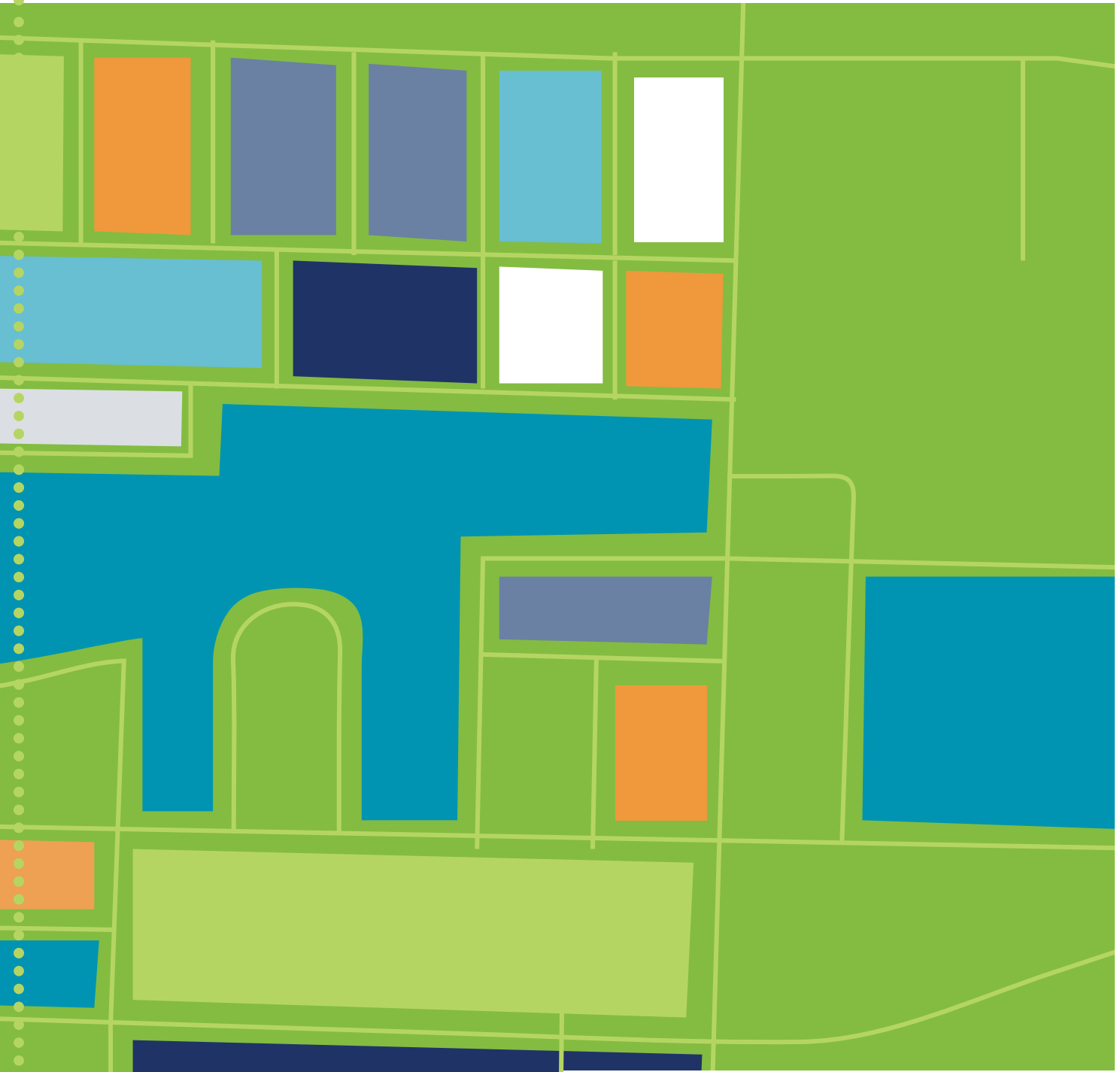


PLANNING OUTSIDE

THE LINES



2050

GRAIN VALLEY  
*parks master plan*

**RESOLUTION NO.: 2023-02**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY, MISSOURI, ADOPTING THE 2050 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR THE CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY, MISSOURI.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Grain Valley, Missouri (the “City”) is committed to retaining and enhancing the desirability and livability of its community, and has sought to create a vision of the community through the development of a Comprehensive Plan (the “Plan) for the City; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Planning and Zoning Commission of the City of Grain Valley, Missouri (the “Commission”), is required by Section 89.340 of the Missouri Revised Statutes to “make and adopt a city plan for the physical development of the community;” and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan, with accompanying maps, plats, charts, and descriptive and explanatory matter, contains a statement of principles, goals and implementation strategies based on broad public input and shows the Commission’s recommendations for the physical development and uses of land; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Plan further seeks to guide and accomplish the coordinated development of the City which, in accordance with existing and future needs, will best promote the general welfare, as well as efficiency and economy, in the community development process; and,

**WHEREAS**, on August 9, 2023, the Commission, under authority granted to it by the Missouri Revised Statutes, after a duly called public hearing, and after considering the views of all those who came before it, voted to approve the **2050 Grain Valley Comprehensive Plan** as the official comprehensive plan for the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY, MISSOURI AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** The 2050 Grain Valley Comprehensive Plan is hereby approved, and the Commission hereby orders that the Plan be made available to the public.

**SECTION 2.** All maps, descriptive matter and other matters in the Plan are intended by the Commission to be a part of the Comprehensive Plan.

**SECTION 3.** All prior comprehensive plans, portions thereof, updates thereto, or additions thereto, are hereby repealed to the extent they are inconsistent with the Plan.

**SECTION 4.** The Community Development Director is instructed to:

- a) Make available a copy of the Comprehensive Plan in the office of the Jackson County Recorder of Deeds.

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# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

---

A special thank you to all who participated in creating a vision for the future of Grain Valley's parks and recreation system.

## **Park Board**

Norm Combs  
Jared English  
Becky Gray  
Shawn Brady  
Charles Harris  
Adam Hoover  
Lisa Limberg  
Michael Switzer

## **Board of Aldermen**

Mike Todd  
Dale Arnold  
Tom Cleaver  
Darren Mills  
Rick Knox  
Ryan Skinner  
Brian Bray

## **Planning and Zoning Commission**

Chris Bamman  
Elijah Greene  
Debbie Saffell  
Scott Shafer  
Craig Shelton  
Jayci Stratton  
Justin Tyson

## **City Staff**

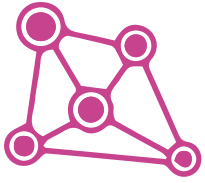
Shannon Davies  
Mark Trosen  
Ken Murphy  
Theresa Osenbaugh  
Dick Tuttle  
Haley Alexander  
Tiffany Lor

## **Consultant Team**



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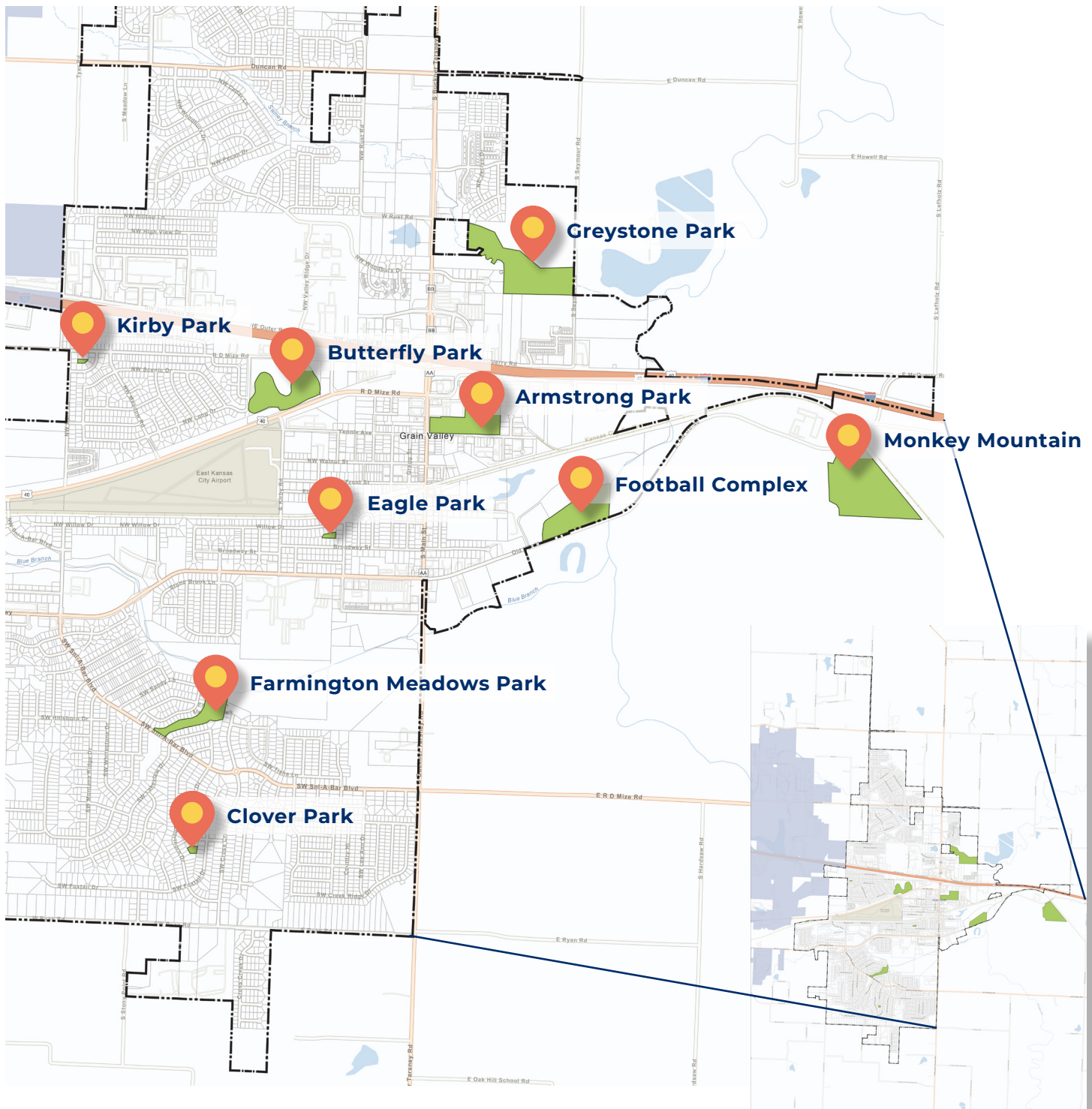
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*The mission of Grain Valley Parks & Recreation is to provide exceptional recreational and leisure services to all citizens of the community through a diverse offering of programs in quality parks and recreational facilities. As our community continues to grow, we will continue to strive to meet the recreational needs of all our citizens.*

# EXISTING PARKS IN GRAIN VALLEY

## Overview

There are nine parks that exist in Grain Valley today to serve the 16,002 residents that call it home today. This Plan details the existing conditions of each park, public input gathered throughout Phase 2 of the planning process, and concludes with park- and system-specific recommendations to guide the future development of parks and trails in Grain Valley.



chapter **ONE**

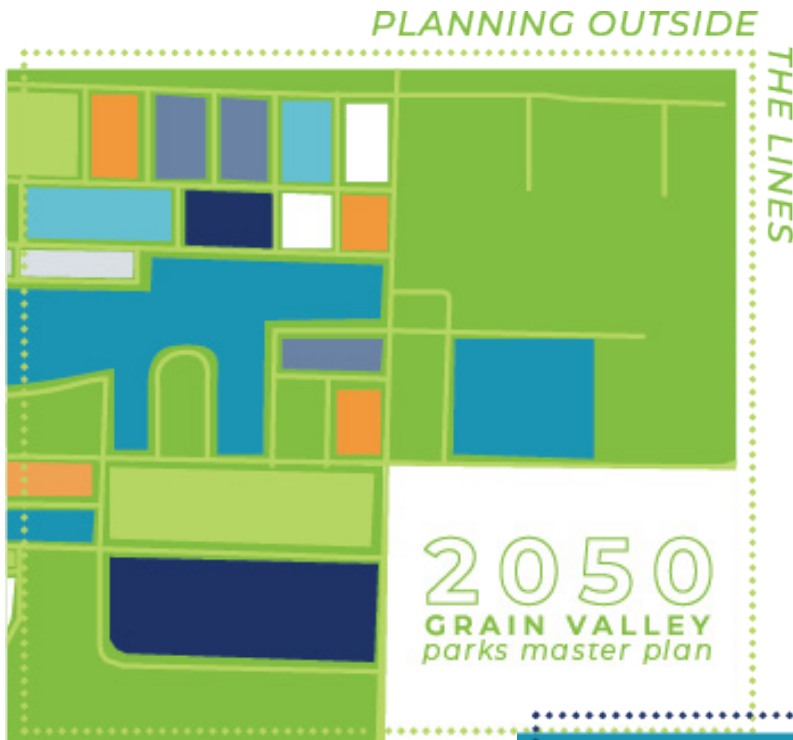
introduction



# BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

## Project Branding

During the kick-off meeting with City leadership, staff, and the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee (CPSC), there was discussion of an overall brand to associate with the plan. As public input was such a valuable component of the process, it was important for the outward-facing image of the plan to be compelling, visually appealing, and unique to the community of Grain Valley. The phrase “Planning Outside the Lines” comes from the City’s motto of *Life Outside the Lines*, and the colors follow the marketing scheme from the recent rebrand. The logo represents the City’s grid pattern and key features.



# BACKGROUND AND PROCESS

## Four Phased Approach

The Grain Valley Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan were completed in four phases as shown in Figure 1.1.

The planning process had four individual phases:

- Phase 1: Project Kick-Off, Research + Analysis
- Phase 2: Vision, Input + Direction
- Phase 3: Draft Plan + Evaluation
- Phase 4: Final Draft Plan + Adoption

### PHASE ONE

#### PROJECT KICK-OFF, RESEARCH + ANALYSIS

Kick-Off Meeting with  
Steering Committee

Analysis Review Meeting  
with Steering Committee

Analysis Review  
(Joint Workshop with  
Planning Commission, Park  
Board, and Board of Aldermen)

### PHASE THREE

#### DRAFT PLAN + EVALUATION

Draft Review Meetings  
with Steering Committee

Draft Plan Public Open House

Draft Plan Review  
(Joint Workshop with  
Planning Commission, Park  
Board, and Board of Aldermen)

### PHASE TWO

#### COMMUNITY + STAKEHOLDER INPUT

Stakeholder Interviews

Interactive Website Launch  
Community Survey

Public Visioning Workshop

Steering Committee Input  
Review Meeting

### PHASE FOUR

#### FINAL DRAFT PLAN + ADOPTION

Planning Commission  
Public Hearing

Parks + Recreation Board  
Public Meeting

Board of Aldermen  
Public Meeting

**Figure 1.1** Project Schedule and Phasing

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chapter

# TWO

## understanding the community's vision

# PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

## ETC Community Survey

ETC Institute administered a statistically-valid survey to residents throughout the community to understand residents' preferences for enhancements and prioritization of such improvements to the community. This survey was mailed to a random sample of households in Grain Valley, with 432 completed surveys returned for tabulation. The overall survey results have a 95% level of confidence. More information on the methodology can be found in **Appendix B**.

## Understanding the Community through Quantitative and Qualitative Data

The Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan used both qualitative and quantitative methods of obtaining public input. Qualitative methods such as stakeholder interviews or the public workshop are designed to collect non-numerical data such as ideas or key desires from residents. The ETC survey was more quantitative, numbers-based data that can be used to assign prioritization of different improvements or ideas. Figure 2.1 highlights the differences between quantitative and qualitative data.

**Figure 2.1** Defining Quantitative and Qualitative Data

Quantitative Data	Qualitative Data
Quantitative data is countable or measurable, typically utilizing numbers. Can answer questions of “How many?”, “How much?”, and “How often?” to conduct statistical analyses.	Qualitative data results in descriptive or anecdotal feedback. Can help us better understand the “why” or “how” behind certain feelings or behaviors. Gathered through observations or interviews and when analyzed, results in themes.

### *Example from the Community Survey:*

There were 432 survey responses collected from the Community Survey. When asked to select the most important amenity improvements for parks and recreation, residents selected new buildings, paving, trees, playgrounds, and renovations (85%) and improving maintenance at existing parks and recreation facilities (83%).

### *Example from the Stakeholder Interviews:*

The stakeholder interview feedback highlighted the need for an improved sidewalk and trail network to provide safe routes from neighborhood to neighborhood and allow children to walk to school without “missing teeth” in the network.

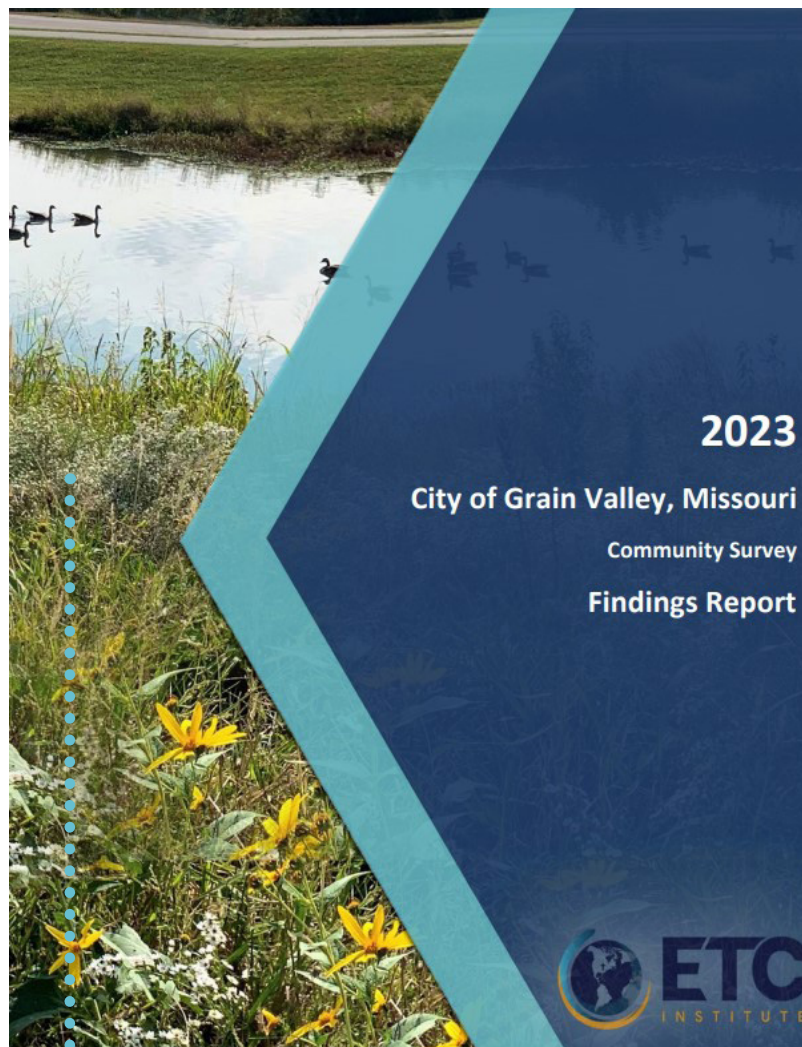
## Public Input Process

The Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan leveraged a shared public input process to gather as much feedback as possible. The following groups and activities assisted in establishing key themes and desires for the community's future:

- Steering Committee
- Stakeholder interviews
- Statistically-valid survey from ETC Institute
- Public workshop
- Interactive engagement website

# ETC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

**Figure 2.2** ETC Survey Summary Report Cover



**432**

completed surveys

**95%**

level of confidence

# ETC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

## Key Findings

Below are key findings from the ETC Community Survey relating to parks programs and communication and facilities and amenities.

### PROGRAMS AND COMMUNICATION

*How are residents finding out about happenings from the City of Grain Valley?*

Social media (61%), City's website (58%), or word of mouth (53%)

*What are the barriers residents feel in keeping their households from using recreation facilities, amenities, parks, and programs?*

Participants said they simply do not know what is available (40%), better amenities are offered elsewhere (35%), and what they desire to use is not available (23%).

*Where are residents going for recreation activities?*

The most frequent responses included Jackson County (57%), neighboring cities (47%), and private gyms/clubs/fields/pools (33%).

### FACILITIES AND AMENITIES

*What are the top two improvements residents are most supportive of (using tax dollars) for parks and recreation in Grain Valley?*

- 1)** Improving existing parks and facilities with new buildings, pavings, trees, playgrounds, and renovations (58%)
- 2)** Acquiring land for parks and amenities such as trails, playgrounds, restrooms, etc. (36%)

*Should the City prioritize bicycling improvements?*

Yes! Especially to connect to schools (55%), parks and recreational facilities (56%), and existing trails (52%).

*Are pedestrian connections and networks important to residents?*

Yes, participants ranked sidewalk connectivity and improvements as some of the top investments in the survey. The sidewalk network can be linked to the master trails plan and further expand the trails and sidewalk network serving Grain Valley residents as well.

# ETC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

## Facilities and Amenities

The ETC Community Survey asked residents a series of questions related to parks and recreation facilities in the community. The questions were geared toward understanding their level of service being experienced today, what they feel are the most important facilities to their household, and how they would prioritize improvements.

Figure 2.3 illustrates the results when asked **what facilities and amenities are most important to households in Grain Valley**. The top-rated responses included **1) indoor aquatic center (32%) 2) walking and hiking trails that are half a mile to two miles in length (24%) 3) nature trails (23%) 4) walking and hiking trails that are over two miles in length (19%) and 5) off-leash dog parks (16%)**.

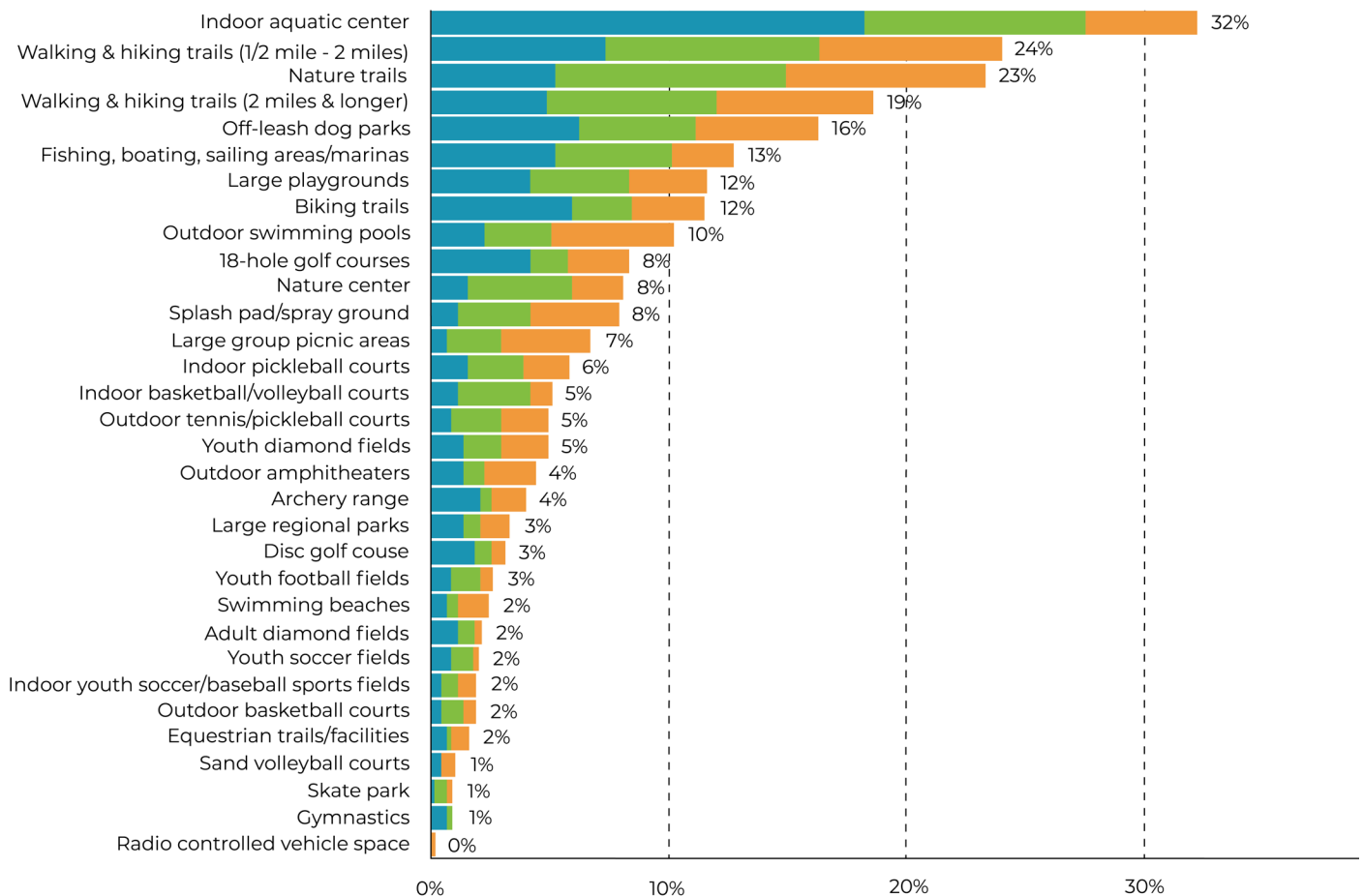
These results help the consultant team establish priorities for amenity and facility improvements throughout the community.

**Figure 2.3** Facilities and Amenities Most Important to Households

### Q8. Facilities/Amenities Most Important to Households

by percentage of respondents who selected the items as one of their top three choices

■ Top choice  
■ 2nd choice  
■ 3rd choice





# ETC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

## Priority Facility Investments

ETC Institute utilizes a Priority Investment Rating (PIR) methodology to evaluate priorities for parks and recreation improvements based on feedback. Figure 2.4 helps illustrate the results from the PIR analysis by identifying high, medium, and low priority improvements.

### A Note on an Indoor Aquatic Center\*

The ETC Community Survey indicated high need and desire for an indoor aquatic center. The City currently operates an outdoor aquatic center and many subdivisions have access to neighborhood pools and meet much of the demand for seasonal pool access for the local and regional area. By adding an indoor aquatic center, this would place a greater burden on the City in finding seasonal and year-round staff and funding the operations of both facilities. Furthermore, neighboring Blue Springs is currently constructing an indoor/outdoor waterpark that could meet the needs of an indoor facility for Grain Valley residents.

Investigation and consideration to the investment, staffing, operations, and maintenance of such a facility by the City has led to the conclusion and desire for funds to be spent elsewhere for parks and recreation in the community based on the rest of the public input and survey results.

**Figure 2.4** ETC Survey Priority Facility Improvements

### HIGH PRIORITY

- Indoor aquatic center\*
- Nature trails
- Walking + hiking trails (1/2 to 2 miles)
- Walking + hiking trails (2+ miles)
- Off-leash dog parks
- Fishing, boating, sailing areas/marinas

### MEDIUM PRIORITY

- Large playgrounds
- Nature center
- Biking trails
- Splash pad/spray ground
- Outdoor swimming pools
- Large group picnic areas
- Outdoor tennis/pickleball courts
- 18-hole golf courses
- Large regional parks
- Indoor basketball/volleyball courts
- Indoor pickleball courts
- Outdoor amphitheaters
- Youth diamond fields

### LOW PRIORITY

- Archery range
- Swimming beaches
- Indoor youth soccer/baseball sports fields
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Youth soccer fields
- Disc golf course
- Youth football fields
- Sand volleyball courts
- Adult diamond fields
- Skate park
- Gymnastics
- Equestrian trails/facilities
- Radio controlled vehicle space

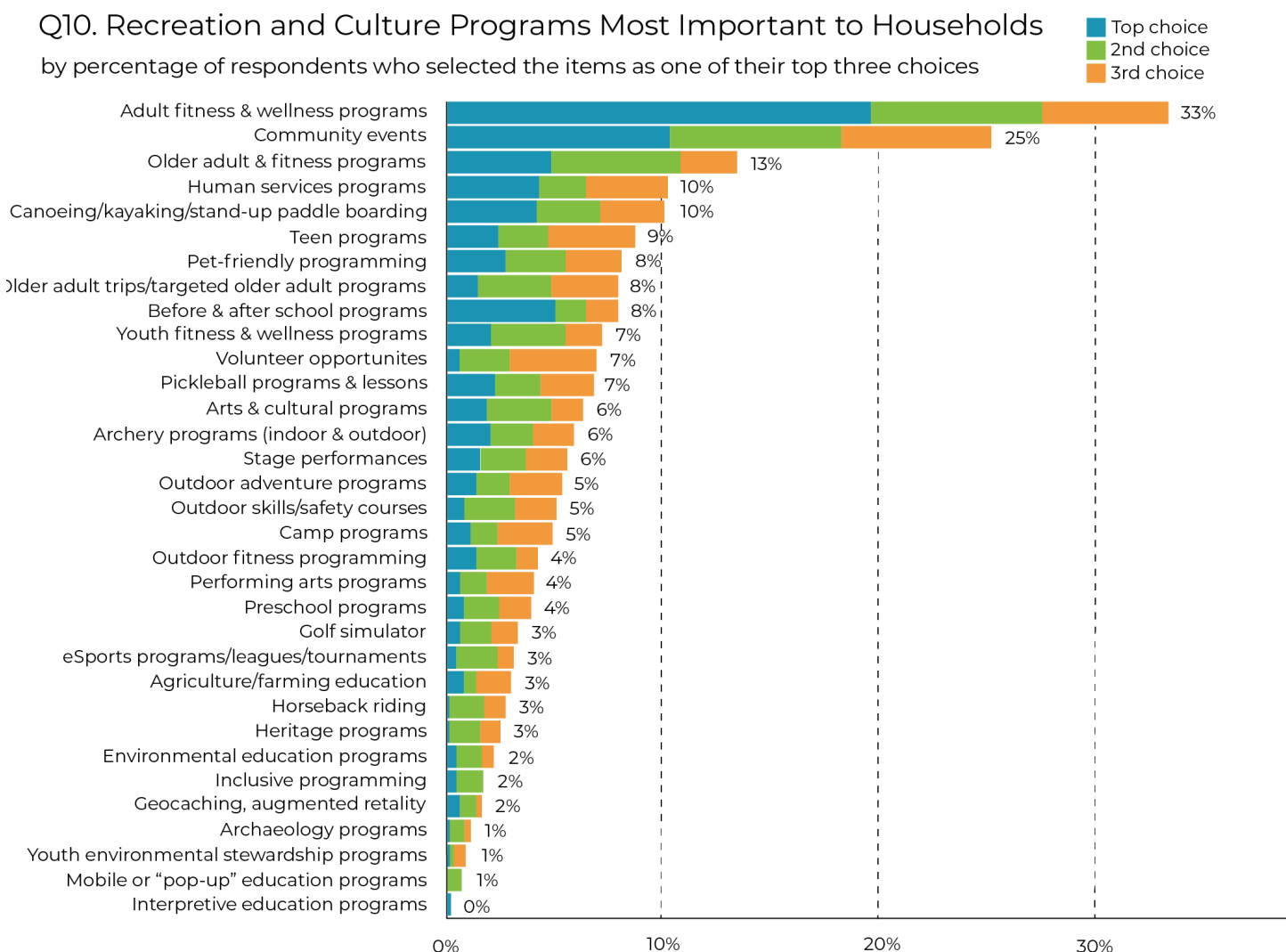
# ETC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

## Recreation and Culture Programs

The survey also asked residents to identify **which recreation and culture programs were most important to their households**. These options range from adult recreation and wellness programs to education programs. The results of this question are presented in Figure 2.5.

The highest rated responses for recreation and culture programs included **1) adult fitness and wellness programs (33%) 2) community events (25%) 3) older adult and fitness programs (13%) 4) human services programs (10%) and 5) canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddle boarding (10%)**.

**Figure 2.5** Recreation and Culture Programs Most Important to Households



# ETC SURVEY RESULTS SUMMARY

## Priority Program Investments

A Prioritization Investment Rating (PIR) analysis was also conducted for the recreation and culture programs component of the survey. These results help cut down the number of high priority improvements from the survey and allows the City to identify highly-desired programs for rapid implementation and success. The PIR identifies adult fitness and wellness programs and community events to be the top two priorities for implementation. Figure 2.6 further defines the prioritization of the remaining recreation and culture programs from the PIR.

Currently, Grain Valley's Parks and Recreation Program offers activities for the youth and seniors of the community, with limited to no activities for adults to participate in. By expanding these programs to adults, it increases potential for entire families to take advantage of the Community Center and its variety of amenities offered. Further investigation into desired adult programs should be considered to strive for optimal participation.

**Figure 2.6** ETC Survey Priority Program Improvements

### HIGH PRIORITY

- Adult fitness and wellness programs
- Community events

### MEDIUM PRIORITY

- Older adult and fitness programs
- Canoeing/kayaking/stand-up paddle boarding
- Human services programs
- Volunteer opportunities
- Older adult trips/targeted older adult programs
- Teen programs
- Arts and cultural programs
- Pickleball programs and lessons
- Pet-friendly programming
- Stage performances
- Youth fitness and wellness programs
- Outdoor adventure programs
- Before and after school programs
- Outdoor fitness programming
- Outdoor skills/safety courses

### LOW PRIORITY

- Camp programs
- Archery programs (indoor/outdoor)
- Performing arts programs
- Horseback riding
- Environmental education programs
- Agriculture/farming education
- Preschool programs
- eSports programs/leagues/tournaments
- Heritage programs
- Golf simulator
- Youth environmental stewardship programs
- Geocaching augmented reality
- Mobile or 'pop-up' education programs
- Inclusive programming
- Archaeology programs
- Interpretive education programs

# PUBLIC INPUT // STAKEHOLDER INTERVIEWS

## Stakeholder Interviews

During the public input process, members of the consultant team met virtually with key stakeholders in the community to capture candid insight into current conditions, challenges, and dreams for the future of the community. Figure 2.7 presents the groups and organizations represented during the stakeholder interviews.

**Figure 2.7** Stakeholder Groups and Organizations



The following were applicable themes to parks and recreation from these interviews:



### Community Space

- Linking the north and south parts of town
- Center of town



### Recreation Facilities

- Fitness and wellness programs
- Indoor aquatic center
- Playing fields
- Indoor/outdoor facilities and opportunities



### Parks & Trails System

- Monkey Mountain opportunities
- Neighborhood parks
- Connections to neighborhoods and adjacent communities



### Transportation

- Pedestrian circulation
- I-70 considerations and connectivity

# PUBLIC INPUT // PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS

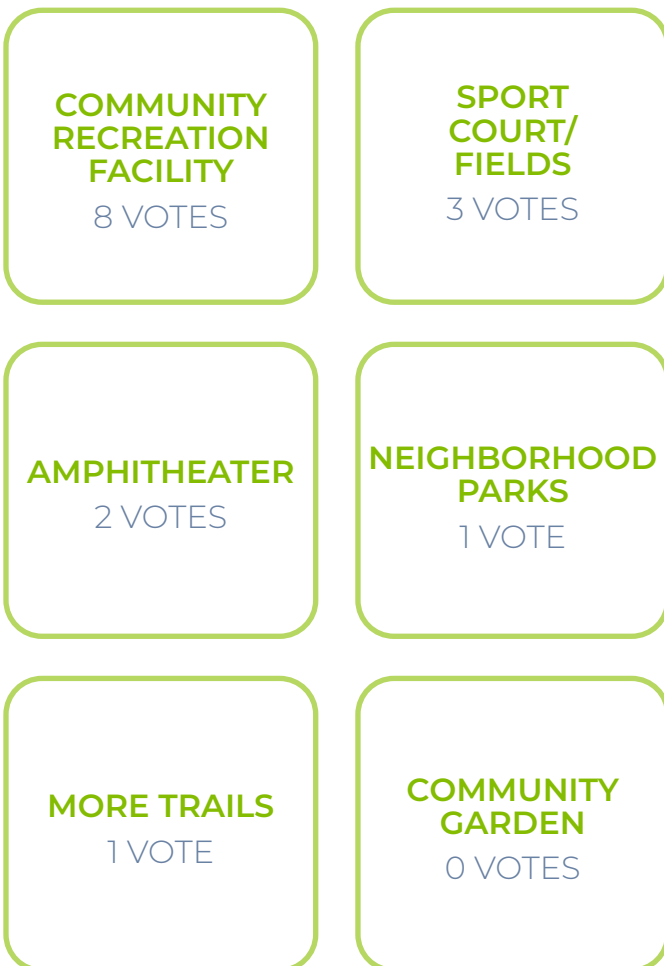
## Public Workshop Results

A public workshop was held in February 2023 at Sni-A-Bar Elementary School and had approximately 30 residents in attendance. A short presentation with background on the planning process, interactive visioning questions, and a community profile was provided before having the group disperse and partake in engagement activities throughout the room. The following sections summarize the input received at this event.

### Priority Ranking

The priority ranking activity provided participants with a variety of topics to help prioritize amenities within their respective categories. The results for the Parks and Trails category are presented below. A community recreation facility was the top-rated amenity.

#### PARKS AND TRAILS PRIORITY RANKING RESULTS



### Preference Scales

There was a preference scale board that asked participants to identify on a scale what their views were on different topics related to parks and recreation. Below is a summary of results.

#### PARKS AND TRAILS PREFERENCE SCALE RESULTS

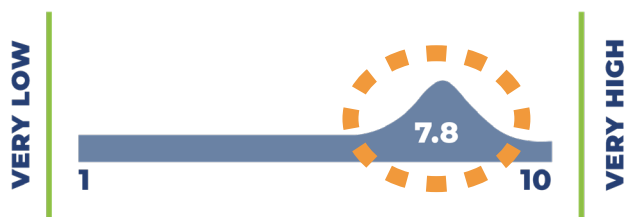
- There are **not enough parks** in Grain Valley.
- **Cannot access trails** near their homes.
- **Do not feel safe in parks and along trails** in Grain Valley.
- Would like to see **more amenities** in parks.
- Would like to have **more recreation programs and events**.
- Feel the **City should invest more funding into parks and trails** in Grain Valley.
- **Do not feel that parks and trails are accessible** to everyone in the community.
- Feel that **sustainability practices should be a high priority** for parks and trails.
- Have **mixed emotions on** whether Grain Valley needs more **sports facilities**.

# PUBLIC INPUT // PUBLIC WORKSHOP RESULTS

## Mentimeter Live-Polling

Attendees of the public workshop had the chance to participate in a live survey regarding their opinion on different topics in Grain Valley. The results related to parks and recreation in Grain Valley are shown below.

How would you rank **quality of life** in Grain Valley from 1 (very low) to 10 (very high)?



What is your **favorite place** in Grain Valley?

Park Facilities

**Blue Branch Trail**

**Butterfly Trail Park**

**Downtown**

**Community Center**

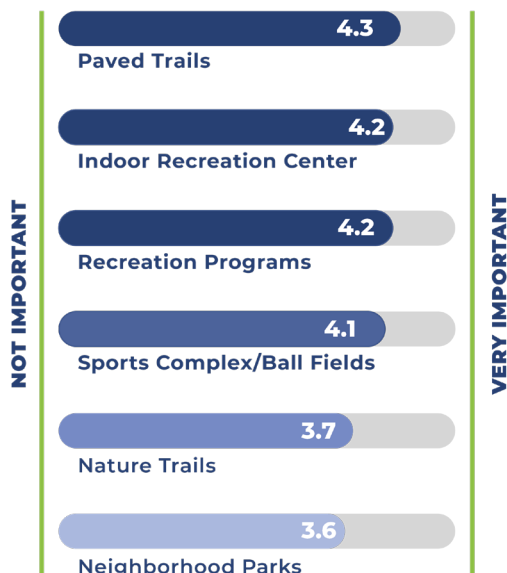
**Armstrong Park**

**Monkey Mountain**

**Iron Kettle**

**Price Chopper**

Please rank the following as to their **level of importance** in Grain Valley **recreation** from 1 (very low) to 5 (very high).

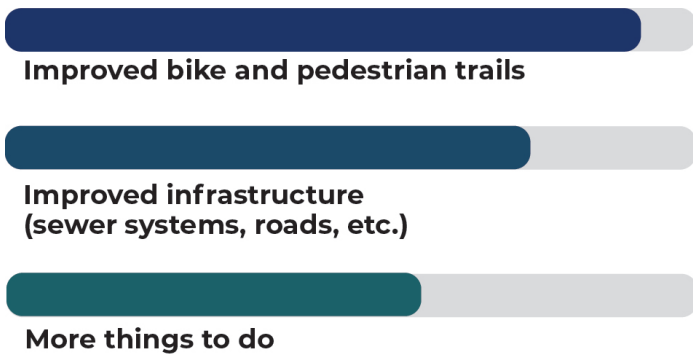


## Interactive Engagement Website

### Community Survey Results

An instrumental component to the public input process was the interactive engagement website. This website, open from February through the end of March, allowed participants to interact with other residents' comments and ideas, provide feedback on activities similar to those offered at the public workshop, and keep up with project updates. The website invited participants to take a short survey, rank budgeting priorities, map their ideas, and vote on a series of images to impact the recommendations included within both plans. The following pages highlight the results that relate to parks and recreation and the community's desires in Grain Valley.

### What changes would improve quality of life in Grain Valley?



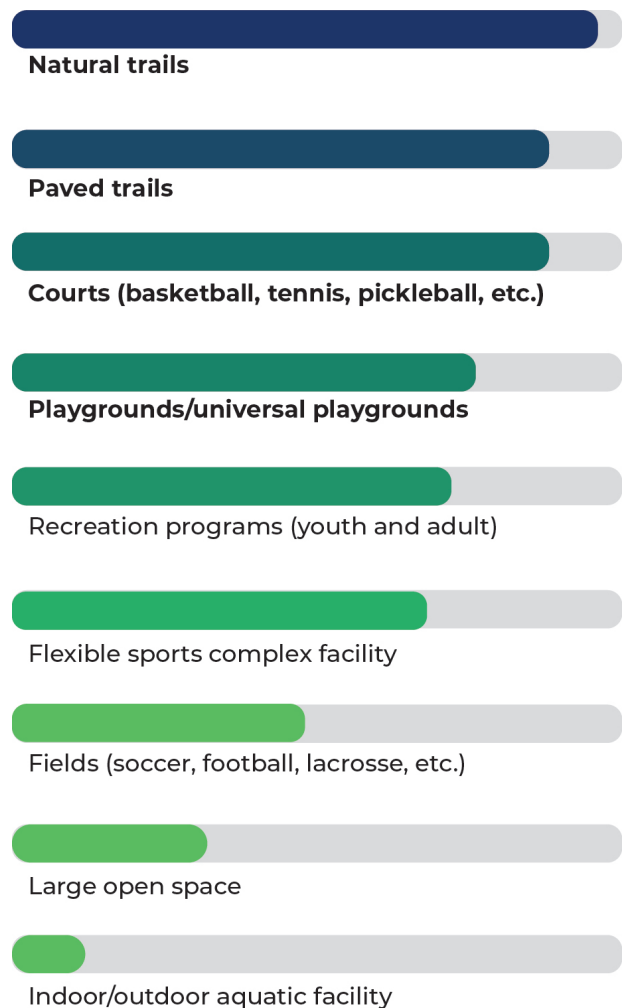
Top 3 Results

### Grain Valley needs more of the following...



Top 3 Results

### What recreational amenities should Grain Valley focus on?



# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Budget Priority Ranking

The budget priority ranking activity asked participants to allocate City dollars to different items. Each item was assigned a cost ranging from \$10,000 to \$60,000. Each participant had \$100,000 to fund different projects. The results are summarized below.



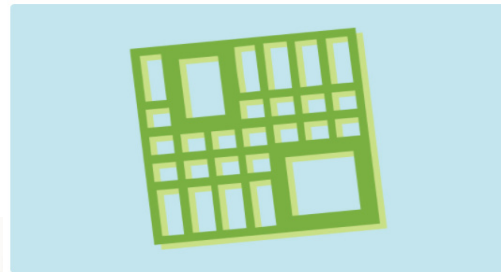


# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Interactive Engagement Website

### Interactive Mapping

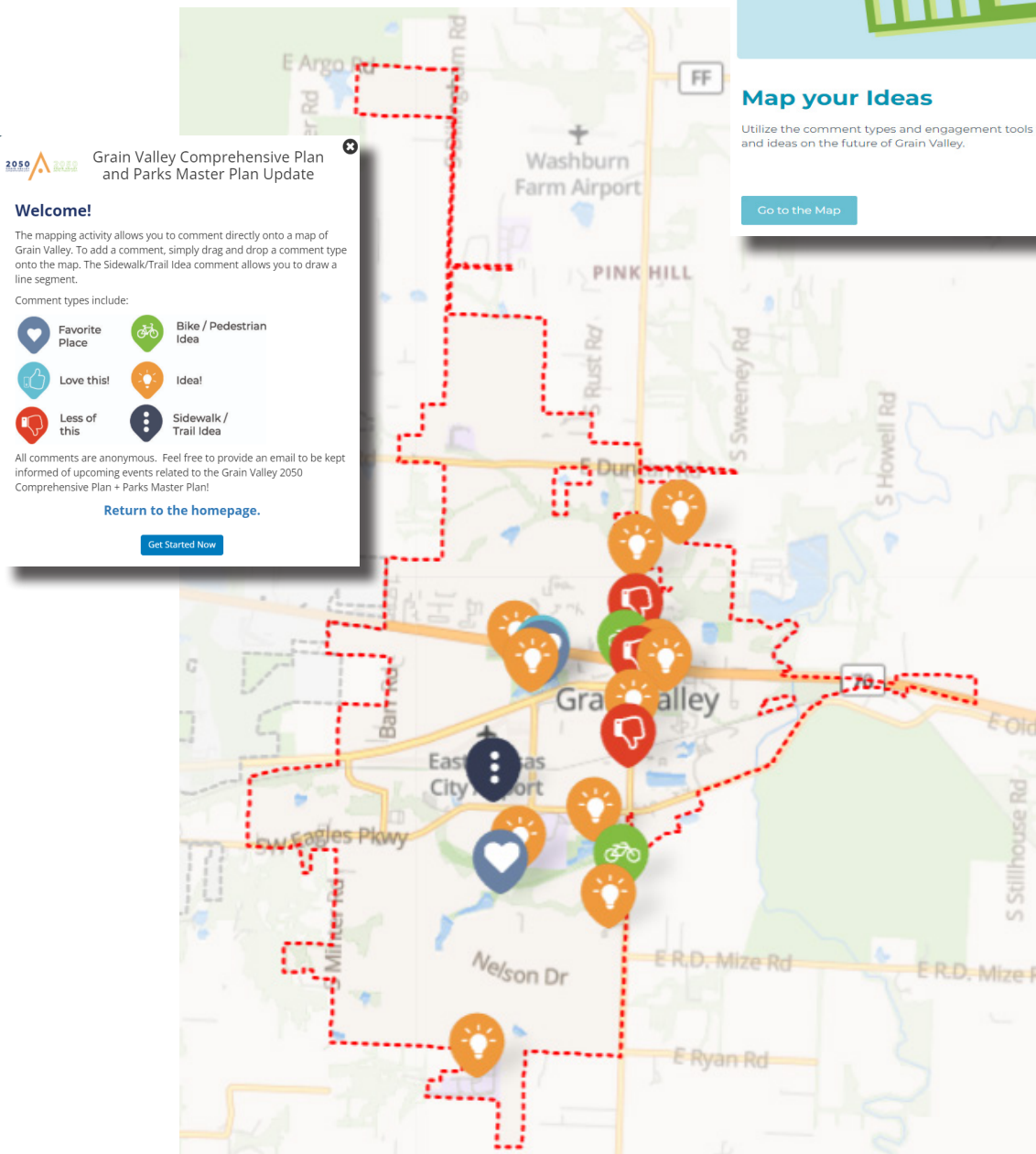
The interactive engagement website included a mapping activity where users were encouraged to drop comments about Grain Valley directly onto a map of the community. There were six comment types: favorite place, love this!, less of this, bike/pedestrian idea, a sidewalk/trail idea, or idea! In total, 20 mapping comments were received.



### Map your Ideas

Utilize the comment types and engagement tools to share your thoughts and ideas on the future of Grain Valley.

[Go to the Map](#)



**Grain Valley Comprehensive Plan and Parks Master Plan Update**

**Welcome!**

The mapping activity allows you to comment directly onto a map of Grain Valley. To add a comment, simply drag and drop a comment type onto the map. The Sidewalk/Trail Idea comment allows you to draw a line segment.

Comment types include:

- Favorite Place
- Bike / Pedestrian Idea
- Love this!
- Idea!
- Less of this
- Sidewalk / Trail Idea

All comments are anonymous. Feel free to provide an email to be kept informed of upcoming events related to the Grain Valley 2050 Comprehensive Plan + Parks Master Plan!

[Return to the homepage.](#)

[Get Started Now](#)

**Map your Ideas**

Utilize the comment types and engagement tools to share your thoughts and ideas on the future of Grain Valley.

[Go to the Map](#)

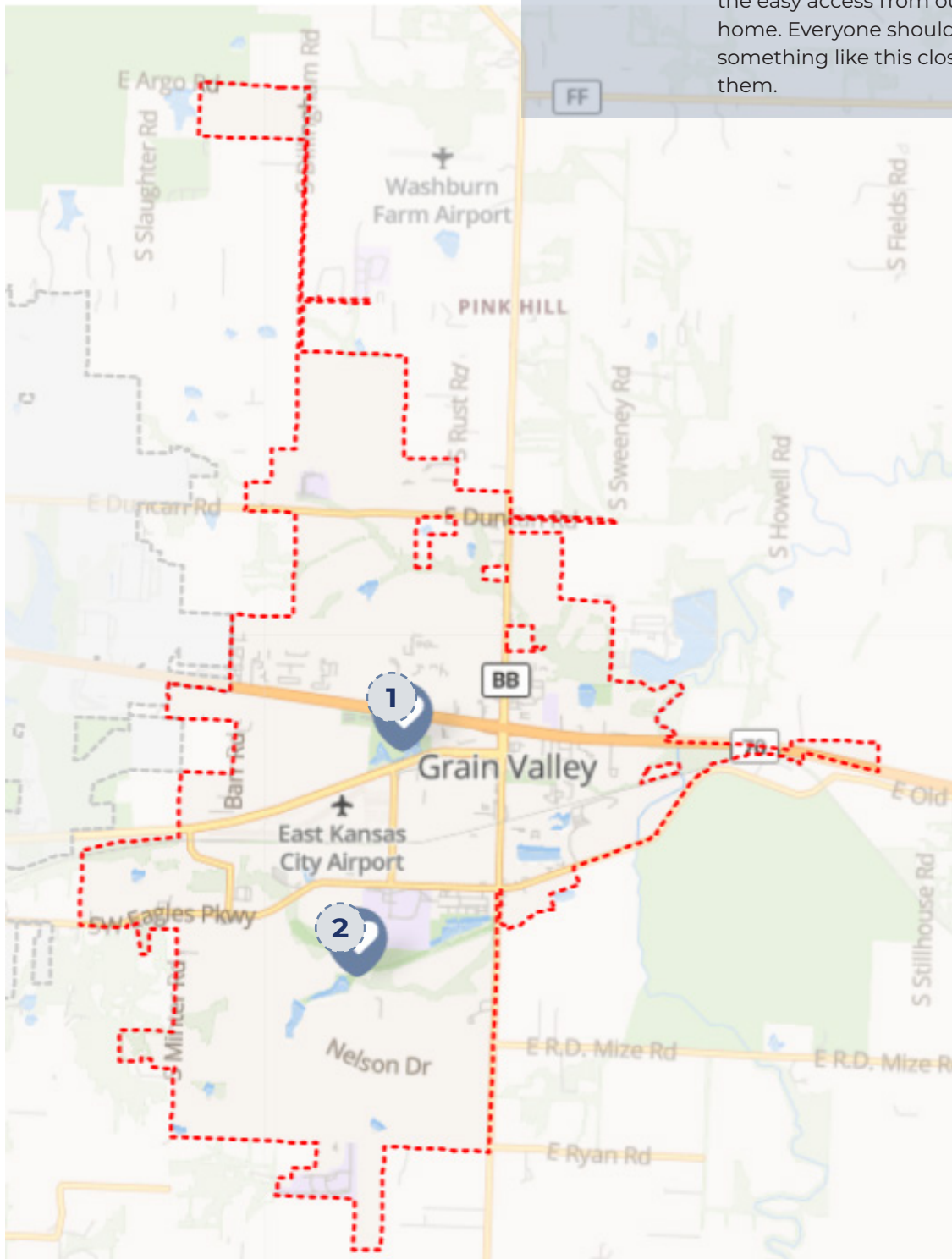
# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Interactive Engagement Website

### Interactive Mapping - Favorite Place



- 1 Great place to walk, ride bikes - great outdoor opportunities
- 2 My family loves this access point to the trail and we enjoy the easy access from our home. Everyone should have something like this close to them.



**Interactive Engagement Website**

Interactive Mapping - Love this!



1

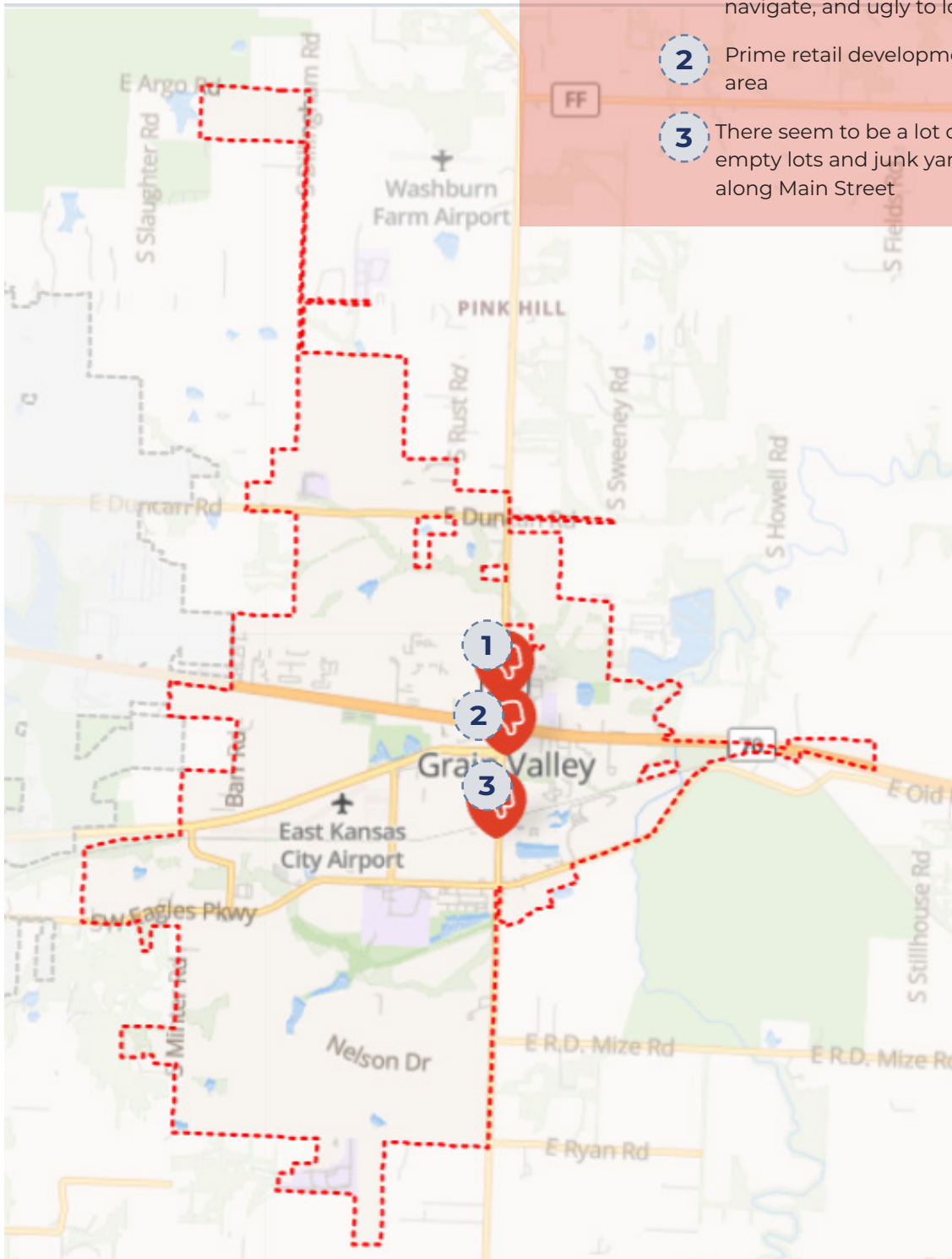
Place to be connected to nature



# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Interactive Engagement Website

Interactive Mapping - **Less of This**



- 1** A high traffic, high speed, main thoroughfare with frequent entrances or turn offs is dangerous for drivers and pedestrians, painful to navigate, and ugly to look at.
- 2** Prime retail development area
- 3** There seem to be a lot of empty lots and junk yards along Main Street

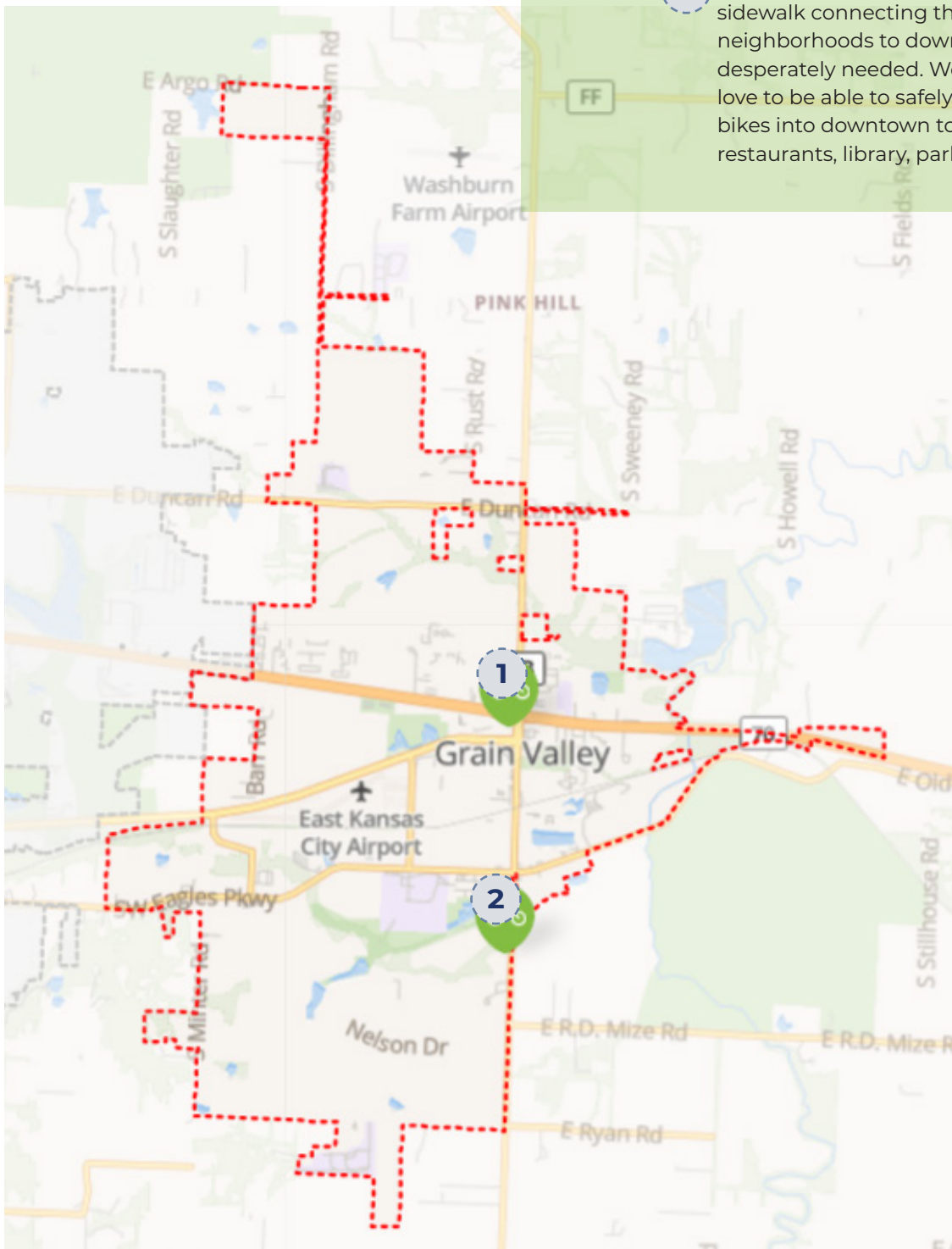
# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Interactive Engagement Website

### Interactive Mapping - Bike/Pedestrian Idea



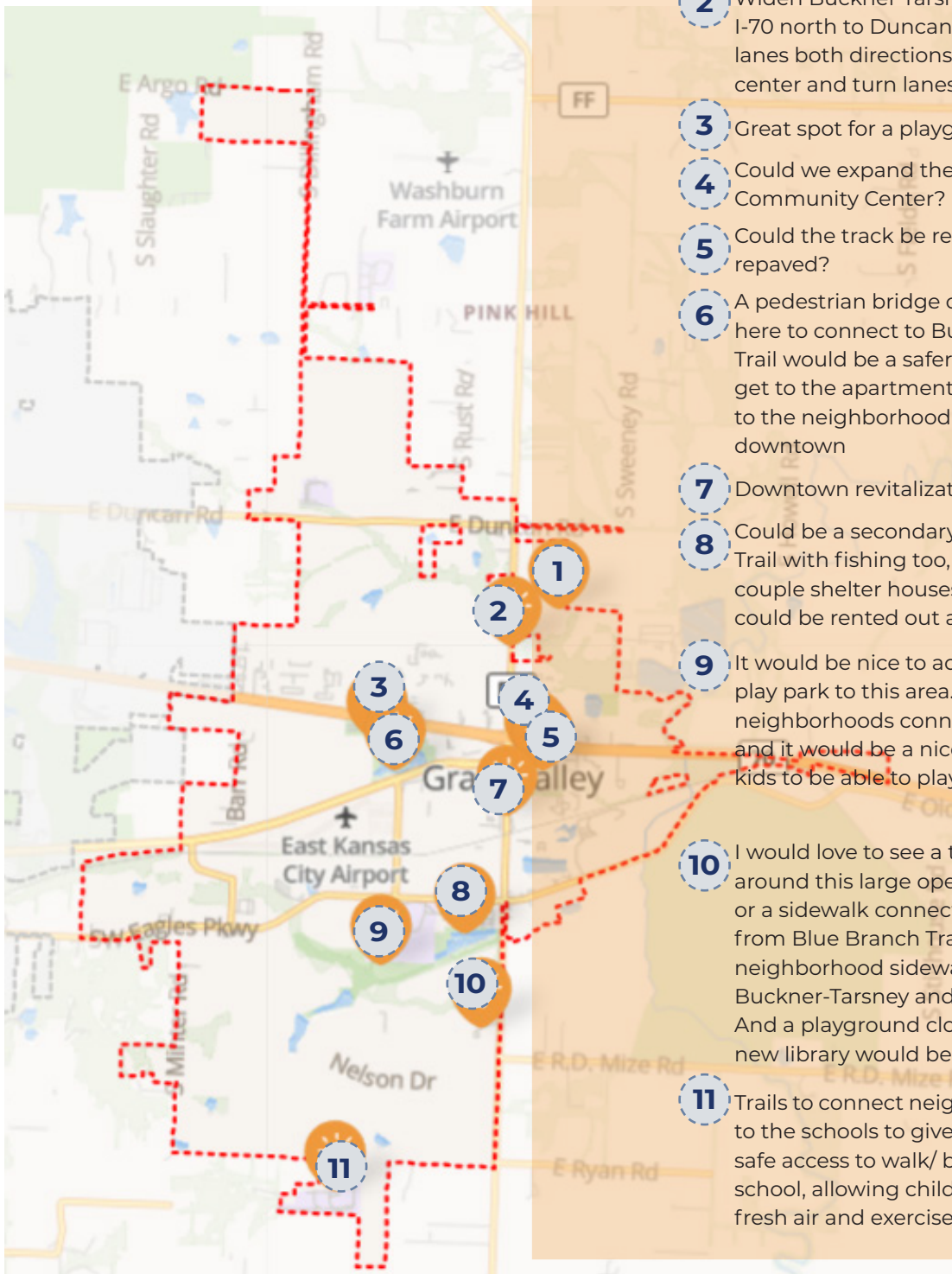
- 1** Bike/Pedestrian Trail connecting North & South Grain Valley
- 2** A bike path or at least a sidewalk connecting the neighborhoods to downtown is desperately needed. We would love to be able to safely ride our bikes into downtown to enjoy restaurants, library, parks, etc.



# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Interactive Engagement Website

### Interactive Mapping - Idea!



- 1 Public Park north of I-70, anywhere for neighborhoods to enjoy.
- 2 Widen Buckner Tarsney from I-70 north to Duncan, double lanes both directions including center and turn lanes
- 3 Great spot for a playground!
- 4 Could we expand the Community Center?
- 5 Could the track be renovated or repaved?
- 6 A pedestrian bridge or stoplight here to connect to Butterfly Trail would be a safer way to get to the apartments and also to the neighborhood leading downtown
- 7 Downtown revitalization
- 8 Could be a secondary Butterfly Trail with fishing too, and a couple shelter houses that could be rented out as well.
- 9 It would be nice to add a nature play park to this area. So many neighborhoods connect here and it would be a nice place for kids to be able to play.
- 10 I would love to see a trail around this large open field, or a sidewalk connection from Blue Branch Trail to the neighborhood sidewalk at Buckner-Tarsney and Sni-a-bar. And a playground close to our new library would be awesome.
- 11 Trails to connect neighborhoods to the schools to give children safe access to walk/ bike to school, allowing children to get fresh air and exercise.

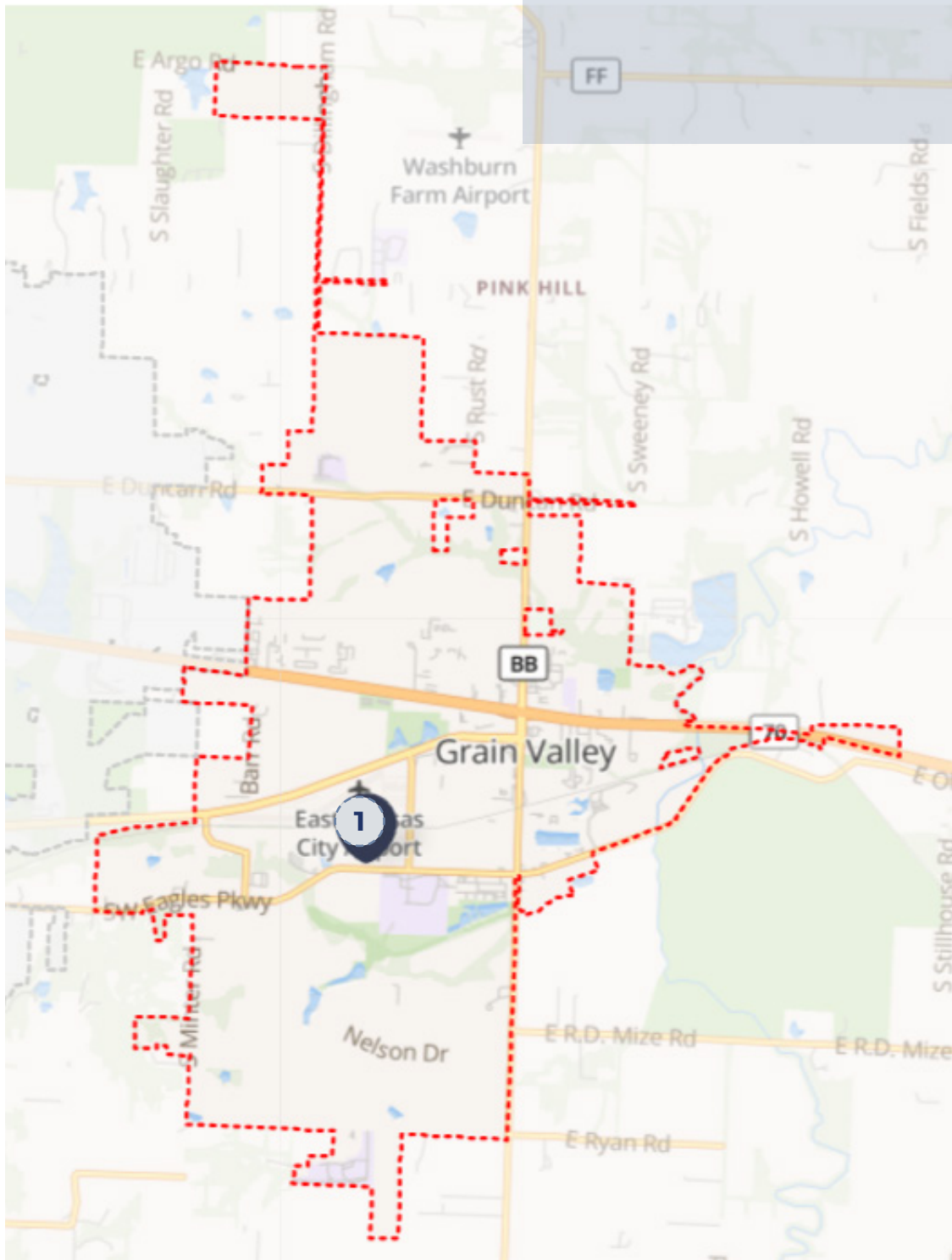
# PUBLIC INPUT // INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

## Interactive Engagement Website

### Interactive Mapping - Sidewalk/Trail Idea



1 Need a sidewalk between subdivision and schools



# PUBLIC INPUT // IMAGE VOTING

## Image Voting Results // Parks

Below are the most preferred park images. There was a consistent support for indoor sports field and facilities, dog parks, and events such as a farmers market. Programming elements such as inclusive playgrounds and nature centers were also popular.

### Most Preferred



Farmers market



Tournament Space



Public restrooms



Dog park



Nature center



Inclusive playgrounds 1



Community park



Playground



Neighborhood park



# PUBLIC INPUT // IMAGE VOTING

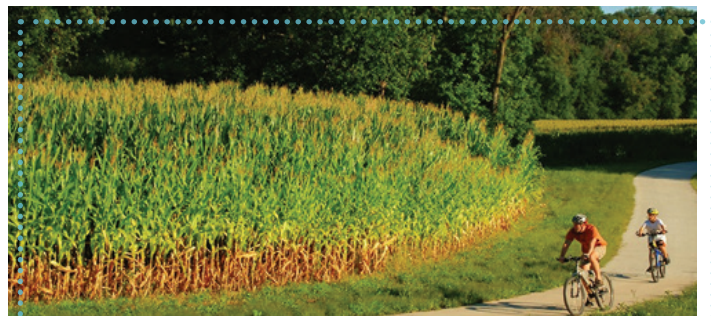
## Image Voting Results // Trails

The trails image voting category had greater diversity in what residents would and would not like to see for amenities. Multi-use paths received the two highest number of votes for trails, identifying paved trails with greenscaping and buffering from other users as key characteristics. A natural, unpaved trail was also a preferred trail type that could open up opportunities for mountain biking in the area. Two distinguishing amenities that could serve as regional attractions are a boardwalk trail and unique trailhead. These addition of these two amenities to the trails network could draw the bicycle tourism to the area with their 'instagram-able' photo-ops.

### Most Preferred



Multi-use path 1



Multi-use path 2



Asphalt trail



Natural trail



Boardwalk trail



Trailhead

chapter

# THREE

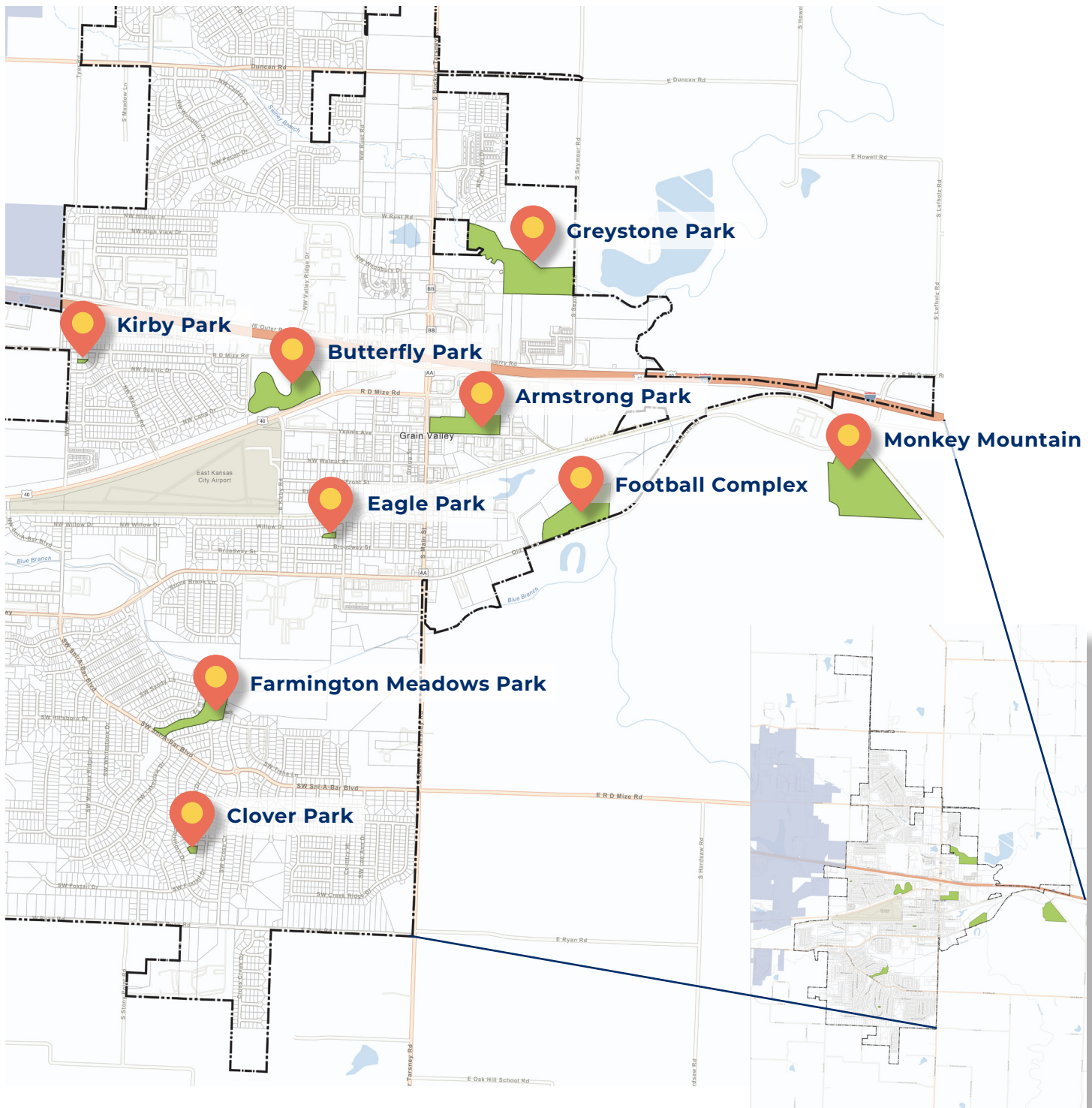
## planning for maintenance + improvements

# EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

## Overview

This chapter details the existing conditions related to parks and recreation in Grain Valley today and provides a benchmark analysis to understand what recreational amenities are provided in similar communities. Parks by type, level of service, and existing trail network analyses help to establish a strong foundation for the Planning for Implementation Chapter and its corresponding recommendations for parks and trails facilities in Grain Valley.

**Figure 3.1** Existing Parkland in Grain Valley



# EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

## Parks by Type

To better understand and analyze the nine parks included in Grain Valley's parks system today, each park has been categorized into three types: neighborhood, community, and special use parks. This chapter looks only at City-operated parks serving the community and region today. More details on what makes a neighborhood, community, and special use park is provided below.

### Neighborhood Parks

Neighborhood parks generally range in size from 2 acres up to 15 acres, though some will be larger or smaller depending on the community and neighborhood in which they reside. The neighborhood-serving parks act as social and recreational areas for nearby residents and are one of the basic units of a park system. Many include a playground. The service areas for neighborhood parks reaches a half-mile radius.



### Community Parks

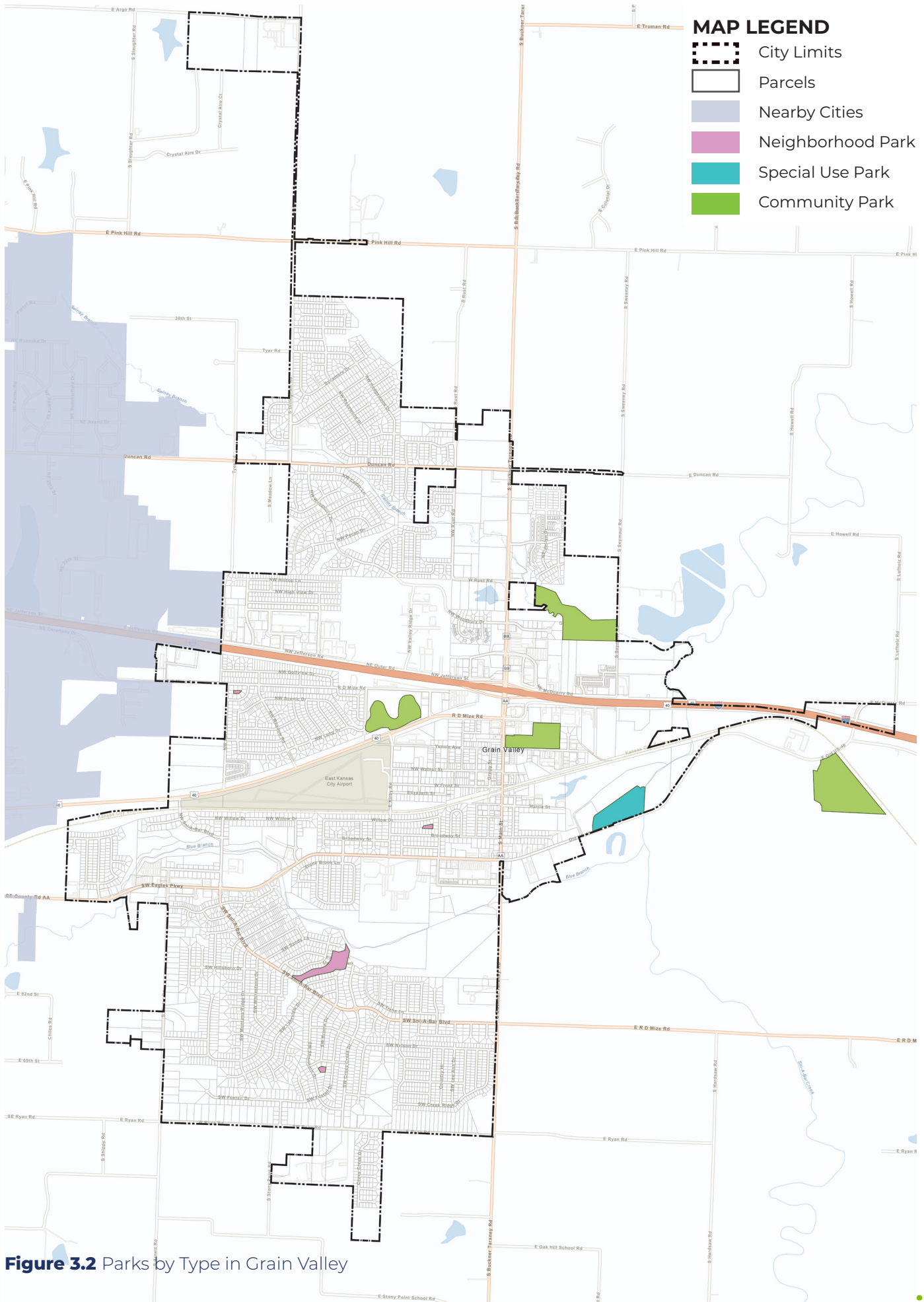
Community Parks are designed to serve the entire community. The service to the community can come from their size, their function, or a combination of both features. They range in size from 16 to 100 acres with a service area of around 1-2 miles depending on the park amenities. Community parks will often have on-site parking options.



### Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks are areas in which a specialized or single-purpose activity takes place. The areas may be golf courses, amphitheaters, sports fields, or historical areas. Since the designation is based on use and not size, there is no set acreage minimum or maximums as these numbers will vary considerably.





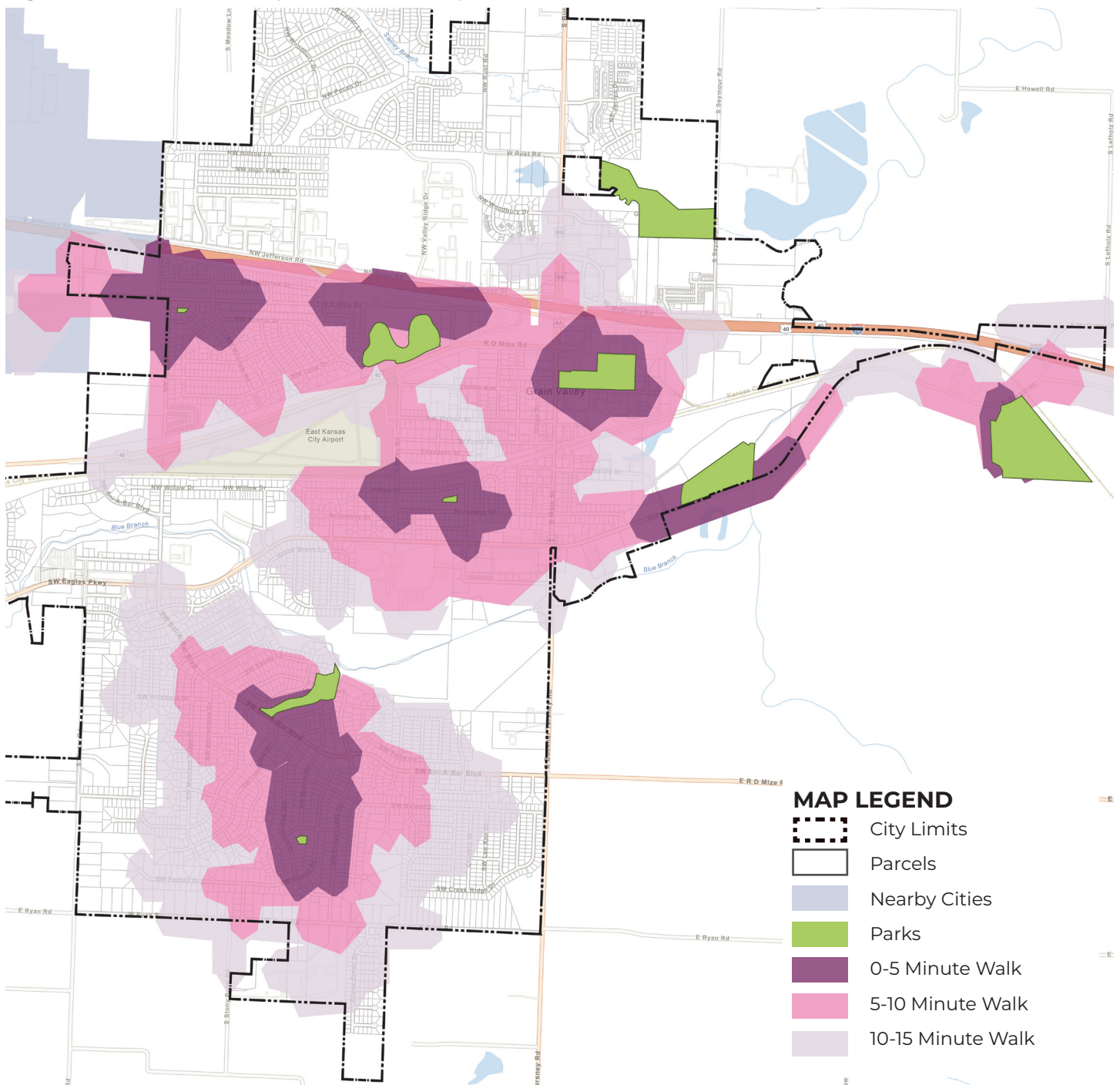
**Figure 3.2** Parks by Type in Grain Valley

# EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

## Parks Walk-Time Analysis

The Walk-Time Analysis, provided below in Figure 3.3, highlights the amount of time it would take residents to reach each park in the community. The dark purple represents 0-5 minutes, pink 5-10 minutes, and grey 10-15 minutes. From this analysis, it is evident the southern half of Grain Valley is generally well-served by parks, whereas the northern half of Grain Valley is severely under-served by parkland. This was a common theme heard throughout the public input process and should be addressed as a top priority for future residential development in the northern quadrant of the city. Greystone Park was excluded from this analysis as it currently is undeveloped and not accessible by the public.

**Figure 3.3** Walk-Time Analysis for Grain Valley



# EXISTING CONDITIONS SUMMARY

Figure 3.4 Existing Amenities at Grain Valley Parks



## Armstrong Park



Playground



Skate Park



Restrooms



Picnic Shelter



Sports Fields



## Butterfly Park



Paved Trail



Restrooms



## Clover Park



Swing sets



Picnic Tables and Grill



## Eagle Park



Picnic Tables and Grill



## Farmington Meadows Park



Fishing



## Football Complex



Restrooms



Picnic Shelter, Tables, and Grill



Football/Soccer Fields



## Kirby Park



Picnic Tables



Half-Size Basketball Court



## Monkey Mountain Park



Playground



Equestrian Trail Access



Restrooms



Picnic Shelter



Sports Fields

# STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

## Strengths of Grain Valley's Parks System

The following is a brief summary of the strengths and needs that exist throughout Grain Valley's Parks and Recreation system and facilities today.

### Facility Strengths

A

The character of the various parks throughout Grain Valley is diversified; providing experiences with trees, open spaces, and natural areas.



B

The park facilities are clean and free of debris and the landscape is well maintained.



C

Gathering spaces are provided in the parks with opportunities for residents to have large or small events.





# STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

D

The multiple ponds provide residents with the opportunity to fish.



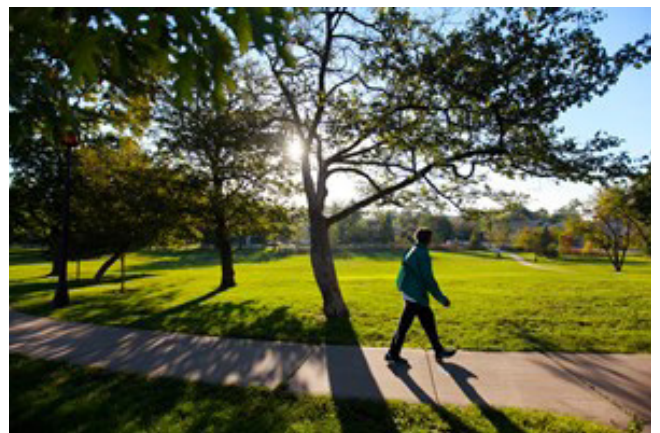
E

There are numerous baseball or softball diamonds at community parks that give residents access to competition fields.



F

Some of the existing parks contain measurable walking loops where additional access throughout the community would be desirable.



# STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

## Facility Needs

### PROVIDE CONNECTIVITY

Through public input, the incorporation of trails and park was identified as a major need within and to existing park facilities. Safe pedestrian and bicycle connections between parks, Downtown Grain Valley and other major facilities or routes are necessary to provide access to residents. Off street multi-use paths should be considered with signage for designated bike routes.



### RESTROOMS

There is a need to provide updated or improved restroom facilities and water fountains at some parks, while some facilities would benefit by the incorporation of a restroom. This will allow for park users to stay and enjoy the facilities for longer time periods, potentially increasing programming opportunities.



### ADA FACILITY UPDATES

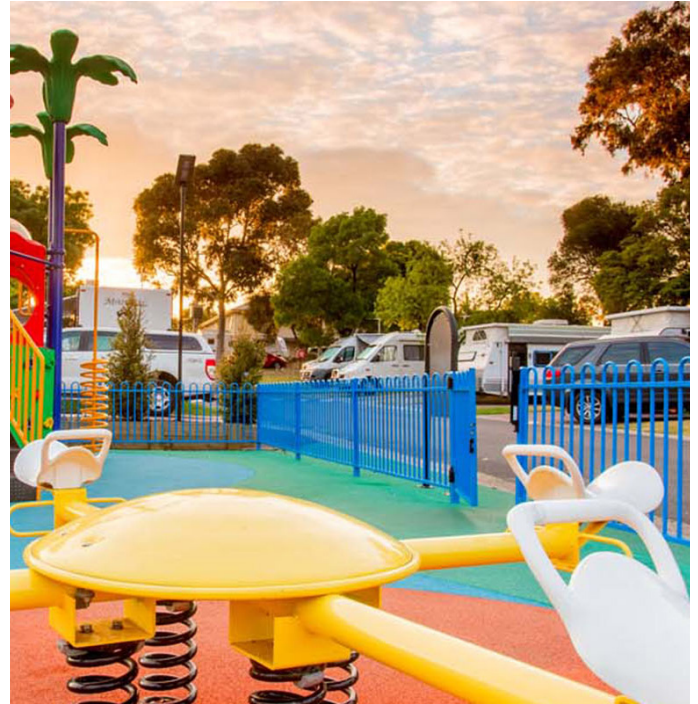
Many facilities do not currently meet ADA accessibility requirements, and improvements which allow access to all park users, regardless of age or ability, should be considered. Pathways through the parks should also be considered tying all of the various amenities together to provide access.



# STRENGTHS AND NEEDS

## UPDATE PLAYGROUNDS

Playground elements found throughout Grain Valley's park system are in need of updates. A life-cycle maximum of 25 years should be established before elements are updated or replaced. In addition, Grain Valley also needs to establish surfacing replacement schedules based on a 10-15 year life cycle. Updates should address new trends in the marketplace and be varied between park facilities to encourage residents to visit each park for a different experience. Age and abilities should also be considered as updates are made to allow for a wider spectrum of residents to have their recreational needs addressed. In addition, it is recommended that 50% of the City's playgrounds meet Universal Design standards as they are replaced and distributed across the city.



## MORE VARIETY IN AMENITIES

Each park should have its own unique identity. Whether active or passive amenities are incorporated, elements should serve a wide range of age ranges, interests and abilities. As parks are identified for updates, recreational trends should be considered to meet the needs and expectations of the community.



## AQUATIC AMENITIES

Look at the opportunity to incorporate fishing docks and kayak launches along the edge of the ponds within Butterfly and Farmington Meadows Parks.



# LEVEL OF SERVICE ANALYSIS

## Level of Service Analysis

Level of Service (LOS) is a standard measure indicating how well residents of a community are served by park facilities. This assessment considers the size and location of parkland as well as the available amenities and services. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), established a standard of 10.5 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents to assist communities with planning, growth, and park system management.

Level of Service (LOS) is a metric-based expression of the minimum recreation and park infrastructure capacity required to satisfy the needs of residents of the community. Numeric LOS metrics are most commonly used when analyzing parkland and recreation facilities so as to express acreage or availability in per capita terms.

A critical component of the LOS Analysis is to provide insight regarding how service levels should change over time given the context and trends of the community. Findings provide direction for the City to plan and are

also intended to ensure that a balance of facilities and services are provided uniformly across Grain Valley. The establishment of unrealistic LOS strategies can create a system that cannot be achieved without substantial investment in land and new facilities. However, LOS strategies can and will change over time as the demographics, economics, and politics of a community change.

### Parkland Level of Service in Grain Valley

Grain Valley has approximately 84.3 acres of parkland serving a community of roughly 16,002 residents per 2021 population estimates. Following NRPA standards, the LOS for Grain Valley indicates that there is a need for additional neighborhood and community park facilities.

Table 3.1 further breaks down the LOS results in Grain Valley and the recommended LOS by park type. These numbers further highlight the low level of service for parkland in Grain Valley today. The existing total LOS is 5.3 acres per 1,000 residents, much lower than the recommended 10.5 acres per 1,000 residents.

**Table 3.1** Existing Parkland Acres and Types in Grain Valley

Park Name	Acres	Category
Armstrong Park	13.4	Community
Butterfly Park	14.7	Community
Clover Park	0.5	Neighborhood
Eagle Park	0.5	Neighborhood
Farmington Meadows Park	7.3	Neighborhood
Football Complex	15.1	Special Use
Greystone Park*	25.0	Community
Kirby Park	0.3	Neighborhood
Monkey Mountain Park	32.5	Community
<b>TOTAL EXISTING PARK LAND</b>	<b>84.3</b>	-
<b>TOTAL FUTURE PARK LAND</b>	<b>109.3</b>	-

Level of Service by Type	Acres	Level of Service
Neighborhood Park	8.6	0.5
Community Park	60.6	3.8
Special Use Park	15.1	0.9
<b>Total (Existing)</b>	<b>84.3</b>	<b>5.3</b>

Level of Service (LOS) Recommendations	Recommended LOS*	Existing LOS*
Neighborhood Park	1.25 to 2.0	0.5
Community Park	5.5 to 8.0	3.8
Special Use Park	-	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>5.3</b>

\*Future parkland, not yet accessible.

# SERVICE AREA ANALYSIS

## Service Area Analysis

An additional analysis to assess how well-served a community is by parkland is through a service area analysis. This method helps by roughly illustrating the range of standard service areas by park type.

### Neighborhood Park

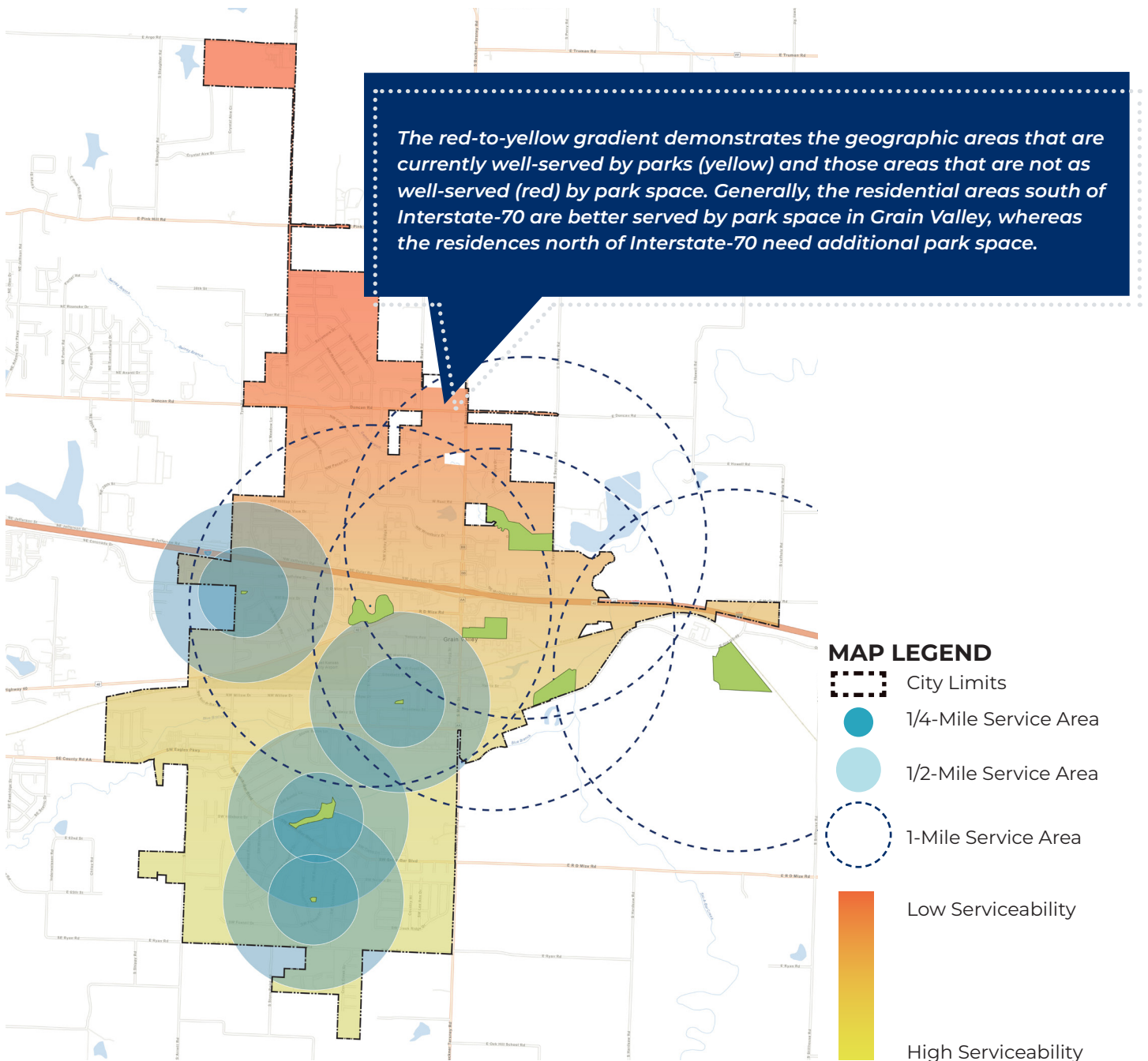
Neighborhood parks have a service area between 1/4 and 1/2-mile, primarily servicing the immediately surrounding

residents. These areas are shown in the lighter blue filled areas in Figure 3.5 and include all of the neighborhood parks identified in Table 3.1.

### Community Parks

Community parks have a service area of 1 mile. This is typically due to their larger footprints and greater variety of amenities. These parks are illustrated in the dark blue dash line in Figure 3.5 and include the two community parks included in Table 3.1.

**Figure 3.5** Existing Service Areas by Park Type



# PROJECTED PARKLAND DEMAND BY 2050

## Parkland Demand Estimates by 2050

Population projections were completed as part of the Comprehensive Plan process and assisted in estimating parkland acreage demand by 2050. The estimated populations, shown in greater detail in Table 3.2, identify a potential total population of 42,263 residents by 2050.

Table 3.3 presents a series of projections for park demand for Grain Valley by 2050. Due to Grain Valley's levels of service falling below the recommended standard, these calculations utilize the recommended levels of service for each park type (see recommended column in Table 3.3). Furthermore, since these estimates serve as a benchmark grounded in the average growth scenario, if Grain Valley's population exceeds or does not meet projected demand, it is recommended these estimates be recalculated to portray actual demand.

## Neighborhood Parks

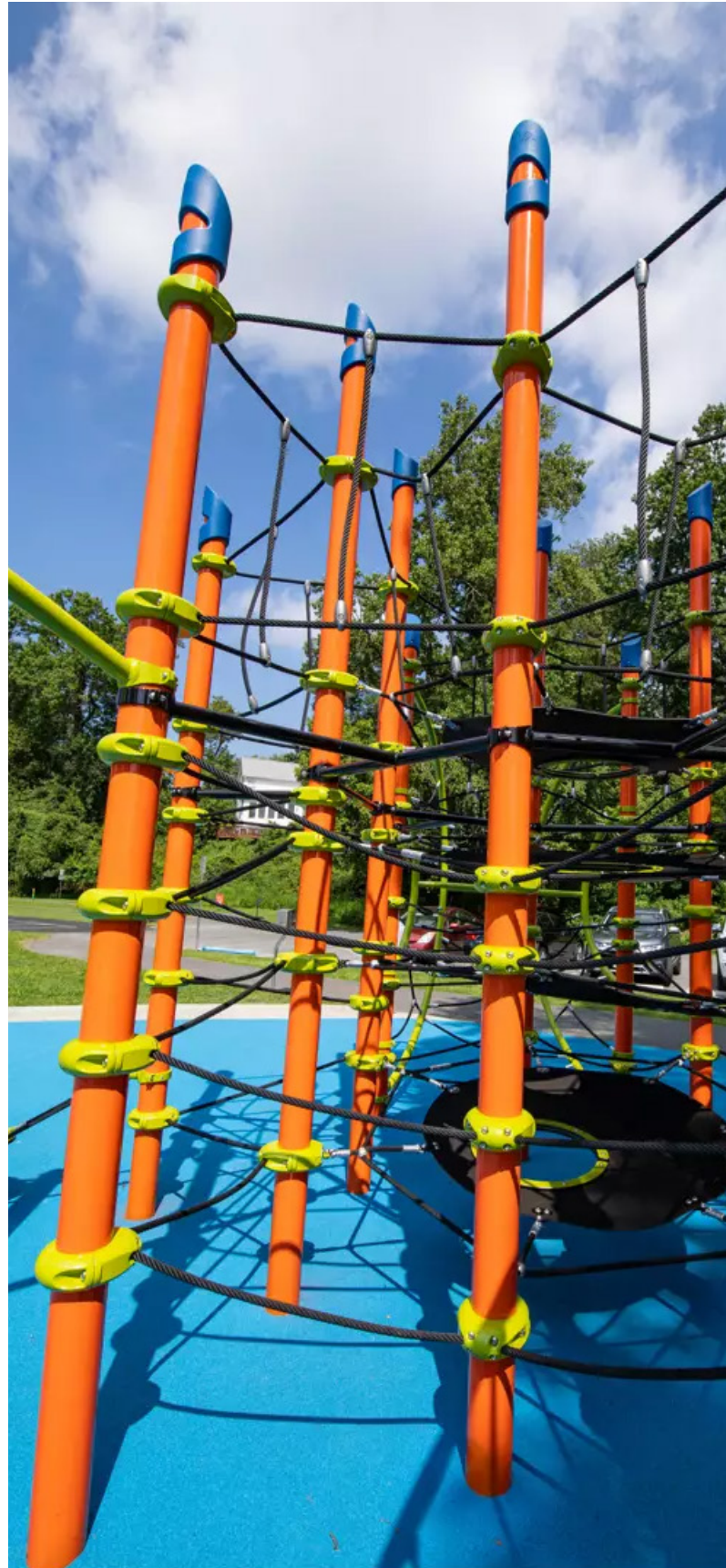
By 2050, it is estimated that Grain Valley will need approximately 76 acres of additional neighborhood parkland.

## Community Parks

By 2050, Grain Valley will likely need an additional 264 acres of land for community parks.

## Total Parks

By 2050, Grain Valley is estimated to need 346 total acres of parkland to service the projected 42,263 residents.



**Table 3.2** Average Growth Scenario Population Projections 2021-2050

Population Scenario	2021	2030	2040	2050
Average Growth Scenario	16,002	22,264	30,393	42,263

**Table 3.3** Estimated Parkland Demand 2030-2050

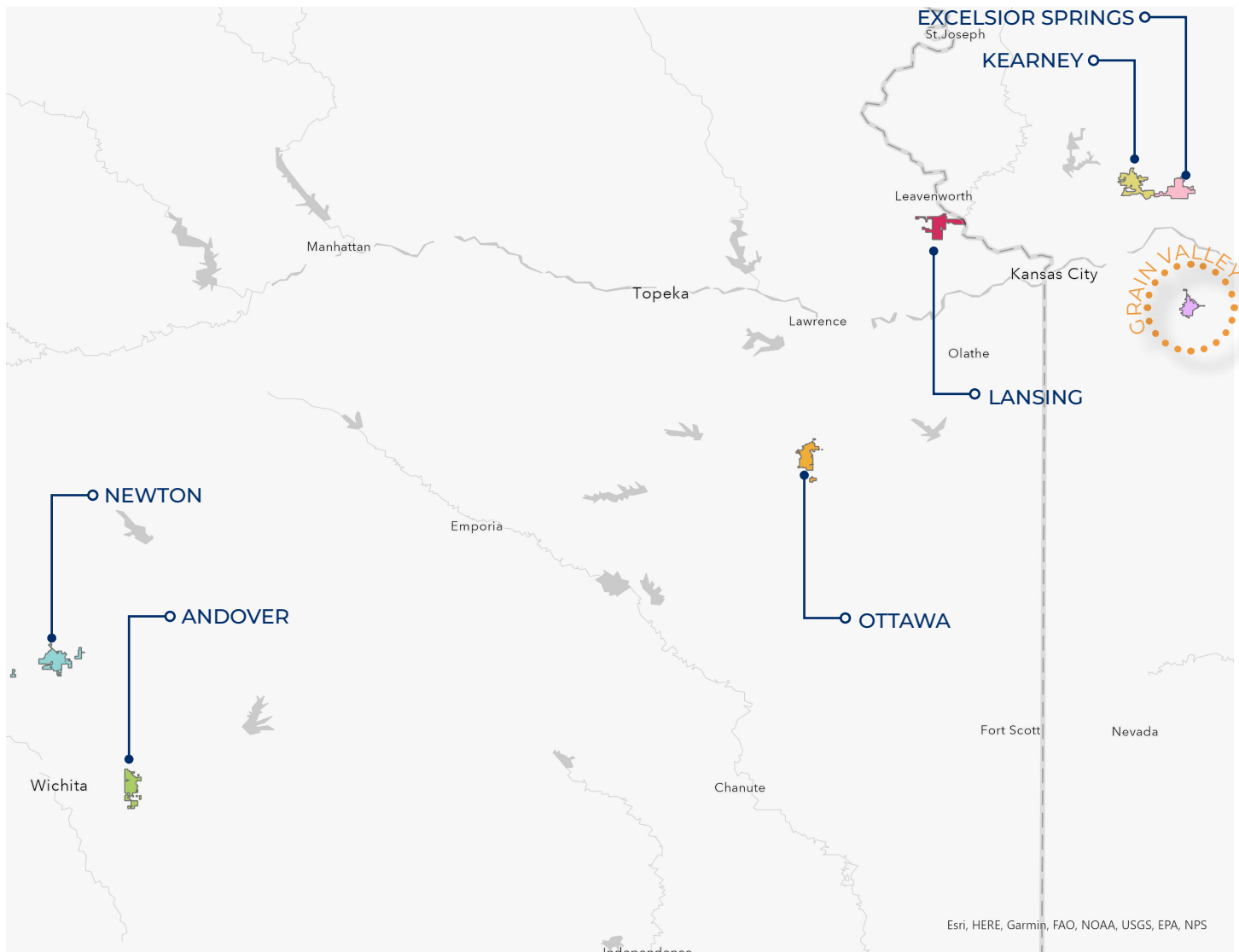
	Total	Recommended		
Existing Total Park Level of Service	5.3 acres/1,000	10.5 acres/1,000		
Neighborhood Park Level of Service	0.5 acres/1,000	2.0 acres/1,000		
Community Park Level of Service	3.8 acres/1,000	8.0 acres/1,000		
Neighborhood Park	Existing Acres	Total Acre Demand 2030	Total Acre Demand 2040	Total Acre Demand 2050
Average Growth Scenario 2050	8.6 acres	45 acres	61 acres	85 acres
<b>Neighborhood Park Needed Acres by 2050</b>	<b>Approximately 76 Acres</b>			
Community Park	Existing Acres	Total Acre Demand 2030	Total Acre Demand 2040	Total Acre Demand 2050
Average Growth Scenario 2050	60.6 acres	178 acres	243 acres	338 acres
<b>Community Park Needed Acres by 2050</b>	<b>Approximately 264 Acres</b>			
Total Park Acres	Existing Acres	Total Acre Demand 2030	Total Acre Demand 2040	Total Acre Demand 2050
Average Growth Scenario 2050	84.3 acres	234 acres	319 acres	444 acres
<b>Total Park Acres Needed by 2050</b>	<b>Approximately 346 Acres</b>			

# BENCHMARKING

## Parks Benchmarking

Another useful analysis of facilities and performance is a benchmark comparison with other similar communities. The planning team identified six comparable communities. Table 3.4 summarizes the data analyzed for each community. Even though not identical, the benchmarking exercise helps to understand how Grain Valley compares with other communities in relation to existing park acres and other profile metrics.

**Figure 3.6** Parks Benchmarking Location Reference Map





**Table 3.4** Parks Benchmarking

City	Population (2021 Estimates)	Land Locked Y/N	Existing Parkland/ Open Space (Acres)	Acres/1,000 Residents	Availability of Undeveloped Land within City Limits	Trails (Miles)
Grain Valley, MO	16,002	No	84.3	5.3	Yes	5.3
Excelsior Springs, MO	10,589	No	90.7	8.5	Yes	8.25
Lansing, KS	11,239	No	190.6	17	Yes	10
Kearney, MO	10,741	No	300	26.4	Yes	6.5 Hard/1.5 Soft
Ottawa, KS	12,604	No	100	7.95	Yes	6.5
Andover, KS	15,435	No	196	12.1	Yes	18
Newton, KS	18,433	No	670	36.7	Yes	7

Through this benchmarking exercise, it was determined that Grain Valley’s current park acreage, although lower than required per previous NRPA standards recommendation of 10.5 acres per thousand residents, still results in a viable park system because of its proximity and access to facilities in other nearby jurisdictions (i.e. Jackson County Parks, Monkey Mountain, private church organizations, school district sites, etc).



# EXISTING TRAILS

## Grain Valley's Trail System Today

Figure 3.8 shows the completed, planned, and proposed trails found throughout Grain Valley today. To-date, Grain Valley has 5.34 miles of completed trails that can be utilized by the public. There is an additional 13.45 miles of planned and proposed trails identified in Figure 3.8 as well.

The public input frequently highlighted the desire for additional trails and a more complete network throughout Grain Valley. By fully connecting the trail network, residents would have greater access to recreational amenities and the Walk-Time Analysis would likely improve to show broader accessibility and shorter walk-times.

Specific trail-related desires included:

- Construction of paved, multi-use paths.
- A trailhead for the greater network.
- Bike and pedestrian connections from neighborhoods to schools for safe routes for local students.
- Bike and pedestrian connections to Downtown.
- Stem the trail network from Butterfly and Blue Branch Trails as they are trail destinations within the community today.

## MetroGreen Regional Greenway System

The *MetroGreen* is a 1,144-mile system comprised of public and private greenbelts and trails linking seven Kansas City Metro counties, including Jackson County, Missouri. The trail system 'connects urban and rural green corridors' and 'protect and improve water quality in the region for the next 100 years' (MidAmerican Regional Council, 2023).

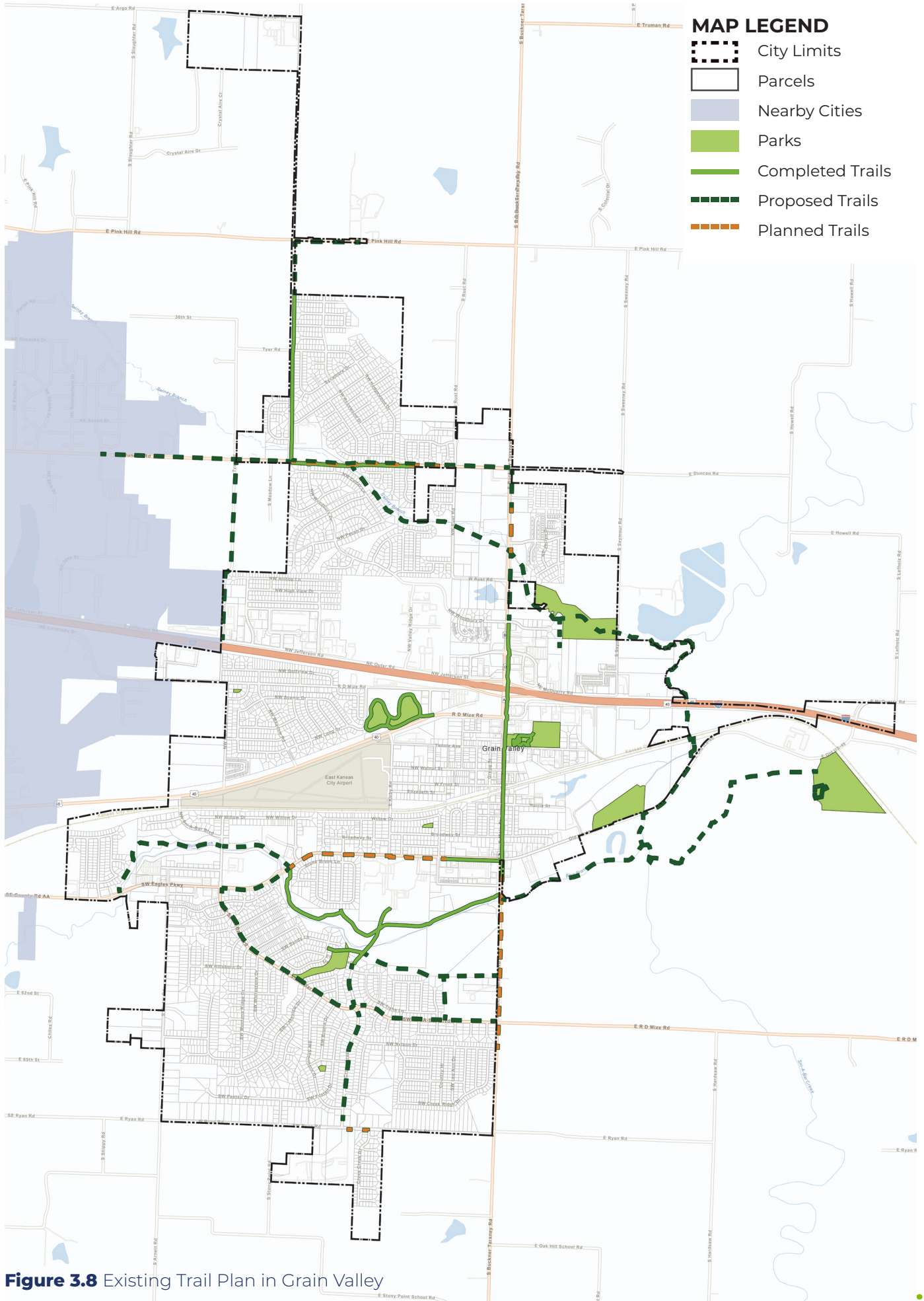
The adopted MetroGreen system map includes a small extent into Grain Valley, shown in Figure 3.7. Consideration for Grain Valley's role in the greater regional trail network should be considered as future trail alignments are determined.

**Table 3.5** Existing, Planned, and Proposed Trails

Trail Name	Length (miles)
<b>COMPLETED TRAILS</b>	
Armstrong Park Trail Loop	0.25 mi
Blue Branch Trail	1.24 mi
Blue Branch Trail Phase 2	0.47 mi
Buckner Tarsney Trail	1.14 mi
Butterfly Trail	0.85 mi
Dillingham Trail	0.58 mi
Duncan Trail	0.56 mi
SW Eagles Parkway Trail	0.25 mi
<b>PLANNED TRAILS</b>	
<b>PROPOSED TRAILS</b>	
<b>TOTAL POTENTIAL TRAIL NETWORK</b>	<b>21.79 MI</b>

**Figure 3.7** MetroGreen Trail Systems Map impacting Grain Valley





**Figure 3.8** Existing Trail Plan in Grain Valley

chapter

# FOUR

## planning for implementation

# OVERVIEW

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## General Recommendations

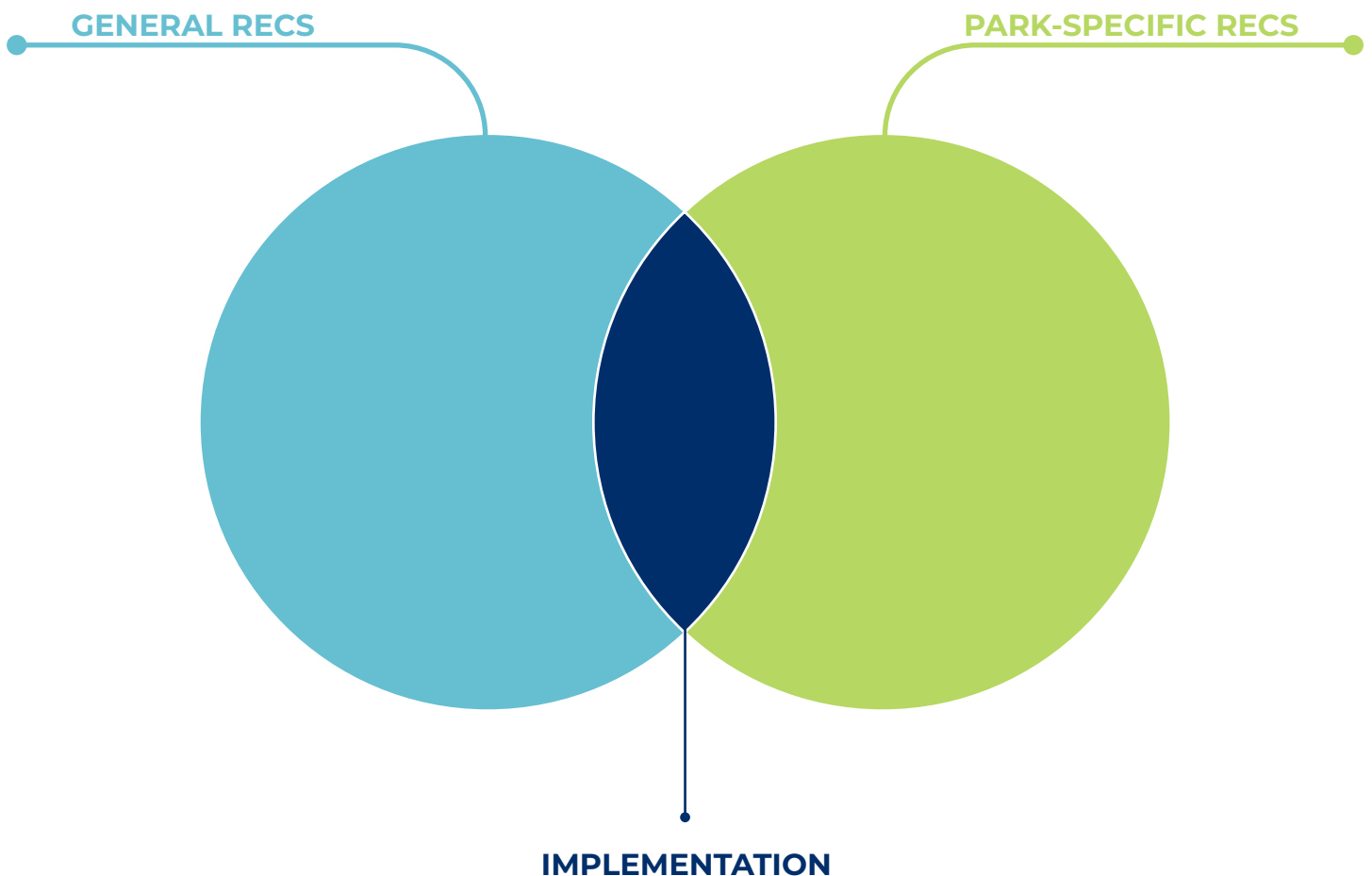
General recommendations are not park-specific but serve as a guide for the City of best management practices (BMPs) and blanket improvements that need to be made throughout the entire system. These recommendations capture everything from ADA improvements to adopting policy for parkland dedications.

## Park-Specific Recommendations

For each of the existing nine parks in Grain Valley, there are park-specific recommendations to guide their immediate and long-term improvement to better serve the community. Many of the recommendations are repeated from park-to-park but help in establishing a strong foundation for park amenities for future parks to build off of.

## Implementation

At the end of this chapter, there is a thorough matrix that identifies the above-mentioned recommendations, priority levels, and timeframes for implementation. This matrix is intended to help guide Capital Improvement Plan funding but also be quite adaptable to the ever-changing needs of the community. In the event that other City-led or supported improvements, such as street improvements or residential developments, are made, consideration for how parks and trails can be further integrated must be given.



# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## Community Center and Programs

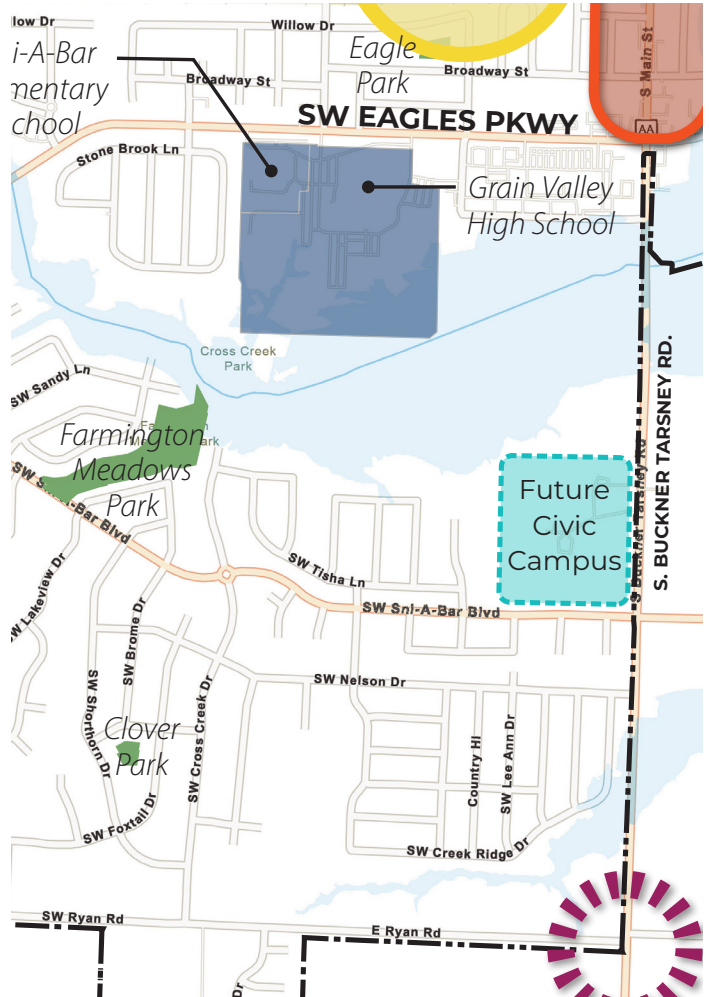
Grain Valley's existing Community Center is located adjacent to Armstrong Park and has a gym, fitness center, meeting room, reception room, and full commercial kitchen. The City operates an extensive year-round activity program for youth, adults, and seniors in the community. The current space provides easily accessible amenities and rental spaces to residents for a variety of events and programs.

Phase 2 of the Comprehensive and Parks Master Plan process highlighted a desire for adult wellness and fitness programs, community events, and a centralized location for parks and recreation amenities. Additional discussions with Staff and the Steering Committees identified the location shown in Figure 4.1 as a potential site for a civic campus or community center.

Based on these discussions and community desires, it is recommended that the City conduct a feasibility study to identify a defined location and timeline for constructing a new community center. The feasibility study should determine the size and funding capacity for the new community center and the appropriate amenities at the new center.

The programming for this activity center should consider expanded activities for adults not within the 'senior' threshold as these are limited today. Furthermore, amenities, such as more meeting rooms, technology services, and STEM rooms would be beneficial amenities to the community.

**Figure 4.1** Strategic Opportunities Map-Civic Campus Zoom

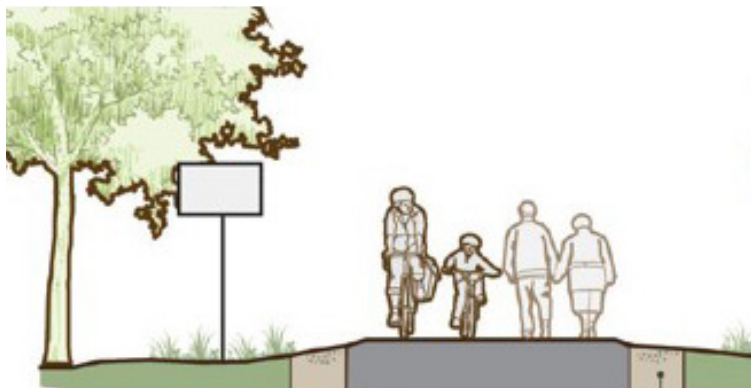
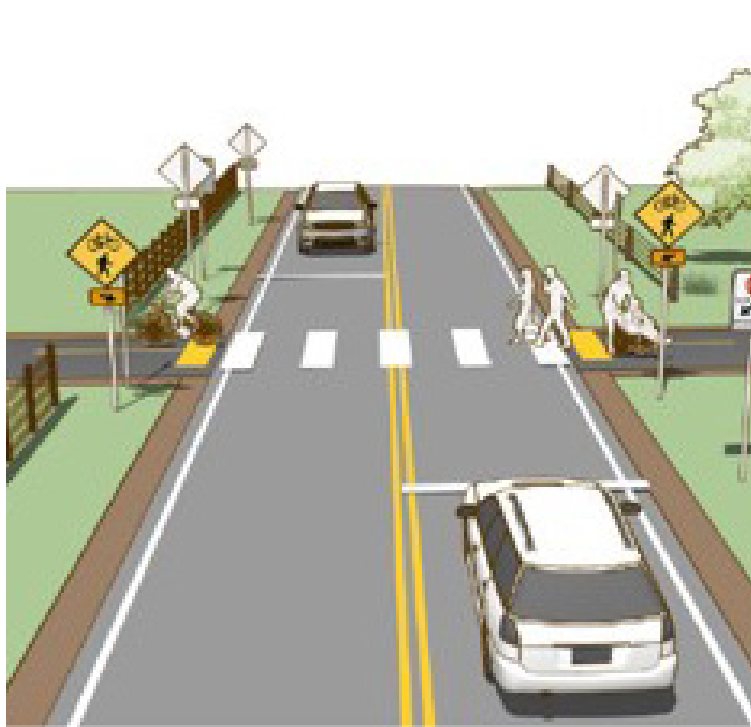


# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## Shared Use Paths

The City of Grain Valley should consider adopting standards for shared use paths throughout the community to establish a uniform appearance for pathways in the community and ensure appropriate land is set aside to meet space requirements. The following graphics illustrate potential standard features, such as raised crossings and pathway widths, that the City should consider when establishing this standard.

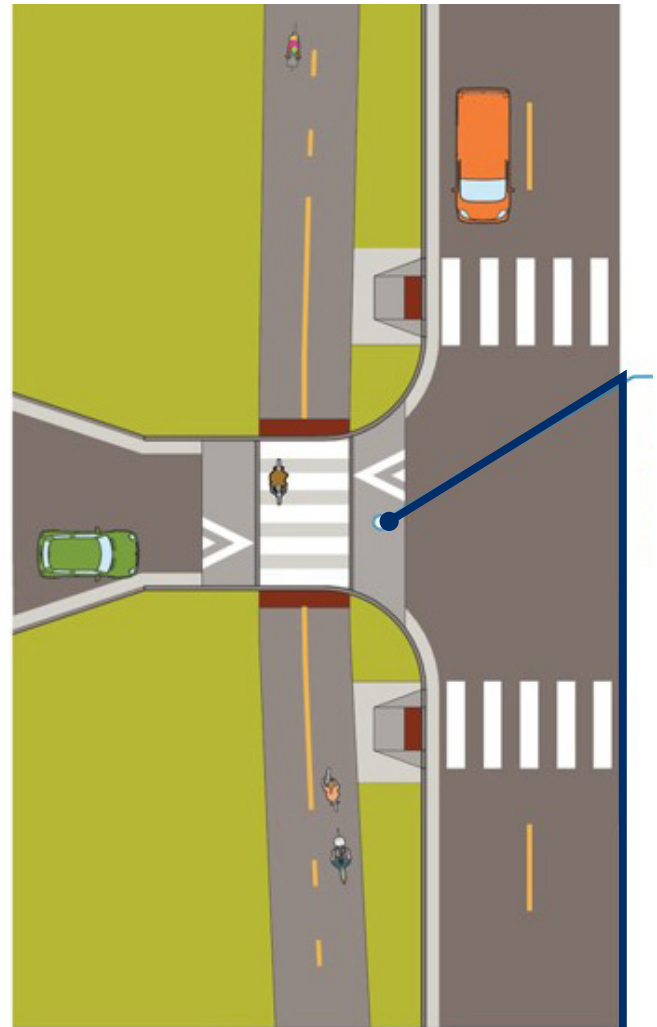
**Figure 4.2** Shared Use Path Features for Consideration



**Horizontal Clearance**  
2 ft (0.6 m)

**Shared Use Path**  
10-12 ft (3.0-3.6 m)

**Shoulder**  
2 ft (0.6 m)



**Raised crossings should be generally included when a shared use path crosses an Urban Neighborhood street and should be considered when crossing a Parkway.**

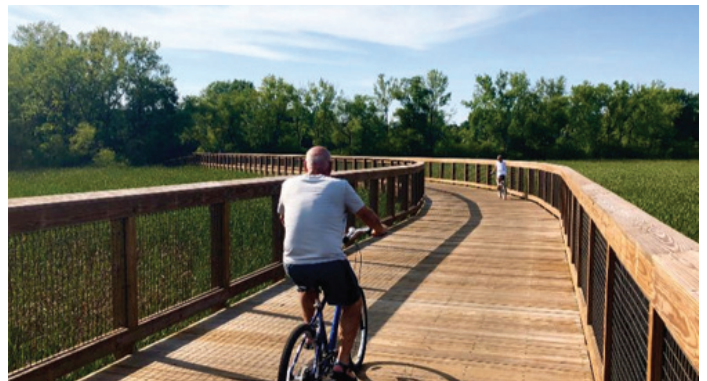
# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## Future Trails Plan

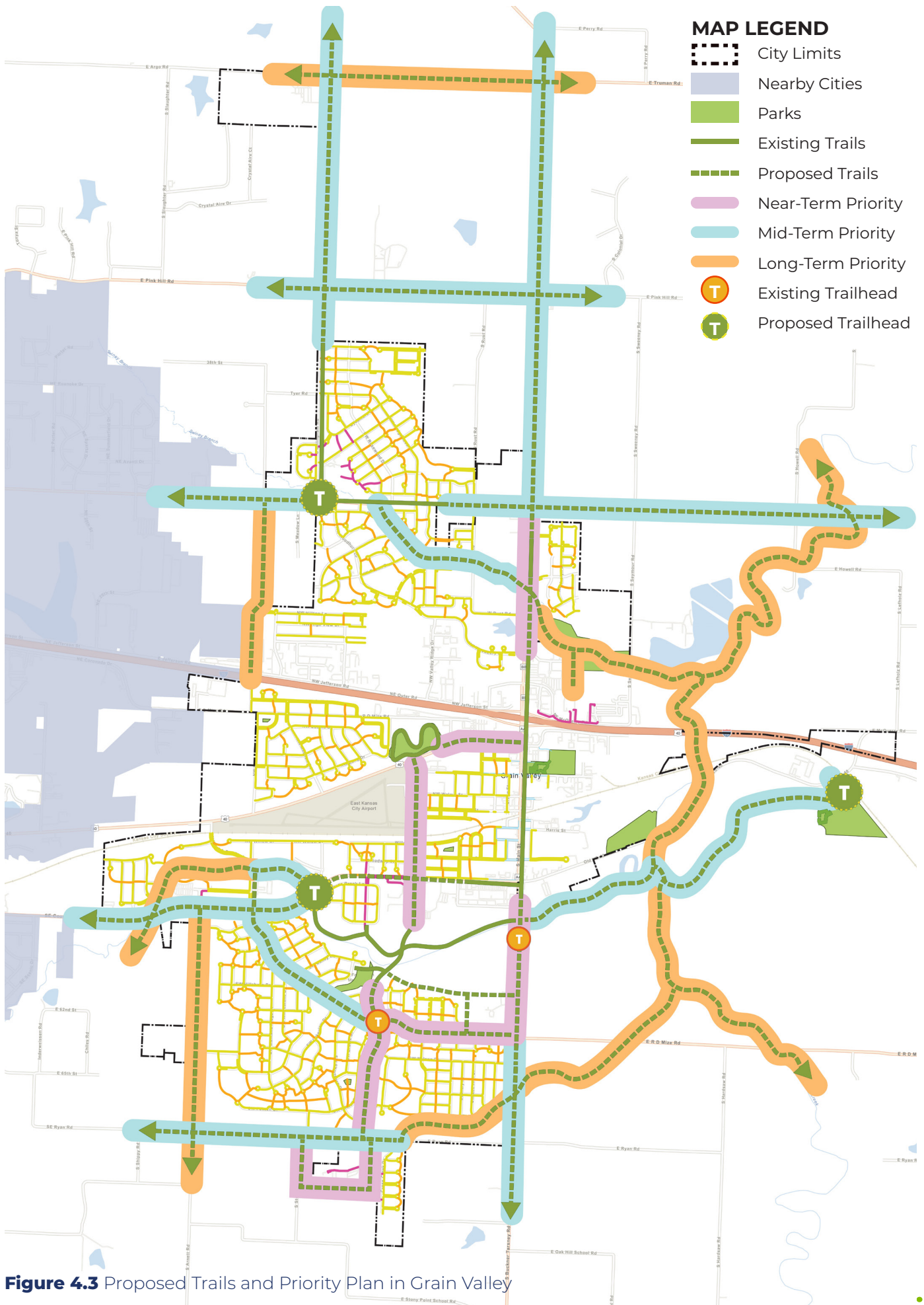
Figure 4.3 illustrates the Future Trails Plan and its prioritization of construction. This Plan leverages previous trail planning efforts by the City with feedback received from the Steering Committee and public to produce general locations for future trail alignments. As true construction becomes a closer reality, the City should standardize construction practices for trail widths, materials, and streetscaping to cater to a broad body of users.

## Priority of Construction

Not all of the proposed trails can be constructed immediately and therefore need some level of prioritization. The trails identified in pink highlight the near-term priority trails. These were determined for their alignments near existing trails or key amenities, such as schools or neighborhoods. Mid-term priority trails are highlighted in blue and provide extended linkages to existing and proposed trails to the regional network. Orange highlights the long-term trails that are bigger picture linkages and should be coordinated with neighboring communities.







**Figure 4.3** Proposed Trails and Priority Plan in Grain Valley

## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are intended to be applied to the entire parks and trails system of Grain Valley to secure the foundation of the parks system as it continues to grow and evolve. These are generally best management practices for the City to follow and consider in all parks and trail operations.

### PARKLAND DEDICATION

The City of Grain Valley should consider adopting a policy for parkland dedication or in-lieu-of-cash dedication for parks funding. This would ensure that all future developments in Grain Valley have access to adequate parkland or open space in the community. To bridge the parkland gaps for the underserved areas of the community, the City should also seek out near-term improvements to alleviate the need and enhance the overall parks system.

The text to the right provides framework and standards for a draft parkland dedication ordinance for the City of Grain Valley. Currently, none of Grain Valley's benchmark cities (used for the other comparison analyses in Chapter 3) have parkland dedication ordinances or impact fees adopted. Grain Valley would be setting the standard and expectation for its neighboring communities to follow as best practice for providing ample parkland for its current and future residents.

When a subdivision plat for new single-family development is proposed, or a site plan/building permit is submitted for a new multi-family development, a parkland dedication ordinance would ensure that these new developments support the health, safety, and welfare of future residents by providing land for public parks or park facilities.

### what could successful implementation look like?



- The City of Grain Valley adopts a parkland dedication ordinance that ensures all future residential developments include parkland for future residents.
- The City of Grain Valley adopts an in-lieu-of-cash dedication to ensure there is land set aside for parkland in all new developments.
- In all new residential developments within the community, there is parkland set aside, with a plan for programming, to ensure residents are within walking distance to a park from their home.

## PARKLAND DEDICATION ORDINANCE

FOR THE CITY OF GRAIN VALLEY



# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## Standard for Public Parkland Per Resident

The desired standard for the amount of parkland is 10.0-acres per 1,000 residents or 0.01 acres of parkland per resident. Based on the estimated number of 2.7 residents per dwelling unit the following calculations can be applied for new residential developments.

***(Number of lots or dwelling units) x (2.7 residents) x (0.01 acres/resident) = required parkland dedication***

For example, a 100-lot single-family subdivision would be required to dedicate 2.7 acres of parkland.  $(100 \text{ lots}) \times (2.7 \text{ residents}) \times (0.01 \text{ acres/resident}) = 2.7 \text{ acres}$

## Parkland Dedication Minimum Design Standards

Land dedicated for parkland shall be located within the same park service area, as identified in the City's Parks Master Plan, in which the subject development is located. The specific location of the land to be dedicated shall be acceptable to the City and shall be located and planned with future parkland dedications to create a neighborhood park site that will be no less than 7 acres in size.

All land to be dedicated to meet this parkland dedication requirement shall be useable park space and shall not be located within any floodplain, shall not contain any areas for stormwater detention, and shall have cross slopes no greater than 5%. The dedicator of parkland shall be responsible for rough grading, stabilization, and seeding of the parkland and providing paved public street access, sanitary sewer services, and water service to the property.

## Alternatives to Dedication of Parkland

When all or a portion of the required parkland cannot be dedicated, the developer shall construct or otherwise complete park improvements within the park service area equal to the value of the required parkland dedication. The value of the required parkland dedication shall be based on the fair market value of the land that would otherwise be dedicated. The fair market value of the land shall be determined by a method approved by the City, such as an appraisal from certified land appraiser or the price of a recent land sale. The value of the proposed park improvements shall also be determined by a method approved by the City, such as a licensed engineer's cost opinion or written quote from an independent contractor. Subject to approval by the City, park improvements may include construction and installation of trails, parking lots, playground equipment, park shelters, tennis courts, basketball courts, ball fields and appurtenances, and landscaping and the dedication of land or easements necessary for planned trails. The developer shall provide written proof of the land's value and written estimates of the costs of the park improvements. The City may further allow a portion of the parkland dedication requirement be satisfied by the dedication of greenways and stream buffers as may be desired by the City. Because this land has a reduced value as neighborhood park space, the following dedication conversation rate should be applied: 1-acre of greenway or stream buffer dedicated to the City shall be equivalent and worth 0.10-acre of required parkland.

## Cash-in-Lieu

In lieu of dedicating parkland or constructing park improvements as detailed above, the City may permit the developer to make a cash payment to cover the fair market value of all or a portion of the dedication requirement.

# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## ADA ACCESSIBILITY

Many of the existing park facilities do not meet ADA accessibility requirements and should be high-priority for immediate improvement. ADA improvements would improve access to park spaces for all users, regardless of age or ability. Consideration for a universal playground should be given as part of this general recommendation to enhance the system with a dedicated space for park users with varying needs for mobility and play.



## NATIONAL PARKS AND RECREATION ASSOCIATION

### *Principles of Inclusive Playground Design*

- 1 Equitable Use**  
The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
- 2 Flexibility in Use**  
The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
- 3 Simple and Intuitive Use**  
Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of user's experience, knowledge, language skills or current concentration level.
- 4 Perceptible Information**  
The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
- 5 Tolerance for Error**  
The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
- 6 Low Physical Effort**  
The design can be used efficiently and comfortably, and with minimum fatigue.
- 7 Size and Space for Approach/Use**  
Appropriate size and space are provided for approach, reach, manipulation and use, regardless of the user's body size, posture or mobility.

Source: NRPA, *Principles of Inclusive Playground Design*, 2022

# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

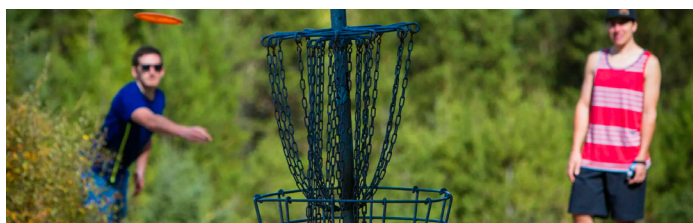
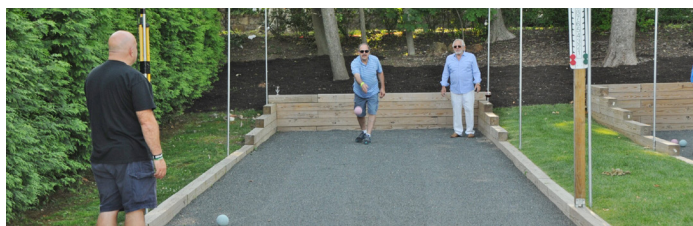
## VARIETY AND UPDATED PLAY ELEMENTS

As part of the existing conditions analysis for this Parks Master Plan, it was identified that a majority of the playground equipment at the parks today need updated. Due to this blanket need for improvement, the Grain Valley parks have a unique opportunity to be redefined with creative and themed play spaces. In addition to the themed spaces, incorporation of age inclusive amenities, such as bocce ball, pickleball, disc golf, splash pads, and volleyball courts, should be included.

### what could successful implementation look like?



- Each park in Grain Valley's system is known for its unique amenities and identity.



# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## PARK FACILITY IDENTITY

The public input from Phase 2 of the Comprehensive and Parks Master Plans identified a desire for increased awareness and wayfinding for the parks throughout the community as a top priority. Many participants indicated that they were unfamiliar with all of the available parks in Grain Valley today and this could be remediated with a wayfinding package. Facility identity is needed throughout the parks system. This ranges from entry signage/wayfinding to shelters and furnishings. The City should establish a set of guidelines to direct future improvements for these elements.

### what could successful implementation look like?



- The City of Grain Valley adopts a wayfinding signage package to establish a clear identity.
- Each park in Grain Valley has uniform entry signage.
- There is signage throughout the community directing residents and visitors to the local amenities.



# GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

## CONNECTIVE TRAIL NETWORK

The most frequently mentioned parks and recreation amenity throughout Phase 2 was the need for improved trail connectivity in Grain Valley. Additional feedback tied to trail improvements included connections to parks, improving existing sidewalks with access to parks, and connections to adjacent parks and trails from surrounding communities. The City of Grain Valley should follow the Future Trails Plan identified earlier in this chapter for the ultimate construction of a regional trail system.

### what could successful implementation look like?



- The Future Trails Plan is fully built-out.
- There is an increase in total existing trail miles.
- Existing trail gaps have been filled and improved connections are provided for trail users.



## GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

# EXTEND PARK STAYS

There is a need to provide restroom facilities and water fountains at some parks in the Grain Valley system to extend the stay of park visitors. These two key amenities will allow both children and adults to stay and enjoy the park facilities for much longer time periods, while also potentially increasing programming opportunities.



### what could successful implementation look like?



- All community parks have updated restroom facilities.
- Major special use parks or key neighborhood parks have restrooms on-site.
- All community parks have at least one water fountain.
- If a dog park is constructed in Grain Valley, there are water fountains with dog bowl extensions.

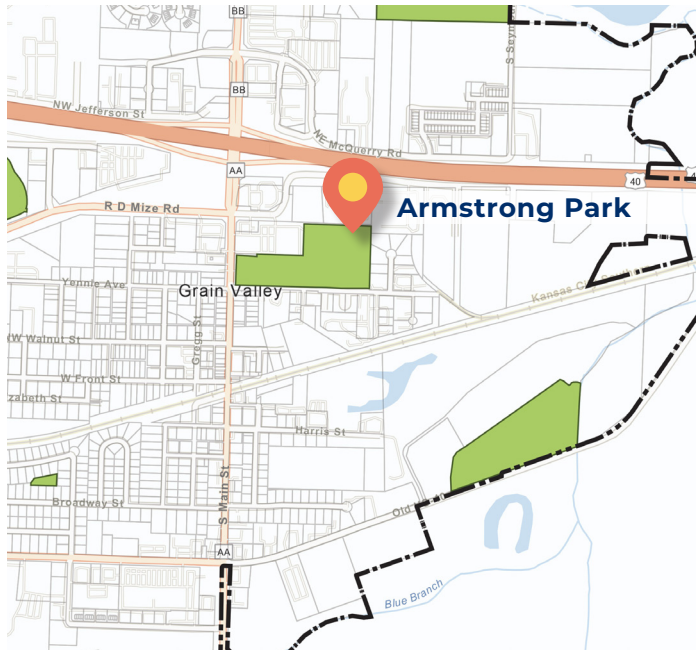




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## PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

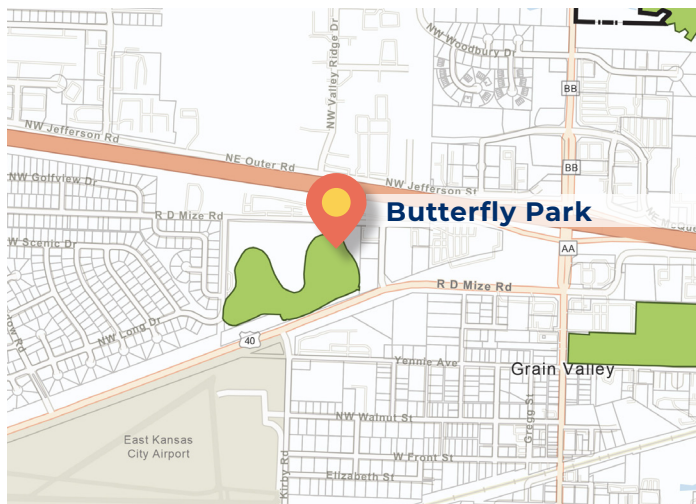
# ARMSTRONG PARK



### what improvements are needed?

- Provide ADA and sidewalk access to all picnic areas, benches, grills, etc.
- Repair and replace any non-compliant pavement and widen sidewalks to a minimum of 6-foot-wide.
- Update and enhance all existing on-site, park shelters.
- Update playground and surfacing to be fully inclusive and accessible to all.
- Improve access to bleachers and dugouts from the parking areas and perform general upgrades to the baseball fields for improved play and spectating.
- Incorporate more age-diverse amenities.
- Incorporate a splash pad into the adjacent aquatic facilities for equitable access.

# BUTTERFLY PARK

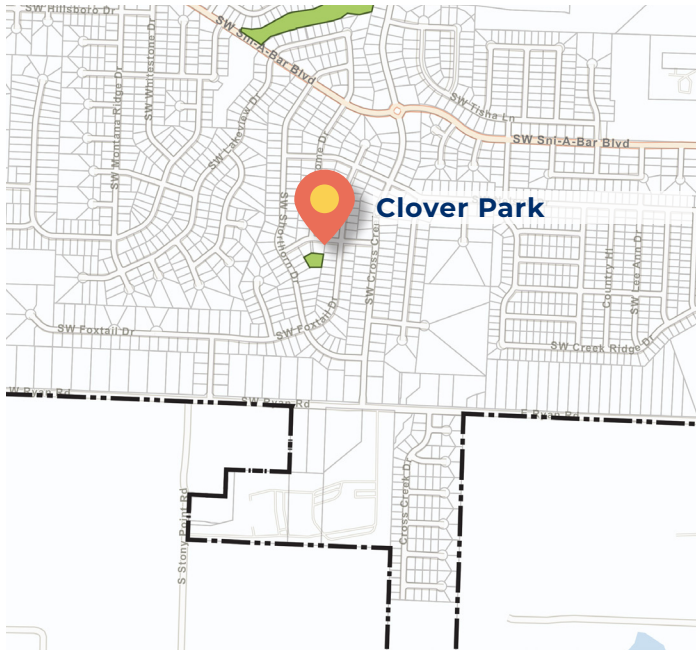


### what improvements are needed?

- Consider locations to incorporate a park shelter and grill area to support extended visits and park usage.
- Locate additional amenities closer to the parking lot.
- Incorporate pond amenities, such as docks, boardwalks, and other amenities that bring visitors closer to the water's edge.
- Consider opportunities for native planting rain gardens, pollinator gardens, and planted detention basins for improved stormwater infrastructure.

## PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

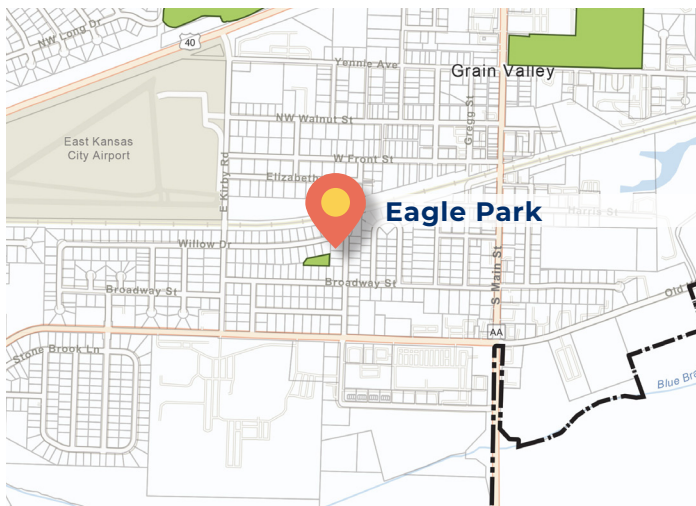
### CLOVER PARK



#### what improvements are needed?

- Construct a pedestrian pathways to amenities within the park.
- Update the playground into a single pad that has accessible surfacing and connect it back to the walking loop.
- Install benches at the playground and volleyball court with companion seating.
- Install a sand volleyball court with a maintenance edge.
- Provide smaller amenities, such as yard games or exercise stations, for resident usage.

### EAGLE PARK



#### what improvements are needed?

- Maintain quality of the park for the neighboring residences and greater community.
- Include updated seating elements.

## PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

# FARMINGTON MEADOWS PARK



### what improvements are needed?

- Provide an ADA ramp to access the adjacent neighborhood trail.
- Investigate how to incorporate docks, boardwalks, and other pond-amenities for residents of all abilities to access the edge of the water.

# FOOTBALL COMPLEX



### what improvements are needed?

- Identify a plan to either maintain the Football Complex as-is or relocate to a new site in the community for updated football amenities.
- Consider updating all lighting throughout the complex, upgrade the stand-alone bleachers, and the PA system.
- Construct paved walking paths throughout the complex.
- Pave the parking lot for better accessibility.
- Improve access to restrooms, concessions, and drinking fountains for all users.
- Consider opportunities to reduce flood impact on adjacent properties as parking lot and other surface improvements are completed.

## PARK-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

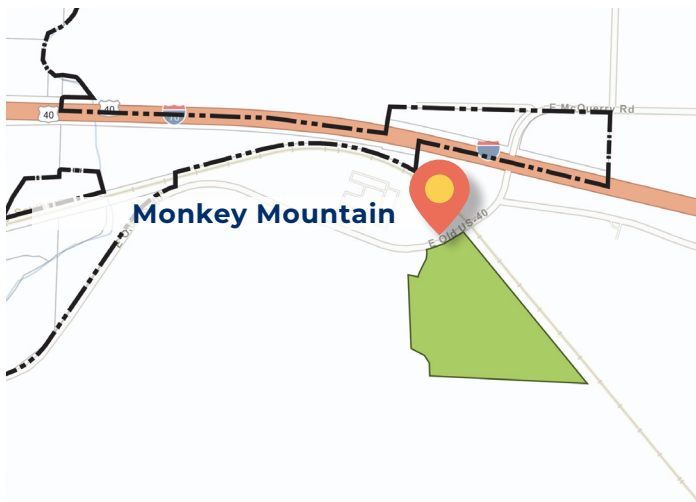
### KIRBY PARK



#### what improvements are needed?

- Provide better access from neighborhoods with sidewalks and pathways to the park's amenities.
- Update the basketball court, grills, and benches.

### MONKEY MOUNTAIN



#### what improvements are needed?


- Provide accessible pathways to all fields, covered seating areas, playgrounds, and other park amenities.
- Investigate routing a loop trail throughout the park for additional trail connections.
- Establish long-term coordination plans to provide a trailhead at the park and connect into the MetroGreen trail network.
- Expand amenity offerings and to provide more recreation opportunities to a broader community of user groups.
- Pave overflow parking lot for better accessibility and trail connectivity.
- Explore the expansion of park programming at Monkey Mountain to accommodate programs from Football Complex as the lifespan of that facility diminishes in the future due to ongoing flooding issues.

# IMPLEMENTATION

## Planning for Implementation

In order to accomplish each of the park-specific tasks identified within this chapter, a matrix of priorities and timeframes has been created. Each park's tasks are given a low, medium, or high priority based on public feedback and level of importance to completion. Parks Master Plans typically have a horizon year of ten years and therefore, the timeframes for this Plan are broken down into increments of 1-3 years, 3-6 years, and 6-10 years. Table 5.1 illustrates an example of the matrices found throughout the rest of this chapter.

**Table 5.1** Implementation Matrix for Park-Specific Recommendations

No.	Goal/Policy/Action Item	Priority Level	Timeframe	Potential Partners
<b>G1. Goals are objectives or aims which may be broad or specific.</b>				
<b>P 1.1.1</b>	Policies represent ongoing principles by which the City should adhere to when approving new development or planning future investments.			
<b>A 1.1.1</b>	Action items are specific steps the City should take.			

**Priority Level:**

Each action is assigned a priority level for implementation based on time sensitivity. These are identified on a scale from low to high with the symbols below.

- Low
- Medium
- High

**Timeframe:**

The length of time anticipated for a given action item to be completed. Below are the symbols for short, mid, long-term, and ongoing.

- Short-term
- Mid-term
- Ongoing

**Potential Partners:**

Organizations, government bodies, and other entities that will help make a policy or action item possible.

## IMPLEMENTATION

No.	Task	Priority Level	Timeframe	Potential Partners
<b>Armstrong Park</b>				
1.1	Provide ADA and sidewalk access to all picnic areas, benches, grills, etc.	High	Short-term	MARC
1.2	Repair and replace any non-compliant pavement and widen sidewalks to a minimum of 6-foot-wide.	High	Short-term	MARC
1.3	Update and enhance all existing on-site, park shelters.	High	Short-term	Grants
1.4	Update playground and surfacing to be fully inclusive and accessible to all.	High	Short-term	Grants
1.5	Improve access to bleachers and dugouts from the parking areas and perform general upgrades to the baseball fields for improved play and spectating.	Medium	Mid-term	Grants
1.6	Incorporate more age-diverse amenities.	Low	Ongoing	MARC
1.7	Incorporate a splash pad into the adjacent aquatic facilities for equitable access.	Low	Long-term	Grants
<b>Butterfly Park</b>				
2.1	Consider locations to incorporate a park shelter and grill area to support extended visits and park usage.	High	Short-term	Grants
2.2	Locate additional amenities closer to the parking lot.	High	Short-term	
2.3	Incorporate pond amenities, such as docks, boardwalks, and other amenities that bring visitors closer to the water's edge.	Medium	Mid-term	
2.4	Consider opportunities for native planting rain gardens, pollinator gardens, and planted detention basins for improved stormwater infrastructure.	Medium	Short-term	MO Dept of Conservation

## IMPLEMENTATION

No.	Task	Priority Level	Timeframe	Potential Partners
<b>Clover Park</b>				
3.1	Construct a pedestrian pathways to amenities within the park.	Low	Long-term	Grants
3.2	Update the playground into a single pad that has accessible surfacing and connect it back to the walking loop.	Low	Long-term	Grants
3.3	Install benches at the playground and volleyball court with companion seating.	Medium	Short-term	
3.4	Install a sand volleyball court with a maintenance edge.	Low	Long-term	
3.5	Provide smaller amenities, such as yard games or exercise stations, for resident usage.	Low	Long-term	
<b>Eagle Park</b>				
4.1	Maintain quality of the park for the neighboring residences and greater community.	Low	Long-term	
4.2	Include updated seating elements.	Medium	Mid-term	
<b>Farmington Meadows Park</b>				
5.1	Provide an ADA ramp to access the adjacent neighborhood trail.	Completed	Completed	Completed
5.2	Investigate how to incorporate docks, boardwalks, and other pond-amenities for residents of all abilities to access the edge of the water.	Low	Long-term	
<b>Football Complex</b>				
6.1	Identify a plan to either maintain the Football Complex as-is or relocate to a new site in the community for updated football amenities.	Medium	Long-term	
6.2	Consider updating all lighting throughout the complex, upgrade the stand-alone bleachers, and the PA system.	Low	Long-term	
6.3	Construct paved walking paths throughout the complex.	Medium	Long-Term	Grants
6.4	Pave the parking lot for better accessibility.	High	Mid-term	
6.5	Improve access to restrooms, concessions, and drinking fountains for all users.	Medium	Mid-term	MARC
6.6	Consider opportunities to reduce flood impact on adjacent properties as parking lot and other surface improvements are completed.	High	Mid-term	



## IMPLEMENTATION

No.	Task	Priority Level	Timeframe	Potential Partners
<b>Kirby Park</b>				
<b>7.1</b>	Provide better access from neighborhoods with sidewalks and pathways to the park's amenities.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	
<b>7.2</b>	Investigate routing a loop trail throughout the park for additional trails connections.	<b>Low</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	
<b>7.3</b>	Identify a viable location for a small park shelter.	<b>Low</b>	<b>Long-term</b>	
<b>Monkey Mountain</b>				
<b>8.1</b>	Provide accessible pathways to all fields, covered seating areas, playgrounds, and other park amenities.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	
<b>8.2</b>	Investigate routing a loop trail throughout the park for additional trail connections.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	Grants
<b>8.3</b>	Establish long-term coordination plans to provide a trailhead at the park and connect into the MetroGreen trail network.	<b>High</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	MARC, Jackson County
<b>8.4</b>	Expand amenity offerings and to provide more recreation opportunities to a broader community of user groups.	<b>High</b>	<b>Mid-term</b>	Grants
<b>8.5</b>	Pave overflow parking lot for better accessibility and trail connectivity.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Short-term</b>	
<b>8.6</b>	Explore the expansion of park programming at Monkey Mountain to accommodate programs from Football Complex as the lifespan of that facility diminishes in the future due to ongoing flooding issues.	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Mid-term</b>	

