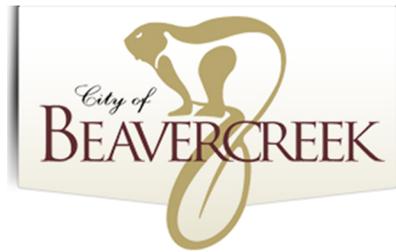
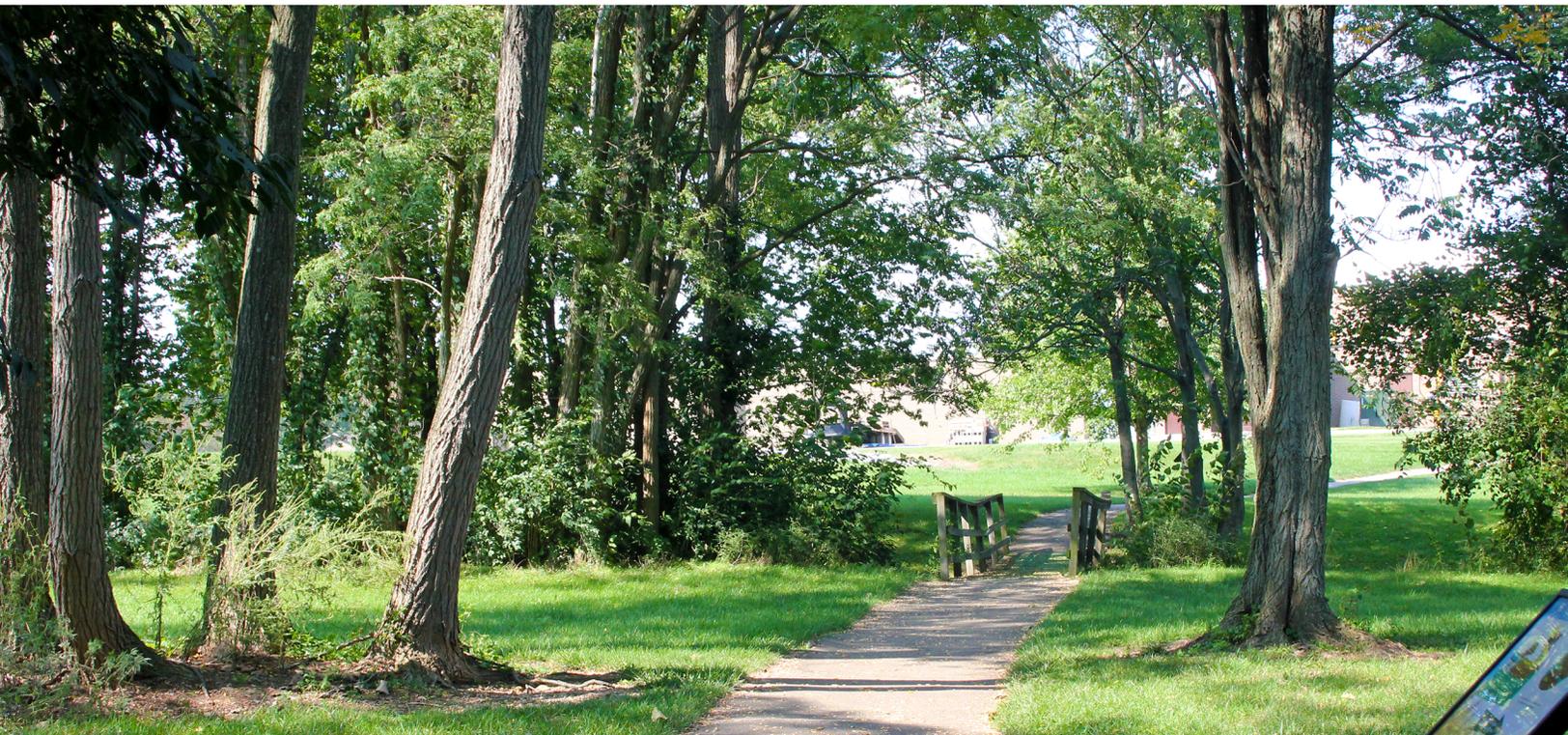




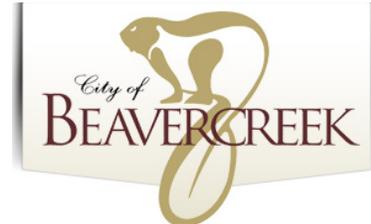
Executive Summary 2019 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan



June, 2019



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2019 Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan Beavercreek, Ohio

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE NEED FOR A PLAN

Beavercreek, located in southwestern Ohio, has a population of approximately 47,600 as of 2018. This population has grown considerably since 1980, and this growth is expected to continue at a steady rate into the future (see Chapter 2 for demographics). The growing population and changes to the makeup of the population have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Beavercreek.

Recognizing that the needs of the population should be assessed, City Council and Parks, Recreation, and Culture staff determined that a comprehensive process was needed to determine the future needs of the community, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan. The *2019 Beavercreek Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan* represents the culmination of the master planning process and will provide guidance for parks, recreation, open space, and trails in Beavercreek for the next five to ten years and beyond.

The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life. A recent study, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation* by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land, investigated the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study indicated that property values were higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere.

Parks provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community. Parks can be an effective component of a strategy to address issues such as poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Living closer to a park leads to higher activity levels, and adolescents with access to a variety of recreation facilities are more physically active and less likely to be overweight. Studies also indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health.¹ Finally, parks are important because they

can serve as gathering places for the community and can help cultivate community ties, leading to a sense of connectedness that leads to a more livable and desirable community.²

EXISTING CONDITIONS OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN BEAVERCREEK

For many residents, parks provide their primary access to the natural environment, and for all residents, parks provide a variety of natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to these facilities helps to promote the health and wellness of the community.

Beavercreek offers 617 acres and 33 parks, including two (2) Mini Parks, 10 Neighborhood Parks, and three (3) Community Parks, including Rotary Park, the city's largest park with over 105 acres of land. The city also offers five (5) Special Use Parks, 10 Natural Areas, and three (3) Trailheads. Elementary schools (Beavercreek City School District) offer opportunities that supplement these offerings. Greene County Parks and Trails and other agencies also offers parks in or near Beavercreek.

Demographic Analysis

A review of demographic and population trends was important to identify present and anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Trends showed an aging and older population for Beavercreek, smaller households, and increasing diversity. This analysis also indicated that the population in Beavercreek will likely continue to grow into the future, including more than 1,300 additional residents (or about 3%) in the next five years. The direction chosen for parks and recreation will determine the availability of opportunities for these residents and will help to enrich the quality of life in Beavercreek.

¹ National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/health-wellness/>, (May 14, 2019)

² National Recreation and Park Association, "Social Equity," <https://www.nrpa.org/our-work/Three-Pillars/social-equity/>, (May 14, 2019)

Service Area Analysis (Gaps)

Service areas for types of parks and for individual facilities were mapped to identify "Service Gaps" or underserved areas. Maps were produced showing access to four (4) park classifications and twelve (12) facilities. A composite service areas map (see next page) was created showing the overall level of service for parks and facilities. Dark shades of blue indicate a high level of service for parks and facilities at that location within Beavercreek. Red areas have the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. Approximately 25% of the Beavercreek population live in the highest two categories. Only 30% live in the lowest two categories combined.

Residents near Lofino or Rotary Parks have the highest level of service (High or Medium-High). Much of the northern part of the city has "Medium-Low" or "Low" service levels, while the south is generally characterized by "Medium-High" or "Medium" service levels. The table below shows the percentage of the population by service level.

Service Level (Rank)	Population	Cumulative Population
High (80%-100%)	0%	0%
Medium-High (60%-80%)	24%	25%
Medium (40%-60%)	45%	70%
Medium-Low (20%-40%)	22%	92%
Low (0%-20%)	8%	100%

A CITIZEN DRIVEN PLAN

As the purpose of this plan is to address the needs of the community, a primary focus of the planning process was to identify those needs. A number of methods were utilized to determine the needs and desires of Beavercreek residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The summary below indicates the many ways the public was involved throughout this process.

Engagement Summary

- Public Workshop – Open House
 - Stakeholder Groups (15)
 - Event
 - Dollar Voting
 - Surveys (2)
 - Online Engagement (MindMixer)
1. Open house on September 20, 2018 to introduce the project and solicit feedback from the community – follow-up opportunities provided at the Lofino Center
 2. Meetings with stakeholder groups representing (August 9-10 and September 19, 2018):
 - City Council
 - Parks, Recreation, and Culture staff
 - Youth Development Committee
 - Tree Advisory Board
 - Bikeway and Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee (BANTAC)
 - Park Board
 - Senior Advisory Committee
 - Sports Groups
 - Beavercreek Youth Softball Association (BYSA)
 - Beavercreek Fast Pitch Association (BFA)
 - Beavercreek Soccer Association (BSA)
 - Beavercreek Youth Football and Cheer
 - Beavercreek Community Athletic Association (BCAA)
 - Eager Beavers Football
 - US Specialty Sports Association
 - Beavercreek Lacrosse
 - Partner Organizations
 - Popcorn Festival
 - Beavercreek Community Theatre
 - Greene County Council on Aging
 - Cultural Arts Connection
 - Beavercreek Chamber of Commerce
 - Beavercreek Historical Society
 - Beaver Creek Wetlands
 - Dayton Raiders
 - Owens Place
 3. A booth setup at the Movie in the Park Event at Lofino Park to allow attendees to provide input (August 10, 2018)
 4. "Voting with Dollars" at events and public workshop (126 participants)
 5. A statistically valid needs assessment survey conducted by the ETC Institute that was completed by 464 households
 6. A handout and web survey that was completed by 1,153 residents

Composite Service Areas

Parks and Recreation Master Plan Beavercreek, Ohio

Legend

Percent Score (Service Level)

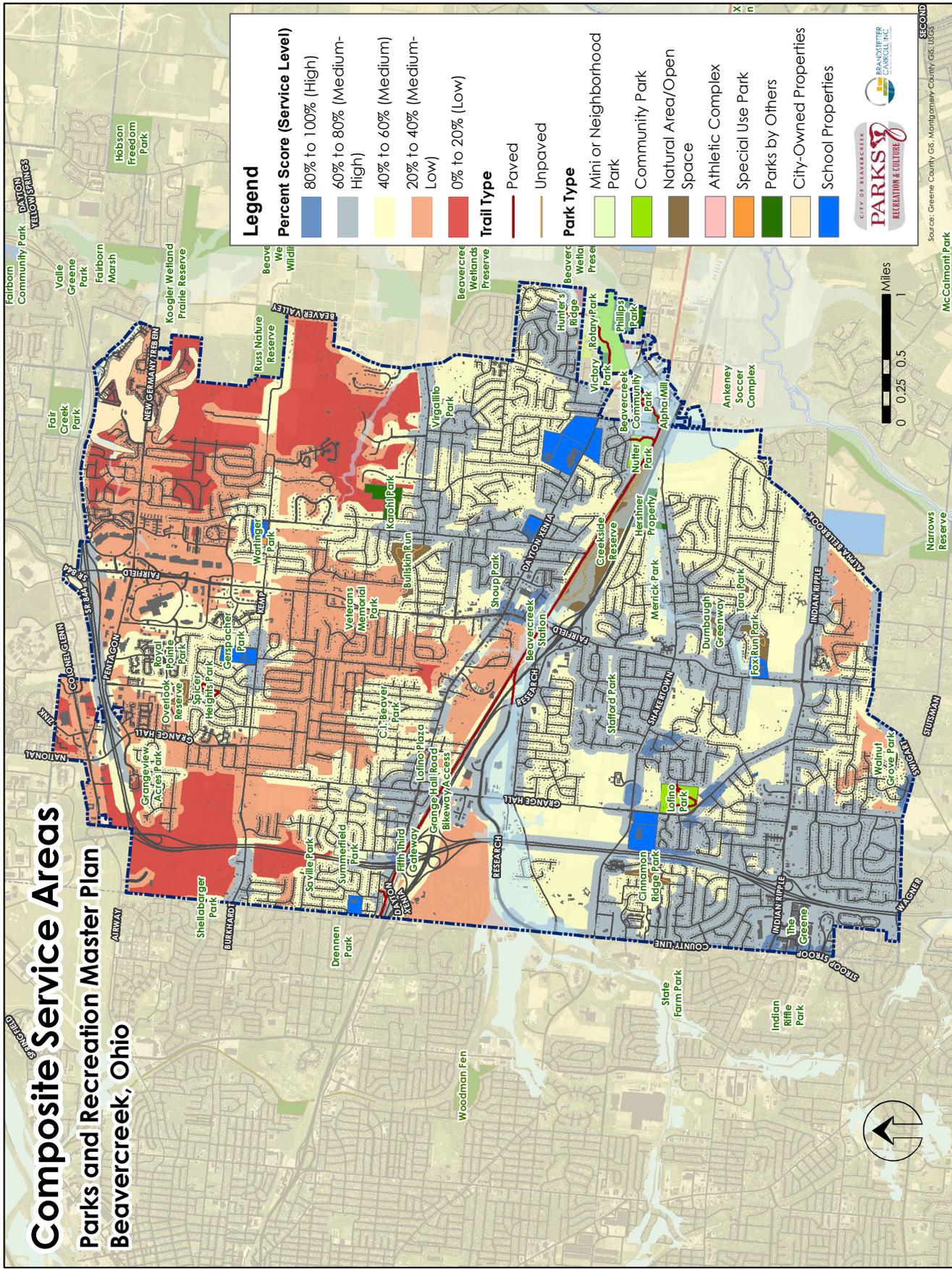
- 80% to 100% (High)
- 60% to 80% (Medium-High)
- 40% to 60% (Medium)
- 20% to 40% (Medium-Low)
- 0% to 20% (Low)

Trail Type

- Paved
- Unpaved

Park Type

- Mini or Neighborhood Park
- Community Park
- Natural Area/Open Space
- Athletic Complex
- Special Use Park
- Parks by Others
- City-Owned Properties
- School Properties



Source: Greene County GIS, Montgomery County GIS, USGS
 CITY OF BEAVERCREEK
PARKS & RECREATION & CULTURE
 BRANDSTETTER CARROLL INC.
 SECOND

WHAT BEAVERCREEK RESIDENTS SAID

Information gathered from these public input methods was used to identify the needs of Beaver Creek residents. A brief summary of the findings is described below.

Community Meetings

Most discussed topics included:

1. Splash pad
2. Trails
3. Rec center/indoor facilities
4. More programs
5. Conservation/preservation
6. Active adults (55+)
7. Gyms
8. Outdoor pool/aquatic center
9. Fitness programs

Dollar Voting

Participants at the Movie in the Park event and the public workshop were asked how they would allocate \$1000 among different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in Beaver Creek. The responses ranked as follows:

Action (Box Title)	Total
Develop a new sprayground/splash pad	\$22,900 18%
Upgrade existing parks and facilities	\$14,400 11%
Develop indoor game courts and gyms	\$14,200 11%
Acquire and preserve open space, natural and historic areas	\$13,900 11%
Build new walking and biking trails	\$13,100 10%
Build new athletic fields	\$10,900 9%
Expand programs and special events	\$9,200 7%
Build new parks (including acquisition)	\$7,400 6%
Other	\$20,200 16%
Total	\$126,200

Stakeholder Groups

Most discussed topics included:

1. Partnerships with Parks, Recreation, and Culture
2. Volunteers needed
3. Central calendar
4. Teen programs/activities

5. Water access/irrigation
6. Field improvements, meet current needs
7. Indoor facilities/recreation center
8. Better communication/marketing
9. Improve/add restrooms
10. Trails connecting parks
11. Artificial turf fields

Statistically Valid Mail Survey

Eighty-five percent (85%) of residents visited a park in Beaver Creek over the past year, and 58% of these residents visited parks more than 10 times. Rotary Park was the most visited park (59% reporting visiting), followed by Shoup Park (42%), and Lofino Park (41%).

The top reasons for not using parks more often included:

- Do not know what is offered (37%)
- Do not have time (30%)
- Do not know locations of facilities (30%)

The improvements households would most like to see to existing parks included:

- Restrooms (57%)
- Trails (46%)
- Shade (37%)
- Drinking fountains (37%)
- Natural areas (36%)
- Trees and landscaping (30%)

The most important parks and recreation facilities for households were (sum of top four choices):

- Walking and hiking trails (49%)
- Natural areas/nature parks (33%)
- Small neighborhood parks (32%)
- Bike trails (28%)

The results of the most important facilities were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine the top 6 priorities for investment:

1. Walking & hiking trails
2. Indoor swimming pools/water parks
3. Outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers
4. Small neighborhood parks
5. Recreation/community center
6. Natural areas/nature parks

The most important parks and recreation programs for households were:

- Adult fitness and wellness (35%)
- Summer concerts (28%)
- Nature programs (27%)
- Programs for persons ages 50+ (25%)

The results of the most important programs were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine the top 4 priorities for investment:

1. Adult fitness & wellness programs
2. Summer concerts
3. Nature programs
4. Programs for persons ages 55+

Key Findings (all methods)

Results indicate that the community desires:

- More and better-connected trails, including unpaved trails
- Upgrades and maintenance to existing parks
- More/better restrooms
- An outdoor pool or aquatic center
- More shade
- Improved marketing and communication
- A dog park
- More concerts and community events
- A recreation center – gyms/game courts, fitness facilities and programs
- An indoor pool
- Preservation of natural areas and open space
- Improvements to athletic fields and better utilization of existing fields
- Safety and security improvements
- Picnic opportunities
- More programs, most notably adult fitness & wellness programs, programs for persons aged 55+, summer concerts, and nature programs

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES FOR PARKS AND RECREATION IN BEAVERCREEK

Mission

To deliver recreational experiences that enhance quality of life

Vision

Building a happy and healthy community by connecting people to quality parks, engaging programs, and unique events

Values

Connectivity: We will facilitate connectivity of the community through parks and programs, helping to inspire pride and community identity through shared experiences. Safe trails will connect the community to parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places.

Health & Wellness: We will encourage healthy activities and lifestyles through our parks, facilities, and programs. We will inspire improved fitness and wellbeing for residents, visitors, and businesses.

Safety: We pledge to provide a safe and clean environment at parks and trails through proactive maintenance. We aspire to provide sufficient supervision to assure the safety of users and security of facilities.

Inclusion: We believe everyone should have convenient access to a broad range of parks, facilities, and programs. We are committed to removing barriers and ensuring everyone in Beaver Creek is welcomed and able to enjoy a variety of experiences.

Collaboration: We are committed to fostering public involvement, teamwork, and mutually beneficial partnerships to improve parks, recreation, and culture activities. We understand that collaboration is necessary to maximize these opportunities.

Leadership: We will lead with integrity, using parks, recreation, and culture to improve quality of life in the community. Leadership requires civic engagement and marketing of opportunities in Beaver Creek and demands responsible management of both financial and natural resources.

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

The following goals and objectives will guide the operations, improvements, and services in parks and recreation in Beaver Creek over the next five to ten years.

Goal 1: Quality Parks and Facilities - Balance

Provide a variety of parks that take advantage of existing assets and develop modern facilities that serve as destinations for community recreation

Inclusion: Develop accessible and enticing park features in response to community desires

Sports: Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports

Support: Ensure availability of amenities that ensure equal access needed for extended enjoyment of parks

Land Management: Acquire, develop, and conserve parkland to ensure open space for future generations with a balance between developed and natural areas

Goal 2: Improved Connectivity

Increase connectivity between parks, nature, and the community

Gathering Spaces: Offer attractive and welcoming amenities that promote a sense of community and attract visitors

Nature: Provide connections between the community and the natural environment

Trails: Develop safe trails to encourage community connectivity, fitness, and recreation

Goal 3: Attractive Programs and Quality Experiences

Offer a variety of recreational programs and events for users of all ages and abilities

Community Impact: Contribute to health, wellness, culture, and enjoyment through parks and programs

Accessibility: Ensure the availability of convenient, affordable programs and events to meet the evolving needs of the diverse population

Innovation: Provide creative programs and events that respond to trends and reflect community desires

Goal 4: Effective Management and Efficient Operations

Utilize efficient, proactive management of staff and fiscally sound strategies to promote an informed population and a safe environment at parks

Workforce: Develop an efficient organization of valued staff and volunteers

Finances: Implement operational practices and funding strategies to maximize the quality and effectiveness of parks, facilities, and programs

Engagement: Raise awareness of parks and programs, determine needs, and identify barriers to park experiences

Cooperation: Foster partnerships to meet the current and future needs of parks, recreation, and culture

Maintenance: Ensure adequate maintenance and equipment replacement policies and procedures to promote safe parks and facilities

SYSTEMWIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Public Input (Chapter 4) and Needs Assessment (Chapter 5) were used to establish the overall priorities for improvements to parks in Beaver Creek. The following items are the top priorities for park improvements as determined by the master planning process and consultation with the steering committee.

1. Improve maintenance at existing parks
2. Add support features throughout the park system such as shade structures, drinking fountains, security cameras and lighting, and trees/landscaping
3. Replace outdated and deteriorated playgrounds throughout the city and include unique or themed features at each park
4. Add picnic shelters at existing and future parks
5. Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications (by an outside consultant)
6. Prepare Park Master Plans for Bullskin Run Park, Cinnamon Ridge Park, E.J. Nutter Park, Fox Run Park, Stafford Park, Summerfield Park, Virgallito Park and Ankeney Soccer Complex.
7. Continue to implement the non-motorized recommendations of the 2019 Thoroughfare Plan to improve connectivity throughout Beaver Creek
8. Add paved trail loops within existing parks that lack this facility and in any future parks

-
9. Develop Bullskin Run as a passive Community Park to fill service gaps for park facilities in this area in northern Beaver Creek
 10. Add outdoor fitness equipment at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health
 11. Develop a sprayground at Lofino Park to provide better access to aquatic facilities in Beaver Creek
 12. Develop a dog park at Virgallito Park (or alternate location) to provide a place for dogs to go unleashed and for dog owners to gather
 13. Restore natural areas including floodplains at existing and future parks to provide educational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and to reduce maintenance requirements
 14. Pursue a location to develop a recreation center with gym space to help meet the unmet need for programs that require this type of facility
 15. Add stage roof and event infrastructure to Lofino Park amphitheater to allow for additional and enhanced program opportunities
 16. Schedule more special events and cultural offerings to bring the community together and encourage unity
 17. Expand marketing of programs and facilities to improve awareness of existing and future opportunities
 18. Develop a capital maintenance and replacement program
 19. Revive the Beaver Creek Parks Foundation to raise funds and recruit and organize volunteers
 20. Seek opportunities to expand partnerships with local organizations to improve access to recreation facilities and programs

This master plan provides capital improvement recommendations for each park in Beaver Creek. These recommendations with cost estimates can be found in Chapter 8.

ACTION PLAN

The *2019 Beaver Creek Parks, Recreation, and Culture Master Plan* includes a detailed Action Plan with 141 strategies. These strategies, which can be found in Chapter 9, represent specific actions for Parks and Recreation and the City of Beaver Creek to take to implement this plan.

