



The Knoxville-Knox County



Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan



December 2009

Prepared by the Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission

The Knoxville-Knox County Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan

As Amended through November 2011

(See the List of Amendments of the back of this page.)

Adopted by:

The Knoxville-Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission on December 10, 2009

The Knox County Commission on January 25, 2010

The Knoxville City Council on January 26, 2010, and amended on January 25, 2011

Prepared by the Metropolitan Planning Commission for the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department and the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department

Prepared for:

The City of Knoxville, Tennessee, Bill Haslam, Mayor

Knox County, Tennessee, Mike Ragsdale, Mayor

List of Amendments:

April 2011: This plan was amended by the adoption of the Inskip Small Area Plan. Additions were made to pages 39-40 and the map on page 22 was updated.

November 2011: This plan was amended by the adoption of the South City Sector Plan. The text on page 42 was changed to match the sector plan text and the maps on pages 22 and 43 were updated.

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Mission Statements

The mission of the Knoxville Parks and Recreation Department is to provide a safe and fun environment for all citizens to recreate and enjoy their leisure time. We strive to promote healthy lifestyles and character building activities for people of all ages by making available adult and youth organized athletics, passive parks, greenway trails, special events, and recreational facilities with a variety of programs.

The mission of the Knox County Park and Recreation Department is to provide and preserve quality parks with recreation opportunities for all.



I. Introduction

Purpose

This document marks the first time that the city of Knoxville and Knox County have created a comprehensive plan for parks, recreation and greenway trails. The purpose of this long range master plan is to meet the park and recreation facility needs of the Knoxville and Knox County population that is projected reach 525,940 by 2030. Additionally, it is a priority of this plan to conserve open spaces within Knox County including critical natural features such as streams, rivers and forested areas.

This plan is a component of the *Knoxville-Knox County General Plan* with its accompanying sector plans and is also an update of the following documents: *Knoxville Parks, Greenways, & Open Space Resource Inventory, 1999*; *The Knoxville Greenways & Community Trails Commission Report, 1992*; *Knox County Park and Recreation Facility Plan, 1998*; and the *Knox County Greenways Plan, 1994*. The intent is to provide a connected and

cohesive system of parks and recreation facilities throughout the city and the county. Many of the issues noted in the previous plans are still germane, including: the provision of recreational facilities for seniors as the baby boomer generation reaches retirement age; diminishing land resources for parks due to rapid growth; and the public desire to protect open spaces, ridges, stream corridors and valleys.

Scope and Contents

The park and recreation system in Knoxville and Knox County has about 6,000 acres of usable park land (this does not include acreage that is currently under water along lakes and streams; it also reduces school sites to land dedicated to recreation purposes). It is important to note that there are two incorporated areas within Knox County, the city of Knoxville and the town of Farragut. The town of Farragut is in the southwest portion of Knox County, encompassing about 16 square miles and

has a separate governmental structure (Mayor and Aldermen), including its own parks and recreation department. For the purpose of this plan the existing parks, recreation and greenway facilities in Farragut have been included as resources for the public but recommendations for future facilities are limited to resources that Knox County would provide.

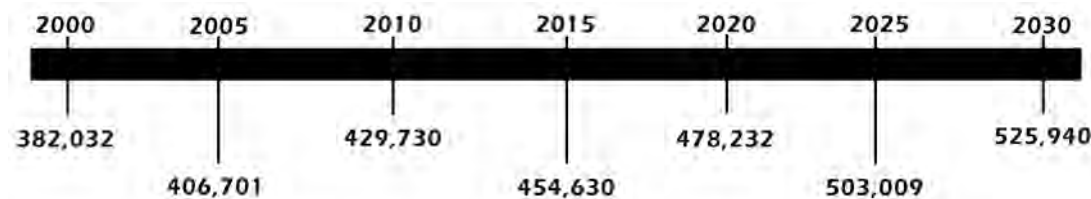
The existing conditions of these facilities were inventoried by staff of the Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC), Knoxville Parks and Recreation and Knox County Parks and Recreation over a twelve month period in order to assess the type and condition of each facility in the system¹. Additionally, citizen and user needs were evaluated through a variety of surveys and multiple public meetings.

Park System History and Growth

The city of Knoxville was incorporated in 1815; some 24 years after James White signed the Treaty of the Holston that opened Knox County to settlers from the original states. It was not until 1872 that the first park, Circle Park, was donated to the city by John K. Payne starting the public park system. Circle Park has since been assimilated into the

Knox County Population Projections, 2005-2030

Based on moderate growth scenario



¹The background material for this plan includes a survey of all the existing parks, recreation centers, and greenways and is available at the MPC Library.

University of Tennessee's campus and is currently a planted open space. In 1929 when the city hired Harland Bartholomew and Associates to do a comprehensive plan for the entire city, there were 92 acres of park land in the system.

While the 1929 plan calls for the increase of park land and the creation of pleasure drives linking these spaces together the city had little time to implement this plan before the Great Depression. As part of the Federal Government's response to the Great Depression, the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created in 1933: "a corporation clothed with the power of government but possessed of the flexibility and initiative of a private enterprise."² TVA was charged with power production, enabling navigation, flood control, malaria prevention, reforestation, and erosion control. Additionally, TVA's land acquisition and creation of dam's for hydroelectric power created water resources for



The development of Talabi, with its fountain, set the tone for the creation of Sequoyah Park.

²<http://www.tva.gov/abouttva/history.htm>

boating, canoeing, fishing and swimming. TVA also established demonstration parks next to their water resources and in 1941 Sequoyah Park was created after the Fort Loudoun Dam was established. This park is still in existence today and is one of Knoxville and Knox County's gems along the Tennessee River. Additionally, TVA has been instrumental in setting aside areas which have protected forests, lake shores and bluffs near the lakes. Examples include the park land on Keller Bend, Badgett Road, Rogers Island Road and Wrights Ferry Road.

After World War II and the creation of the interstate system, many cities suffered from dwindling populations because of the allure of suburban homes. Knoxville was no exception. These larger lots away from the hustle and bustle of the city provided opportunities for children to play in their own backyards. These trends led to a decreased demand for parks in the central city neighborhoods and increased demand for community and regional parks. By the 1960s, recognizing the decline of cities, the Federal Government began urban renewal projects to revitalize the heart of cities providing funding for a variety of projects including neighborhood recreation centers and parks. Morningside Park, just east of downtown Knoxville, is one example. Federal matching grants were also used in the 1970s to acquire land for park purposes including: Powell Levi Park, New Carter Park and Nicholas Ball Park. During the 1980s these federal funds dwindled and with the increasing cost of land, especially in the city, park land acquisition was limited.

In addition to public funding of parks, many community associations provide park space and recreation services. Thorngrove Community Park was one of the first parks created by a community group. That community spirit increased dramatically in the 1960s when Halls Community Park, Kimberlin Heights Park, Karns Community Park, Ball Camp Community Park and Gibbs Ruritan Park were established. Communities continue to help to maintain extensive recreation programs especially in suburban and rural communities.

Another element of recreation is supplied by the town of Farragut. The development of parks, green space, pedestrian links and leisure opportunities are essential to the town's mission. Since its incorporation in 1980, the town has created and maintained Anchor Park, Mayor Bob Leonard Park and Campbell Station Park. Furthermore, the town has implemented requirements for the development of greenway trails with the creation of new subdivisions.



Morningside Park

In 1985, the Department of Recreation for Knox County officially became the Knox County Parks and Recreation Department recognizing the need for both recreation programs and a comprehensive park system. The 1990s saw the development of Knoxville's and Knox County's greenway system, both governments put together plans and strategies for the development of greenways throughout the county. Another element of the 1994 Knox County Greenways Plan was the creation of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board which was created to oversee the development of the park system.

In preparing the Knoxville Knox County General Plan in 1990, it was found that the City and County were deficient in park space, in terms of recognized standards and in relation to peer metropolitan areas. Goals were established to shore up the deficiencies in parks and protect natural areas. The results, which are the result of public and private contributions, have been remarkable.



The addition of a skate park provides a public space for users to practice this growing sport.

Approximately three thousand acres have been acquired or identified for protection as parks and conservation areas. That success story includes:

- Beverly Park
- Clayton Park
- Danny Mayfield Park
- French Memorial Park
- Forks of the River Park
- Forts Higley and Stanley
- Harvest Park
- Holston River Park
- Meade Quarry addition at Ijams Nature Center
- Northwest Sports Park
- Plumb Creek Park
- Powell Station Park
- Three Ridges Golf Course
- Tommy Schumpert Park
- Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge
- Victor Ashe Park
- Walker Springs Park
- William Hastie Park

Greenway implementation has been notable. The Bearden, First Creek, Neyland, Pellissippi, Powell, Sequoyah, Sterchi, Ten Mile, Third Creek, and Will Skelton Greenways are among the most prominent in connecting the system.

Additionally, the city and county have been collaborating on the Knox Blount Greenway that involves several local municipalities and the state. With the success of these previous planning efforts, the city and the county recognized that it was time to update the plans from the 1990s. Historically,

the city and county parks departments have developed separate plans. However, recognizing that the citizens of both the city and the county are using city, county and other facilities, it made sense to coordinate the creation of this plan. Through this effort, it is obvious that the city and county are committed to working together and with citizens to provide quality parks and recreation spaces for all. Two groups have specifically been created to advocate for parks and recreation, including:

Knox County Parks Advisory Board—serves as an advisory group to the county government regarding parks, recreation, greenways and open space. The Board has advocated for the creation of such trails as Sterchi Greenway, Spring Place Park, Ten Mile



Will Skelton Greenway Extension

Creek Greenway, Knox Blount Greenway, Powell Greenway, Halls Greenway and many others.

Legacy Parks Foundation—is a non-profit organization which works to assure that the community enjoys exceptional recreational opportunities, natural beauty and open spaces, and that those assets exist for generations to come. The Foundation’s mission is to bridge the gap between the services and amenities afforded by government funding and those that allow the Foundation to take full advantage of the incredible natural resources of our region. Established in 2005, the Foundation works in collaboration with the city of Knoxville and Knox County Parks & Recreation Departments and other like-minded organizations to:

- Secure funding for land acquisition, park improvements and recreation programs
- Accept gifts of land
- Provide for and maintain greenway and conservation easements
- Advocate for parks and outdoor recreation.

Greenway System History and Growth

The city of Knoxville began its greenway system in the early 1970s with the construction of the Third Creek Trail. This trail linked the University of Tennessee Married Students Apartments to Cumberland Avenue creating a connection to the the University’s campus. This was the start of what would become a county wide system. In 1990, the General Plan 2005 recommended the goal of a comprehensive public greenway and open

space system as a way to deal with protecting open space in Knox County. A year later, Mayor Victor Ashe appointed the Knoxville Greenways and Community Trails Commission to create a concept plan for greenways and make recommendations on what steps should be taken to initially create the foundation of a greenway system. The Commission report was presented to the Mayor in 1992. The city of Knoxville then collaborated with Knox County and a comprehensive countywide greenway master plan was composed in 1994. The intent of this plan was to “supply public park facilities while providing for the preservation of some of Knox County’s most important natural resources”. In order to implement this plan, the city of Knoxville, Knox County and the town of Farragut have hired greenway coordinators and the following groups have been instrumental:

The Knoxville Greenways Commission—as mentioned above was created to study the needs and desires of city residents and to promote the development of new greenways and the maintenance of existing ones. Another function is to investigate and recommend sources of funding and the donation of land. This group is still meeting on a quarterly basis, acting as a forum for discussion and providing recommendations to city staff and Knoxville City Council regarding greenways. The Commission has advocated for the creation of greenways including, Victor Ashe Greenway, Bearden Village Greenway, Lower Second Creek Greenway, Knox Blount Greenway, Papermill Bluff Greenway and many others.

Knox Greenway Coalition—is a local citizens-based organization that supports the management and growth of the city’s and county’s greenways. The Coalition promotes creation of new greenways as a way to link neighborhoods, provide recreation opportunities and better quality of life opportunities.

The combined efforts of these governments and organizations over the last 16 years have provided Knoxville and Knox County (including the town of Farragut) residents with over 50 miles of greenway trails. The effective partnership of the city, county, state and federal governments along with concerned citizens and private interests has caused the popularity and use of the greenway system to grow each year.

Citizen interest in the creation and maintenance of greenways continues to be significant. The number one request from public input was for “comprehensively connected greenways across the county and to develop new greenways and sidewalks.” This input indicates that greenway users desire to use greenways to get from one place to another both for recreation and transportation purposes.



Knoxville and Knox County now have more than 50 miles of greenway trails.

II. Park Types, Inventory and Assessment of Parks and Recreation Facilities

Three significant considerations were instrumental in developing this plan:

1. Nationally and locally recognized park standards, including the types of parks that traditionally form a park system;
2. Assessments of existing conditions; and
3. Public participation, including the views and suggestions of hundreds of citizens and a wide range of recreation interests.

Park Types and Standards

Within a park and recreation system there are a variety of facilities created to serve different users and various functions. The following types of parks have been defined for two purposes: 1) to categorize the existing parks and recreation facilities, and 2) to define the types of parks that are needed to fill in gaps of service so that there is equitable access to recreation for all residents.

Close-to-Home Parks

Neighborhood and community recreation needs are met through close-to-home parks, that is, parks that are within an easy walking or driving distance to most residents. Such parks can be further described as follows.

Neighborhood Parks should include spaces for active recreation activities such as ball practice and include passive recreation areas for strolling, picnicking, and enjoying the

outdoors. Parks should be tailored to the needs of the surrounding neighborhoods. These parks should be within a quarter to a half mile from most homes, and their size is typically between 5-20 acres.

Pocket Parks are usually smaller than an acre and provide limited facilities that serve a small population, such as a portion of a neighborhood or housing complex. “Tot-lots” are a type of pocket park, provided in residential settings where backyard space is limited and geared toward younger children.

Squares and Plazas are open spaces available for passive recreation (like resting on a bench) and civic purposes (like commemorating a historical figure or for public commercial purposes, like a farmer’s

market). They are generally provided in more urban settings. A square is usually surrounded by grid streets and buildings. Its landscape should consist of paths, lawns and formally planted trees. Their size is variable, with a city block being typical. Plazas are generally hard surfaced spaces that are framed by buildings.

Greens and Commons are open spaces available for active and passive recreation. A green may be spatially defined by landscaping rather than building frontages. Its landscape should consist of lawn and trees placed in a natural distribution. The minimum size should be 2 acres and the maximum should be 15 acres. Smaller greens can be neighborhood-serving and larger greens, sometimes called commons, can be community serving when located in a central location.



Squares are appropriate to residential and commercial areas.

School Parks are recreation facilities at local schools, which may include playgrounds, ball fields, courts, tracks and other open spaces. For the purpose of the inventory, the grounds of elementary schools were classified as neighborhood-serving spaces, while middle and high school playfields were classified as community-serving spaces. It is recognized that middle and high schools are typically limited in providing recreation to the general public because many fields, such as football fields, are limited just to school use.

Community Parks are typically larger in size, serving a broader purpose and population than a neighborhood park. Developed for both active and passive recreation, community parks offer recreational opportunities not feasible or desirable in neighborhood parks. Many community parks

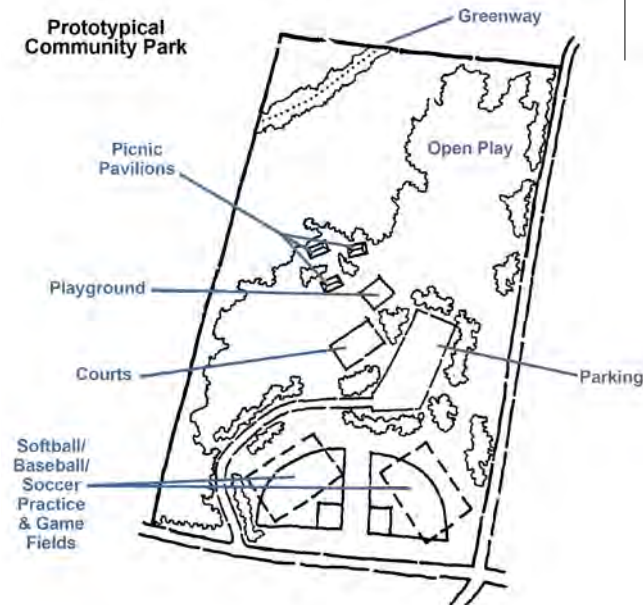
are devoted to sports field development, and are commonly 10 to 100 acres in size. In rural areas of Knox County, community parks are often smaller than 10 acres but still serve a broad function, like places for baseball and softball games.

Other Types of Parks and Facilities

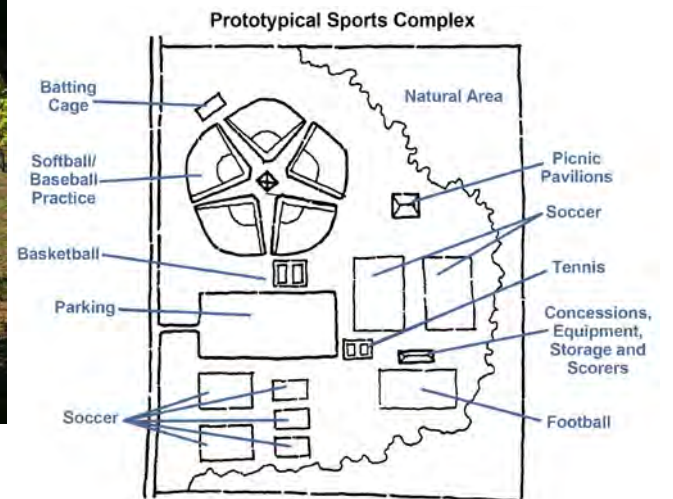
Sports Complexes include a variety of athletic fields, courts, and associated facilities such as restrooms and concession areas. These facilities are commonly used for practice and games, and are typically designed to serve substantial segments of the population. Sport complexes are generally large, requiring a minimum of 40 acres with 80-100 acres being optimal. They should be located along major roadways and have buffers next to residential uses. In the inventory, sports complexes were generally considered as another component in meeting community park needs.

District and Regional Parks typically exceed 100 acres and provide a significant amount of natural, open space and other areas for active recreation. District parks should be within a 15 to 30 minute drive for a majority of residents. These parks can often include such uses as a golf course, a picnic area, trails, nature center, boating and swimming areas, day camps and sports fields. Regional parks are larger and contain more substantial natural areas.

Golf Courses are provided by both public and private interests. Country clubs, which are not opened to the general public, were not considered in creating this plan. In metropolitan areas, a public or quasi-public (daily fee) course should be located within a 20-minute drive of most residents. “Par-3” or “Wee Courses” are smaller scaled layouts, generally serving adolescents, and those who wish to practice or do not have time for a full round of golf.



Community parks should be designed for multiple uses, like Holston River Park.



Recreation Centers

These are generally buildings that provide a variety of recreation spaces, including a gymnasium, weight room, performance stage, pool, library, and rooms for aerobics, dance, crafts, classes and community meetings. Sometimes the term, “recreation center,” is used to include ball fields and other outdoor facilities (for example, the quasi-public Fountain City Recreation Center). There are several types of recreation centers discussed in this plan, including:

Neighborhood Recreation Centers are typically located in the City of Knoxville to serve dense urban neighborhoods and many of these buildings are several decades old. They generally serve smaller populations (less than 10,000) and often have

limited space. Most users are able to walk to these locations.

Community and District Recreation Centers

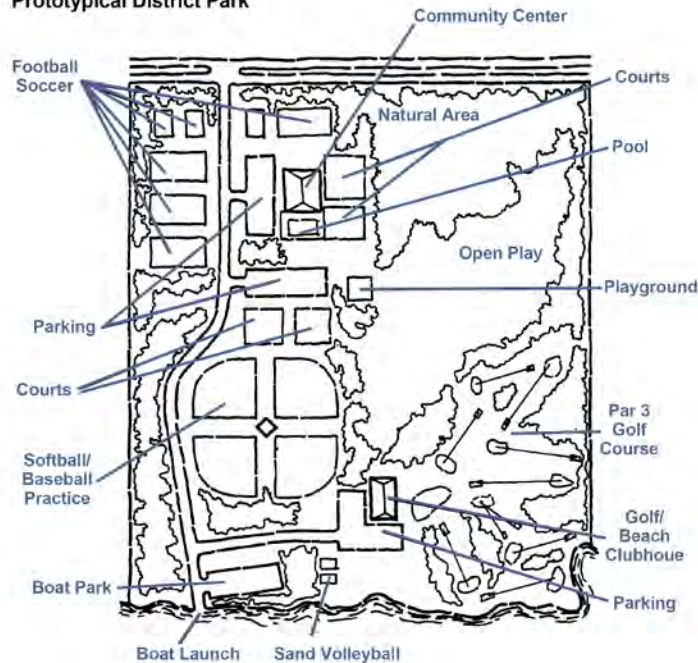
Centers are intended to serve a diverse and large segment of the population, including citizens of all ages and recreational needs. They are generally designed to serve 20,000 to 50, 000 people. These facilities should be located on major arterial streets to accommodate the most number of users. They can be developed, in conjunction with communities, in district or regional parks. This plan proposes the creation of several new district recreation centers, distributed throughout Knox County.

resources; lands that are unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential; and protected lands, such as wetlands, and wildlife refuges.

Nature Centers are preserves that protect the natural environment. Additionally, nature centers often have the responsibility for environmental education, particularly about the plants and animals that make their home in the community. Generally, the center has a building for interpretive and instructional purposes.

Arboretums are forested sites open to the public. Management practices must be in place to protect trees. Plant establishment should exemplify modern planting and protection methods. In Tennessee, at least 30 species of trees must be labeled with both common and botanical names to be recognized under the state’s arboretum program.

Prototypical District Park



Senior Recreation Centers are another type of recreation center, created for a range of activities geared towards older, often retired, residents. These activities often include computer training, quilting and craft classes, aerobics, board or card games and social events. In Knox County these centers are not operated by the Park and Recreation Department but are occasionally located within a park.

Natural Areas

Natural Resource Areas/Preserves are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space and visual aesthetics or buffering. These lands can include individual sites exhibiting natural



Natural area conservation can be as simple as dedicating a wooded stream corridor for park use.

Blueways include rivers and the TVA lakes that can be used for canoeing, kayaking and rowing. Protection of the shoreline and access points are important considerations in establishing a blueway.



More access points are needed along the French Broad and Holston Blueways.

Assessment of Park Conditions and Inventory of Facilities

In February 2006, staff and interns of the Metropolitan Planning Commission and both Parks and Recreation Departments started inventorying all of the parks, recreation centers and greenways in the city and county. The inventory process was conducted by an on-site visit to each facility in which the inspector assessed and catalogued the number, type and condition of equipment and facilities (for example, slides and picnic tables). A total of 288 parks were inventoried including properties owned by Knoxville, Knox County (both the park and school grounds) and Farragut. Leased and privately owned properties were also surveyed. In completing the inventory, the courts, goals, fields, picnic facilities and other facilities were

categorically rated: poor, fair, good or excellent. This information was used in creating the improvement recommendations of this plan (see Appendix C). Additionally, the accessibility of park amenities was assessed, and photos were taken and catalogued in a database for parks department use. An example of the evaluation form is included on page 15. The inventory can be obtained through the MPC library or the parks and recreation departments.

Inventory Results

The inventory was also used to examine the level of service in providing park and recreation facilities throughout Knox County. MPC's planning sectors were used as a basis in the analysis.

The National Park and Recreation Association (NRPA) recommends guidelines for park services based on acreage per 1,000 citizens. The NRPA

standard for close-to-home parks which includes neighborhood, community and school- parks (that is, school playfields and playgrounds) is a range of 6.25-10.5 acres of parks for every thousand residents. The standard of 6.25 acres per thousand residents is what both the city and county parks departments have used as a baseline standard for the last several years. The following tables look at the total park acreage per sector for the city and the county and compare the total acreage to the number of acres of close-to-home parks per 1,000 residents.

The table for the City Park and Natural Area Acreage on page 16 shows an average of 4.98 acres per thousand citizens throughout the six city sectors. The North City Sector has the least close-to-home park acreage per resident at 3.49 acres per thousand. In comparison, the East City Sector has the most with 6.35 acres per thousand.

The table for County Park and Natural Area Acreage on page 16 shows an average of 3.29 acres per thousand citizens throughout the six county sectors. Looking at the individual sectors the East County Sector has the most close-to-home parks at 8.2 per thousand versus the North County Sector which has the least at 1.45 acres per thousand citizens. This information is very important in assessing future needs, especially considering the rapid population growth and increasing development in some sectors.

The table on types of city parks on page 17 shows that the most close-to-home parks, including the various types of neighborhood and community

MPC Planning Sectors



*County sectors are identified in all capital letters.
City sectors are in capital and lower case letters.*

Sample Inventory Evaluation for Victor Ashe Park

CITY OF KNOXVILLE PARKS

Park Name: Victor Ashe Park
Address: 4901 Bradshaw Road
Established Date: 2004
Sector: Northwest City
Ownership: City of Knoxville
Maintenance: City of Knoxville
Nearest School: Northwest Middle School
Adjacent Greenways: Victor Ashe, Northwest Greenways
Accessible by trail: yes
Accessible by sidewalk: yes
Landscaping: Some areas need to be reseeded in the soccer fields. There are many mature trees within the park that provides shade. The tree line around the perimeter of the park gives a sense of enclosure and a place for children to explore the woods.
Community or Historical Significance: This park links Northwest Middle School and Badgett Fields with the surrounding neighborhoods. It is named after a three termed mayor of Knoxville. It was formally known as Northwest Park.

Utilities: yes
Electrical: yes
Water: yes
Sewer: yes
Park Summary: This park provides a wide range of recreational opportunities. It is a community park that is used as a regional host for cross country races. The dog park is small but popular. The park pavilion provides covered space for community activities as well as family gatherings. The disc golf course meets the national standards and is used for league play. The ponds within the park are stocked annually for family friendly fishing days. The soccer fields have concrete bleachers for spectators with the playground nearby. The layout of the park works well for families with multiple children of different ages.
Park Inspector: Chris Dent
Inspection Date: 3-12-06

PARK COMPONENTS	Quantity	Condition	Lighted	Accessible	Miscellaneous Comments
Basketball Courts	0				
Soccer Fields	4	3	N	Y	
Baseball Fields	0				Park is adjacent to Badgett Fields which has baseball fields
Volleyball Courts	0				
Tennis Courts	0				
Exercise Station	0				
Parking	330	3	N	Y	Parking needs exceed 330 with regional cross country races
Concessions	Yes	3	Y	Y	
Restrooms	Yes	3	Y	Y	
Rental Pavilion	1	3	Y	Y	
Walking Trail	1	3	N	Y	
Other: Disc Golf	1	3	N	N	
Playground Equipment	1	3	N	N	
Picnic Unit	11	3	Y	Y	
Benches	30	3	N	Y	
Drinking Fountains	2	3	N	Y	
Trash Receptacles	Yes	3			
Signage	Yes	3			
Other: Dog Park	1	2	N	Y	Fenced in area is good for small dogs

Park and Natural Area Acreage by Sector

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Park Class	Central	East	North	Northwest	South	West	Total
Neighborhood	126.90	26.11	12.94	10.58	57.22	34.17	267.91
Community	125.80	149.40	126.04	129.00	42.60	80.27	653.11
District/Regional	68.58	0.00	107.26	110.92	0.00	69.18	355.94
Open Space/Natural Area	115.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	557.44	12.44	684.99
Private/Quasi-Public	0.36	46.95	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.31
(TOTAL)	436.75	222.46	246.24	250.50	657.26	196.05	2009.26
Population (2006 Estimate)	51,283	27,645	27,434	30,077	19,873	21,970	178,282
Acres/1,000 population	8.52	8.05	8.98	8.33	33.07	8.92	11.27
Acres of Close-to-Home Parks/1,000 population	4.93	6.35	5.07	4.64	5.02	5.21	5.17
Publicly-owned Golf Courses		180.23					

KNOX COUNTY

Park Class	East	North	Northeast	Northwest	Southwest	South	Total
Neighborhood	0.50	18.40	4.50	20.23	29.08	2.50	75.21
Community	117.91	55.26	74.44	287.26	111.07	71.51	717.46
District/Regional	0.00	177.93	0.00	261.35	606.06	154.45	1199.79
Open Space/Natural Area	389.52	30.80	500.05	121.76	263.66	704.45	2010.26
Private/Quasi-Public	101.67	0.98	0.00	135.31	0.98	0.00	238.94
(TOTAL)	609.60	283.37	578.99	825.92	1010.85	932.91	4241.65
Population (2006 Estimate)	14,446	46,009	23,594	67,691	61,071	20,873	233,684
Acres/1,000 population	42.20	6.16	24.54	12.20	16.55	44.69	18.15
Acres of Close-to-Home Parks/1,000 population	8.20	1.60	3.35	4.54	2.29	3.55	3.39
Publicly-owned Golf Courses			245.14	147.79			

Notes

1. The acreage that comprises these city and county sector tables represents city and county resources, public school playgrounds and playfields, other public and quasi-public resources. Sector boundaries are based on census tracts not corporate limits; therefore, the sector acreage will not match what might be thought of as the county-owned or city-owned park totals (see below).
2. The total acreage of the city-owned parks is 1437.20. When land under water is excluded, the total is 1433.55 acres.
3. The total acreage of the county-owned parks is 3391.89. When land under water is excluded, the total is 3168.36 acres.
4. Public golf course acreage (Three Ridges, Knoxville Municipal, the Wee Course and Whittle Springs), which have their own parcels, are also depicted.
5. Neighborhood parks include squares, pocket parks and elementary school playgrounds.
6. Community parks include community-based sports complexes and middle and high school playfields.
7. Acreage is not calculated for recreation centers or greenways.
8. Acres of close-to-home parks includes neighborhood and community parks.

parcs, are within the Central City Sector. The sector also has the greatest population of the city sectors. The North and Northwest City Sectors have relative few neighborhood parks, largely because these areas developed in the post-World War II era where people drove everywhere and a park within walking distance was not much of a consideration. While the West City Sector does not have as many individual parks, it has an abundance of large parks, such as Sequoyah and Lakeshore Parks that are cherished by area residents.

The table on types of county parks shows the county sectors are lacking neighborhood parks. The suburban areas were created in the automobile age, when park dedication and acquisition did not keep pace with growth. The foundations of the county's system are the community parks, which were often created by civic organizations, not county government. The greatest number of parks is in the Northwest County Sector and the Southwest County Sector, which is appropriate considering these two sectors have the largest populations. Additionally, the Southwest County Sector has the most acreage of any sector at just over a thousand acres, much of this land having been provided by TVA following the creation of Fort Loudoun Lake. The South County Sector and the Northeast County Sector have the least number of parks. The Northeast Sector, however, has one of the most significant resources, House Mountain Natural Area. The North County Sector with approximately 270 acres of park land and few neighborhood parks is a particular concern because of rapid population growth.

Public Participation

A variety of means were used in obtaining citizen input in developing this plan. A series of nine public meetings were held to allow residents to voice their likes, dislikes and vision for the future. Over 150 citizens participated in the public meetings and provided helpful input. Furthermore, since the city and county have established Recreation Associations and a Parks Advisory Board, a meeting was held to tap their knowledge and obtain input for this park plan with over 60 people participating.

The Metropolitan Planning Commission also conducted a web-based survey to determine community satisfaction with parks and recreation programs and to assess the community preferences. Additionally, because school aged children are not typically reached through public surveys, the staff of MPC worked with Knox County Schools to survey over 280 sophomore students through their required tenth grade wellness class. These two survey efforts produced over 900 responses. A summary of these surveys is included in Appendix A.

In 2008 the draft plan was presented to Knoxville and Knox County citizens at the Expo Center and through MPC's website. This document represents the suggestions, concerns and vision of the majority of citizens who participated in the process and the city and county boards and staff who also reviewed the plan.

Types of Parks by Sector

CITY OF KNOXVILLE

Typology	Central	East	North	Northwest	South	West	Total
Squares, greens and pocket parks	19	5	0	0	4	4	32
Traditional Neighborhood Park	9	3	1	0	4	0	17
Elementary School	7	3	4	6	3	3	26
Traditional Community Park	4	1	3	1	2	1	12
Middle/High School	2	2	2	1	1	2	10
Traditional District/Regional	0	0	1	1	0	1	3
Sports Complex	2	3	1	2	2	1	11
Open Space/Natural Area	1	0	0	0	5	1	7
Special Use Park	5	2	1	0	2	0	10
Recreation Centers	9	6	1	4	3	2	25

KNOX COUNTY

Typology	East	North	Northeast	Northwest	South	Southwest	Total
Squares, greens and pocket parks	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Traditional Neighborhood Park	0	3	0	1	0	2	6
Elementary School	1	5	4	4	4	3	21
Traditional Community Park	5	1	4	7	3	3	23
Middle/High School	2	3	2	5	1	2	15
Traditional District/Regional	0	1	0	1	0	3	5
Sports Complex	0	1	1	7	2	1	12
Open Space/Natural Area	2	2	1	3	3	12	23
Special Use Park	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Recreation Centers	0	0	1	1	0	0	2

Notes:

1. Open Space/ Natural Area includes 'Nature Centers' and 'Preserve/Reserves'
2. Recreation Centers include Senior Centers, Community Recreation Centers and Neighborhood Recreation Centers and excludes Boys/Girls Clubs and YMCA/YWCA
3. Greenways are not included in the table
4. Private/Quasi-Public park facilities are included

III. Guiding Principles and Policies

Create a park system that is accessible to and meets needs of all citizens

- In urban areas a park or greenway should be within a ¼ walk of residents; in lower density suburban areas the walking distance should be one-half mile.
- Parks and trails should, where practical, be constructed to meet the needs of people of various physical abilities.
- In designing parks and constructing park improvements, develop the improvement program with neighborhood and community interests.

Connect a system of greenways

- Multi-purpose trails should be the backbones of a greenway recreation and transportation network.
- The greenway system should be established as links between parks, schools, neighborhoods and places of employment.
- The open space system should be created as a place of stewardship of the natural environment for today's and tomorrow's generations.

Collaborate, bringing the public and private sectors together, to develop the park system

- The Legacy Parks Foundation is recognized as a significant partner in fostering the creation of park and natural areas.
- The city and county should engage non-profit organizations, faith-based organizations, and

state and federal agencies to ensure that natural areas are protected and to explore broader use of facilities.

- The park departments should continue to explore use of corporate and non-profit organization sports fields, trails and facilities; naming rights should be used as a means to set aside dedicated, public park spaces.

Enhance economic vitality

- Parks, greenways and natural areas should be set aside as a means to stimulate community and economic investments and to maintain natural beauty and property values.
- Park investments should be made to revitalize neighborhoods and to redevelop special districts, including such places as the South Waterfront, the “Heart of Knoxville” and rural centers where growth is anticipated.

Promote sustainability and a system of green infrastructure in park design

- Energy saving and water conserving technologies should be used in designing parks and recreation facilities.
- Open space systems, including water-oriented greenways, forest preserves and natural areas, should be priorities in creating the park system.
- Sports fields should be designed for multi-purpose use; creation of rectangular fields for a wider variety of pastimes should be the norm in facility development.
- As model agencies in developing and retrofitting public spaces, the park departments should plant shade trees in parking lots and use natural drainage systems, like bio-swales and pervious paving, to reduce storm water impacts.
- Community, district and regional park sites should be selected to protect water, wetland



A greenway along First Creek reusing the rail line would benefit revitalization in the area.

and hillside areas as well as providing active recreation space.

- Stream valleys and forested ridges should be part of the open space that shape growth and maintain community identity.

Use public school locations to maximize use of playground, playfield and related facilities.

- Neighborhood and community parks should be established next to or as part of school site acquisitions or expansions, enabling shared use of parking and recreation facilities.
- Knox County, its school board and the park departments should examine community-serving recreation needs before a decision is made to surplus or sell schools and school grounds.
- County schools should be consistently considered in meeting recreation needs, including use of gymnasiums and fields for city and county recreation leagues and as sites for cooperative maintenance and programming (for example, soccer and tennis court facilities).

Develop the park and open space system as a foundation in community development

- Acquire parks and greenways as a prelude to development, setting aside open spaces in a timely manner before opportunities are lost.
- Provide a park acquisition element as part of annexation analyses and delivery of services documentation.

The Framework for the Plan

In following this plan's policies, the park system can be expanded to meet the future needs of a population that is expected to reach 600,000 by 2030. The concept plan on the opposite page, based on the central portion of the county, depicts the proposed green infrastructure formed by greenways and natural areas that can, when realized, conserve water and forest resources, define communities and provide recreation opportunities for future generations.

Greenways and natural areas: Conserve open spaces for recreation and environmental protection, particularly along stream, ridge and river corridors. Use a combination of public and private programs to protect this green infrastructure, avoid sprawl and foster environmental benefits.

Heart of Knoxville: Our oldest neighborhoods also contain the highest population densities and should



Above: The urban wilderness and river greenways will be legacies.

Right, top: Multiuse parks should be a focus within the Heart of Knoxville and suburban growth areas.

Right, bottom: The Rural Area has its own green infrastructure composed of farms and natural areas. Still, community parks are needed to meet local recreation needs.

have a park or greenway within a quarter-mile of every resident.

Suburban growth areas: New neighborhood and community parks, located within a one-half mile distance of residents, should be foundations in future neighborhood development. Provisions for greenways and greenway connectors should be made with new development and subdivisions (see maps Chapters VI and VII).

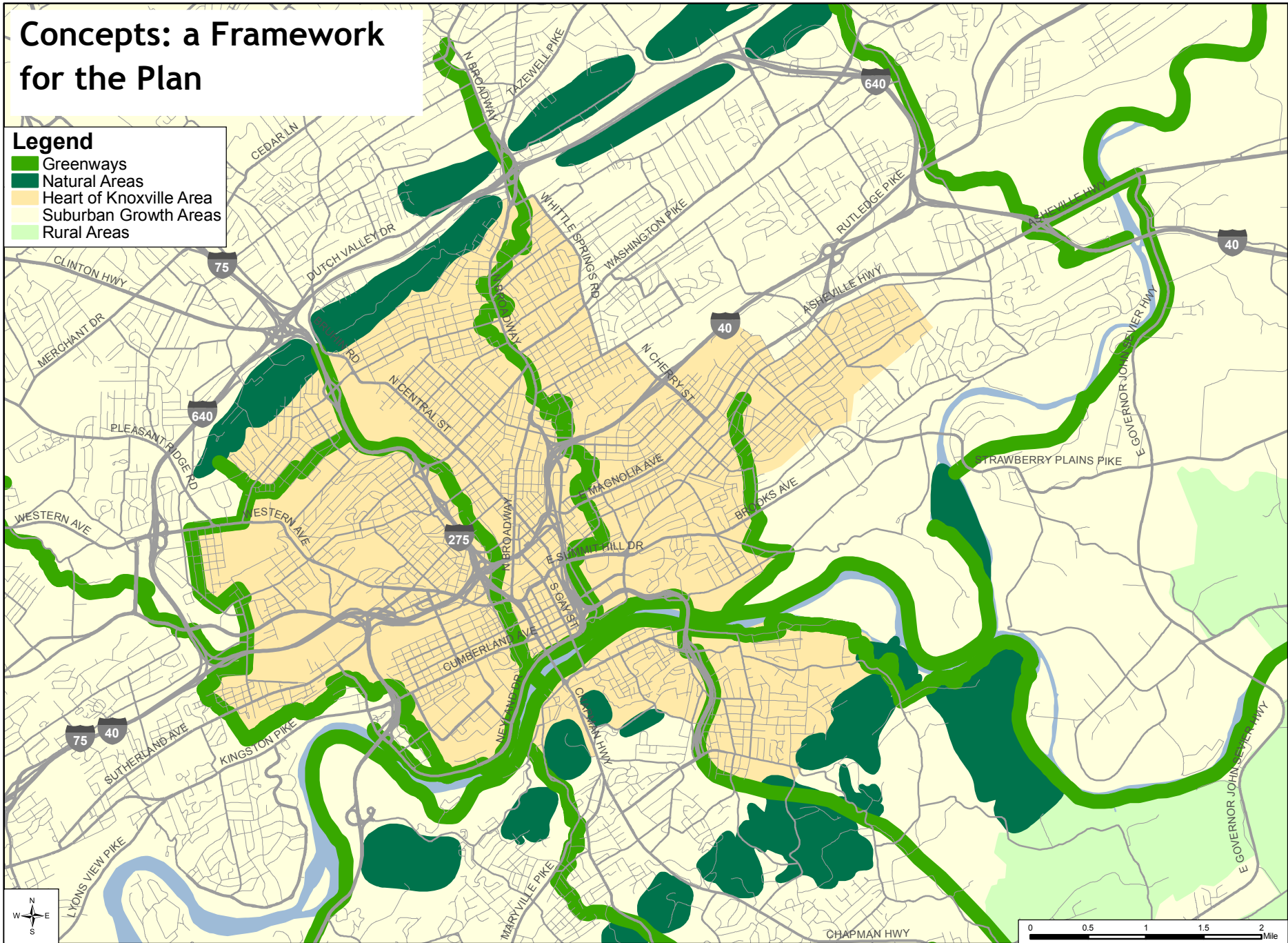
Rural area: In one sense, this area (which was established in Knoxville's Knox County Growth Policy Plan, see Appendix B), is the county's largest greenbelt, a place of agricultural, forest and very low density residential uses. In the Rural Area, the park system should be created: (1) to protect natural spaces, including forest conservation and wildlife management areas; and (2) provide community parks for youth sports and adult recreation.



Concepts: a Framework for the Plan






Legend

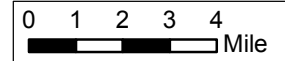
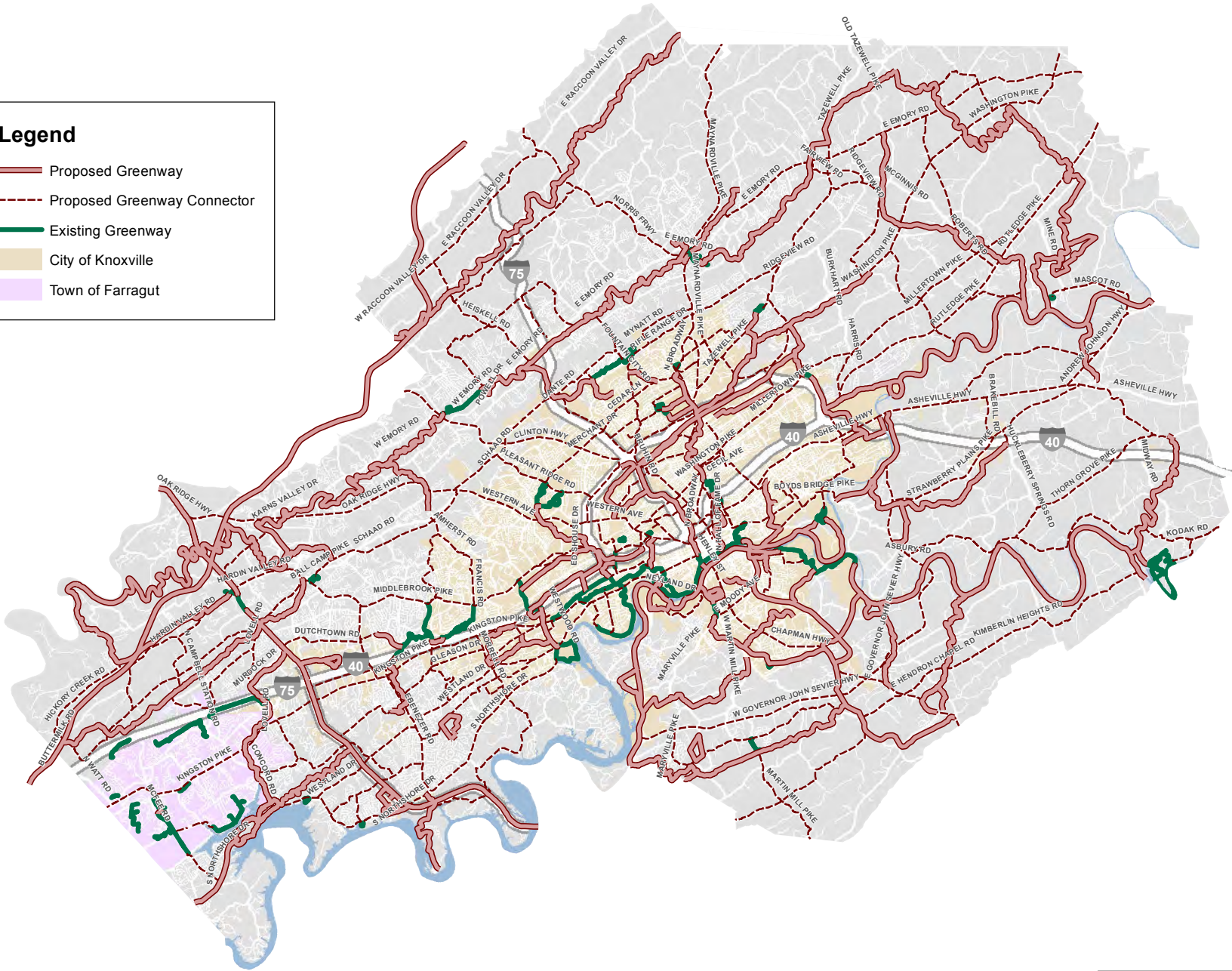
- Greenways
- Natural Areas
- Heart of Knoxville Area
- Suburban Growth Areas
- Rural Areas



Countywide Existing and Proposed Greenways

Legend

-  Proposed Greenway
-  Proposed Greenway Connector
-  Existing Greenway
-  City of Knoxville
-  Town of Farragut



IV. Plan Proposals: Greenways and Natural Areas

Greenways and Greenway Connectors

Greenways

Greenways are usually created along corridors such as rivers, streams and abandoned rail lines. Generally, a trail is developed within a greenway. Primary objectives in setting aside the Knoxville-Knox County greenway system include:

- **Natural Resource Protection:** Protect and enhance natural resources including water, forest, wildlife and scenic resources. Use greenways in restoring streams and reclaiming “brownfields.”
- **Park Access and Recreation Opportunities:** Increase public access to parks through the creation of a trail system, including creek-side and riverside routes. Multiple uses of trails (biking, running, walking) are encouraged.
- **Access to Educational and Employment Centers:** Focus on schools, office parks and



Greenways provide a great opportunity for the number one wellness activity: walking.

similar destinations to assist student travel and to reduce automobile dependency.

- **Equity and Neighborhood Conservation:** Create greenways that provide low- and moderate-income neighborhoods with amenities and establish buffers to incompatible land uses.
- **Economic Development:** Establish greenways to help attract new corporations, and to enhance property values and tourism, and to revitalize areas like the South Waterfront.
- **Heritage and Cultural Education:** Link trails to historic assets, offering interpretation of our history.

In public meetings and surveys, citizens said that greenway connections were the greatest need in building the park system. A typical statement heard in the public process was: “Comprehensively connect greenways across the county, especially to



Mountain biking is appropriate on some natural surface trails.

downtown; develop bike facilities and sidewalks.” That goal is embedded in this plan.

There are two basic types of trails that are possible in creating the greenway system:

Multi-use paved trails: the prototype is the traditional asphalt trail that characterizes much of the Knoxville-Knox County system.

Natural surface trails: hiking, mountain biking and horseback riding trails are prototypes. These trails are best suited to hilly, natural areas, rural areas and rail-to-trail projects, such as the reuse of the Smoky Mountain Railroad.

Decisions on the type of trail should be made when completing routing studies. The surface should be chosen in relation to environmental limitations, projected use and cost.



Sequoyah Hills Greenway is a popular place for jogging.

Greenway Connectors

Critical roadway connections have been identified to provide additional bicycle and pedestrian connections. These connections should be programmed as street and highway projects are funded or, where critically needed, as separate projects. The types of connectors include:

- Sidewalks: Concrete will generally be chosen as the surface. Preference surveys show that people feel more comfortable in using sidewalks when they are separated from travel lanes by grass or other landscaping. This type of design is recommended in creating greenway connectors.
- Side paths: These paths provide both pedestrian and bicycle access along roads. Pedestrians and bicyclists are separated from cars by a swath of open space and share the same path. The minimum width should be 10 feet. Asphalt is



A sidepath

best for urban and suburban settings; packed gravel could fare well in rural settings

- Bicycle Lanes: These lanes are designated for use by bicyclists by striping and pavement markings. Shoulders may also be appropriate in rural areas.
- Wide Outside Lanes: Bicycles and motor vehicles can share a wide (14') outside travel lane on low and moderate volume and speed streets.

Fitting the proper solution with the circumstance:

The design of the connector will depend on several factors: right-of-way width, intersection and driveway frequency, traffic volumes, adjoining land use and the number and ages of the people that will be served. The selection of the type and design of the connector should be made in the design phase. Nothing in this plan



An example of a dedicated bike lane

should be interpreted to suggest that roads and streets designated as greenway connectors are the only routes where these connections are needed. Both Transportation Planning Organization and Tennessee Department of Transportation policies require that all transportation projects using state or federal transportation funding must accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians.

Recommended greenways and greenway connectors:

the framework for the Greenway Plan is presented on page 22. The more detailed greenway and greenway connector information is outlined in Chapters VII and VIII, which show proposed greenways in relation to the overall park system for each sector. A recommended 5 and 15 Year Greenway Improvement Program is contained in Appendix E.



Finely chipped gravel trails can offer a less expensive solution where there are not steep slopes.

Natural Areas

Knoxville and Knox County have been blessed with several large reserves of natural and wildlife management areas. These include Concord Park, Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area, House Mountain State Natural Area, Ijams Nature Center, William Hastie Natural Area, Melton Hill Park and Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge. Additionally, several tracts were set aside for habitat and passive recreation along Fort Loudoun Lake.

While these areas form the framework of a natural area system, they can be expanded and new areas should be established. The following are recommended:

- The Urban Wilderness and Historic Corridor: Set aside the ridges and Civil War forts of South Knoxville and extend this system to Ijams Nature Center and westward along Chapman Ridge.
- Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge Expansion and the

French Broad Blueway: Utilize these resources as catalysts for creating an open space and wildlife protection system along the river. Conserve farmland as a supplement to this system. Create greenway connections and blueway access points between Ijams Nature Center and the refuge.

- Ijams Nature Center-Hastie Park corridor: Acquire space for a trail and open space system linking all the public spaces along this South Knoxville Ridge.
- Copper Ridge Park and Natural Area: Acquire ridge and flood plain space for hiking, wildlife protection and active recreation purposes.
- House Mountain Natural Area and Park: Add a community park near the base of the mountain to serve a broader range of recreation purposes.
- I. C. King Park expansion: Acquire additional land, particularly to the south and provide an access point at Maryville Pike.

Ridge Conservation Corridors

Knox County communities enjoy a naturally beautiful landscape, framed by forested ridges. Ridges define the edges of communities like Powell and Halls and are treasured by many residents. Ridge conservation corridors could be used to conserve natural settings for recreation including wildlife observation and walking trails. In one sense, these corridors could be like a smaller Appalachian trail system and could be extended on a regional basis. These conservation corridors can be a combination of public and privately-owned land and should be established through the following programs:

- Hillside conservation and development standards: Very low density residential development is already designated in most of the identified corridors and should be continued as one means to protect ridges (for example, one unit per two acres). Another option could be an incentive program that encourages developers to cluster housing units at the toe of a slope or on more level terrain within a site (such increases in housing density could be made in exchange for a conservation easement).
- Ridge Corridors and Trail Easement Acquisition: the work of the Legacy Parks Foundation is the model for this approach. Both private donations and public purchases should be considered. Tax advantages are available for donations and non-profit groups such as the Foundation can assist in this option to create protected natural areas and walking trails.



House Mountain Natural Area and McAnnally Ridge, a potential ridge conservation corridor.

V: Recreation Facilities

This section of the plan focuses on each sport or type of recreation facility. The needs for facility improvements and land acquisition for development have been taken into account in developing the plan recommendations. Knoxville and Knox County Parks and Recreation Departments provide facilities for various sports including: baseball, basketball, football, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis and volleyball. The number, design and location of these facilities are important in meeting community needs. This document uses a combination of the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) recommended guidelines and standards that have been developed by the parks departments with community input.

In general, there are fewer deficiencies in the number of recreational facilities than in the amount of park acreage. This means that while there is a lack of park land, many existing parks are developed with various types of facilities or amenities. Historically parks have been divided for particular field sports whose space cannot easily be used for other purposes. For example, softball and baseball fields are typically fenced on a year-round basis which results in the inability to use these areas outside of that sport's season. Many parks that have recently been developed have utilized multi-purpose fields that have a central set of bleachers so that a variety of sports can be accommodated without having to limit the possible uses of that area to a

specific season. For example, the great field at Victor Ashe Park was designed to accommodate multiple soccer fields but there are no permanent goals so that other users such as ultimate Frisbee, rugby, field hockey or even someone just wanting to fly a kite can use the field. The standard for these sports were adapted by the city and county parks and recreation departments from the recommendations of NRPA.

Baseball and Softball—Both the city and county parks and recreation departments provide organized baseball programs for youths in the April to August season. The only sector with a deficiency for baseball fields is the Southwest County Sector. This sector is the fastest growing sector in the county. Additionally while all the other sectors show a total surplus of baseball facilities many residential areas are located more than the recommended one-half mile from a field.



Baseball at Northwest Sports Park

Softball is both a youth and adult, male and female sport. Typically this sport is dominated by females under the age of 18 or by males if over the age of 18. Both the city and the county provide teams for adults and youths. The recommended guideline for softball is 1 field per 6,000 residents.

Recommendations:

- Monitor the need for additional fields with urban and suburban growth.
- Design complexes for new fields whereby backstops are placed in the corners of a quadrangular area and movable fences can be used to foster a variety of year round activities.
- Continue to develop fields that can be used for both softball and youth baseball purposes.
- Work with the Town of Farragut to create additional fields to serve west Knox County interests.

Basketball—The city and county provide both indoor and outdoor basketball courts. Youth between the ages of 12 and 17 represent the majority of players, but basketball is also popular with both younger and older populations. Most of the indoor basketball facilities are provided by city recreation centers or schools and access to these courts is limited to the facility's hours of operation. While the city and county combined have a surplus of courts East City, North County, Northeast County, South County and Southwest County

Statistics by Sector

	City Sectors						County Sectors						Total
	Central	East	North	Northwest	South	West	East	North	Northeast	Northwest	South	Southwest	
2006 Population:	51,283	27,645	27,434	30,077	19,873	21,970	14,446	46,009	23,594	67,691	20,873	61,071	411,967
Baseball													
Quantity	13	20	10	13	8	20	8	9	11	24	8	8	152
Facilities to Meet Guideline	9	5	5	5	4	4	3	8	4	12	4	11	74
Surplus/Deficit	4	15	5	8	4	16	5	1	7	12	4	-3	78
Basketball													
Quantity	28	5	8	11	12	8	5	6	3	22	3	12	123
Facilities to Meet Guideline	10	6	6	7	4	5	3	9	5	14	5	13	87
Surplus/Deficit	18	-1	2	4	8	3	2	-3	-2	8	-2	-1	36
Football													
Quantity	6	2	1	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	18
Facilities to Meet Guideline	3	2	2	2	1	2	1	3	2	4	2	4	28
Surplus/Deficit	3	0	-1	-1	1	-2	0	-3	-1	-2	-1	-3	-10
Soccer													
Quantity	2	0	3	5	4	3	3	13	1	28	2	10	74
Facilities to Meet Guideline	13	7	7	8	5	6	4	11	6	17	5	16	105
Surplus/Deficit	-11	-7	-4	-3	-1	-3	-1	2	-5	11	-3	-6	-31
Softball													
Quantity	6	0	0	2	1	4	0	4	2	2	3	0	24
Facilities to Meet Guideline	9	5	5	6	4	4	3	8	4	12	4	11	75
Surplus/Deficit	-3	-5	-5	-4	-3	0	-3	-4	-2	-10	-1	-11	-51
Swimming Pools													
Quantity	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	8
Facilities to Meet Guideline	3	2	2	2	1	1	1	2	1	3	1	3	22
Surplus/Deficit	-2	-2	-1	0	0	-1	0	-1	-1	-2	-1	-3	-14
Tennis Courts													
Quantity	26	6	17	15	11	1	0	9	5	10	0	4	104
Facilities to Meet Guideline	12	7	7	8	5	6	4	12	6	17	6	16	106
Surplus/Deficit	14	-1	10	7	6	-5	-4	-3	-1	-7	-6	-12	-2
Volleyball													
Quantity	2	2	3	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	6	16
Facilities to Meet Guideline	10	6	5	6	4	4	3	9	5	14	4	12	82
Surplus/Deficit	-8	-4	-2	-4	-3	-2	-3	-9	-5	-14	-4	-6	-66

Guidelines:

Baseball: 1 field per 6,000 residents, with a service radius of 1/4 to 1/2 mile, suggested min. size 1.2 A (little league) 3.0 Official
 Basketball: 1 court per 5,000 residents, with a service radius of 1/4 to 1/2 mile, range from 2400-7980 sq. ft.
 Football: 1 field per 20,000 residents, with travel time of 15-30 minutes, range from 160' x 360' plus 6' clearance or 1.5 AC minimum.
 Soccer: 1 field per 4,000 residents, within 1-2 miles of most population, range from 1.7-2.1 Acres.

Softball: 1 field per 6,000 residents, with a service radius of 1/4 to 1/2 mile.
 Swimming Pools: 1 pool per 25,000 population, 15-30 minute drive, 0.5-2.0 Acres in size
 Tennis Courts: 1 court per 4,000 population, 1/4-1/2 mile, minimum of 7,200 sq. ft. in size
 Volleyball: 1 court per 5,000 population, 1/2-1 mile, minimum of 4,000 sq. ft. in size

each have a deficit of courts based on the 2006 population information and the recommended standard of 1 court per 5,000 residents.

Recommendations

- Sustain the park departments/ School Board use policy whereby city and county-run recreation leagues have first right to use schools for basketball.
- Develop outdoor courts at community and district parks.

Football—Football programs through the parks and recreation departments are offered to youths only. The city and county have separate programs and use a variety of facilities including parks and middle schools for practice and competitive games. The only city sector with a deficit is the Northwest City Sector by one field; however, in the county, the Northeast, Northwest, South and Southwest Sectors all have a deficiency of at least one field. A field should be located within 15-30 minutes drive



Indoor basketball is typically provided at recreation centers.

of most residents and the recommended guideline suggests 1 field per 20,000 residents.

Recommendations

- Create additional fields in the North, Northwest and Southwest County Sectors.
- Monitor the need for additional fields with suburban growth.

Soccer—The city and county both have soccer programs for youth leagues, the county also provides programs for adults. Additionally, the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) provides competition soccer for youths ages 6 to 18. Participation in soccer has increased over the last several years and there was a concern on the part of citizens that there was a lack of tournament space within Knox County. The recommended guideline suggests 1 field per 4,000 residents and within 1-2 miles of most residents; by this standard for soccer fields most sectors are deficient. Recognizing that in Knox County, soccer has traditionally been promoted by people living in the suburbs, it is not surprising that the city sectors only have 18 fields where the county has more than three times that amount with a total of 61. The majority of soccer fields are concentrated in the Northwest County sector. However, increased demands for soccer fields were strongly heard from West City and Southwest County interests.

Recommendations

- Establish more rectangular fields across the city and county for soccer and related field sports (like rugby and lacrosse).

- Develop long-range agreements for soccer use with such entities as U.S. Cellular and Pellissippi State.
- Where such agreements are not possible, acquire additional park space for rectangular field uses.
- Develop more recreational programs for soccer in the City.



Soccer is among the most popular sports.

Swimming—The recommended standard for swimming pools is 1 pool per 25,000 population and within a 15 to 30 minute drive for most residents. With this recommendation most of the sectors are deficient; however, Knox County has been moving away from swimming pools in the last several years because of the cost of maintenance and liability. Instead the county has been providing zero depth splash pads to meet the needs for summer water activities. An issue to consider in the future is regulating splash pads for public health because they are not currently regulated by the same public health safety standards as swimming pools.

Recommendations

- Continue cooperative programs and co-location strategies with quasi-public organizations who manage pools.
- Create splash pads at select locations that would serve a broad base of communities (20,000 to 30,000 people).
- Sustain the operation of city pools.



Splash pads have become very popular.

Tennis—The county provides public tennis courts in many of its parks as does the city. The city also operates a tennis program for the public (youths and adults) at the Tyson Family Tennis Center. The recommended guideline for tennis courts is 1 per 4,000 citizens. By this standard, all county sectors are deficient and the East and West City sectors are deficient.

Recommendations

- Complete phase two of the West Hills Park tennis center.

- Work with tennis interests to complete an assessment of court conditions at schools and parks, replacing nets and refurbishing surfaces where warranted.
- Develop programs for youngsters who traditionally have not been exposed to tennis skill development.

Volleyball—The courts inventoried were of a variety of surfaces some were grass, sand, concrete or indoor facilities. Volleyball courts were provided at Karns High, Mayor Bob Leonard Park, Farragut Anchor Park, Inskip Pool & Park, South Knoxville Optimist Club Park, Milton Roberts Recreation Center, Concord Point Park, EV Davidson Recreation Center, Deane Hill Recreation Center, Christenberry Recreation Center, Pond Gap Elementary and Cumberland Estates Recreation Center. The recommended guideline for volleyball courts is 1 per 5,000, however, this sport appears to be in decline and this guideline should be assessed with various interest groups.

Recommendations

- Continue to develop outdoor courts, including sand courts, in larger parks and water-oriented parks.
- Foster initial court development in places with a larger concentration of teenagers and young adults.

Golf—Regulation and “Executive” Courses: Currently, there are 14 golf courses that are opened to the public in Knox County. There are

an additional 20 regulation golf courses in the metropolitan area that are open on a daily basis. The city owns three courses: Knoxville Golf Course and Whittle Springs Golf Course (both in excess of 5,300 yards) and Wee Course at Williams Creek (2,700 yards, par 54). The county owns the Three Ridges Golf Course (6,080 yards).

Kids’ Courses: There are two public junior golf courses operated by Knox County. They are located within Concord Park and Beverly Park.

After a major expansion in adult interest in golfing during the 1990s, rounds of play has declined nationally and remained stagnant locally in recent years.

Recommendations

- Continue to operate and meet golf demand with the city and county-owned courses, both the regulation and kids’ courses.
- Monitor population growth and demographic changes periodically to assess the long range need for additional courses.
- Consider joint city-county management/ maintenance agreements for the public courses.

Skateparks—Skateparks, when started in this country in 1970s, were originally built for skateboarding. However, they are now also used by roller bladers, BMX riders and scooters. Some places limit the use of BMX biking (altogether or to managed times). A skatepark contains various ramps and “pipes” to accommodate maneuvers of

the enthusiasts. The number of parks have grown markedly in recent years. Locally, skateparks can be found in Concord, Powell and Tyson Parks. Another will be opened in Fountain City. The demand for these facilities is likely to grow, particularly with suburban development and as new skating and scooter equipment is developed.

Recommendation

- Develop skate parks in strategically-oriented spaces and parks whereby these facilities are distributed in each county sector and in each remaining quadrant of the city (east, south and west).

Frisbee and Disc Golf Facilities—Two very different Frisbee games, Ultimate Frisbee and Disc Golf, have become popular, particularly with teenagers and young adults. Ultimate Frisbee is played on a rectangular field like soccer. Disc Golf is played in a natural open setting (looking like a short golf course with basket-like goals). Several courses have been



Disc Golf at Victor Ashe Park

established, including those at Morningside, Admiral Farragut and Victor Ashe Parks.

Recommendations

- Continue to develop Disc Golf courses in larger parks, creating a few more courses for a better distribution across the city and county.
- Program the use of soccer and other rectangular fields for Ultimate Frisbee users.

Dog Parks—Dog parks represent another emerging trend in public (and canine) recreation. These facilities have been developed at Victor Ashe and Tommy Schumpert Parks, and at Pet Safe Village near Dutchtown Road. Two additional parks are on the drawing boards: one near the Old City and another at Concord Park.

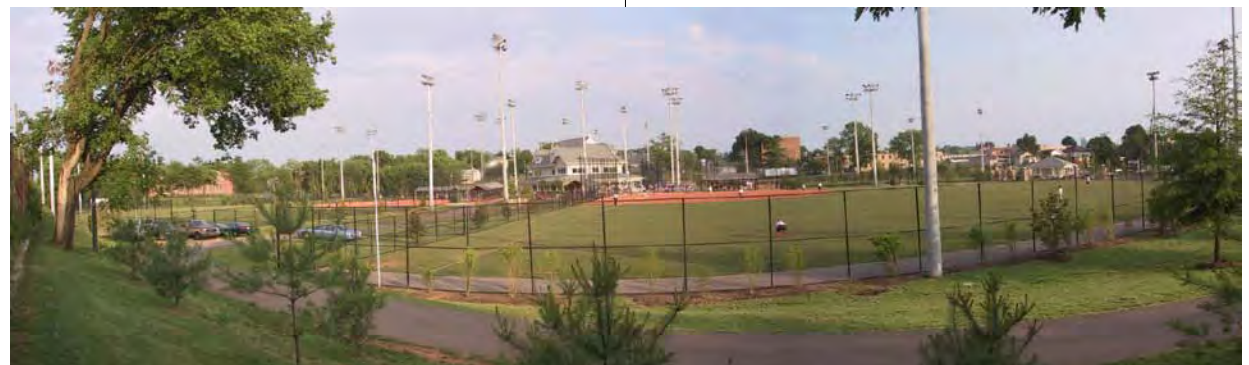
Recommendation

- Continue to work with such organizations as Pet Safe to develop dog parks in larger parks, providing a reasonable distribution in urban and suburban areas.

Recreation Centers and Sports Complexes—

During the public involvement processes, the public asked the parks departments to consider “giant parks and recreation centers” (2-4 scattered throughout the county) with activities for all ages. In the sector park plan maps (see Chapters VI and VII), the general locations for such district recreation centers are depicted. These facilities should be developed for both indoor and outdoor recreation purposes. Several centers in other Tennessee cities, such as that of Murfreesboro, could serve as models.

Another benefit to these large scale recreation centers/parks would be the ability to host tournaments for various sports. Sports tournaments have proven economically viable here and other cities in the region to bolster the local economy through the use of hotels, restaurants and other associated facilities. The provision for major recreation centers will not only benefit the local population but will provide another reason for people to visit Knoxville and Knox County.



Caswell Park serves as a sports complex. The senior and family recreation centers bolster its popularity.

VI. Plan Recommendations—City Sectors

Introduction

This chapter contains the park and greenway plan recommendations for each sector in the city. A plan map is presented for each sector. Because sector plans are updated periodically, the recommendations of this chapter can also be updated without having to overhaul the entire city-county park plan.

In developing the recommendations for the six city sectors, several tools were used to determine the proposed locations for parks. The first step was examining the existing system, making recommendations for improvements to the existing system, and then determining which areas were being served and which areas were under served. This was done using a combination of public input from meetings and surveys and mapping analysis. (See Appendix D.)



Victor Ashe Park

In order to implement the proposals on the following pages, capital improvement programming, using local, state and federal funds will be needed. However, there are several other public and private programs that can be developed to create the park system; they are identified in Chapter VII.

As a long range plan, it will take years to realize the proposed park and greenway improvements. In order to give direction to the acquisition and improvement programs, MPC and the city and county park departments have outlined short and mid-range objectives. See the appendices for the following:

- Appendix C: Park Acquisition Recommendations
- Appendix E: Greenway Priorities
- Appendix F: Short term Improvement Program for Existing Parks



Lonsdale Park is neighborhood serving.

The following recommendations include several proposals for smaller, neighborhood serving facilities in the city. The creation of new parks should include public input and should be designed to meet the needs of the residents the facility is intended to serve.

Central City Sector





Because of its historic neighborhood schools and through the success of early 20th century park planning, this sector has a good distribution of park and public resources. The keys to the improvement program are reclaiming underutilized sites (for example, abandoned schools, continuing to upgrade existing parks and forming greenway connections.)

Recommendations: Park Acquisitions and Reuse of Public Resources




Neighborhood parks and squares—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) or squares (1 to 5 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan: Cherry Street Square (creating a gateway to Five Points and the Magnolia corridor); Kelso Park (if rehabilitation of this former industrial yard is feasible); and Montcastle Park expansion or reconfiguration (making a more direct connection between the university and Cumberland Avenue; see concept in the Cumberland Avenue Plan); and a new square or park on the Walter P. Taylor Homes site at the time of its redevelopment. Details regarding other proposals follow.

Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

Belle Morris Park—Create a neighborhood and linear park, connecting to First Creek Greenway (using utility corridor and related space).

Lincoln Park School Reuse—Reclaim the asphalt areas as public park space, marking on-street parking for evening school use, and provide an outdoor basketball court. Another option for a neighborhood park within the Lincoln Park neighborhood is the vacant parcels surrounding the Lincoln Park United Methodist Church and west of the railroad line. This park could provide multipurpose open space and provide a walking loop within the park.

Oakwood School Reuse—Preserve this century-old school, a property eligible for National Register of Historic Places. Additionally, reuse the school building for housing or a neighborhood serving public facility. Remove the asphalt areas to accommodate a neighborhood park.

UT/Fort Sanders Neighborhood Square—Create a public square at the corner of Laurel Avenue and Sixteenth Street (currently a surface parking lot). The site is associated with Civil War history. The square should be designed to accommodate festivals, music and related special events in conjunction with the Laurel Theatre.

Proposed Greenways and Greenway Connectors

The sector's major greenway systems should include:

First Creek Greenway Extension—Link the existing greenway to Caswell Park, continue south to the Old City via the former railroad line and on to the James White Greenway.

Lonsdale Greenway—To buffer the neighborhood and provide access to Sharps Ridge and Second Creek Greenways, extend this greenway to Buck Toms Park.

Second Creek Greenway—Connect along Second Creek between Lonsdale and World's Fair Park. An extension of this greenway would link the World's Fair Park with the Old City and the proposed First Creek Greenway.

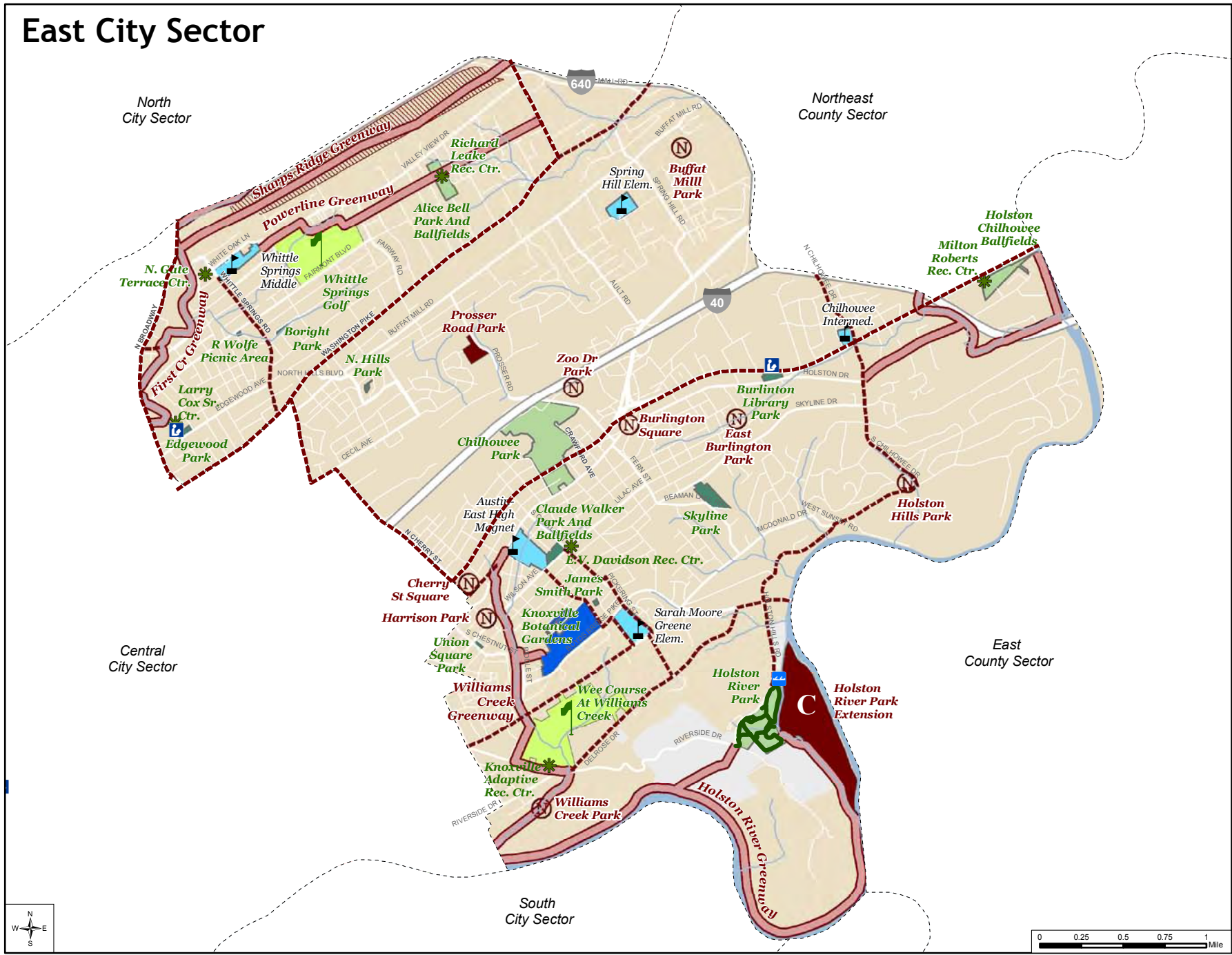
Sharps Ridge Greenway—Create a natural-surface trail from Sharps Ridge Memorial Park extending to McAnnally Ridge.

Greenway Connectors—North Central Street, Western Avenue, Cumberland Avenue and Magnolia Avenue are the major streets that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Recommendation: Recreation Center





Lonsdale Recreation Center—Expand the existing facility to provide space for league basketball and other community uses, or consider expanding the gym facilities at Lonsdale Elementary School and allow for public access, this could be accomplished through a partnership between Knoxville City Parks and Recreation and the Knox County School Board.

East City Sector






Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

East City Sector

A portion of this sector was once Park City, so named in respect to Chilhowee Park and other parks east of First Creek. While the park infrastructure is relatively good, there are several themes for improvements that should be pursued: better day-to-day access to existing resources (like the south side of Chilhowee Park), more neighborhood parks and squares that are surrounded by houses and connections in the greenway system, especially along the Holston River and Williams Creek.

Recommendations: New parks and squares

Neighborhood parks and squares—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) or squares (1 to 5 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan: Harrison Street Square; East Burlington Park (between Holston Drive and Skyline Drive, and east of Dickson Street); Burlington Square (as noted in the Magnolia Corridor Plan); Williams Creek Park; Zoo Drive Park (adapting this edge of the fairgrounds for multi-purpose uses, including field space); Burlington Library Park; and Holston Hills Neighborhood Park (possibly utilizing the neighborhood-owned pocket park).

Prosser Road Community Park—Develop a park on city-owned parcel, consider a partnership with the Kiwanis club located across the street. If a partnership is established, this community park could serve multiple neighborhoods including: Plantation Hills, Woodland Terrace and Gillenwater.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

The sector's major greenway systems should include:

Holston River Greenway—Connect to the existing James White Greenway and the proposed Williams Creek Greenway to Holston River Park and Holston Hills (pursuing a trail easement through the UT farm).

Loves Creek Greenway—Develop this portion of the greenway running from the Holston River northwest to Asheville Highway and Interstate 40.

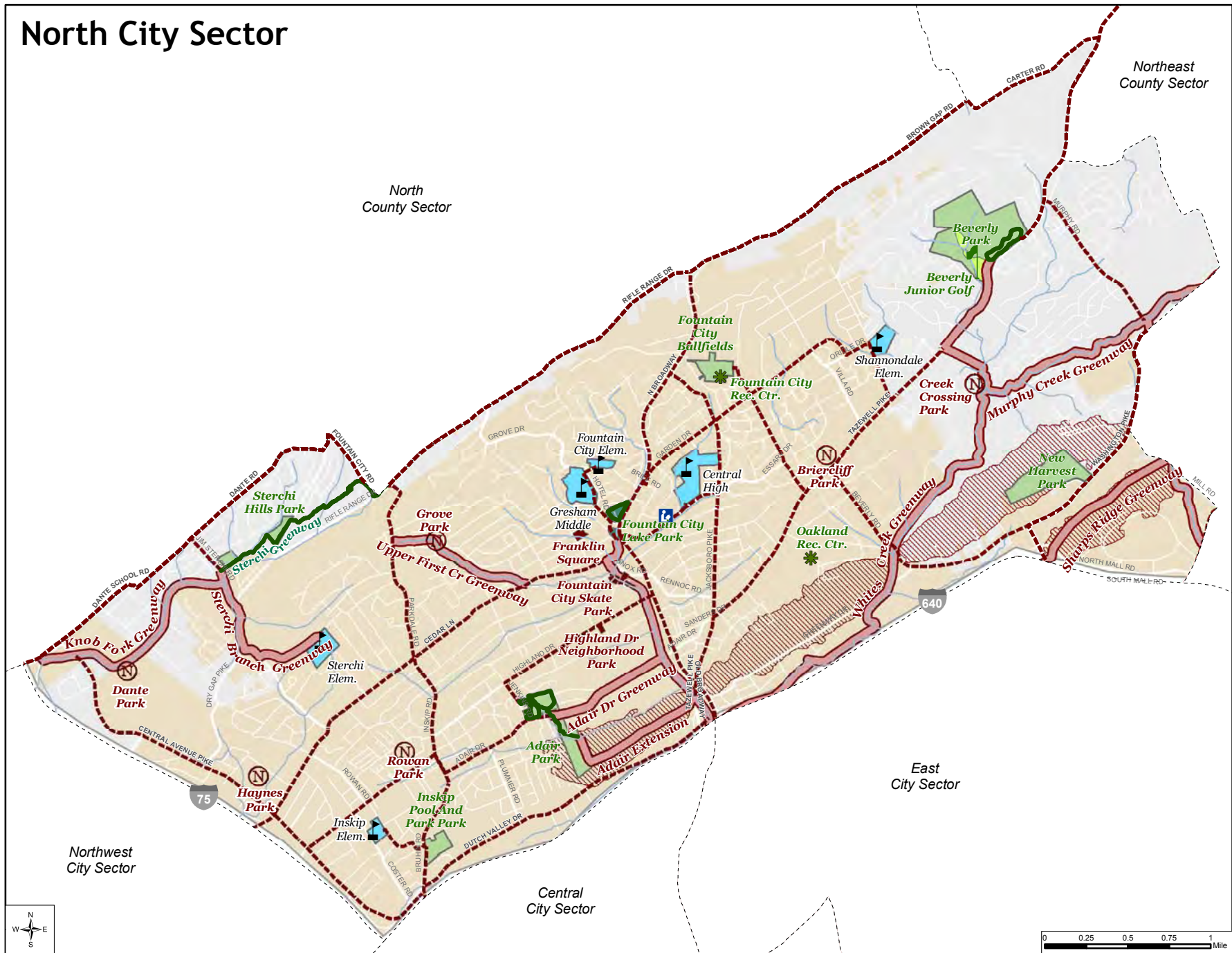
Sarah M. Greene Greenway Connectors—Continue connections to the Botanical Gardens and Austin East High School.

Sharps Ridge Greenway—Acquire easements to create a trail running the length of the ridge.

Williams Creek Greenway—Follow the creek from the river through the Wee Golf Course and into the Five Points/Austin East High School area.





Greenway Connectors—Magnolia Avenue/ Asheville Highway and the streets leading to the arboretum are the most significant streets that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

North City Sector






Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

North City Sector

The key issues in this sector are the creation of new neighborhood parks in its rapidly growing suburbs and the creation of the greenways along First Creek, White's Creek and Murphy Creek.

Recommendations: New parks and squares

Neighborhood parks and squares—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks or squares in the general vicinity indicated on the plan: Dante Park, Haynes Park, Grove Park, Briercliff Park, Creek Crossing Park (at the confluence Murphy and White's Creek), and Highland Drive Park (develop as a passive park and garden in partnership with neighborhood interests).

Fountain City Skate Park—This park is being designed as a cooperative effort between the city and the community to provide a plaza style skate park, gazebo, bleacher, sidewalk connections and landscaping. Additionally this property should connect by a greenway to Adair Park and Fountain City Lake Park.

Franklin Square—Acquire land or partner with the Disabled Veterans Association to develop recreational uses of this space. The parcel currently has a building for the local chapter of the association and open space. It is located next to local streets and could accommodate a playground and some passive recreation opportunities.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

The sector's major greenway systems should include:

Adair Drive Greenway and Adair Extension—Connect from the Sue Clancy Greenway (which is part of Adair Park) to First Creek. Develop the extension trail south of the cemetery on the ridge.

First Creek Greenway (the northward extension)—Acquire easements and create a trail from Fountain

City Lake Park to the existing First Creek Greenway with a spur to Whittle Springs Middle School. The development of the trail should be planned in conjunction with Broadway/I-640 interchange improvements and flood management programs.

Inskip/I-75 Greenway—Connect the Inskip Pool and Park, and the Inskip Ballfields.

Knob Fork Greenway—Connect the existing Sterchi Greenway with the proposed Beaver Creek Greenway.

Sterchi Branch Greenway—Connect Sterchi Elementary and surrounding neighborhoods to the Sterchi and the proposed Knob Fork Greenways.

Upper First Creek Greenway and Fountain City Connectors—Provide a trail from Cedar Lane to Knox Road, linking Fountain City to Schumpert Park and Sterchi Greenway. Use bike and pedestrian facilities to connect to Central High, Gresham Middle and Fountain City Elementary Schools.

Whites Creek and Murphy Creek Greenways—Use the floodplains along the creeks to create connections from First Creek Greenway and the neighborhoods to the proposed Creek Crossing and Luttrell Lane Parks and Ritta Elementary School.

Greenway Connectors—Broadway, Bruhin Road, Central Avenue Pike, Cedar Lane, Rifle Range Road and Tazewell Pike are the foremost roads that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Recommendation: Recreation Center

Oakland Recreation Center—Preserve the existing structure for its merits as part of African American history. Improve public access and develop an improvement program.

Northwest City Sector

The creation of Victor Ashe Park solved a major shortcoming in this area: the need for a large, multipurpose park. Development in the West City Sector followed rapid suburban growth between 1950 and 1980. In most cases, neighborhoods sprung up without parks. The keys to the improvement program are creating a better distribution of smaller parks within walking distance of residents and forming greenway connections.

Recommendations: New Parks and Natural Areas

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan: Westbrook Park, Oak Road Park, Victor Drive Park, Lonas Drive Park (consider a partnership including the United Way, Knox Racquet Club, or the Elks Lodge in providing this facility), Wilson Road Park, Murray Drive Park and Montwood Drive Park.

Pond Gap Natural Area—Work the school board to set aside the wetland south of Interstate 40 for environmental conservation and education purposes.

Inskip Ballfields Expansion—Expand the Inskip Ballfields into adjacent property that consists of approximately seven acres of floodplain and forested lands. This new addition could be used primarily for such activities as nature and walking paths.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

The sector's major greenway systems should include:

Cavet Station Greenway—Link the existing Ten Mile Creek Greenway with the existing Jean Teague Greenway in West Hills Park.

Papermill Bluff Greenway—Create this greenway in conjunction with the improvements to Interstate 40/75 at Papermill Road and provide a connection from Pond Gap Elementary to the existing Weisgarber Greenway.

Pond Gap Greenway—This greenway should be created as buffer to and recreation resource for the neighborhood north of Lonas Drive.

Third Creek Greenway (the northward extension)—Connect the Third Creek Greenway in the Bearden area to the greenway system at Victor Ashe Park and Northwest Middle School, preserving the lands along this branch of Third Creek as a permanent natural area.





Greenway connectors—Sidepaths (for biking and walking) are partially established along Middlebrook Pike; more connections are needed to link the Weisgarber and Jean Teague greenways and provide a connection to Bearden Middle School. Other major bicycle-pedestrian connectors include Western Avenue, Clinton Highway, Pleasant Ridge Road and Merchant Drive.

Recommendations: Recreation Centers




Cumberland Estates Recreation Center—Create a master plan for this resource and expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation.

Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

Northwest City Sector



South City Sector

This sector has some of the largest park and recreation resources in Knox County, including Ijams Nature Center, the State Wildlife Management Area, Hastie Natural Area and Civil War resources. The key to the development of the system is to establish unbroken connections through greenway trails.

Recommendations:

Close-to-Home Parks

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) recommends that communities meet a minimum standard of 6.25 acres of close to-home parks for every 1,000 people. In comparing that standard to the South City Sector's 2009 population (19,814), the sector is deficient by 25.3 acres. As subdivisions are created, a provision for neighborhood parks is a typical goal in most communities.

New Parks, Squares and Additions

The acquisition of space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) or squares and plazas (1 to 5 acres each) should be sought in the general vicinity of the proposed sites on the park plan map.

Park and Recreation Center Improvements

- **Cecil Webb Park**—Creation of a master plan to link Cecil Webb Park and Cecil Webb Recreation Center; consider an expanded open space system linking Dogwood Elementary and the old South Knoxville High School.
- **Sam Duff Memorial Park**—Improvements to the park should be based on the public process

and master plan provided by the East Tennessee Community Design Center.

- **William Hastie Natural Area**—Provide natural surface trails that connect to the surrounding neighborhoods, Marie Myers Park, and Ijams Nature Center.




Greenways and Greenway Connectors

A greenway is an open space corridor marked by paved or unpaved paths that accommodate bicycle and pedestrian uses. Many greenways are located along creeks or rivers, providing users access to nature and an alternative means of transportation.




- **Baker Creek Greenway**—Connect to the proposed James White Parkway Greenway to Island Home Park and south to Mary James Park.
- **James White Greenway**—Include a separated greenway as part of roadway construction if the parkway is extended.
- **Smoky Mountain Railroad Greenway**—Follow the former railroad line, connecting South Waterfront with Charter E. Doyle Park and South Knoxville neighborhoods. Also, develop a connection to the William Hastie Natural Area.
- **South Waterfront Greenway and connected trails**—Extend the South Waterfront trail and create a natural surface trail from Ijams Nature Center through Marie Myers Park to William Hastie Natural Area.
- **Greenway connectors**—Chapman Highway and Moody Avenue are the two major roads that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists, where capable.

Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

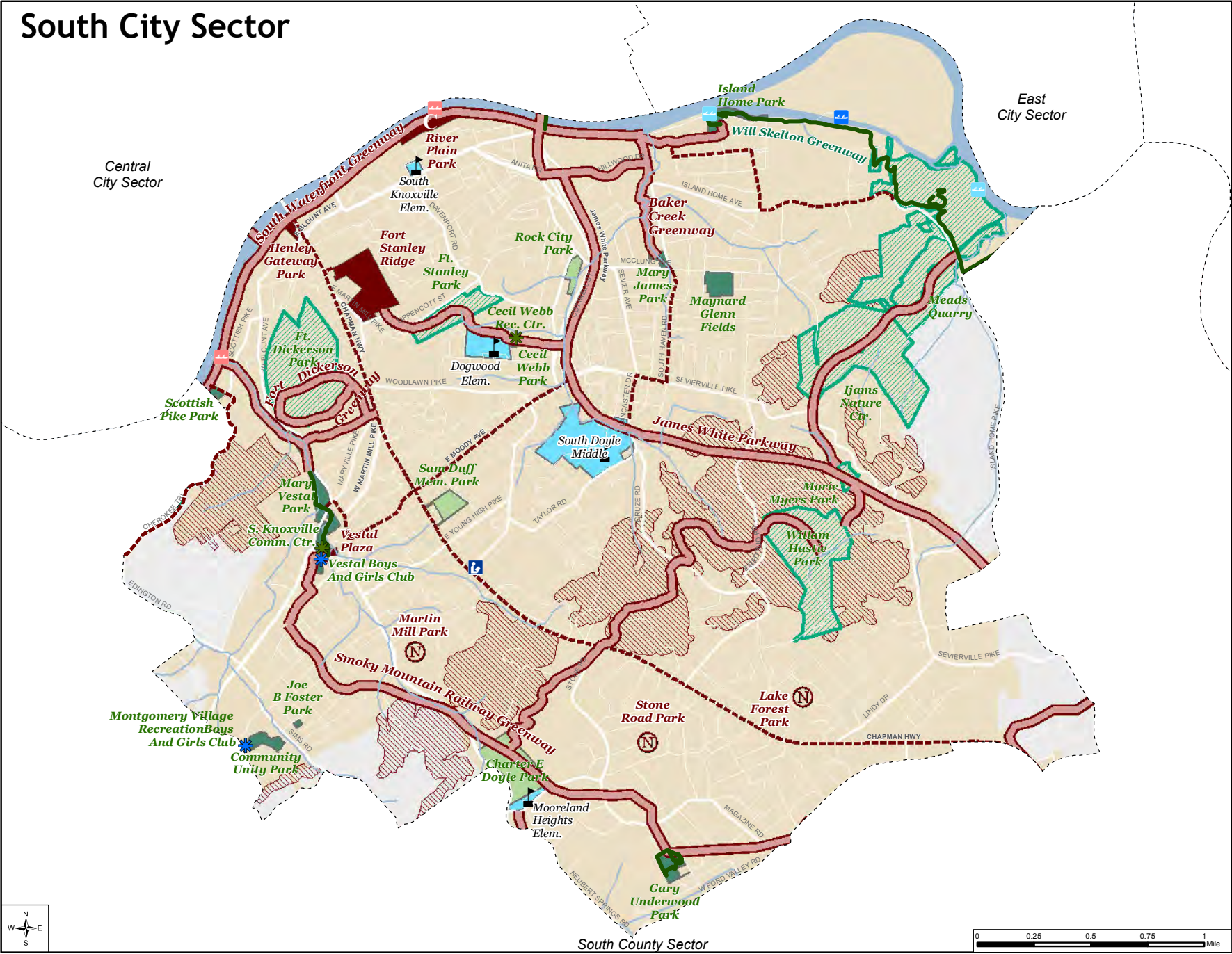
Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

South City Sector



West City Sector

This sector contains the most established greenway system of Knoxville-Knox County and two of our “flagship” parks (Lakeshore and Sequoyah Hills Parks). The foremost goal should be to continue to make safe pedestrian and bicycle connections.

Recommendations: New Parks

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (3 to 5 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan: Branch Park and Westland Park.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

Fourth Creek Greenway—Connect Lakeshore Park to the existing Weisgarber and Bearden Greenways.

Lockett Road Greenway—Utilize the wide floodplain behind the existing businesses to provide a greenway for the benefit of workers and surrounding neighborhoods.

Sequoyah Hills Greenway—Create an extension that would run along Blow’s Ferry Road and Noelton Drive to link the Bearden, Third Creek and Sequoyah Greenways.

The recommended greenway connectors (the bicycle/pedestrian facilities along roadways) include Deane Hill Connector (specifically connecting the recreation center to the Lockett Road and Fourth Creek Greenways and the Lyons View Pike Connector).



Above: Sequoyah Park, which has space for exercise as well as rest, is a model for the entire park system.

Below: The Lakeshore Park Greenway should be connected to the Bearden Greenway via Fourth Creek.



Park and Greenway Proposals

Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- District/Regional Park
- District Recreation Center

Proposed Parks: Specific Location

- Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- District / Regional Park

Proposed Greenways and Blueways

- Greenway
- Greenway Connector
- Ridge Conservation Corridor
- Blueway Access Location

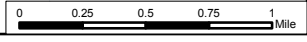
Existing Park Facilities

- Community and District/Regional Parks
- Neighborhood Park
- Open Space / Natural Area
- Private/Quasi-public Parks
- Golf Courses
- School Parks
- Public Recreation Center
- Quasi-public Recreation Centers
- Greenways
- Blueway Access Location
- Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

- Libraries
- Streams
- City of Knoxville Boundary
- Planning Sector Boundary

West City Sector



VII. Plan Recommendations: County Sectors

Introduction

This chapter contains the park and greenway plan recommendations for each sector in the unincorporated areas of Knox County. A plan map is presented for each sector. Because sector plans are updated periodically, the recommendations of this chapter can also be updated without having to overhaul the entire city-county park plan.

In developing the recommendations for the six county sectors, several tools were used to determine the proposed locations for parks. The first step was examining the existing system, making recommendations for improvements to the existing system, and then determining which areas were being served and which areas were under served. This was done using a combination of public input from meetings and surveys and mapping analysis (see Appendix D).

In order to implement the proposals on the following pages, capital improvement programming,

using local, state and federal funds will be needed. However, there are several other public and private programs that can be developed to create the park system; they are identified in Chapter VII.

As a long range plan, it will take years to realize the proposed park and greenway improvements. In order to give direction to the acquisition and improvement programs, MPC and the city and county park departments have outlined short and mid-range objectives. See the appendices for the following:

- Appendix C: Park Acquisition Recommendations
- Appendix E: Greenway Priorities
- Appendix F: Short term Improvement Program for Existing Parks

The following recommendations include several proposals for both neighborhood and community parks. Additionally, the public meetings and surveys showed that citizens desired several large

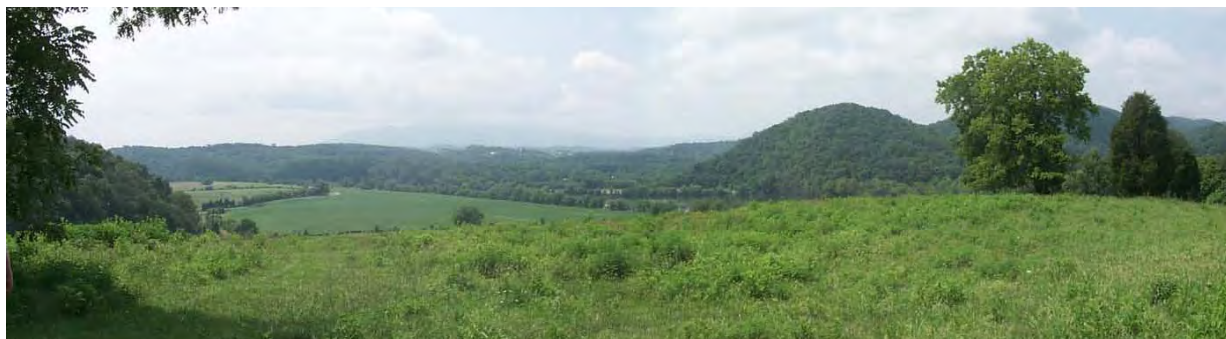
recreational facilities that would provide both indoor and outdoor recreation for all age users. There are five city and county serving district recreation centers recommended in this plan. The creation of new parks should include public input and should be designed to meet the needs of the residents the facility is intended to serve.



New Harvest Park

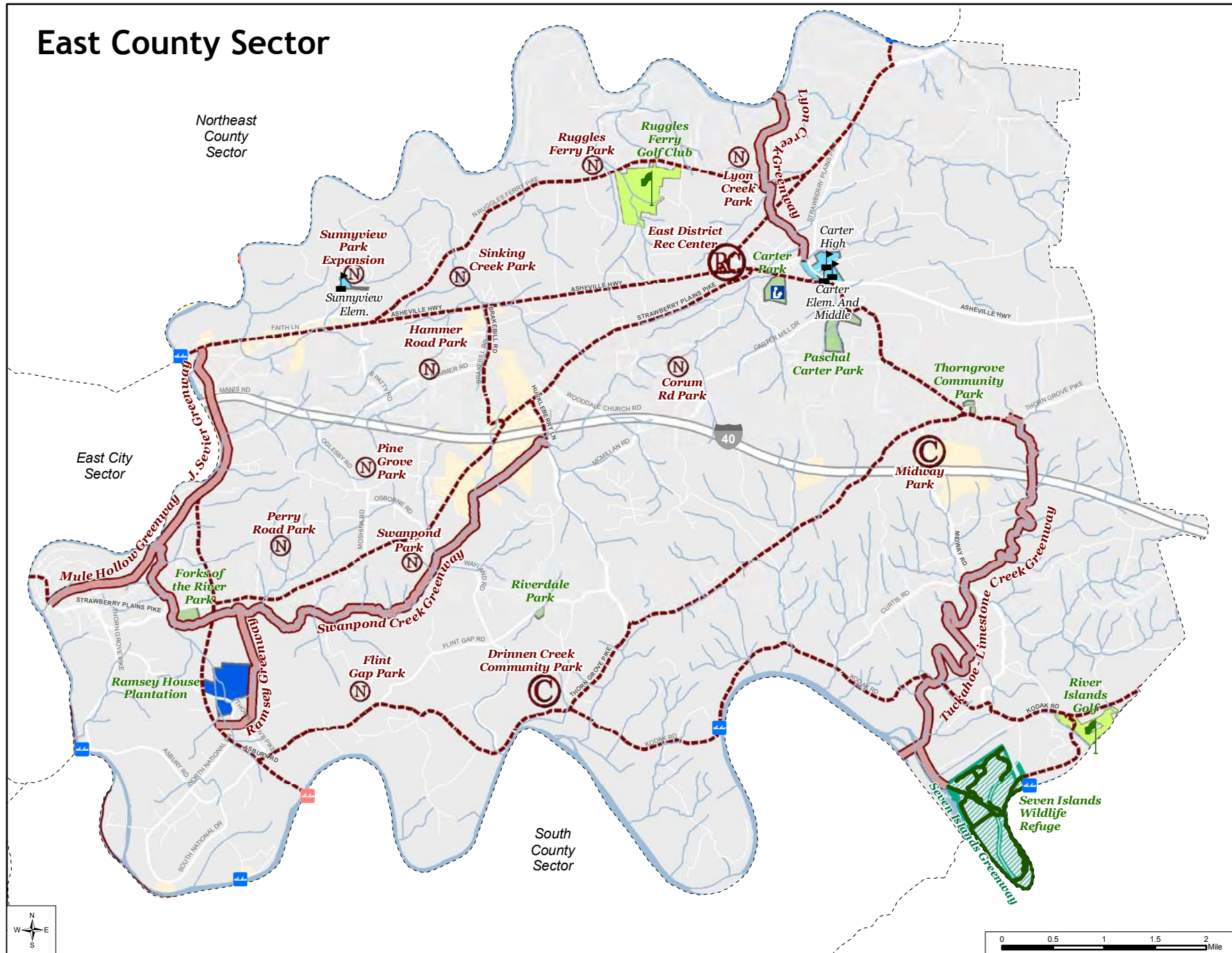


Pet Safe Dog Park





Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge protects habitat, environment, and view sheds.

East County Sector






Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center




Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

East County Sector

The greatest need in East Knox County is to begin a neighborhood park acquisition program so that future residents will be within walking distance of recreation space as neighborhoods develop.

Recommendations: Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan map: Ruggles Ferry Park, Sunnyview Park, Hammer Road Park, Swanpond Creek Park, Flint Gap Park, Perry Road Park, Pine Grove Park, Sinking Creek Park, Lyon Creek Park and Corum Road Park. At Flint Gap Park consider partnering with existing church to provide a park. At Sunnyview, acquire about 5 acres for additional public park and school activities.

Community parks—at Midway set aside 10-20 acres for a community park in conjunction with new development; the open space could be part of an on-site wastewater treatment system. Create a community park along Drinnen Creek in Riverdale, providing 10 to 20 acres for active and passive recreation.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

French Broad Conservation Area Greenway—Preserve open space system along the river. Provide a trail system, using a combination of land near the river, and space along Thorngrove Pike and Kodak Road. Consider a horse trail as part of this system.

Greenway Connectors—Asheville Highway, Brakebill Road, John Sevier Highway and Ruggles Ferry Road (all within city and county growth areas) are the most significant roads that should be improved to safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Mule Hollow Greenway—Develop a trail and open space corridor along the ridge that continues along the river or John Sevier Highway.

Swanpond Creek and Ramsey Greenways—Create a trail along this creek, providing connection from current and future neighborhoods to the Forks of the River Park and to the Ramsey House.

Tuckahoe-Limestone Creek Greenway—Create an open space system along this state scenic river resource, protecting the stream corridor and floodplain. Create a path, connecting the Thorngrove Community Park with Seven Islands Wildlife Refuge.

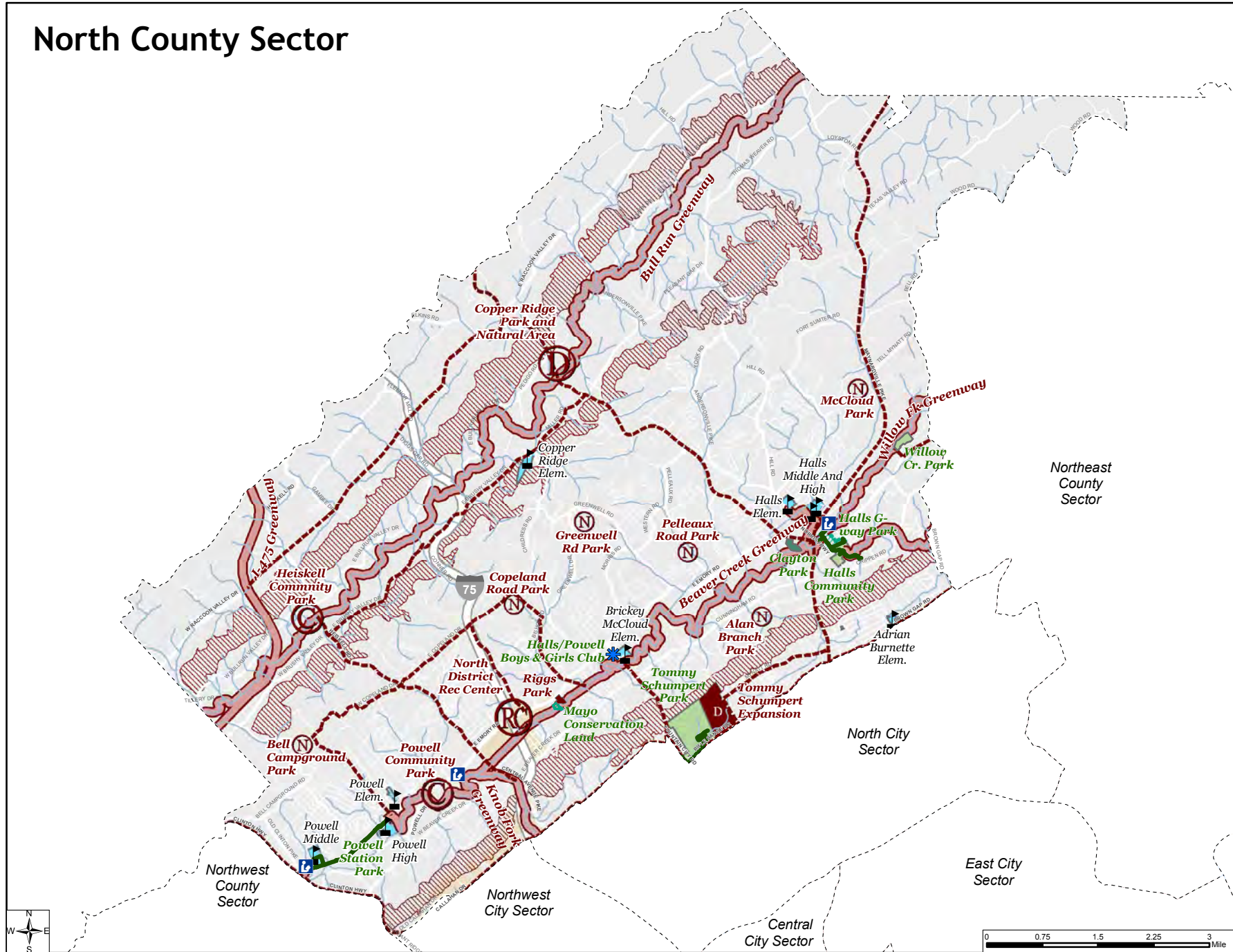
Lyon Creek Greenway—Provide a trail from the Holston River to Carter High, Middle and Elementary Schools as well as the library and senior center at Carter Park.

Recommendations: Recreation Centers

East District Recreation Center—Provide a recreation center and park space that will provide amenities for people of all ages, including both indoor and outdoor, active and passive recreation. This center should be located along a major arterial such as Asheville Highway and should be geared toward serving a population of 20,000.





Equestrian Center concept—Horseback riding is one of the pastimes of area residents as well as others beyond the sector. With its large extent of rural area, the rural portion of this sector is a logical place for an equestrian center where lessons, dressage and other riding activities could be programmed. The French Broad Conservation Corridor should be considered in making a location decision.

North County Sector






Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

North County Sector

The greatest need in North Knox County is to continue to make connections in the greenway trail system along Beaver Creek. That feature with its broad floodplain can truly be the spine that connects the schools, parks and libraries together. Neighborhood park acquisition within walking distance of all neighborhoods should also be a priority in this rapidly growing sector.

Recommendations: Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan map: Bell Campground Road, Greenwell Road, Copeland Road, McCloud Road, Pelleaux and Alan Branch.

Copper Ridge Park and Natural Area—Protect the natural resources of portions of Bull Run and Copper Ridges and the Bull Run floodplain with open space and recreation areas. Recommend acquiring 50 or more acres for a district park that will serve active and passive recreation needs.

Heiskell Community Park—Acquire 10-20 acres to serve the community's future playfield needs; locate adjacent or as part of the proposed Bull Run Greenway.

Powell Community Park—Acquire 20 or more acres for a community serving park between the high school and the library that could connect with the proposed greenway.

Riggs Park—expand the Mayo Conservation area with a neighborhood-oriented park.

Tommy Schumpert Park Expansion—as suburban development increases in what was once a rural area, it could prove to be problematic to continue rifle range use. If the rifle range closes, this plan recommends conducting an environmental impact

study of the site and creating a master plan for appropriate uses that could be added to an expanded park.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

Bull Run Creek Greenway—Preserve the environmental resources and lands along the creek.

Beaver Creek and Knob Fork Greenways—Acquire land and easements to create greenways that would run through the Halls, Powell and Karns communities. These greenways could connect to the existing Halls and Powell Greenways and connect to several schools and parks.

Willow Fork Greenway—This greenway would connect to the existing Halls Greenway and provide a trail to Willow Creek Park and to the Gibbs community.

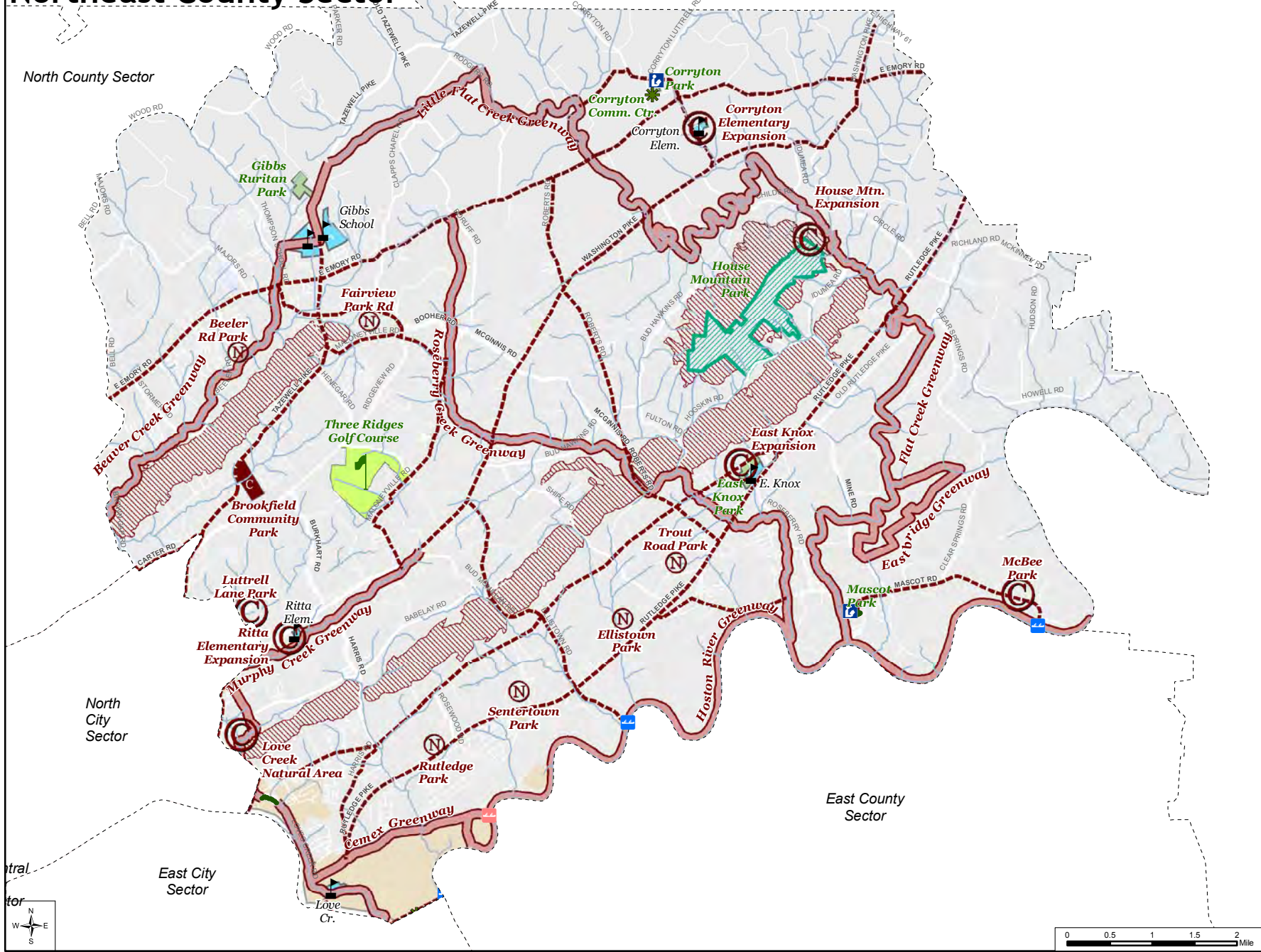
I-475 Greenway—Recommended as a part of the state parkway.

Greenway Connectors—Central Avenue Pike, Clinton Highway, Conner Road, Maynardville Highway, Raccoon Valley Road, Brushy Valley Drive, and Norris Freeway (all within the County's Planned Growth Area) are the most significant roads that should be improved to safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Recommendation: Recreation Center





North District Recreation Center—Provide a recreation center and park space that will provide amenities for all ages and user types including both indoor and outdoor recreation. This center should be located along a major arterial such as Emory Road in the I-75 vicinity and should be geared toward serving 20,000-40,000 users.

Northeast County Sector






Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

Northeast County Sector

Northeast Knox County has been among the faster growing sectors. Close-to-home park acquisition has not kept pace with subdivision development. Like other once rural areas, there are no neighborhood parks, small parks within walking distance of families; such parks should be a major goal as should the greenway system.

Recommendations: Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks in the general vicinity indicated on the plan map: Rutledge Park, Beeler Road Park, Fairview Road Park, Sentertown Park, Trout Road Park and Ellistown Park.

Brookfield Community Park—Use existing county acreage along Tazewell Pike to create a community park.

Corryton Elementary School/Park Expansion—Acquire 10-20 acres adjacent to the school to provide a community park within this area.

East Knox Elementary School/Park Expansion—Acquire 10-20 acres to increase community serving recreation at the school and existing park.

House Mountain Park and Natural Area expansion—Acquire 20 plus acres at the toe of House Mountain to accommodate a community park for playfields and picnicking and as an additional trail head to the mountain.

Love Creek Natural Area—Acquire 10-20 acres for a passive park and open space to protect water quality.

Luttrell Lane Community Park—Acquire acreage associated with the flood prone sinkhole area and conserve them as open space and multi- purpose fields, leading to the Murphy Creek greenway.

Mc Bee Community Park—Create a 20 to 40 acre park on the Holston, which includes playing fields and non-motorized boating access.

Ritta Elementary School/Park Expansion—Expand existing facilities by 10-20 acres to provide for community park uses.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

Beaver Creek Greenway—Provide trail connections from the existing and future neighborhoods to the Gibbs schools and Gibbs Ruritan Park.

Eastbridge Greenway—Provide a trail loop around the business park.

Flat Creek Greenway—Connecting to the proposed Beaver Creek Greenway, it would preserve the floodplain and connect to Eastbridge Park and Mascot Park.

Murphy Creek Greenway—This extension leads to White Creek.

Holston River Greenway—Acquire land and easements to create a trail that follows the river from the county line to Asheville Highway.

Roseberry Creek Greenway—This greenway should connect existing and future neighborhoods to the Gibbs schools and Holston River greenway.

Cemex Greenway—This link should be made between Love Creek and Holston River Greenways.

Greenway Connectors—Emory Road, Maloneyville Road, Millertown Pike, Rutledge Pike and Tazewell Pike are the most significant roads that should be improved to safely accommodate pedestrians and bicyclists.

Northwest County Sector

With over 75,000 residents, this sector has the largest population in the unincorporated area. The greatest needs are to make greenway connections and development of close-to-home parks that can be reached by walking or biking.

Recommendations: Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks in the general vicinity indicated on the plan map: Conner Creek, Cate Road, Yount Road, Emory Road Neighborhood, Yarnell Road, Beaver Valley, Lobetti Road and West Bridge.

Harper Cave Commons—This 55 acre space could be used to create multiuse fields. This site was once a superfund site that has been restored for reuse. A master plan should be created that includes partial use of the site for potential housing, which also addresses, if necessary, a final environmental review.

Dead Horse Lake Park—This land is currently used for a golf course but development patterns suggest that this area could be redeveloped for a mix of uses. If so, space should be set aside for a greenway trail and neighborhood park space.

Hardin Valley Community Park—Acquire land between the elementary and high schools to protect the creek and create a portion of the Conner Creek greenway. It should be connected to the schools’ recreational facilities. Shared parking with the schools should be programmed.

Harrell Road Community Park—Acquire land along Beaver Creek to support multiuse fields and play spaces along the proposed greenway. This area is ideal for such a park because of the broad floodplain and good road access.

Melton Hill Community Center Expansion—Consider a partnership with the owners of this quasi-public facility to expand the grounds and offer long-term park use.





Plumb Creek Community Park—This former KUB-owned property (approximately 32 acres) should be developed as a community park, providing multiuse fields and playgrounds, natural area conservation and a multipurpose trail.

Three R’s Park (the suggested name referring environmental principles: reduce, reuse and recycle)—This former landfill should be reclaimed as a recreation resource. It has been partially restored, that is, “cleaned and capped” so it could be safe for park uses. One possibility would be for a northwest county skate park.




Northwest District Recreation Center—Develop a recreation center and park, providing both indoor and outdoor recreation. Locate along an arterial such as Middlebrook Pike or the Schaad Road extension and program to serve a population upwards of 30,000.

Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

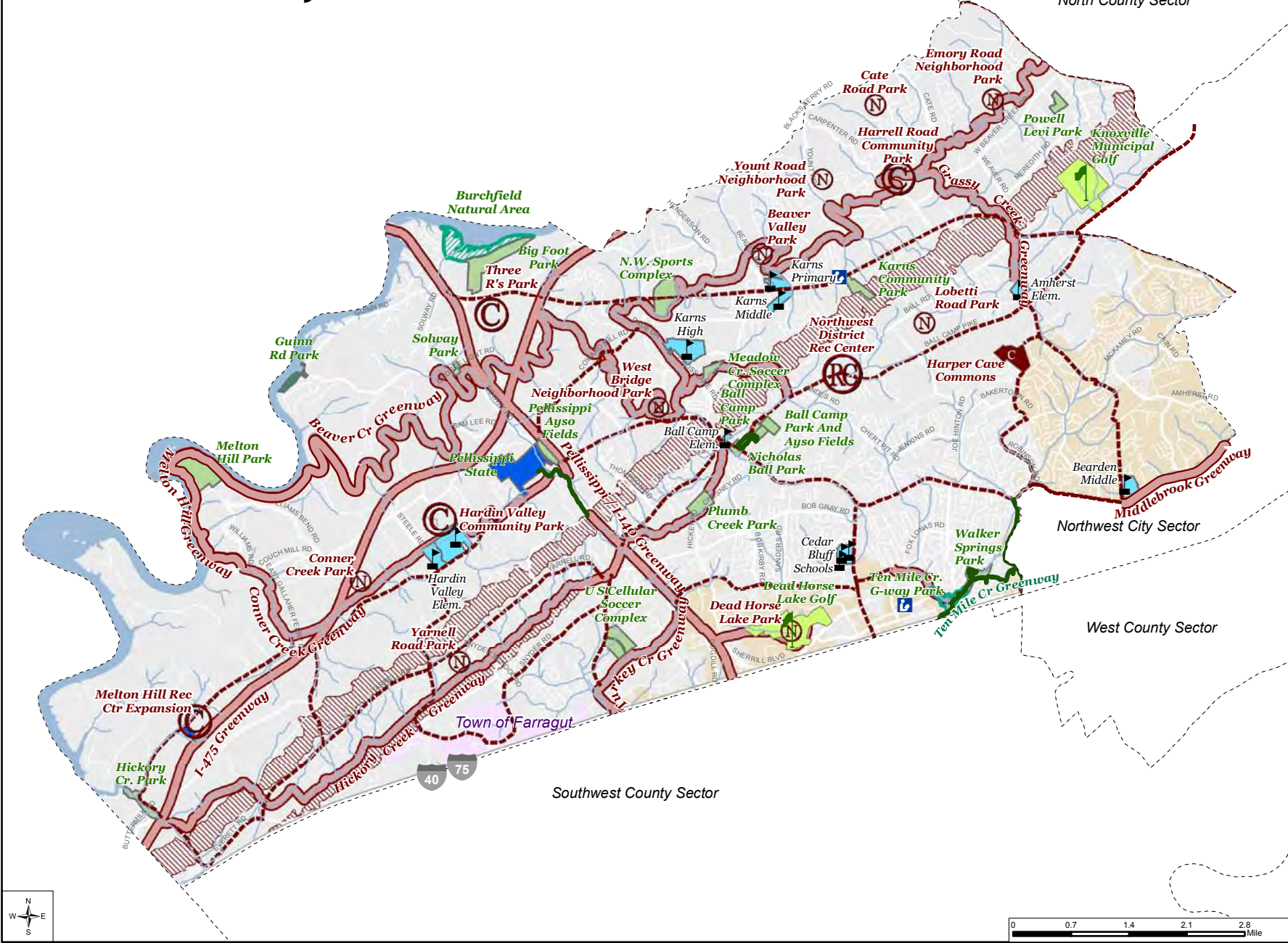
Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

Northwest County Sector



Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

Beaver Creek Greenway—This downstream portion of the greenway could contain a very beautiful corridor where the creek begins to fall and flow more rapidly through the forested hills to the lake. The trail should connect to the various schools and parks in Karns.

Conner Creek Greenway—Work with Pellissippi State and Knox County schools to provide a greenway, connecting the developing neighborhoods to the schools and parks of Hardin Valley.

Grassy Creek Greenway—This greenway trail would connect the proposed Beaver Creek Greenway to Amherst Elementary alongside the creek.

Hickory Creek Greenway—Acquire land and easements to create a trail, connecting existing and future neighborhoods to the proposed Pellissippi Greenway.

I-475 Greenway—If this state route is developed a separated greenway trail should be provided at the time of construction as an alternative transportation and recreation route.

Melton Hill Greenway—This greenway would connect to the proposed Beaver Creek and Conner Creek Greenways and would provide a trail along the lake through Melton Hill Park.

Pellissippi Parkway/I-140 Greenway—Continue to develop this greenway, working with Oak Ridge,

Blount County and the state to create a regional separated greenway trail, linking the communities and their greenway systems and the schools and employment centers near the route.

Plumb Creek Greenway—Develop a trail connection between Ball Camp Elementary School, Nicholas Ball Park and Plumb Creek (KUB) Park. Continue westward to join neighborhoods to the parks.

Turkey Creek Greenway North—This segment of the proposed greenway would connect to the Pellissippi Greenway, U.S. Cellular Soccer Complex and the existing Parkside Greenway.

Greenway Connectors—Hardin Valley Road, Lovell Road, Middlebrook Pike and Oak Ridge



The trail at Covered Bridge should be a model for Connor Creek.

Highway (all within the County's Planned Growth Area) are the most significant roads that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

New parks should be designed for multiple purposes, like this one with its moveable soccer goals.



South County Sector

With approximately 23,000 residents, this sector is among the least populated. Its beautiful rivers, creeks, ridges and mountains offer a setting for conservation and limited recreation. A potential concern may be an immediate need for a community park, should the lease at Bower Field be terminated.

Recommendations: Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan map: East Stock Creek Park, Ford Lane Park, Twin Creek Park and Colonial Village Park.

Bower Field Acquisition/Replacement—Currently these fields are under lease to the County Parks and

Recreation Department; consider purchasing this space and increasing the number of uses or acquire an alternative site to provide recreation when the lease expires.

Casteel Branch Park—Acquire and add 10-20 acres to create a community serving park provide multi-use fields, picnic and playground facilities

Government Farm—Develop a cooperative agreement to allow a loop trail at the edge of the farm and create outreach programs for environmental education.

I.C. King Park Expansion—Acquire land and an alterative access off of Maryville Pike; create a master plan including play fields, playground and trails. Consider a partnership with Sevier Heights

Baptist which owns approximately 70 acres adjacent to the park on the east side for shared parking and outdoor facility use.

Kimberlin Heights Park Expansion—Acquire an additional 10-20 acres; consider a connection to Gap Creek Elementary School and master plan the space with area residents.

Little River Park—Work with TVA to convert this existing RV campground to a community-serving park, which includes fishing and river access, a walking trail and playground.

New Hopewell School/Park Expansion—Add 10-20 acres to create a community-serving park with multi-use fields and expand the outdoor classroom and arboretum.

South Doyle High School and Park Expansion—Acquire 20 acres, particularly in the broad floodplain, to create a community-serving park; provide walking trail connections, multi-use fields and playground space.



Left: Building a pedestrian bridge across the French Broad River at Seven Islands will provide a tremendous recreation asset to South Knox Countians.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connectors

Burnett Creek Greenway—Provide a greenway along this creek to connect to the proposed French Broad Greenway and Bower Field while protecting this natural resource.

French Broad River Greenway—Provide a trail that could be used for walking or horseback riding from the county line to the Forks of the River Wildlife Management Area. Sidepaths along such roads as Hopewell Road could be part of this system.

Hines Creek Greenway—Use the floodway to provide a trail connecting the proposed French Broad Greenway south to Bower Field.

Knox Blount Greenway—Continue collaborative efforts (involving Knoxville, Alcoa, Knox and Blount Counties, the University of Tennessee, the state and federal governments) to provide a greenway trail along the river and parallel to Alcoa Highway.

Knob Creek Greenway—Provide a link to the Knox Blount Greenway, near Brown Mountain.

Smoky Mountain Railroad Greenway—Use this former railroad bed to provide a trail from the South Waterfront, connecting multiple park and recreation resources, to Sevier County.

Stock Creek Greenway—Acquire land and easements to create a trail within the floodway of this creek to provide a connection from the

proposed Knox Blount Greenway to the proposed Smokey Mountain Railway Greenway. Greenway connectors along such roads as Tipton Station can be part of this system

Greenway Connectors—Chapman Highway, John Sevier Highway, Martin Mill Pike, McCammon Road and Tipton Station Road (all within the County’s Planned Growth Area) are the most significant roads that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.

Recommendation: Recreation Center




South District Recreation Center—Provide a recreation center including indoor and outdoor activities to serve a population range of 20,000 to 40,000. Recommend locating this facility along major arterials for easy access.






With population growth or through the loss of the privately owned Bower Field, another community park or sports complex will be needed for such activities as football, soccer and baseball.

Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

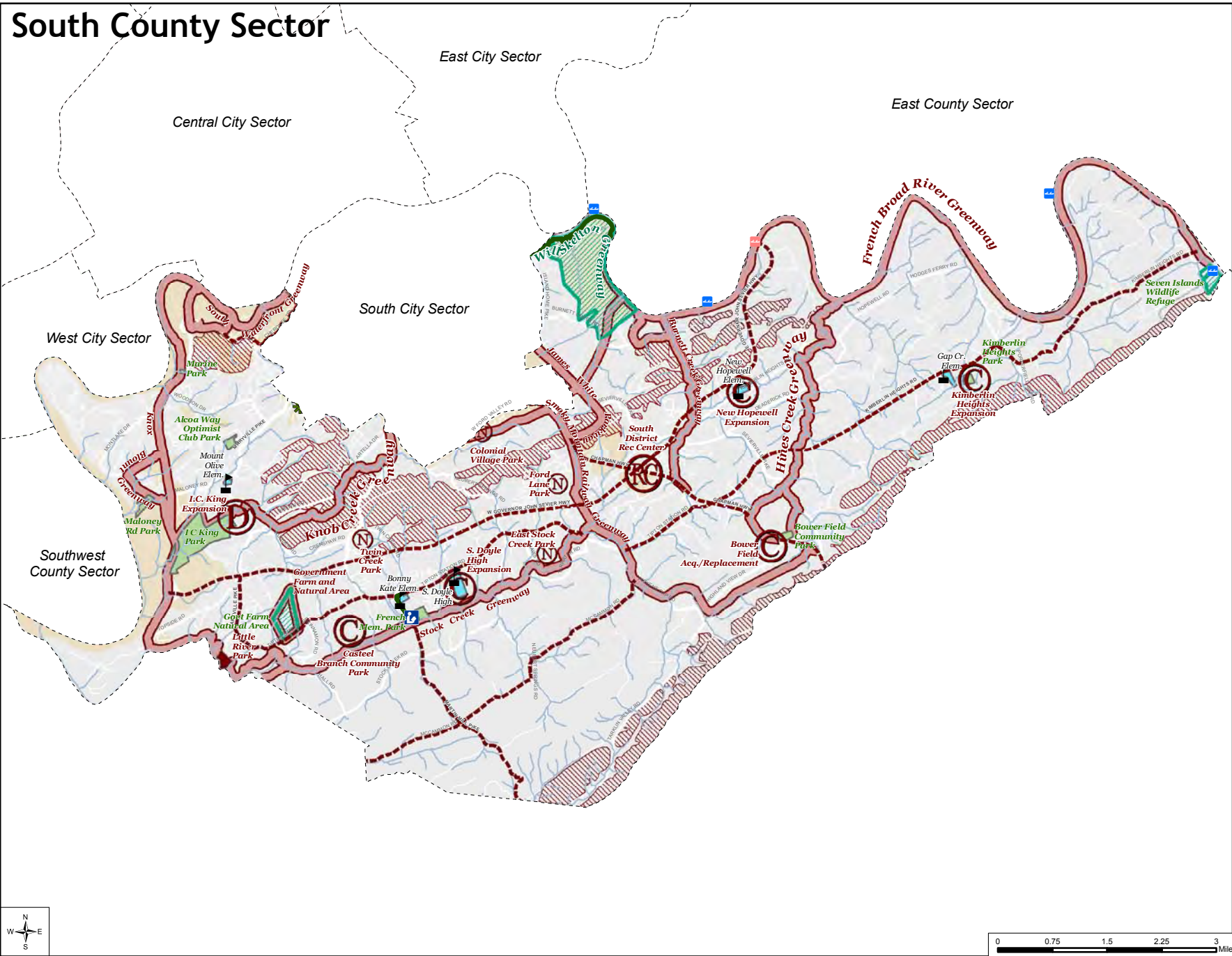
Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

South County Sector



Southwest County Sector

Some of the county's best park resources are in this rapidly growing area. These include Concord and Carl Cowan Park. The Town of Farragut also manages several attractive parks. The greatest needs are connections in the greenway trail system and the creation of neighborhood parks.

Recommendations: Park Acquisition

Neighborhood parks—Acquire space for new neighborhood parks (5 to 10 acres each) in the general vicinity indicated on the plan map: Fox Canton Park, George Williams Park and Nubbin Ridge Park.

Northshore Town Center Parks and Greenway—Parks are required by Town Center zoning and, along with the buffer greenway trail system, are identified in the master plan; local government should consider an agreement to accept and manage these spaces.

Tooles Bend Park—Acquire 10-20 acres for a community park. Consider a trail link to Badgett Road #1 Park.

West Valley Middle School/Park Expansion—Acquire 10 to 20 acres to create a community park while protecting the floodplain, cave and creek as environmental resources. Amenities could include playfields, courts and trails.

Recommendations: Greenways and Greenway Connections

Concord Greenway and greenway connector—Work with Loudon County and the Town of Farragut to provide a greenway system running from the west county line through Concord Park to the proposed Pellissippi/I-140 Greenway.

Keller Bend Greenway—Connect the natural areas with a trail that runs through an open space system or near Keller Bend Road.

Pellissippi/Interstate 140 Greenway—Create a connection to the regional trail network, including those of Blount County.

Ten Mile Creek Greenway Extension—Continue the existing greenway from the interstate south to West Valley Middle School.





Turkey Creek Greenway—Use the floodway to provide a trail from the existing Parkside Greenway to Concord Park protecting the natural environment.

Greenway Connectors—Northshore Drive, Westland Drive, Bluegrass Road, Canton Hollow Road and Nubbin Ridge Road are the most significant roads that should be improved to safely accommodate both pedestrians and bicyclists.




Additional greenways are being provided by the Town of Farragut.

Park and Greenway Proposals





Proposed Parks: General Vicinity

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District/Regional Park
-  District Recreation Center












Proposed Parks: Specific Location

-  Neighborhood Park
-  Community Park
-  District / Regional Park





Proposed Greenways and Blueways

-  Greenway
-  Greenway Connector
-  Ridge Conservation Corridor
-  Blueway Access Location

Existing Park Facilities

-  Community and District/Regional Parks
-  Neighborhood Park
-  Open Space / Natural Area
-  Private/Quasi-public Parks
-  Golf Courses
-  School Parks
-  Public Recreation Center
-  Quasi-public Recreation Centers
-  Greenways
-  Blueway Access Location
-  Blueway Rest Stop

Other Information

-  Libraries
-  Streams
-  City of Knoxville Boundary
-  Planning Sector Boundary

Southwest County Sector



VIII. Implementation Strategies

The Parks, Recreation and Greenways Plan is intended to be a “living document” that is, reflective of current recreation preferences, conditions, and needs. To remain so:

- Update the individual sector park maps periodically, with every subsequent Sector Plan adoption, to reflect additions to the park system and to reassess goals for each individual sector.
- Monitor key demographic indicators such as age and population growth trends to enable more accurate projections of future needs.
- Preserve areas of natural significance through greenways, blueways, and park land along rivers, creeks, and hillsides, particularly in establishing district/regional parks.
- Seek joint use easements for trail systems within existing and proposed drainage, utility and freeway corridors.
- Conduct studies of potential sites for comprehensive recreation centers (distributed throughout the county) including potential components and costs.
- Work with various special interest groups to assess needs and opportunities to accommodate those interests (equestrians, skate borders, inline skaters, rugby clubs, tennis clubs, golf clubs, soccer clubs, etc.)
- Implement “green” practices – replacing standard light bulbs with LED, provide for recycling, use recycled materials (for example, rubber mulch), etc.

- Conduct follow-up public opinion surveys to track local trends and attitudes.

Strategies

In addition to conventional capital improvement appropriations and state and federal grants (through park, natural resource, transportation and community development agencies), the following strategies should be pursued in implementing this plan.

Non-profit and private funding

Legacy Parks Foundation

Legacy Parks Foundation is a public, tax-exempt organization founded in 2005 and it is a supporting foundation of the East Tennessee Foundation. The Foundation is operated by an independent Board of Directors and serves Knoxville and Knox County. Its mission is: “To enrich our quality of life by improving, preserving and growing parks, recreation and green space.” Financial support for the program comes from grants, private donations, corporate contributions, gifts of property, and bequests. Coordination with the Foundation is a necessity in creating the future park system.

Corporate sponsors/naming rights

A potential funding source is to work with corporations and businesses that would like to provide land, materials, and other resources for the development of new park, recreation and greenway



Legacy Parks Foundation had led the effort to create the urban wilderness system.

facilities or the renovation of such facilities. An incentive could be the opportunity to include recognition of donations through signs or naming the resource after a corporate sponsor (for example: U.S. Cellular Soccer Fields).

Public-private partnerships

Concurrent land acquisition for development and parks

Because of the quickly urbanizing status of Knoxville and Knox County, it is important for both entities to be proactive in obtaining park and recreation land resources. This provides flexibility in responding to changing circumstances in the future. As “build-out” approaches, there will not be land available at affordable cost to meet additional park needs and desires. Additionally, local government should look first to public land, then private land, except where location criteria dictate otherwise. It will be important to establish incentives for developers to set aside open space at the time of subdivision especially as the rate of land subdivision increases.

Public dedications and recognition following development

It is important to publicize the positive achievements of the parks and recreation departments and to provide recognition for new facilities and partnerships. The parks departments in conjunction with the Legacy Parks Foundation should continue to recognize park achievements with activities such as ribbon cuttings, press releases, and the annual Mayors’ Luncheon for the Parks.

Partner with the Knoxville Tourism and Sports Corporation and the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce

Utilize the marketing skills of the Tourism Corporation and the Chamber to promote tournaments, classes, and special events provided through the parks and recreation departments.

Partner with the Knox County School System

Provide a mutually beneficial relationship in which the schools could provide land open to the community for recreation purposes and the parks and recreation departments could provide amenities, equipment and share maintenance costs. Program activities on school grounds and facilities for summer, weekend, and after school uses year round.

Combine dedication programs with capital budgets

Create a matching funds pool as part of the capital budget each year where public funds can be used to leverage private dollars, grants, and donations.



This plan calls for reuse of former school grounds. Rule High School fields have sat idle for a decade. Their reuse as a park would be a community asset.

Voluntary Program Expansion

Adopt-A-Park Program

Increase the number of volunteers and continue to develop programs for natural trail construction, such as involvement in mountain bike and scouting interests.



Mountain bike interests have been very active in assisting the parks departments. Other interests should also be sought in creating new trails.

Neighborhood Pick Up

Help to defer maintenance costs by working with neighborhood associations and coordinating trash pick up and general park maintenance. This program can help to increase a sense of ownership for the facility.

Creating equitable acquisition systems

Adopt a level-of-service methodology for parks and recreation program planning.

A level-of-service approach provides a strong, legally defensible basis for dedication requirements and other fees. It also brings consistency to the assessment of needs and tracking of accomplishments over a long period of time.

Subdivision regulations

Section 6-68 of the Minimum Subdivision Regulations for Knox County states:

“Public Open Spaces – For the purpose of providing for adequate public land, the Planning Commission may require the dedication or reservation of usable open space within a subdivision up to a total of ten (10) percent of the gross area or water frontage of the subdivision for park, school or recreation purposes.”

Additionally, Section 82-22 Design Innovation states:

“The developments allowable under this provision are those which might call for smaller lot sizes than usual, and which might call for the preservation of land for recreational, scenic, historical, and/or park purposes...in such a manner as to yield wholesome living environments for future occupants.”

In order to be more proactive in allowing smaller lots and, in turn, providing park land and open space, a change to the subdivision regulations to include provisions for open space/conservation subdivisions is recommended. Such an addition can have more specific standards for lot size and more narrow road widths that can reduce the need for variances, which are “stumbling blocks” in using the previously mentioned subdivision clause.

Other changes to the subdivision procedures that should be considered are dedication and fees-in-lieu

programs. Most subdivisions that are created in Knox County are relatively small so dedication of land within the smaller tract may not make sense in creating an overall park system. Other cities and counties, facing similar situations, use fees-in-lieu of dedication as a means to procure larger park sites in the general area of smaller subdivisions. These programs should be further considered in combination with incentives (for example, a density bonus) and the other implementation measures that are identified in this section.

Special assessment districts and initiatives

Real estate transfer tax

Work with state officials to direct a portion of the real estate transfer tax that is raised in Knox County to the acquisition of greenways and natural areas identified in this plan.

Enable voters to consider park funding

Provide opportunities through ballot measures or referenda that allow the public the opportunity to decide on creating new parks, recreation centers, greenways and/or publicly held open spaces. This should include bond issues and, potentially, the right for certain communities to establish their own park districts.

A sales tax option is another consideration whereby a small portion of the sales tax is used for park and open space purchases. In Boulder, Colorado, for example, voters approved a local sales tax allocation



In this illustration of a conservation subdivision, smaller, clustered lots are used to create a wooded trail corridor and a neighborhood park.

of 0.4 percent in 1967 under which \$116 million has been collected to establish 33,000 acres of greenways and foothill/mountain parks.

Additional tax revenues toward acquisition or development programs

Mayor Victor Ashe established a tax-generated fund for park acquisition and improvements, called a “Penny for Parks.” A sizable portion of the city’s park budget is derived from this fund. The county should consider a similar program, particularly for park acquisition purposes in solving the close-to-home park deficiencies.

Economics of administration and management

Sports Tournament Promotion

It has been noted in several comparable cities and counties that being a tournament destination for sports and recreation increases overall revenues. Establish Knoxville-Knox County as a place for a variety of sports tournaments including soccer, baseball, football and skateboarding. The concept of tournaments was supported in the public meetings and surveys, especially by families with soccer participants. Also, if Knoxville-Knox County can host tournaments it will be critical to track the economic impact each year through surveys of participants, surveys of merchants and tracking tax receipts.

“Metro Golf”

The management of metropolitan golfing provides positive net income to the parks departments and

should be capitalized upon. Consider merging the city and county golf programs under collective management.

Concepts for a City Park, Greenway and Recreation Board

Like Knox County, the city should create a citizen-based park, greenway and recreation board. Such a board would serve in an advisory capacity to the City’s Park and Recreation Department, Mayor and City Council on capital improvements, including park and greenway development programs, design of parks via a site plan review process, operational policies and funding. A similar ordinance to that which created the Tree Board would be appropriate, whereby a broad spectrum of citizens and professionals, such as landscape architects, are appointed to the board.



Greenways should be created on old railroad beds, like this one along Second Creek.

Economic consultation for acquisition, revenue sources and maintenance options

The long term viability of the parks, recreation and greenways system will be dependent on the ability of the departments to meet the needs of its current users and to provide for the projected users in the future. It will be critical to purchase and maintain facilities where population density dictates. Additionally, since the departments are showing a deficiency in the total land acreage, it will be important to assess the possibility of new facilities and their long term costs.

Retirement Program: Old Parks and Schools

For facilities that have been historically under-utilized or are in major disrepair, it would be of benefit for the departments to have an adopted policy for relinquishing properties that pose a significant liability. Once the property is liquidated, the funds should be used to acquire more land in areas that are deficient and are projected to have an increase in population and users. Occasionally, schools are made surplus property. The grounds of the schools are often a prime park asset to a neighborhood. The city and county should be allowed to consider the reuse of school properties for park purposes.

Revenue Sharing Plan

Develop a revenue sharing plan or dedicated funding mechanism enabling the parks and recreation departments to directly benefit from revenue brought in by tournaments which will in turn help fund improvements to tournament facilities, and all parks.

APPENDIX A: Summary of Public Participation

Summary of Public Meetings

- Comprehensively connect greenways across the county, especially to downtown; develop new greenways and sidewalks (consider powerline right-of-ways for greenways and rails to trails projects)
- Develop trail systems within parks for walking and exercise
- Develop more mountain bike trails and dirt bike facilities
- Consider lighting greenways
- Provide more bathrooms and drinking fountains
- Provide more splash pads and indoor pools
- Build more lighted athletic fields; consider soccer and baseball complexes throughout the county
- Create an indoor sports complex
- Create a Multi-use Sports Park
- Consider giant parks and recreation centers (2-4 scattered throughout the county) with activities for all age
- Open gyms for all ages
- Update playgrounds – consider lighting; update passive parks (more green spaces)
- Create more recreation centers with tennis courts, aerobics, fitness centers, and loops with trail connections
- Provide more meeting spaces
- Acquire more land and key locations for open space and recreation; increase acreage of the park system
- Create open space parks with more natural areas
- Preservation of forests, river bluffs, creeks, and springs, include unpaved trails along ridges; plant and maintain native species; ecosystem restoration
- Practice stream and creek restorations
- Recycle centers and containers within parks, more trash cans in busy areas
- More ADA accessibility within parks and activities geared towards the disabled, more parks with accessible equipment for children; recommend that all facilities should be ADA accessible
- Increase senior citizens activities within parks
- Develop the skate park and include other locations
- Create more T-ball fields
- Increase security in parks (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design), including KPD presence in parks
- Provide on-line data base for access to information; promote the parks
- Create “Friends of the Park” groups; develop partnerships to increase funding opportunities and community involvement
- Consider partnerships for purchasing fields
- Have developers set aside lands for park space
- Create consistent directional signage to parks
- Increase funding for the maintenance of parks, have better maintenance of existing facilities
- Put as much money in parks as industrial areas
- More focus on alternate types of transportation
- Create more dog parks and continue to provide dog pick up bags
- Combine city and county parks and recreation departments
- Provide interpretive information at parks
- Develop alliance with UT Agriculture and others
- Create touchable water warnings for public knowledge of water conditions
- More community centers, including the Norwood Neighborhood
- Restore parks like Linden Park
- Recommend adding 8-10 fields for soccer in West Knox County
- Create an observation tower at Ft. Dickerson with a winding trail to waterfront
- Blueway access and parks along the Holston River.

Summary of 10th Grade High School Survey

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with the parks and recreational facilities in your community?

Not Satisfied 22
 Somewhat Satisfied 150
 Very Satisfied 57
 Not Sure 55

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreational programs in your community?

Not Satisfied 24
 Somewhat Satisfied 140
 Very Satisfied 33
 Not Sure 88

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the greenway trails (for walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading) in your community?

Not Satisfied 42
 Somewhat Satisfied 107
 Very Satisfied 68
 Not Sure 68

4. Thinking generally about all public and private parks, recreational facilities, and greenways how often did you use the following types of facilities inside or outside of Knox County within the last year?

Tennis courts:

Never 166
 1-5 times 82
 6-20 times 24
 20+ times 13

Swimming pools:

Never 72
 1-5 times 87
 6-20 times 65
 20+ times 46

Golf courses:

Never 204
 1-5 times 56
 6-20 times 20
 20+ times 5

Indoor recreation/fitness centers:

Never 67
 1-5 times 89
 6-20 times 72
 20+ times 48

Softball or baseball fields:

Never 121
 1-5 times 94
 6-20 times 37
 20+ times 33

Bicycle trails:

Never 144
 1-5 times 84
 6-20 times 37
 20+ times 20

Walking, jogging, fitness trails:

Never 72
 1-5 times 114
 6-20 times 59
 20+ times 40

Boating (including canoeing/kayaking) or fishing:

Never 96
 1-5 times 80
 6-20 times 50
 20+ times 72

Outdoor Basketball courts:

Never 84
 1-5 times 95
 6-20 times 60
 20+ times 46

Soccer fields:

Never 183
 1-5 times 58
 6-20 times 27
 20+ times 17

Football fields:

Never 128
 1-5 times 73
 6-20 times 44
 20+ times 36

Nature areas:

Never 107
 1-5 times 99
 6-20 times 45
 20+ times 23

Picnic areas:

Never 67
 1-5 times 141
 6-20 times 57
 20+ times 19

5. If Knoxville and Knox County were to develop more recreation facilities (see the previous list from Question 4), which do you feel are most needed?

swimming pools, walking trails, football fields, basketball courts

6. Are there other facilities which are not listed that you feel should be provided (for example: skate parks, indoor pools, etc.)?

skateparks, indoor pools, frisbee golf courses, paintball fields, climbing walls

7. How often during the last year did you use each of the following?

- Parks, recreation facilities or greenways in your community:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Never | <input type="radio"/> 1-5 times | <input type="radio"/> 6-20 times | <input type="radio"/> 20+ times |
| 44 | 113 | 84 | 45 |
- School recreational facilities (not counting High School team sports):
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Never | <input type="radio"/> 1-5 times | <input type="radio"/> 6-20 times | <input type="radio"/> 20+ times |
| 103 | 108 | 46 | 28 |
- Church recreational facilities:
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Never | <input type="radio"/> 1-5 times | <input type="radio"/> 6-20 times | <input type="radio"/> 20+ times |
| 97 | 102 | 50 | 37 |
- Residential subdivision parks or recreational facilities (including pools):
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Never | <input type="radio"/> 1-5 times | <input type="radio"/> 6-20 times | <input type="radio"/> 20+ times |
| 76 | 113 | 49 | 45 |
- Private sports clubs (like tennis or fitness centers):
- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Never | <input type="radio"/> 1-5 times | <input type="radio"/> 6-20 times | <input type="radio"/> 20+ times |
| 128 | 82 | 32 | 44 |

8. Do you think there should be more or fewer parks in your area, or is the current level about right?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Fewer Parks | <input type="radio"/> About Right | <input type="radio"/> More Parks | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| 2 | 46 | 197 | 34 |

9. Do any of the following factors prevent you from using the park and recreational facilities as much as you would like?

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lack of free time: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 175 | 89 | 31 |
| Concern for personal safety: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 38 | 226 | 19 |
| Overcrowding of facilities: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 116 | 150 | 36 |
| Cost of programs: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 93 | 162 | 41 |
| Inconvenient location of facilities: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 153 | 108 | 37 |
| Lack of sidewalks or trail connections: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 107 | 154 | 25 |
| Physical disability: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 7 | 264 | 14 |
| Desired activities not offered: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 127 | 129 | 29 |
| Condition of facilities: | <input type="radio"/> Yes | <input type="radio"/> No | <input type="radio"/> Not Sure |
| | 101 | 149 | 55 |

10. Please rank the following benefits that parks and recreational facilities provide to the community with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Community Pride | <input type="radio"/> Economic Growth/Tourism | <input type="radio"/> Environmental Protection | <input type="radio"/> Personal health |
| 61 | 40 | 77 | 145 |

11. Generally speaking, how do the Knoxville/Knox County parks, recreational facilities, and greenways compare with other parks, recreational facilities, and greenways you have used?

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Better than average | <input type="radio"/> Average | <input type="radio"/> Worse than average | <input type="radio"/> No Opinion |
| 9 | 158 | 43 | 67 |

12. The following characteristics may or may not describe the parks in your neighborhood or community. Please rate the characteristics of the parks near your home using a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

- Has a pleasant, attractive environment
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| 15 | 41 | 115 | 78 | 27 |

- Is conveniently located near my home
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| 58 | 73 | 73 | 34 | 38 |

- Is well maintained
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| 25 | 58 | 102 | 71 | 18 |

- Has a wide variety of things to do
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| 49 | 85 | 78 | 49 | 15 |

- Enhances my quality of life
- | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> 1 | <input type="radio"/> 2 | <input type="radio"/> 3 | <input type="radio"/> 4 | <input type="radio"/> 5 |
| 51 | 54 | 96 | 49 | 25 |

13. Gender:

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Female | <input type="radio"/> Male |
| 134 | 151 |

Summary of On-Line Surveys

1. Overall, how satisfied are you with the parks and recreational facilities in your community?

Not Satisfied 129
 Somewhat Satisfied 382
 Very Satisfied 116
 Not Sure 8

2. Overall, how satisfied are you with the recreational programs in your community?

Not Satisfied 122
 Somewhat Satisfied 324
 Very Satisfied 84
 Not Sure 103

3. Overall, how satisfied are you with the greenway trails (for walking, jogging, biking, rollerblading) in your community?

Not Satisfied 171
 Somewhat Satisfied 276
 Very Satisfied 160
 Not Sure 26

4. Thinking generally about all public and private parks, recreational facilities, and greenways how often did you use the following types of facilities inside or outside of Knox County within the last year?

Tennis courts:

Never 394
 1-5 times 132
 6-20 times 42
 20+ times 22

Swimming pools:

Never 321
 1-5 times 150
 6-20 times 74
 20+ times 42

Golf courses:

Never 391
 1-5 times 108
 6-20 times 55
 20+ times 28

Indoor recreation/fitness centers:

Never 309
 1-5 times 114
 6-20 times 61
 20+ times 101

Softball or baseball fields:

Never 363
 1-5 times 102
 6-20 times 53
 20+ times 65

Bicycle trails:

Never 160
 1-5 times 138
 6-20 times 108
 20+ times 181

Walking, jogging, fitness trails:

Never 61
 1-5 times 132
 6-20 times 150
 20+ times 248

Boating (including canoeing/kayaking) or fishing:

Never 272
 1-5 times 157
 6-20 times 80
 20+ times 69

Outdoor Basketball courts:

Never 409
 1-5 times 119
 6-20 times 38
 20+ times 17

Soccer fields:

Never 352
 1-5 times 78
 6-20 times 48
 20+ times 110

Football fields:

Never 416
 1-5 times 67
 6-20 times 41
 20+ times 54

Nature areas:

Never 79
 1-5 times 184
 6-20 times 174
 20+ times 157

Picnic areas:

Never 120
 1-5 times 286
 6-20 times 130
 20+ times 54

Other:

Never 138
 1-5 times 75
 6-20 times 37
 20+ times 82

5. If Knoxville and Knox County were to develop more recreation facilities (see the previous list from Question 4), which do you feel are most needed?

greenways, natural areas

6. Are there other facilities which are not listed that you feel should be provided (for example: skate parks, indoor pools, etc.)?

7. How often during the last year did you use each of the following?

- Parks, recreation facilities or greenways in your community:
 Never 25 1-5 times 108 6-20 times 143 20+ times 322
- School recreational facilities (not counting High School team sports):
 Never 256 1-5 times 169 6-20 times 85 20+ times 71
- Church recreational facilities:
 Never 286 1-5 times 155 6-20 times 71 20+ times 55
- Residential subdivision parks or recreational facilities (including pools):
 Never 244 1-5 times 162 6-20 times 88 20+ times 91
- Private sports clubs (like tennis or fitness centers):
 Never 254 1-5 times 73 6-20 times 72 20+ times 182

8. Do you think there should be more or fewer parks in your area, or is the current level about right?

- Fewer Parks 3 About Right 103 More Parks 478 Not Sure 14

9. Do any of the following factors prevent you from using the park and recreational facilities as much as you would like?

- Lack of free time: Yes 314 No 246 Not Sure 17
- Concern for personal safety: Yes 188 No 358 Not Sure 30
- Overcrowding of facilities: Yes 210 No 345 Not Sure 23
- Cost of programs: Yes 64 No 463 Not Sure 43
- Inconvenient location of facilities: Yes 310 No 235 Not Sure 28
- Lack of sidewalks or trail connections: Yes 395 No 170 Not Sure 14
- Physical disability: Yes 15 No 539 Not Sure 18
- Desired activities not offered: Yes 247 No 292 Not Sure 39
- Condition of facilities: Yes 212 No 322 Not Sure 42

10. Please rank the following benefits that parks and recreational facilities provide to the community with 1 being the most important and 4 being the least important.

	1	2	3	4
Community Pride	111	134	159	111
Economic Growth/Tourism	57	106	132	239
Environmental Protection	93	202	142	99
Personal health	307	111	90	57

11. Generally speaking, how do the Knoxville/Knox County parks, recreational facilities, and greenways compare with other parks, recreational facilities, and greenways you have used?

- Better than average 63 Average 293 Worse than average 189 No Opinion 39

12. The following characteristics may or may not describe the parks in your neighborhood or community. Please rate the characteristics of the parks near your home using a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

- Has a pleasant, attractive environment
 1 74 2 85 3 163 4 183 5 73
- Is conveniently located near my home
 1 95 2 107 3 114 4 142 5 123
- Is well maintained
 1 58 2 108 3 182 4 172 5 54
- Has a wide variety of things to do
 1 91 2 144 3 197 4 104 5 41
- Enhances my quality of life
 1 74 2 96 3 132 4 160 5 114

13. Gender: Female 280 Male 289

Appendix B: Urban Growth Boundary Map

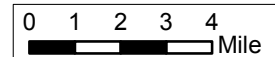
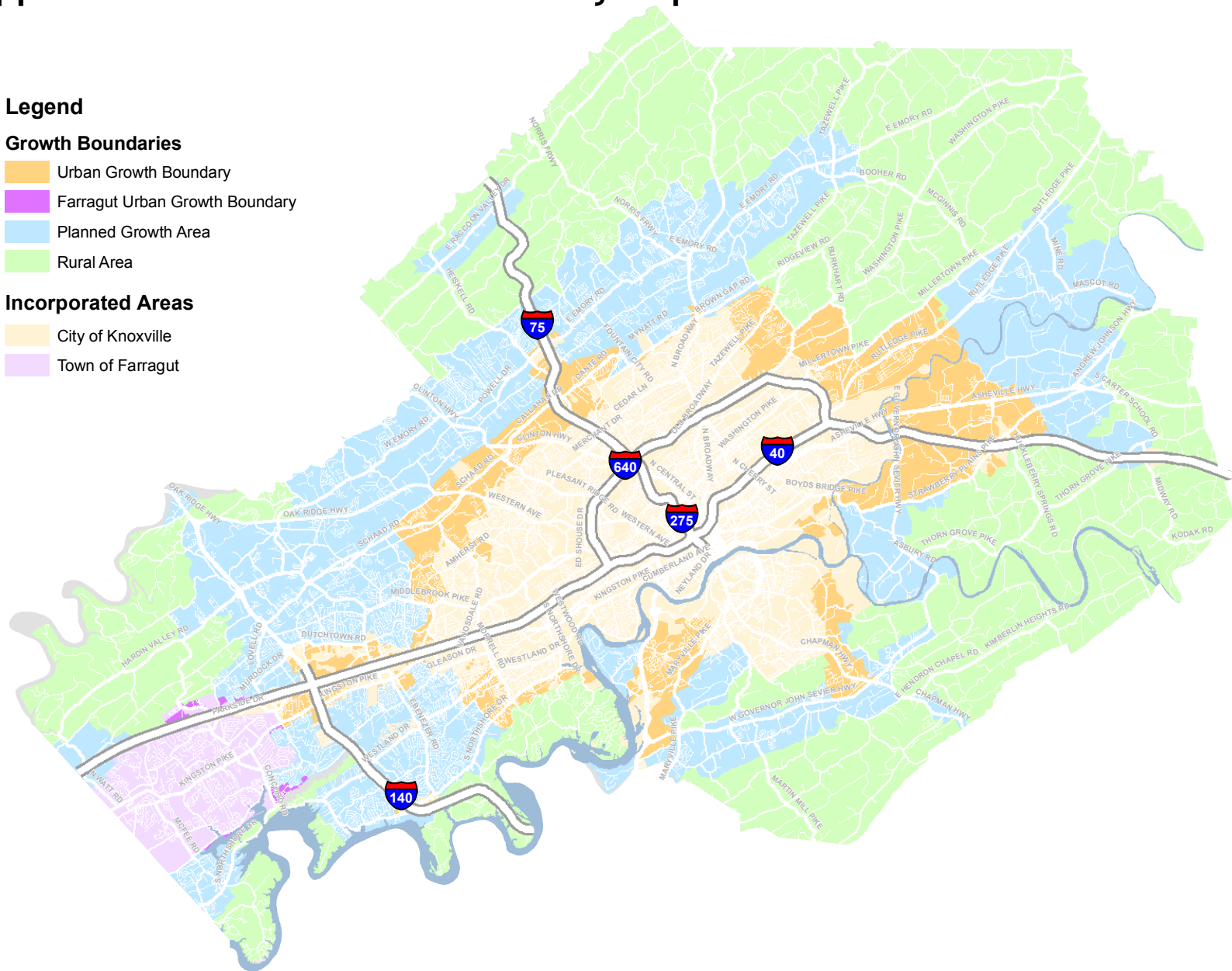
Legend

Growth Boundaries

- Urban Growth Boundary
- Farragut Urban Growth Boundary
- Planned Growth Area
- Rural Area

Incorporated Areas

- City of Knoxville
- Town of Farragut



Appendix C: Park Land Acquisition Recommendations for the Next 15 years

While the overall plan is conceived as a long-range (30 year) vision of the future park system, certain priorities can be identified to meet existing and anticipated needs. The following recommendations, which are outlined by planning sector, are based on several factors: existing deficiencies in relation to park standards, growth that can be expected in relation to designated urban and suburban areas, and conservation of natural areas.

Central City

- Rule High School: Reclaim/reuse the old Rule High School fields for community recreation purposes.
- Oakwood Elementary School: Establish a park on the former school grounds (taking into account environmental factors).
- Kelso Park: Investigate, particularly from environmental standpoints, the potential reuse of the Kelso Oil site for park use; and consider residential development in conjunction with the park.

East City

- East Burlington Neighborhood Park: Acquire approximately 5 acres for a park.
- Burlington Square: Create a plaza or park as part of revitalization of the Burlington mixed use/commercial area.
- Prosser Road Community Park: Develop a master plan for the public land at this location,

conserving its natural assets and transferring to the City's Park and Recreation Department for management.

- Williams Creek Parks: Establish a park or square at Harrison Street; and develop a linear park connection to the botanical gardens.
- Chilhowee Park (south of Magnolia Avenue): Develop a master plan for a multi-use park, which would be opened on a daily basis.

North City

- Franklin Square: Work with the Disabled American Veteran's Association to establish this park and connect to the Fountain City Lake via the stream valley.
- Neighborhood Parks: Acquire five to 10 acres in the vicinity of the confluence of Murphy Creek and White's Creek, Rowan Road and Dante Road (along the proposed greenway) for park development.

Northwest City

- Neighborhood Parks: Acquire 5 to 10 acres in the vicinity of Oak Road and Murray Drive.

South City

- South Waterfront Parks: Acquire the space for parks and a greenway, including River Plain Park.
- Urban Wilderness and Historic Trail system: Continue to establish this open space system and develop a trail.

- Vestal Plaza: Create the plaza as part of building redevelopment and connect via a greenway to Mary Vestal Park.

West City

- "Branch Park": Acquire neighborhood park space at the confluence of the creeks and connect to Fourth Creek Greenway.



A vision for the South Waterfront park system.

East County

- Sunnyview Elementary School: Acquire 5 to 10 adjacent acres to create a school-park.
- Midway Park: Set aside 20 to 30 acres for a community park and open space system.
- Neighborhood parks: Acquire 5 to 10 acres for at least three new neighborhood parks between Strawberry Plains Pike and the Holston River.

North County

- Copper Ridge Park and Natural Area: Acquire 50 to 100 acres in the Bull Run floodplain and along nearby ridges.
- Beaver Creek neighborhood parks: Continue the acquisition of parks and connect them via the greenway.
- Neighborhood parks, north of Emory Road: Acquire at least two sites for the proposed parks in the sector park plan.

Northeast County

- Loves Creek Natural Area: Acquire and conserve the land around the springs.
- Neighborhood parks: Acquire sites for at least two parks in the Rutledge Pike/Millertown Pike area.
- Luttrell Lane Park: Acquire and create a community park in the area that is subject to sinkhole flooding.
- House Mountain: Acquire land for a community park at the base of the mountain.

Northwest County

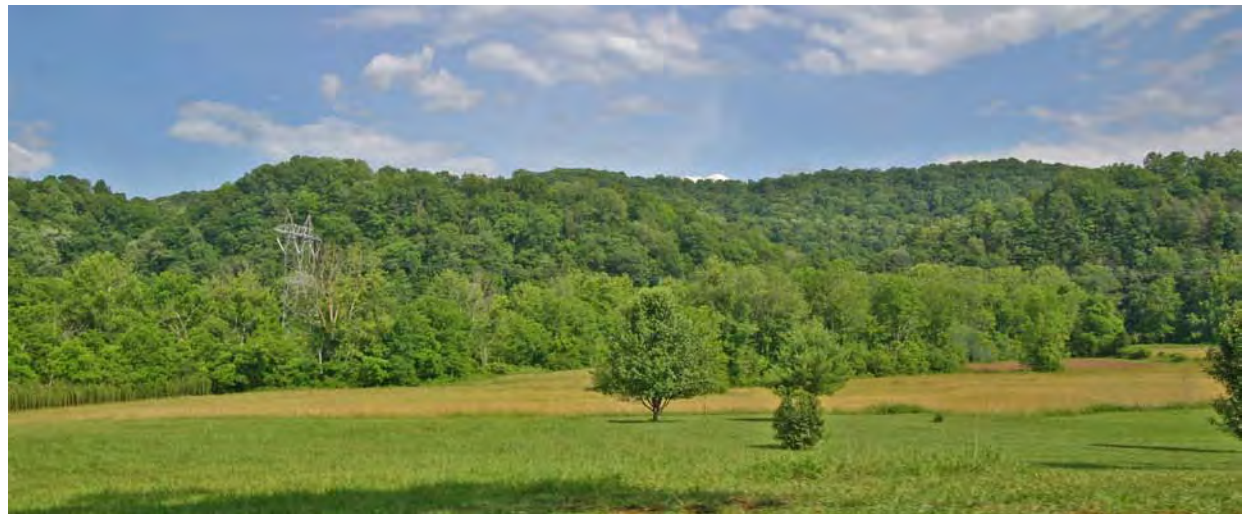
- Hardin Valley Community Park: Acquire land for a 20 to 40 acre park, preferably along Conner Creek, with greenway connections to the schools.
- Beaver Creek Parks: Acquire park land at the proposed Harrell Road and Beaver Valley locations and concentrate on greenway connections.
- Harper Cave Commons: Set aside a multi-purpose open space and improve access to this county-owned resource; develop recreation uses in conjunction with the neighborhood and County Community Development Department interests.

South County

- Stock Creek Parks: Acquire the Casteel Branch site and portions of the floodplain at South Doyle High School to create two community parks.
- New Hopewell School: Acquire 10 to 20 acres to expand into a community park.

Southwest County

- Neighborhood parks: Acquire 5 to 10 acres in the vicinity of Canton Road, George Williams Road and Nubbin Ridge.
- Tooles Bend Community Park: Acquire additional land near the open spaces on Tooles Bend and connect with a trail system.
- West Valley Community Park: Acquire additional land next to West Valley Middle School as part of the Ten Mile Creek greenway.



Parts of Copper Ridge and the Bull Run Creek floodplain are a proposed natural area.

Appendix D: An Overview of the Plan Map Preparation Process

Eight steps were used in creating the proposed park system map.

1. MPC started with the inventory and mapped the existing park system, which is now available as the definitive park and greenway map layer in the Knoxville and Knox County Geographic Information System (KGIS).
2. Working the parks departments, MPC used a modification of the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) standards to examine where people were being served and where there were gaps in service. The basic modified standards were:
 - In urban areas, neighborhood parks or portions of larger parks that have playgrounds and other neighborhood park facilities should be within a ¼ walk of residents; in lower density suburban areas, the walking distance should be ½ mile. Pocket parks and tot lots were also considered in the analysis, using a service area of 200 yards walking distance.
 - In urban areas the driving distance to a community park, sports complex or district/regional park should be no more than two to three miles; in suburban and rural areas, the driving distance should be no more than three miles.
 - The NRPA suggested minimum standard of 6.25 acres of close-to-home parks was used

as a basis for mapping where parks are most needed by current and future sector residents.

3. MPC staff used KGIS to precisely measure walking and driving distances to existing parks. These are depicted on the first draft proposals for the park plan as lightly colored service areas (see the following map).
4. Additional parameters were considered future land uses that were not anticipated for residential development were excluded from recommendations. Additionally, land that is constrained by significant topographic changes was viewed as a low priority because of the required grading and potential environmental impact.
5. When creating a strategy for park land acquisition, MPC staff considered “last chance opportunities,” recognizing development pressure near substantial natural resources, like the headwaters of Love’s Creek and the Urban Wilderness and Historic Corridor
6. Because a significant cost in establishing new parks is land acquisition, the planning team looked at existing public land, such as those of the city, county, state and federal governments. Such resources were analyzed for their potential park use, taking into account their current function and site characteristics.

7. Other areas that might have a reduced cost or multiple benefits were also considered in identifying park sites and natural areas, particularly some of the steeper ridges and floodplains, which are ideal for greenway and park space because recreation uses have limited environmental impact. This is the reason why many recommended parks are proposed along stream-oriented greenways, the potential “pearls along an emerald necklace.”
8. Finally, the planning team examined: (a) the public comments regarding the 2008 draft plan, and (b) anticipated population growth. The recommendations of citizens and park department staff were used to refine the plan. Then, a basic question was posed by MPC staff to further refine the recommendations: were the parks that had been proposed in the draft enough to meet the needs of the current population (solving existing deficiencies) and the needs of another 15,000 to 30,000 people in the growth-oriented sectors? Additional close-to-home parks were added in most sectors to serve residents at the minimal standard (6.25 acres per 1,000 people) over the next 20 to 30 years. See the plans in Chapters VI and VII to review the resulting recommended system.

Appendix E: Greenway Priorities

The recommended 5- and 15-year greenway priorities, outlined on the following pages, were created as a result of the advice of MPC staff, the parks and recreation departments and their Greenway Commission and Advisory Board, and the Transportation Planning Organization staff. The major factors in making the recommendations included connectivity between greenways, natural resource protection, providing links to parks, school and employment centers, and equity in developing greenways across all communities.

Greenway Priority Matrix

Five Year Program Intent

- Create or extend trails that form the most needed connections to the overall greenway system, particularly in serving as walking and biking routes to schools, parks and employment centers.
- Establish the priorities for grant applications and capital improvement programs
- Create a manageable list of potential

greenways, which will be the focus of trail routing alternative studies for setting aside and acquiring easements.

Fifteen Year Program Intent

- Establish a secondary list of trail priorities in developing urban and suburban areas.
- Create a secondary list of potential greenways, which will be a later focus of trail routing alternative studies.

City-County Greenways: Recommended Improvements by Segment

10-Mile Creek Greenway

5 Year Program

- Carmike Wynnsong 16 Theater to Kingston Pike
- Kingston Pike to West Valley Middle School (city and county project)
- Link to Catholic High School (county project)

15 Year Program

- West Valley Middle School to I-140 (county project)

Knox/Blount (Alcoa Highway) Greenway

5 Year Program

- Buck Karnes Bridge to county line (funded; details being worked out as of 2009)

Middlebrook Pike/Hardin Valley Road Connector

5 Year Program

- Fourth Creek @Weisgarber to Bearden Middle School (consider as a sidepath design)

Middlebrook Pike/Hardin Valley Road Connector *(continued)*

15 Year Program

- Weisgarber to 3rd Creek (consider sidepath design)
- Bearden Middle to Pellissippi Community College (consider sidepath design)

Murphy Creek/White Creek Greenway

15 Year Program

- First Creek to Washington Pike (city and county project)
- Greenway Drive/Beverly Road to Ritta Elementary

Smoky Mountain Railroad Greenway

5 Year Program

- Mary Vestal Park to Charter E. Doyle (“cost out” crusher run surface; city project)

15 Year Program

- Charter E. Doyle Park to Bower Field (county project)

City Greenways: Recommended Improvements by Segments

Adair Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Adair Park to First Creek

Baker Creek Greenway

- 15 Year Program
 - Mary James Park to South Waterfront

First Creek Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Caswell Park to First Creek Park
 - Caswell Park to river
 - “Duck Pond” to Adair Drive
- 15 Year Program
 - Walker Boulevard to First Creek Park
 - Adair Drive to Walker Boulevard (coordinate with I-640 interchange improvements)

Fourth Creek Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Weisgarber Trail to Lakeshore Park (coordinate routing with Northshore/Kingston Pike improvement program)
 - Bearden Elementary to Lakeshore

Goose Creek Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Finish asphalt trail from Mary Vestal Park to South Waterfront

Hastie Park-Ijams Nature Center

- 5 Year Program
 - Hastie Park to Will Skelton trail (natural surface trail in conjunction with mountain bike interests)

Holston River Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - James White Parkway to Holston River Park (consider a crusher run surface)
- 15 Year Program
 - Love’s Creek to Boyds Bridge on the east and southeast side of the river

James White Greenway

- 5 Year Improvement Program
 - Create connection across S. Knoxville Bridge and extend to South Doyle Middle School
- 15 Year Program
 - Moody Avenue to John Sevier (construct with James White Parkway extension)

Lonsdale Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Texas Avenue to Sysco (consider crusher run surfaced trail)
- 15 Year Program
 - Sharps Ridge loop

Love’s Creek: Recommended Segments

- 5 Year Program
 - Knoxville Center Mall to Spring Place Park
- 15 Year Program
 - Babelay/Murphy Road (coordinate with Murphy Road improvements)
 - Holston Middle School to Holston Hills
 - Spring Place to Holston Middle School

Papermill Bluff Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Weisgarber Road to Holman Road (funded)

Second Creek Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Upper Second Creek connection (funded)
- 15 Year Program
 - Sysco to World’s Fair Park (set aside easements with I-275 corridor redevelopment activities)

Sharps Ridge Greenway

- 5 Year Program
 - Broadway to Washington Pike (consider powerline routing)

South Waterfront

- 5 Year Program
 - Island Home to Scottish Pike (design and develop as per South Waterfront Vision Plan)

Third Creek

- 5 Year Program
 - Sutherland to Victor Ashe Park
 - Greenway connector from Tobler to Third Creek trail

Urban Wilderness and Historic Corridor

- 5 Year Program
 - UT Hospital to State Wildlife Management Area (consider soft surface trail)

Williams Creek Trail and Botanical Gardens Connector

- 5 Year Program
 - Union Square/Five Points to Tennessee River
 - Botanical Garden to Williams Creek

County Greenways: Recommended Improvements by Segments

Beaver Creek Greenway

5 Year Program

- Halls Community Park to the Halls Elementary, Middle and High Schools
- Halls Community Park to Brickey School
- Existing Powell Greenway to Powell Library (coordinate with Emory Road extension)
- Northwest Sports Park to Westbridge (create with Karns connector project)

15 Year Program

- Halls Community Park to Gibbs schools (complete with Emory Road project)
- Brickey Elementary to Powell Library (consider underpass at I-75/Beaver Creek. Establish easement with airport redevelopment. Seek city assistance in incorporated area)
- Powell Middle School to Karns Elementary School
- Westbridge Business Park to Pellissippi Parkway

Burnett Creek Greenway

15 Year Program

- Connect to Will Skelton trail

Conner Creek Greenway

5 Year Program

- Pellissippi State to Hardin Valley schools

15 Year Program

- Hardin Valley schools to Melton Hill Park

Flat Creek Greenway

15 Year Program

- Eastbridge Business Park to House Mountain (examine as an equestrian trail)

John Sevier Highway Connector

15 Year Program

- Asheville Highway to Alcoa Highway (design as a sidepath)

Knob Creek Greenway

15 Year Program

- Charter E. Doyle to I.C. King (consider natural surface)

McAnnally Ridge Trail

5 Year Program

- Love's Creek to House Mountain (work with the State to connect to House Mountain Natural Area)

McFee Road Connector

15 Year Program

- Farragut town limits to Northshore Drive (explore sidepath design; coordinate with Town of Farragut)

Northshore Drive Connector/Concord Greenway

5 Year Program

- Concord Road eastward through Concord Park to Carl Cowan Park (route through park then use sidepath design eastward)
- Choto Road to Concord Road (route through park then use sidepath design westward)

15 Year Program

- Carl Cowan Park to I-140 (explore sidepath design)
- I-140 to Lakeshore Park (explore sidepath design)

Pellissippi Parkway/I-140 Greenway

5 Year Program

- Carmichael Road to Dutchtown area

15 Year Program

- Pellissippi Community College to Oak Ridge (plan in conjunction with State Route 475 or other parkway improvements)
- Dead Horse Lake to Dutchtown area
- I-40/75 to Blount County

Plumb Creek Greenway

5 Year Program

- Nicholas Ball Park to Plumb Creek Park

15 Year Program

- Plumb Creek Park to Pellissippi Parkway

Route 475 Greenway

15 Year Program

- Anderson County thru Knox County (fund with Route 475 project)

Stock Creek Greenway

5 Year Program

- South Doyle High School to library

15 Year Program

- Library to Knox/Blount greenway
- South Doyle High School to John Sevier Highway

Turkey Creek Greenway

5 Year Program

- Wetlands to Concord Park (city, county, and Town of Farragut coordination)
- I-40/75 to Pellissippi Parkway (sidepath option should be considered)

Appendix F: Short-term Improvement Program for Existing Parks

The park inventory and survey was used to outline recommendations for specific improvements. The following list is based on conditions of facilities and staff evaluations to create better use of existing park land and related resources.

Central City Sector

- **Buck Toms Park:** Create a master plan for a passive park, provide signs designating the park and its rules, provide benches and plant trees and shrubs to improve its appearance. Additionally, expand to include lots along Piedmont and Sanderson Avenues. This would be compatible with the existing cemeteries and the rolling beautiful terrain.
- **Central City Dog Park:** Develop the dog park at the edge of the Old City.
- **Fulton Bicentennial Park:** Provide sidewalk connections to and from St. Mary's Hospital for the benefit of guests and visitors. Additionally, provide pathway within the park that will connect to nearby sidewalks.
- **Sharps Ridge Memorial Park:** Designate the roadway, Sharps Ridge Memorial Park Drive, with a sign noting that it is bike facility as well as vehicular road. Extend the natural-surface trail as a loop around the crest of the ridge.

East City Sector

- **Chestnut Square Park** (formerly Union Square Park): Vacate the right-of-way of Curie Place and assimilate that land into the park. New sidewalks should be provided along with passive

recreation opportunities such as picnic tables and benches.

- **Chilhowee Park:** Create daily use activities at this park, reopen the portion of the park south of Magnolia Avenue as a neighborhood park with field space for active and passive recreation during non-event times.
- **Holston River Park and Boyd's Island:** Expand the park to the west along Riverside Drive, add access points to Boyd's Island and partner with UT to allow a trail loop there.
- **Knoxville Botanical Gardens:** Work with the Garden Board to extend this open space system westward to Williams Creek Greenway.
- **Skyline Park:** Repair the surface of the basketball courts and repair or replace the goals and benches.

North City Sector

- **Fountain City Recreation Center:** Improve basketball court, kitchen and play structure.
- **Oakland Recreation Center:** Preserve the existing structure for its merits as part of African American history. Develop an improvement program, including better access.

Northwest City Sector

- **Cumberland Estates Recreation Center:** Create a master plan for this resource and expand the opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- **West Hills Park:** Complete the second phase of tennis center improvements.

South City Sector

- **Cecil Webb Park:** Create a master plan. Consider an expanded open space system, linking Dogwood Elementary and the old South Knoxville High School.
- **Sam Duff Memorial Park:** Provide improvements to the park based on the public process and master plan provided by the East Tennessee Community Design Center.
- **William Hastie Natural Area:** Provide natural surface trails and connection to surrounding neighborhoods, Marie Myers Park and Ijams Nature Center.

West City Sector

- **Deane Hill Recreation Center:** Repair playground equipment and consider expansion for additional outdoor recreation.
- **Rocky Hill Ballfields:** Renovate bathrooms and provide more trash receptacles.
- **Lakeshore Park:** Redesign the greenway trail where the slope is too steep in order to meet ADA standards.
- **Sequoyah Hills Park:** Repair parking lot and exercise stations.
- **Westview Park:** Repair existing playgrounds, courts and goals, the gazebo and trail surfaces.
- **Whitlow Logan Park:** Assess facilities in relation to the needs of the neighborhood; some citizens recommended tennis court repair, others felt that the court space could be used for another purpose.

East County Sector

- **Ramsey House Historic Site:** Work with the Association for the Preservation of Tennessee Antiquities to create a passive park that connects to Swan Pond Greenway.
- **Riverdale Park:** Provide an entrance sign for this park to draw attention to the existing facility.
- **Thorngrove Community Park:** Resurface basketball courts and provide new goals, maintain baseball infield, resurface parking lot and designated accessible spots, repair or replace the existing restrooms and concession building and provide new slides for playground, consider expanding park uses across Thorngrove School Road in association with the reuse of Thorngrove Elementary School as the Thorngrove Community Center.

North County Sector

- **Brickey McCloud Elementary:** Repair the uneven walking track.
- **Halls Greenway Park:** Address drainage problems for soccer and baseball fields and provide a new backstop for the baseball field.

Northeast County Sector

- **Gibbs Elementary & High School Park:** Repair basketball courts and consider adding additional courts.
- **Corryton Park:** Maintain and update restrooms at this facility.

Northwest County Sector

- **Bearden Middle School:** Provide nets for soccer and tennis and remove or repair fencing for tennis courts.
- **Big Foot Park:** Provide defined parking, an entrance sign and a map of the trails within the park.
- **Hickory Creek Park:** Establish defined parking areas and consider re-seeding the fields.
- **Karns High School:** Work with the school board to resurface basketball, tennis and outdoor volleyball courts, provide new nets and fencing.
- **Meadow Creek Soccer Complex:** Provide an entrance sign and sign for the office.
- **Melton Hill Park:** Provide a master plan for this park to include provisions for community serving uses while conserving its natural assets.
- **Nicholas Ball Park:** Repair or replace damaged and graffiti-riddled picnic units and the roof over the covered drive.
- **Plumb Creek Park:** Provide a trail loop around the property and develop field space that can be used for various sports interchangeably (for example, soccer, rugby and football).

South County Sector

- **I.C. King Park:** Provide picnic units that are accessible from the parking area, current units are only accessible by a trail through the woods, consider adding a playground so the park is more user friendly to various ages; provide accessible parking.
- **Kimberlin Heights Park:** Work with the owners and community groups to master plan this park, improve the baseball field, repair or remove the concessions and storage buildings, provide designated parking and appropriate park signs.
- **Maloney Road Park:** Improve and repair the existing boat ramp.
- **Marine Park:** Repair or replace grills, redesign the pedestrian bridge to be accessible.

Southwest County Sector

- **Former TVA Land:** Create opportunities to expand public access to these former TVA lands which line the lake.

Acknowledgements

Special Thanks to the citizens of Knoxville and Knox County whose public participation and interest in creating parks and conserving open spaces has been outstanding and much appreciated.

Photo Credits:

Photos were provided by the City and County parks and recreation departments or taken by MPC staff.

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