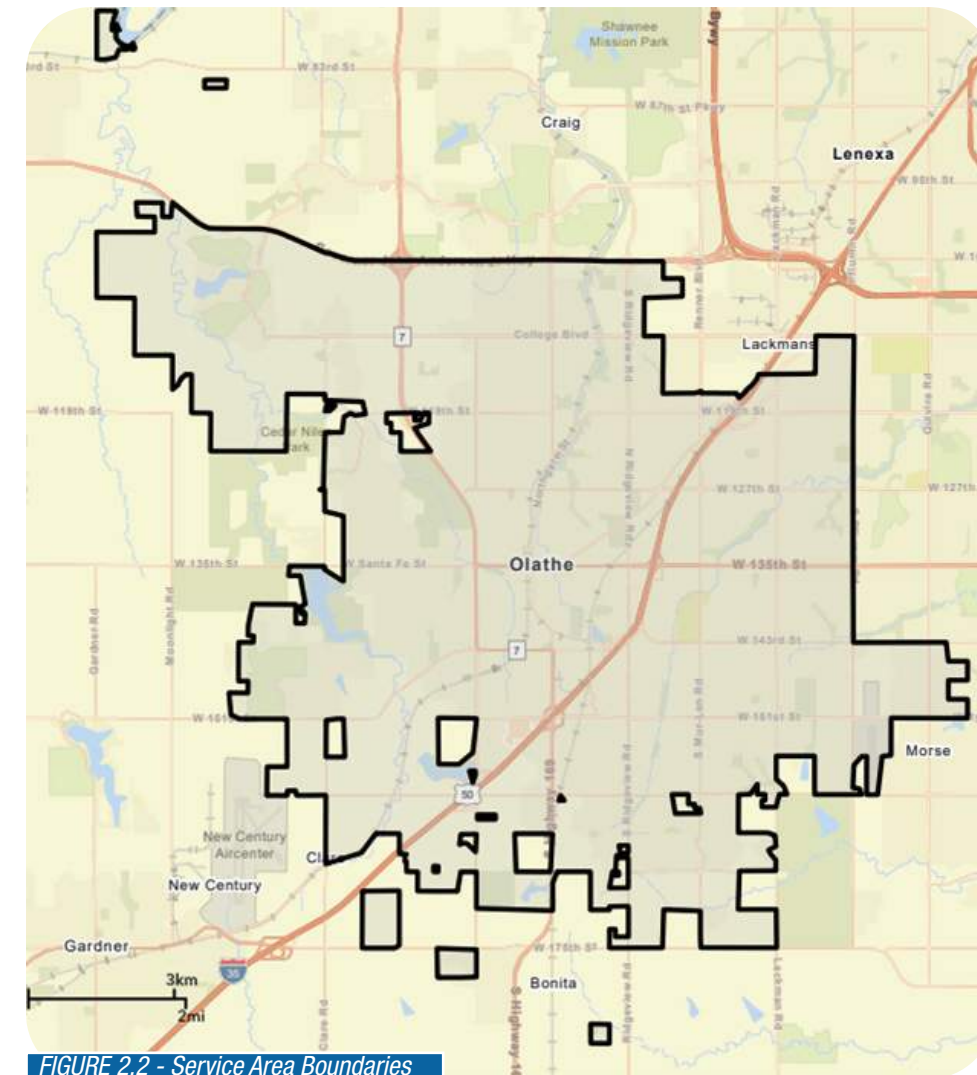


FIGURE 2.2 - Service Area Boundaries

City Populace

Population
The City of Olathe is the fourth largest City in the state of Kansas and has a rapidly growing population to match. The population has increased from 126,443 in 2010 to 144,878 in 2022, an average increase of 1.17% per year which is well above the national average of 0.74%. The population is expected to continue to increase reaching 164,948 residents by 2037 with a projected average annual growth rate of .92% over the time period of 2022 to 2037. *(See Figure 3)* The total number of households has increased at a similar rate, growing from 44,723 in 2010 to 51,497 by 2022. By 2037, it is expected that there will be 58,858 households within the city, and that number will likely continue to expand. *(See Figure 4)*

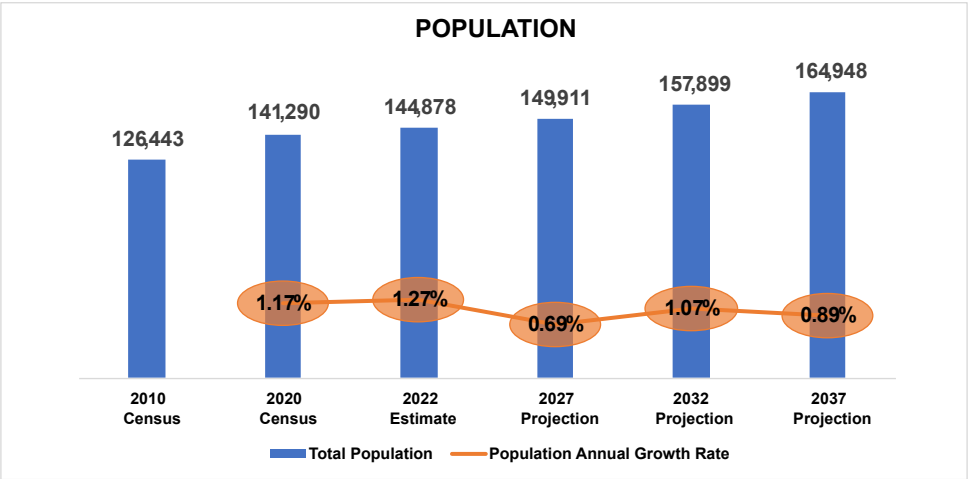


FIGURE 2.3 - Service Area's Total Population and Annual Growth Rate

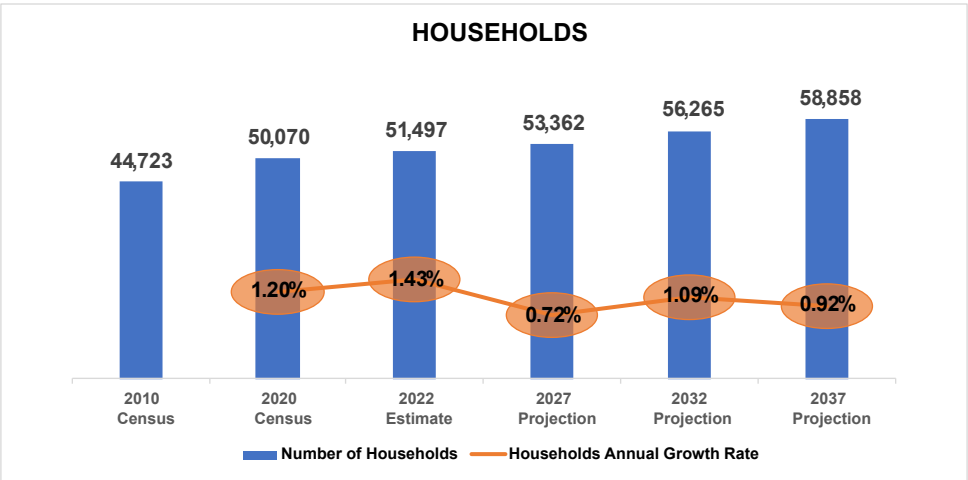


FIGURE 2.4 - Service Area's Total Households and Annual Growth Rate

Age Segmentation

The largest Age Segments of the City's population are 18–34 (22%) and 35–54 (28%). There is a slight aging trend with people over the age of 55 making up 27% of the population by 2037, which is a minor increase from previous years. (See Figure 5) Overall, the population projects to age over time, as younger populations will decrease slowly as well. Therefore, the parks updated and developed for the City of Olathe should likely be designed to be accessible for the slow growing elderly population but also oriented for families with both old and young children.

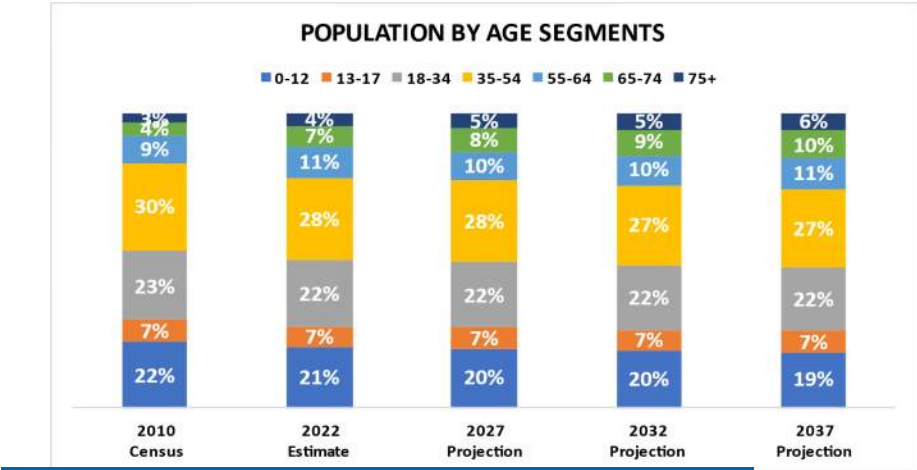


FIGURE 2.5 - Service Area's Population by Age Segment

Race and Ethnicity Definitions

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as below. The Census 2010 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 2000 Census and earlier censuses; therefore, caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the US population over time. The latest (Census 2010) definitions and nomenclature are used within this analysis.

- **American Indian** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment
- **Asian** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- **Black Alone**– This includes a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands
- **White Alone** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa
- **Hispanic or Latino** – This is an ethnic distinction, a subset of a race as defined by the Federal Government; this includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

Please Note: The Census Bureau defines Race as a person's self-identification with one or more of the following social groups: White, Black, or African American, Asian, American Indian, and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, or a combination of these. While Ethnicity is defined as whether a person is of Hispanic / Latino origin or not. For this reason, the Hispanic / Latino ethnicity is viewed separate from race throughout this demographic analysis.

Race
Analyzing race, the City's current population is predominantly White Alone. The 2022 estimate shows that 74% of the population falls into the White Alone category, with Two or More Races (11%) representing the second largest category and Black or African American Alone (6%) representing the largest individual minority. The 2022 estimate also portrays a below average representation for other race groups, with Asian Alone making up the smallest segment at 4% of the total population. Predictions for 2037 expect the population to become much more diverse, with a decrease in the White Alone population, and minor increases to all other race categories. Within this change, the Two or More Races category will increase the most from 11% to 16%. *(See Figure 6)*

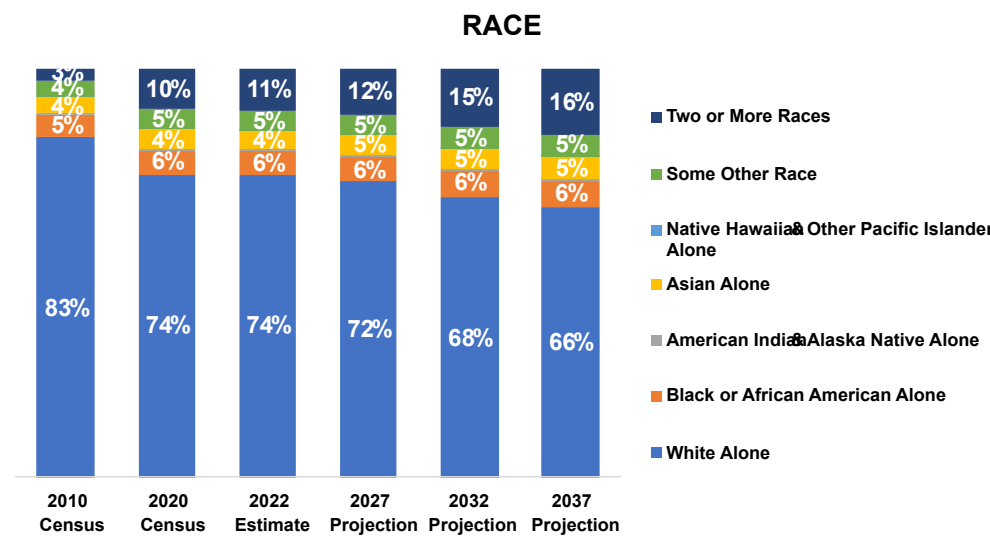


FIGURE 2.6 - Service Area's Population by Race

Ethnicity
The city's population was also assessed based on Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, which by the Census Bureau definition is viewed independently from race. It is important to note that individuals who are Hispanic/Latino in ethnicity can also identify with any racial categories identified above.

Based on the current 2022 estimate, people of Hispanic/Latino origin represent 12% of the City's population, which is below the national average (19% Hispanic/Latino). However, the Hispanic/Latino population has experienced a minor increase since the 2010 census and is expected to continue growing to 14% of the City's total population by 2037. *(See Figure 7)*

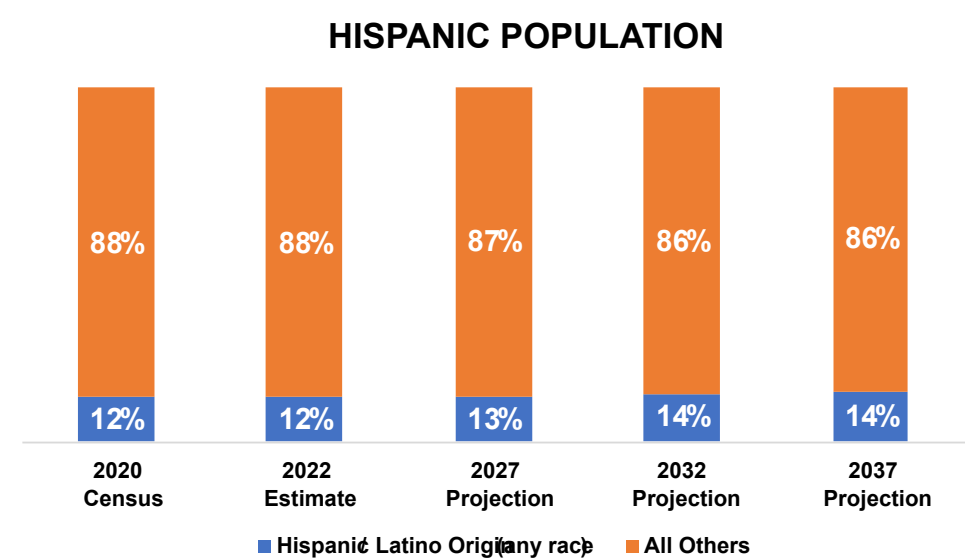


FIGURE 2.7 - Service Area's Hispanic Population

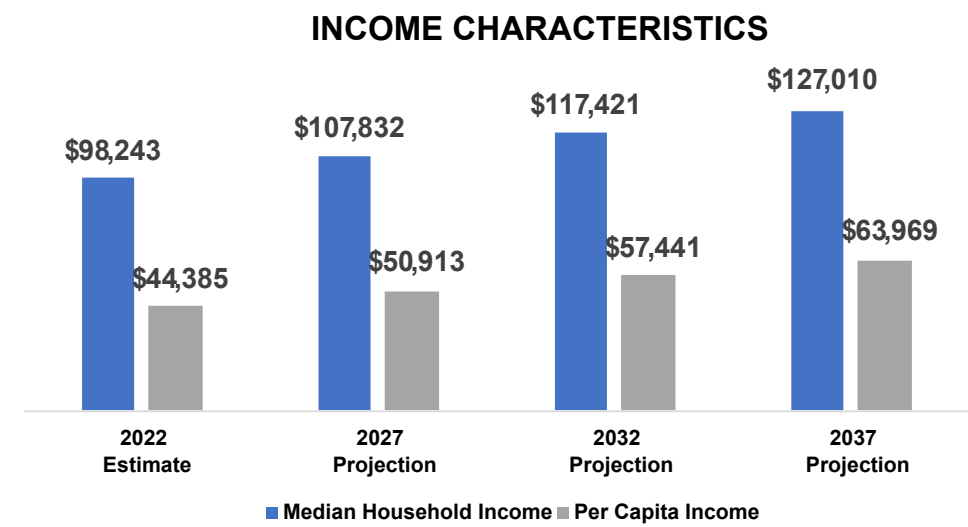


FIGURE 2.8 - Income Characteristics of Olathe, KS

Household Income
The City's per capita income (\$44,385), median household income (\$98,243) are both significantly higher than the state (\$32,798 and \$61,091) and national averages (\$35,672 and \$65,712). *(See Figures 8 and 9)* The per capita income is that earned by an individual while the median household income is based on the total income of everyone over the age of sixteen living within the same household. These above average income characteristics should be taken into consideration when Olathe Parks and Recreation is pricing out programs and calculating cost recovery goals.

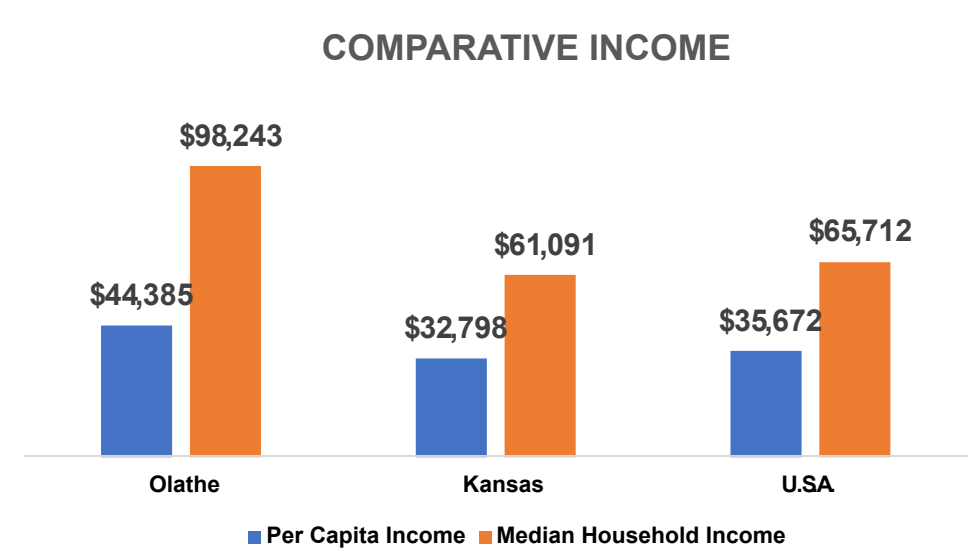


FIGURE 2.9 - Comparative Income Characteristics of Olathe, KS

Demographic Implications

While it is important not to generalize recreation needs and priorities based solely on demographics, the analysis suggests some potential implications for the City:

With the population exploding in the last twelve years, there may be an increased need for improvements. With the population expected to grow at a steadier rate in the near future, making changes now can ensure that the facilities are ready for the next generation. The City's stable young population indicates a need to focus on young adults and young families. Adding more athletic fields or family orientated parks would be beneficial to this segment that may attract other young families to settle down in Olathe. It may be important to plan improvements for the older population as well, as the community ages and looks for "Active Adult" recreational activities.

The City's above average median income and household income characteristics suggest potential disposable income at the family level. Parks and Recreation should be mindful of this when pricing out programs and events.

In comparison to the United States average (.74%), Olathe had a significantly high annual growth rate from 2020 to 2022 (1.27%). This new population growth will likely need to be taken into account when planning new amenities and offerings for the community. Finally, the City should ensure its growing and diversifying population is reflected in its offerings, marketing/communications, and public outreach.



FIGURE 2.10 - Public Event on the Lawn

2.3 RECREATIONAL TRENDS ANALYSIS

The Recreational Trends Analysis provides an understanding of national and local recreational trends. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trend data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

National Trends in Recreation

Methodology

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) Sports, Fitness & Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2022 was utilized in evaluating the following trends:

- National Recreation Participatory Trends
- Core vs. Casual Participation Trends

The study is based on findings from surveys conducted in 2021 by the Physical Activity Council (PAC), resulting in a total of 18,000 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population. A sample size of 18,000 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.32 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 304,745,039 people (ages six and older).

The purpose of the report is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S. This study looked at 118 different sports/activities and subdivided them into various categories including: sports, fitness, outdoor activities, aquatics, etc.

Core vs. Casual Participation

In addition to overall participation rates, SFIA further categorizes active participants as either core or casual participants based on frequency of participation. Core participants have higher participatory frequency than casual participants. The thresholds that define casual versus core participation may vary based on the nature of each individual activity. For instance, core participants engage in most fitness activities more than 50-times per year, while for sports, the threshold for core participation is typically 13-times per year.

In each activity, core participants are more committed and tend to be less likely to switch to other activities or become inactive (engage in no physical activity) than casual participants. This may also explain why activities with more core participants tend to experience less pattern shifts in participation rates than those with larger groups of casual participants.

Impact of COVID-19

Approximately 232.6 million people ages 6 and over reported being active in 2021, which is a 1.3% increase from 2020 and the greatest number of active Americans in the last 5 years. There were more things to do as outdoor activities thrived, fitness at home became more popular, and team sports started back up after the COVID-19 hiatus.

Americans continued to practice yoga, attend Pilates training, and workout with kettlebells. They were drawn to the ease of pickleball and the competitiveness of tennis. Many started at indoor climbing, while others took to the hiking trail. The waterways traffic had an increase of stand-up paddlers, kayaks, and jet skis. Gymnastics, swimming on a team, court volleyball, and fast-pitch softball benefited from the participation boom created from the Olympics.

Water sports had the largest gain in participation rates. Activities such as kayaking, stand-up paddling, and boardsailing/windsurfing all contributed to the 2.0 percent increase. Outdoor sports continued to grow with 53.9 percent of the U.S. population participating. This rate remains higher than pre-pandemic levels, having 6.2 percent gain over 50.7 percent participation rate in 2019. The largest contributor to this gain was trail running having increased 5.6 percent in one year and 13.9 percent from 2019. Generationally, fitness sports continue to be the go-to means of exercise for Boomers, Gen X, and Millennials. Over half of the Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z generation participated in one type of outdoor activity. Team sports were heavily dominated by generation Gen Z.

National Trends in General Sports

Participation Levels

The top sports most heavily participated in the United States were Basketball (27.1 million), Golf (25.1 million), and Tennis (22.6 million) which have participation figures well more than the other activities within the general sports category. Baseball (15.5 million), and Outdoor Soccer (12.5 million) round out the top five. The popularity of Basketball, Golf, and Tennis can be attributed to the ability to compete with small number of participants, this coupled with an ability to be played outdoors and/or properly distanced helps explain their popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basketball's overall success can also be attributed to the limited amount of equipment needed to participate and the limited space requirements necessary, which make basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at most American dwellings as a drive-way pickup game. Golf continues to benefit from its wide age segment appeal and is considered a life-long sport. In addition, target type game venues or Golf Entertainment Venues have increased drastically (72.3%) as a 5-year trend, using Golf Entertainment (e.g., Top Golf) as a new alternative to breathe life back into the game of golf.

Five-Year Trend

Since 2016, Pickleball (71.2%), Golf- Entertainment Venues (51.3%), and Tennis (25.1%) have shown the largest increase in participation. Similarly, Basketball (21.4%) and Boxing for Competition (20.7%) have also experienced significant growth. Based on the five-year national trend from 2016-2021, the sports that are most rapidly declining in participation include Ultimate Frisbee (-40.4%), Roller Hockey (-26.1%), Volleyball (Sand/Beach) (-23.8%), Squash (-23.5%), Slow Pitch Softball (-21.9%), and Gymnastics (-20.7%), albeit it is known that Slow Pitch Softball remains popular in the Kansas City region.

One-Year Trend

The most recent year shares some similarities with the five-year trends; with Pickleball (14.8%) and Boxing for Competition (7.3%) experiencing some of the greatest increases in participation this past year. The greatest one-year increases also include Fast Pitch Softball (15.3%), Gymnastics (10.9%), and Court Volleyball (8.1%). Basketball (-2.2%), Flag Football (-1.6%), Indoor Soccer (-0.6%) and Baseball (-0.5%) have shown a five-year trend increase, but a one-year trend decreases. This is a direct result of coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic. Similarly, other team sports such as Ultimate Frisbee (-5.8%), Slow Pitch Softball (-5.4%), Roller Hockey (-5%), Racquetball (-4.8%) and Beach/Sand Volleyball (-3.1%), also had significant decreases in participation over the last year.

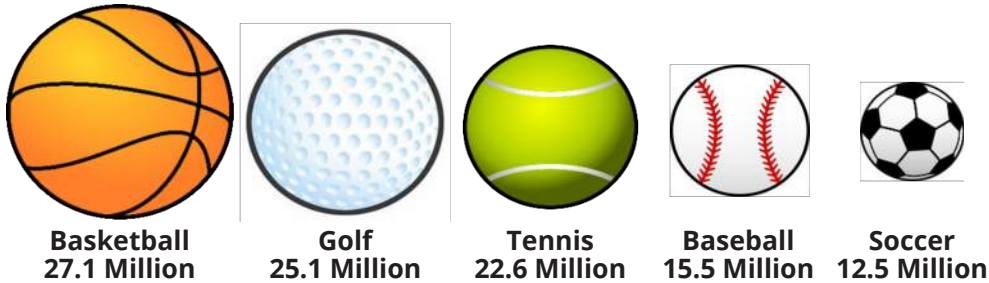


FIGURE 2.11 - National Sports Popularity Trends

Core vs. Casual Trends in General Sports

Highly participated in sports, such as Basketball, Baseball, and Slow Pitch Softball have a larger core participant base (participate 13+ times per year) than casual participant base (participate 1-12 times per year). Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, most activities showed a decrease in their percentage of core participants. However, there were significant increases in the percentage of casual participation for Court Volleyball, Pickleball, Fast Pitch Softball, Gymnastics and Lacrosse in the past year. (See Figure 10) Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - General Sports					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Basketball	22,343	27,753	27,135	21.4%	-2.2%
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	23,815	24,804	25,111	5.4%	1.2%
Tennis	18,079	21,642	22,617	25.1%	4.5%
Baseball	14,760	15,731	15,587	5.6%	-0.9%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,932	12,444	12,556	5.2%	0.9%
Golf (Entertainment Venue)	8,173	12,057	12,362	51.3%	2.5%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,690	6,349	6,008	-21.9%	-5.4%
Football (Flag)	6,173	7,001	6,889	11.6%	-1.6%
Volleyball (Court)	6,216	5,410	5,849	-5.9%	8.1%
Badminton	7,354	5,862	6,061	-17.6%	3.4%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,117	5,440	5,408	5.7%	-0.6%
Football (Touch)	5,686	4,846	4,884	-14.1%	0.8%
Football (Tackle)	5,481	5,054	5,228	-4.6%	3.4%
Gymnastics	5,381	3,848	4,268	-20.7%	10.9%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	5,489	4,320	4,184	-23.8%	-3.1%
Track and Field	4,116	3,636	3,587	-12.9%	-1.3%
Cheerleading	4,029	3,308	3,465	-14.0%	4.7%
Pickleball	2,815	4,199	4,819	71.2%	14.8%
Racquetball	3,579	3,426	3,260	-8.9%	-4.8%
Ice Hockey	2,697	2,270	2,306	-14.5%	1.6%
Ultimate Frisbee	3,673	2,325	2,190	-40.4%	-5.8%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,467	1,811	2,088	-15.4%	15.3%
Lacrosse	2,090	1,884	1,892	-9.5%	0.4%
Wrestling	1,922	1,931	1,937	0.8%	0.3%
Roller Hockey	1,929	1,500	1,425	-26.1%	-5.0%
Boxing for Competition	1,210	1,361	1,460	20.7%	7.3%
Rugby	1,550	1,242	1,238	-20.1%	-0.3%
Squash	1,549	1,163	1,185	-23.5%	1.9%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Legend: Large Increase (greater than 25%) Moderate Increase (0% to 25%) Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%) Large Decrease (less than -25%)					

FIGURE 2.12 - General Sports National Participation Trends

National Trends in General Fitness

Participation Levels

Overall, national participatory trends in fitness have experienced rapid growth in recent years. Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest among Americans to improve their health and enhance quality of life by engaging in an active lifestyle. The most popular general fitness activities in 2021 also were those that could be done at home or in a virtual class environment. The activities with the most participation was Fitness Walking (115.8 million), Treadmill (53.6 million), Free Weights (52.6 million), Running/Jogging (48.9 million), and Yoga (34.3 million).

Five-Year Trend

Over the last five years (2016-2021), the activities growing at the highest rate are Trail Running (45.9%), Yoga (30.8%), Dance, Step & Choreographed Exercise (13.3%), and Pilates Training (9.6%). Over the same period, the activities that have undergone the biggest decline include Group Stationary Cycling (-33.5%), Traditional Triathlon (26.4%), Cardio Kickboxing (-26.1%), Cross-Training Style Workout (-24.4%) and Non-Traditional Triathlons (-23.5%).

One-Year Trend

In the last year, activities with the largest gains in participation were those that can be done alone at home or socially distanced outdoors. The top increases were in Treadmill (7.6%), Cross-Training Style Workouts (6.4%) Trail Running (5.6%), Yoga (4.7%), and Stair Climbing (4.7%). In the same span, the activities that had the largest decline in participation were those that would take more time and investment. The greatest drops were seen in Traditional Triathlon (-5.3%), Aerobics (-5.1%), Non-Traditional Triathlons (-4.3%), and Cardio Kickboxing (-3.7%).



FITNESS WALKING
115.8 Million



TREADMILL
53.6 Million



DUMBELL FREE WEIGHTS
52.6 Million



RUNNING / JOGGING
52.6 Million



STATIONARY CYCLING
52.6 Million

Core vs. Casual trends in general fitness

The most participated in fitness activities all had increases in their casual user's base (participating 1-49 times per year) over the last year. These fitness activities include Fitness Walking, Free Weights, Running/Jogging, Treadmills, Yoga, and Recumbent/Upright Stationary Cycling. Please see **Appendix A** for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Fitness Walking	107,895	114,044	115,814	7.3%	1.6%
Treadmill	51,872	49,832	53,627	3.4%	7.6%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	51,513	53,256	52,636	2.2%	-1.2%
Running/Jogging	47,384	50,652	48,977	3.4%	-3.3%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	36,118	31,287	32,453	-10.1%	3.7%
Weight/Resistant Machines	35,768	30,651	30,577	-14.5%	-0.2%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	32,218	27,920	27,618	-14.3%	-1.1%
Yoga	26,268	32,808	34,347	30.8%	4.7%
Free Weights (Barbells)	26,473	28,790	28,243	6.7%	-1.9%
Dance, Step, & Choreographed Exercise	21,839	25,160	24,752	13.3%	-1.6%
Bodyweight Exercise	25,110	22,845	22,629	-9.9%	-0.9%
Aerobics (High Impact/Intensity Training HIIT)	10,575	10,954	10,400	-1.7%	-5.1%
Stair Climbing Machine	15,079	11,261	11,786	-21.8%	4.7%
Cross-Training Style Workout	12,914	9,179	9,764	-24.4%	6.4%
Trail Running	8,582	11,854	12,520	45.9%	5.6%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	8,937	6,054	5,939	-33.5%	-1.9%
Pilates Training	8,893	9,905	9,745	9.6%	-1.6%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,899	5,295	5,099	-26.1%	-3.7%
Boot Camp Style Cross-Training	6,583	4,969	5,169	-21.5%	4.0%
Martial Arts	5,745	6,064	6,186	7.7%	2.0%
Boxing for Fitness	5,175	5,230	5,237	1.2%	0.1%
Tai Chi	3,706	3,300	3,393	-8.4%	2.8%
Barre	3,329	3,579	3,659	9.9%	2.2%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,374	1,846	1,748	-26.4%	-5.3%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,705	1,363	1,304	-23.5%	-4.3%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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FIGURE 2.13 - General Fitness National Participatory Trends

National Trends in Outdoor Recreation

Participation Levels

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate rapid growth in participation regarding outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Much like the general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually or with proper social distancing in a group, and are not as limited by time constraints. In 2021, the most popular activities, in terms of total participants, from the outdoor/adventure recreation category include: Day Hiking (57.8 million), Road Bicycling (44.5 million), Freshwater Fishing (42.6 million), Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (36.1 million), and Recreational Vehicle Camping (17.8 million).



HIKING (DAY)
58.6 Million



BICYCLING (ROAD)
42.7 Million



FISHING (FRESHWATER)
40.8 Million



CAMPING (<1/4 MI. OF CAR/HOME)
35.9 Million



CAMPING (RECREATIONAL VEHICLE)
16.3 Million

Five-Year Trend

From 2016-2021, Day Hiking (55.3%), BMX Bicycling (44.2%), Skateboarding (37.8%), Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (30.1%), and Fly Fishing (27.3%) have undergone the largest increases in participation. The five-year trend also shows activities such as Adventure Racing (-31.4%), In-Line Roller Skating (-18.8%), Archery (-13.5%), and Traditional Climbing (-4.5%) to be the only activities with decreases in participation.

One-Year Trend

The one-year trend shows all activities growing in participation from the previous year. The most rapid growth being in Skateboarding (34.2%), Camping within ¼ mile of Vehicle/Home (28.0%), Birdwatching (18.8%), and Day Hiking (16.3%). Over the last year, the only activities that underwent decreases in participation were Adventure Racing (-8.3%) and Archery (-2.7%).

Core vs. Casual trends in general fitness

Most outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five- years. Although this a positive trend, it should be noted that all outdoor activities participation, besides adventure racing, consist primarily of casual users. Please see Appendix A for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown. Most outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five- years. Although this a positive trend, it should be noted that all outdoor activities participation, besides adventure racing, consist primarily of casual users. *Please see **Appendix A** for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Hiking (Day)	42,128	57,808	58,697	39.3%	1.5%
Bicycling (Road)	38,365	44,471	42,775	11.5%	-3.8%
Fishing (Freshwater)	38,121	42,556	40,853	7.2%	-4.0%
Camping (< 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	26,467	36,082	35,985	36.0%	-0.3%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	15,855	17,825	16,371	3.3%	-8.2%
Fishing (Saltwater)	12,266	14,527	13,790	12.4%	-5.1%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	11,589	15,228	14,815	27.8%	-2.7%
Backpacking Overnight	10,151	10,746	10,306	1.5%	-4.1%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,615	8,998	8,693	0.9%	-3.4%
Archery	7,903	7,249	7,342	-7.1%	1.3%
Fishing (Fly)	6,456	7,753	7,458	15.5%	-3.8%
Skateboarding	6,442	8,872	8,747	35.8%	-1.4%
Climbing (Indoor)	-	5,535	5,684	N/A	2.7%
Roller Skating, In-Line	5,381	4,892	4,940	-8.2%	1.0%
Bicycling (BMX)	3,104	3,880	3,861	24.4%	-0.5%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,790	2,456	2,374	-14.9%	-3.3%
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	-	2,290	2,301	N/A	0.5%
Adventure Racing	2,999	1,966	1,826	-33.1%	-7.1%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	

FIGURE 2.14 - Outdoor/Adventure Recreation National Participatory Trends



SWIMMING (FITNESS)
25.6 Million



AQUATIC EXERCISE
10.4 Million



SWIMMING (COMPETITIVE)
52.6 Million

National Participatory Trends - Aquatics					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Swimming (Fitness)	26,601	25,666	25,620	-3.7%	-0.2%
Aquatic Exercise	10,575	10,954	10,400	-1.7%	-5.1%
Swimming (Competition)	3,369	2,615	2,824	-16.2%	8.0%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	

FIGURE 2.15 - Aquatics National Participatory Trends

National Trends in Aquatics

Participation Levels

Swimming is deemed as a lifetime activity, which is why it continues to have such strong participation. In 2021, Fitness Swimming remained the overall leader in participation (25.6 million) amongst aquatic activities, even though most, if not all, aquatic facilities were forced to close at some point due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Five-Year Trend

Assessing the five-year trend, no activity has experienced an increase from 2016-2021, due to the accessibility of facilities during Covid-19. While Fitness Swimming and Aquatic Exercise underwent a slight decline, dropping -3.7% and -1.7% respectively, Competitive Swimming suffered a -16.2% decline in participation.

One-Year Trend

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is seen here as most aquatic facilities were forced to shut down for some part of the year. This caused decreases to Aquatic Exercise (-5.1%) having the largest decline, followed by Fitness Swimming (-0.2%). Participation in Competitive swimming increased by 8%.

Core vs. Casual trends in general fitness

Only Aquatic Exercise has undergone an increase in casual participation (1-49 times per year) over the last five years, however, they have all seem a drop in core participation (50+ times per year) in the same time frame. This was happening before the COVID-19 pandemic, and the large decreases in all participation over the last year have furthered this trend. *Please see **Appendix A** for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.*

National Trends in Water Sports / Activities

Participation Levels

The most popular water sports / activities based on total participants in 2021 were Recreational Kayaking (13.3 million), Canoeing (9.2 million), and Snorkeling (7.3 million). It should be noted that water activity participation tends to vary based on regional, seasonal, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation rate in water activities than a region that has a long winter season or limited water access. Therefore, when assessing trends in water sports and activities, it is important to understand that fluctuations may be the result of environmental barriers which can influence water activity participation.

Five-Year Trend

Over the last five years, Recreational Kayaking (33.3%), Surfing (24%), and Stand-Up Paddling (16.1%) were the fastest growing water activities. White Water Kayaking (1.4%) was the only other activity with an increase in participation. From 2016-2021, activities declining in participation most rapidly were Boardsailing/Windsurfing (-25.3%), Scuba Diving (-20.4%), Water Skiing (-17.4%), Sea Kayaking (-17.2%) Snorkeling (-16.1%), and Sailing (-15.4%).

One-Year Trend

Recreational Kayaking (2.7%) and Stand-Up Paddling (1.7%) were the activities to grow both over 5 years and in the last one year. Activities which experienced the largest decreases in participation in the most recent year include Surfing (-8.9%), Snorkeling (-5.3%), Scuba Diving (-4.3%), and Canoeing (-4.1%).



KAYAKING
13.3 Million



CANOEING
9.2 Million



SNORKELING
7.3 Million



JET SKIING
5.1 Million



SAILING
3.5 Million

Core vs. Casual trends in general fitness

As mentioned previously, regional, seasonal, and environmental limiting factors may influence the participation rate of water sport and activities. These factors may also explain why all water-based activities have drastically more casual participants than core participants, since frequencies of activities may be constrained by uncontrollable factors. These high causal user numbers are likely why most water sports/activities have experienced decreases in participation in recent years. Please see **Appendix A** for full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2016	2020	2021	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Kayaking (Recreational)	10,017	13,002	13,351	33.3%	2.7%
Canoeing	10,046	9,595	9,199	-8.4%	-4.1%
Snorkeling	8,717	7,729	7,316	-16.1%	-5.3%
Jet Skiing	5,783	4,900	5,062	-12.5%	3.3%
Sailing	4,095	3,486	3,463	-15.4%	-0.7%
Stand-Up Paddling	3,220	3,675	3,739	16.1%	1.7%
Rafting	3,428	3,474	3,383	-1.3%	-2.6%
Water Skiing	3,700	3,050	3,058	-17.4%	0.3%
Surfing	2,793	3,800	3,463	24.0%	-8.9%
Wakeboarding	2,912	2,754	2,674	-8.2%	-2.9%
Scuba Diving	3,111	2,588	2,476	-20.4%	-4.3%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	3,124	2,508	2,587	-17.2%	3.1%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,552	2,605	2,587	1.4%	-0.7%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,737	1,268	1,297	-25.3%	2.3%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Legend:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	

FIGURE 2.16 - Water Sports/activities National Participatory Trends

Local Sport and Leisure Market Potential

Local Sport and Leisure Market Potential

The following charts show sport and leisure market potential data for Olathe residents, as provided by ESRI. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the probable demand for a product or service within the defined service areas. The MPI shows the likelihood that an adult resident will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national average. The national average is 100; therefore, numbers below 100 would represent lower than average participation rates, and numbers above 100 would represent higher than average participation rates. The service area is compared to the national average in four (4) categories – general sports, fitness, outdoor activity, and commercial recreation.

It should be noted that MPI metrics are only one data point used to help determine community trends; thus, programmatic decisions should not be based solely on MPI metrics.

Overall, when analyzing the City's MPIs, the data demonstrates well above average market potential index (MPI) numbers. When assessing each category market potential charts, all but one activity scored above 100. These above average MPI scores show that the City's residents have a strong participation presence when it comes to recreational offerings, especially pertaining to fitness and commercial recreation. This becomes significant when the Department considers starting up recent programs or building new facilities, giving them a strong tool to estimate resident attendance and participation.

The following charts compare MPI scores for 45 sport and leisure activities that are prevalent for residents within the City. The activities are categorized by activity type and listed in descending order, from highest to lowest MPI score. High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate that there is a greater likelihood that residents within the service area will actively participate in those offerings provided by the Department.

General Sports Market Potential

The General Sports chart shows that all the recorded sports are above the national average regarding MPI. The highest scores belong to Tennis (129), Volleyball (124), and Golf (120). Olathe's General Sports scores are relatively high, with all but one sport (softball) being above the national average. (See Figure 17)

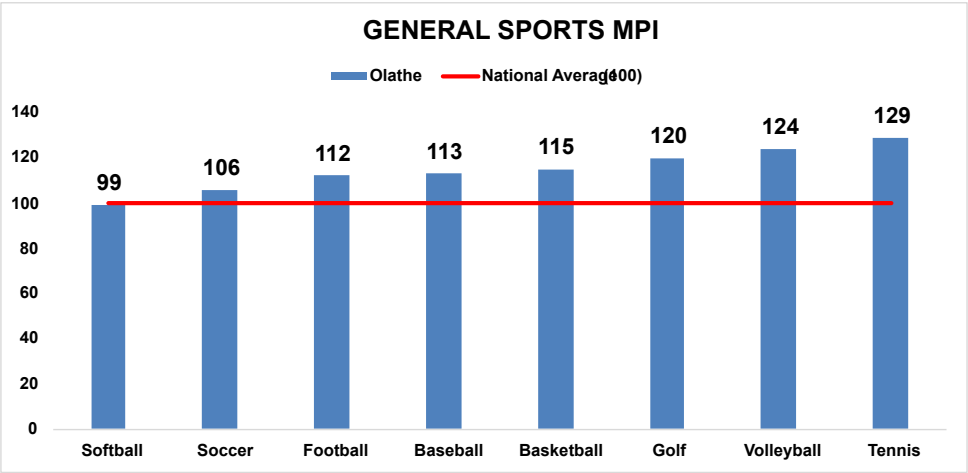


FIGURE 2.17 - General Sports MPI for Olathe, KS

Fitness Market Potential

Assessing MPI scores for the Fitness Activity category reveals that all activities are well above the national average. The most popular activities are Weightlifting (122), Jogging/Running (122), Zumba (122), and Swimming (120). The lowest scoring activity (Walking for Exercise with 107) was still above the national average (100). (See Figure 18)

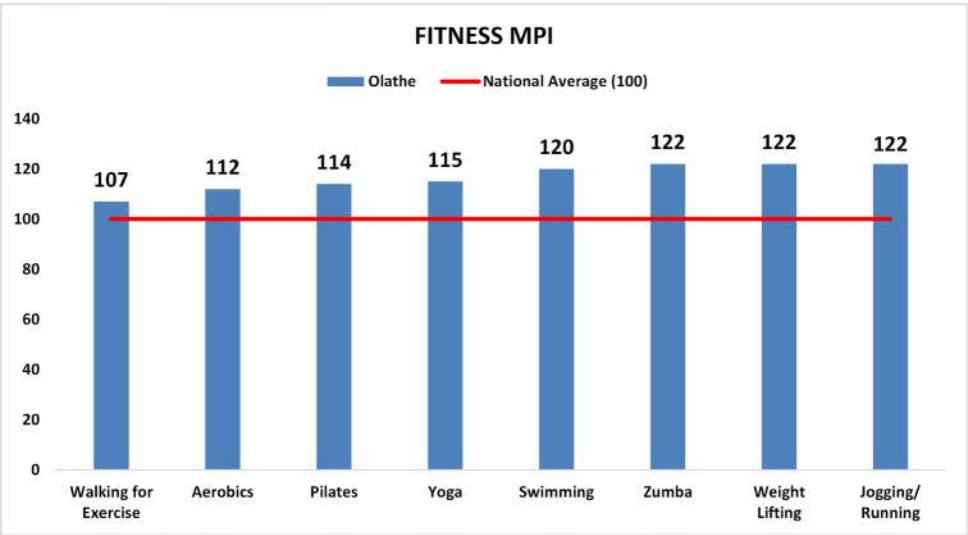


FIGURE 2.18 - Fitness MPI for Olathe, KS

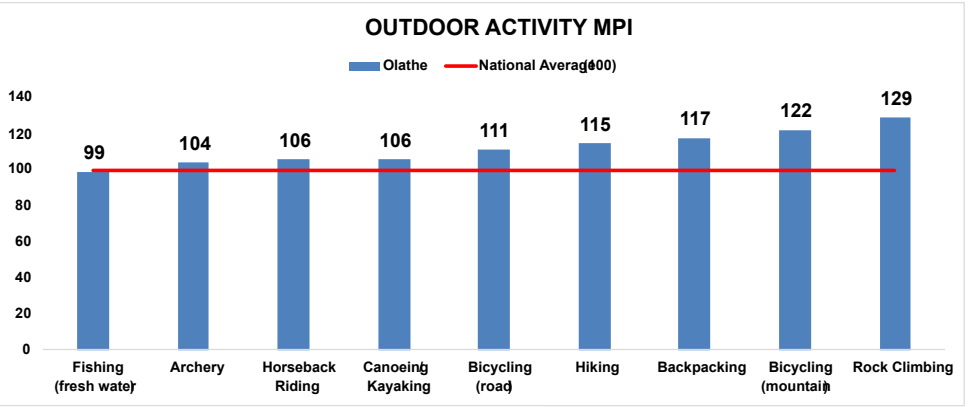


FIGURE 2.19 - Outdoor Activity MPI for Olathe, KS

Outdoor Activity Market Potential

Overall, the Outdoor Activity MPI chart reflects that the City is above the national average in all activities recorded besides Fresh Water Fishing (99). The most popular activities are Rock Climbing (129), Mountain Biking (122), Backpacking (117), and Hiking (115). (See Figure 19)

ASSESSING MPI SCORES FOR THE FITNESS ACTIVITY CATEGORY REVEALS THAT ALL ACTIVITIES ARE WELL ABOVE THE NATIONAL AVERAGE



FIGURE 2.20 - Cyclists

Commercial Recreation Market Potential

The Commercial Recreation category reveals that all the recorded activities are above the national average. The most popular activity in the service area was Visited an indoor water park at 126. Overall, the type of activities that are popular in Olathe are fairly diverse; some artistic activities have high ratings along with more active, sports-like activities. These activities could signal a potential target area for new facilities, funding, or programs. (See Figure 17)

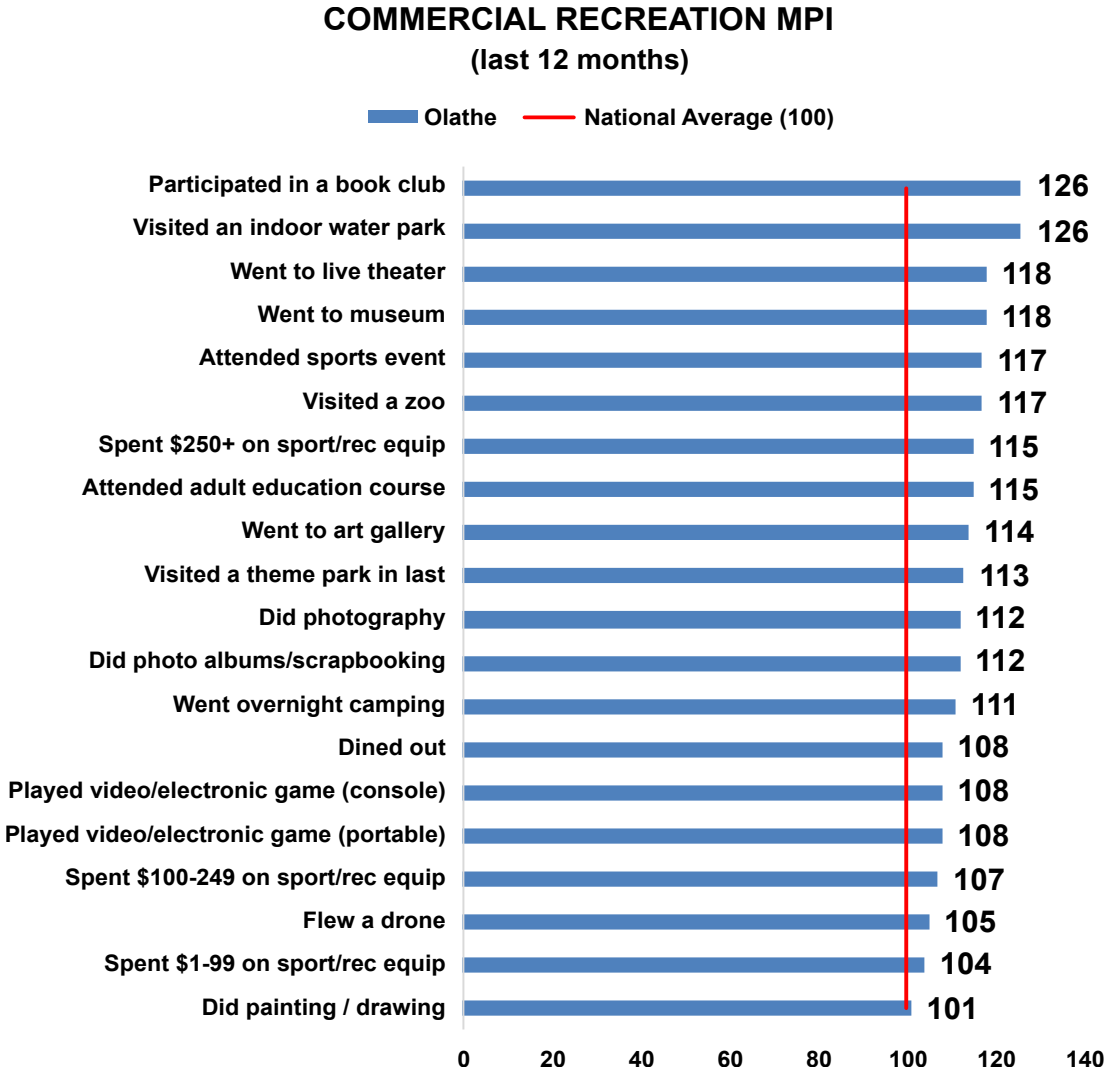


FIGURE 2.21 - Commercial Recreation MPI for Olathe, KS





03

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
PROCESS AND RESULTS

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The Master Plan has included a robust public engagement process to inventory the current conditions of the system and to help determine the needs and priorities for the future. The planning process incorporated a variety of input from the community. This included a series of key stakeholder interviews and focus group discussions, public forums, event participant intercept surveys, a community advisory group, and a statistically valid survey. Details on specific strategies included the following outreach methods:

- Conducted 12 Community Focus Groups and Stakeholder Interviews
- Three (3) public forums
- Statistically-Valid Survey
 - Goal was 400, received 480 responses
 - Mailed to 3,000 households
 - Precision of +/- 4.5% at the 95% level of confidence
 - Residents were able to return the survey by mail, by phone or completing it online
- Community Online Survey
 - Over 800 responses
 - Open for eight weeks (September-November 2022)

The following sections in this chapter summarize and highlight the key findings from each stage of the community engagement process.

3.2 QUALITATIVE COMMUNITY INPUT SUMMARY

As part of the Master Plan, a thorough and robust process of collecting qualitative input from the community began at the very start of the project. This included key stakeholder interviews and focus groups conducted from June 2022 through August 2022 to provide a foundation for identifying community issues and key themes, as well as public meetings that had diverse attendance. All of these aspects of community engagement provide valuable insight and assisted in the development of question topics that were beneficial for the statistically valid and community surveys. A series of questions that spurred conversation and follow up questions were asked when appropriate. Invited stakeholders were identified by City staff and included representatives from the following entities:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| • Mayor and City Council Member | • Athletic & Sports Organizations |
| • City Manager's Office | • Johnson County Parks & Rec |
| • City Staff | • Adaptive Recreation Groups |
| • Public School Districts | • Special Interest Groups |
| • Neighborhood Groups | • Arts and Culture Groups |

After speaking with many stakeholders and interest groups, it is apparent the community pride in the park system and what can be accomplished with coordinated efforts and allocated resources.



Maintained as a high-quality parks and recreation system.
Amenity replacement at end of lifecycle.
Overall cleanliness.

Accessible because capacity meets demand.
Accessible by inclusive design.



Best in class facilities.
Creative programming that meets current and emerging needs.
Expanding recreation to include arts, culture and technology.

Parks and trails that connects the community.
Programs and events that brings the community together.



Meets diverse recreational needs and interests of community members.
Supports healthy lifestyles.
Enriches neighborhoods and sectors of the city.
Promotes further community and economic development.

Vision for the Parks and Recreation System

Community members and leaders expressed a strong vision for parks and recreation in Olathe in this Master Plan as identified in the public engagement process. That vision is summarized to the left.



FIGURE 3.1 - Pond

Community members and leaders expressed a strong vision for parks and recreation in Olathe

Residents Value Most

Residents understand that the park system contributes to the overall quality of life, and they value the size and scope of the park system and the investment the City has made in parks. The graphic below depicts responses from members of the public when asked what are the things they value most about parks and recreation in Olathe. In this word cloud, the more frequently something was mentioned the larger the word became.



FIGURE 3.2 - Resident's Values

Challenges

There were a variety of challenges expressed by community leaders, key stakeholders, and community members at large. These are summarized categorically below in the areas of **Facility Maintenance, Meeting Community Needs, and Organizational Capacity.**



Taking care of what we have
Preparedness for lifecycle costs



Highly diversified and growing community
Equitable investment across the community



Staffing and resources for the future

PRIMARY AMENITY NEEDS
Restrooms Paved and unpaved trails Additional versatile sport courts Farmers market Splashpads and neighborhood amenities
PRIMARY PROGRAM NEEDS
Arts and culture programming Continued high-quality community events Youth engagement programs Non-traditional leisure activities Adult fitness and wellness programs

FIGURE 3.2 - Resident's Values

Primary Park and Recreation Amenity and Program Needs

Residents expressed a strong desire for additional trail connectivity throughout the community that can improve recreational opportunities and improve overall walkability of Olathe. Beyond trails and connectivity, the most prevalent amenities and program needs discovered in the qualitative public engagement were:

Vision for the Parks and Recreation System

Participants were asked their top priorities of the Master Plan. These priorities are listed below not in priority order:

- Complete the development of Cedar Lake Park
- Expanding the trail system throughout the community
- Multi-purpose indoor spaces
- Fieldhouse
- Pickleball courts
- Splash pads
- Maker space
- Farmers market
- Updated softball complex
- Sports fields with versatile and inclusive design
- Expanded usability / availability of existing sports fields
- Addressing issues with existing pools
- Integrating technology into existing parks (wi-fi, etc.)
- E-sports and other technology based programs
- Arts and culture programs / facilities
- Access to nature areas and green spaces
- More shade infrastructure
- Addressing deteriorating restrooms and playgrounds
- Outdoor event spaces
- Unprogrammed open spaces
- Inclusive design of recreation and park sites and amenities
- Improved communication and engagement of youth audiences
- Improved communication and engagement of culturally and ethnically diverse communities
- Improved programming for teens

3.3 STATISTICALLY-VALID
NEEDS ASSESSMENT SURVEY

ETC Institute administered a community interest and needs assessment survey in summer months of 2022 as part of the Master Plan. Information gathered from the assessment survey is intended to help determine priorities which then leaders can use to make decisions that will meet community and resident needs.

Residents Value Most

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Olathe. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at OlatheParksSurvey.org.

After the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute followed up by sending text messages and mailing postcards to encourage participation. The text messages and postcards contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it easy for residents to complete the survey. To prevent people who were not residents of the City of Olathe from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not

included in the final database for this report. A total of 480 households participated in the survey. The overall results for the sample of 480 households have a precision of at least +/- 4.5 at the 95% level of confidence.

This report contains the following:

- Charts showing the overall results of the survey (Section 2)
- Priority Investment Rating (PIR) that identifies priorities for facilities and programs (Section 3)
- Benchmarks that compare Olathe results with National Averages (Section 4)
- Importance-Satisfaction Analysis that examines Parks and Recreation (Section 5)
- Tabular data showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 6)
- Responses to open-ended questions (Section 7)
- A copy of the survey instrument (Section 8)

The major findings of the survey are summarized on the following pages.

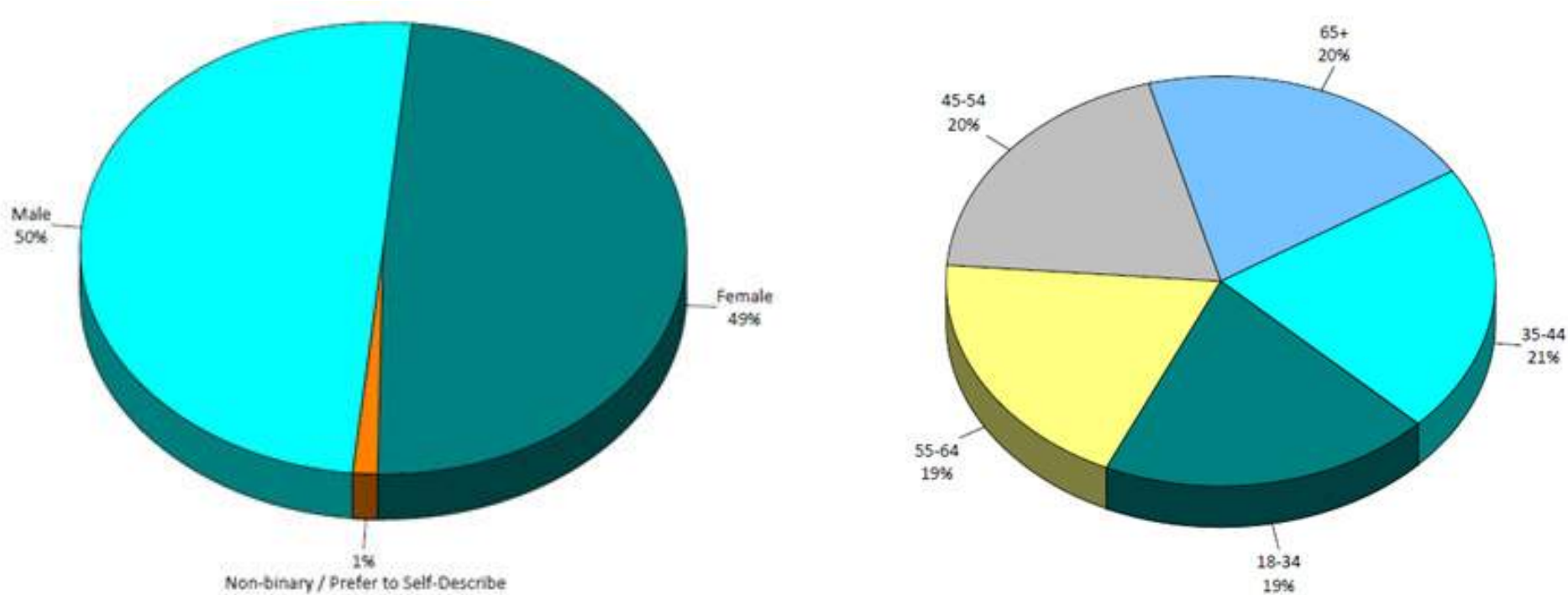


FIGURE 3.3 - Respondent's Gender

FIGURE 3.4 - Respondent's Age

Profile of Survey Respondents

As noted on the previous page, 480 households in Olathe responded to the survey. These surveys were randomly mailed throughout the community. Based on the self-identified demographics of the respondents, they are representative of the Olathe community at large.

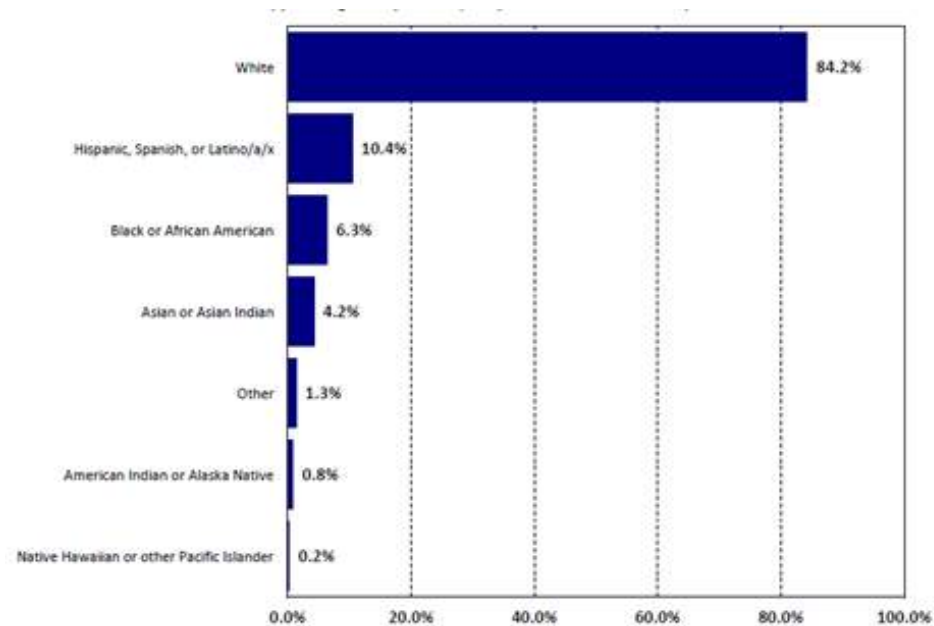


FIGURE 3.5 - Respondent's Race / Ethnicity

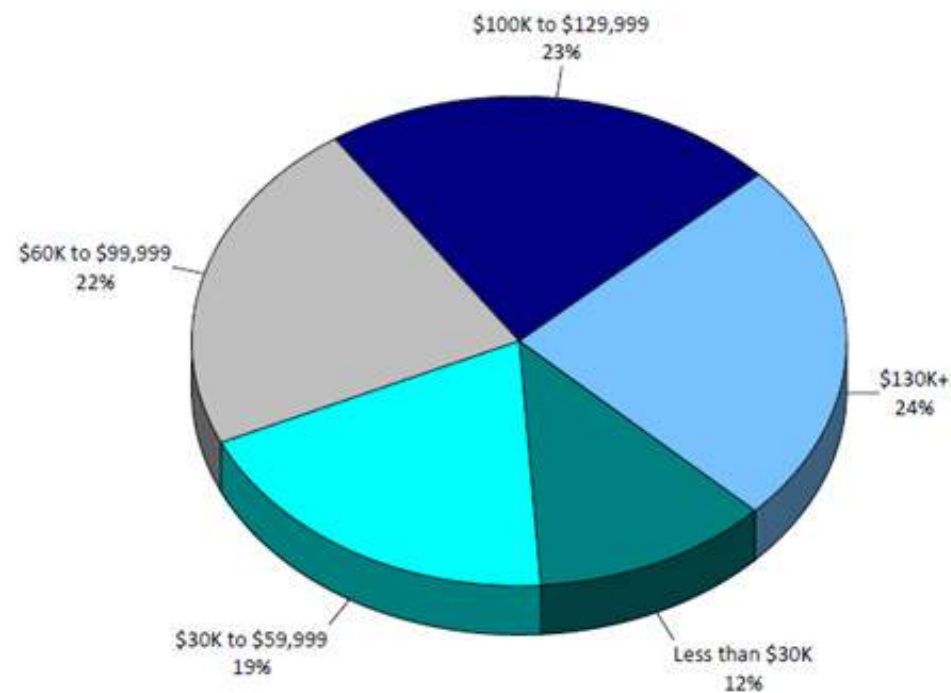


FIGURE 3.6 - Respondent's Annual Household Income

Residents Value Most

Use of Parks

Respondents were asked to indicate if their household had used any of the 19 listed Olathe parks in the past year. The highest number of respondents (58%) had used Lake Olathe Park followed by Black Bob Park (49%) and the Olathe Community Center (46%).

Rating Condition of Parks

Those respondents were then asked to rate the condition of the parks. The parks that rated highest (either "excellent" or "good") were the Olathe Community Center (98%), Lake Olathe Park (96%), Mahaffie Stage Coach Stop & Farm (96%), and Stagecoach Park (96%). Each of the parks also received mostly excellent or good ratings from respondents.

Barriers to Use

The top reason respondents did not utilize Olathe parks and recreation facilities more often is because of lack of time (44%). Respondents were then asked to select all of the outside organizations they have used for recreation and sports activities in the last two years: Johnson County parks (55%), places of worship (28%), and Olathe public schools (26%) were selected most often. Respondents most often learn about Olathe park amenities, events, and programs via the parks and recreation activity guide (66%), word of mouth (55%), and social media (43%). Respondents were then asked to select the three communication methods they most preferred. These items were selected most often:

- Parks and Recreation Activity Guide (64%)
- Social Media (49%)
- City Website (41%)

Satisfaction/Importance with Aspects of Parks and Facilities

Respondents were asked to rate their level of satisfaction with 15 aspects of parks and facilities. Respondents were most satisfied (either very satisfied or satisfied) with the maintenance of parks/facilities (84%), amount of greenspace (84%), the amount of developed parkland (74%), and the availability of information about programs and facilities (74%). Respondents were asked to select the three services they think the city should focus on most in the next five years. These were the three aspects selected most often: maintenance of parks/facilities (48%), connectivity of trails and pathways (32%), and quality/number of outdoor amenities (28%).

Participation in Events

Respondents were asked to indicate if anyone in their household had participated in any of the ten listed parks and recreation events in the past two years. The highest number of respondents (65%) had been to the farmer's market. Most respondents (93%) rated the events as either good (53%) or excellent (40%).

Value vs Funding

Perception of Value

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of satisfaction regarding the overall value they receive from Olathe parks. Most respondents said they were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied (82%). Then respondents were asked to reflect upon whether the Covid-19 Pandemic changed their household's perception of the value of parks and recreation. The highest number of respondents (39%) said there was a significant increase in their perception of value, 35% said there was no change, and 23% said it somewhat increased.

Amount of Funding Based on Value Perception

Respondents were asked to reflect on how they feel the City should fund parks, recreation, trails, and open spaces given their perception of the value. Forty-nine percent (49%) felt that funding should increase, 39% felt it should stay the same, 9% were not sure, and 3% wanted to reduce funding.

Support for Improvements

Rating Level of Support

Respondents were asked rate their level of support for 22 potential improvement actions by the City of Olathe. Respondents most supported (selecting "very supportive" or "somewhat supportive") developing additional trails and connectivity of trails (78%), improving upon the existing trail system (78%), and improving existing parks in general (77%).

Improvement Funding

Respondents were asked to select the top four potential improvement actions they would be most willing to fund. These are the top four items chosen by respondents:

- Develop additional trails & connectivity of trails (36%)
- Add more trees/shade structures to parks (32%)
- Improve existing trail systems (29%)
- Improve existing park restrooms (27%).

City Libraries Use

Frequency of Use

Respondents were asked to indicate how often they used the downtown library and the Indian Creek library in the past year. More respondents visited the Indian Creek library (66%) with 27% using it either monthly or yearly and 13% daily. Sixty-six percent (66%) of respondents had used the Downtown Library, with 26% visiting yearly and 15% visiting monthly.

Communication Methods

Respondents were asked to select all the ways their household learns about library events and programs. The highest number of respondents (38%) use Olathe library.org followed by word of mouth (27%), and Olatheks.org.

Use of Library Services, Programs, and Amenities

Respondents were asked to indicate if they had used an amenity, were aware of an amenity but have not used, or were unaware of the offering. These are the three most used amenities by category.

Library Services:

- Interlibrary loan (37%)
- Library App (36%)
- Offsite return boxes (33%)

Library Programs/Events:

- Friends of the Library Book Sales (23%)
- Summer reading program (20%)
- Live at the library (10%)

Library Amenities:

- Indian creek park/playground (22%)
- Café (21%)
- Friends of the Library Book Store (17%)

Most Important Library Roles and Services

Respondents were asked to select the three library roles and services most important to their household. These items were selected most often:

- Support education & literacy for children and adults (44%)
- Provide quiet places for reading and individual study (43%)
- Provide resources for reading/listening/viewing (38%)

Barriers to Library Use

Respondents were asked to select all the reasons their household had not used library programs (or did not use more often) in the past year. Lack of time (40%), not knowing what is offered (33%), and lack of interest (23%) were the most common barriers to use. Respondents were asked to select the times most convenient to their household to attend library programs. The highest number of respondents (39%) selected weekday evenings followed by Saturday mornings (33%) and Saturday afternoons (32%).



Parks and Recreation Facilities and Amenities Needs and Priorities

Facility/Amenity Needs

Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 33 parks and recreation facilities/amenities and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities/amenities.

The three parks and recreation facilities/amenities with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need:

- 1. Restrooms – 15,720 households
- 2. Outdoor adventure park – 13,245 households
- 3. Water access – 11,895 households

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 33 parks and recreation center amenities assessed is shown in the chart below.

Q9c. Estimated Number of Households Whose Facility/ Amenity Need Is Met 50% or Less

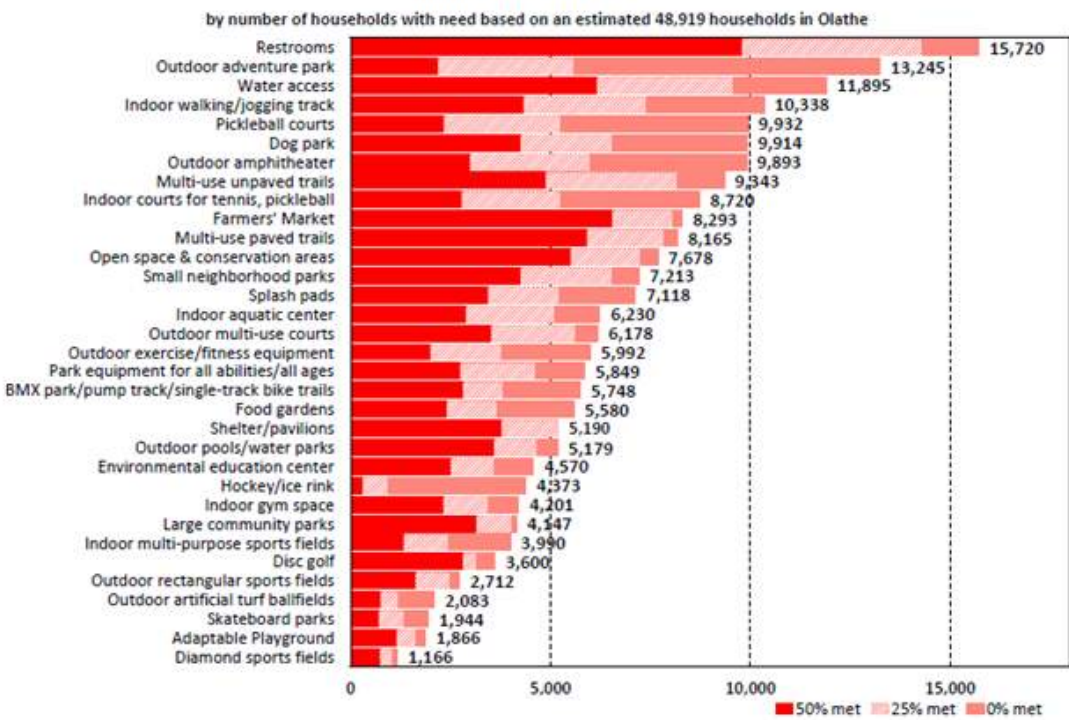


FIGURE 3.9 - Question 9c Results

Q10. Most Important Facility/Amenity to Households

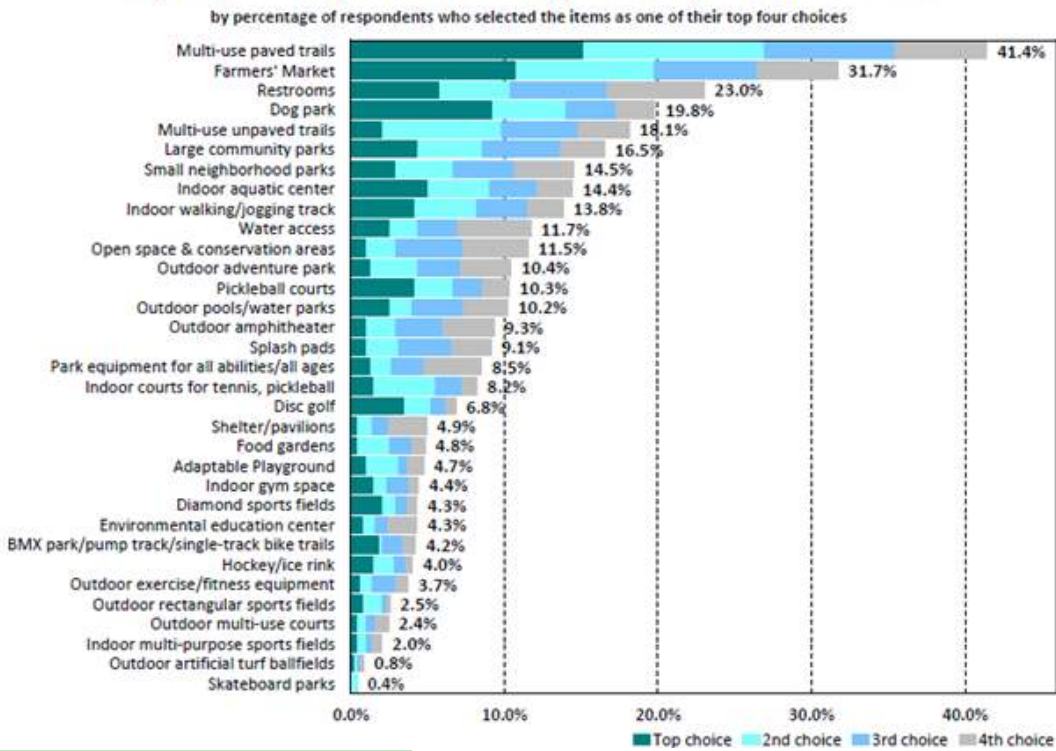


FIGURE 3.10 - Question 10 Results

Facilities and Amenities Importance

In addition to assessing the needs for each Parks and Recreation facility and amenity, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, these were the four ranked most important to residents:

- 1. Multi-use paved trails (41%)
- 2. Farmer’s market (32%)
- 3. Restrooms (23%)
- 4. Dog park (20%)

The percentage of residents who selected each facility/amenity as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

Priorities for Facility Investments

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on amenities and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the amenity. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of the survey findings report.]

Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following parks and recreation facilities/amenities were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Restrooms (PIR= 156)
- Multi-use paved trails (PIR= 152)
- Farmer’s Market (PIR= 129)
- Dog park (PIR=111)
- Outdoor adventure park (PIR=109)
- Water access (PIR=104)
- Multi-use unpaved trails (PIR=103)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 33 recreation facilities assessed on the survey.

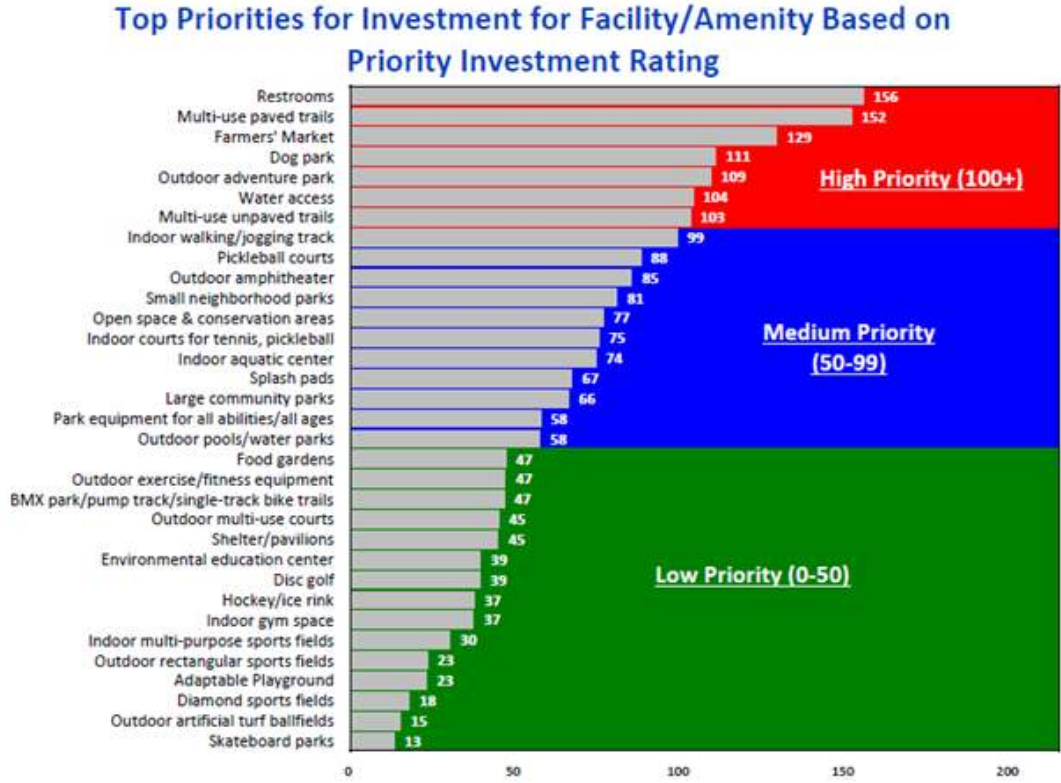


FIGURE 3.11 - Top Priority for Investment for Facility/Amenity

Q11c. Estimated Number of Households in Olathe Whose Recreation Program Needs Are Met 50% or Less

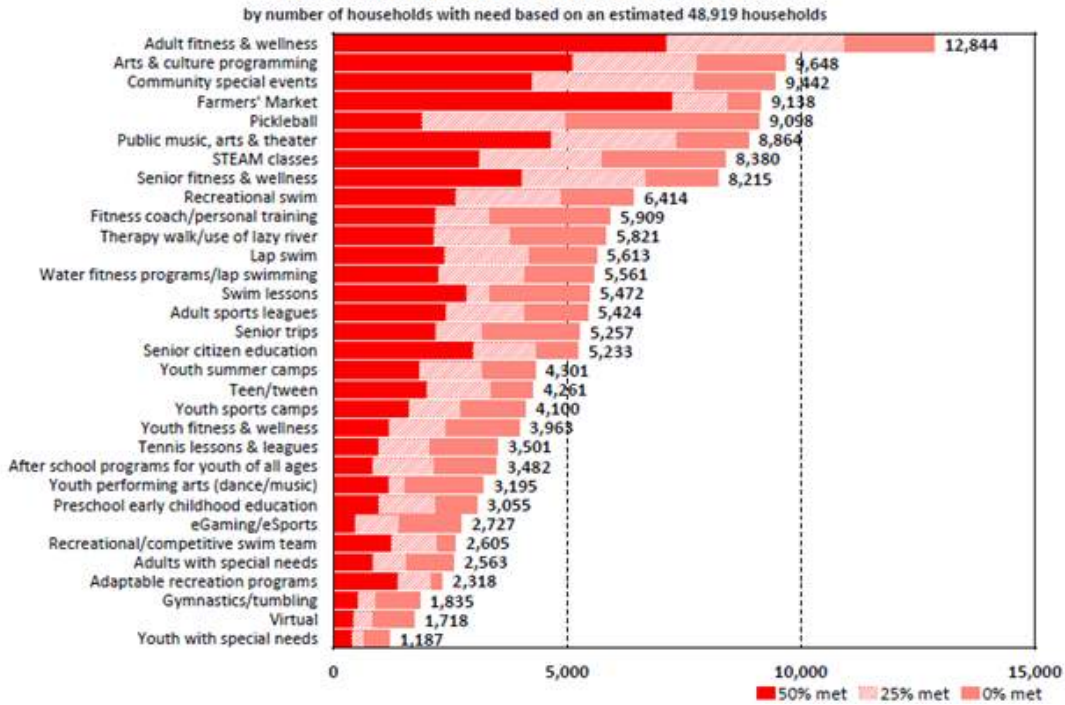


FIGURE 3.12 - Question 11c Results

Olathe Program Needs and Priorities

Program Needs

Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 32 programs and to rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various facilities/amenities.

The three programs with the highest percentage of households that have an unmet need:

1. Adult fitness & wellness programs – 12,844 households
2. Arts & culture programming – 9,648 households
3. Community special events – 9,442 households

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 32 parks and recreation programs assessed is shown in the chart below.

Programs Importance

In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each item. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, these are the three most important programs to residents:

- 1. Farmer’s market (46%)
- 2. Adult fitness & wellness programs (25%)
- 3. Senior fitness & wellness programs (18%)

The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is shown in the chart below.

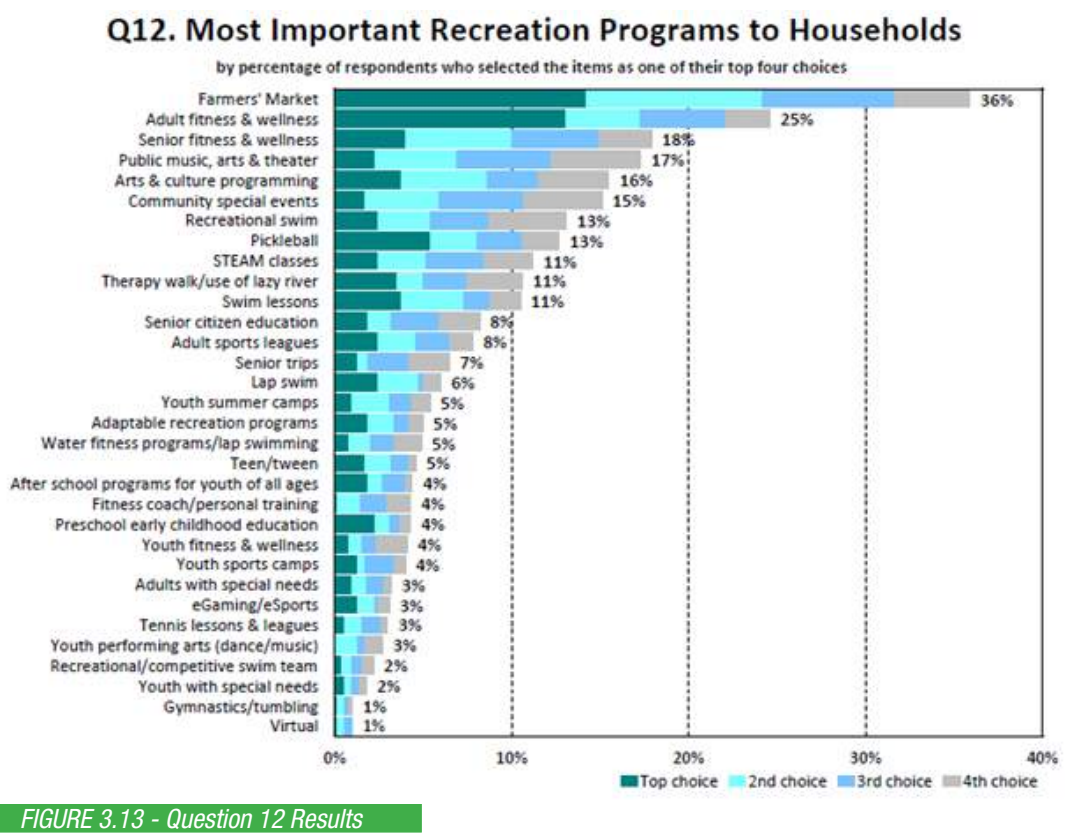


FIGURE 3.13 - Question 12 Results

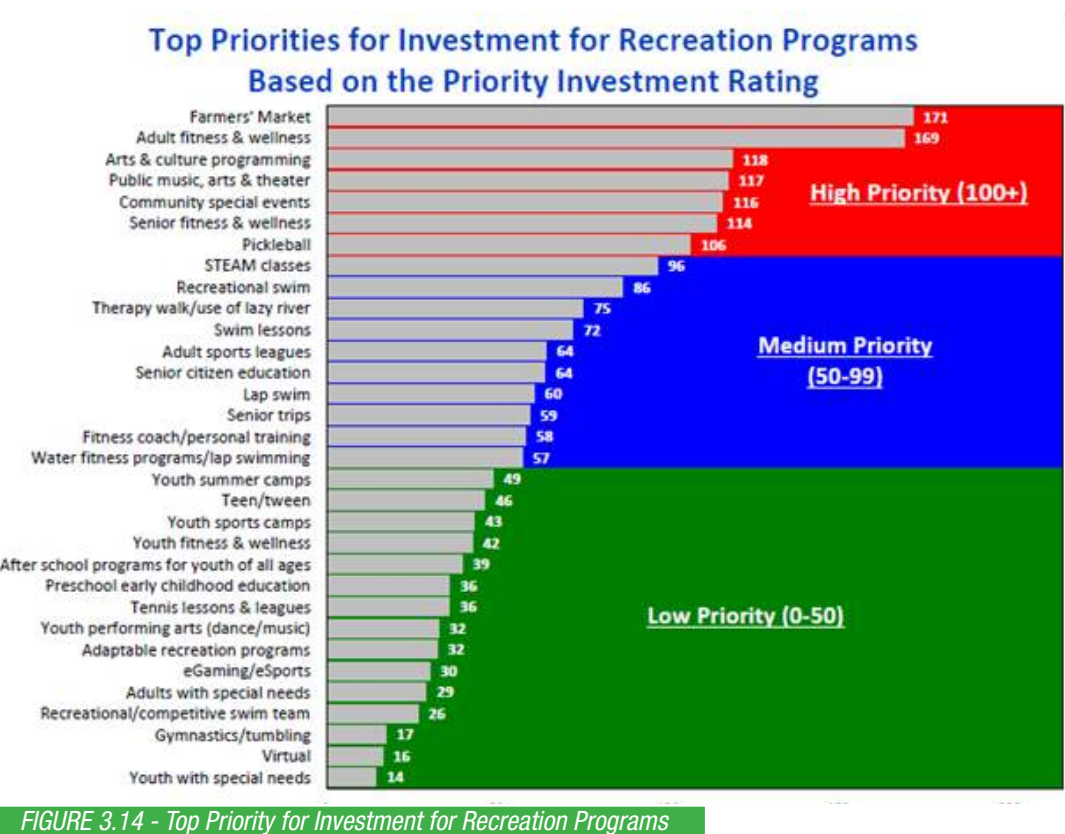


FIGURE 3.14 - Top Priority for Investment for Recreation Programs

Priorities for Program Investments

The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on recreation and parks investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weights (1) the importance that residents place on each program and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the program. [Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of the survey findings report.] Based the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the following Olathe programs were rated as high priorities for investment:

- Farmer’s market (PIR=171)
- Adult fitness & wellness programs (PIR=169)
- Arts & culture programming (PIR=118)
- Public music, arts, and theater (PIR=117)
- Community special events (PIR=116)
- Senior fitness & wellness programs (PIR=114)
- Pickleball (PIR=106)

The chart below shows the Priority Investment Rating for each of the 32 programs assessed.

Additional Detailed Findings

Preferred Forms of Communication

Respondents were asked to provide their top three choices of preferred forms of communication to learn about parks, programs and events. The chart to the right details these findings.

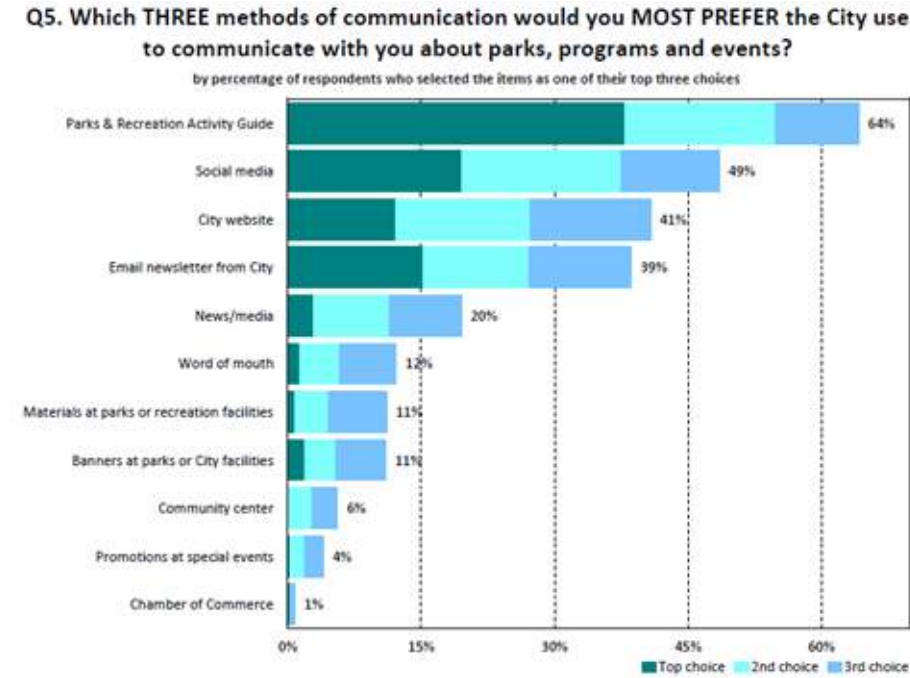


FIGURE 3.15 - Question 5 Results

Park and Recreation Services Priorities

Respondents were polled to rank their top three areas of park and recreation services they felt should receive the most attention over the next five years. Those results are featured in the chart below.

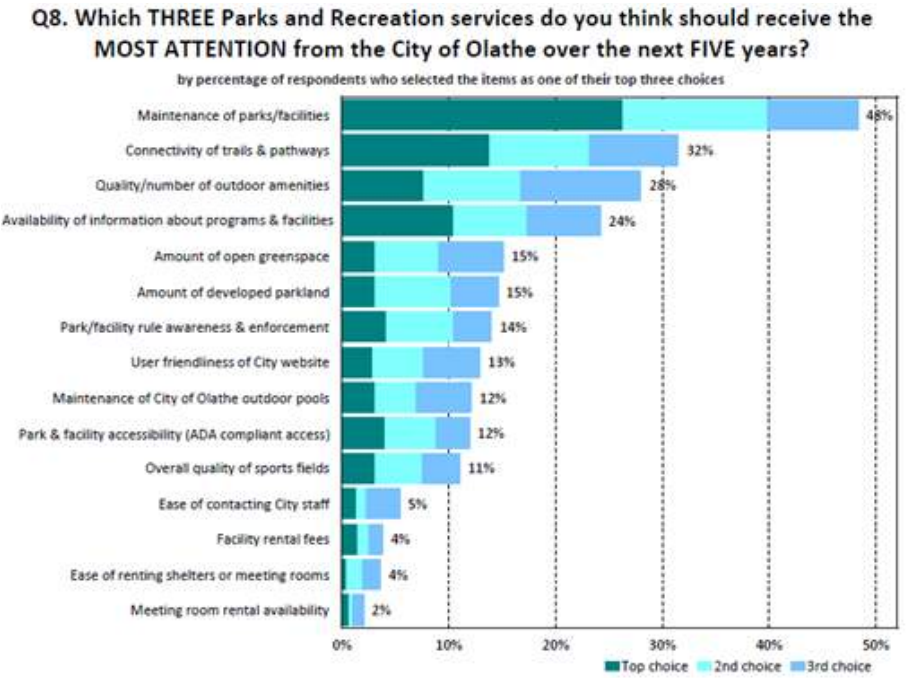


FIGURE 3.16 - Question 8 Results

Q14. Based on your perception of value, how would you want Olathe to fund future parks, recreation, trails, and open space needs?

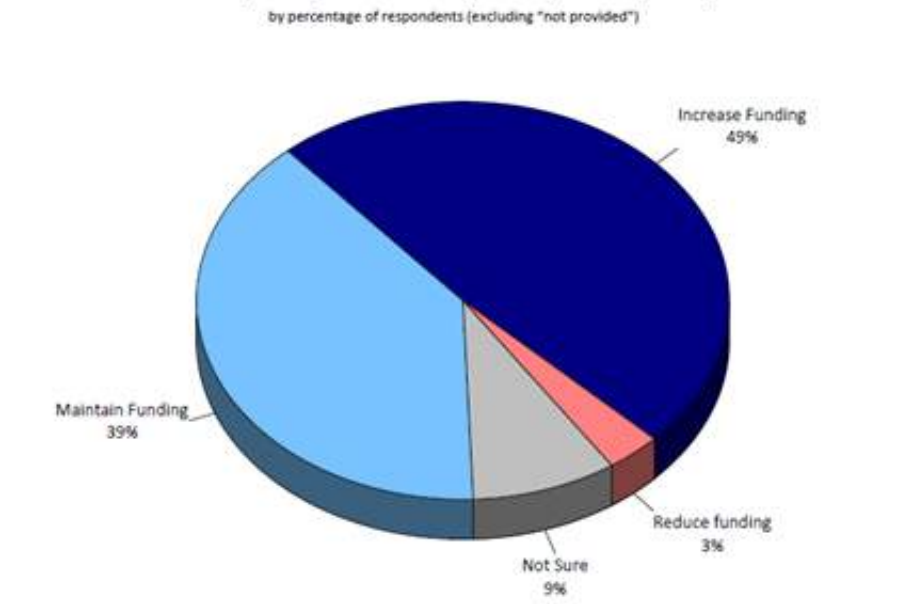


FIGURE 3.17 - Question 14 Results

Future Funding

Residents were asked based on their perception of value, how would they want to see funding for future parks, recreation, trails and open spaces needs be addressed. There was strong support to see funding either maintained or increased and seen in the chart to the right.

Q17. Actions to improve the parks and recreation system that households are most willing to fund

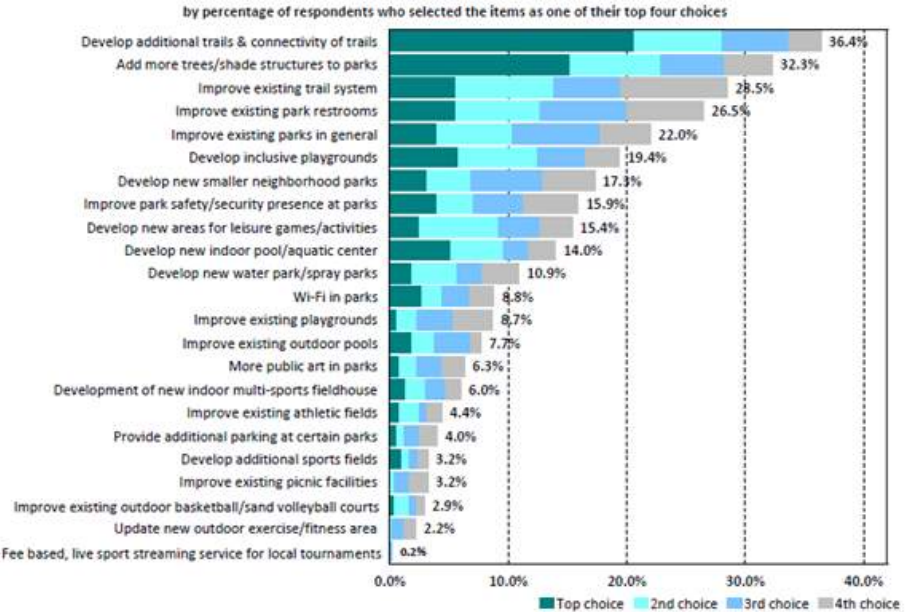


FIGURE 3.15 - Question 17 Results

Actions Most Willing to Fund

Respondents were asked to rank their top four choices of actions to improve the parks and recreation system that they would be most willing to fund. These responses are detailed in the chart below.



04

PARKS AND FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

3 PARK AND FACILITIES ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS

3.1 PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Overview

As part of the Master Plan development, the consultant team conducted an assessment and analysis of the Olathe parks and facilities. Included in the Appendix, the information includes technical details and descriptions related to park classification categories. Park classifications include mini / pocket park, neighborhood park, community park, special use park, school grounds, and trails. Selected information is included below related to the kinds of parks in Olathe.

Mini / Pocket Parks

Mini parks are usually five acres or less and have a service area of one-quarter (1/4) mile or less. These parks specialize in one or two types of services or facilities and are intended for the adjacent neighborhoods. As the neighborhood needs change, the focus of mini parks can change. The parks typically contain a children’s play area, a picnic area, and possibly a basketball court.

Mini parks are not designed to accommodate more than very limited recreation services. They are typically able to provide recreation services for one user group such as a playground, benches for walkers, landscape, and trails for enjoyment of the natural environment or display of public artwork. Current Mini / Pocket Parks in Olathe include Civic Center Park, Pellet Park, and Quailwood Park.

Neighborhood Parks

A neighborhood park is typically 3-10 acres in size; however, some neighborhood parks are determined by use and facilities offered

and not by size alone. The service radius for a neighborhood park is one half mile or six blocks. Neighborhood parks should have safe pedestrian access for surrounding residents; parking may or may not be included but if included accounts for less than ten cars and provides for ADA access. Neighborhood parks serve the recreational and social focus of the adjoining neighborhoods and contribute to a distinct neighborhood identity.

Currently, the City of Olathe has 23 neighborhood parks within its inventory such as Arrowhead Park, Hampton Park, Manor Park, and Southglen Park.

Community Parks

Community parks provide diverse recreation opportunities to serve the residents of Olathe. These include active and passive recreation, as well as self-directed and organized recreation opportunities for individuals, families, and small groups. Community Parks often include facilities that promote outdoor recreation and activities such as walking and biking, picnicking, playing sports, playing on playgrounds, and fishing. These sites also include natural areas, emphasizing public access to important natural features. Since community parks may attract people from a wide geographic area, support facilities are required, such as parking and restrooms. Self-directed recreation activities such as meditation, quiet reflection, and wildlife watching also take place at community parks.

Community parks generally range from 10 to 100 acres depending on the surrounding community. Community parks serve a larger area – radius of one to three miles – and contain more recreation amenities than a neighborhood park. Currently, the City of Olathe has 11 Community Parks that include Black Bob Park, Frisco Lakes Park, Oregon Trails Park, and Two Trails Park.

Regional Parks

Regional parks provide access to unique recreation features, natural areas, and facilities that attract visitors from the entire community and beyond. Regional parks often accommodate small and large group activities and have infrastructure to support group picnics. As community attractions, Regional Parks can enhance the economic vitality and identity of the entire region. These parks may include significant natural areas and wetlands, trails and pathways, gardens and arboretums, ponds, and other water features. They add unique facilities, such as destination or thematic playgrounds, community centers, aquatic centers, amphitheaters, viewing knolls, skateparks, and other interesting elements.

Regional parks can and should promote tourism and economic development. Regional parks can enhance the economic vitality and identity of the entire region. Regional parks are typically 100 or more acres in size. Currently, Olathe has two (2) parks falls under the regional park designation – Lake Olathe Park and Lone Elm Park.

Special Use Park

Special use parks are those spaces that do not fall within a typical park classification. A major difference between a special use park and other parks is that they usually serve a single purpose whereas other park classifications are designed to offer multiple recreation opportunities. It is possible for a special use facility to be located inside another park. The City of Olathe has one special use facilities within its current inventory with Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm. This site fits into the category of a special use park as it supports historical, educational, and cultural opportunities with uses geared around those historical, educational, and cultural recreation experiences.

Inventory by Classification

The tables that follow inventory the Olathe Park System by the aforementioned classifications.

Mini / Pocket Parks	
Civic Center Park	
Pellet Park	
Quailwood Park	

Neighborhood Parks	
Arapaho Park	Mahaffie Pond Park
Arbor Landing Park	Manor Park
Arrowhead Park	Mill Creek Park
Brougham Park	North Walnut Park
Calamity Line Park	Raven Ridge Park
Eastbrooke Park	Santa Marta Park
Fairview Park	Scarborough Park
Frontier Park	Southdowns Park
Hampton Park	Southglen Park
Haven Park	Woodbrook Park
Heatherstone Park	Woodland Hills Park
Indian Creek Park	

Community Parks	
Black Bob Park	Prairie Center Park
Cedar Lake Park	Stagecoach Park
Frisco Lakes Park	Two Trails Park
Frontier Park	Veterans Memorial
Girls Softball Complex	Water Works Park
Oregon Trail Park	

Regional Parks
Lake Olathe Park
Lone Elm Park
Regional Parks
Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and farm



FIGURE 4.1- Playground

3.2 PARK AND FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

As part of the life-cycle asset plan, the Consultant Team completed a park and facilities assessment of the entire Olathe park system. The full assessment is located in **Appendix B**. The following pages outline the methodology and general findings.

In order to understand the current park, open space, and facility resources owned or managed by the City of Olathe, the Consultant Team completed an inventory and assessment of all of these resources and assets in the Summer of 2022. This included 39 developed parks, three (3) undeveloped parks, four (4) pools, and five (5) facilities, for a total of 50 total locations. At each of these spaces the Consultant Team conducted both an inventory and assessment of the property. The inventory included the collection of basic information and a tally of items found on site. The assessment included the rating of the property across five broad criteria resulting in a score between 0 and 100. The details in Appendix B provide profiles for each park, open space, or facility based on this data.

The purpose of this assessment was to inventory the park system’s existing amenities, evaluate the condition and identify opportunities for improvement. The assessment was utilized, along with other technical research reports, to assist with ‘Level of Service’ analysis and the final Park and Recreation System Plan including recommendations and action strategies.

Assessment Methodology

Each facility or amenity visited was inventoried and assessed for quality. The following sections, categorizations, and ratings were used to assess each asset:

- **Site Location & General Site Description:** This section includes a physical address, the size of the asset, classification of the amenity (ex, Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Special Use Park, etc.), and any special maintenance requirements associated with the park or facility.

- **Inventory of Amenities & Condition:** This section includes a comprehensive list of amenities available at the site, as well as a notation regarding ADA accessibility. The condition of each amenity is rated using a 3-point scale: Excellent Condition (+); Good Condition (0); Needs Attention (-).
- **Criteria Evaluation:** In this process, the Consultant Team evaluated each site / facility on 20 separate criteria across five (5) broad categories. Each of these 5 categories was assessed across 4 questions with answers worth a total of 20 possible points. Therefore, each park, open space, or facility could achieve a score somewhere between 0 and 100 points. Properties scoring between 0 and 49 points were deemed “poor.” Properties scoring between 50 and 69 were deemed “fair.” Properties scoring between 70 and 84 were deemed “good.” And properties scoring between 85 and 100 points were deemed “excellent.” The categories and criteria are detailed below:
 - Accessibility (questions about walkability, signage, ADA compliance, and lighting)
 - Connectivity (questions about visibility, multi-modal capacity, adjacent land uses, and safety)
 - Comfort and Character (questions about attractiveness, maintenance, seating, and shelter)
 - Usability (questions about things to do, flexibility, level of activity, and sense of ownership)
 - Amenities (questions about equipment, buildings, pavements, and energy demand)

Summary of Findings

As an overall system, the average score across all properties was a 72, right in the “good” range. The top 5 highest scoring properties were the Olathe Community Center (95), Indian Creek Library (95), Stagecoach Park (94), Lake Olathe (94), and Manor Park (92). The bottom 5 lowest scoring properties were Arapaho Park (36), Hoff Park (49), Cedar Lake (50), Ensor Park and Museum (53), and Scarborough Park (53). It’s typical for a park system of this size and age to score in the low 70s. The stock of newer parks with minimal maintenance needs balance out those older parks with aging infrastructure. Each park tells a unique and different story and those are included in the profile pages.

The map below depicts the overall results of the assessments across the system.

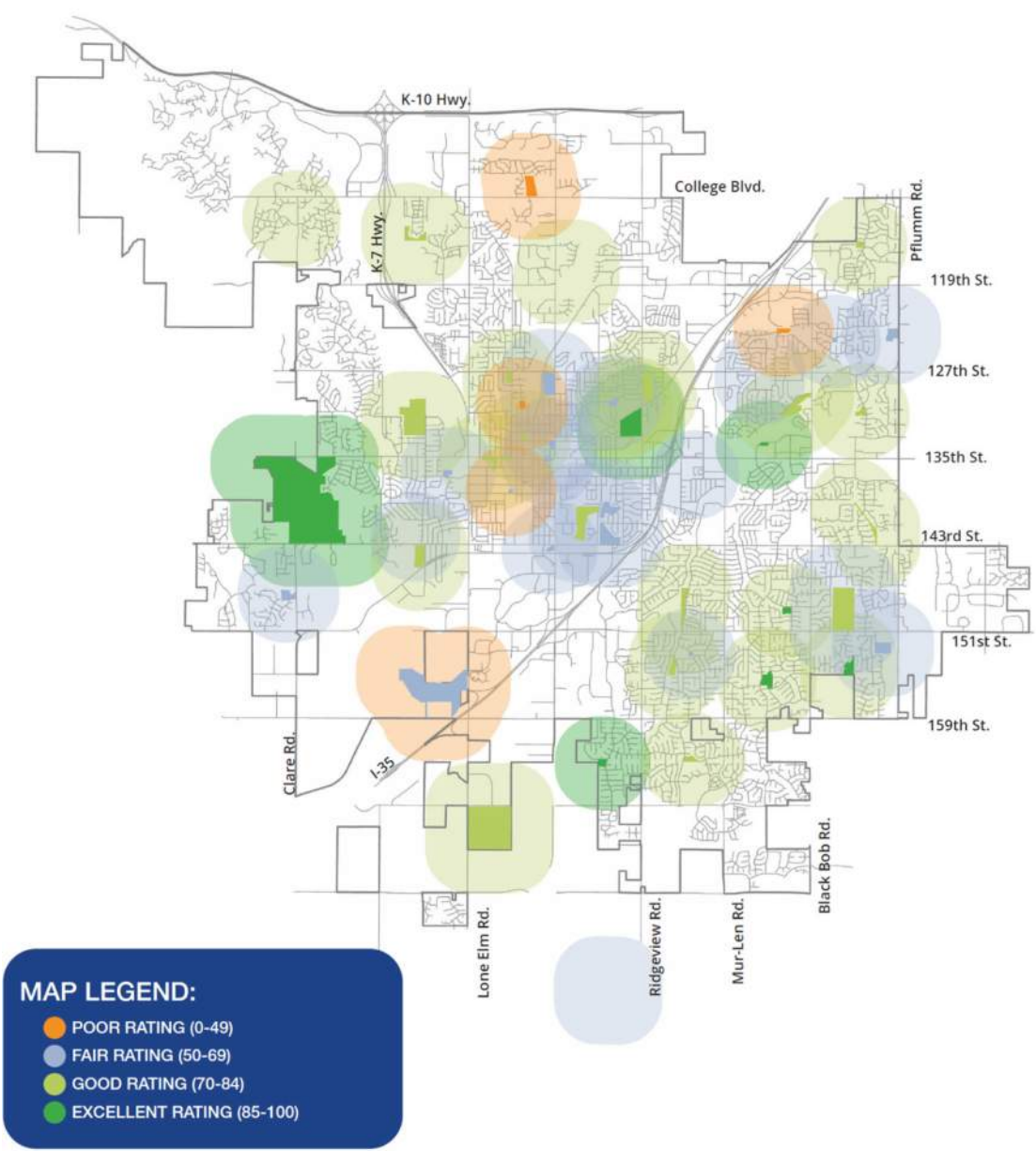


FIGURE 4.2- Assessment Results

3.3 LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Summary of Findings

Level of Service (LOS) standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and amenities. LOS standards are updated over time as industry trends and community demographics change.

The consulting team evaluated park facility standards using a combination of resources. These resources included market trends, demographic data, community and stakeholder input, the statistically-valid community survey, and general observations. The existing level of service detailed on the following page is based on current inventory and on analysis of the park system and other service providers in the City (e.g., School Districts, Johnson County, private providers, etc.). This information allowed standards to be customized to Olathe.

It is important to note that these LOS standards should be viewed as a guide. The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment related to the particular situation and needs of the community. By applying these standards to the population of Olathe, gaps or surpluses in park and facility types are revealed.

Per Capita “Gaps”

According to the LOS, the largest area of need to properly serve the Olathe community today are paved and natural surface trails. Paved trails would largely be added to improve connectivity around the community and between parks. Natural surface trails can be explored in existing parks or in new parks / green spaces that have sufficient land area and offer access to nature experiences. There are limited needs in recreational amenities/facilities, with the most notable being tennis/pickleball courts, dog parks, and splashpads. Additionally, indoor recreation spaces is needed.

The existing level of service meets and exceeds best practices and recommended service levels for many items; however, as the community is projected to grow over the next 10 years there are several areas that will not meet recommended standards. This is particularly the case in added parklands, trails, and indoor recreation space.

The standards that follow are based upon population figures for 2022, 2030, and 2037, the latest estimates available at the time of analysis.

Olathe Parks Level of Service Standards

2022 Inventory - Developed Facilities										
Amenities	Olathe Inventory	School Inventory	JCPRD Inventory	Total Inventory	Current Service Level based upon population			Recommended Service Levels; Revised for Local Service Area		
PARK TYPE:										
Mini/Pocket Parks	3.56	-		3.56	0.02	acres per	1,000	0.02	acres per	1,000
Neighborhood Parks	147.80	166.60		197.78	1.37	acres per	1,000	1.35	acres per	1,000
Community Parks	519.23	264.90		598.70	4.13	acres per	1,000	4.13	acres per	1,000
Special Use Parks	21.51	146.10	125.00	190.34	1.31	acres per	1,000	1.05	acres per	1,000
Regional Parks	573.39	-		573.39	3.96	acres per	1,000	3.95	acres per	1,000
Total Developed Park Acres	1,265.49	577.60	125.00	1,563.77	10.79	acres per	1,000	10.50	acres per	1,000
Undeveloped (Open Spaces)	37.80			37.80	0.26	acres per	1,000	0.25	acres per	1,000
Total Park Acres	1,303.29	577.60	125.00	1,601.57	11.05	acres per	1,000	10.75	acres per	1,000
TRAILS:										
Paved Park Trails	42.20		9.88	42.20	0.29	miles per	1,000	0.30	miles per	1,000
Natural Park Trails	1.80	-	11.62	1.80	0.01	miles per	1,000	0.03	miles per	1,000
Total Park Trail Miles	44.00		21.50	65.50	0.45	miles per	1,000	0.45	miles per	1,000
On Street Bicycle Trail Miles	52.50			52.50	0.33	miles per	1,000	0.33	miles per	1,000
OUTDOOR AMENITIES:										
Sm all Shelters	42.00	1.00		43.00	1.00	site per	3,369	1.00	site per	5,000
Large Shelters	6.00	5.00		11.00	1.00	site per	13,171	1.00	site per	12,000
Youth Baseball Fields	3.00	27.00		30.00	1.00	field per	4,829	1.00	field per	5,000
Adult Baseball Fields	15.00	7.00		22.00	1.00	field per	n/a	1.00	field per	20,000
Softball Fields	20.00	7.00		27.00	1.00	field per	5,366	1.00	field per	5,500
Rectangular Multi-Purpose Fields	28.00	73.00		101.00	1.00	field per	1,434	1.00	field per	4,000
Basketball Courts	8.00	74.00		82.00	1.00	court per	1,767	1.00	court per	2,500
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	7.00	32.00		39.00	1.00	court per	3,715	1.00	court per	3,500
Playgrounds	40.00	54.00		94.00	1.00	site per	1,541	1.00	site per	2,500
Sand Volleyball Courts	7.00	4.00		11.00	1.00	court per	13,171	1.00	court per	12,500
Dog Parks	-	-	-	-	1.00	site per	-	1.00	site per	75,000
Skateparks	1.00	-		1.00	1.00	site per	144,878	1.00	site per	65,000
Splashpads	3.00	-		3.00	1.00	site per	48,293	1.00	site per	25,000
Outdoor Pools	4.00	-		4.00	1.00	site per	36,220	1.00	site per	40,000
INDOOR AMENITIES:										
Indoor Recreation Space (Square Feet)	60,850.00			52,008.00	0.36	SF per	person	0.50	SF per	person
Indoor Special Use Space (Square Feet)	72,700.00			19,103.00	0.13	SF per	person	0.13	SF per	person
Indoor Aquatic Space (Square Feet)	16,200.00			11,488.00	0.08	SF per	person	0.08	SF per	person
Current Estimated Population	144,878									
10-Year Projected Population	157,899									
15-Year Project Population	164,948									

FIGURE 4.3- Olathe Parks Level of Service Standards

Olathe Parks Level of Service Standards

2022 Inventory - Developed Facilities					Current Facility Standards		Ten Year Projected Facility Standards		15-year Projected Facility Standards	
Amenities	Olathe Inventory	School Inventory	JCPRD Inventory	Total Inventory	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed	Meet Standard/ Need Exists	Additional Facilities/ Amenities Needed
PARK TYPE:										
Mini/Pocket Parks	3.56	-		3.56	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)
Neighborhood Parks	147.80	166.60		197.78	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Need Exists	15.38 Acres(s)	Need Exists	24.90 Acres(s)
Community Parks	519.23	264.90		598.70	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Need Exists	53.42 Acres(s)	Need Exists	82.54 Acres(s)
Special Use Parks	21.51	146.10	125.00	190.34	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)
Regional Parks	573.39	-		573.39	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Need Exists	50.31 Acres(s)	Need Exists	78.15 Acres(s)
Total Developed Park Acres	1,265.49	577.60	125.00	1,563.77	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Need Exists	94.17 Acres(s)	Need Exists	168.18 Acres(s)
Undeveloped (Open Spaces)	37.80			37.80	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Need Exists	1.67 Acres(s)	Need Exists	3.44 Acres(s)
Total Park Acres	1,303.29	577.60	125.00	1,601.57	Meets Standard	- Acres(s)	Need Exists	95.84 Acres(s)	Need Exists	171.62 Acres(s)
TRAILS:										
Paved Park Trails	42.20		9.88	42.20	Need Exists	1.26 Mile(s)	Need Exists	5.17 Mile(s)	Need Exists	7.28 Mile(s)
Natural Park Trails	1.80	-	11.62	1.80	Need Exists	1.82 Mile(s)	Need Exists	2.15 Mile(s)	Need Exists	2.32 Mile(s)
Total Park Trail Miles	44.00		21.50	65.50	Meets Standard	3.09 Mile(s)	Need Exists	7.32 Mile(s)	Need Exists	9.61 Mile(s)
On Street Bicycle Trail Miles	52.50			52.50	Meets Standard	- Mile(s)	Meets Standard	- Mile(s)	Meets Standard	1.93 Mile(s)
OUTDOOR AMENITIES:										
Small Shelters	42.00	1.00		43.00	Meets Standard	- Sites(s)	Meets Standard	- Sites(s)	Meets Standard	- Sites(s)
Large Shelters	6.00	5.00		11.00	Need Exists	1 Sites(s)	Need Exists	2 Sites(s)	Need Exists	3 Sites(s)
Youth Baseball Fields	3.00	27.00		30.00	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Need Exists	2 Field(s)	Need Exists	3 Field(s)
Adult Baseball Fields	15.00	7.00		22.00	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Meets Standard	- Field(s)
Softball Fields	20.00	7.00		27.00	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Need Exists	2 Field(s)	Need Exists	3 Field(s)
Rectangular Multi-Purpose Fields	28.00	73.00		101.00	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Meets Standard	- Field(s)	Meets Standard	- Field(s)
Basketball Courts	8.00	74.00		82.00	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	Meets Standard	- Court(s)	Meets Standard	- Court(s)
Tennis / Pickleball Courts	7.00	32.00		39.00	Need Exists	2 Court(s)	Need Exists	6 Court(s)	Need Exists	8 Court(s)
Playgrounds	40.00	54.00		94.00	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)
Sand Volleyball Courts	7.00	4.00		11.00	Need Exists	1 Court(s)	Need Exists	2 Court(s)	Need Exists	2 Court(s)
Dog Parks	-	-		-	Need Exists	2 Site(s)	Need Exists	2 Site(s)	Need Exists	2 Site(s)
Skateparks	1.00	-		1.00	Need Exists	1 Site(s)	Need Exists	1 Site(s)	Need Exists	2 Site(s)
Splashpads	3.00	-		3.00	Need Exists	3 Site(s)	Need Exists	3 Site(s)	Need Exists	4 Site(s)
Outdoor Pools	4.00	-		4.00	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Meets Standard	- Site(s)	Need Exists	0 Site(s)
INDOOR AMENITIES:										
Indoor Recreation Space (Square Feet)	60,850.00			52,008.00	Need Exists	20,431 Square Feet	Need Exists	26,942 Square Feet	Need Exists	30,466 Square Feet
Indoor Special Use Space (Square Feet)	72,700.00			19,103.00	Meets Standard	- Square Feet	Need Exists	1,424 Square Feet	Need Exists	2,340 Square Feet
Indoor Aquatic Space (Square Feet)	16,200.00			11,488.00	Need Exists	102 Square Feet	Need Exists	1,144 Square Feet	Need Exists	1,708 Square Feet
Current Estimated Population	144,878									
10-Year Projected Population	157,899									
15-Year Project Population	164,948									

FIGURE 4.4- Olathe Parks Level of Service Standards

3.4 GIS MAPPING

Service area maps and standards assist Olathe in assessing and identifying where services are offered, how equitable the service distribution and delivery is across the Olathe service area, and how effective the service is as it compares to the demographic densities. In addition, looking at guidelines with reference to population enables Olathe to assess gaps in services, where facilities are needed, or where an area is over saturated. This allows the Olathe leadership to make appropriate capital improvement decisions based upon need for a system as a whole and the ramifications those decisions may have on a specific area.

The maps contain several circles, which represent the recommended per capita LOS found on the previous page. The circles’ size varies dependent upon the quantity of a given amenity (or acre type) located at one site and the surrounding distance to the park. The bigger the circle, the more people a given amenity or park acre serves and vice versa. The areas of overlapping circles represent adequate service, or duplicated service, and the areas outside the circles represents the areas not served by a given amenity or park acre type. It should be noted that overall Olathe generally has excellent coverage of parks throughout the City.



FIGURE 4.5- Playground

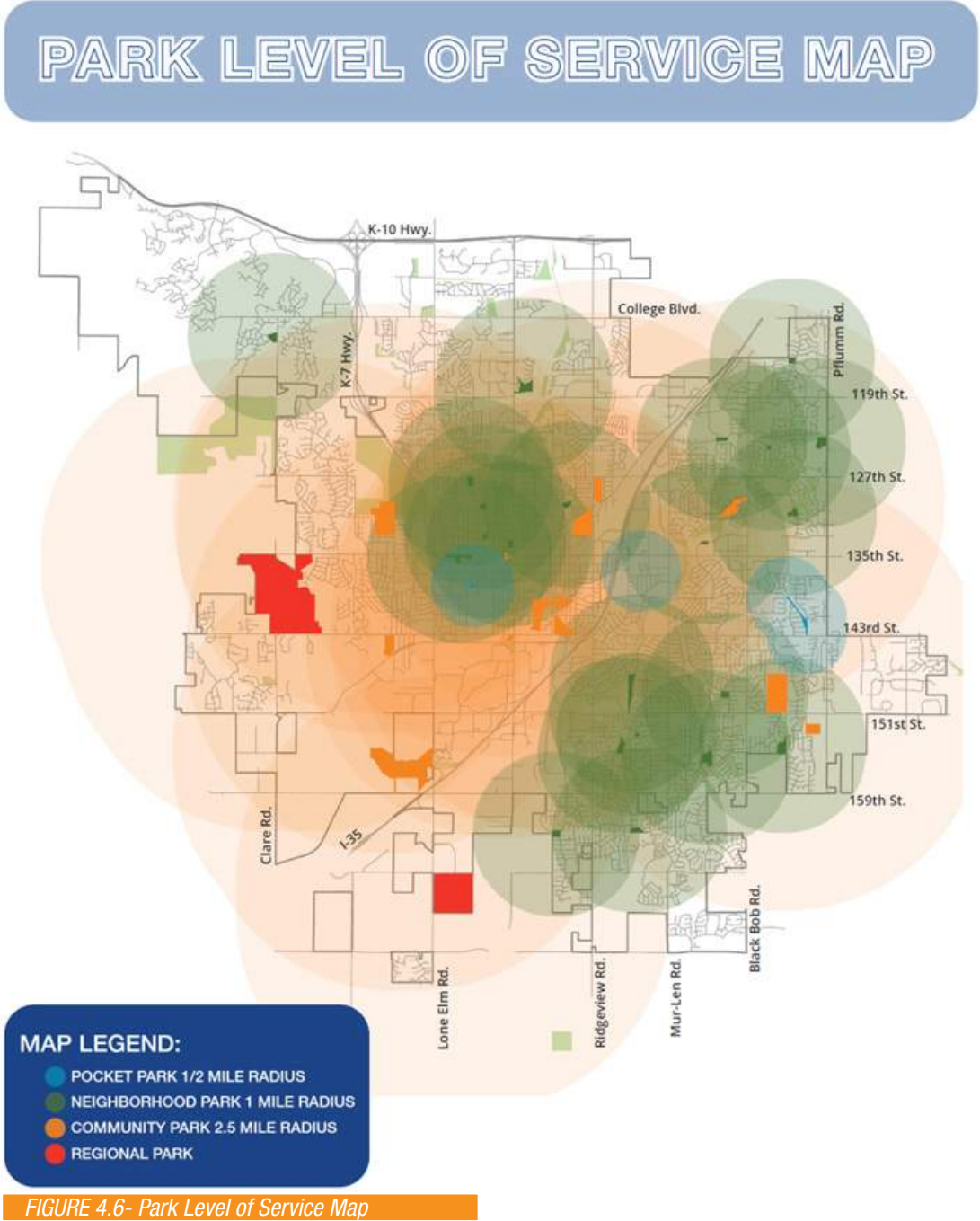


FIGURE 4.6- Park Level of Service Map

PARK WALKABILITY MAP

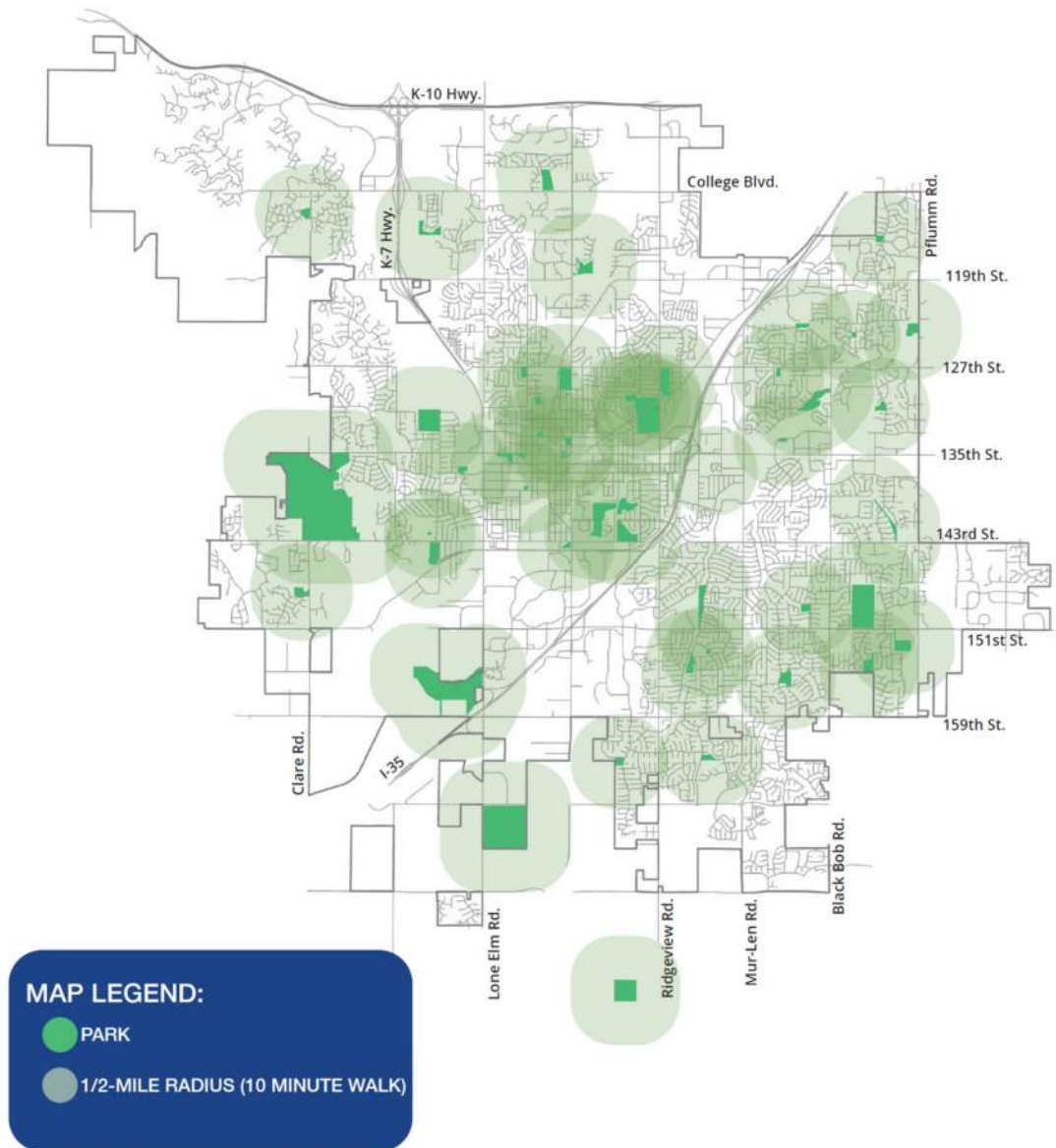


FIGURE 4.7 - Park Walkability Map

ALTERNATIVE PROVIDERS

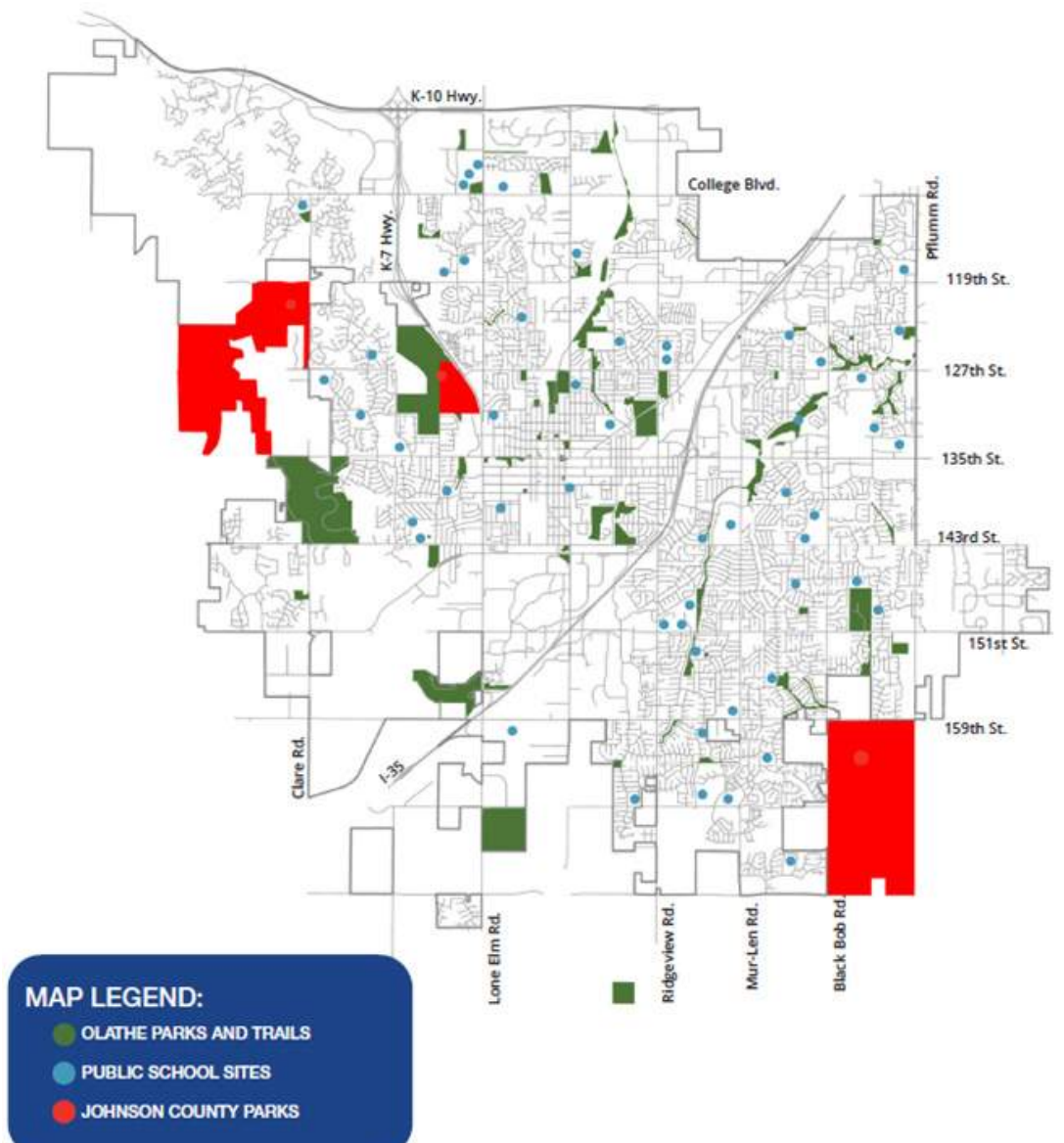


FIGURE 4.8 - Alternative Providers Map

3.5 FACILITY / AMENITY PRIORITY RANKING MODEL

Level of Service (LOS) standards are guidelines that define service areas based on population that support investment decisions related to parks, facilities, and amenities. LOS standards are updated over time as industry trends and community demographics change.

The consulting team evaluated park facility standards using a combination of resources. These resources included market trends, demographic data, community and stakeholder input, the statistically-valid community survey, and general observations. The existing level of service detailed on the following page is based on current inventory and on analysis of the park system and other service providers in the City (e.g., School Districts, Johnson County, private providers, etc.). This information allowed standards to be customized to Olathe.

It is important to note that these LOS standards should be viewed as a guide. The standards are to be coupled with conventional wisdom and judgment related to the particular situation and needs of the community. By applying these standards to the population of Olathe, gaps or surpluses in park and facility types are revealed.

Data Source	Component	Weighting
Quantitative Community Input	Importance Rankings Reported by the Community Survey – This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility/amenity by the community.	50%
Qualitative Community Input	Importance Rankings Reported by the Community Survey – This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility/amenity by the community.	20%
City Staff Input	Importance Rankings Reported by the Community Survey – This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility/amenity by the community.	15%
Consultant Team Input	Importance Rankings Reported by the Community Survey – This is used as a factor from the importance allocated to a facility/amenity by the community.	15%



FIGURE 4.9 - Question 17 Results

The following prioritization scoring depicts ranked facility/amenity priorities overall for the 35 facility/amenities evaluated in the community input process.

Facility / Amenity Priority Ranking Model

Facility / Amenity	Priority Ranking
Paved trails - multi-use	11.87
Unpaved trails - multi-use	11.49
Restrooms	11.00
Dog park	10.26
Farmers market	10.24
Splash pads	9.85
Pickleball courts	9.79
Water access	9.52
Outdoor adventure park	8.41
Large community parks	8.10
Park equipment for all abilities/all ages	8.09
Indoor courts for tennis / pickleball	8.02
Small neighborhood parks	7.91
Open space and conservation areas	7.87
Adaptable playground	7.70
Indoor aquatic center	7.60
Outdoor amphitheater	6.71
Indoor walking/jogging track	6.36
Outdoor multi-use sport courts	6.09
Shelters / pavilions	6.09
Diamond sports fields	5.96
Outdoor artificial turf ballfields	5.96
Outdoor rectangular sports fields	5.66
Environmental education center	4.79
BMX park / pump track / single track trails	4.64
Indoor gym space	4.58
Indoor multi-purpose sports fields	4.51
Outdoor exercise / fitness equipment	4.13
Food gardens	4.13
Skateboard parks	4.08
Environmental education center	4.06
Outdoor pools / water park	3.92
Disc golf	3.69

Priority Ranking	Score
High Priority	8.0-12.0
Moderate Priority	5.0-7.9
Low Priority	1.0-4.9

FIGURE 4.10 - Facility / Amenity Priority Ranking Model

3.3 ADDITIONAL AND RELATED PLANS

There are additional and related plans that have been recently developed and approved that relate to this *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. The recommendations of those plans as it pertains to their specific areas of focus are reflected in this Master Plan and are highlighted in the sections that follow.

Community Pools Assessment

In January 2023, Waters Edge Aquatic Design conducted an assessment of the physical conditions of Olathe’s four (4) community pools as listed below. The indoor pool at the Olathe Community Center was not a focus of the assessment as it is relatively new having been constructed within the last 10 years and it good working condition. The pools assessed by Waters Edge were:

- 1. Black Bob Bay Water Park (outdoor)
- 2. Frontier Pool (outdoor)
- 3. Mill Creek Pool (outdoor)
- 4. Oregon Trail Pool (outdoor)

The map below is taken from the Waters Edge summary report and depicts the locations of the pool facilities in Olathe. The findings of this assessment outlined significant renovations that are needed to extend the working lifecycle of these facilities by another 20+ years. These renovations are not the addition of new features or amenities, but solely infrastructure updates and replacement to extend the life of the facilities.

It was found that the three community pools at Frontier Trail, Mill Creek, and Oregon Trail, all of similar design and function, will require approximately \$2.5 million in renovations each in order to extend their lifecycle 20+ years. Similarly, Black Bob Bay Water Park was found to need \$1 million in renovations to extend the lifecycle of that facility 20+ years. These projects are outlined in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) of this Master Plan.

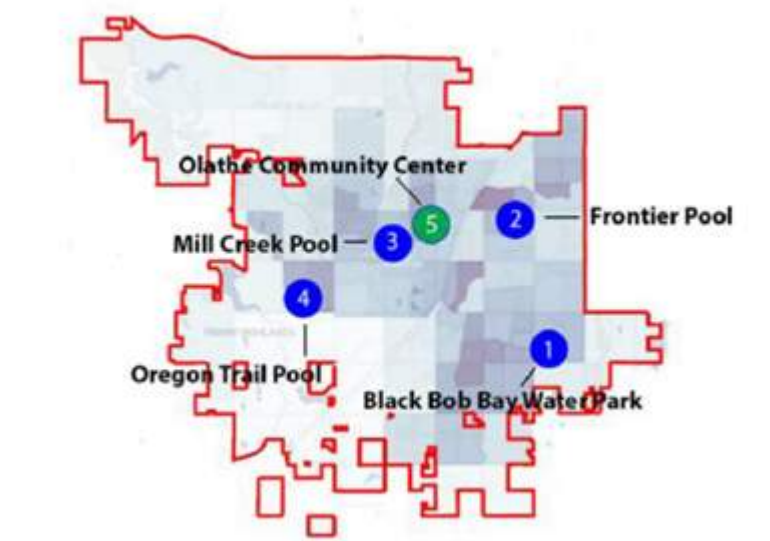


FIGURE 4.11 - Community Pools in Olathe, KS



FIGURE 4.12 - Pool

2040 Trails and Greenways Guiding Plan

The 2040 Trails and Greenways Guiding Plan was completed in late 2022 and adopted by City Council in January 2023. This plan in itself involved extensive community input, an assessment of existing conditions in Olathe related to trails and connectivity, and provide detailed recommendations for the further development of a network of trails in greenways in the community. As noted in the plan, the 2040 Trails and Greenways Guiding Plan meets several objectives:

- Identifies the future trails network to connect neighborhoods, schools, parks, and other significant destinations that:
 - Are feasible for trail development.
 - Offer comfort for users.
 - Place priority on sites that provide greenway access.
 - Continue the practice of installing trails along major streets.
 - Create various different positive natural and social experiences.
 - Have the potential to be regionally significant and connect to other trail systems.
- Recommends trailheads, access points, and wayfinding throughout the trail network.
- Preserves greenways and provide guidance to allow trail access, maintain habitats, and mitigate environmental impacts.
- Guides implementation of trails with policy recommendations, maintenance standards, and possible cost.

While not all proposed trail segments detailed in the Trails and Greenways Plan are featured in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the priority segments identified during the plan adoption process have been included in this plan’s CIP. The map to the right is an excerpt from the Trails and Greenways Plan and details the future trail network in its entirety.

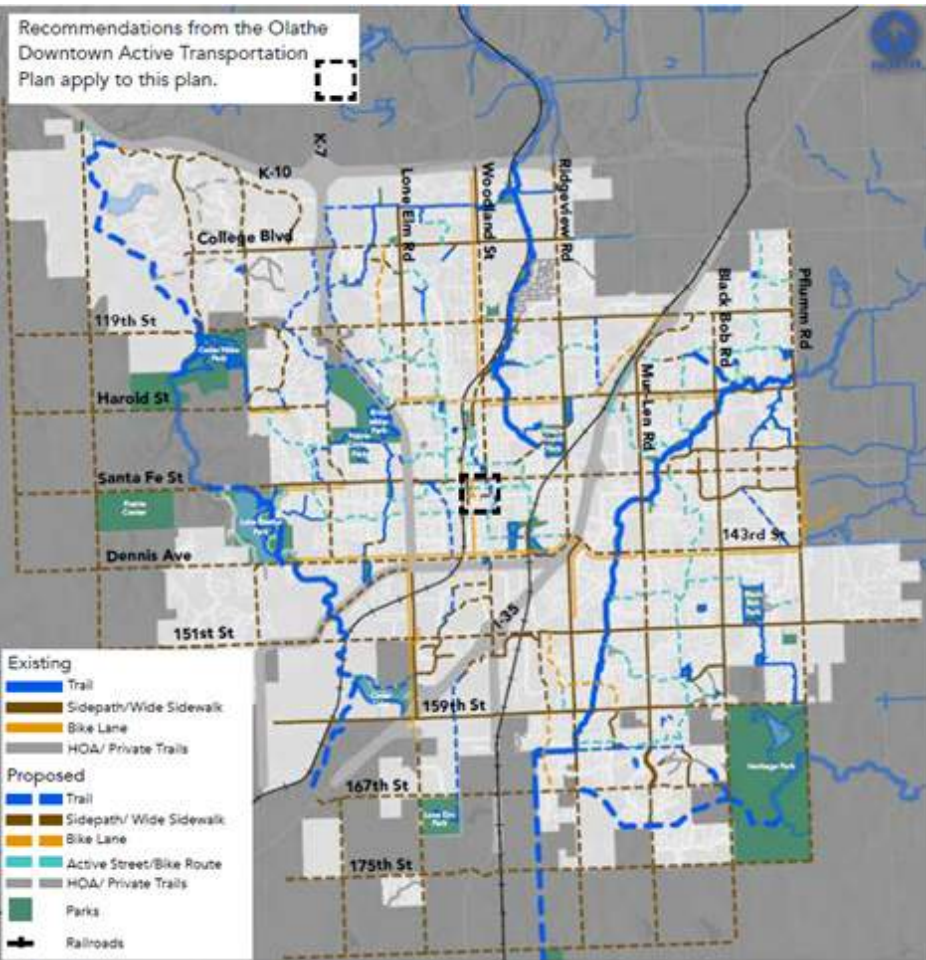


FIGURE 4.13 - Existing and Proposed Trails



05

RECREATION PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

5.2 CORE PROGRAM AREAS

To help achieve the City’s mission, it is important to identify Core Program Areas based on current and future needs to create a sense of focus around specific program areas of greatest importance to the community. Public recreation is challenged by the premise of being all things to all people. The philosophy of the Core Program Area is to assist staff, policy makers, and the public to focus on what is most important to the community. Program areas are considered as Core if they meet a majority of the following criteria:

- The program area has been provided for a long period of time (over 4-5 years) and/or is expected by the community.
- The program area consumes a relatively large portion (5% or more) of the agency’s overall budget.
- The program area is offered 3-4 seasons per year.

- The program area has wide demographic appeal.
- There is a tiered level of skill development available within the program area’s offerings.
- There is full-time staff responsible for the program area.
- There are facilities designed specifically to support the program area.
- The agency controls a significant percentage (20% or more) of the local market.

Core Program Areas

Five primary Core Program Areas were identified that are currently being offered.

Core Program Area	Description	Weighting
Aquatics	Seasonal and year-round offerings focused on safety, fun, and use of quality facilities	Swim Lessons Fitness Swim Facility Rentals
Art	Programs, festivals, and exhibitions that foster an appreciation in art and culture for individuals and families.	Downtown Outdoor Sculpture Exhibit Olathe Arts Festival Roundabout Art
Athletics	Youth and adult athletic opportunities representing many popular sports, including leagues, instructional, and adaptive programs.	Youth Basketball Adult Coed Volleyball Miracle League (Baseball)
Library & Enrichment	Programs that promote literacy, learning, and wellness as well as offerings that provide entertainment opportunities.	Youth After School Programs Beginner Fencing Trivia Night
Special Events	Community special events occurring in parks or facilities	Olathe Live! In the Park Fishing Olathe Movies in the Park

FIGURE 5.2 - Existing Core Program Areas

Core Program Area Recommendations

The five overarching Core Program Areas provide broad foundation and diverse array of programs for the community. Based upon the observations of the consulting team as well as trend information, City staff should evaluate the portfolio of individual programs, ideally on an annual basis, to ensure offerings are relevant to evolving demographics and trends in the local community.

Findings from the statistically-valid survey conducted by ETC Institute indicated a limited number of service gaps in recreation programming. The Priority Investment Rankings (PIR) for recreation programming show that the community has both a high unmet need and high value of importance for the following:

- Farmers’ markets
- Adult fitness and wellness programming
- Arts & culture programming
- Public music, arts, and theater programming
- Community special events
- Senior fitness and wellness programming
- Pickleball

The Department should consider its future role in providing these programs as it re-evaluates its overall portfolio of services to the community.

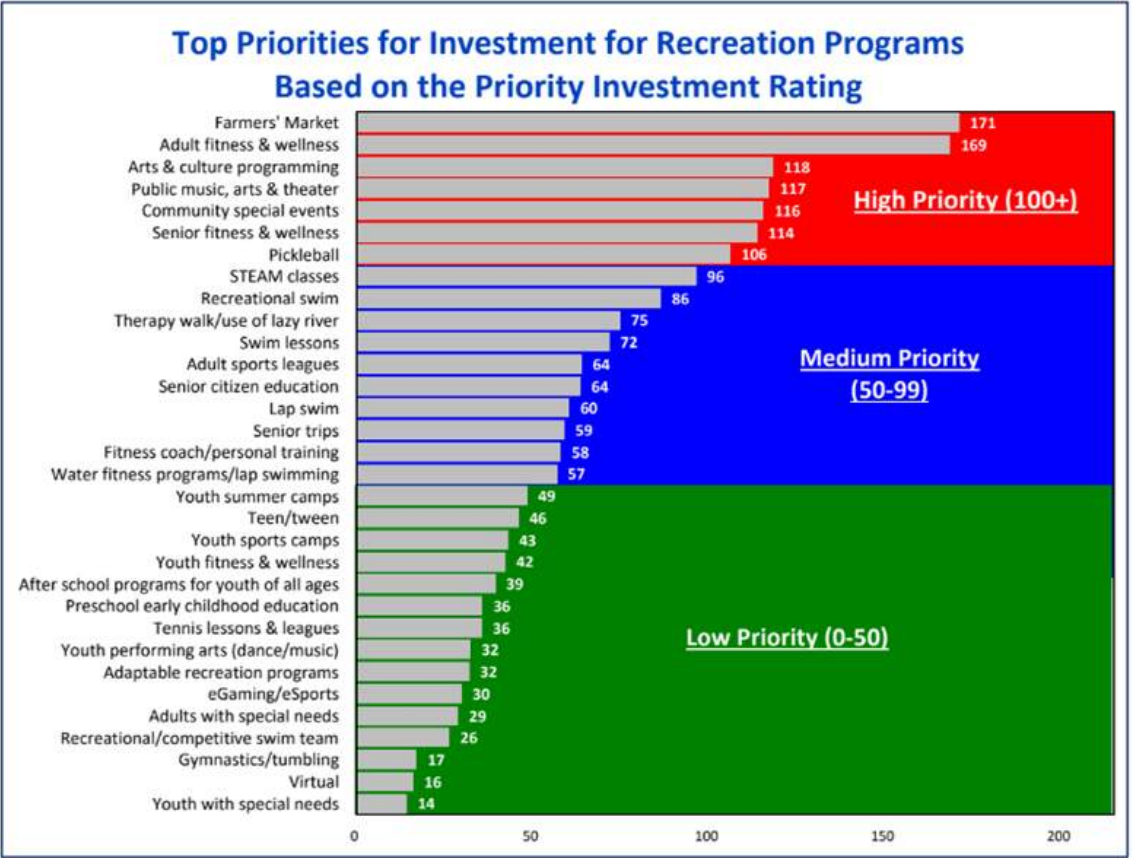


FIGURE 5.3 - Top Priorities for Investment for Recreation Programs

5.3 PROGRAM STRATEGY ANALYSIS

Age Segment Analysis

The table below depicts each Core Program Area and the most prominent age segments they serve. Recognizing that many Core Program Areas serve multiple age segments, Primary (noted with a ‘P’) and Secondary (noted with an ‘S’) markets are identified. For this report, an Age Segment Analysis was analyzed by Core Program Area, exhibiting an over-arching view of the age segments served by different program areas, and displaying any gaps in segments served. It is also useful to perform an Age Segment Analysis by individual programs, in order to gain a more nuanced view of the data.

Based on the age demographics of the City, current programs seem to be well-aligned with the community’s age profile. All age segments

are served by the five overarching Core Program Areas. Moving forward, it is recommended that the City continue introducing new programs in order to address any potential unmet needs

Staff should continue to monitor demographic shifts and program offerings to ensure that the needs of each age group are being met. It would be best practice to establish a plan including what age segment to target, establish the message, which marketing method(s) to use, create the social media campaign, and determine what to measure for success before allocating resources towards a particular effort.

Age Segment Analysis						
Core Program Areas	Preschool (5 & under)	Elementary (6-12)	Teen (13-17)	Adult (18+)	Senior (55+)	All Ages Programs
Aquatics	P	P	P	P	P	P
Art						P
Athletics	S	P	P	P	P	
Library & Enrichment	P	P	P	P	P	P
Special Events	P	P	P	P	P	P

FIGURE 5.4 - Age Segment Analysis

Age Segment Analysis

A Program Lifecycle Analysis involves reviewing each program offered to determine the stage of growth or decline for each. This provides a way of informing strategic decisions about the overall mix of programs managed by the agency to ensure that an appropriate number of programs are “fresh” and that relatively few programs, if any, need to be discontinued. This analysis is not based on strict quantitative data, but rather, is based on staff members’ knowledge of their programs. The following table shows the percentage distribution of the various lifecycle categories of the City’s programs. These percentages were obtained by comparing the number of programs in each individual stage with the total number of programs listed by staff members.

The Lifecycle Analysis depicts a program distribution that is skewed towards the early stages of the program lifecycle. An estimated 76% of all programs fall within the beginning stages (Introduction, Take-Off, & Growth). It is recommended to have 50-60% of all programs within these beginning stages because it provides an avenue to energize programmatic offerings. These stages ensure the pipeline for new programs is there prior to programs transitioning into the Mature stage.

According to staff, an estimated 15% of all program offerings fall into the Mature Stage. This stage anchors a program portfolio and it is recommended to have roughly 40% of programs within the Mature category in order to achieve a stable foundation.

Additionally, 9% of programs are identified as Saturated or Declining. This aligns with the recommended distribution. It is a natural progression for programs to eventually evolve into saturation and decline stages. However, if programs reach these stages rapidly, it could be an indication that the quality of the programs does not meet expectations, or there is not as much of a demand for the programs. As programs enter into the Decline Stage, they must be closely reviewed and evaluated for repositioning or elimination. When this occurs, these programs should be modified to begin a new lifecycle within the Introductory Stage or replace the existing programs with new programs based upon community needs and trends.

Staff should complete a Program Lifecycle Analysis on an annual basis and ensure that the percentage distribution closely aligns with desired performance. Furthermore, this could include annual performance measures for each Core Program Area to track participation growth, customer retention, and percentage of new programs as an incentive for innovation and alignment with community trends.

Lifecycle	Description	Actual Programs Distribution		Recommended Distribution
Introduction	New Programs; modest participation	40%	76%	50%-60% Total
Take-Off	Rapid participation growth	17%		
Growth	Moderate, but consistent participation growth	19%		
Mature	Slow participation growth	15%	15%	15%
Saturation	Minimal to no participation growth; extreme competition	2%	9%	0%-10% Total
Decline	Declining participation	7%		

FIGURE 5.5 - Program Lifetime Distribution

Program Classification

Conducting a classification of services analysis informs how each program serves the overall organization mission, the goals and objectives of each Core Program Area, and how the program should be funded regarding tax dollars and/or user fees and charges. How a program is classified can help to determine the most appropriate management, funding, and marketing strategies.

Program classifications are based on the degree to which the program provides a public benefit versus a private benefit. Public benefit can be described as everyone receiving the same level of benefit with equal access, whereas private benefit can be described as the user

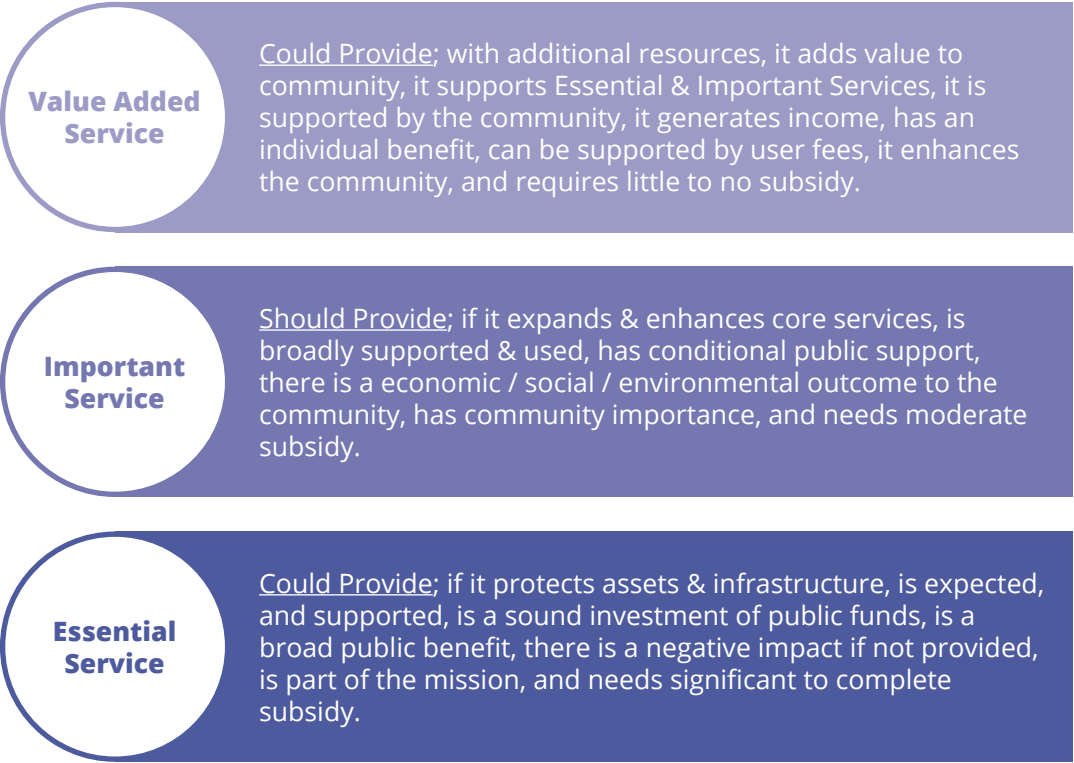
receiving exclusive benefit above what a general taxpayer receives for their personal benefit.

For this exercise, a classification method was used based on three categories: Essential Services, Important Services, and Value-Added Services. Where a program or service is classified depends upon alignment with the organizational mission, how the public perceives a program, legal mandates, financial sustainability, personal benefit, competition in the marketplace, and access by participants. The following graphic describes each of the three program classifications.

With assistance from staff, a classification of programs and services was conducted for all of the recreation programs offered. The results presented in the following table represent the current classification distribution of recreation program services. Programs should be assigned cost recovery goal ranges within those overall categories.

Olathe Program Classification Distribution		
Essential	Important	Value-Added
18%	63%	19%

FIGURE 5.6 - Olathe Program Classification Distribution



As the City continues to evolve to better meet the community's needs, there could be an added benefit to managing the services if they all were classified according to the Cost Recovery Model for Sustainable Services as depicted below.

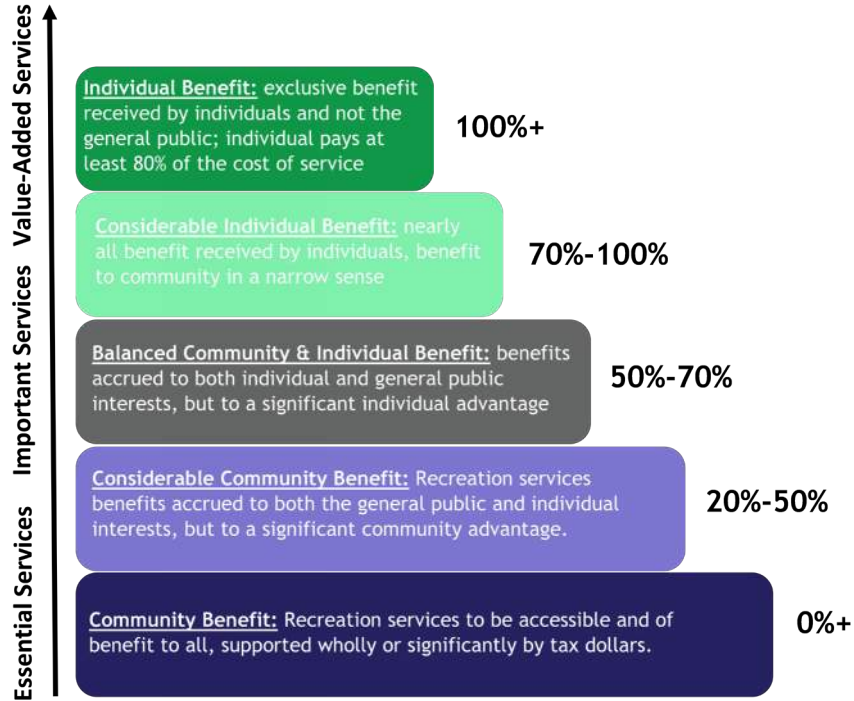


FIGURE 5.7 - Cost Recovery Model for Sustainable Services

Cost of Service and Cost Recovery

Cost recovery targets should at least be identified for each Core Program Area at a minimum, and for specific programs or events when realistic. Theoretically, staff should review how programs are grouped for similar cost recovery and subsidy goals to determine if current practices still meet management outcomes. Determining cost recovery performance and using it to make informed pricing decisions involves a three-step process:

- 1. Classify all programs and services based on the public or private benefit they provide (as completed in the previous section).
- 2. Conduct a Cost-of-Service Analysis to calculate the full cost of each program.
- 3. Establish a cost recovery percentage for each program or program type based on the outcomes of the previous two steps and adjust program prices accordingly.

The following section provide more details on steps 2 & 3.

Understanding the Full Cost of Service

To develop specific cost recovery targets, full cost of accounting needs to be created on each class or program that accurately calculates direct and indirect costs. Cost recovery goals are established once these numbers are in place, and the program’s staff should be trained on this process. A Cost-of-Service Analysis should be conducted on each program, or program type, that accurately calculates direct (i.e., program-specific) and indirect (i.e., comprehensive, including administrative overhead) costs. Completing a Cost-of-Service Analysis not only helps determine the true and full cost of offering a program, but it also provides information that can be used to price programs based upon accurate delivery costs. Below is an illustration of the common types of costs that must be accounted for in a Cost-of-Service Analysis.

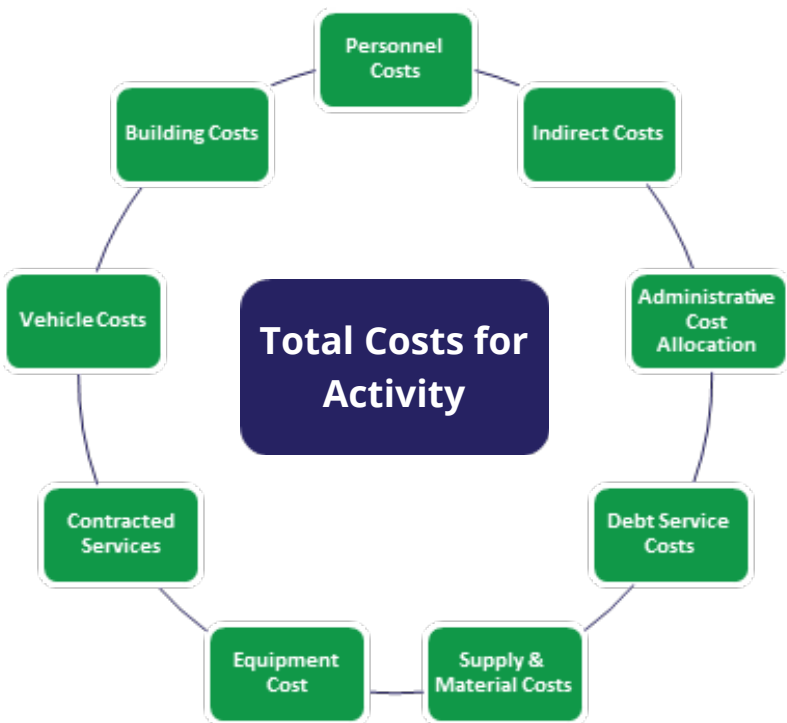


FIGURE 5.8 - Total Costs for Activity

The methodology for determining the total Cost-of-Service involves calculating the total cost for the activity, program, or service, then calculating the total revenue earned for that activity. Costs (and revenue) can also be derived on a per unit basis. Program or activity units may include:

- Number of participants
- Number of service calls
- Number of tasks performed
- Number of events
- Number of consumable units
- Required time for offering program/service

Agencies use Cost-of-Service Analysis to determine what financial resources are required to provide specific programs at specific levels of service. Results are used to determine and track cost recovery as well as to benchmark different programs against one another. Cost recovery goals are established once Cost-of-Service totals have been calculated. Program staff should be trained on the process of conducting a Cost-of-Service Analysis and the process should be undertaken on a regular basis.

Current Cost Recovery

Staff currently tracks cost recovery, but methods appear to vary by Core Program Area. Some cost recovery calculations are based on an individual program basis, while other calculations are done on a facility basis. For example, some Aquatics programs are not individually tracked for cost recovery, but are instead included in overall Olathe Community Center metrics. In other cases, cost recovery is not tracked at all.

Moving forward, it is recommended to that not only track actual cost recovery but set cost recovery goals at the start of each year. This will allow the staff to benchmark itself against its goal year over year.

Cost Recovery Best Practices

Cost recovery targets should reflect the degree to which a program provides a public versus individual good. Programs providing public benefits (i.e., Essential programs) should be subsidized more; programs providing individual benefits (i.e., Value-Added programs) should seek to recover costs and/or generate revenue for other services. To help plan and implement cost recovery policies, the consulting team has developed the following definitions to help classify specific programs within program areas.

- **Essential** programs category is critical to achieving the organizational mission and providing community-wide benefits and therefore, generally receive priority for tax-dollar subsidization.
- **Important or Value-Added** program classifications generally represent programs that receive lower priority for subsidization.
 - **Important** programs contribute to the organizational mission but are not essential to it; therefore, cost recovery for these programs should be high (i.e., at least 80% overall).
 - **Value-Added** programs are not critical to the mission and should be prevented from drawing upon limited public funding, so overall cost recovery for these programs should be near or in excess of 100%.

Pricing

Pricing strategies are one mechanism agencies can use to influence cost recovery. As shown the figure below, the City uses a wide array of pricing strategies. Of the ten pricing strategies assessed, all are used with the exception of Prime / Non-Prime Time pricing. Moving forward, the City may want to consider implementing this strategy to manage demand over the course of the day. Additionally, not every Core Program Area utilizes every pricing strategy, so opportunities exist to create organizational consistency across program types. Staff should continue to monitor the effectiveness of the various pricing strategies they employ and adjust as necessary. It is also important to continue monitoring for yearly competitor and other service providers (i.e., similar providers). The table below details pricing methods currently in place by each Core Program Area and additional areas for strategies to be implemented over time.

Pricing Strategies									
Age Segments	Family/ Household Status	Residency	Weekday/ Weekend	Prime / Non- Prime Time	Group Discounts	By Location	By Competition (Market Rate)	By Cost Recovery Goals	By Consumer's Ability to Pay
X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

FIGURE 5.9 - Pricing Strategies

Program Strategy Recommendations

In general, program staff should continue the cycle of evaluating programs on both individual merit as well as the program mix as a whole. This can be completed at one time on an annual basis, or in batches at key seasonal points of the year, as long as each program is checked once per year. The following tools and strategies can help facilitate this evaluation process.

Mini Business Plans

The consulting team recommends that Mini Business Plans (2-3 pages) for each Core Program Area be updated on a yearly basis. These plans should evaluate the Core Program Area based on meeting the outcomes desired for participants, cost recovery, percentage of the market and business controls, Cost- of-Service, pricing strategy for the next year, and marketing strategies that are to be implemented. If developed regularly and consistently, they can be effective tools for budget construction and justification processes in addition to marketing and communication tools.

Program Development & Decision-Making Matrix

When developing program plans and strategies, it is useful to consider all of the Core Program Areas and individual program analysis discussed in this Program Assessment. Lifecycle, Age Segment, Classification, and Cost Recovery Goals should all be tracked, and this information, along with the latest demographic trends and community input, should be factors that lead to program decision-making. Community input can help staff focus in on specific program areas to develop new opportunities in what group of citizens to target including the best marketing methods to use.

A simple, easy-to-use tool similar the exhibit below will help compare programs and prioritize resources using multiple data points, rather than relying solely on cost recovery. In addition, this analysis will help staff make an informed, objective case to the public when a program in decline, but beloved by a few, is retired. If the program/service is determined to have strong priority, appropriate cost recovery, good age segment appeal, good partnership potential, and strong market conditions the next step is to determine the marketing methods by completing a similar exercise as the one seen to the right.

Marketing & Promotion Methods

Program Idea (Name or Concept):

Marketing Methods

Content Developed

Contact Information

Start Date

Activity Guide

Website

Internal Factors

Priority Ranking

High

Medium

Low

Newspaper

Program Area

Core

Non-core

Social Media

Classification

Essential

Important

Discretionary

Fliers - Pub

Cost Recovery Range

0-40%

50-80%

80%+

Newspaper

Age Segment

Primary

Secondary

Email Mailing

Sponsorship/Partnership

Potential Partnerships

Monetary

Volunteers

Partner Skill

Location/Space

Event Website

Potential Sponsors

Monetary

Volunteers

Sponsor Skill

Location/Space

School Flier

Market Competition

Number of Competitors

Television

Competitiveness

High

Medium

Low

Digital Sign

Growth Potential

High

Low

Friends & N

Staff Promo

FIGURE 5.10 - Marketing and Promotion Methods

Program Evaluation Cycle (with Lifecycle Stages)

Using the Age Segment and Lifecycle analysis, and other established criteria, program staff should evaluate programs on an annual basis to determine program mix. This can be incorporated into the Program Operating/Business Plan process. A diagram of the program evaluation cycle and program lifecycle is found in the figure below. During the Introductory Stages, program staff should establish program goals, design program scenarios and components, and develop the program operating/business plan. Regular program evaluations will help determine the future of a program.

If participation levels are still growing, continue to provide the program. When participation growth is slowing (or non-existent) or competition increases, staff should look at modifying the program to re-energize the customers to participate. When program participation is consistently declining, staff should terminate the program and replace it with a new program based on the public's priority ranking and/or in activity areas that are trending nationally/regionally/locally, while taking into consideration the anticipated local participation percentage.

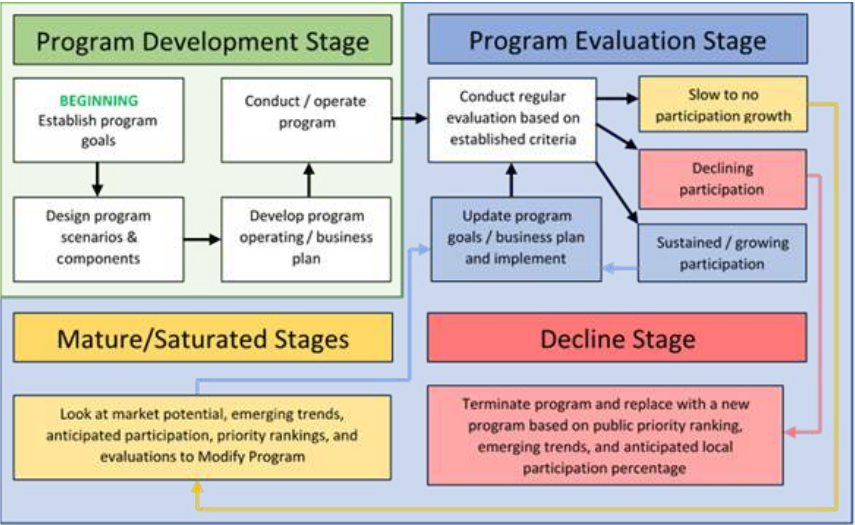


FIGURE 5.11 - Program Evaluation and Lifecycle Diagram

5.4 MARKETING, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

Current Recreation Marketing and Communications

Current marketing efforts utilize several communication methods to connect with residents including:

- Printed Program Guides
- Online Program Guides,
- Website
- Mobile-friendly website
- Flyers/Brochures
- Email blasts and/or listserv
- Public Service Announcements (PSAs)
- Paid advertisements
- Online newsletters
- In-Facility Signage
- Facebook
- Instagram
- Twitter
- YouTube
- Discord
- Twitch
- Tik Tok

Effective communication strategies require striking an appropriate balance between the content with the volume of messaging; while utilizing the “right” methods of delivery. The City has a broad distribution of delivery methods for promoting programs. It is imperative to continue updating the marketing strategy annually to provide information for community needs, demographics, and recreation trends.

An effective marketing plan must build upon and integrate with supporting plans and directly coordinate with organization priorities. The plan should also provide specific guidance as to how the City’s identity and brand is to be consistently portrayed across the multiple methods and deliverables used for communication.

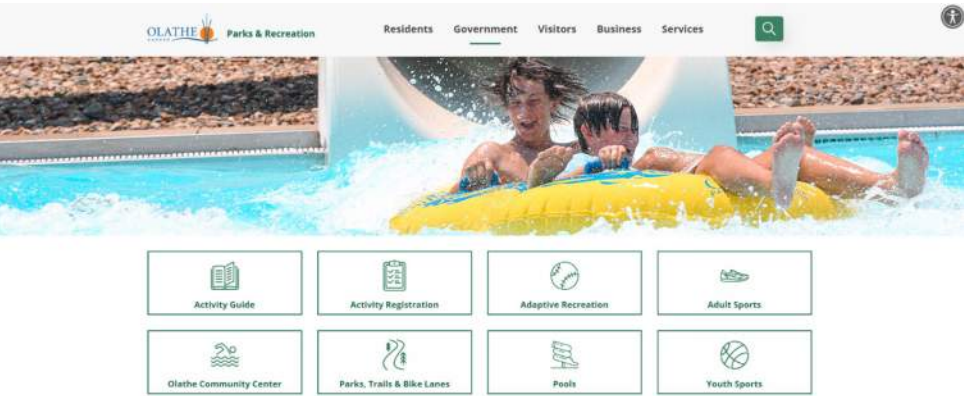


FIGURE 5.12 - Olathe Parks and Recreation Website

Website

The Park and Recreation website (<https://www.olatheks.gov/government/parks-recreation>) has several features making it easy to navigate and user friendly. There are several clickable icons located near the top of the homepage with facility and program information making it easy for users to navigate and find frequently sought information. Additionally, the homepage users can find additional resources, updates, and organizational information, along with social media accounts.

Public Input and Feedback

Aside from occasional post-program surveys and general community surveys led by the City, staff do not regularly use any established method for gathering public input or feedback in terms of recreation program offerings, quality, or availability. Consider implementing the following, especially for programs early in their lifecycle:

- Pre-program surveys
- Lost customer/user surveys
- Non-customer/non-user surveys
- Focus groups
- Statistically valid surveys
- In-facility or on-site surveys
- Crowdsourcing tools (e.g., MindMixer, Peak Democracy)

Volunteer and Partnership Management

Today’s realities require most public parks and recreation departments to seek productive and meaningful partnerships with both community organizations and individuals to deliver quality and seamless services to their residents. These relationships should be mutually beneficial to each party to better meet overall community needs and expand the positive impact of the agency’s mission. Effective partnerships and meaningful volunteerism are key strategy areas for the Department to meet the needs of the community in the years to come.

When managed with respect and used strategically, volunteers can serve as the primary advocates for the City and its offerings. Managing a strong volunteer and partnership program is critical to success. Currently, the City tracks individual volunteers and volunteer hours. It also uses a formal volunteer and partnership policies to manage these efforts.

Staff currently work with several partnering agencies, organizations, and corporations throughout the community. As with the tracking of volunteers, tracking partnerships helps show leadership how well staff can leverage resources. In many instances, partnerships are inequitable to the public agency and do not produce reasonable shared benefits between parties. It is not suggested that existing partnerships are inequitable; rather, in general many public agency partnerships tend to be one-sided.

The following recommended policies will promote fairness and equity within existing and future partnerships while helping staff to manage against potential internal and external conflicts. Certain partnership principles must be adopted for existing and future partnerships to work effectively. These partnership principles are as follows:

- All partnerships require a working agreement with measurable outcomes and will be evaluated on a regular basis. This should include reports to the agency on the performance and outcomes of the partnership including an annual review to determine renewal potential.
- All partnerships should track costs associated with the partnership investment to demonstrate the shared level of equity.
- All partnerships should maintain a culture that focuses on collaborative planning on a regular basis, regular communications, and annual reporting on performance and outcomes to determine renewal potential and opportunities to strengthen the partnership.

Additional partnerships can be pursued and developed with other public entities such as neighboring towns/cities, colleges, state or federal agencies, non-for-profit organizations, as well as with private or for-profit organizations. There are recommended standard policies and practices that will apply to any partnership, and those that are unique to relationships with private, for-profit entities.

Volunteer/Partnership Best Practices & Recommendations

Best Practices in Volunteer Management

In developing a volunteer policy, some best practices that the City should be aware of include:

- Involve volunteers in cross-training to expose them to various organizational functions and increase their skill. This can also increase their utility, allowing for more flexibility in making work assignments, and can increase their appreciation and understanding.
- Ensure a Volunteer Coordinator (a designated program staff member with volunteer management responsibility) and associated staff stay fully informed about the strategic direction of the agency overall, including strategic initiatives for all divisions. Periodically identify, evaluate, or revise specific tactics the volunteer services program should undertake to support the larger organizational mission.
- A key part of maintaining the desirability of volunteerism in the agency is developing a good reward and recognition system. The consultant team recommends using tactics similar to those found in frequent flier programs, wherein volunteers can use their volunteer hours to obtain early registration at programs, or discounted pricing at certain programs, rentals or events, or any other Town function. Identify and summarize volunteer recognition policies in a Volunteer Policy document.
- Regularly update volunteer position descriptions. Include an overview of the volunteer position lifecycle in the Volunteer Manual, including the procedure for creating a new position.

- Add end-of-lifecycle process steps to the Volunteer Manual to ensure that there is formal documentation of resignation or termination of volunteers. Also include ways to monitor and track reasons for resignation/termination and perform exit interviews with outgoing volunteers when able.

In addition to number of volunteers and volunteer hours, categorization and tracking volunteerism by type and extent of work, is important:

- **Regular volunteers:** Those volunteers whose work is continuous, provided their work performance is satisfactory and there is a continuing need for their services.
- **Special event volunteers:** Volunteers who help with a particular event with no expectation that they will return after the event is complete.
- **Episodic volunteers:** Volunteers who help with a particular project type on a recurring or irregular basis with no expectation that they will return for other duties.
- **Volunteer interns:** Volunteers who have committed to work for the agency to fulfill a specific higher-level educational learning requirement.
- **Community service volunteers:** Volunteers who are volunteering over a specified period to fulfill a community service requirement.

Encourage employees to volunteer themselves in the community. Exposure of staff to the community in different roles (including those not related to parks and recreation) will raise awareness of the agency and its volunteer program. It also helps staff understand the role and expectations of a volunteer if they can experience it for themselves.

Best Practice for All Partnerships

All partnerships should adhere to common policy requirements. These include:

- Each partner will meet with or report to staff on a regular basis to plan and share activity-based costs and equity invested.
- Partners will establish measurable outcomes and work through key issues to focus on for the coming year to meet the desired outcomes.
- Each partner will focus on meeting a balance of equity agreed to and track investment costs accordingly.
- Measurable outcomes will be reviewed quarterly and shared with each partner, with adjustments made as needed.
- A working partnership agreement will be developed and monitored together on a quarterly or as-needed basis.
- Each partner will assign a liaison to serve each partnership agency for communication and planning purposes.

Policy Recommendations for Public/Private Partnerships

The recommended policies and practices for public/private partnerships that may include businesses, private groups, private associations, or individuals who desire to make a profit from use of the City's facilities or programs are detailed below. These can also apply to partnerships where a private party wishes to develop a facility on park property, to provide a service on publicly-owned property, or who has a contract with the agency to provide a task or service

on the agency's behalf at public facilities. These unique partnership principles are as follows:

- Upon entering into an agreement with a private business, group, association or individual, the staff and political leadership must recognize that they must allow the private entity to meet their financial objectives within reasonable parameters that protect the mission, goals and integrity of the City.
- As an outcome of the partnership, the City must receive a designated fee that may include a percentage of gross revenue dollars less sales tax on a regular basis, as outlined in the contract agreement.
- The working agreement of the partnership must establish a set of measurable outcomes to be achieved, as well as the tracking method of how those outcomes will be monitored by the agency. The outcomes will include standards of quality, financial reports, customer satisfaction, payments to the agency, and overall coordination with the Department for the services rendered.
- Depending on the level of investment made by the private contractor, the partnership agreement can be limited to months, a year or multiple years.
- If applicable, the private contractor will provide a working management plan annually that they will follow to ensure the outcomes desired. The management plan can and will be

negotiated, if necessary. Monitoring of the management plan will be the responsibility of both partners. The agency must allow the contractor to operate freely in their best interest, as long as the outcomes are achieved, and the terms of the partnership agreement are adhered to.

- The private contractor cannot lobby agency advisory or governing boards for renewal of a contract. Any such action will be cause for termination. All negotiations must be with the Quality of Life Director or their designee.
- The agency has the right to advertise for private contracted partnership services or negotiate on an individual basis with a bid process based on the professional level of the service to be provided.
- If conflicts arise between both partners, the highest-ranking officers from both sides will try to resolve the issue before going to each partner's legal counsels. If none can be achieved, the partnership shall be dissolved.

Partnership Opportunities

The following recommendations are both an overview of common partnership opportunities as well as suggested approaches to organizing partnership pursuits. This is not an exhaustive list of all potential partnerships that can be developed, but this list can be used as a reference tool for an agency to develop its own priorities in partnership development. The following five areas of focus are recommended:

1. **Operational Partners:** Other entities and organizations that can support efforts to maintain facilities and assets, promote amenities and park usage, support site needs, provide programs and events, and/or maintain the integrity of natural/cultural resources through in-kind labor, equipment, or materials.
2. **Vendor Partners:** Service providers and/or contractors that can gain brand association and notoriety as a preferred vendor or supporter of the City in exchange for reduced rates, services, or some other agreed upon benefit.
3. **Service Partners:** Nonprofit organizations and/or friends' groups that support the efforts of the agency to provide programs and events, and/or serve specific constituents in the community collaboratively.
4. **Co-Branding Partners:** Private, for-profit organizations that can gain brand association and notoriety as a supporter of the City in exchange for sponsorship or co-branded programs, events, marketing and promotional campaigns, and/or advertising opportunities.
5. **Resource Development Partners:** A private, nonprofit organization with the primary purpose to leverage private sector resources, grants, other public funding opportunities, and resources from individuals and groups within the community to support the goals and objectives of the agency on mutually agreed strategic initiatives.



06

OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

06 OPERATIONAL AND FINANCIAL REVIEW

5.1 OPERATIONAL REVIEW

Olathe Parks and Recreation is provided by both the Quality of Life and Infrastructure Focus Areas. These Focus Areas are responsible for park, facility, and amenity maintenance and development, and the organization and facilitation of community events and recreational programs. Thy consist of both a park maintenance and infrastructure team, as well as a recreation programs and services team. Additionally contracted support is utilized in both teams in order to augment staff resources.

Park Site and Facility Maintenance

In 2023, there are a total of 42 full-time employees between the Parks Team under the Quality of Life Focus Area and the staff of the Infrastructure Focus Area. The staff under the Quality of Life Focus Area include maintenance workers, senior maintenance workers, horticulturalists, and foresters. The related staff under the Infrastructure Department includes a construction team, maintenance technicians, and craftspersons. Together these teams maintain all the developed parks and undeveloped lands in the parks inventory, all amenities in the parks, trails, sports fields and complexes, pools, and major facilities. Additionally, this team is responsible for maintaining rights-of-way and other landscaped areas around city buildings and facilities.

Identified Priorities

There were several priorities identified during the process of this operational review in order to maintain and continue the level of service enjoyed by the residents of Olathe in their parks and recreation system today. These are detailed below.

- 1. Elevating the importance of maintaining what we already have.** While there are a few exciting opportunities to add to the parks and recreation system detailed in this plan, including updating existing parks with new amenities, it is critical we prioritize taking care of what we already have before we turn a lot of attention to building new sites, amenities and facilities.
- 2. There needs to be a capital asset maintenance and replacement plan.** As the infrastructure of the parks system continues to age and get heavily used, a more formalized strategy for long-term capital maintenance and replacement schedules needs to be developed to keep the park system in high quality condition and to support more accurate future planning.
- 3. Natural infrastructure ages too.** It is true that built infrastructure ages and needs a repair and replacement plan to keep sites and facilities in good working condition, and natural infrastructure such as landscaping and trees also age and need to be replaced at times to ensure public safety. This should be planned and budgeted for.
- 4. The community pools are in need of significant investment.** A recently completed evaluation of the four outdoor pools and one indoor pool in the Olathe Parks and Recreation System found the need for \$8.5 million

in required renovations just to keep the pools in reliable working condition which did not include any major enhancements.

- 5. Maintenance resources need to grow.** It is critical to properly resource maintenance resources in the City, including staff, especially as the system grows over time. Currently there is likely need for an additional park infrastructure crew, as well specialized staff such as an irrigation technician. As the park system grows in size and complexity, so should the maintenance resources supporting the long-term integrity of the system.

Maintenance Expense Per Developed Acre

Another metric evaluated in this analysis was the annual operational/ maintenance expense per developed acre owned or managed by the City of Olathe. This is a good metric to analyze the level of investment in the park system today and as the system grows.

As noted in the graph below, the maintenance expense per developed acre has steadily grown at an average annual rate of 5.25% from 2021 to 2023. Over that three year period the total growth in maintenance expenditures was 10.49%, with all of that occurring between 2022 and 2023. This is largely attributed to significant increases in material, supply and equipment costs supporting park and facility maintenance over this time period.

It is recommended to expect annual maintenance expenditures to increase by 5-6% based on recent annual cost escalations. This annual multiplier for the operating budget is recommended to be included in future budgets. Additionally, the PROS Consulting Team recommends the city further increase the operational expense to \$5,255 per acre

in 2024 to account for costs supporting the organizational staffing needs in maintaining a high-quality parks and recreation system. This recommendation is based on our industry experience and the best practice for annual investment in maintenance of sites and facilities to ensure high-quality parks that are fully usable by the public. This is a sentiment that was also reflected in the community input received in this master planning process.

A graph showing annual operational expense per acre (2021-2023) as well as recommended operational expense per acre (2023-2024) is below.

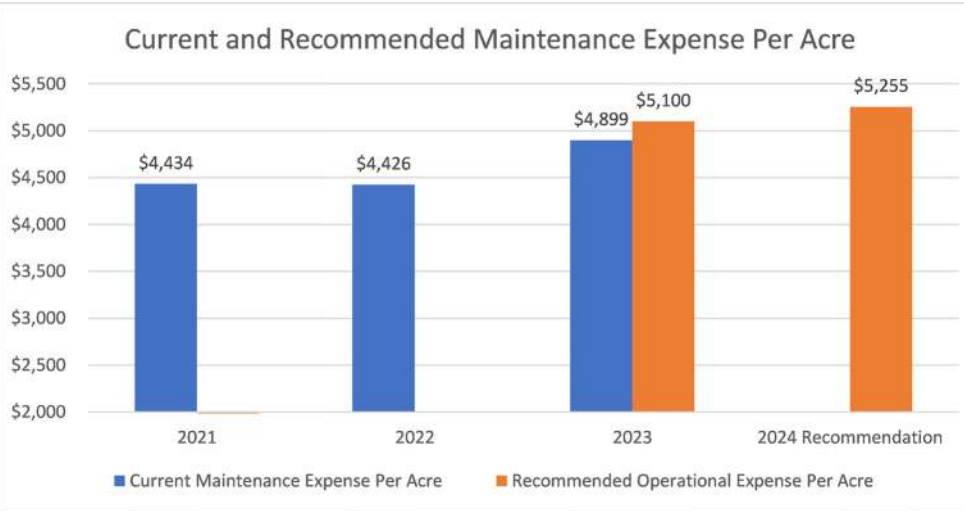


FIGURE 6.1 - Current and Recommended Maintenance Expense

Recreation Programs and Services

The Recreation Programs Team was heavily engaged in this master plan process especially in the process of conducting the Recreation Programs Assessment featured earlier in the plan. To accentuate the findings of that assessment, staff were interviewed to identify their priorities that would be detailed in the master plan. These are outlined below.

- 1. **Strong need for an additional multi-purpose recreation facility.** Staff feel strongly the community needs an additional indoor recreation facility provide more programmable spaces, support additional adult programming, and diversify and broaden membership opportunities.
- 2. **Childcare should be further evaluated as a service.** Providing childcare at the community or recreation centers is an important service that improves the accessibility and use of the facilities, however these services now go beyond just supporting users of the community center. That said, further exploration of the overall community need for childcare should be pursued and further definition as to the role of the City in being a part of the ecosystem that meets those needs should be determined.
- 3. **Olathe needs a dog park.** There currently is no dog park within Olathe. At least one destination dog park should be developed and possibly could be developed in conjunction with the new animal control facility.
- 4. **Opportunities for additional concessions at Lake Olathe Park.** Additional concession opportunities at Lake Olathe

Park can include programmatic concessions, as well as other public-private partnerships that expand the park visitors' experiences.

- 5. **Need to develop cost recovery goals for programs and services.** As noted in the Recreation Program Assessment, cost recovery goals for each core program area should be developed in accordance with their service classification (Essential, Important, Value-added).
- 6. **Rebranding and messaging needs to reflect community and social values.** The current rebranding and messaging efforts of the recreation programs and services being conducted by the program team should continue and be reflective of the community's social values and increasing diversity.
- 7. **Important infrastructure improvements.** Aside from the needed renovations to the aquatic facilities, the Recreation Programs Team felt critical infrastructure improvements should include enhancements to the Farmers Market, signage and wayfinding throughout the system.
- 8. **Modernize hiring practices and job descriptions.** The Recreation Programs Team is working to modernize how job descriptions are written and framed to more accurately portray the opportunity to be a part of the recreation staff, including how these positions are posted and featured to the general public and how these positions once hired are onboarded properly.



FIGURE 6.2 - Olathe Career Flier

5.2 FUNDING AND REVENUE STRATEGIES

Park systems often rely on the same typical funding sources for their projects, programs, and capital improvements, as well as the ongoing financial support that their agency requires. Funding sources can change, however, regarding how they provide funding and what organizations they will support. Therefore it is critical to continually evaluate new funding and revenue strategies that will support the system’s operational and capital needs and opportunities. Understanding the type of sources and opportunities available can be valuable to the sustainability of a park and recreation system. It is important to expand the range of sources where funding is obtained and develop a strategy to locate new sources. Developing new funding strategies, understanding new potential funding sources, and successfully obtaining new funding can be lengthy and time consuming, yet it can provide capital and operational dollars when normal funding channels change.

5.2 SUCCESSFUL PARKS AND RECREATION FUNDING OPTIONS

The following three categories are examples of sources considered to be viable methods used in the parks and recreation industry:

- **Dedicated Funding:** These funds (often in the form of various tax options) are appropriated or set aside for a limited purpose.
- **Earned Income:** Revenue generated by membership fees, facility rentals, program fees and other sources where the agency is paid for services or what they provide.
- **Financial Support:** These monies are acquired by applying for grants, through foundation fundraising, corporations, organizations, as well as state and federal sources.

Dedicated Funding Source

- **Taxable Bonds** through Voter Approved Referenda are used primarily to support the development of large community-based projects like a community center, field house, signature park, trails system .
- **Transient Occupancy Tax from Hotels** are used to help pay for recreation facilities that have a high level of tourism involved such as sport tournaments for youth and adults held in the city and are used to help build and pay for the development and management of those facilities.
- **Land Value Captive Taxes** such as a Tax Increment Finance Funds are used to help support community centers and field houses whereby businesses benefit from higher property values based on their location to these amenities and the difference between the existing property values and the new property value is used to fund the development until the development is paid off.
- **Local Improvement Districts or Business Improvement Districts** are typically established in communities that are in a downtown business district. The BID district requires 60% of the owners to support the BID before it can be put into place and the money is used for improving the aesthetics such as streetscapes, flowers, sidewalk cleaning, signage, sidewalk furniture, hosting concerts and special events that attract people to spend time and money in the downtown area.
- **Developer Impact Fees** are used to support neighborhood park development in the property near or in their development as a way of enticing new homeowners to move into the development. The developer pays the impact fee at the time of the permit like impact fees for roads, sewers, and general utilities based on the value of the homes that are being built.
- **Real-Estate Transfer Fees** are established at usually 1% of the sale price of a home and is paid by the buyer to support ongoing park infrastructure in the area where the house is located.

Earned Income

- **Land Leases** allow park system to lease prime property to developers for restaurants along trails or in parks, retail operations that benefit users in the park to support the ongoing operation of the park over a period of time.
- **Health Care/Hospital Partnerships** are becoming a major partner for park and recreation agencies to help support the development of community centers that have health related amenities in them like fitness centers, therapy pools and walking tracks. Some health care providers put in rehab centers inside of the community center and pay the development cost associated with the ongoing building costs.
- **Fees for Services** are typically used to support the operational cost and capital cost for parks and recreation programs and amenities which is occurring in Brookings now.
- **Room Override Rates** from hotels used for major tournaments. These revenues go back to the city to help pay for the management and cost of hosting the tournament.
- **Establishment of a Park Foundation** is an appropriate revenue source for the Department to consider especially in a college town. The Park Foundation typically raised money for park related improvements, programs for disadvantaged users and they support the development of new facilities that are needed in the city.
- **Local Not-for-Profit Foundations Gifts** usually help pay for specific music at special events or for helping to provide a running event in the city or a sports tournament.
- **Capital Fee on top of an Access Fee** to pay for a revenue producing facility need. This type of fee is usually associated with an amenity like a golf course where the users help to improve an irrigation system or improve cart paths because they benefit most from the capital fee. The fee is removed once the improvement is paid off.

- **Corporate Sponsorships** help to pay for the operations of signature facilities like sports complexes, indoor community centers, ice rinks and they pay for an impression point usually in the \$0.35 to \$0.50 per impression point on an annual basis.
- **Naming Rights** are used to help to capitalize a community center or special use facility and typically are good for 10 to 20 years before it is removed.
- **Public/ Not-for-Profit/ Private Partnerships** are used to help offset operational costs or capital costs for community-based facilities like trails, nature centers, sport complexes, community centers, ice rinks, signature parks, special event sites that bring in and support a high level of users.
- **Licensing Fees** for a signature park or event that others want to use to make money from can be applied to elements of a park from a user or business as it applies to products sold on site, music, advertising, and ongoing events to be held on site.
- **Outsource Operations** to the private sector to save money where the cost is less costly to provide the same level of service. This can be in any form of service the system provides now from contracting with instructors, managing forestry operations, managing landscapes in the city, care of park related equipment are a few examples.
- **Volunteerism** is an indirect funding source use by many departments to support the operations of parks and recreation services. The time the volunteer gives can be used for in kind support matches on state and federal grants in lieu of money. Best practices agencies try to get 15% of the work force hours from volunteers.
- **Maintenance Endowments** are established as new facilities are developed like all-weather turf to support replacement costs when the asset life is used up and need replaced.

- **User Fees** are currently used to offset operational cost based on the private good that the service is providing to the user.
- **Entrance Fees** (pools, community centers, parks)
 - Daily Fees
 - Non-Resident Fees
 - Group Fees
 - Prime Time and Non-Prime Time fees
 - Group and Volume Fees
 - Permit Fees
 - Reservation Fees
 - Catering Fees
 - Food Truck Fees
 - Ticket Sales
 - Photography Fees
 - Price by loyalty, length of stay and level of exclusivity.

Introduction

- **Land and Water Conservation Fund** is the primary funding source for federal grants and requires a match from the local jurisdiction of 50%.
- **Transportation Alternatives Program** (TAP) provides greenways and trails grants for park systems across the system.
- **Recreation Trails Funding Program** for development of urban linkages, trail head and trailside facilities.
- **Private Donations** can be sought to help develop community-based facilities like community centers, sports complexes, outdoor theatres, and nature education facilities.



FIGURE 6.3 - Diving Boards at a Pool

5.3 RECOMMENDED FUNDING OPTIONS TO EXPLORE

Based on discussions with City leadership in the master planning process, there are specific alternative funding recommendations that are more preferred for consideration over the next 10 years. These include, but are not limited to:

- The renewal of the current **Parks Sales Tax** that is scheduled for renewal in April 2023 is highly recommended and preferred as this funding has been a significant contributor for most of the major park developments in Olathe over the last 10 years.
- **Tax Incremental Financing** (TIF) can be used with an established “TIF District” in which incremental increases in property taxes over a 20-25 year period is utilized to pay or reimburse initial development costs. Establishing a TIF district in areas that are anticipated to experience significant economic development and growth over the next 20 years can fund initial park/trail/greenway development that initially serves as a catalyst for that development. This could be particularly effective around any future development of major facilities or complexes.
- **A Greenway Utility** is often used to finance acquisition of greenways and development of the greenways by selling the development rights underground for the fiber optic types of businesses. This creates more options to develop the infrastructure within a trail easement, but must include terms for notification, minimal impact to users, and replacing/repairing damage caused by utility company.
- **A Public Improvement District** (PID) or Special Improvement District can support new developments when authorized by the City Council and legally set up according to state law. This taxing district provides funds especially for the operation and maintenance of public amenities such as parks and major boulevards.
- Reinvigoration of the **Parks Foundation** can lead to significant revenues generated from private sector philanthropy, as well as establish a reliable partner in the pursuit of institutional and governmental grants. A strong park-focused foundation and designated fund can raise money for park related improvements, programs for disadvantaged users and support the development of new facilities that are needed in the city.
- The expanded use of **Corporate Sponsorships** to support more facilities and programs beyond just special and community events as it is utilized currently. The value of these sponsorships can be developed based on annual “impressions” that are rooted in overall visitation and participation levels. That recommended value should be calculated on \$0.35 to \$0.50 per impression point on an annual basis. This could also be considered a form of Advertising Sales as well.
- **Expanded utilization of Partnerships** that are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and the City, or a private business and the City. Two partners jointly develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities and asset management, based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.
- The current **Transient Tax** collected in Olathe to support tourism and economic development should have a portion dedicated to parks and recreation needs. Olathe Parks and Recreation facilities are major drivers of regional, statewide and national tourism in the area through events, tournaments, and special programs. Dedicated hotel/motel tax funds could strongly support the needs of the system in continuing to do this well.

- **Pouring Rights** are when private soft drink companies execute agreements with the City for exclusive pouring rights within park facilities. A portion of the gross sales goes back to the City. The City of Westfield, IN recently signed a 10 year, \$2 million pouring rights deal at their sports complex with Pepsi.
- **Catering Permits and Fees** are licenses to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of food sales returning to the City. Also many cities have their own catering service and receive a percentage of dollars off the sale of their food. This could be something considered in the future with food trucks servicing special and community events. This also includes the use of Private Concessionaires for operating select facilities/amenities within certain parks or facilities.
- **Land Leases** could be utilized where appropriate and include options where developers / agencies lease space from City-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays out a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include a golf course, marina, restaurants, driving ranges, sports complexes, equestrian facilities, recreation centers and ice arenas. Similarly, Leasebacks are instances whereby a private individual or company builds a community center or sports complex and

the revenue earned comes back to pay the development costs. These could be considered where appropriate as well.

- **BUILD Grants** (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) of the U.S. Department of Transportation, formerly known as TIGER grants, can be sizeable federal funds that can be utilized for large development projects that involve transportation infrastructure. This intersects well with Parks and Recreation on the potential development of trails/ greenways and blueways, or water trails.
- **Revenue Bonds** are a category of municipal bond supported by the revenue from a specific project, such as a toll bridge, highway, or local stadium. Revenue bonds that finance income-producing projects are thus secured by a specified revenue source. Typically, revenue bonds can be issued by any government agency or fund that is managed in the manner of a business, such as entities having both operating revenues and expenses.
- **The Interlocal Agreements** between the City and local school districts, as well as Johnson County Parks and Recreation District, should be evaluated to ensure they are updated, reflect current conditions and needs within the community, and support the partners equitably in the agreement.



FIGURE 6.4 - Historic Site



07

STRATEGIC ACTIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

7 STRATEGIC ACTIONS AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The successful implementation of this Master Plan should be focused around five (5) strategic initiatives that correspond to community needs and what was heard in the community engagement process. These initiatives will be forwarded through a series of capital improvement projects as well as more operational actions. In the sections that follow, the recommended strategic initiatives are discussed and then the traditional Capital Improvement Plan is outlined for the 10-year implementation period. These are not recommended as a linear action plan, but rather these initiatives can and should be pursued concurrently as is possible.

6.1 STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN

The five strategic initiatives identified by the community are:

- Revitalization and Maintenance of Neighborhood Parks
- Enhancing and Upgrading Community and Regional Parks
- Trails and Connectivity
- Growing the System to Meeting Community Needs
- Organizational Excellence

Of note, the five strategic initiatives are not listed in order of priority and were not prioritized by the community insomuch as different users have different needs of the park and recreation system. The City should balance its efforts to advance each strategic initiative rather than focus on them consecutively. In the action plan that follows, specific strategic actions are identified within each initiative, on a temporal scale of “Short Term”, “Mid Term”, and “Long Term”.



FIGURE 7.1 - Park Pavilion Structure

Revitalization and Maintenance of Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks are the heart and soul of the Olathe Parks and Recreation system. They are integral to providing a high quality of life for the neighborhoods in which they sit. The following neighborhood parks are example of those in need of reinvestment in multiple ways (playground replacement, pavement repair, shelter replacement, signage, lighting, etc.). Making these investments will speak loudly to the residents of these neighborhoods in all corners of the city.

- Hampton Park
- Mahaffie Pond Park
- North Walnut Park
- Scarborough Park
- Woodbrook Park



FIGURE 7.2 - Fishing Pond

Strategic Initiative	Strategic Actions	Recommended Timeline
Revitalization and Maintenance of Neighborhood Parks	Identify improvement projects by priority and available funding. Higher priority projects are playgrounds, shade infrastructure (natural and built), splashpads, and inclusive recreational amenities.	Short-Term
	Identify and acquire capital funding source(s).	Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Initiate public engagement process, site design and competitive bid selection process for construction.	Mid-Term
	Begin and complete construction within approved budget requirements.	Long-Term

FIGURE 7.3 - Strategic Revitalization and Maintenance of Neighborhood Parks

Enhancing and Upgrading Community and Regional Parks

Community and regional parks are where not only Olathe residents come out to play and celebrate; they are regional draws that bring people from around the KC Metro to enjoy all that Olathe has to offer. The below community and regional parks each require upgrades to ensure that they remain unique and special attractions for Olathe residents and visitors from other communities.

- Cedar Lake
 - Black Bob Park
- Waterworks Park
 - Frisco Lake Park
 - Veterans Memorial
 - Frontier Park
 - Girls Softball Complex
 - Two Trails Park
 - Prairie Center

Strategic Initiative	Strategic Actions	Recommended Timeline
Enhancing and Upgrading Community and Regional Parks	Develop strategic approach to updating community and regional parks that is a blend of improvements that may have occurred through other related initiatives of this action plan, and more explicit redevelopment projects that are park-wide.	Short-Term
	Identify specific redevelopment projects that meet the overall objectives of this initiative and are aligned with the financial and organizational capacity of the city.	Mid-Term
	Develop a phased redevelopment plan for community and regional parks.	Mid-Term
	Identify and acquire capital funding source(s).	Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Initiate public engagement process, site design and competitive bid selection process for construction.	Mid-Term
	Begin and complete construction within approved budget requirements.	Long-Term

FIGURE 7.4 - Strategic Enhancement and Upgrading of Community and Regional Parks

Trails and Connectivity

Trails are consistently listed as the top parks and recreation amenity by the public. The City of Olathe has an extensive network of trails and greenways. In fact, this portion of the system has its own master plan document. This master plan acknowledges the recommendations of that master plan. The below project list considers trail and connectivity improvements that can be made within specific parks.

- Natural surface trails at Lake Olathe
 - Natural surface trails at new park near College and Woodland
 - Natural surface trails at new park near Lakeshore and 148th Street
- Natural surface trails at Lone Elm Park
 - Natural surface trails at Cedar Lake
 - Complete the Cedar Lake Trail
 - Create connection between Indian Creek Library and Indian Creek Trail
 - Create connection between Water Works Park and Keeler Street
 - Extend Mill Creek Trail from Santa Fe Street to Cedar Street

Strategic Initiative	Strategic Actions	Recommended Timeline
Trails and Connectivity	Identify specific trail development projects to connect existing and future parks and improve overall connectivity within the community. This should be a blend of natural surface and paved surface multi-use trails. This should prioritize connectivity within existing parks and community connections.	Short-Term
	Plan for phased development of paved and unpaved trails.	Mid-Term
	Identify and acquire capital funding source(s).	Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Initiate appropriate public engagement process, trail design and competitive bid selection process for construction.	Mid-Term
	Begin and complete construction within approved budget requirements.	Long-Term

FIGURE 7.5 - Strategic Trail Connectivity

Growing the System to Meet Community Needs

As it has for decades, the Olathe Parks and Recreation system must continue to grow to serve its growing population. Based on our analysis of the system, it’s clear that the city has several park deserts, or areas currently outside the service area of public greenspaces. Those areas would be:

- Permanent Farmers Market infrastructure
- Additional multi-purpose sport courts
- Signage and wayfinding standards for all parks, facilities, and trails

- Northwest Olathe – due to a combination of large lot rural residential yet to densify or large private recreation complexes such as Garmin Soccer Park and Shadow Glen Golf Club
- Former Site of the Great Mall of the Great Plains – Despite multiple proposals, this space has yet to be redeveloped (in partnership with Garmin)
- South of 167th Street – site of some of the city’s newest residential development as well as the Coffee Creek riparian corridor (leverage developer partnerships where appropriate)
- Continued partnerships with school districts for new park acquisition and development efforts.

The projects listed below are potential recommendations that could help the city strategically expand its parks, facilities, and amenities across its system.

- Site/amenity accessibility and inclusivity
- 1 new community park (15-50 acres)
- 5 new neighborhood parks (2-10 acres)
- A new multi-purpose indoor facility east of Interstate 35
- 1-2 dog parks
- 2-6 splash pads

Strategic Initiative	Strategic Actions	Recommended Timeline
Growing the System to Meet Community Needs	Develop strategic approach to addressing the park and recreation needs of the community as it grows in population and expands geographically. This includes exploring and developing new or revised policies that engage private developers in the new park acquisition and/or park and trail development process. This will most likely include but not be limited to additional neighborhood parks and a new community park.	Mid-Term
	Identify specific growth and expansion projects that meet the overall objectives of this initiative and are aligned with the financial and organizational capacity of the city.	Mid-Term
	Develop a phased plan for growth and expansion of the park and trail system	Mid-Term
	Identify and acquire capital funding source(s).	Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Initiate public engagement process, site design and competitive bid selection process for construction.	Mid-Term
	Begin and complete construction within approved budget requirements.	Long-Term

FIGURE 7.6 - Strategically Growing the System to Meet Community Needs

Organizational Excellence

Being a high-quality public service in the parks and recreation field requires the agency to be intentional about its own internal support and standards. It is critical to be a reliable and transparent partner in

the city, be a trusted and respected employer, and not only provide tangible and intangible benefits to the community but also to its employees, partners, and volunteers.

Strategic Initiative	Strategic Actions	Recommended Timeline
Organizational Excellence	Improve the resource support for City of Olathe with the renewal of the Parks Sales Tax and by implementing recommended maintenance budget adjustments starting in 2024.	Short-Term
	Evaluate and implement new funding and revenue strategies including, but not limited to partnerships, greenway utility, dedicated transient tax funds, TIF district, and private philanthropy.	Short-Term
		Mid-Term
	Complete all policy and ordinance changes that are required to implement new funding and revenue strategies and that support new park acquisition and development.	Short-Term
		Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Maintain an ongoing public information and engagement process that is both efficient and inclusive.	Short-Term
		Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Evaluate and pursue opportunities for process improvement befitting a high-quality public park agency.	Short-Term
		Mid-Term
		Long-Term
	Maintain an effective workforce development program that includes opportunities for staff to attend conferences and trainings and grows their skills and abilities.	Short-Term
		Mid-Term
		Long-Term

FIGURE 7.8 - Strategic Organizational Excellence

6.2 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The following charts summarize the consultant team’s recommendations for capital improvement projects. The CIP recommendations are based on the extensive community engagement of the process, the review and expertise of the Consultant Team, and engagement with City staff. These projects are arranged in order of priority, with an additional category of “pending” projects that have been identified but may be only pursued if opportunity allows. These priorities are based on the best knowledge and data available to us at this time. As conditions evolve and opportunities arise during the next decade, it is certainly up to the discretion of City of Olathe staff to adjust the priority levels of various projects as appropriate. Within each priority level, each project also includes several pieces of information. The project includes the core area of focus that it serves. Those areas of focus are:

- 1. Revitalization and Maintenance of Neighborhood Parks
- 2. Enhancing and Upgrading Community and Regional Parks
- 3. Trails and Connectivity
- 4. Growing the System to Meet Community Needs

Each project also includes its location within the system, such as the park or trail in question. Each project includes an estimated duration of time. Each project also includes an estimated cost of construction. When applicable, these estimated costs also include design and permitting. These costs account for the potential for price escalation over time. Nonetheless, it must be understood that there is still a certain measure of volatility in the cost of construction over time.

Visionary Ideas

Included within the 35 individual proposed priority capital projects and 25 additional pending projects within this plan, there are a small set that emerged as visionary ideas that build on the overall theme of Olathe Parks and Recreation as a system that connects the community with best-in-class sites and facilities. These ideas are just examples of what is possible in Olathe over the next 10 years.

Develop Cedar Lake Park

Cedar Lake Park is one of the largest parks within Olathe at 133 total acres (including the lake), and is also a highly visited site even though it is strong need of upgrades and renovations. This park has gone through iterations of site planning to guide improvements, but those improvements have not commenced at this time. This Master Plan recommends one of the larger capital projects be the development of upgrades and renovations at Cedar Lake Park to make this site a signature regional destination like it has the potential to be.



FIGURE 7.9 - Cedar Lake Park

Multi-purpose Indoor Facility East of Interstate 35

For many years there has been discussion in Olathe about the expansion of multi-purpose indoor facilities beyond the Olathe Community Center, and specifically about the potential of locating such a facility east of Interstate 35 to broaden the equity of access to indoor recreation facilities within the community. The process of this master plan further revealed this as a need within the community in the public engagement process, in the Consultant Team’s analysis, and in interviews with City staff.

Such a facility in Olathe would expand the ability to serve the community in numerous ways including, but not limited to adult fitness and wellness programs, activities and programs for active older adults, youth programs, and much more. It also would continue to improve the value and opportunities associated with residents who select to maintain annual memberships to Olathe facilities. This facility is included in the CIP as a Priority 2 (in the next four to six years) project.

Downtown Connectivity

There is a great opportunity that aligns well with existing development and re-development plans in downtown Olathe to further connect existing parks and trails in the central part of the city. The development of a trail or railway that connects Mill Creek Park just north of downtown to the new downtown library, new county square, and extending south to Cedar Creek Trail would create incredible connectivity with significant points of interest in the community, and further the goals and objectives of the Trails and Greenways Guiding Plan.



FIGURE 7.11 - Cedar Creek



FIGURE 7.10 - Mill Creek Park

Southern East-West Trail Corridor

Heritage Park in the southeastern quadrant of Olathe is a significant regional destination owned and managed by Johnson County Parks and Recreation District. This major site can serve as an eastern anchor for a trail or railway that extends west as far as Ridgeview Road and possibly even Lone Elm Park. This corridor could be developed along the existing utility easement and potentially connect to Indian Creek Trail, Coffee Creek Trail, and Cedar Creek Trail to form not only a strong east-west corridor in the southern parts of Olathe. There is also the possibility of new park acquisition and development directly west of Heritage Park as well.

Cedar Creek Trail and New Park Development

Currently Cedar Creek Trail is being developed in the western sector of the City of Olathe that will, among other benefits, connect Cedar Lake Park and Lake Olathe Park. It is possible to continue to work in partnership with Johnson County Parks and Recreation District to connect this trail to expanded trails at Cedar Niles Park, a Johnson County site. As the continued development and build-out of Cedar Creek Trail progresses, there may be future opportunities for new park acquisition and development along the western spine of the city, which is also an area of new resident growth.

Olathe “Central Park District”

There is a unique opportunity without incurring significant capital projects to enhance the value of three important existing park sites and facilities in Olathe. Two Trails Park is a community park that includes sports and athletic facilities. Located within 0.25 miles is Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm, one of the more unique facilities in the community that celebrates and provides programming focused on the heritage and history of Olathe. And across the street from Mahaffie is the Olathe Community Center and Stagecoach Park which is the signature indoor facility in the community and a common community gathering space with the outdoor amphitheater at Stagecoach Park. These three important sites could potentially be unified through branding and connecting infrastructure to create a significant community hub akin to an “Olathe Central Park District.” Three sites that are unique in their own right and in very close proximity to each other could be intentionally integrated as a central hub with only developing infrastructure that identifies and connects them. The establishment of a special parks district would also lead to potential funding sources to support the needs of these sites and their connectivity.



FIGURE 7.12 - Olathe “Central park District”

Summary of Capital Improvement Plan

The tables below first details a summary of the capital improvement plan by each of the four categories of projects, then by category and by priority level.

Strategic Initiative	Priority Projects	Pending Projects
Revitalizing Neighborhood Parks	\$1,730,000	\$1,134,000
Upgrading and Enhancing Community and Regional Parks	\$26,695,000	\$6,514,000
Trails and Connectivity	\$10,950,000	\$7,011,000
Growing the System with the Community	\$14,090,000	\$8,500,000
CIP Grand Total	\$53,465,000	\$23,159,000

FIGURE 7.14 - Capital Improvement Plan for Four Project Categories



FIGURE 7.13 - Playground

	Priority 1	Priority 2	Pending	Total
Revitalizing Neighborhood Parks	\$720,000	\$1,010,000	\$1,134,000	\$2,864,000
Upgrading and Enhancing Community and Regional Parks	\$13,595,000	\$13,100,000	\$6,514,000	\$33,209,000
Trails and Connectivity	\$6,000,000	\$4,950,000	\$7,011,000	\$17,961,000
Growing the System with the Community	\$3,090,000	\$11,000,000	\$8,500,000	\$22,590,000
Total	\$23,405,000	\$30,060,000	\$23,159,000	\$14,090,000

FIGURE 7.15 - Capital Improvement Plan by Category and by Priority Level

Priority Level 1

Project	Core Area	Location	Duration	Cost
Renovate North Walnut Park	Neighborhood	North Walnut Park	3 years	\$720,000
Connect Indian Creek Trail to Indian Creek Library	Trails	Indian Creek Trail	2 years	\$2,000,000
Cedar Creek Trail Phase III - Lake Olathe to Cedar Niles Trail	Trails	Lake Olathe Park	3 years	\$2,000,000
Cedar Creek Trail Phase IV - north of Dennis to Lake Olathe Park Trail	Trails	Lake Olathe Park	3 years	\$2,000,000
Renovate Black Bob Park - including pickleball complex	Community	Black Bob Park	2 year	\$4,070,000
Renovate Girls Softball complex	Community	Girls Softball	2 years	\$725,000
Refresh Frisco Lakes Park - including added restrooms	Community	Frisco Lakes Park	2 years	\$600,000
Renovate Mill Creek Pool - including splash pad	Community	Mill Creek Pool	1 year	\$3,500,000
Renovate Prairie Center Park, Phase I - including pickleball complex	Community	Prairie Center Park	2 years	\$2,080,000
Renovate Water Works Park, Phase 1 including stormwater improvements	Community	Water Works Park	3 year	\$1,000,000
Cedar Lake Park, Phase I - including updated site plan	Community	Cedar Lake	1 year	\$500,000
Refresh Two Trails Park - including pickleball complex	Community	Two Trails Park	1 year	\$1,120,000
Develop new NW Olathe neighborhood park, Phase I	Growing	Near College and Woodland	3 years	\$1,500,000
Develop new SW Olathe neighborhood park	Growing	Loula Park	3 years	\$800,000
Develop new W Olathe neighborhood park	Growing	Near Lakeshore and 148th	3 years	\$500,000
Develop a new dog park	Growing	TBD	1 year	\$140,000
Conduct feasibility study for new multi-purpose indoor facility east of I-35	Growing	TBD	2 years	\$150,000
#1 Priorities Subtotal				\$23,405,000

FIGURE 7.16 - Priority Level 1 Projects

Priority Level 2

Project	Core Area	Location	Duration	Cost
Refresh Mahaffie Pond Park	Neighborhood	Mahaffie Pond Park	1 year	\$280,000
Refresh Woodbrook Park - including added shelter	Neighborhood	Woodbrook Park	1 year	\$448,000
Refresh Hampton Park	Neighborhood	Hampton Park	1 year	\$250,000
Heatherstone Park, monument sign	Neighborhood	Heatherstone Park	1 year	\$20,000
Refresh Pellett Park	Neighborhood	Pellett Park	1 year	\$12,000
Extend Mill Creek Trail from Santa Fe Street to Cedar Street	Trails	Mill Creek Park	2 years	\$550,000
Connect Water Works Park to Keeler St.	Trails	Water Works Park	1 year	\$800,000
Extend Indian Creek Trail south to 167th Street	Trails	Indian Creek Trail	2 years	\$2,400,000
Coffee Creek Trail, Phase I	Trails	Coffee Creek Greenway	3 years	\$1,000,000
Wayfinding Plan and pilot implementation	Trails/Community			\$200,000
Renovate Black Bob Bay	Community	Black Bob Bay	1 year	\$1,000,000
Renovate Frontier Park - including splash pad & pickleball complex	Community	Frontier Park	3 year	\$6,720,000
Renovate Prairie Center Park, Phase II - including added restroom building	Community	Prairie Center Park	2 year	\$2,500,000
Renovate Frontier Trails Pool	Community	Frontier Trails Pool	1 year	\$2,500,000
Mahaffie Stagecoach Park - shade structure	Community	Mahaffie Stagecoach	1 year	\$180,000
Refresh Veterans Memorial Park, including shade structure	Community	Veterans Memorial	1 year	\$200,000
New NW Olathe neighborhood park, Phase II	Growing	Near College and Woodland	3 years	\$1,000,000
Renovate Cedar Lake Park, Phase II	Growing	Cedar Lake Park	3 year	\$10,000,000
#2 Priorities Subtotal				\$30,060,000

FIGURE 7.17 - Priority Level 2 Projects

Pending Projects

Project	Core Area	Location	Duration	Cost
Arrowhead Park improvements	Neighborhood	Arrowhead Park	1 year	\$8,000
Brougham Park improvements	Neighborhood	Brougham Park	1 year	\$14,000
Calamity Line Park improvements	Neighborhood	Calamity Line Park	1 year	\$516,000
Haven Park improvements	Neighborhood	Haven Park	1 year	\$26,000
Heatherstone Park improvements	Neighborhood	Heatherstone Park	1 year	\$6,000
Arbor Landing Park improvements	Neighborhood	Arbor Landing Park	1 year	\$6,000
Fairview Park improvements	Neighborhood	Fairview Park	1 year	\$60,000
Quailwood Park improvements	Neighborhood	Quailwood Park	1 year	\$7,000
Refresh Cory Circle Park	Neighborhood	Cory Circle Park	1 Year	\$140,000
Refresh Eastbrooke Park	Neighborhood	Eastbrooke Park	1 year	\$171,000
Refresh Southglen Park	Neighborhood	Southglen Park	1 year	\$180,000
Coffee Creek Trail, Phase II	Trails	Coffee Creek Greenway	3 years	\$3,400,000
Ernie Miller Park Trail, south trail extension	Trails	Ernie Miller Park	2 years	\$250,000
Meadow Lane Trail Connection, N Woodland Road to 106th Street	Trails	Mill Creek Greenway	2 years	\$2,100,000
Connect Prairie Center Park to Lake Olathe	Trails	Lake Olathe Park	2 years	\$900,000
Lone Elm Park, add soft surface trail	Trails	Lone Elm Park	2 years	\$260,000
Manor Park and Southdowns Park, add bike repair stands	Trails	Manor & Southdowns Parks	1 year	\$11,000
Connect Woodland Hills Park to 119th St.	Trails	Woodland Hills Park	1 year	\$90,000
Install map kiosk	Community	Frisco Lake Park	1 year	\$7,000
Install restroom building	Community	Water Works Park	2 years	\$550,000
Install map kiosk	Community	Water Works Park	1 year	\$7,000
Develop access road to Hedge lane	Community	Prairie Center Park	2 years	\$2,500,000
Redevelop west side Lake Olathe	Community	Lake Olathe	2 years	\$950,000
Renovate Oregon Trail Pool	Community	Oregon Trail Pool	1 year	\$2,500,000
Develop new multi-purpose indoor facility east of I-35	Growing	TBD	3 years	\$8,500,000
Pending Projects Subtotal				\$23,159,000

FIGURE 7.18 - Pending Projects



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Appendix A- Core vs. Casual Participation Trends

General Sports

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - General Sports								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Basketball	22,343	100%	27,753	100%	27,135	100%	21.4%	-2.2%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	7,486	34%	11,962	43%	11,019	41%	47.2%	-7.9%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	14,857	66%	15,791	57%	16,019	59%	7.8%	1.4%
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	23,815	100%	24,804	100%	25,111	100%	5.4%	1.2%
Tennis	18,079	100%	21,642	100%	22,617	100%	25.1%	4.5%
Baseball	14,760	100%	15,731	100%	15,587	100%	5.6%	-0.9%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	5,673	38%	8,089	51%	7,392	47%	30.3%	-8.6%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	9,087	62%	7,643	49%	8,195	53%	-9.8%	7.2%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,932	100%	12,444	100%	12,556	100%	5.2%	0.9%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	6,342	53%	8,360	67%	7,586	60%	19.6%	-9.3%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	5,590	47%	4,084	33%	4,970	40%	-11.1%	21.7%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,690	100%	6,349	100%	6,008	100%	-21.9%	-5.4%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,377	44%	2,753	43%	2,729	45%	-19.2%	-0.9%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	4,314	56%	3,596	57%	3,279	55%	-24.0%	-8.8%
Football (Flag)	6,173	123%	7,001	121%	6,889	123%	11.6%	-1.6%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,249	53%	4,287	61%	4,137	60%	27.3%	-3.5%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	2,924	47%	2,714	39%	2,752	40%	-5.9%	1.4%
<i>Core Age 6 to 17 (13+ times)</i>	1,401	23%	1,446	21%	1,574	23%	12.3%	8.9%
Volleyball (Court)	6,216	100%	5,410	100%	5,849	100%	-5.9%	8.1%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,852	46%	2,204	41%	2,465	42%	-13.6%	11.8%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	3,364	54%	3,206	59%	3,384	58%	0.6%	5.6%
Badminton	7,354	100%	5,862	100%	6,061	100%	-17.6%	3.4%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	5,285	72%	4,129	70%	4,251	70%	-19.6%	3.0%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	2,069	28%	1,733	30%	1,810	30%	-12.5%	4.4%
Football (Touch)	5,686	100%	4,846	100%	4,884	100%	-14.1%	0.8%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,304	58%	2,990	62%	3,171	65%	-4.0%	6.1%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	2,383	42%	1,856	38%	1,713	35%	-28.1%	-7.7%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,117	100%	5,440	100%	5,408	100%	5.7%	-0.6%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,347	46%	3,377	62%	3,054	56%	30.1%	-9.6%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	2,770	54%	2,063	38%	2,354	44%	-15.0%	14.1%
Football (Tackle)	5,481	146%	5,054	144%	5,228	140%	-4.6%	3.4%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	2,242	41%	2,390	47%	2,642	51%	17.8%	10.5%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	3,240	59%	2,665	53%	2,586	49%	-20.2%	-3.0%
<i>Core Age 6 to 17 (26+ times)</i>	2,543	46%	2,226	44%	2,110	40%	-17.0%	-5.2%
Gymnastics	5,381	100%	3,848	100%	4,268	100%	-20.7%	10.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	3,580	67%	2,438	63%	2,787	65%	-22.2%	14.3%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	1,800	33%	1,410	37%	1,482	35%	-17.7%	5.1%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	5,489	100%	4,320	100%	4,184	100%	-23.8%	-3.1%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,989	73%	3,105	72%	2,918	70%	-26.8%	-6.0%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	1,500	27%	1,215	28%	1,265	30%	-15.7%	4.1%
Track and Field	4,116	100%	3,636	100%	3,587	100%	-12.9%	-1.3%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	1,961	48%	1,589	44%	1,712	48%	-12.7%	7.7%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	2,155	52%	2,046	56%	1,875	52%	-13.0%	-8.4%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	
							Mostly Casual Participants (greater than 75%)	

GENERAL SPORTS (Continued)

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - General Sports								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Cheerleading	4,029	100%	3,308	100%	3,465	100%	-14.0%	4.7%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	2,365	59%	1,931	58%	2,030	59%	-14.2%	5.1%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	1,664	41%	1,377	42%	1,435	41%	-13.8%	4.2%
Pickleball	2,815	100%	4,199	100%	4,819	100%	71.2%	14.8%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,710	61%	2,835	68%	3,454	72%	102.0%	21.8%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	1,106	39%	1,364	32%	1,365	28%	23.4%	0.1%
Racquetball	3,579	100%	3,426	100%	3,260	100%	-8.9%	-4.8%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,488	70%	2,476	72%	2,270	70%	-8.8%	-8.3%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	1,092	31%	950	28%	990	30%	-9.3%	4.2%
Ice Hockey	2,697	100%	2,270	100%	2,306	100%	-14.5%	1.6%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,353	50%	1,165	51%	1,206	52%	-10.9%	3.5%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	1,344	50%	1,105	49%	1,101	48%	-18.1%	-0.4%
Ultimate Frisbee	3,673	100%	2,325	100%	2,190	100%	-40.4%	-5.8%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,746	75%	1,476	63%	1,441	66%	-47.5%	-2.4%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	927	25%	849	37%	749	34%	-19.2%	-11.8%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,467	100%	1,811	100%	2,088	100%	-15.4%	15.3%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	1,198	49%	650	36%	934	45%	-22.0%	43.7%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	1,269	51%	1,162	64%	1,154	55%	-9.1%	-0.7%
Lacrosse	2,090	100%	1,884	100%	1,892	100%	-9.5%	0.4%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,153	55%	902	48%	1,009	53%	-12.5%	11.9%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	938	45%	982	52%	883	47%	-5.9%	-10.1%
Wrestling	1,922	100%	1,931	100%	1,937	100%	0.8%	0.3%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	1,139	59%	1,239	64%	1,290	67%	13.3%	4.1%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	782	41%	692	36%	647	33%	-17.3%	-6.5%
Roller Hockey	1,929	100%	1,500	100%	1,425	100%	-26.1%	-5.0%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,438	75%	1,129	75%	1,088	76%	-24.3%	-3.6%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	491	25%	371	25%	337	24%	-31.4%	-9.2%
Boxing for Competition	1,210	100%	1,361	100%	1,460	100%	20.7%	7.3%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,035	86%	1,214	89%	1,262	86%	21.9%	4.0%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	176	15%	147	11%	199	14%	13.1%	35.4%
Rugby	1,550	100%	1,242	100%	1,238	100%	-20.1%	-0.3%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,090	70%	807	65%	778	63%	-28.6%	-3.6%
<i>Core (8+ times)</i>	460	30%	435	35%	460	37%	0.0%	5.7%
Squash	1,549	100%	1,163	100%	1,185	100%	-23.5%	1.9%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,111	72%	669	58%	720	61%	-35.2%	7.6%
<i>Core (8+ times)</i>	437	28%	495	43%	466	39%	6.6%	-5.9%
Golf (Entertainment Venue)	8,173	100%	12,057	100%	12,362	100%	51.3%	2.5%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	
							Mostly Casual Participants (greater than 75%)	

General Fitness

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - General Fitness								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Fitness Walking	107,895	100%	114,044	100%	115,814	100%	7.3%	1.6%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	34,535	32%	34,742	30%	39,036	34%	13.0%	12.4%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	73,359	68%	79,302	70%	76,778	66%	4.7%	-3.2%
Treadmill	51,872	100%	49,832	100%	53,627	100%	3.4%	7.6%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	23,490	45%	19,549	39%	25,353	47%	7.9%	29.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	28,381	55%	30,283	61%	28,276	53%	-0.4%	-6.6%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	51,513	100%	53,256	100%	52,636	100%	2.2%	-1.2%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	18,245	35%	20,070	38%	21,560	41%	18.2%	7.4%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	33,268	65%	33,186	62%	31,076	59%	-6.6%	-6.4%
Running/Jogging	47,384	100%	50,652	100%	48,977	100%	3.4%	-3.3%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	21,764	46%	24,438	48%	23,441	48%	7.7%	-4.1%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	25,621	54%	26,214	52%	25,537	52%	-0.3%	-2.6%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	36,118	100%	31,287	100%	32,453	100%	-10.1%	3.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	18,240	51%	13,249	42%	15,124	47%	-17.1%	14.2%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	17,878	49%	18,038	58%	17,330	53%	-3.1%	-3.9%
Weight/Resistant Machines	35,768	100%	30,651	100%	30,577	100%	-14.5%	-0.2%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	14,346	40%	10,940	36%	11,954	39%	-16.7%	9.3%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	21,422	60%	19,711	64%	18,624	61%	-13.1%	-5.5%
Elliptical Motion/Cross Trainer	32,218	100%	27,920	100%	27,618	100%	-14.3%	-1.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	15,687	49%	14,403	52%	14,156	51%	-9.8%	-1.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	16,532	51%	13,517	48%	13,461	49%	-18.6%	-0.4%
Yoga	26,268	100%	32,808	102%	34,347	100%	30.8%	4.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	15,486	59%	19,953	61%	20,110	59%	29.9%	0.8%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	10,782	41%	13,471	41%	14,237	41%	32.0%	5.7%
Free Weights (Barbells)	26,473	100%	28,790	100%	28,243	100%	6.7%	-1.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	10,344	39%	13,428	47%	12,649	45%	22.3%	-5.8%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	16,129	61%	15,363	53%	15,595	55%	-3.3%	1.5%
Dance, Step, Choreographed Exercise	21,839	100%	25,160	100%	24,752	100%	13.3%	-1.6%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	14,158	65%	16,652	66%	16,622	67%	17.4%	-0.2%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	7,681	35%	8,507	34%	8,130	33%	5.8%	-4.4%
Bodyweight Exercise	25,110	100%	22,845	100%	22,629	100%	-9.9%	-0.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	9,763	39%	9,581	42%	9,915	44%	1.6%	3.5%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	15,347	61%	13,264	58%	12,714	56%	-17.2%	-4.1%
Aerobics (High Impact/ Intensity Training)	10,575	100%	10,954	100%	10,400	100%	-1.7%	-5.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	7,135	67%	8,331	76%	8,347	80%	17.0%	0.2%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	3,440	33%	2,623	24%	2,053	20%	-40.3%	-21.7%
Stair Climbing Machine	15,079	100%	11,261	100%	11,786	100%	-21.8%	4.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	9,332	62%	6,339	56%	7,332	62%	-21.4%	15.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	5,747	38%	4,922	44%	4,453	38%	-22.5%	-9.5%
Cross-Training Style Workout	12,914	100%	9,179	100%	9,764	100%	-24.4%	6.4%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	6,430	50%	3,476	38%	4,179	43%	-35.0%	20.2%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	6,483	50%	5,704	62%	5,585	57%	-13.9%	-2.1%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to 25%)		Large Decrease (less than 25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	

General Fitness (Continued)

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - General Fitness								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Trail Running	8,582	100%	11,854	100%	12,520	100%	45.9%	5.6%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	8,937	100%	6,054	100%	5,939	100%	-33.5%	-1.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	5,751	64%	3,134	52%	3,134	53%	-45.5%	0.0%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	3,186	36%	2,920	48%	2,805	47%	-12.0%	-3.9%
Pilates Training	8,893	100%	9,905	100%	9,745	100%	9.6%	-1.6%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	5,525	62%	6,668	67%	6,611	68%	19.7%	-0.9%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	3,367	38%	3,237	33%	3,133	32%	-6.9%	-3.2%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,899	100%	5,295	100%	5,099	100%	-26.1%	-3.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	4,760	69%	3,438	65%	3,328	65%	-30.1%	-3.2%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	2,139	31%	1,857	35%	1,771	35%	-17.2%	-4.6%
Boot Camp Style Training	6,583	100%	4,969	100%	5,169	100%	-21.5%	4.0%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	4,484	68%	3,204	64%	3,461	67%	-22.8%	8.0%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	2,099	32%	1,765	36%	1,709	33%	-18.6%	-3.2%
Martial Arts	5,745	100%	6,064	100%	6,186	100%	7.7%	2.0%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,964	34%	2,679	44%	2,728	44%	38.9%	1.8%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	3,780	66%	3,385	56%	3,458	56%	-8.5%	2.2%
Boxing for Fitness	5,175	100%	5,230	100%	5,237	100%	1.2%	0.1%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,678	52%	2,962	57%	2,985	57%	11.5%	0.8%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	2,496	48%	2,268	43%	2,252	43%	-9.8%	-0.7%
Tai Chi	3,706	100%	3,300	100%	3,393	100%	-8.4%	2.8%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	2,245	61%	1,858	56%	2,001	59%	-10.9%	7.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	1,461	39%	1,442	44%	1,393	41%	-4.7%	-3.4%
Barre	3,329	100%	3,579	100%	3,659	100%	9.9%	2.2%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	2,636	79%	2,721	76%	2,822	77%	7.1%	3.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	693	21%	858	24%	837	23%	20.8%	-2.4%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,374	100%	1,846	100%	1,748	100%	-26.4%	-5.3%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,705	100%	1,363	100%	1,304	100%	-23.5%	-4.3%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to 25%)		Large Decrease (less than 25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	
							Mostly Casual Participants (greater than 75%)	

Outdoor/Adventure Recreation

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Hiking (Day)	42,128	100%	57,808	100%	58,697	100%	39.3%	1.5%
Bicycling (Road)	38,365	100%	44,471	100%	42,775	100%	11.5%	-3.8%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	19,244	50%	23,720	53%	22,280	52%	15.8%	-6.1%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	19,121	50%	20,751	47%	20,495	48%	7.2%	-1.2%
Fishing (Freshwater)	38,121	100%	42,556	100%	40,853	100%	7.2%	-4.0%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	20,308	53%	24,309	57%	22,451	55%	10.6%	-7.6%
<i>Core (8+ times)</i>	17,813	47%	18,247	43%	18,403	45%	3.3%	0.9%
Camping (< 1/4 Mile of Vehicle/Home)	26,467	100%	36,082	100%	35,985	100%	36.0%	-0.3%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	15,855	100%	17,825	100%	16,371	100%	3.3%	-8.2%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	8,719	55%	11,281	63%	9,688	59%	11.1%	-14.1%
<i>Core (8+ times)</i>	7,136	45%	6,544	37%	6,683	41%	-6.3%	2.1%
Fishing (Saltwater)	12,266	100%	14,527	100%	13,790	100%	12.4%	-5.1%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	7,198	59%	9,109	63%	8,543	62%	18.7%	-6.2%
<i>Core (8+ times)</i>	5,068	41%	5,418	37%	5,246	38%	3.5%	-3.2%
Birdwatching (> 1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	11,589	100%	15,228	100%	14,815	100%	27.8%	-2.7%
Backpacking Overnight	10,151	100%	10,746	100%	10,306	100%	1.5%	-4.1%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,615	100%	8,998	100%	8,693	100%	0.9%	-3.4%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	4,273	50%	4,803	53%	4,517	52%	5.7%	-6.0%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	4,342	50%	4,194	47%	4,176	48%	-3.8%	-0.4%
Archery	7,903	100%	7,249	100%	7,342	100%	-7.1%	1.3%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	6,650	84%	6,102	84%	6,054	82%	-9.0%	-0.8%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	1,253	16%	1,147	16%	1,288	18%	2.8%	12.3%
Fishing (Fly)	6,456	100%	7,753	100%	7,458	100%	15.5%	-3.8%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	4,183	65%	5,020	65%	4,762	64%	13.8%	-5.1%
<i>Core (8+ times)</i>	2,273	35%	2,733	35%	2,696	36%	18.6%	-1.4%
Skateboarding	6,442	100%	8,872	100%	8,747	100%	35.8%	-1.4%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	3,955	61%	6,315	71%	6,181	71%	56.3%	-2.1%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	2,487	39%	2,557	29%	2,566	29%	3.2%	0.4%
Climbing (Indoor)	-	n/a	5,535	100%	5,684	100%	n/a	2.7%
Roller Skating (In-Line)	5,381	100%	4,892	100%	4,940	100%	-8.2%	1.0%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,861	72%	3,466	71%	3,525	71%	-8.7%	1.7%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	1,520	28%	1,425	29%	1,415	29%	-6.9%	-0.7%
Bicycling (BMX)	3,104	100%	3,880	100%	3,861	100%	24.4%	-0.5%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,760	57%	2,532	65%	2,466	64%	40.1%	-2.6%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	1,344	43%	1,348	35%	1,396	36%	3.9%	3.6%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,790	100%	2,456	100%	2,374	100%	-14.9%	-3.3%
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	-	n/a	2,290	100%	2,301	100%	n/a	0.5%
Adventure Racing	2,999	100%	1,966	100%	1,826	100%	-39.1%	-7.1%
<i>Casual (1 times)</i>	1,081	36%	328	17%	312	17%	-71.1%	-4.9%
<i>Core (2+ times)</i>	1,918	64%	1,638	83%	1,514	83%	-21.1%	-7.6%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	

Aquatics

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - Aquatics								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Swimming (Fitness)	26,601	100%	25,666	100%	25,620	100%	-3.7%	-0.2%
Casual (1-49 times)	17,781	67%	17,987	70%	17,598	69%	-1.0%	-2.2%
Core (50+ times)	8,820	33%	7,680	30%	8,022	31%	-9.0%	4.5%
Aquatic Exercise	10,575	100%	10,954	100%	10,400	100%	-1.7%	-5.1%
Casual (1-49 times)	7,135	67%	8,331	76%	8,347	80%	17.0%	0.2%
Core (50+ times)	3,440	33%	2,623	24%	2,053	20%	-40.3%	-21.7%
Swimming (Competition)	3,369	100%	2,615	100%	2,824	100%	-16.2%	8.0%
Casual (1-49 times)	1,881	56%	1,524	58%	1,708	60%	-9.2%	12.1%
Core (50+ times)	1,488	44%	1,091	42%	1,116	40%	-25.0%	2.3%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	

Water Sports/Activities

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2016		2020		2021		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Kayaking (Recreational)	10,017	100%	13,002	100%	13,351	100%	33.3%	2.7%
Canoeing	10,046	100%	9,595	100%	9,199	100%	-8.4%	-4.1%
Snorkeling	8,717	100%	7,729	100%	7,316	100%	-16.1%	-5.3%
Casual (1-7 times)	6,945	80%	6,374	82%	5,989	82%	-13.8%	-6.0%
Core(8+ times)	1,773	20%	1,355	18%	1,326	18%	-25.2%	-2.1%
Jet Skiing	5,783	100%	4,900	100%	5,062	100%	-12.5%	3.3%
Casual (1-7 times)	4,143	72%	3,783	77%	3,780	75%	-8.8%	-0.1%
Core(8+ times)	1,640	28%	1,116	23%	1,281	25%	-21.9%	14.8%
Sailing	4,095	100%	3,486	100%	3,463	100%	-15.4%	-0.7%
Casual (1-7 times)	2,833	69%	2,395	69%	2,418	70%	-14.6%	1.0%
Core(8+ times)	1,262	31%	1,091	31%	1,045	30%	-17.2%	-4.2%
Stand-Up Paddling	3,220	100%	3,675	100%	3,739	100%	16.1%	1.7%
Rafting	3,428	100%	3,474	100%	3,383	100%	-1.3%	-2.6%
Water Skiing	3,700	100%	3,050	100%	3,058	100%	-17.4%	0.3%
Casual (1-7 times)	2,667	72%	2,189	72%	2,209	72%	-17.2%	0.9%
Core(8+ times)	1,033	28%	861	28%	849	28%	-17.8%	-1.4%
Surfing	2,793	100%	3,800	100%	3,463	100%	24.0%	-8.9%
Casual (1-7 times)	1,768	63%	2,507	66%	2,158	62%	22.1%	-13.9%
Core(8+ times)	1,024	37%	1,293	34%	1,305	38%	27.4%	0.9%
Wakeboarding	2,912	100%	2,754	100%	2,674	100%	-8.2%	-2.9%
Casual (1-7 times)	2,017	69%	2,007	73%	1,902	71%	-5.7%	-5.2%
Core(8+ times)	895	31%	747	27%	772	29%	-13.7%	3.3%
Scuba Diving	3,111	100%	2,588	100%	2,476	100%	-20.4%	-4.3%
Casual (1-7 times)	2,292	74%	1,880	73%	1,795	72%	-21.7%	-4.5%
Core(8+ times)	819	26%	708	27%	680	27%	-17.0%	-4.0%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	3,124	100%	2,508	100%	2,587	100%	-17.2%	3.1%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,552	100%	2,605	100%	2,587	100%	1.4%	-0.7%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,737	100%	1,268	100%	1,297	100%	-25.3%	2.3%
Casual (1-7 times)	1,449	83%	1,015	80%	1,002	77%	-30.8%	-1.3%
Core(8+ times)	288	17%	253	20%	295	23%	2.4%	16.6%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution	Mostly Core Participants (greater than 75%)		More Core Participants (56-74%)		Evenly Divided (45-55% Core and Casual)		More Casual Participants (56-74%)	

facility inventory

CORY CIRCLE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 100 South Correy Circle

SIZE: 0.6 acres

DESIGNATION: Pocket Park

ESTABLISHED: 2000

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Benches (2)
- Picnic Table (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park features large and healthy existing shade trees that provide ample shade for the playground. The sidewalks and site furnishings make it easy for 1-2 families to enjoy this space at any time.

Opportunities:

A small picnic shelter would provide cover from the elements. The City should replace the sign at such time that it develops unified standards for monument signage. The playground will need an update in the future but is in good shape at this time

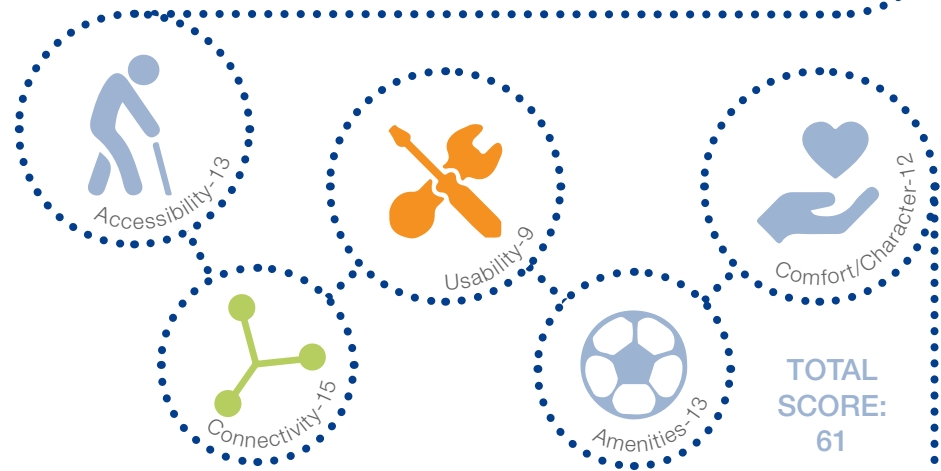


Findings Summary:

Cory Circle Park is nestled at the end of a cul-de-sac and essentially serves a small neighborhood of townhomes. It features a playground on a new surface of artificial turf, a picnic table, benches and trash receptacle all connected by an accessible walkway. Existing mature trees provide decent shade over the play ground.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

PELLETT PARK

SITE LOCATION: 520 West Elm Street

SIZE: 0.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Pocket Park

ESTABLISHED: 1983

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Benches (2)
- Lighting (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The playground is one of the newest in town and features terrific shade. It's a short walk from downtown as well as Calamity Line Park.

Opportunities:

Could a walking trail be installed to connect Pellett to Calamity Line Park? It would provide for a pedestrian trail option in central Olathe and allow people more access between these two parks.

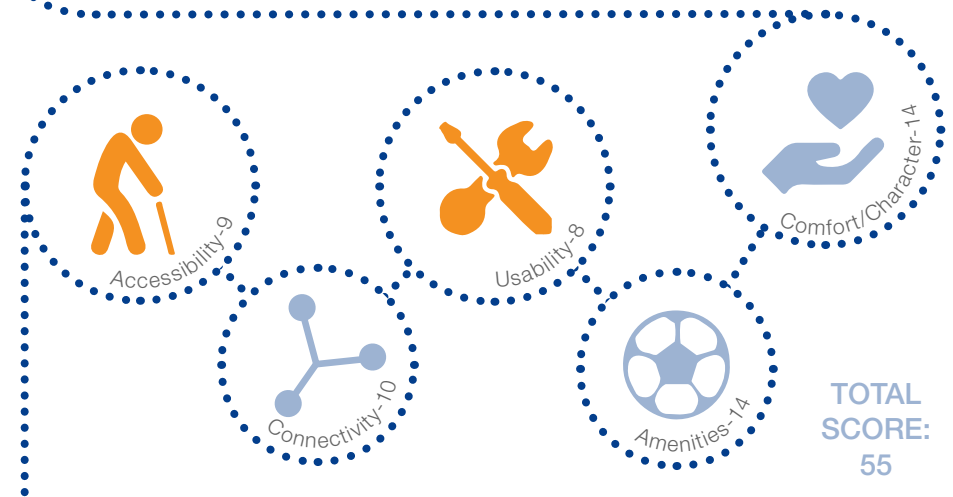


Findings Summary:

Pellett Park is one of the very few pocket parks in the Olathe system. It features a brand new playground. It is tucked back from Elm Street in a grove of mature trees adjacent to several town-homes. It sits just to the east of a tributary of Little Cedar Creek a short walk from downtown. The sidewalk connecting the playground to Elm Street could use replacement.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

QUAILWOOD PARK

SITE LOCATION: 14092 South Greenwood Street

SIZE: 0.2 acres

DESIGNATION: Pocket Park

ESTABLISHED: 2002

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Benches (2)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Grills (1)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Picnic Tables (2)
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park provides everything you could ask for in a pocket park: play, shelter, and accessibility. The landscape and public art give it distinctive character.

Opportunities:

The City could consider replacing the sign at such time that it develops unified standards for monument signage.



Findings Summary:

Quailwood Park is situated across Greenwood Street from a private swimming pool managed by the local HOA. The park features a playground, picnic shelter, seating, and a drinking fountain. The landscaping, signage, and public art combined with the architecture of the shelter give it the signature look of an Olathe public park.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

ARAPAHO PARK

SITE LOCATION: 12301 South Arapaho Drive

SIZE: 4.7 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1987

Facility Amenities

- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Benches (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park provides green space preservation along the banks of a small tributary, a pedestrian connection between two neighborhoods and a buffer between homes and busy shipping center.

Opportunities:

This space could easily support a small playground, shelter, and site furnishings and give neighbors reasons to linger in the park and enjoy it for more hours out of the day.

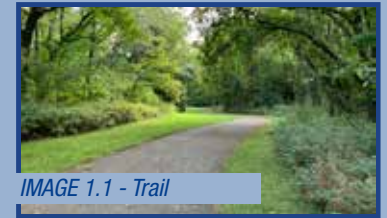


IMAGE 1.1 - Trail



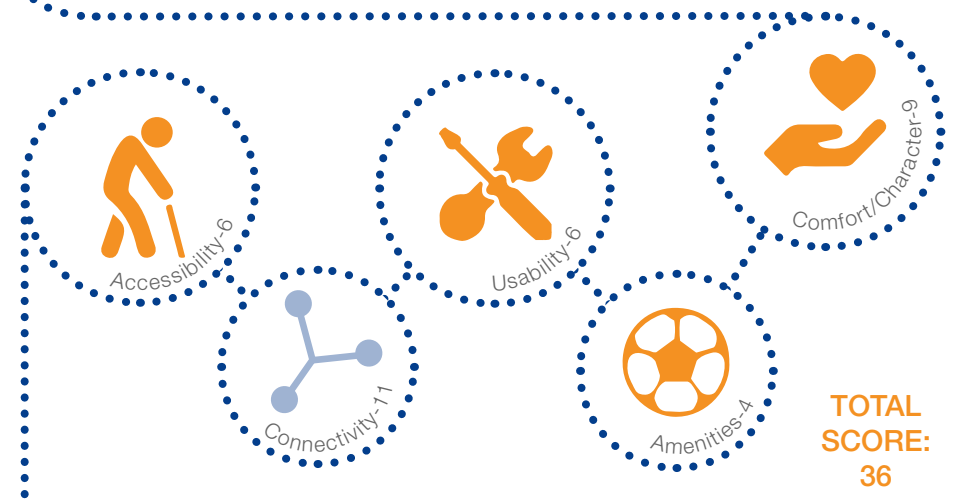
IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

Findings Summary:

Arapaho Park provides a useful trail between disconnected segments of W. 123rd Street. It also preserves green space on either side of a tributary of Indian Creek and buffer between residential and commercial uses. Otherwise it provides very little park and recreation value due to the lack of any other amenities.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

ARBOR LANDING PARK

SITE LOCATION: 16305 South Lindenwood Drive

SIZE: 6.3 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2004

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Rain Garden (1)
- Grills (2)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The landscaping, playground, and shelter combine to make this one of the most attractive parks in the entire system. This park provides play value, connectivity, character, and passive open space. It does everything a neighborhood park should do and more.

Opportunities:

The park is large enough that it should provide a map kiosk to let park users know where they can go and what they can do.



IMAGE 1.1 - Playground



IMAGE 1.2 - Picnic Shelter

Findings Summary:

Arbor Landing Park is one of the city's newer neighborhood parks and features a collection of well-maintained amenities such as a large picnic shelter, an all-inclusive playground, and a walking trail that connects S. Lindenwood Drive with W. 162nd Street. The park features a landscaped creek bed to convey stormwater during rain events. The open space in the middle of the park provides room for tossing frisbees and shanking fly balls.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

ARROWHEAD PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1701 South Lindenwood Drive

SIZE: 13.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1975

Facility Amenities

- Baseball Field (1)
- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Bridge (1)
- Grills (2)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (3)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Picnic Table (2)
- Portable Restrooms (1)
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

Arrowhead Park is easily accessible to both neighborhood residents and students at the adjacent public schools. The large mature trees, ballfields, and well-kept playground equipment make it an enjoyable place to visit.

Opportunities:

There are no clues within this long linear park as to what all is available. A map or directional signage could make it easier for park visitors to enjoy all the features the city works so hard to maintain.



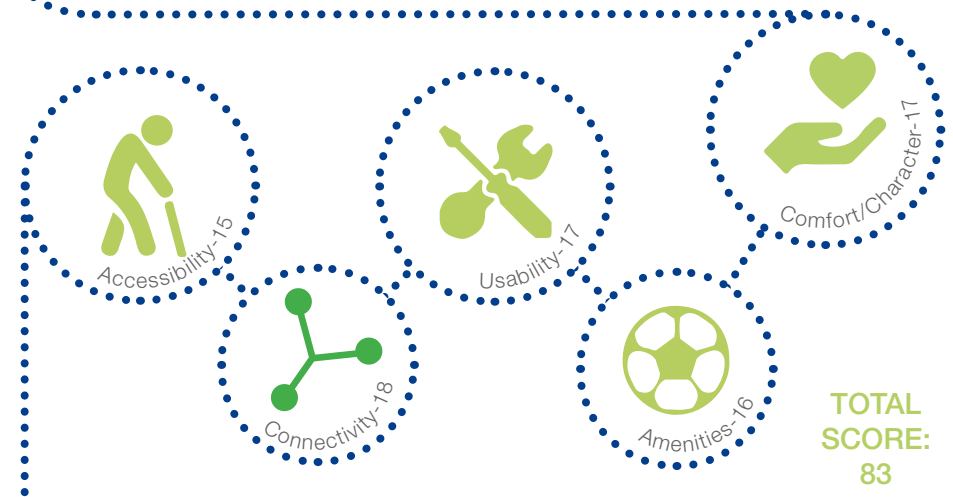
Findings Summary:

Arrowhead Park is well-maintained park that features basic amenities such as a playground and picnic shelter, but also hosts a friendly multi-use trail. Both the park and trail feature mature trees that provide generous shade to visitors. Amenities are in good condition, but the lack of signage within this linear park is something that could be improved.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

BROUGHAM PARK

SITE LOCATION: 15501 South Brougham Drive

SIZE: 12.7 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1998

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Grills (1)
- Benches (6)
- Picnic Table (6)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Lighting (1)
- Trash Receptacles (4)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This large neighborhood park has ample space for many activities to occur simultaneously. The trail, shelter, and playground are all in great condition and provide great recreational and play value.

Opportunities:

Due to size, location, and connectivity, there are several amenities lacking in Olathe such as community gardens and splash pads that could be a fit for this park.



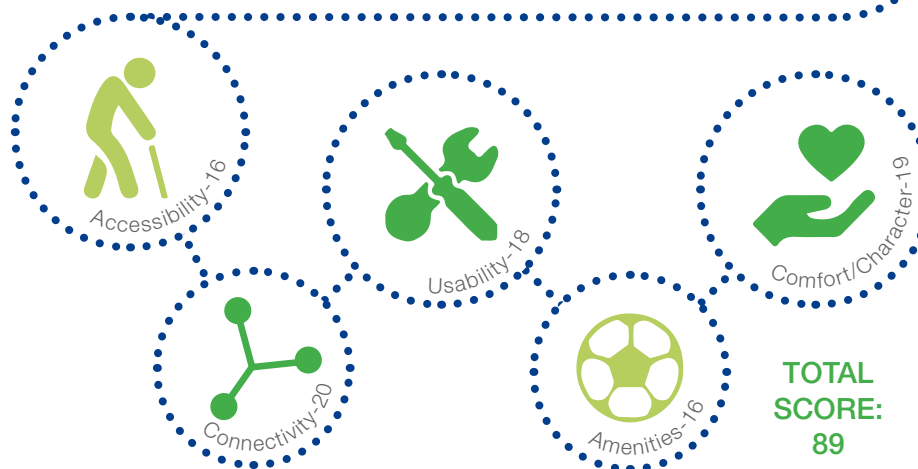
Findings Summary:

Brougham Park offers many amenities including playground, shelter, practice field space and a long looped trail that connects multiple neighborhoods to this park. With the proximity to Brougham Elementary School, this park is well-known and well-used. The shelter offers a popular place for birthday parties and youth sports team gatherings. The open fields are often filled with youth soccer teams practicing in evenings and weekends.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

CALAMITY LINE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 901 West Santa Fe Street

SIZE: 8.6 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1997

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (2)
- Benches (10)
- Picnic Table (5)
- Picnic Shelters (2)
- Pedestrian Lights (13)
- Trash Receptacles (4)
- Gateway Sign (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park features a variety of amenities, including a new custom train piece of play equipment. It's very accessible from the residential neighborhoods to the south and off of Santa Fe to the north.

Opportunities:

There are an appropriate amount of light fixtures in this park but in the future the could be upgraded to LED fixtures to be more energy efficient. A trail connection to nearby Pellett Park would amplify the recreational value of both parks.



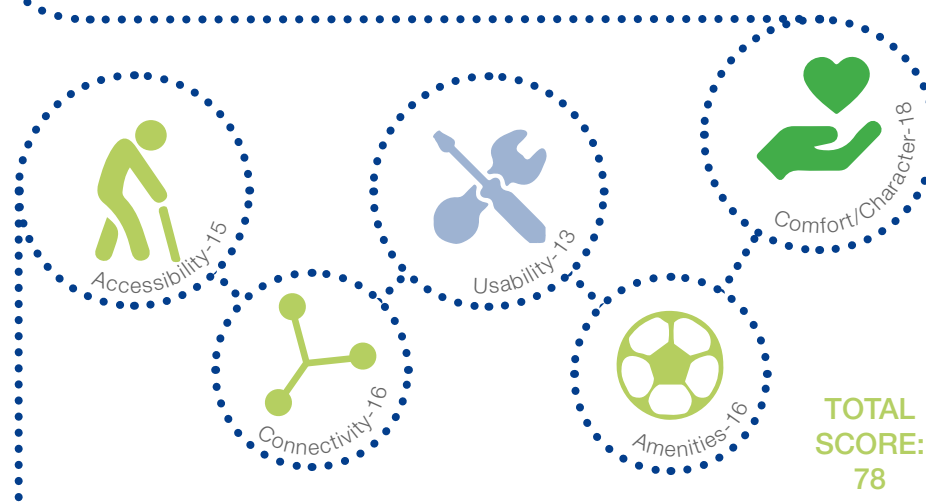
Findings Summary:

Calamity Line Park is very visible from a distance and highly attractive and well-maintained. There is a mix of things to do throughout the year but due to its linear nature and undeveloped area to the south, the programming flexibility is limited. Overall, the amenities are in great shape, there's a strong sense of ownership, and protection from the weather with shelters.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

EASTBROOKE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 13000 South Greenwood Street

SIZE: 5.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1998

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (2)
- Picnic Table (2)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)
- Park Map (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park provides a neighborhood and trail users a chance to sit down, rest, have a sip of water or play on a playground. The park is part of a larger trail that preserves a wooded riparian corridor

Opportunities:

The playground may need to be replaced by the end of the planning horizon. A map kiosk and directional signage would help trail users know where they can go within and beyond this park.



Findings Summary:

This park is the focal point of the Eastbrooke Trail in eastern Olathe. It has great visibility along S. Greenwood Street but also provides trail connections to quiet areas of wooded green space along a tributary of Indian Creek. Amenities include a large masonry picnic shelter, playground, and associated site furnishings.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

FAIRVIEW PARK

SITE LOCATION: 400 North Walnut

SIZE: 2 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1980

Facility Amenities

- Basketball Courts (2)
- Playgrounds (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (3)
- Benches (14)
- Picnic Table (4)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Restrooms (1)
- Trash Receptacles (5)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The recent improvements make this a park not just a focal point of the Fairview neighborhood but a destination. Newly resurfaced basketball courts, a shelter, restroom, and new playgrounds make it feel like a small community park.

Opportunities:

The only component of the park that missed out on recent improvements was its small parking lot. Perhaps it can be resurfaced in the future.



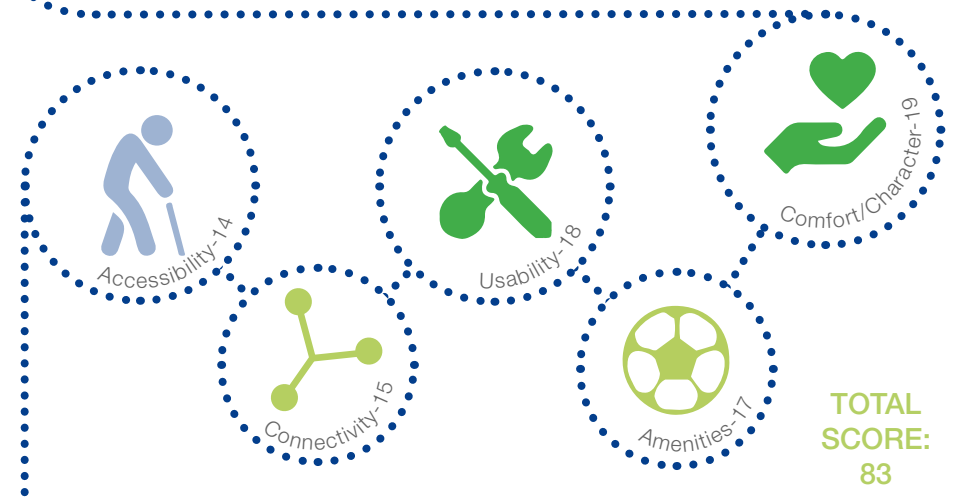
Findings Summary:

Fairview Park has benefited from some of the most recent park improvements in the system which include a new playground with artificial turf surfacing, resurfaced basketball courts, and a restroom. This park is within walking distance from downtown and provides enough amenities to almost warrant consideration as a community park

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

HAMPTON PARK

SITE LOCATION: 16360 Warwick Street

SIZE: 4.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2000

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Grills (1)
- Benches (7)
- Picnic Tables (6)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Lighting (2)
- Trash Receptacles (4)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The architectural shade structures are attractive and offer pleasant gathering places. The open space surrounded by the trail loop is flexible for a variety of activities.

Opportunities:

Many diverse tree species have been planted in the park. Additional care for these trees would enhance the life expectancy and the value they bring to the park.



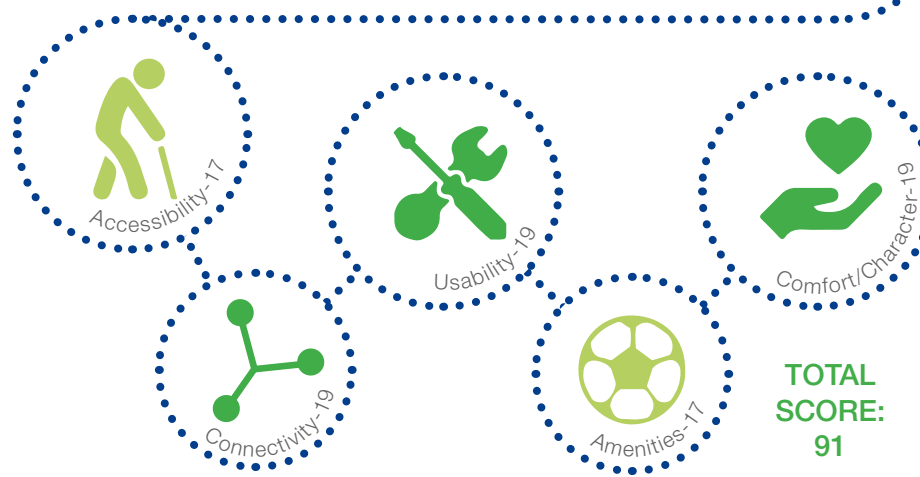
Findings Summary:

Hampton Park is a beautiful and well-cared-for property used for the playground and shelter. The visibility from two local streets provide a safe place for all ages to gather. The open space provides a flexible space for many outdoor activities. The arbor structures in this park create an aesthetically pleasing architectural style that compliments the neighborhood.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

HAVEN PARK

SITE LOCATION: 15475 West 147th Terrace

SIZE: 5.2 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1993

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Tennis Courts (1)
- Sand Volleyball Courts (1)
- Baseball Field (1)
- Basketball Goal (1)
- Multi-Purpose Fields (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Grills (2)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (10)
- Picnic Table (4)
- Picnic Shelters (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

Mature trees provide ample shade. An updated playground features inclusive play structures. Sport courts, fields, and a trail provide numerous recreation opportunities. It's a space that does it all.

Opportunities:

Signage could be provided to let visitors know the length of the walking path found on site. If desired, the tennis court could be converted to pickleball.



IMAGE 1.1 - Playground



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

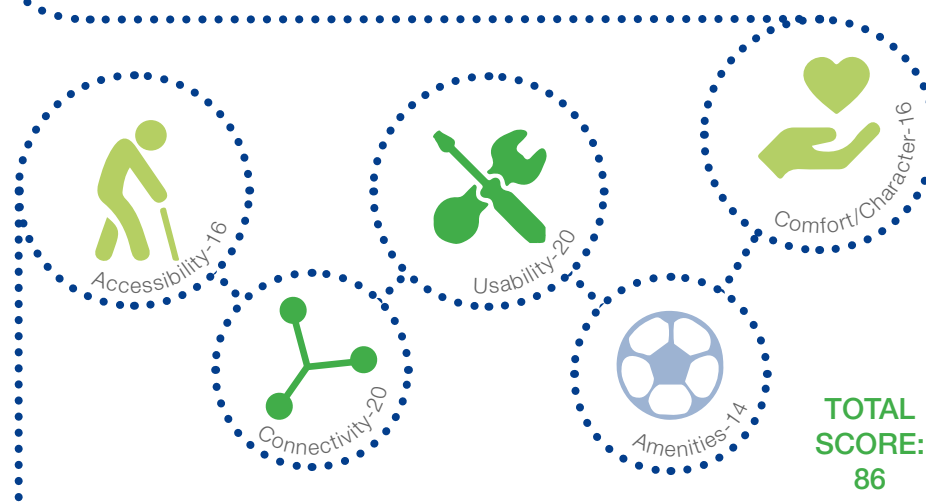
Findings Summary:

Haven Park is a property that features every basic amenity you could ask for in a neighborhood park: an updated playground, a multi-use path, a ball-field, basketball court, tennis court, sand volleyball court, picnic shelter, and mature trees providing shade for visitors and screening for neighbors. It's a park that needs little improvement at this time.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

HEATHERSTONE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 12310 South Plumm Road

SIZE: 11.4 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1995

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Fishing Dock (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (10)
- Picnic Tables (2)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The park feels removed from its busy surroundings and allows visitors many recreational opportunities from fishing to play to exercise. Mature trees provide great shade and a new playground offers exciting opportunities for young visitors.

Opportunities:

A monument sign on Plumm and a map kiosk might make it easier for folks to find this park and learn all that is available within.



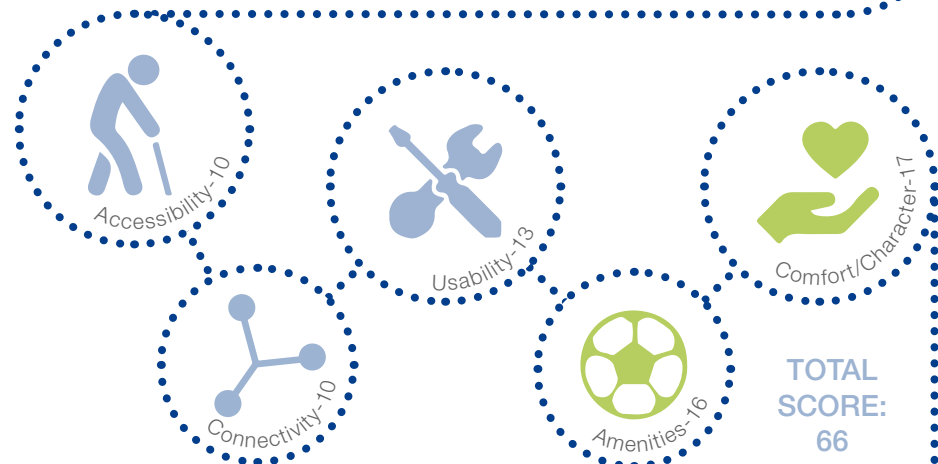
Findings Summary:

Heatherstone Park is a neighborhood park situated next door to an elementary school of the same name. Despite frontage on Plumm Road, its topography and wooded borders make it feel like a hidden gem. It features an exercise path, mature shade trees, and pond with a fishing platform, picnic shelter, and a recently updated playground.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

INDIAN CREEK LIBRARY PARK

SITE LOCATION: 16100 West 135th Street

SIZE: 2.9 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2021

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Amphitheater (1)
- Rain Garden (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (3)
- Picnic Table (4)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The new structures, with additional tree plantings, offer plenty of shade. This new park is highly visible from the road and is connected by nice wide sidewalks. Inclusive and sound play are fresh park elements.

Opportunities:

Indian Creek Trail would connect this park to the larger system. A more direct connection would be beneficial.



Findings Summary:

This park provides library visitors and nearby residents the opportunity to engage in outdoor play. A new playground, a shelter, built shade, amphitheater and a story walk create a positive environment and offer programming opportunities for the library.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



POOR



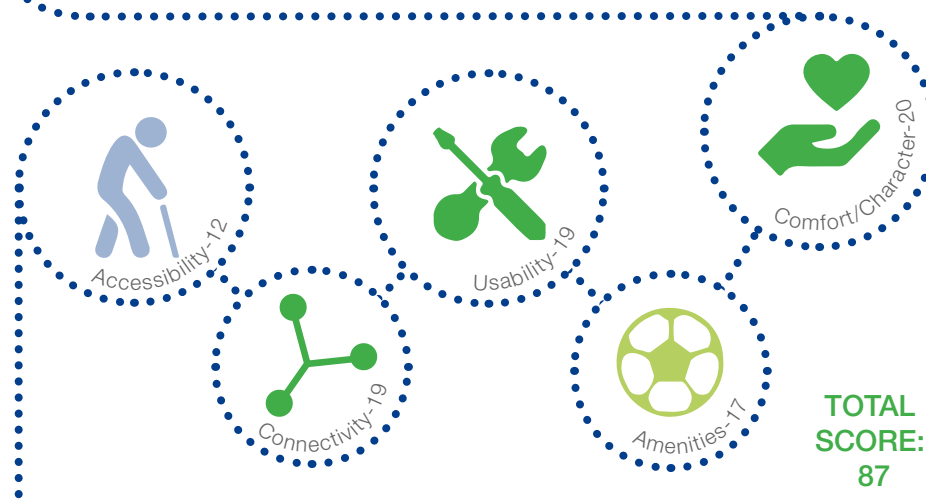
FAIR



GOOD



EXCELLENT



facility inventory

MAHAFFIE POND PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1031 East Cothrell Street

SIZE: 6.6 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1982

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Benches (3)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This neighborhood park is easy to walk to and offers a variety of amenities for its size. It offers a nice, quiet space to walk and fish for the nearby residents.

Opportunities:

While there is a nice tree canopy cover in this park, a small picnic shelter would be a nice addition, along with updated play equipment or fitness stations.



Findings Summary:

Mahaffie Pond Park is generally well maintained and offers a sense of safety. There is a good mix of things to do for a neighborhood park and the loop trail is a plus. The amenities are in average condition and there are plenty of benches around the pond, but are not ADA accessible.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

MANOR PARK

SITE LOCATION: 15355 South Alcan Street

SIZE: 11.6 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1998

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Picnic Table (2)
- Benches (2)
- Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The wetland with boardwalks offer a unique asset while providing an environmental benefit. Playground, shelter and ample open space within walking distance of so many homes becomes an outdoor venue perfect for birthday parties and family gatherings.

Opportunities:

Due to trail proximity, bicycle amenities could be added to develop a trailhead. A few more large shade trees could be planted to replace the older cottonwood that is currently very prominent in the park.



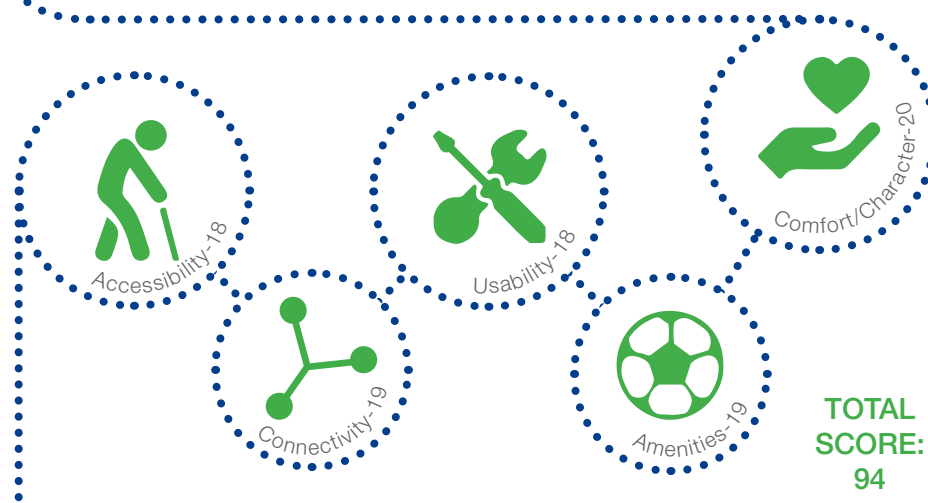
Findings Summary:

Manor Park is a neighborhood park that serves the surrounding neighborhood with a relatively new playground and shelter while capturing storm water that feeds the wetland. A leveled open space provides the opportunity for lawn games. The park is also a convenient access to the Heritage Trail that connects this park to Black bob Park to the north and Johnson County's Heritage Park to the south. This park requires no improvements at this time.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

MILL CREEK PARK

SITE LOCATION: 320 East Poplar Street

SIZE: 4 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1935

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (2)
- Tennis Courts (2)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (1)
- Picnic Tables (3)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Restrooms (1)
- Trash Receptacles (3)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The location of this park makes it an asset for downtown residents and employees to downtown businesses. Large trees offer shade for the playground areas. The creek and bridges are nice. The tennis courts are in good condition.

Opportunities:

Replacement of the older playground with a newer, more challenging amenity would activate this park.



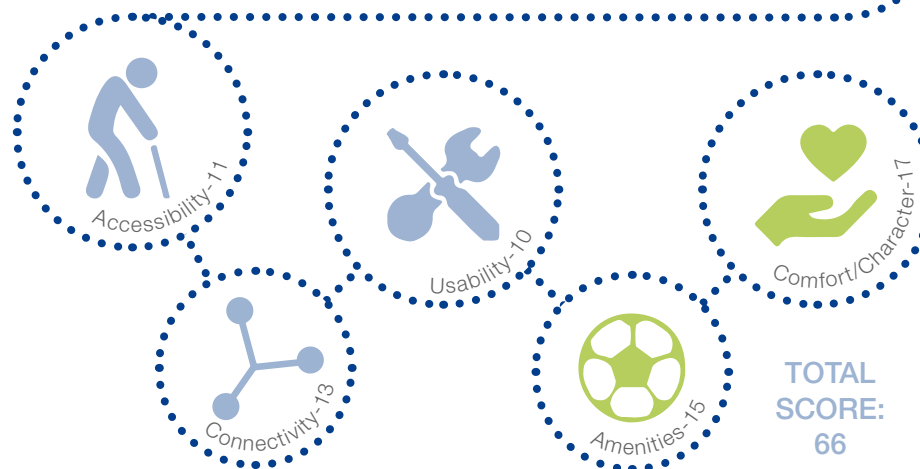
Findings Summary:

Mill Creek Park provides a shady outdoor space for downtown residents or visitors to Mill Creek Pool. The park has two playground areas, one barrier free and one on the west side of the creek. The playground on the west is older and needs some attention. The tennis courts, shelter and restroom building are in good condition located near the parking lot for convenience.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

NORTH WALNUT PARK

SITE LOCATION: 801 North Walnut Street

SIZE: 3.4 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1980

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Grills (1)
- Picnic Table (1)
- Benches (1)
- Lighting (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

North Walnut Park is easy to walk to and very accessible to the residents nearby. A bit of the beaten path, but does offer flexibility for additional programming if desired.

Opportunities:

This neighborhood park does not need a 25-space parking lot. A smaller parking lot would afford space for a new shelter, playground, walking trail, and community garden to accompany the orchard.



IMAGE 1.1 - Playground



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

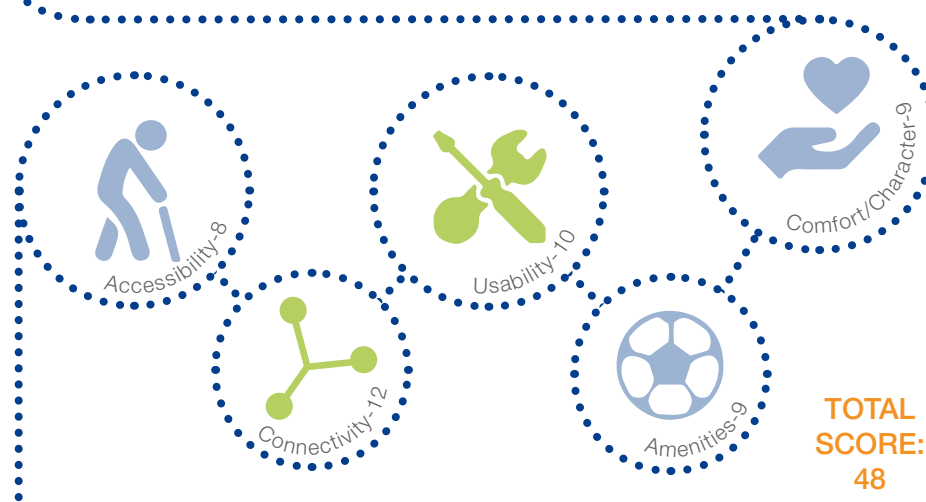
Findings Summary:

This neighborhood park is tucked behind a residential area with a handful of amenities. The playground is on the older side and should be considered for an upgrade. The trail is a great amenity, along with the fruit trees throughout the park. North Walnut Park has potential to include additional amenities, including more places to sit and a small shelter.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



TOTAL SCORE:
48

facility inventory

RAVEN RIDGE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 675 West Harold Street

SIZE: 5.1 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2004

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Horseshoes (2)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (6)
- Picnic Table (4)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Lighting (2)
- Trash Receptacles (3)
- Gateway Sign (2)
- Parking Lot (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This property is highly visible and features less common amenities such as 2 horseshoe pits. The picnic shelter is large enough to host a diverse array of events and the overall care of the property is evident in the landscaping and tidy trail.

Opportunities:

Other than routine maintenance to remove graffiti from the play equipment shelter, this park is in great shape.



IMAGE 1.1 - Playground



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

Findings Summary:

Raven Ridge Park is an active and well-kept property. With its open space and large picnic shelter, the park allows for a variety of activities throughout the year. The paved trail that loops the park is a popular attraction for nearby neighborhood residents. While most amenities are in very good condition, there is a fair amount of graffiti on the playground equipment.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

SANTA MARTA PARK

SITE LOCATION: 116th & Greenwood Street

SIZE: 4.1 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2006

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Bridge (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (5)
- Picnic Table (4)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The park is attractive and offers a terrific mix of neighborhood park amenities. Many trees have been planted over this park's young lifespan and it will offer tremendous shade in another 10 years.

Opportunities:

This park merits no significant capital improvement over the upcoming planning horizon. It will continue to serve its surrounding neighborhood well.



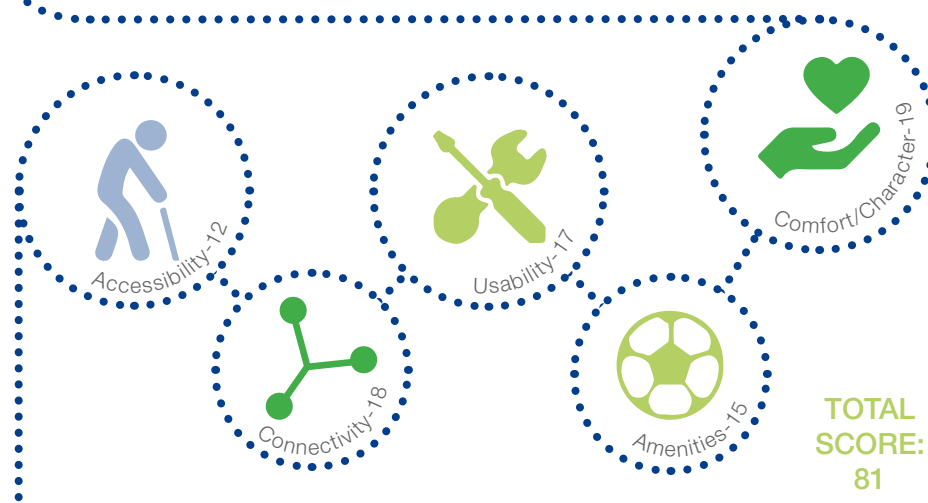
Findings Summary:

Santa Marta Park is the focal point of its neighborhood and appears both well-maintained and well-used. The park features all the amenities you could ask for in a neighborhood park such as a sizable shelter, playground, walking trail, and open space. A dry creek bed conveys stormwater and during dry weather makes for an attractive landscape feature.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

SCARBOROUGH PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1825 East 153rd Street

SIZE: 1.3 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1980

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Disc Golf Holes (1)
- Bridge (1)
- Picnic Table (2)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The park is in an ideal location for neighborhood residents and provides space to allow for a variety of activities. The amenities are in overall good condition to be enjoyed.

Opportunities:

This park can be mistaken as part of the adjacent schoolyard. A new monument sign could fix that. Replacing the walking path and managing overgrown vegetation would make the space more accessible.



Findings Summary:

Scarborough Park is located just east of Scarborough Elementary School. It is a small park with limited amenities including a playground, disc golf practice hole, and a picnic shelter. Overgrown vegetation around the park and sidewalks in poor repair lead to poor visibility into the park and a lack of accessibility.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

SOUTHDOWNS PARK

SITE LOCATION: 2101 South Lindenwood Drive

SIZE: 6.2 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1994

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (1)
- Picnic Table (2)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Lighting (4)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The trail and playground area are both well-maintained and accessible. The ample trees make this park an attractive feature in this neighborhood..

Opportunities:

This park provides a spot along the Indian Creek Trail for trail users and neighbors to play or relax. Providing a trail amenity like a bike repair stand would be appropriate. The playground may be due for replacement by the end of this planning horizon.



IMAGE 1.1 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

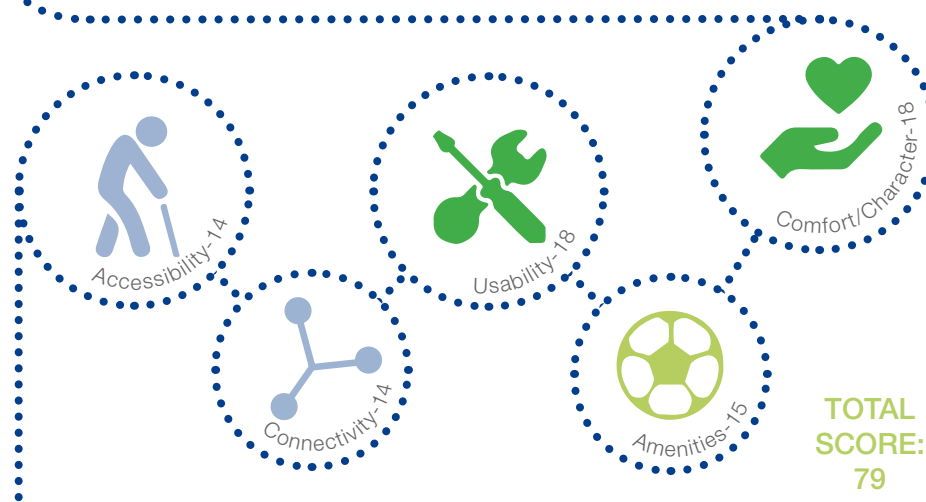
Findings Summary:

Located amongst a dense patch of mature trees, Southdowns Park is a cozy and well-shaded property for visitors to enjoy. The park features a well-kept playground, sizable picnic shelter, and a paved trail that provides its users a route that is both shaded and scenic.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

SOUTHGLEN PARK

SITE LOCATION: 11300 South Clare Road

SIZE: 6.3 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2000

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (4)
- Picnic Table (3)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park's strength lies in the mix of well-built and well-maintained amenities from the walking paths to the playground to the shelter. Its adjacency to the elementary school and neighborhood pool make it a popular destination.

Opportunities:

The playground is showing age and should be replaced by the end of this planning horizon.



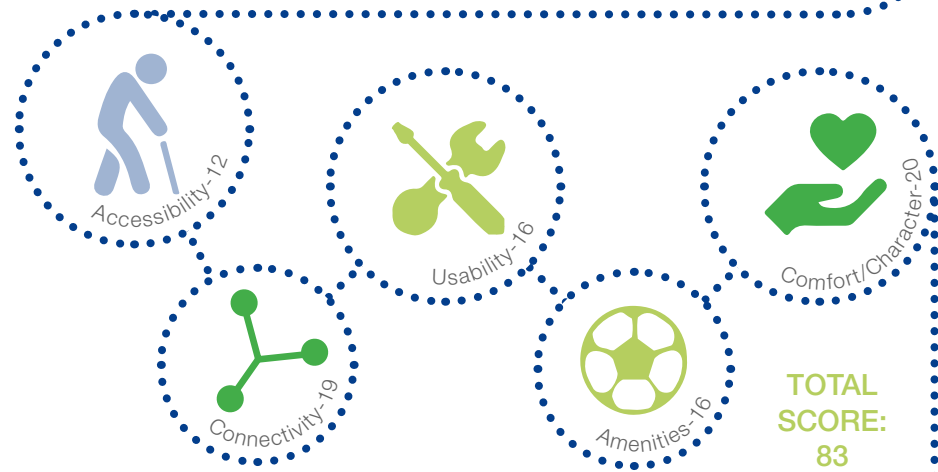
Findings Summary:

Southglen Park adjoins the schoolyard for Cedar Creek Elementary School and sits across S. Clare Road from the private Cedar Creek Pool. Together these features provide a great nexus of recreation and open space for this NW Olathe neighborhood. The playground, shelter, and walking path in this park are in very good shape. The many young trees will provide great shade in future years.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

WOODBROOK PARK

SITE LOCATION: 14820 West 123rd Terrace

SIZE: 1.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 1990

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Basketball Courts (1/2)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (4)
- Picnic Table (1)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The terraced site and the connections to both W. 123rd Terrace and Alden Circle make this park accessible and engaging.

Opportunities:

Several amenities are due for upgrades such as the monument sign, basketball goals, play equipment, and walking path.



IMAGE 1.1 - Playground



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

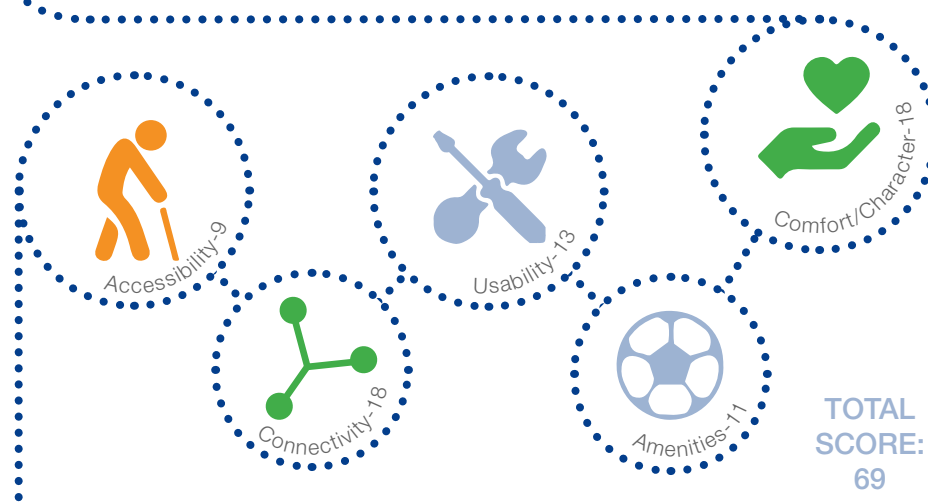
Findings Summary:

Woodbrooke is a well-crafted park that sits on a sloped site within its neighborhood. Numerous park uses dot this terraced landscape from a playground to a basketball court to a gazebo. The park features are showing their age but the mature trees and winding pathways make it an appealing spot nonetheless.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



facility inventory

WOODLAND HILLS PARK

SITE LOCATION: 11795 South Langley Street

SIZE: 16 acres

DESIGNATION: Neighborhood Park

ESTABLISHED: 2007

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Grills (1)
- Benches (1)
- Picnic Tables (2)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The park features a fun playground with new equipment and an accessible trail that takes visitors right along side a nice pond.

Opportunities:

Once the extension to 119th Street is constructed this park could feature an additional trail connection to that road and provide more access through its wooded acreage in the south half of the park.



Findings Summary:

Woodland Hills Park provides a well-maintained shelter, an exciting playground, and a loop trail around a neighborhood pond. It's very accessible to the growing neighborhood around Woodland Hills Elementary. Much of the land is undeveloped at this time. It will soon rest at the corner of two busy roadways once the extension to 119th Street is constructed.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

FIRESTATION #8 PARK

SITE LOCATION: 14700 South Lakeshore Drive

SIZE: 9.2 acres

DESIGNATION: Undeveloped

ESTABLISHED: N/A

Facility Amenities

- Rain Garden (1)
- Disc Golf Holes (3)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This site is highly visible and accessible by the immediate neighborhood. The 24-hour presence of fire department staff will help provide eyes on a park that is otherwise far removed from much of Olathe

Opportunities:

This site could be an opportunity for department to maintain a significant stand of tall grass within one of its parks, something otherwise not found in the system. It's also a solid candidate for some soft surface trails.



Findings Summary:

This undeveloped piece of parkland sits adjacent to the city's newest fire station and the growing Oak Run neighborhood. Once developed it will become the westernmost property in the system. Apart from the fire station these 9 acres consists almost entirely of rustic tall grass on an exposed and steadily sloping site.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



POOR



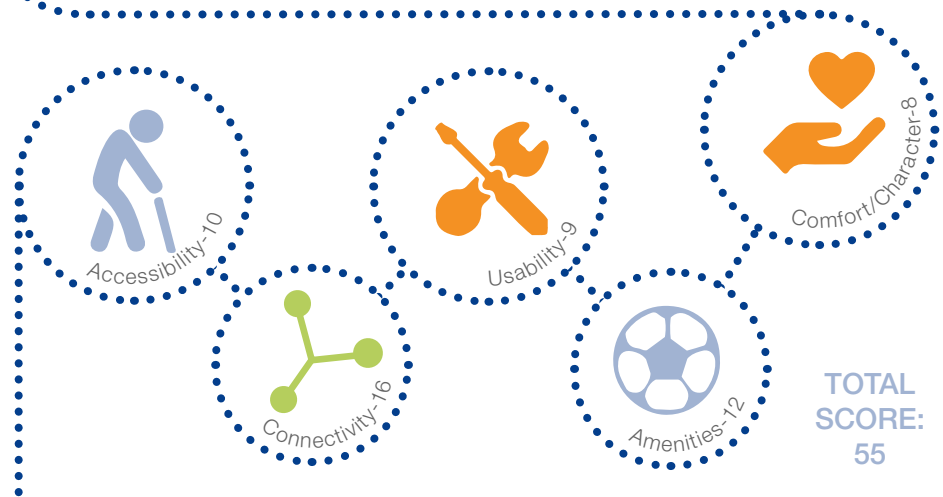
FAIR



GOOD



EXCELLENT



facility inventory

HOFF PARK

SITE LOCATION: College Blvd. and Palisades Street

SIZE: 16.7 acres

DESIGNATION: Undeveloped

ESTABLISHED: N/A

Facility Amenities

- Stream/Creek (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The site's topography and streams offer the chance to create an engaging park space. It's adjacency to new neighborhoods and a major arterial offer chances to share this space with many visitors.

Opportunities:

This site provides an opportunity to begin filling the park service gap in northwest Olathe. Trails and fitness options would satisfy needs that have come out of the public engagement process.



IMAGE 1.1 - Undeveloped



IMAGE 1.2 - Undeveloped

Findings Summary:

This acreage, recently donated by the Hoff family, lies near the intersection of Woodland Street and College Boulevard. It consists largely of cow pasture and features rolling topography as well as the convergence of two water courses into a small stream. The site offers potential street or sidewalk connections to two separate neighborhoods and College Boulevard.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



LOULA PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1300 West Loula Street

SIZE: 11.9 acres

DESIGNATION: Undeveloped

ESTABLISHED: N/A

Facility Amenities

- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Benches (1)

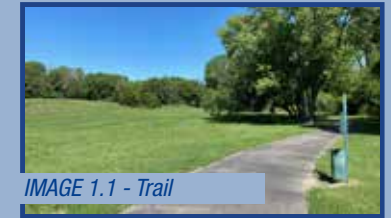
Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

Rolling Ridge Trail is a popular trail which is bookended by the active destinations of Oregon Trail and Prairie Center Parks. This location could take advantage of that trail traffic while offering a quiet place to relax

Opportunities:

The site on Loula has the space to provide typical neighborhood park and trail amenities such as a small shelter, playground, drinking fountain and bike repair stand.

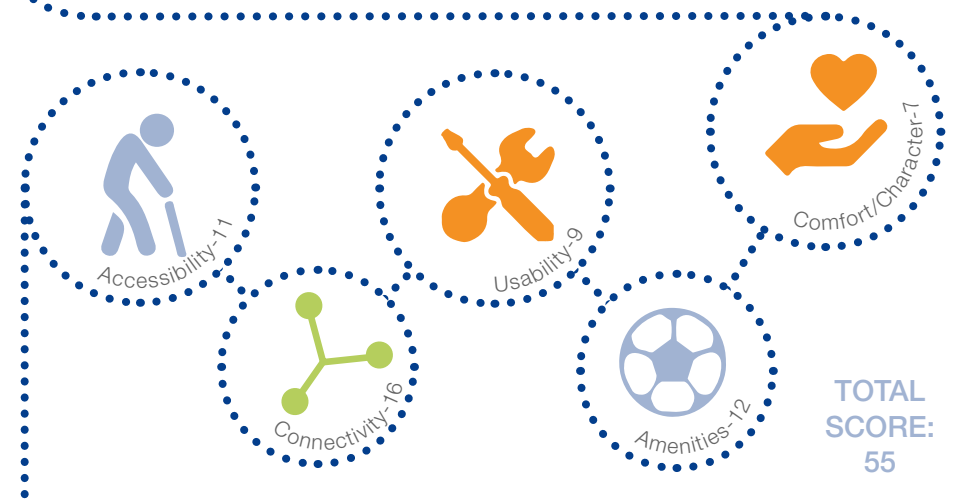


Findings Summary:

Loula Park has the potential to be a pleasant midway point on the Rolling Ridge Trail. Presently, it features a wooded stretch of trail as well as an open piece of space of turf n the north side of Loula Street.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



BLACK BOB PARK

SITE LOCATION: 14500 West 151st Street

SIZE: 79.7 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1981

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Baseball Fields (8)
- Dugouts (16)
- Batting Cages (8)
- Basketball Courts (1)
- Soccer Fields (6)
- Mini-Golf (1)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (28)
- Concessions
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Grills (45)
- Drinking Fountain (4)
- Benches (15)
- Picnic Tables (40)
- Picnic Shelters (3)
- Restrooms (4)
- Trash Receptacles (53)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The diversity of opportunities in this park provide reasons for any resident of Olathe to visit multiple times a year. While the paved surfaces may be showing their age, the mature trees are a boon and should be preserved.

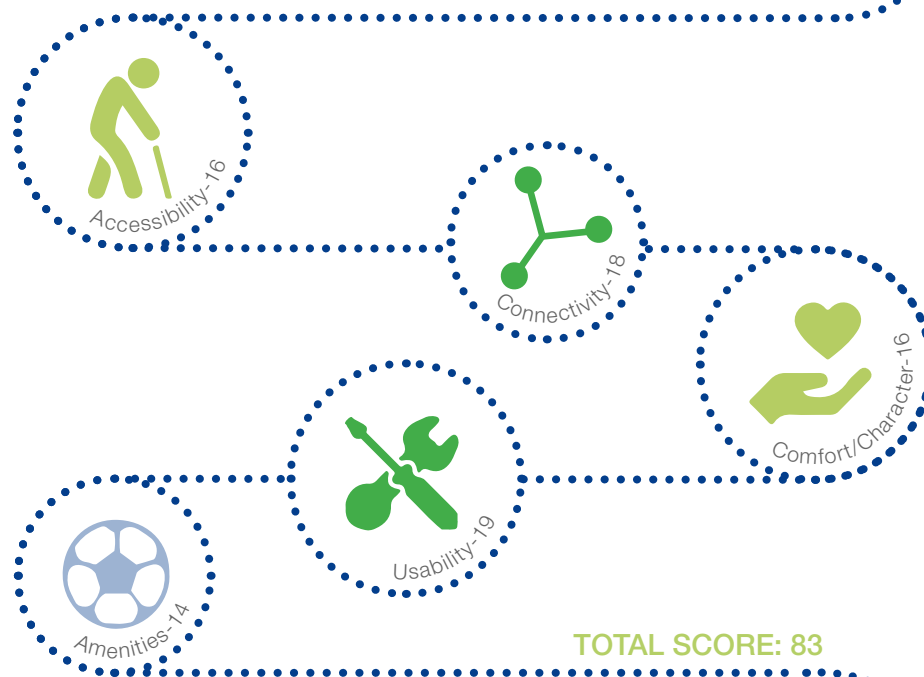
Opportunities:

A new flagship shelter in this park could provide year-round rental revenue and perhaps serve as a home for the farmers market. Could the miniature golf course be resurrected? It is a very unique amenity.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Black Bob Park serves as Olathe's flagship park east of I-35 and is one of the largest properties in the system. As a community park it serves nearly all of the typical park needs you would expect to find in Olathe from ample sports fields to the flagship aquatic center to walking trails, to a weekly farmer's market. Three sides of the park are surrounded by residential neighbors as well as an elementary school. The park is fronted by a major arterial roadway in 151st Street. It presents a stately appearance with street trees, a divided entryway with a monument sign, and passive lawn spaces. The interior, however, is very much programmed with 8 diamond ballfields, several rectangular multi-purpose fields, batting cages, a large aquatic complex, multiple parking areas, and two water towers maintained by the utility department. This park could benefit from a hierarchy of signage to direct visitors to the various amenities. Walking paths do a nice job of connecting the many different amenities. The parking lots and interior roadways are showing their age and will need replacement or repairs in this next horizon. With solid bones, it's clear that this park will be able to continue to serve Olathe residents for many more decades to come.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Baseball Field



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Basketball Court



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

CIVIC CENTER PARK

SITE LOCATION: 251 Santa Fe Street

SIZE: 1.3 acres

DESIGNATION: Pocket Park

ESTABLISHED: 2014

Facility Amenities

- Benches (4)
- Lighting (13)
- Trash Receptacles (4)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

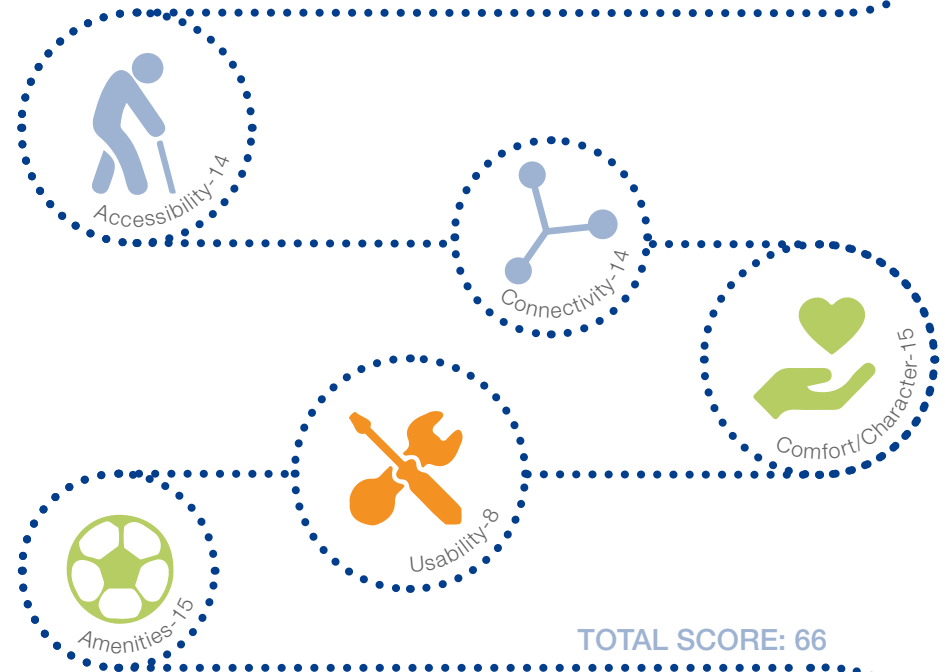
This downtown park provides a very pleasant green space for Olathe's workforce with it's abundance of seating opportunities, public art, and a water feature. It is impeccably well-maintained and is a great counterpart to the future library across Sante Fe.

Opportunities:

While the trees and small pergola offer some shade, a larger shade structure could be added due to being surrounded by roads and parking lots.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:





Findings Summary:

Civic Center Park is in the heart of downtown Olathe with civic and commercial uses surrounding the space. It is easy to walk to from the adjacent neighborhoods and businesses nearby. The park is generally ADA compliant and all of the structures, site furnishings, light fixtures, and walking surfaces are in above average condition. It is highly visible from a distance, especially traveling along Santa Fe heading west, becoming one of the first civic spaces to emerge as one approaches downtown. It is a bit cut-off from adjacent land uses, particularly to the south, being adjacent to parking and temporary construction staging. This park has multiple light fixtures and the ability to see through the space, offers a great feeling of safety. Overall Civic Center Park is very attractive and is very well-maintained but doesn't provide much for protection from the weather. The park doesn't offer much in terms of programming flexibility but there is a strong sense of ownership displayed.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Shaded Seating



IMAGE 1.3 - Public Art



IMAGE 1.4 - Public Art



IMAGE 1.5 - Public Art

FRISCO LAKE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1100 East Dennis Avenue

SIZE: 63 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1974

Facility Amenities

- Playground (1)
- Sand Volleyball Courts (1)
- Basketball Goal (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Fishing Dock (2)
- Boat Ramp (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Rain Garden (1)
- Grills (2)
- Drinking Fountain (2)
- Benches (11)
- Picnic Tables (9)
- Picnic Shelter (1)
- Gazebo (1)
- Trash Receptacles (8)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

Frisco Lake Park is a welcoming expanse of natural amenities in this area of Olathe. The large lake and loop walking trail are highly used and there are plenty of park components incorporated into this park.

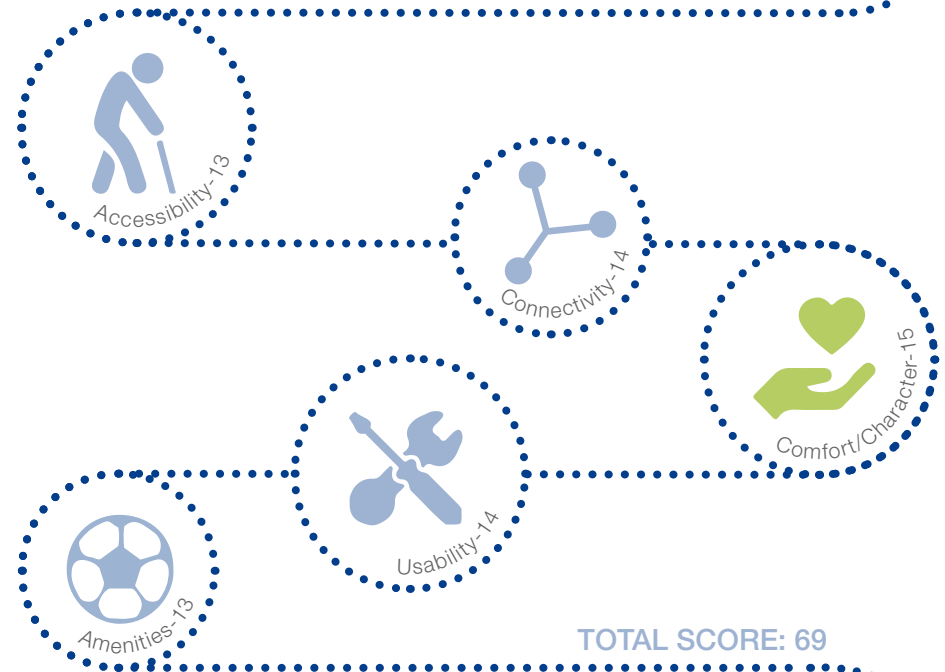
Opportunities:

This community park merits a permanent restroom. A map kiosk would educate visitors as to what they can do in the park. A trail and picnic spot on the south edge of the north pond would give access to the portion of the park.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

This park is surrounded by single and multi-family residential and also industrial uses including railroad tracks along the west. It is not highly accessible other than by vehicle, but once you arrive, there are plenty of amenities for everyone and most spaces are generally ADA compliant. There is good signage and lighting throughout the park and good visibility to see clearly into the park from surrounding streets and neighborhoods. There is a good sense of safety due to it being well-maintained and is perceived to be inviting. There are multiple seating opportunities and several shelters throughout. This park offers a mix of things to do and had a variety of users at the time of the assessment. The play equipment was in above average condition, while the structures and pavements were about average.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Gazebo

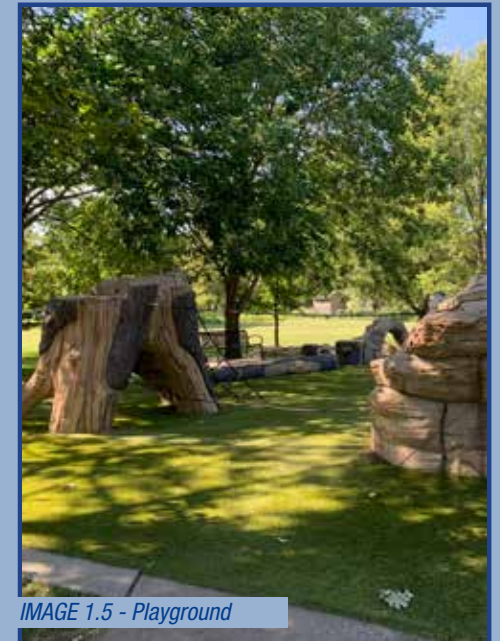


IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

FRONTIER PARK

SITE LOCATION: 15501 West Indian Creek Parkway

SIZE: 20.3 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1979

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Baseball Fields (2)
- Dugouts (4)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (4)
- Multi-Purpose Fields (1)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Grills (3)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (4)
- Picnic Tables (4)
- Picnic Shelters (2)
- Trash Receptacles (5)
- Gateway Signs (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The trail connecting the park to many neighborhoods is an asset to this property. The playground is in good condition and is large enough for a crowd. Multiple practice fields are valuable.

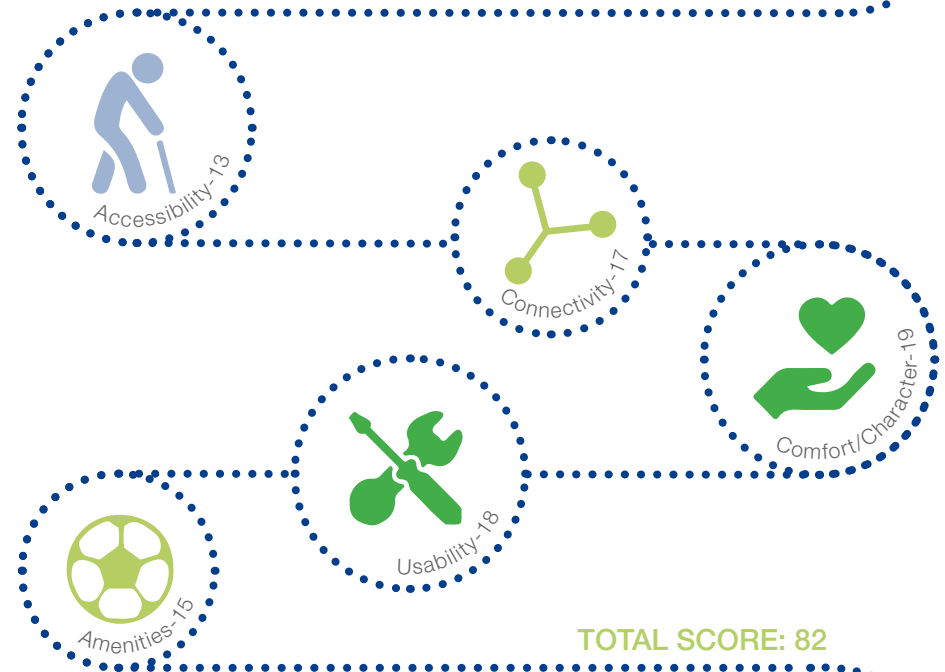
Opportunities:

There is a concrete pad that appears to have been a basketball court. This slab could be used for hard court activities if basketball isn't desirable. Pickleball could be added.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Frontier Park is parkland located between Indian Creek Parkway and Indian Creek. This park has been the location for the Summer Concert Series attracting thousands of participants for many years. Indian Creek Trail runs the length of the park along the creek. In addition to baseball fields with covered player benches, bleachers and soccer goals, this park has a large playground and picnic shelters. There is open space for flexible recreation, as well. The large trees, both along the creek and within the park, provide shade and pleasant park experience. A parking lot buffers the park from the street and is decent condition.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Multi-Use Trail



IMAGE 1.3 - Baseball Field



IMAGE 1.4 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

OLATHE GIRLS

SOFTBALL COMPLEX

SITE LOCATION: 13901 West 151st Street

SIZE: 16 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1991

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Softball Fields (7)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (4)
- Dugouts (14)
- Scoreboards (7)
- Batting Cages (4)
- Concession Building (1)
- Drinking Fountains (2)
- Picnic Tables (1)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Restrooms (3)
- Trash Receptacles (33)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park provides needed and highly used softball fields for competitive play. Additional amenities add comfort for patrons using the amenities and maintenance facilities on the site are a convenient benefit.

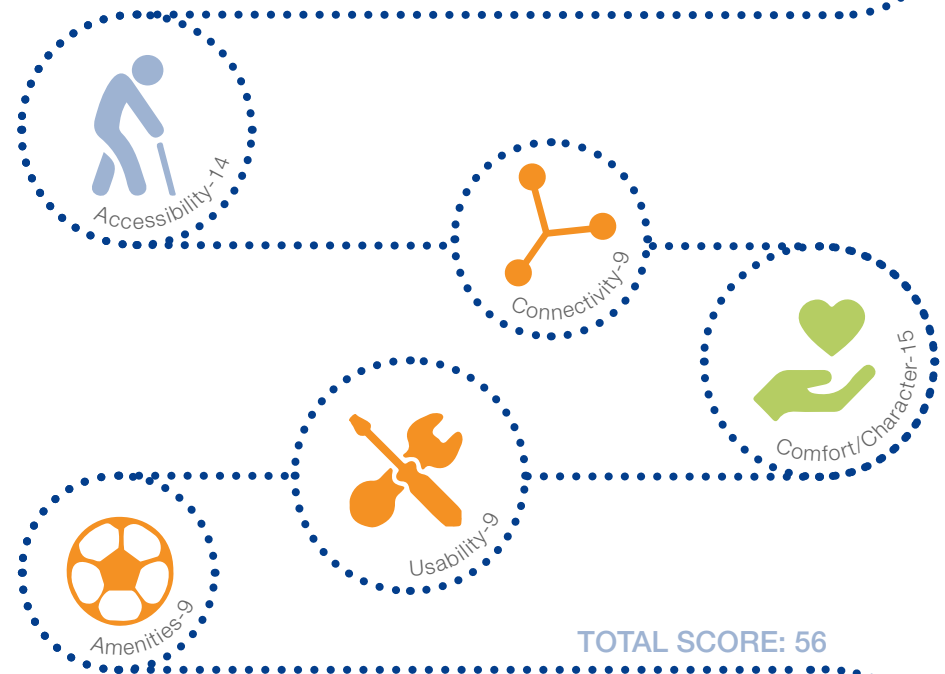
Opportunities:

A new playground with an accessible route would be beneficial for this facility. Improving pedestrian access to the facility from the adjacent streets and neighborhoods would increase the value to citizens.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

The Olathe Girls Softball Complex is provided for use by the Olathe Girls Softball Association as a competitive facility meeting the needs of players and families. This park provides fields with covered benches, bleachers, batting cages, a shelter, a concession building, restrooms, a maintenance building and a small playground. A traditional wheel of four fields are supplemented with an additional three fields, with varying field dimensions, located east of the complex. The park is tucked away from the arterial streets with a single entry drive located off of 151st Street. This park does not have pedestrian access from the roadways or adjacent uses. Signage includes a wooden street sign, a dedication plaque and a covered "Wall of Fame" at the entry. The main parking lot is in good condition but the entry road curb needs repaired or replaced. The parking lot for the east fields is gravel with concrete wheelstops. The pedestrian access to the playground and fields does not meet current ADA standards. The playground is showing significant wear and the safety surfacing is not in compliance. It appears the concession and restroom buildings are meeting needs but would benefit from cosmetic upgrades, at a minimum.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Softball Field



IMAGE 1.3 - Dedication



IMAGE 1.4 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

OREGON TRAIL PARK

SITE LOCATION: 14500 West 151st Street

SIZE: 79.7 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1981

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Baseball Fields (4)
- Dugouts (8)
- Soccer Fields (2)
- Sand Volleyball Courts (2)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (8)
- Concession Stands (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Picnic Tables (12)
- Picnic Shelters (2)
- Restrooms (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This community park is highly attractive and the multitude of amenities within are generally in very good condition. Oregon Trail Park offers something for everyone and is highly visible from Dennis Avenue.

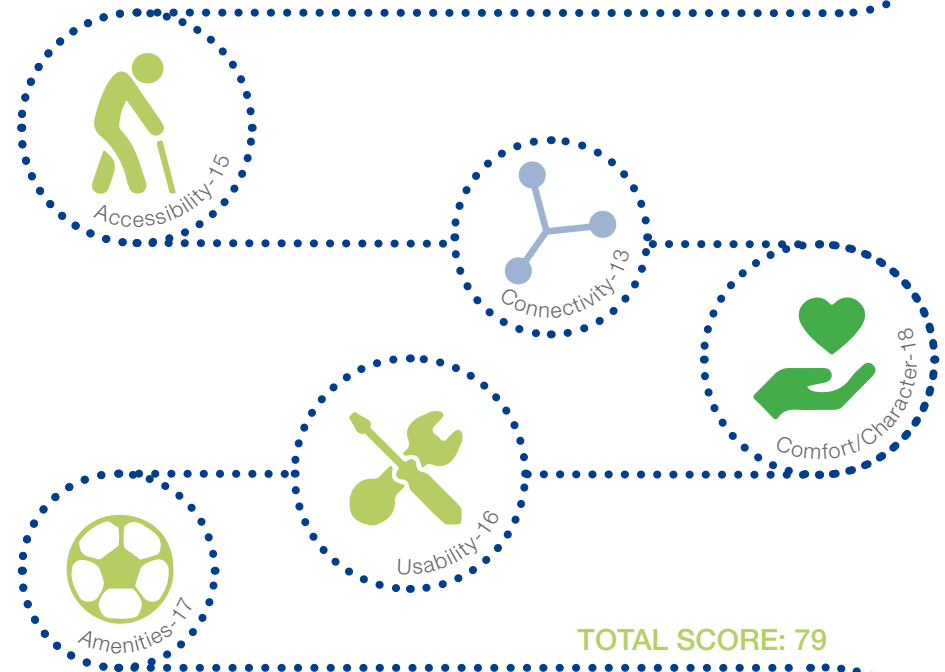
Opportunities:

While mostly adjacent to industrial uses, this park could benefit from the addition of bike racks and additional street crossings and side-walks.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Oregon Trail Park is a rectangular park with many recreational and natural spaces. Access to the park seems dominated by vehicles but once inside of the space, most of its spaces are accessible and allow equitable use by people with all needs and abilities. There is an appropriate amount of light fixtures and is highly visible from the surrounding streets and land uses. It is a very attractive park, and well-maintained, which contributes to its sense of safety for users. There are plenty of seating options and the various shelters provide protection from the elements. The various amenities are thoughtfully planned out, while incorporating a loop trail around the entire property. Oregon Trail Park offers a variety of activities throughout the year and allows for flexibility in programming. Overall the play equipment, structures, and pavements are in above average to great condition.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Restroom Facility



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

PRAIRIE CENTER PARK

SITE LOCATION: 55 North Olathe View Road

SIZE: 69 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1981

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (2)
- Baseball Fields (8)
- Dugouts (16)
- Soccer Fields (6)
- Scoreboards (8)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (17)
- Concession Stands (2)
- Disc Golf Course (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Grills (3)
- Drinking Fountain (3)
- Benches (13)
- Picnic Tables (7)
- Picnic Shelters (3)
- Lighting (45)
- Restrooms (4)
- Trash Receptacles (70)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

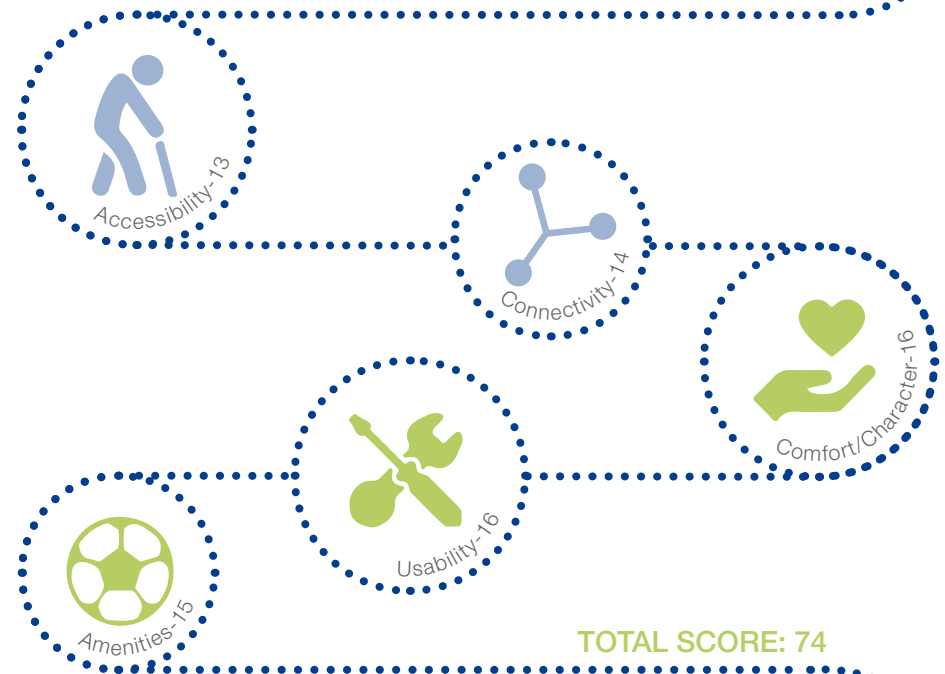
The well-maintained ball fields attract young athletes and their families during evening practices and weekend games 3 seasons out of the year. The Rolling Ridge Trail and 18 holes of disc golf attract visitors year round.

Opportunities:

The site suffers from a parking shortage during athletic events and needs a second entrance to alleviate traffic congestion. The playground on the north side could be updated, as well.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



TOTAL SCORE: 74



Findings Summary:

Prairie Center Park lies at the southern edge of a massive piece of city property in west Olathe. The park is roughly 70 acres in size and features a tremendous mix of both active and passive recreation opportunities. The park offers 8 baseball diamonds and 4 U-14 size soccer fields. The fields provide space for everything from youth baseball, adult softball, youth and adult soccer and flag football. There are 2 playgrounds, 3 restrooms buildings, 2 shelters, 2 concession stands, and 3 separate parking areas. The park is somewhat divided into north and south ends. The north end features a small but picturesque pond. The south half features a myriad of maturing trees which descend from the department's former nursery at this location. Features which unify the park are the trails and the 18-hole disc golf course. The disc golf course is highly regarded within the Kansas City metro area and a destination for players from both within and beyond the city limits.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Baseball Field



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

STAGECOACH PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1205 East Kansas City Road

SIZE: 46.3 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1996

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Fishing Pond (2)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Bridge (2)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Drinking Fountains (3)
- Benches (10)
- Picnic Tables (8)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Lighting (15)
- Trash Receptacles (10)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The natural spaces created by the legacy oak trees, ponds, and streams make visitors forget they are in the middle of one of the largest cities in Kansas

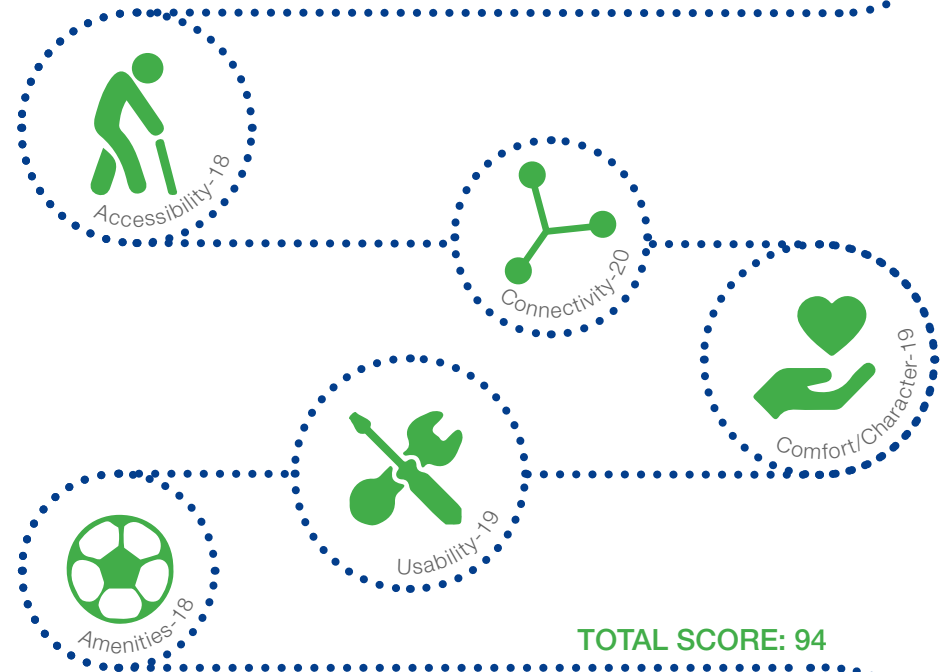
Opportunities:

There are no capital improvements needed at this time. Routine maintenance will keep this park a top destination for years to come.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Stagecoach Park is the flagship park for central Olathe. It is the home of the Olathe Community Center, the department's primary indoor recreation facility. Appropriately, Stagecoach Park provides a deep menu of mostly passive recreation amenities. These amenities include two ponds, a long circulatory trail, open stretches of lawn and tall grass, an amphitheater, picnic spaces, a large picnic shelter, and an inclusive playground. The site derives its name from the nearby Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm. Situated along the old Santa Fe Trail, the park features a collection of massive oak trees that date back to the days when prairie schooners rolled passed these acres. Today numerous walkers and joggers roll through the space to get their steps in our wend their way to the community center. Despite being bordered by arterial roadways and an active railway, the park still provides visitors with a connection to nature and places of reflection.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Public Art



IMAGE 1.2 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

TWO TRAILS PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1000 North Ridgeview Road

SIZE: 20 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1964

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Skate Park (1)
- Baseball Fields (3)
- Tennis Courts (1)
- Scoreboards (6)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (6)
- Drinking Fountains (4)
- Benches (4)
- Picnic Tables (13)
- Picnic Shelter (3)
- Restrooms (1)
- Trash Receptacles (17)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The ballfields and tennis courts are well maintained. The landscaping is healthy and vibrant. The walking trail is newly resurfaced. And the skate park is well suited for both beginners and intermediate skaters.

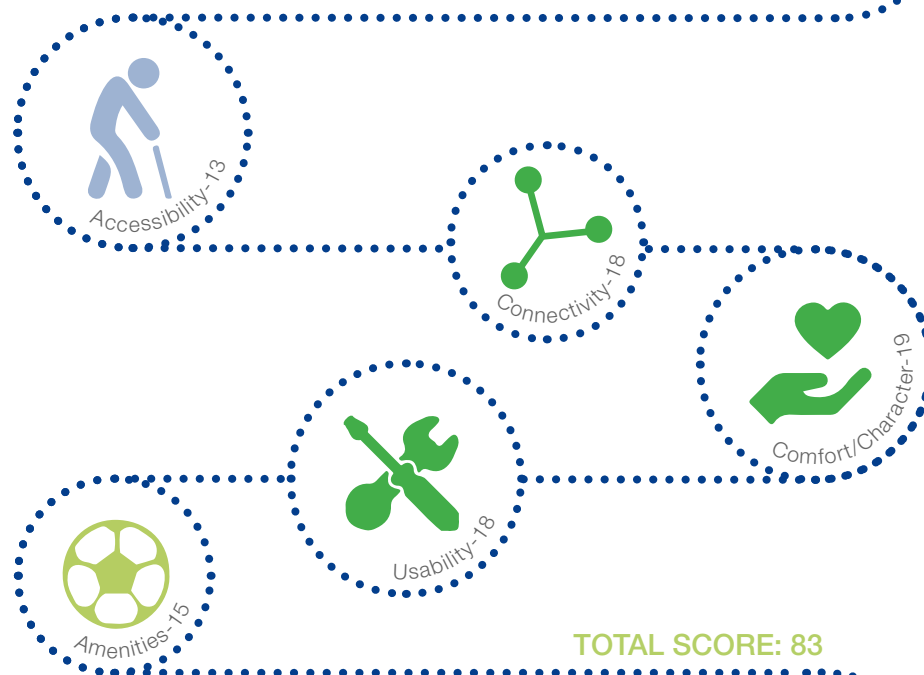
Opportunities:

The playground and restroom building both stand out as features that demand an update.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Two Trails is the primary active use park in central Olathe. With one of the most efficient layouts anywhere in the system, these 19 acres support three ballfields, four tennis courts, a large shelter, a restroom building, a looped walking trail and Olathe's one and only skate park. The park was last updated in 2000 and certain features are beginning to show their age. But overall, the park is still an attractive and well-maintained destination for a variety of uses that keep people visiting this park all year long.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Tennis Courts



IMAGE 1.3 - Skate Park



IMAGE 1.4 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

SITE LOCATION: 1025 South Harrison Street

SIZE: 3 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 2001

Facility Amenities

- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

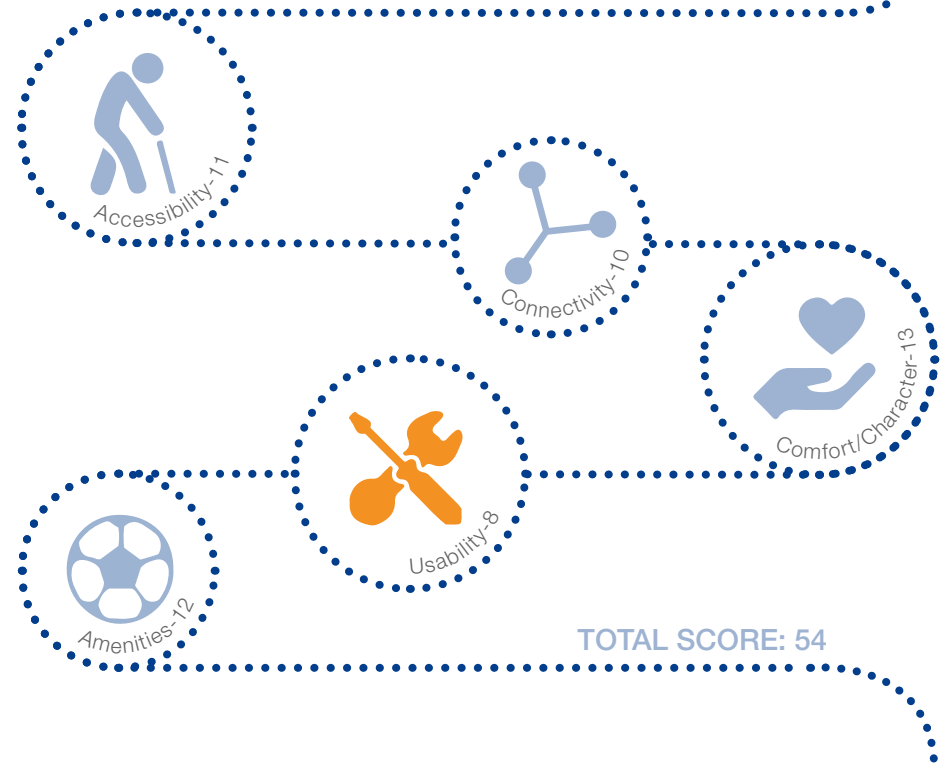
This park acts as a memorial to our veterans and is home to multiple monuments and memorials. It has a variety of seating opportunities and mature trees for shade.

Opportunities:

While Veterans Memorial Park is a very pleasant place to visit and reflect, additional trees could be planted along Harrison Street and Old 56 Highway to deflect vehicular noise. A small shade structure with seating would be a nice addition for groups to gather together.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:





Findings Summary:

Veterans Memorial Park honors the men and women who have served our country throughout the years. It is also home to the first Gold Star Memorial in the State of Kansas. This space is generally well-maintained and shows a sense of ownership. In addition to the memorials, there is a memorial tree program, which appears to have been instrumental in the variety and multitude of existing trees. The park is generally ADA compliant and provides good signage along with appropriate lighting. Its location adjacent to two busy streets, does not lend itself to being easy to walk to and relies mostly on vehicular use to access. On the contrary, as it is at the intersection of Harrison Street and Old 56 Highway, there is good visibility through the park and results in many eyes on the park. Understandably, since this is a memorial park, there is not a variety of things to do and the level of activity is generally low at times. Some of the hard-scape surfacing was in excellent shape, while the parking lot pavement could use some improving.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Memorial



IMAGE 1.2 - Memorial



IMAGE 1.3 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.4 - Memorial



IMAGE 1.5 - Memorial

WATER WORKS PARK

SITE LOCATION: 610 South Curtis Street

SIZE: 48.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1973

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Basketball Courts (1/2)
- Fishing Pond (2)
- Fishing Dock (2)
- Multi-Use Trails (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Grills (1)
- Drinking Fountain (1)
- Benches (16)
- Picnic Table (5)
- Picnic Shelters (1)
- Trash Receptacles (7)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

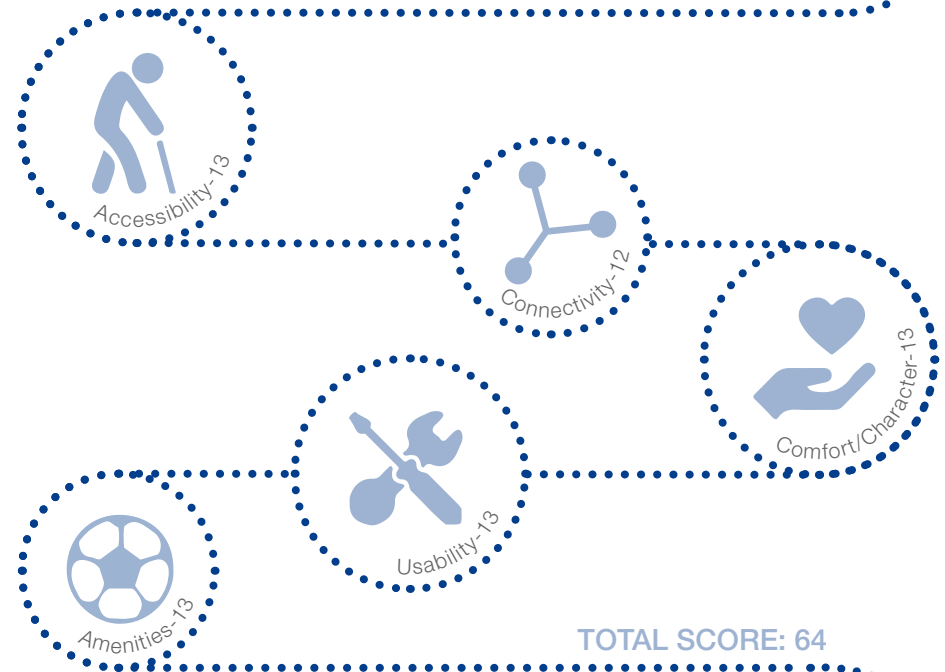
Water Works Park offers a variety of amenities including two fishing ponds for the adjacent neighborhoods. The structures appear to be in above average condition and highly used.

Opportunities:

This community park needs a permanent restroom structure. The area presently occupied by a portable restroom and basketball court could be replaced with a permanent structure.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:





Findings Summary:

This park does offer a mix of things to do within its 48 acres, but appears to only be accessible by one street on the west side. There is some signage within the park, but could benefit from having a hierarchy or family of signs throughout. Generally, the park is ADA accessible once in it and the amount of lighting is appropriate. Again, connectivity is about average but has some visibility into the park from the surrounding streets and neighborhood to the west. The park is generally maintained and nice looking. On the day of the assessment, the fishing ponds gave off an unpleasant odor. There are multiples places to sit throughout including near the ponds. The majority of the parkland is water but there are opportunities for programming flexibility. This park does show a bit of misuse and lack of ownership with the presence of graffiti and broken glass in the parking lot. The structures are in above average condition, with the playground and pavements being just average.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Fishing Dock



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Pedestrian Path



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

CEDAR LAKE

SITE LOCATION: 15500 South Lone Elm Road

SIZE: 57 acres

DESIGNATION: Community Park

ESTABLISHED: 1920

Facility Amenities

- Portable Restrooms (3)
- Picnic Shelter (3)
- Picnic Tables (27)
- Benches (9)
- Fire Pit (1)
- Playground (1)
- Sand Volleyball Courts (2)
- Boat Ramp (1)
- Fishing Dock (3)
- Fishing Pond (1)
- Grills (8)
- Trash Receptacles (26)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This park features ample flat open space and a great body of water.

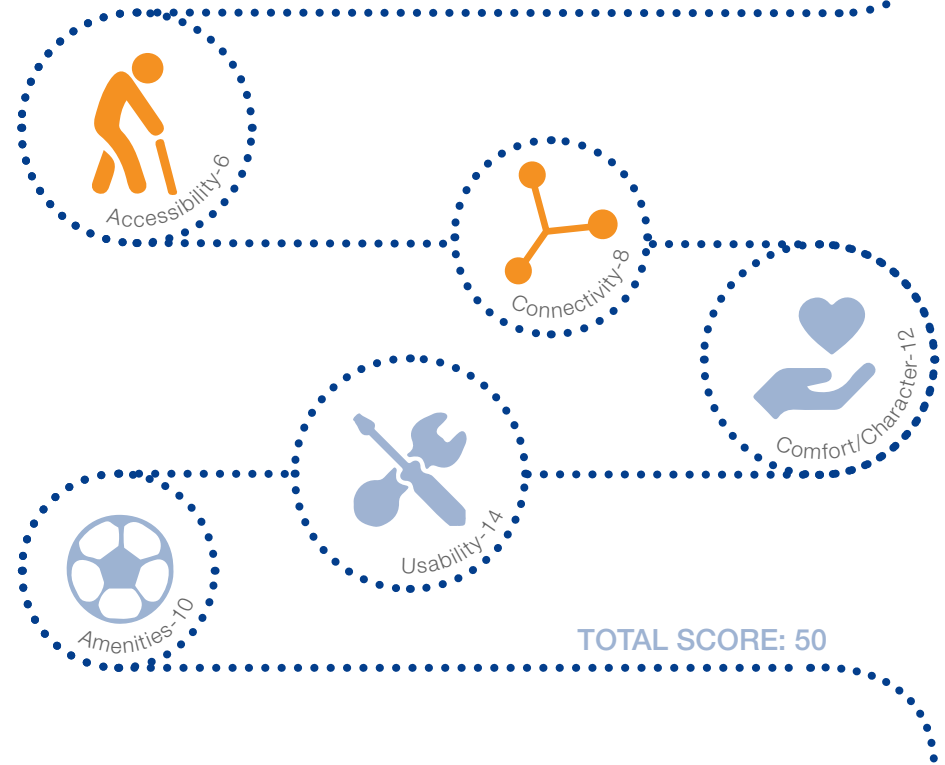
Opportunities:

Cedar Lake has the potential to become Olathe's next landmark regional park based on its size, proximity to major roads, and access to water. The lake has the draw any large water body provides. The acreage on the north shore could be reconfigured to provide ample passive open space as well as room for active amenities not found elsewhere in the system like a premier skate park and pump track.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Cedar Lake is the oldest developed park space in the system. However, over the decades the park has declined in usership does not enjoy the same level of activity found in the other community parks. Cedar Lake is dominated by its water body. This lake which constitutes the headwaters of Cedar Creek was originally created as a drinking water source for the city. It is accessed by two separate entrances: one at the northeast corner on Lone Elm Road and one on the south side on 159th Street. Both access roads are gravel which gives the park a more rural appearance. The north side of the park offers visitors a playground, 3 small shelters, 2 portable restrooms, ample benches and picnic tables, lots of passive open space and the only boat ramp. The south side of the park features several fishing docks, a shuttered historic building, a portable restroom, but no other shelter options. The park still sees busy days in the warmer months but does not offer the menu of options to keep folks coming throughout the year. A trail has been designed and partially constructed to connect this park to Lake Olathe.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.3 - Fishing Pond



IMAGE 1.4 - Historic Structure



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

LAKE OLATHE PARK

SITE LOCATION: 625 South Lakeshore Drive

SIZE: 418.6 acres

DESIGNATION: Regional Park

ESTABLISHED: 1959

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (3)
- Splash Pad (1)
- Disc Golf Holes (18)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Bridge (1)
- Lake (1)
- Fishing Dock (1)
- Boat Ramp (1)
- Boat House (1)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Hiking Trail (1)
- Picnic Shelters (5)
- Picnic Tables (44)
- Grills (4)
- Drinking Fountains (4)
- Benches (23)
- Trash Receptacles (52)
- Restrooms (6)
- Lighting (60)
- Gateway Signs (4)
- Parking Lots (9)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The mix of amenities make this park a winner. It provides both wet and dry amenities, active and passive uses, free and pay-to-play. The combine to create an extremely well-used park.

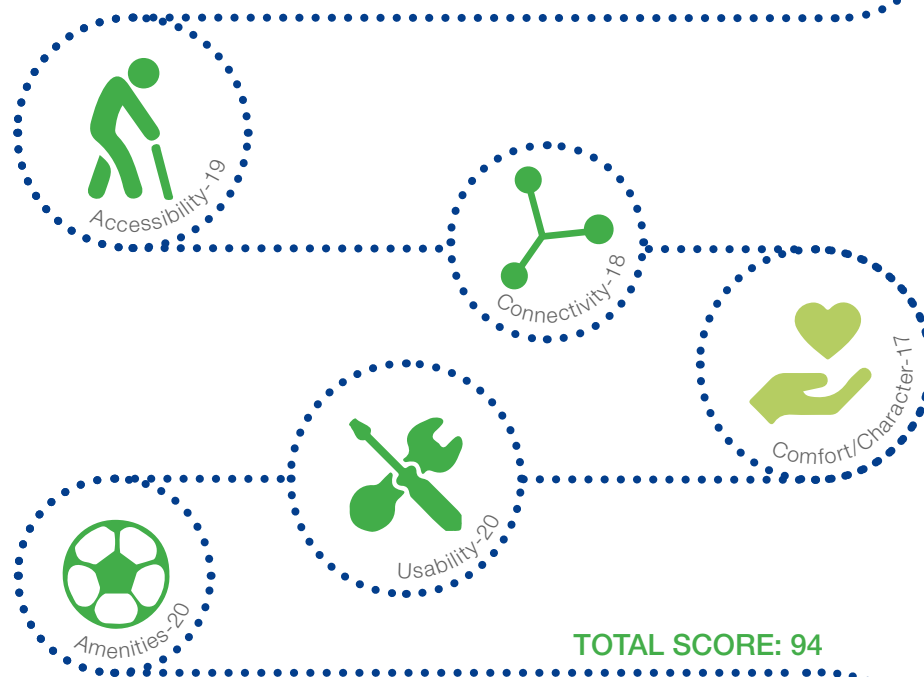
Opportunities:

The one area left unimproved during the last park makeover was the boat ramp parking lot and picnic area. This area could benefit from a newly designed parking lot, picnic shelter, restroom, and playground.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT





Findings Summary:

Lake Olathe is the premier destination park in the system. It underwent an extensive renovation and reopened in 2019 with new infrastructure and new active and passive recreation options. The park features an active lakefront with a pay-to-play marina space that offers a sand beach, a floating water playground, and boat rentals. A nearby event space known as the Eagles Landing can host events of over 150 attendees and is managed by a third party. The whole space is anchored by a large turf amphitheater. Elsewhere in the park a long man-made water course features both classical waterfalls and runnels as well as a rustic rock-lined stream and sprayground. The Beaver Shelter is the largest in Olathe and a relic from the previous days of the park. It's accompanied by a one-of-a-kind nature-themed playground. What was once a traditional 18-hole golf course was transformed into a disc golf course with miles of paved multi-use trail. The lake still permits motor boats but they must operate at speeds below 5MPH and jet skiing and wake boarding are prohibited. Numerous fishing spots exist around the lake's perimeter. The only boat ramp and a rustic picnic ground and parking lot remain on the lake's west shore.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Boathouse Aerial



IMAGE 1.2 - Splash Pad



IMAGE 1.3 - Playground



IMAGE 1.4 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.5 - Amphitheater Aerial

LONE ELM PARK

SITE LOCATION: 16901 South Lone Elm Road

SIZE: 154.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Regional Park

ESTABLISHED: 2004

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (2)
- Baseball Fields (7)
- Soccer Fields (8)
- Bleachers/Grandstands (14)
- Concession Stands (2)
- Dugouts (10)
- Scoreboards (5)
- Multi-Use Trail (1)
- Rain Garden (1)
- Bridge (1)
- Stream/Creek (1)
- Picnic shelters (3)
- Grills (3)
- Restrooms (3)
- Gateway Signs (3)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This expansive park in south Olathe, includes newly renovated facilities and spaces that are very accessible and allow equitable use by people with all needs and abilities.

Opportunities:

The undeveloped portion of Lone Elm could support active and passive amenities not found elsewhere in the system such as a new dog park and pickleball complex. Additional trail connection would tie these amenities into the existing park.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:

- POOR
- FAIR
- GOOD
- EXCELLENT



TOTAL SCORE: 79



Findings Summary:

Overall, Lone Elm Park is in very good condition by having clean, well-maintained play and sports equipment, buildings and structures in great shape, well-maintained hard-scape surfaces, and new and modern amenities. The park has a variety and clear signage throughout. The spaces and facilities are ADA compliant and the amount of light fixtures provided is adequate for the space. Although located in the southern part of Olathe, there is good visibility into the park from 167th Street and Lone Elm Roads and in addition, because of its attractiveness and high level of maintenance, the park evokes feelings of safety. There are many pleasant and inviting places to sit throughout the park, and various covered structures to provide protection from the weather. The park offers a large mix of things to do and there is a large range of options for programming throughout. The park could improve on its connections to the separate spaces within the park and due to its location, is a poorly connection park that relies solely on vehicular access.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Picnic Shelter



IMAGE 1.3 - Playground



IMAGE 1.4 - Restrooms



IMAGE 1.5 - Playground

facility inventory

BLACK BOB BAY

SITE LOCATION: 14500 West 151st Street

SIZE: 4.4 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 1984

Facility Amenities

- 8-lane 50-meter pool
- baby pool
- dive well with 4 boards
- lazy river
- 2 raft water slides
- shallow water play
- family changing rooms
- shaded rental spaces

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

The diversity of aquatic uses, the opportunities for shade, and the sheer size make this space a fun destination.

Opportunities:

The deck areas and bathhouse will require some repair by the end of the planning horizon. The lap pool and diving well, which are original to the complex, need a new filter system.



IMAGE 1.1 - Playground



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

Findings Summary:

Black Bob Bay is the largest aquatic facility in the system. It features the largest lap pool in the city and most leisure swimming amenities as well. The facility was originally developed in the mid-80s but extensively renovated and expanded in 2010. The facility shows wear and tear commensurate with an extremely well-used swimming facility.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

FRONTIER TRAILS POOL

SITE LOCATION: 15909 West 127th Street

SIZE: 2.9 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 1980

Facility Amenities

- 6-lane 25-yard lap pool
- zero-depth entry
- dive well with 2 boards
- sprayground
- water slide with runout trough
- shade umbrellas (7)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This pool provides the typical amenities desired of a public pool and is easily accessible to northeast Olathe neighborhoods

Opportunities:

To extend the life of this pool another 20 years, the city will need to consider significant improvements including replacement of the pool deck, filter system, heater, chemical controller, recirculation piping, the sprayground features, shade umbrellas, and bathhouse repairs.



Findings Summary:

Frontier Trails Pool is nestled between residential neighborhoods on 127th Street. Originally built in 1980, it was renovated in 2000. It serves the north-east portion of the city. Many of its critical infrastructure components are now showing their age including the deck, bathhouse, shade structures, and pool mechanicals.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



POOR



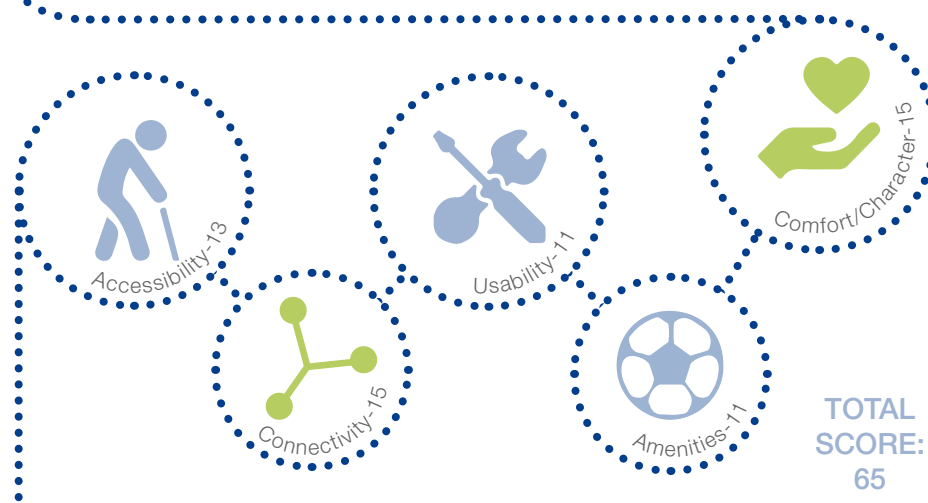
FAIR



GOOD



EXCELLENT



facility inventory

MILL CREEK POOL

SITE LOCATION: 320 East Poplar Street

SIZE: 0.7 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 1935

Facility Amenities

- 6-lane 25-yard lap pool
- zero-depth entry
- dive well with 2 boards
- sprayground
- water slide with runout trough
- shade umbrellas (6)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This pool provides the typical amenities desired of a public pool and is easily accessible to central Olathe neighborhoods

Opportunities:

To extend the life of this pool another 20 years, the city will need to consider significant improvements including replacement of the pool deck, filter system, heater, chemical controller, recirculation piping, the sprayground features, shade umbrellas, and bathhouse repairs.

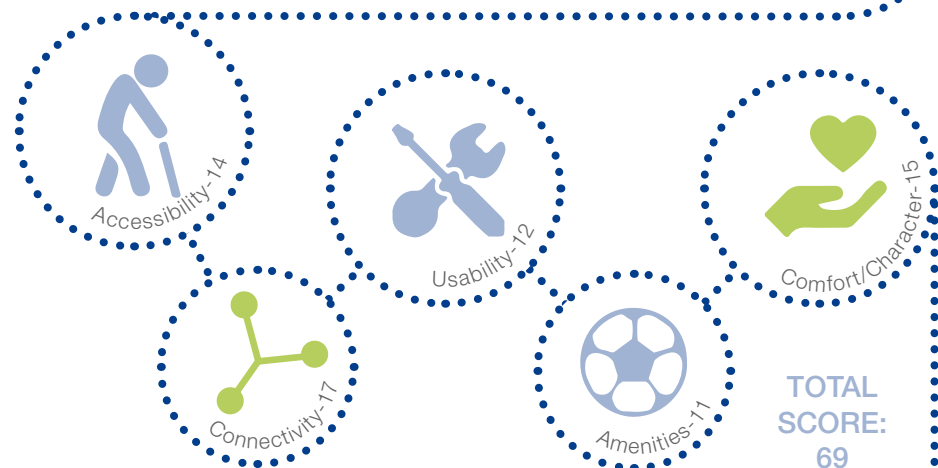


Findings Summary:

Mill Creek Pool lies to the south of Mill Creek Park just east of downtown. The existing facility was originally developed in the 1970s and extensively renovated in 2000. It serves the central portion of the city. Many of its critical infrastructure components are now showing their age including the deck, bathhouse, shade structures, and pool mechanicals.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

OREGON TRAIL POOL

SITE LOCATION: 1750 West Dennis Avenue

SIZE: 0.9 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 1981

Facility Amenities

- 6-lane 25-yard lap pool
- zero-depth entry
- dive well with 2 boards
- sprayground
- water slide with runout trough
- shade umbrellas (10)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This pool provides the typical amenities desired of a public pool and is easily accessible to southwest Olathe neighborhoods

Opportunities:

To extend the life of this pool another 20 years, the city will need to consider significant improvements including replacement of the pool deck, filter system, heater, chemical controller, recirculation piping, the sprayground features, shade umbrellas, and bathhouse repairs.



Findings Summary:

Oregon Trail Pool sits on school property adjacent to Oregon Trail Middle School and across Dennis Avenue from Oregon Trail Park. Originally built in 1981, it was renovated in 2000. It serves the southwest portion of the city. Many of its critical infrastructure components are now showing their age including the deck, bathhouse, shade structures, and pool mechanicals.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



POOR



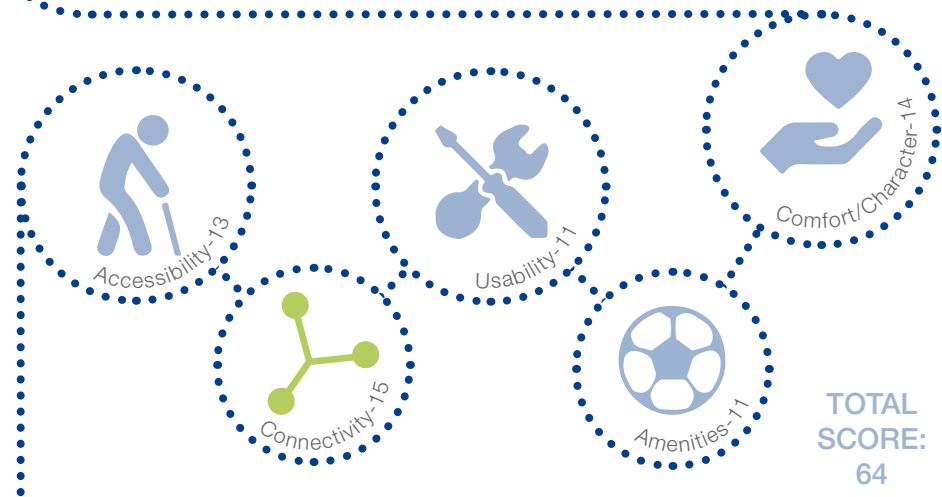
FAIR



GOOD



EXCELLENT



MAHAFFIE STAGECOACH

STOP-FARM

SITE LOCATION: 1200 East Kansas City Road

SIZE: 21.5 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 1982

Facility Amenities

- Bicycles (1)
- Benches (3)
- Picnic Tables (3)
- Trash Receptacles (4)
- Park Map (1)
- Gateway Sign (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

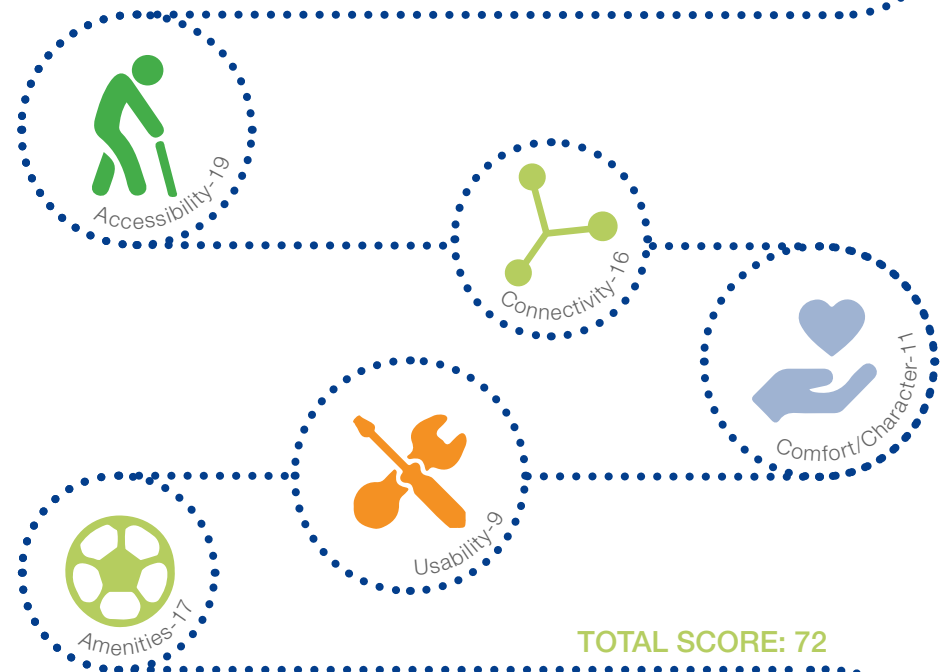
This park is highly visible from both Kansas City and Ridgeview Roads and has a variety and hierarchy of signage that is easy to read and attractive throughout.

Opportunities:

Several additional seating opportunities and a small shelter could be added in the future for visitors.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:





Findings Summary:

Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop is a historical site and is the only working stagecoach stop located along the Santa Fe trail in Olathe. There are various exhibits, experiences, and facilities throughout the site for visitors to engage with. The grounds are well maintained and attractive, with a fair amount of native landscape in the parking lot and near the main building. The space is ADA compliant and has an adequate amount of lighting for the type of facility. With the abundance of multi-use trails nearby, there is opportunities to visit this site by walking or biking. It has a good relationship to adjacent land uses and evokes a feeling of safety throughout. The western area of the site is closed to the public after hours and the eastern area where the museum and parking lot is located could have additional areas for seating. Due to the nature of this site, there is no flexibility in programming or a mix of things to do, other than those museum and stagecoach related. Overall, the built structures are in good operating order and the paved surfaces are all well-maintained.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Museum



IMAGE 1.3 - Dedication



IMAGE 1.4 - Park Map



IMAGE 1.5 - Trail Entrance

facility inventory

OLATHE CEMETERY

SITE LOCATION: 730 North Chestnut Street

SIZE: 27.8 acres

DESIGNATION: Cemetery

ESTABLISHED: 1865

Facility Amenities

- Bridge (2)
- Benches (14)
- Trash Receptacles (9)
- Gateway Sign (2)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

While still an active cemetery, this site also offers ample opportunity for shaded strolls just a few minutes from downtown.

Opportunities:

The recent renovation of the reflection garden expanded the opportunities for cremation burial at this cemetery. No additional capital projects will be necessary during this planning horizon.



IMAGE 1.1 - Memorial



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

Findings Summary:

The Olathe Memorial Cemetery is the oldest developed property in the system. Opened in 1865, it is in fact older than the state of Kansas. And it is still an active cemetery with full body and cremation burial options available. The site is dominated by legacy trees, distinctive burial monuments, and ample pathways and driveways.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



facility inventory

ENSOR PARK AND MUSEUM

SITE LOCATION: 18995 West 183rd Street

SIZE: 40.1 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 2006

Facility Amenities

- Picnic Tables (8)
- Portable Restrooms (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

This site offers a destination outside of the city and a window into Olathe's early 20th century history.

Opportunities:

The has survived in good condition but will continue to demand regular maintenance. The outdoor space needs upgrades to the parking and sidewalks to provide access to outbuildings and picnic spaces. Beyond this planning horizon, this acreage could develop into a community park as the city grows southward.



IMAGE 1.1 - Historic House



IMAGE 1.2 - Gateway Sign

Findings Summary:

This facility located well south of the city is the historic home of Jacob and Ida Ensor. While the farmhouse is over 130 years old, it only came under the ownership and operation of the city in 2006. It functions as a museum devoted to Olathe history and the Ensors who were early pioneers of radio broadcasting. The home and surrounding park occupy only about 7 acres of the total 40 acres under city ownership.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:



POOR



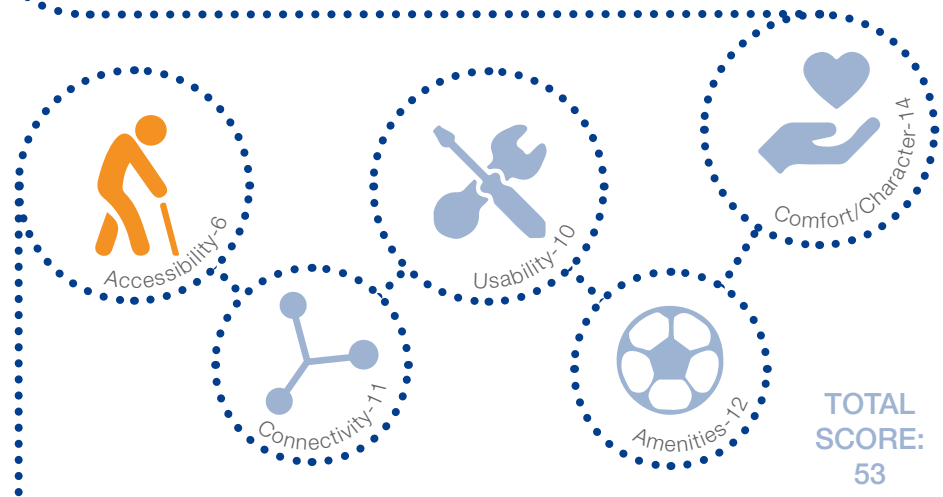
FAIR



GOOD



EXCELLENT



INDIAN CREEK LIBRARY

SITE LOCATION: 16100 West 135th Street

SIZE: 8.2 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 2019

Facility Amenities

- Benches (8)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Trash Receptacles (2)
- Gateway Sign (1)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

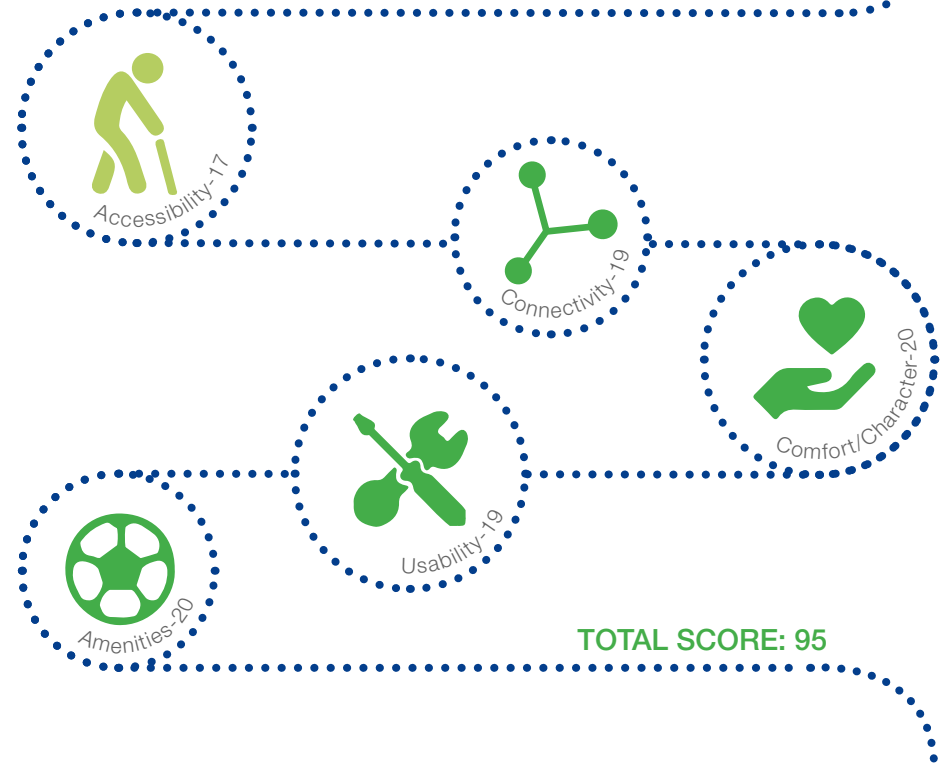
What stands out at this facility is the diverse, modern, multi-media experience created by the maker-space, meeting rooms, cafe and park. All these options give many reasons for citizens to spend hours enjoying this space.

Opportunities:

Provided regular maintenance, this building will continue to provide engaging experiences for Olathe residents well beyond this planning horizon.

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:





Findings Summary:

The newest facility in Olathe, the Indian Creek Library has garnered awards and high accolades since opening in 2019. The building is an example of adaptive re-use as it transformed a vacant grocery store into a modern library and event space. The building is constantly alive with activity and ample programming. The library features a high-tech maker space which offers the public the opportunity to engage in activities as diverse as 3D printing, crafting, embroidery, and audio-visual recording. Additionally, the facility offers numerous public spaces for use and rental. These include 8 study rooms, a small meeting room, and a large event space. That event space includes a catering kitchen and can be configured as a single room with capacity for 230 people or two smaller rooms that can still hold 115 people. And the facility still features all the traditional functions of circulating books and ebooks. It also operates the Friends Bookstore and a cafe. The adjacent park and playground are outdoor extensions of this modern and lively structure.

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Gateway Sign



IMAGE 1.2 - Outdoor Patio



IMAGE 1.3 - Building Facade



IMAGE 1.4 - Shade Structure



IMAGE 1.5 - Public Art

OLATHE COMMUNITY CENTER

SITE LOCATION: 1205 East Kansas City Road

SIZE: 1.6 acres

DESIGNATION: Facility

ESTABLISHED: 2003

Facility Amenities

- Playgrounds (1)
- Indoor Pool (1)
- Basketball Courts (3)
- Splash Pad (1)
- Hiking Trail (1)
- Bicycle Racks (1)
- Drinking Fountain (6)
- Benches (15)
- Picnic Tables (8)
- Restrooms (4)
- Trash Receptacles (20)

Strengths + Opportunities

Strengths:

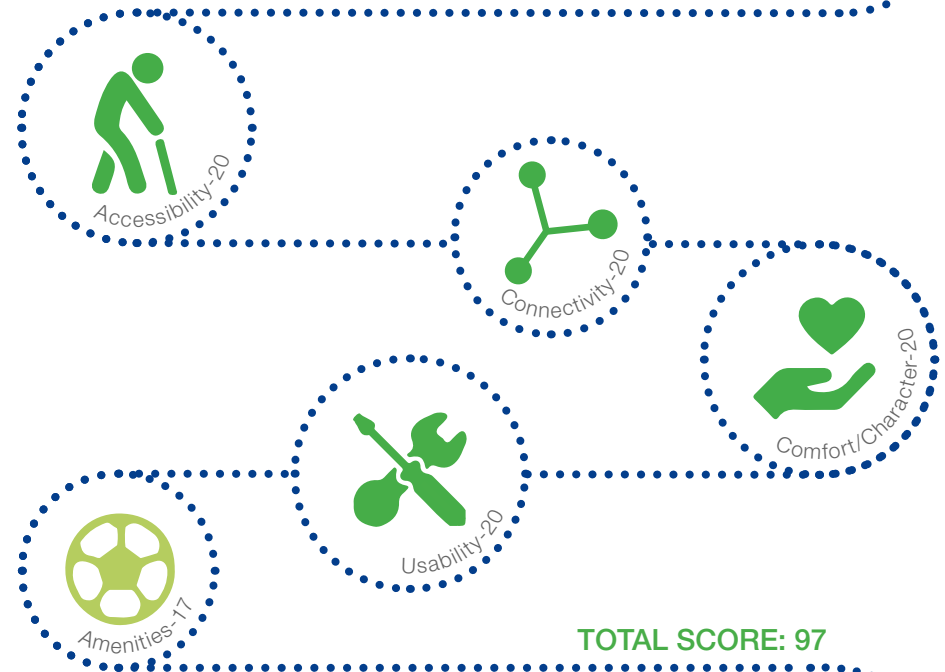
The Community Center is as well-maintained as it is loved. Despite all its use, it is still one of the nicest facilities in the entire system. It is a landmark destination within Olathe.

Opportunities:

The weekly farmer's market is an increasingly popular destination. Could this site support more permanent infrastructure for this regular event?

Park Assessment Rating

RATING KEY:





Findings Summary:

As it approaches its 10th anniversary, the Olathe Community Center feels like it is just hitting its stride. The facility is extremely well-used, well-maintained, and well-loved. It features a mix of the most-frequently desired indoor amenities in most communities. The east half provides 3 full-court basketball courts, changing rooms, and an indoor aquatic facility with both a 4-lane lap pool and a separate leisure pool. The upper floor features a walking track that circles the basketball courts and provides views down to the pool. It surrounds an aerobic and free-weight plaza. The building also features two birthday party rooms and three large community rooms on its west side. The building provides a large outdoor patio and is itself the focal point of Stagecoach Park. It provides over 250 parking spaces in its lot, which was constructed around numerous legacy oak trees. That parking lot is also the home of a weekly farmers market. The site is home to numerous pieces of public art and features one of the most distinctive monument signs in the entire system

Photo Inventory



IMAGE 1.1 - Signage



IMAGE 1.2 - Indoor Pool



IMAGE 1.3 - Aerial View



IMAGE 1.4 - Basketball

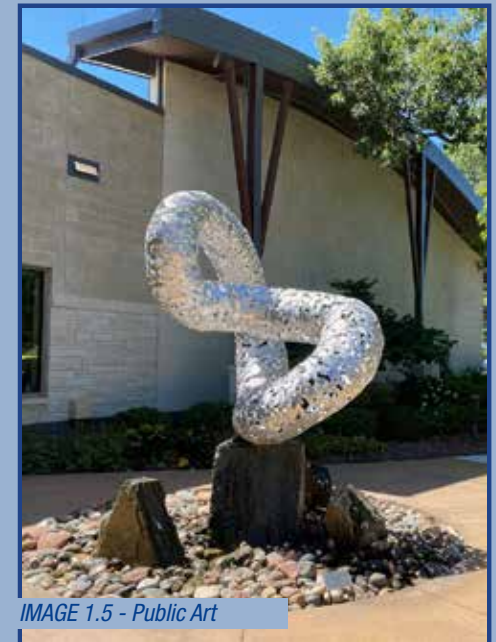


IMAGE 1.5 - Public Art

Appendix C: BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

Methodology

PROS Consulting with assistance from Olathe Parks and Recreation Department (“Department”) identified operating metrics to benchmark against comparable parks and recreation agencies. The goal of the analysis is to evaluate how the Department is positioned among peer agencies. The benchmark assessment is organized into specific categories based on peer agency responses to targeted questions that lend an encompassing view of each system’s operating metrics as compared to Olathe.

Information used in this analysis was obtained directly from each participating benchmark agency, when available and information available through the National Recreation and Park Association’s (NRPA) Park Metrics Database. All NRPA Median metrics used were created for communities with populations of 100,000 to 250,000.

Due to differences in how each system collects, maintains, and reports data, variances may exist. These variations can impact the per capita and percentage allocations, and the overall comparison must be viewed with this in mind. The benchmark data collection for all systems was complete as of November 2022, and it is possible that information in this report may have changed since the original collection date. The information sought was a combination of operating metrics that factor budgets, staffing levels, and inventories. In some instances, the information was not tracked or not available from the participating agencies. The agencies listed below were selected to be benchmarked because they were communities of similar size and socioeconomic characteristics as that of Olathe. They represent agencies that are both similar in nature to Richardson, as well as potentially aspirational in some respects. These benchmarked agencies were:

- Carmel Clay, IN Parks and Recreation Department
- Lee’s Summit, KS Parks and Recreation Department
- Roseville, CA Parks, Recreation, and Libraries
- Naperville, IL Parks District

The table below lists each benchmark agency in the study, arranged by total population served. Peer agencies represent broad geographical coverage across the Midwest, along with Roseville, California which is a CAPRA certified and NRPA Gold Medal agency. For all agencies examined, Olathe represents the third highest degree of population density (2,234 residents per sq. mi.).

Agency	State	Jurisdiction Type	Population	Jurisdiction Size (Sq. Mi.)	Population per Sq. Mi.
Naperville Parks District	IL	Park District	149,540	41.00	3,647
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	CA	City	146,875	43.05	3,412
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	KS	City	141,290	63.24	2,234
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	KS	City	104,000	66.00	1,576
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	IN	City	98,332	47.46	2,072

Benchmark Comparison

Park Acres

The following table provides a general overview of each system's park acreage. Assessing level of service for park acres, Olathe ranks as well above the benchmark median (8.9 total acres per 1,000 residents) with 16.56 total acres per 1,000 residents and 13.56 total developed acres per 1,000 residents. Of all agencies assessed, Olathe ranks as the **highest in total developed acres** and second highest in total acres per 1,000 residents.

Agency	Population	Total Developed Acres	Total Developed Acres per 1,000 Residents	Total Acres Owned or Managed	Total Acres per 1,000 Residents
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	146,875	835	5.68	4,745	32.31
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	141,290	1916	13.56	2,340	16.56
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	149,540	1609.26	10.76	2,471	16.53
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	104,000	380	3.65	1,235	11.88
Naperville Parks District	98,332	127	1.29	700	7.12
NRPA Median 2022 = 8.9 Acres per 1,000 Residents					

Trail Miles

The information below reveals the service levels for dedicated trails within each system. By comparing total trail mileage to the population of the service area, the level of service provided to the community can be determined, which is expressed as trail miles for every 1,000 residents. Olathe represents the benchmark's **third highest agency** in terms of total trail mileage (45.0 total miles) and trail miles per 1,000 residents (0.32). With 0.32 miles per 1,000 residents, Olathe currently meets the national best practice of 0.25-0.5 of trail miles per 1,000 residents.

Agency	Population	Total Trail Miles	Trail Miles per 1,000 Residents
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	104,000	93.0	0.89
Naperville Parks District	149,540	62.0	0.41
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	141,290	45.0	0.32
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	98,332	26.5	0.27
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	146,875	36.2	0.25

Staffing

This section compares staffing levels for each system by comparing full-time equivalents (FTEs) to total population. Total FTEs per 10,000 residents is a key performance metric that assesses how well each system is equipped, in terms of human resources, to serve its jurisdiction. In general, agencies participating in the benchmark study ranged widely from heavily staffed to considerably more limited staffing. All but one of the benchmark agencies are staffing above the national median of 8.1 FTEs per 10,000 residents. Among peer agencies, Olathe is **second highest** in regard to staffing relative to the population served and just above the national NRPA median with 9.2 FTEs per 10,000 residents.

Agency	Population	Total FTEs	FTEs per 10,000 Residents
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	98,332	180	18.4
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	141,290	130	9.2
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	146,875	127	8.6
Naperville Parks District	149,540	129	8.6
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	104,000	45	4.3
NRPA Median 2022 = 8.1 FTEs per 10,000 Residents			

Program Participation

When comparing total program participations, it is most beneficial to divide the amount of participation by a community's total population, which results in Participations per Resident. Program participations can include multiple participations from the same resident, which allows communities to see the overall impact and usage of their programs. Olathe ranks as the **second lowest** of assessed agencies with .37 participations per resident.

Agency	Population	Total Program Participations	Participations per Resident
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	104,000	859,638	8.27
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	146,875	1,101,658	7.50
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	98,332	82,240	0.84
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	141,290	52,000	0.37
Naperville Parks District	149,540	23,718	0.16

Operating Expense Per Capita

Dividing the annual operational budget by each service area's population allows for a comparison of how much each agency is spending per resident. Agencies participating in the benchmark study are spending on parks and recreation operations at a substantial rate, with all agencies except Olathe spending well above the national median of \$74.22 per resident. Olathe ranks as the **lowest among peer agencies** for total operating expense (\$9.7M) as well as expense per resident (\$68.96). *Roseville expenditures are likely as high as they are because the City's library services are included within the parks and recreation department.*

Agency	Population	Total Operating Expense	Operating Expense per Resident
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	146,875	\$ 45,514,277	\$ 309.88
Naperville Parks District	149,540	\$ 25,049,428	\$ 167.51
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	98,332	\$ 16,388,657	\$ 166.67
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	104,000	\$ 14,875,985	\$ 143.04
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	141,290	\$ 9,743,715	\$ 68.96
NRPA Median 2022 = \$74.22 Operating Expense per Residents			

Operating Expense Per Acre and Per FTE

Additional lens to evaluate operating expenses in an agency are per total acres of parks and open space, as well as per FTE. These metrics provide insight into the operational resource level of the agency in comparison to its overall footprint of lands to manage and based on staffing levels. As noted in the tables below, Olathe is **well below the national median** for similar sized communities (\$7,449) for operating expense per acre at \$4,164, and is the lowest among assessed agencies when looking at operational resources compared to the size of the system.

Agency	Total Acres	Total Operating Expense	Operating Expense per Acre
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	700	\$ 16,388,657	\$ 23,412
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	1,235	\$ 14,875,985	\$ 12,045
Naperville Parks District	2,471	\$ 25,049,428	\$ 10,135
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	4,745	\$ 45,514,277	\$ 9,592
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	2,340	\$ 9,743,715	\$ 4,164

Olathe is also **below the national median** for similar sized communities in operating expense per FTE (\$104,251) with \$75,195 per FTE. Olathe ranked the lowest among assessed agencies for total operating expense.

Agency	Total FTEs	Total Operating Expense	Operating Expense per FTE
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	127	\$ 45,514,277	\$ 359,797
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	45	\$ 14,875,985	\$ 330,577
Naperville Parks District	129	\$ 25,049,428	\$ 194,937
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	180	\$ 16,388,657	\$ 90,816
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	130	\$ 9,743,715	\$ 75,195

Revenue per Capita

By comparing each agency's annual non-tax revenue to the population, the annual revenue generated on a per resident basis can be determined. Although Olathe's \$32.90 of revenue generated per resident ranks as the **lowest among agencies** evaluated, this level of earned income is still **higher than the national median** of \$15.33 of revenue per resident.

Agency	Population	Total Non-Tax Revenue	Revenue per Resident
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	104,000	\$ 18,664,785	\$ 179.47
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	98,332	\$ 10,461,490	\$ 106.39
Naperville Parks District	149,540	\$ 10,074,428	\$ 67.37
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	141,290	\$ 4,648,024	\$ 32.90
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	146,875	\$ -	\$ -
NRPA Median 2022 = \$15.33 Revenue per Capita			

Note: Total Non-Tax Revenue numbers were not available for Roseville Parks, Recreation, and Libraries

Operational Cost Recovery

Operational cost recovery is a key performance indicator, arrived at by dividing total non-tax revenue by total operating expense. This measures how well each agency's revenue generation covers the total cost of operations. Overall, agencies participating in the benchmark study have a generally high cost recovery, with all agencies (including Olathe) having **more than double the national median** of operational cost recovery for agencies serving 100,000 – 250,000 residents. Olathe features an operational cost recovery of 48%, which is the **third highest among** assessed agencies.

Agency	Total Non-Tax Revenue	Total Operating Expense	Operational Cost Recovery
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 18,664,785	\$ 14,875,985	125%
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 10,461,490	\$ 16,388,657	64%
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 4,648,024	\$ 9,743,715	48%
Naperville Parks District	\$ 10,074,428	\$ 25,049,428	40%
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	\$ -	\$ 45,514,277	0%

CIP SUMMARY

Due to the volatility of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budgets and availability of funding from year to year, the table below reveals the last three years of actual investment from 2019 through 2021. These figures were then utilized to show the average annual capital investment for each agency. The top performing benchmark agencies are investing significant dollars into CIP efforts each year, with all but one agency investing above the NRPA median for agencies serving communities of similar size. Olathe is averaging \$3,700,000 annually in CIP expenses which is just above the national media of agencies serving communities of 100,000 – 250,000 residents (\$3.4M annual average).

Agency	CIP Budget 2019	CIP Budget 2020	CIP Budget 2021	Avg. Annual CIP
Naperville Parks District	\$ 16,940,000	\$ 119,090,000	\$ 8,887,000	\$ 48,305,667
Roseville Parks, Recreation and Libraries	\$ 30,620,006	\$ 32,029,302	\$ 30,136,663	\$ 30,928,657
Carmel Clay Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 9,640,423	\$ 10,514,394	\$ 4,500,000	\$ 8,218,272
Olathe Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 4,200,000	\$ 4,000,000	\$ 2,900,000	\$ 3,700,000
Lee's Summit Parks and Recreation Department	\$ 451,248	\$ 664,870	\$ 2,663,274	\$ 1,259,797

Summary of Benchmark Analysis Findings

As a whole, the peer agencies selected are well performing park systems to which Olathe can relevantly benchmark itself. Specific areas where study participants perform to an exceptional level include total park acreage, trail mileage, staffing, operational cost recovery, revenue per capita, and average annual CIP spending. Nearly every area had impressive statistics from assessed agencies, with only one or two agencies falling below the national median in all categories.

The benchmark comparison validated the strong performance of Olathe in many areas, such as park acres per 1,000 residents, staffing, and operational cost recovery. These strengths speak to the investment in the system by the City, as well as the ability of the staff to offer high quality parks and services for the community. Areas for potential growth and improvement for Olathe typically stemmed from less spending than the City's assessed counterparts, as it fell short in categories such as operating expense per capita, operating expense per acre, and operating expense per FTE. Areas of improvement could include finding ways to **increase departmental spending** in order to get higher program participation, improve earned revenue generation, and better serve residents.

Overall, the benchmark analysis reveals that Olathe is a very strong park system, especially given the relatively low amount of spending yearly within the Department when compared to other agencies serving communities of similar size. Moving forward, our hope is that this Benchmark Analysis will assist to inform the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan particularly when deciding where to invest. The perspective gained through the peer comparison is valuable in identifying areas for improvement and establishing strategic goals to pursue, utilizing these results as a baseline comparison that provides key performance indicators (KPIs) to be tracked and measures over time.