





3 NEEDS ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

This Plan uses a multifaceted analysis to help determine the parks and recreational needs of the La Grange community. The needs assessment evaluates whether those needs are currently being met and identifies what types of improvements or additions would most benefit La Grange. Existing parks and recreation opportunities are analyzed through public input, the distribution and quantity of parkland, available amenities and facilities, and the presence of natural resources within the City.

The needs assessment includes three key components: demand-based, standards-based, and resource-based assessments. Using multiple methods of analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the community's most pressing parks and recreation needs. These insights directly inform the goals, recommendations, and priorities of this Plan.

Demand-Based Assessment

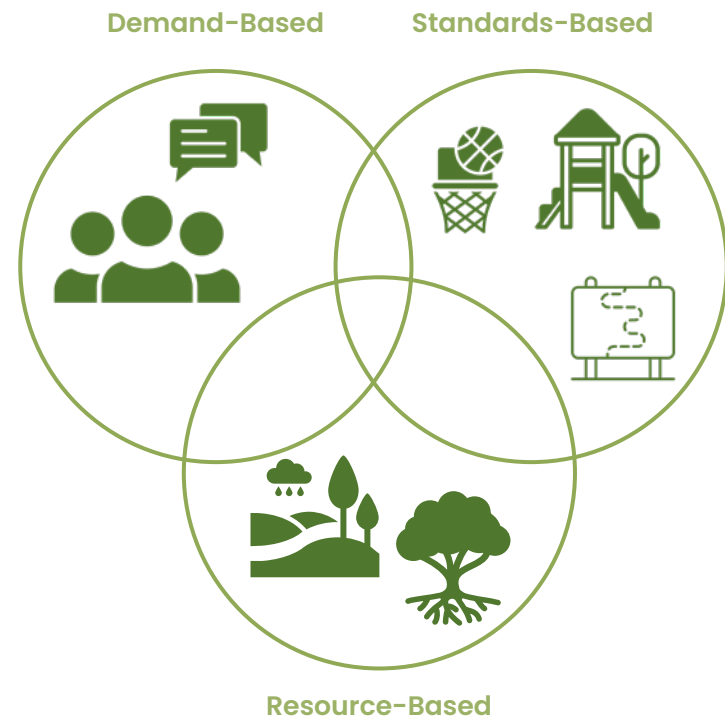
The needs assessment starts with a demand-based assessment. This includes an analysis and summary of public feedback to identify what the community wants and expects from the parks and recreation system, and how this compares to its current state.

Standards-Based Assessment

The standards-based assessment then analyzes parkland acreage, location and amenities in comparison with the needs and location of the current population and future growth areas. This is used to determine an appropriate target level of service for the La Grange community and identify surpluses or deficits.

Resource-Based Assessment

Lastly, the resource-based assessment evaluates La Grange's existing physical, man-made and natural resources to identify opportunities to leverage for public recreation benefit.



DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

The demand-based assessment reflects the needs and priorities of the La Grange community, as identified through robust public engagement activities. These efforts included public open house events, a citywide survey, stakeholder focus groups, and an interactive online mapping tool. The findings presented here summarize key community feedback and identify gaps and opportunities across the park system. While community preferences vary depending on location and experience, several consistent themes emerged that inform the recommendations in this Plan. Additional engagement materials, survey responses, and mapping feedback are included in the Appendix.

Public Engagement & Stakeholder Focus Groups:

More than 380 community members participated in the Parks and Recreation Survey, with additional insights gathered from public events, map-based feedback, and targeted conversations with key stakeholders. Participants shared their current experiences with parks, recreation programs, and facilities—and voiced their priorities for future improvements. Stakeholders included the:

- Texas Czech Heritage and Cultural Center
- Fayette County Fair Association
- La Grange High Schoolers
- Senior Board
- Rotary Club
- Lions Club
- Bluebonnet Lions Club
- City Staff
- Emergency Management and Response Officials
- Ministerial Alliance

Desires:

- Indoor aquatics facility (especially heated/covered)
- Inclusive playgrounds and upgraded play areas
- Expanded trail network and trail connections to parks and schools
- More amenities for teens and youth (e.g., skate park, basketball courts, hangout spaces)
- Shade, seating, and more picnic areas
- Splash pad and water play features
- Riverfront park development and safer access to the Colorado River
- Spaces for walking, biking, and nature exploration
- New restrooms and upgrades to existing park infrastructure
- Dog park
- More programming variety and access for all age groups
- Greater maintenance and reinvestment in existing parks
- Improved signage, wayfinding, and ADA accessibility

Issues/Concerns:

- Lack of aquatic options and long travel distances for swim practice
- Insufficient shade and restrooms in key parks
- Poor drainage and flooding (especially at Kruschel and Northside Parks)
- Safety concerns and outdated infrastructure in some locations
- Limited options for teenagers and older youth
- Inadequate trail connectivity and walkability in certain areas
- Accessibility gaps for seniors and people with disabilities
- Limited awareness about park locations and available programs
- Inadequate park lighting contributing to safety and security concerns in park facilities.

ONLINE INTERACTIVE MAPPING TOOL

To supplement in-person outreach and provide opportunities for ongoing input, the project team developed a dedicated online hub featuring an interactive map. This tool allowed users to:

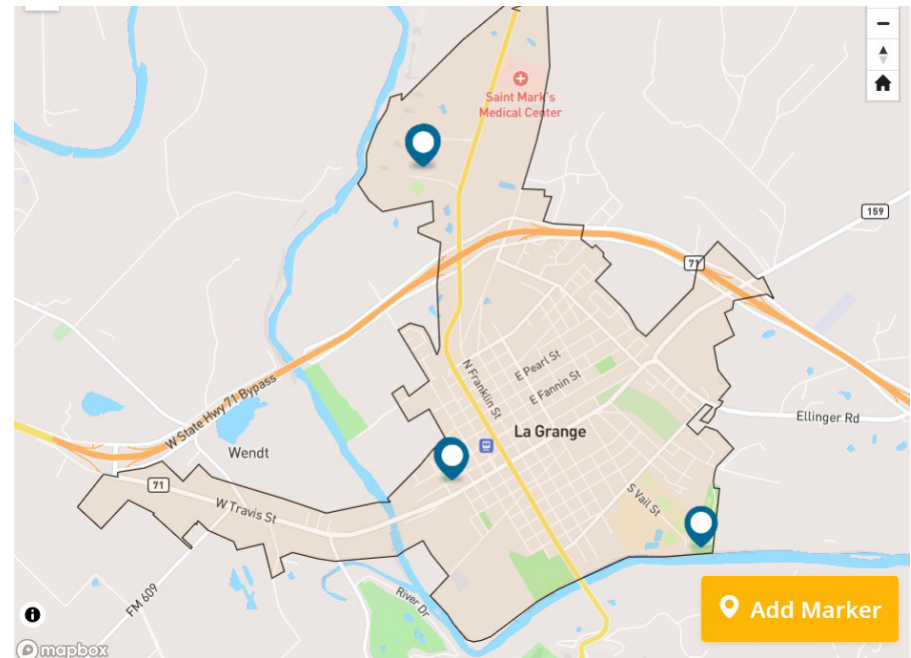
- Pin comments at specific park locations
- Identify areas that need better access or maintenance
- Suggest ideas for new features (e.g., trails, pavilions, restrooms)

Highlights from the map-based input:

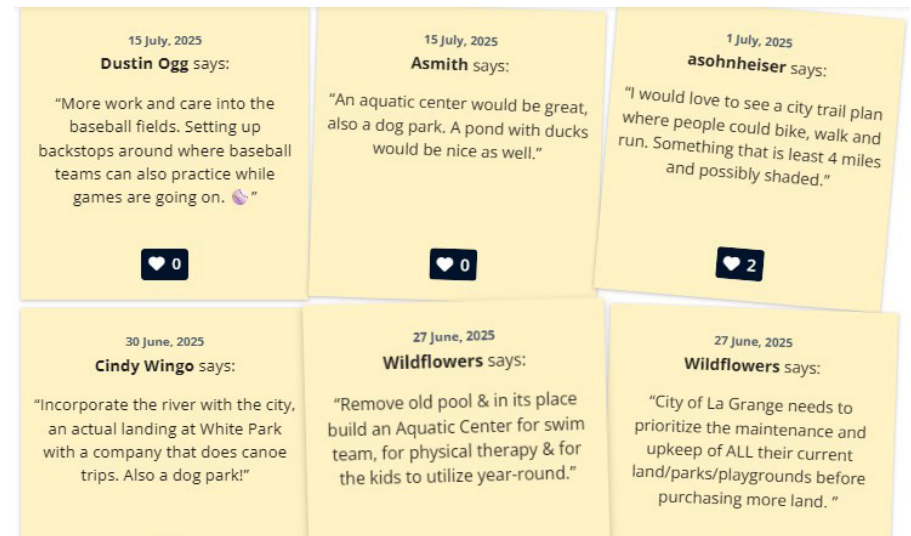
- Trail connectivity was a major concern. Residents flagged missing links and safety gaps around White Rock Park, Buffalo Trail Park, Hope Hill Park, and the Randolph Recreation Center.
- River access came up repeatedly, especially around Northside Park and Buffalo Trail, where better signage, ADA-compliant paths, and picnic space were suggested.
- Underserved areas were identified—particularly parts of town where neighborhood parks are lacking or aging facilities need updates.

VISION WALL

As part of the engagement process, the planning team created an online Vision Wall where community members could share their hopes for La Grange's parks over the next 5 to 10 years. Residents contributed short posts reflecting their priorities—from a desire for a community pool, skate park, and dog park to expanded trails, better river access, and improved maintenance of existing parks. The most common themes included creating year-round aquatics facilities, increasing youth-friendly amenities, and enhancing connections between parks and neighborhoods. This vision wall provided an easy, accessible way for residents to speak directly to the future of their parks system.



Map 11. Online Interactive Map



Vision Wall Comments

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT #1

The first community engagement event for the La Grange PROST Plan took place on June 26, 2025, at City Hall. More than 105 residents participated by exploring interactive boards, used sticker dots to identify park priorities, mapped trail ideas and shared written feedback.

The most notable feedback and themes from this event included:

- Strong interest in a new aquatics facility, ideally indoor or year-round.
- Requests for a dog park, skate park and more youth/teen amenities.
- Calls for better trail connections, especially to parks and schools.
- Need for more restrooms, shade and ADA-accessible features.
- Support for revitalizing underutilized parks such as Northside and Buffalo Trail.
- Desire for spaces that promote wellness, safety and community connection.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT #2

The second community engagement event for the La Grange PROST Plan took place on August 28, 2025, during the Fayette County Fair. Residents explored interactive boards and used gold coins to vote for their top park priorities. The top priorities identified included a traditional pool, the expansion of trails, a dog park and additional park restrooms.

Additional Feedback:

- Riverfront Development: nature trails, amphitheater, splash pad/aquatics feature, picnic groves, fishing pier and tube float.
- Water Recreation: splash pad, shaded seating, swim lessons and a lazy river.
- Map comments: more connections, riverfront access and flooding/landing concerns.



Community Engagement #1 - City Hall, June 26, 2025



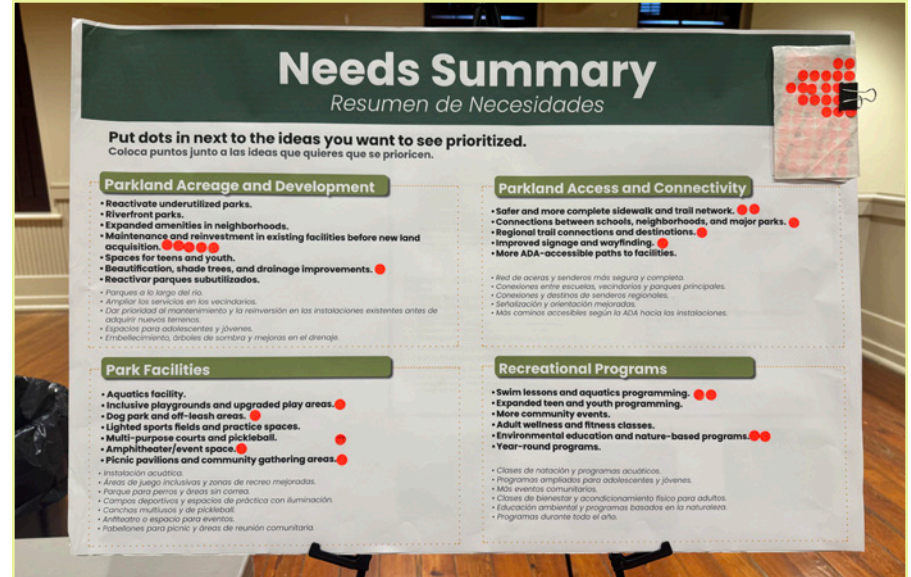
Community Engagement #2 - Fayette County Fair, August 28, 2025

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT #3

The third community engagement event for the La Grange PROST Plan took place on October 16, 2025, at Casino Hall. The event was a dual engagement with the La Grange Comprehensive Plan. At the event, residents explored interactive boards identifying their park improvement and amenity priorities.

The most notable feedback and themes from this event included:

- A priority for enhancing existing parks rather than acquiring new parkland.
- Interest in expanding the network of sidewalks and trails.
- Expanded recreational programming offerings, particularly in aquatics, environmental education and nature-based programs.
- A need for more community events or festivals within La Grange parks.
- A desire for greater access to natural areas or parks.
- Interest in park improvements at White Rock Park and the Fayette County Fairgrounds.
- Interest in new amenities at Northside Park.



Community Engagement #3 - Casino Hall, October 16, 2025

PARKS SURVEY

As part of the public engagement process for the PROST Plan, a 22-question survey was released to gather input from a wide range of residents and community stakeholders. The survey was available for six weeks, from June through July 2025 and provided an opportunity for the community to express their priorities and concerns regarding the future of the City's parks system. In total, more than 475 responses were received, offering valuable feedback to help guide development of the PROST Plan.

Survey participants represented a broad range of age groups, with the majority being between 18 and 34 years old. A substantial portion of respondents indicated they have children at home, most commonly in the 0–5 and 6–10 age ranges. Additionally, most respondents reported having lived in La Grange for more than 20 years, reflecting strong, long-standing connections to the community.

Figure 4. Age of survey respondents

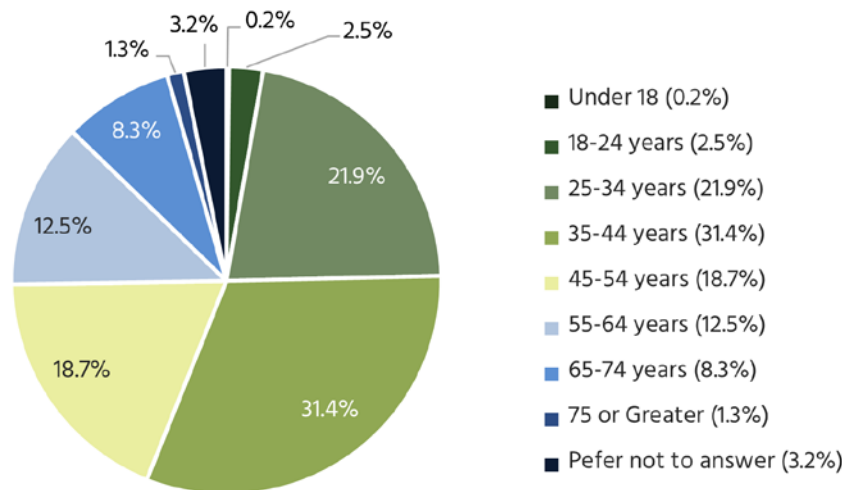


Figure 5. Age of children in respondent households

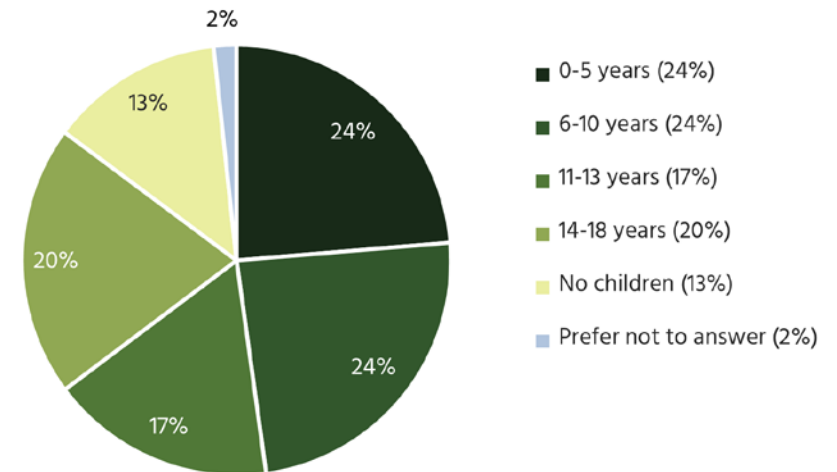
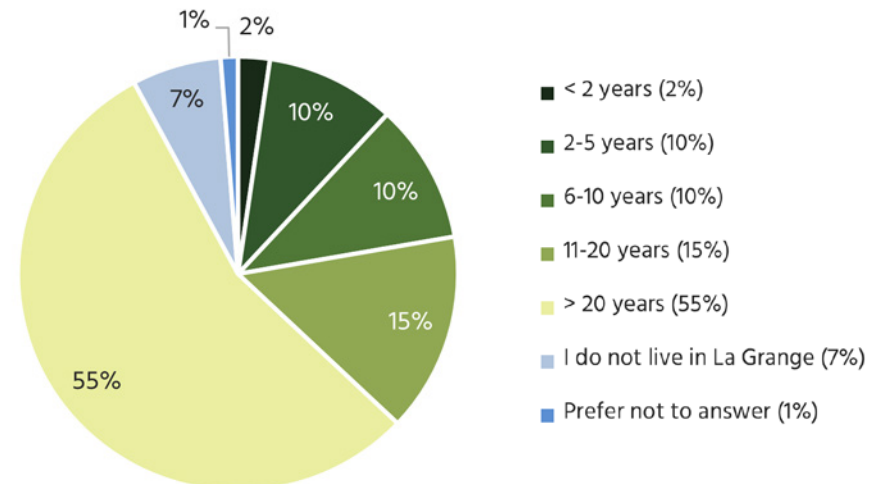


Figure 6. How long have you lived in La Grange



Parks and Recreation System Usage

Frequency of Use for La Grange's Parks and Recreation Facilities

The most frequently utilized system facilities are:

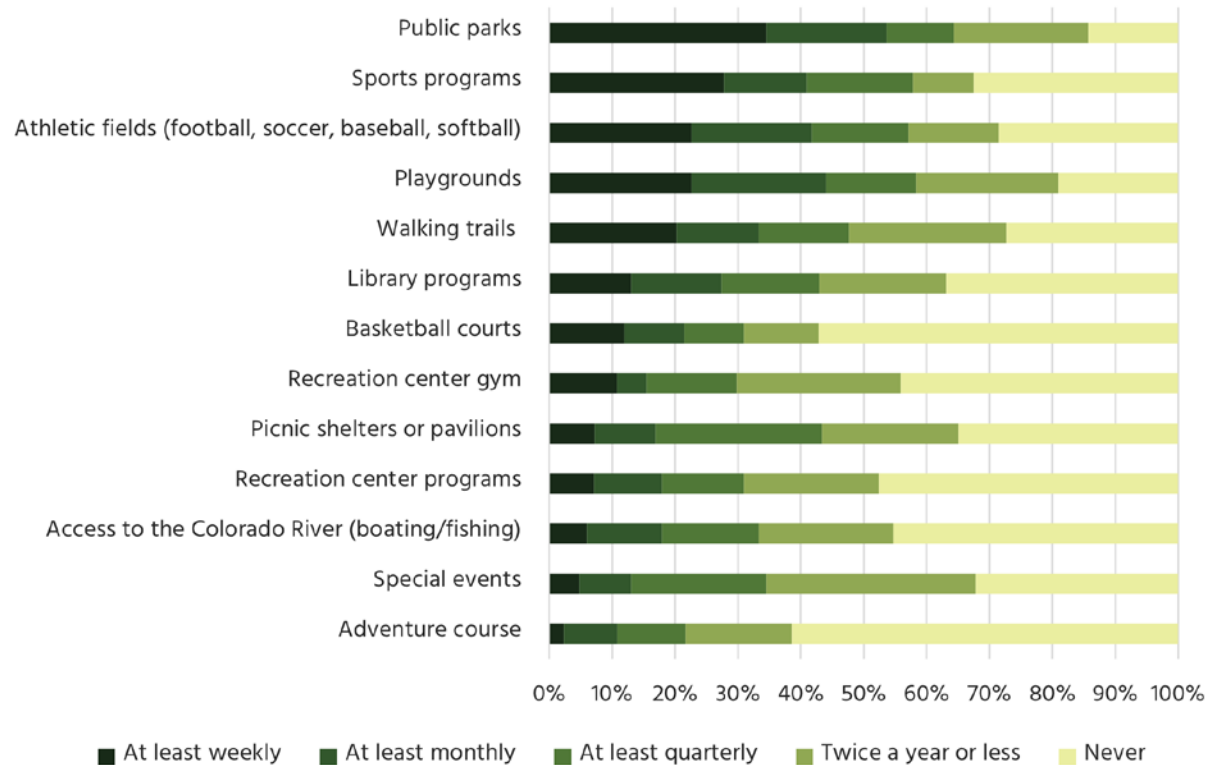
- Public parks
- Sports programs
- Athletic fields
- Playgrounds
- Walking trails

The least frequently utilized system facilities are:

- Adventure course
- Basketball courts
- Recreation center programs
- Access to the Colorado River (boating/fishing)
- Recreation center gym

Many of the least-used facilities serve specific population groups, so lower overall use does not necessarily reflect their value. In some cases, limited access or availability may contribute to reduced use. Improving access to these facilities could increase participation.

Figure 7. Frequency of use of parks and recreation facilities



Overall Ratings of the Parks and Recreation System

Overall Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Opportunities in La Grange

Slightly more than one-fourth of respondents (27.4%) rated the quality of parks and recreation opportunities as excellent or good, while the largest share (42.9%) rated them as fair. There was also a large share of respondents that rated the City's parks as poor (28.6%). These results suggest that many residents perceive a need for improvement in La Grange's parks and recreation system. Additionally, this feedback also highlights the importance of prioritizing upgrades and investments that better meet community expectations.

Overall Satisfaction with Parks and Recreation Features in La Grange

The park features receiving the highest satisfaction ratings include:

- Park access
- Park safety
- Park maintenance

The park features receiving the lowest satisfaction ratings include:

- Athletic amenities
- Variety of recreational facilities
- Variety of recreational programming

Figure 8. Satisfaction ratings of parks and recreation opportunities

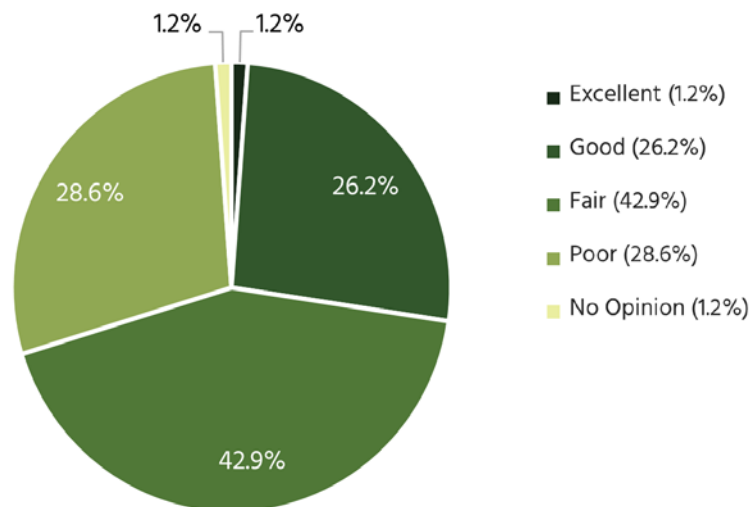
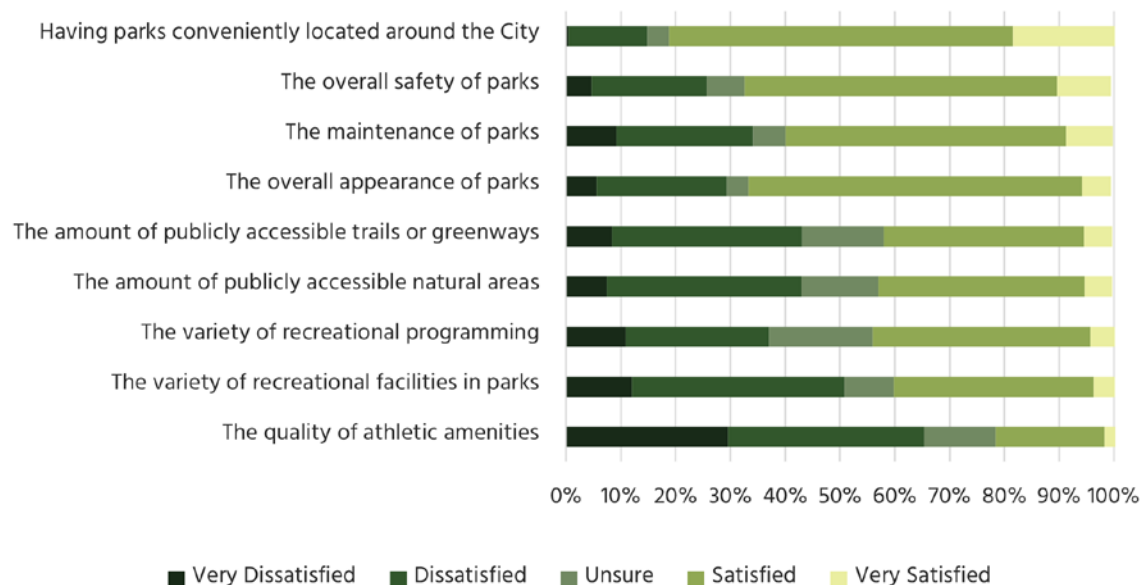


Figure 9. Satisfaction ratings of parks and recreation features



Parks and Recreation System Priorities

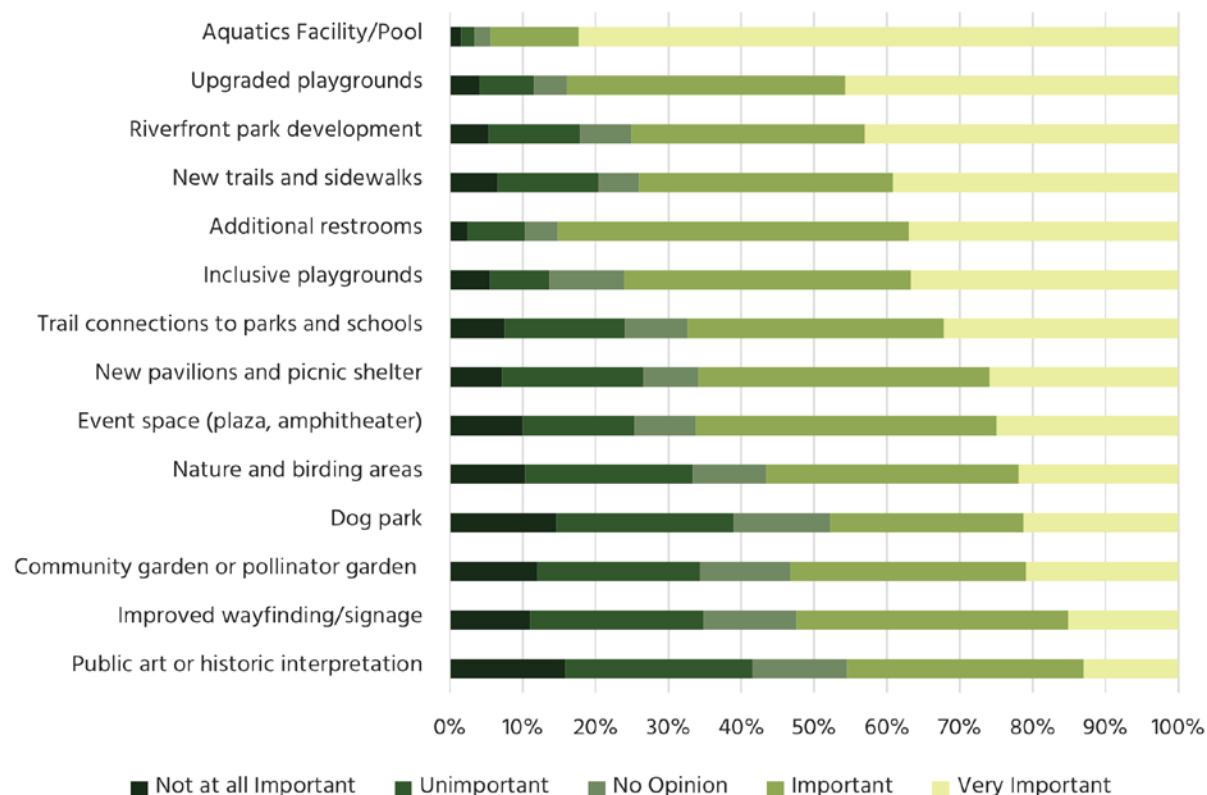
Improvement Priorities for Parks and Recreation in La Grange

The top improvement priorities for parks and recreation in La Grange are:

- Aquatics facility/pool
- Upgraded playgrounds
- Riverfront park development
- New trails and sidewalks
- Additional restrooms
- Inclusive playgrounds

These improvement priorities reflect the community's interest in enhancing existing park amenities while also expanding recreation opportunities and strengthening connections across the City. Several of the suggested improvements (e.g., aquatics, playgrounds, restrooms, inclusive playgrounds) emphasize family-friendly facilities, while trail expansion and riverfront enhancements highlight the importance of accessibility and the community's natural assets.

Figure 10. Respondents park improvement preferences



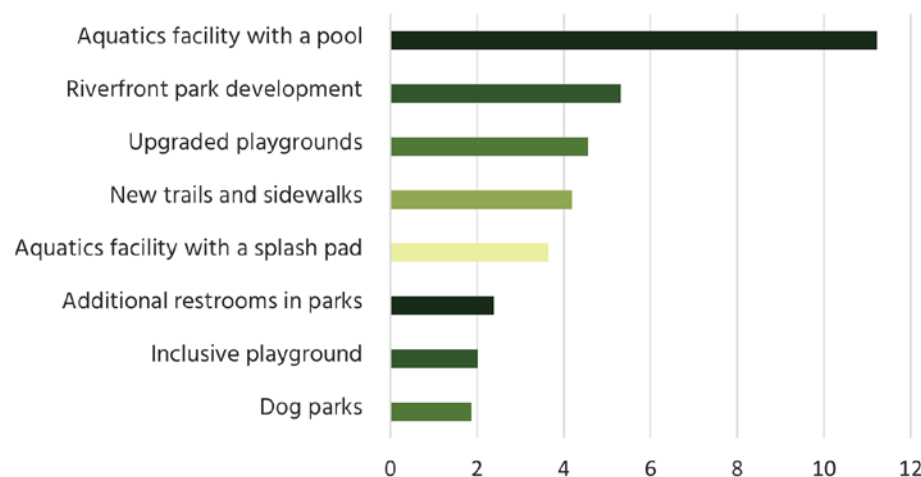
Facility Priorities for Parks and Recreation in La Grange

Respondents were asked to identify their top three facilities or amenities for the City to prioritize over the next five years. The most frequently selected priorities included:

- An aquatics facility with a pool
- Riverfront park development
- Upgraded playgrounds
- New trails and sidewalks
- An aquatics facility with a splash pad

For clarity, only the top eight of the fifteen total options are shown in this graph.

Figure 11. Respondents park facility preferences

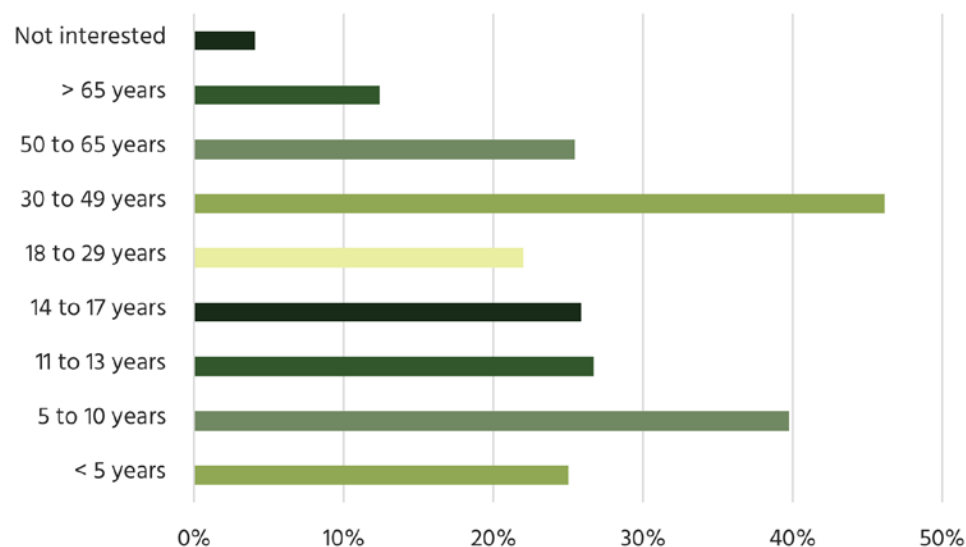


Parks and Recreation System Programming

Age Groups Interested in Parks Programming

While facilities provide the spaces for recreation, recreational programming activates those spaces by offering structured opportunities for participation and community connection. In La Grange, interest in recreational programming is visible across all age groups. The highest interest among children is seen in those aged 5 to 10 years old, while for adults, those aged 30 to 49 years old show the most interest in parks and recreation programming.

Figure 12. Respondents programming interest by age group

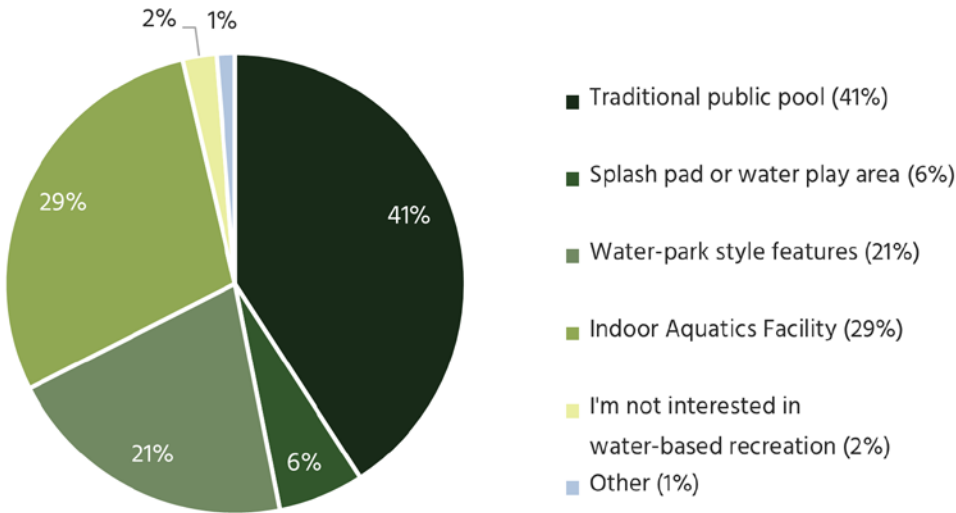


Aquatics and Water-Based Recreation

Preferred Aquatics Recreation

The public pool at Kruschel Park was permanently closed in Spring 2025. As part of the community survey, respondents were asked to indicate the types of water-based recreation they would like incorporated into the City’s park system. The most frequently selected options were a traditional public pool and an indoor aquatic facility. There was also some respondent interest in the inclusion of water park-style features.

Figure 13. Respondents aquatics recreation preferences

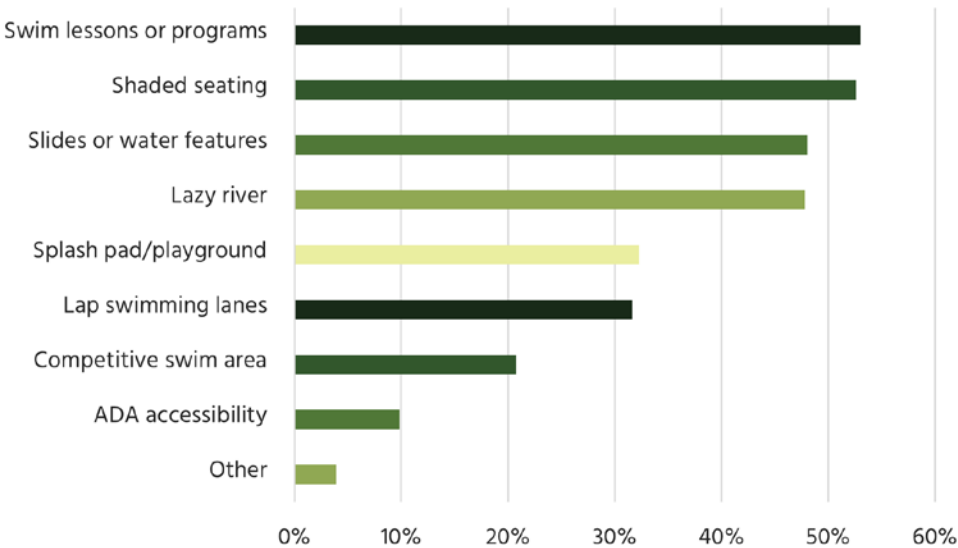


Aquatics Feature Priorities

In addition to identifying preferred types of water-based recreation, respondents were also asked which features they would like included in a future aquatics facility. The highest priorities identified included:

- Swim lessons or programs
- Shaded seating
- Slides or water features
- Lazy river

Figure 14. Respondents aquatics feature priorities

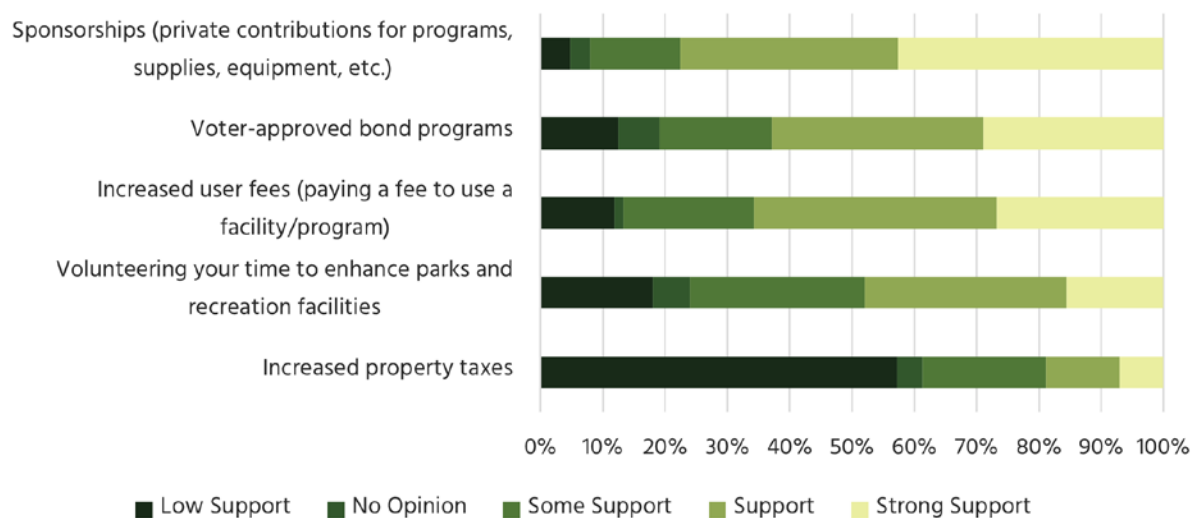


Parks and Recreation Funding

Support for Funding Sources

Upon identifying residents' priorities for park enhancements or improvements, it is important to consider potential funding sources for implementation. Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support for various funding approaches. The strongest support was expressed for pursuing private sponsorships, while the least popular option was increasing property taxes. Support for voter-approved bond programs, volunteering and increased user fees was nearly evenly divided.

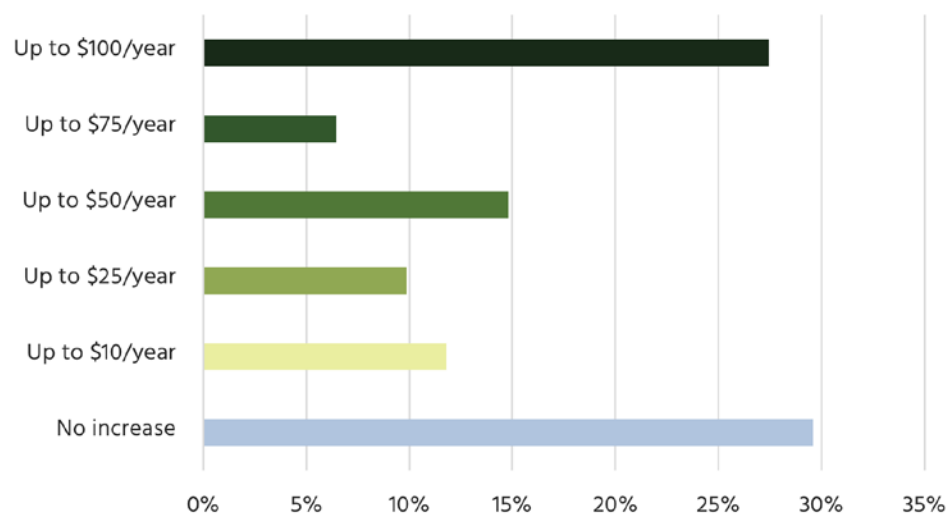
Figure 15. Respondents preferred sources of funding



Willingness to Pay

Although increasing taxes was the least desirable funding source, respondents were asked to indicate the amount of additional property tax they would be willing to pay annually to support their identified improvement priorities. The largest share indicated a preference not to pay any additional property taxes, while the next largest group expressed a willingness to contribute up to \$100 per year specifically to fund park improvements.

Figure 16. Amount respondents are willing to pay annually to support parks priorities



STANDARDS-BASED ASSESSMENT

The standards-based assessment analyzes parkland in terms of acreage, location and number of park facilities. It identifies the current level of service and whether it is meeting the community's needs. Levels of service represent a specific acreage of parkland or number of facilities needed per given population.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) publishes their Agency Performance Review annually. It presents data and insights from 1,000 parks and recreation agencies around the country. This information was referenced throughout the standards-based assessment as a baseline comparison.

Three types of levels of service were examined in this assessment: acreage, location and facilities.

Acreage Level of Service

The acreage level of service defines the quantity of parkland acreage as a ratio to population. The results are expressed as park acreage per 1,000 residents. The analysis examines whether there is sufficient parkland for residents today and in the future.

Spatial Level of Service

The spatial level of service looks at the location and distribution of different park types to identify underserved areas and where new parks may be needed to serve current and future residential areas.

Facility Level of Service

The facility level of service defines the number of park facilities needed to meet the community's recreational needs. Standards are expressed as a ratio of facility per population size (e.g., one baseball field per 3,500 residents).



Acreage Level of Service

Different types of parks are designed to meet different community needs. Pocket, neighborhood, and community parks, collectively referred to as close-to-home parks, are primarily intended to provide recreational opportunities for residents living nearby. Regional parks, in contrast, attract visitors from beyond the immediate community. Linear parks/greenways and open space/nature parks offer passive recreation experiences for the broader public, while special purpose parks cater to specific user groups (e.g., dog park, skate park).

As noted in the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review, the median community with fewer than 20,000 residents maintains 12.9 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. For La Grange, a target level of service has been established by comparing these NRPA benchmarks with the community’s unique goals, opportunities and challenges. Existing and target service levels for each park type are shown in Figure 15.

At present, the City provides a total level of service of 38.8 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents across all park categories. This results in a current surplus of 26.6 acres per 1,000 residents, with projections indicating that the surplus will continue as the population approaches its 2035 population forecast of 4,774 people. This surplus is primarily provided through the City’s large amount of regional park acreage.

Overall, the amount of acreage dedicated to close-to-home parks is on target. However, the City has a slight deficit in pocket park acreage in 2025, a deficit that is projected to continue through 2035, as shown in the “surplus/deficit acreage” columns in the table. To address this shortfall, additional parkland should be developed specifically for pocket parks. To meet the recreational needs of the community, these parks should be equipped with amenities appropriate to the park type, providing diverse recreational opportunities and addressing facility deficiencies identified later in this chapter.

The City should also seek opportunities to develop a supply of linear and greenbelt parks. When thoughtfully located and designed with bicycle and pedestrian trails, these parks can strengthen community-wide connectivity to existing parks and other key destinations. Also, the demand-based assessment further identified the expansion of bicycle and walking trails as a priority for La Grange residents.

Open space/nature parks are intended to remain natural or minimally developed, and no target level of service has been established for this category. However, when considering future improvements, the inclusion of trails and picnic amenities, where appropriate, can allow these areas to provide additional recreational benefits.

Similarly, no target level of service has been identified for special purpose parks.

Figure 17. NRPA Average Total Parkland per 1,000 Residents (for communities under 20,000 people)

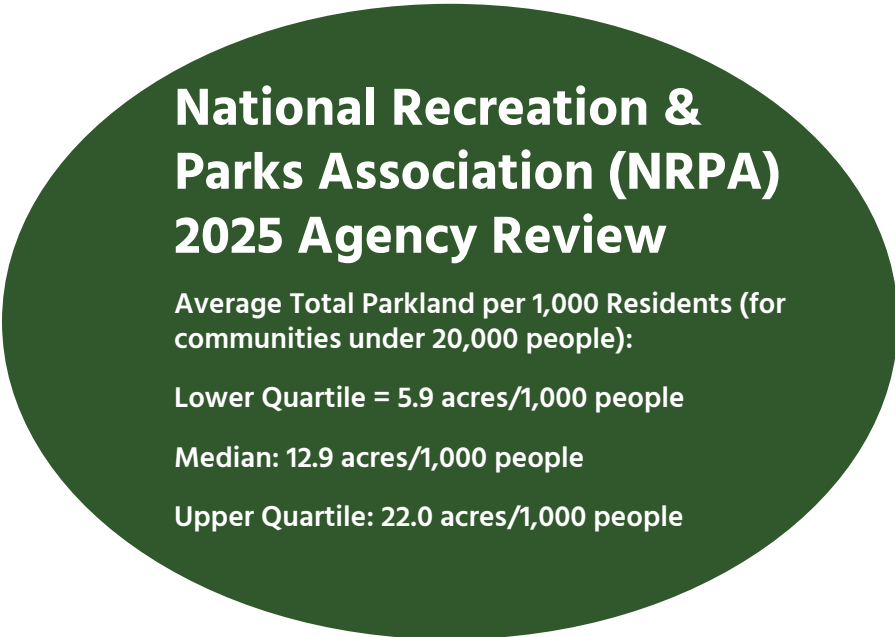


Figure 18. Parkland Acreage Level of Service

Park Classification	Existing Level of Service (LOS)			Recommended Level of Service (2025)				Recommended Level of Service (2035)	
	Existing Acreage (2025)	Current LOS (based on 4,448 pop. ¹)		Recommended Target LOS (2025-2035)		2025 Recommended Acreage (based on 4,448 pop. ¹)	Surplus/Deficit Acreages (2025)	2035 Recommended Acreage (based on 4,774 pop. ¹)	Surplus/Deficit Acreages (2035)
Close-to-Home Parks									
Pocket Parks	0.8	0.2	Ac/1,000 Residents	0.25	Ac/1,000 Residents	1.1	-0.3	1.2	-0.4
Neighborhood Parks	12.2	2.7	Ac/1,000 Residents	2.5	Ac/1,000 Residents	11.1	1.1	11.9	0.3
Community Parks	23.1	5.2	Ac/1,000 Residents	4.5	Ac/1,000 Residents	20.0	3.1	21.5	1.6
Close-to-Home Parks Subtotal	36.1	8.1	Ac/1,000 Residents	7.25	Ac/1,000 Residents	32.2	3.9	34.6	1.5
Other Parks									
Regional Parks	129.4	29.1	Ac/1,000 Residents	5.0	Ac/1,000 Residents	22.2	107.2	23.9	105.5
Open Space/Natural Areas	7.2	1.6	Ac/1,000 Residents	Varies		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greenbelt and Linear Parks	0.0	0.0	Ac/1,000 Residents	Varies		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Special Use Parks	0.0	0.0	Ac/1,000 Residents	Varies		N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Other Parks Subtotal	136.6	30.7	Ac/1,000 Residents	Varies		22.2	114.4	23.9	112.7
All Park Types	172.7	38.8	Ac/1,000 Residents	12.25	Ac/1,000 Residents	54.4	118.3	58.5	114.2

¹ Source: Current Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; 2035 Population: 0.71% Growth Rate in Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District Management Plan

The bottom row includes all park types and an overall recommended level of service of 12.25 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. The total 2025 and 2035 surplus and deficit calculations are based on all park types combined (e.g., 172.7 existing acres - 54.4 recommended acres in 2025 = 118.3 acres surplus).

Negative numbers indicate acreage deficits.

SPATIAL LEVEL OF SERVICE

Access to Pocket and Neighborhood Parks

Pocket parks are generally designed to serve residents living within a quarter mile of the park, while neighborhood parks extend their service area from a quarter to a half mile. Both are meant to meet the everyday recreational needs of nearby residents and are most often reached on foot or by bicycle. A quarter mile typically represents about a five-minute walk, while a half mile results in a ten-minute walk. For better accessibility, these parks should be sited away from major roadways, such as arterial roads or highways, and positioned so residents can reach them without having to cross significant traffic barriers.

Map 2 illustrates the service areas of pocket and neighborhood parks, showing the current quarter-mile and half-mile service boundaries. These service areas were determined based on La Grange's existing pedestrian infrastructure.

Comparing park service areas with residential growth patterns (yellow shaded areas on the following service area maps) highlights where current and future neighborhoods lack adequate parkland within walking distance. Need areas are defined as portions of the growth area not currently served by pocket or

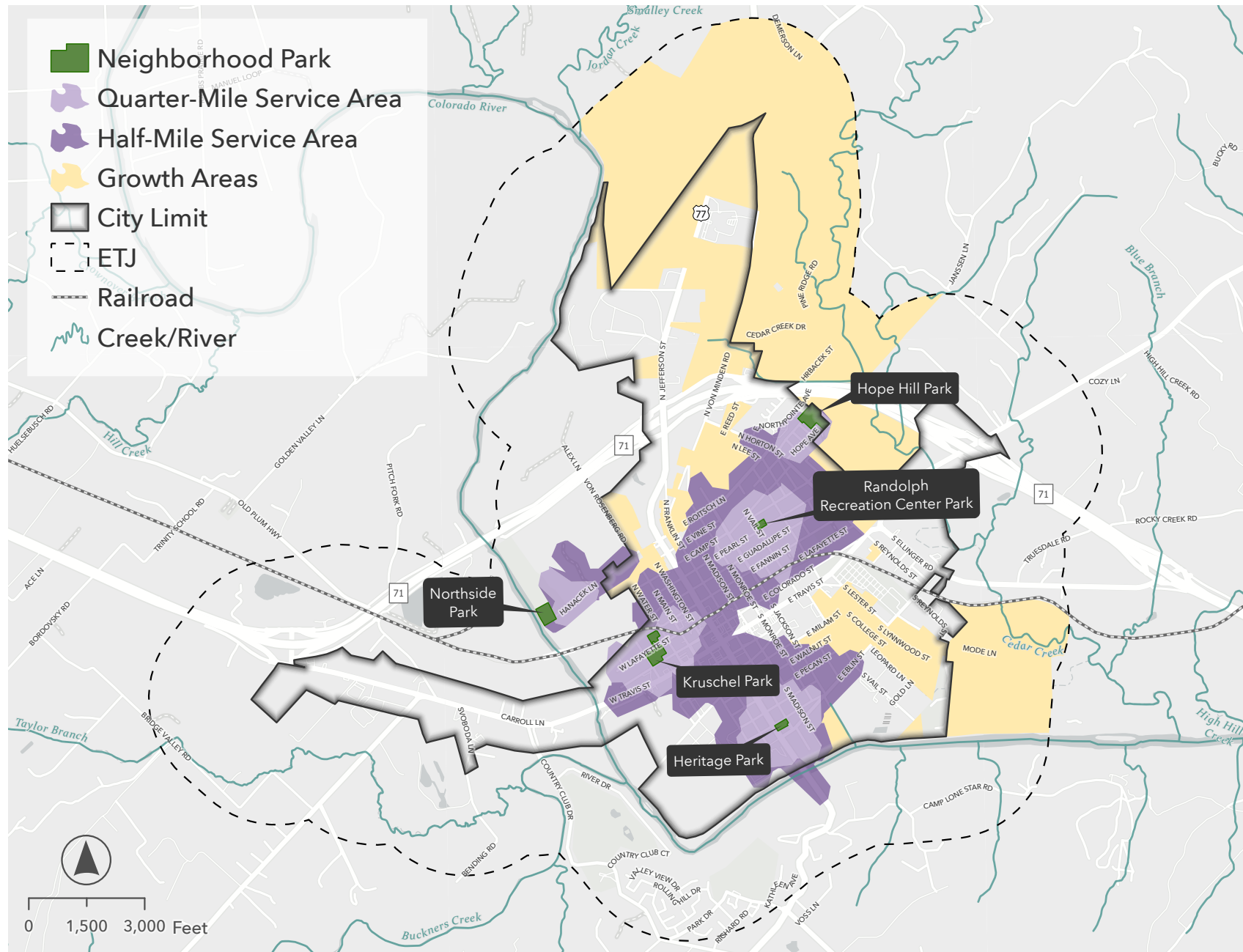
Service areas were based on walking distance analysis run through Network Analyst by ESRI. Analysis follows paths and roads that allow pedestrian traffic.

neighborhood parks. In La Grange, the primary need areas are located in the southeast and northern sections of the City, where much of the recent and anticipated future growth is occurring. As the City plans for new park facilities, priority should be given to locating pocket and neighborhood parks within these areas to ensure convenient access for nearby residents.

As the City considers improvements to its sidewalk, bicycle and trail network, priority should be given to streets within a half-mile distance of existing parks to allow safe and convenient pedestrian access to nearby pocket and neighborhood parks.



Map 12. Service Area of Neighborhood and Pocket Parks



Access to Community Parks

Community parks are larger in scale and intended to service multiple neighborhoods. They commonly offer a diverse mix of recreational opportunities, which may include playgrounds, picnic pavilions, athletic fields and courts, trails, outdoor event spaces and aquatic facilities. These parks are most often accessed by vehicle, as residents are generally willing to travel farther to take advantage of the broader variety of amenities they offer. However, they can also act as neighborhood parks for residential areas within 1/2 mile walking distance, so long as they provide close-to-home amenities such as playgrounds and picnic areas.

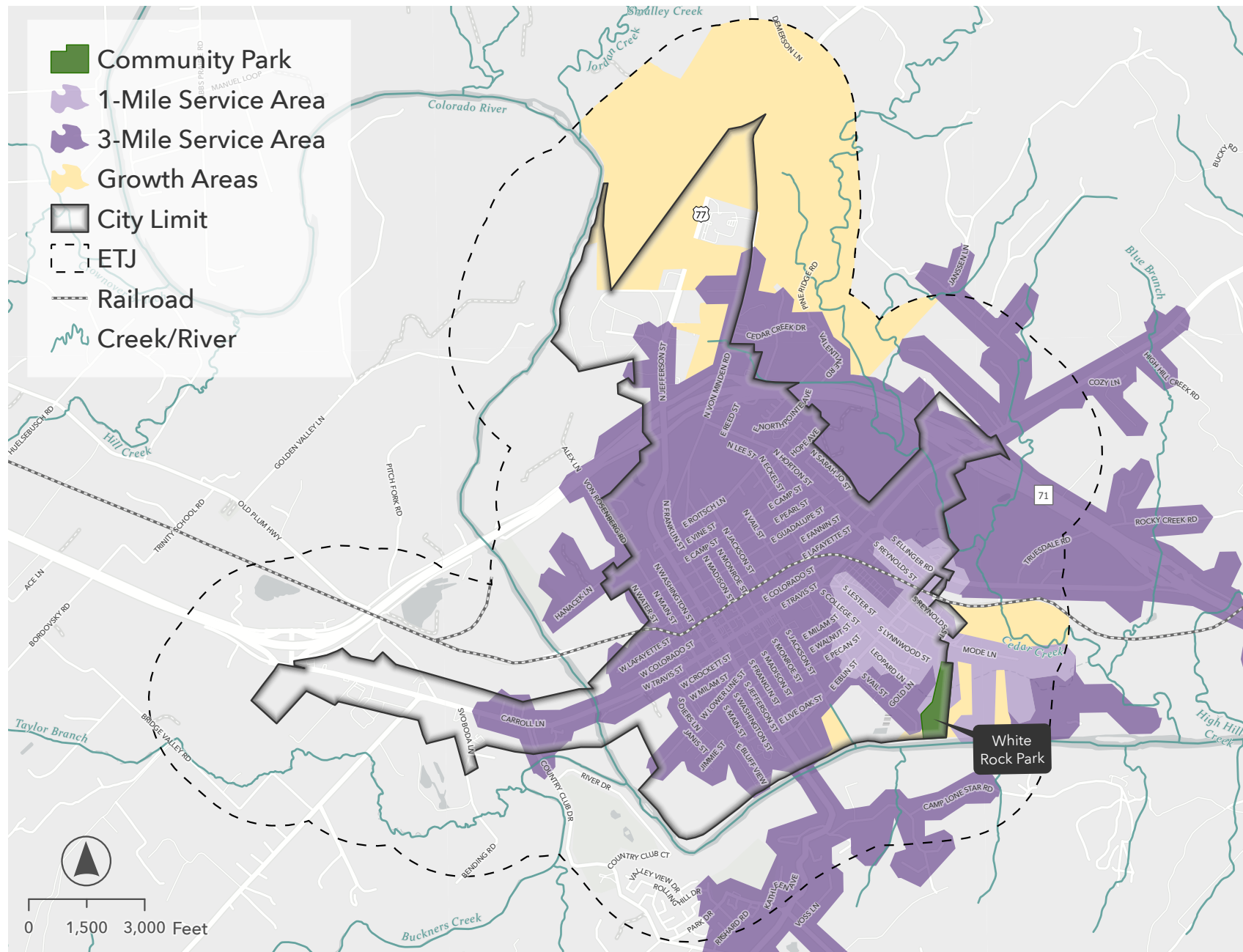
Map 3 illustrates the 1 to 3 mile service areas around La Grange's inventory of community parks. These service areas were determined based on the City's existing vehicular network. At present, White Rock Park is the only park in La Grange classified as a community park. Due to the reduced geographic size of the City, this park is able to service much of central La Grange.

Service areas were based on driving distance analysis run through Network Analyst by ESRI. Analysis models the movement of cars. Travel obeys one-way roads, avoids illegal turns and follows other rules that are specific to cars.

Community park service areas, when compared with residential growth patterns, identify need areas or portions of the City that are not currently served. In La Grange, the northern section of the City, where much of the recent residential growth is occurring, represents the primary need area outside the existing service coverage of White Rock Park. The western portion of La Grange is also beyond this service boundary. However, because this area has experienced limited residential growth and is expected to remain primarily commercial, park access is not anticipated to be a significant need.



Map 13. Service Area of Community Parks



Facility Level of Service

In addition to reviewing overall parkland acreage and types of parks, it is also necessary to evaluate the range of recreation facilities available to residents. A facility level of service assessment summarizes La Grange's existing inventory and compares it against established benchmarks. The 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review serves as a reference point, offering national data on the availability of outdoor recreation facilities relative to population. Initial facility targets were developed using baseline averages for communities with less than 20,000 residents, and these benchmarks were further refined for La Grange through local input, community goals, and consideration of staffing capacity and parkland availability.

The facility level of service table on the next page outlines the current number of facilities in La Grange and evaluates them to the City's 2025 population and 2035 population projections. Targets from the 2025 NRPA Agency Performance Review are applied to identify current and future facility deficits.

There are currently deficits in the following facilities:

- Multipurpose Courts
- Multipurpose Fields
- Pickleball Courts
- Skate Park
- Tennis Courts
- Trails
- Dog Park
- Pool/Aquatic Facility
- Picnic Facilities and Pavilions

Looking toward 2035, without the addition of new facilities, the same deficits will continue to emerge in the same type of parks and recreation facilities.



Figure 19. Facility Level of Service

		Current Available	Current LOS (1 Facility per # Residents)	Target LOS (Per Residents)	2025 Need (based on 4,448 pop. ¹)	2025 Deficit or Surplus	2035 Need (based on 4,774 pop. ¹)	2035 Deficit or Surplus	Cities less than 20,000
Active	Baseball/Softball Fields	7	635	1 per 1,958	3	4	3	4	1 per 1,958
	Basketball Courts	2	2,224	1 per 4,479	1	1	2	0	1 per 4,479
	Community Gardens	2	2,224	1 per 8,800	1	1	1	1	1 per 8,800
	Disc Golf	1	4,448	1 per 9,402	1	0	1	0	1 per 9,402
	Fitness Equipment Circuits	2	2,224	1 per 8,274	1	1	1	1	1 per 8,274
	Multipurpose Courts	0	0	1 per 3,900	2	-2	2	-2	1 per 3,900
	Multipurpose Fields	0	0	1 per 2,578	2	-2	2	-2	1 per 2,578
	Pickleball Courts	0	0	1 per 3,483	2	-2	2	-2	1 per 3,483
	Skate Parks	0	0	1 per 10,776	1	-1	1	-1	1 per 10,776
	Soccer Fields	6	741	1 per 2,578	2	4	2	4	1 per 2,578
	Tennis Courts	0	0	1 per 3,500	2	-2	2	-2	1 per 3,500
	Trails (miles)	1.7	2,616	1 per 1,112	4	-2.3	4	-2.3	Median: 4 miles
	Volleyball Courts (Outdoors)	2	2,224	1 per 7,057	1	1	1	1	1 per 7,057
Passive	Amphitheater	1	4,448	1 per 10,686	1	0	1	0	1 per 10,686
	Dog Park	0	0	1 per 10,188	1	-1	1	-1	1 per 10,188
	Horseshoe Pits	0	0	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	
	Picnic Pavilions	2	2,224	1 per 1,500	3	-1	4	-2	1 per 3,000
	Picnic Facilities (e.g., tables)	39	114	In all publicly accessed parks	In all publicly accessed parks	-1	In all publicly accessed parks	-1	
	Playgrounds	7	635	1 per 2,000	3	4	3	4	1 per 2,000
Water	Fishing Piers	2	2,224	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	Varies	
	Pool/Aquatic Facility	0	0	1 per 9,745	1	-1	1	-1	1 per 9,745
	Splash Pad	1	4,448	1 per 13,391	1	0	1	0	1 per 13,391
Misc	Recreation Center	1	4,448	1 per 9,875	1	0	1	0	1 per 9,875
	Restrooms/Portable	5	890	1 per 2,359	2	3	3	2	1 per 2,359

¹ Source: Current Population: U.S. Census Bureau, 2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; 2035 Population: 0.71% Growth Rate in Fayette County Groundwater Conservation District Management Plan

RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

The resource-based assessment looks at La Grange's natural and built features that people can enjoy for parks and recreation. These places can be used to add more trails, improve river access, and keep the community's natural character.

Colorado River

The Colorado River is La Grange's defining natural feature. It provides scenic views, opportunities for fishing and boating, and potential sites for riverfront parks and trails. Expanding safe, ADA-accessible river access points and creating designated gathering areas along the river could unlock one of the community's greatest underutilized assets. Riverfront development also emerged as a major community priority during engagement.

Floodplains & Drainage Areas

Much of La Grange is shaped by low-lying floodplains, particularly around Kruschel Park and Northside Park, where flooding is a recurring challenge. While unsuitable for heavy development, these flood-prone areas can be leveraged for nature-based recreation such as trails, wetlands, and outdoor learning areas. They can also serve as buffers that improve water quality and reduce stormwater impacts.

Topography & Scenic Vistas

The rolling terrain around Hope Hill Park, the Fayette County Fairgrounds and the bluff edges along the river offer striking vistas of Central Texas landscapes. Preserving these viewsheds and incorporating them into overlook points, picnic areas, or hiking trails would enhance La Grange's recreational appeal.

Utility & Transportation Corridors

Utility easements and abandoned rail lines represent untapped opportunities for multi-use trails and connections between neighborhoods, schools, and existing parks. Similar to other Texas towns, La Grange could convert these corridors into safe, shaded pedestrian and bicycle routes, expanding access to recreation without requiring large new land acquisitions.

Creeks & Other Tributaries

Several creeks flow through La Grange, creating natural green corridors that can support trails, habitat restoration, flood control, and pocket parks. With careful planning, creekside trails could link neighborhoods to parks like White Rock and Northside while offering shade and wildlife viewing.



SUMMARY OF NEEDS

Parkland Acreage and Development

- Reactivate underutilized parks such as Northside and Buffalo Trail.
- Riverfront park development with safe, ADA-compliant access to the Colorado River.
- Expanded amenities in neighborhood parks (shade, seating, restrooms, inclusive play).
- Maintenance and reinvestment in existing facilities before new land acquisition.
- Spaces for teens and youth (skate park, basketball courts, hangout areas).
- Beautification, shade trees, and drainage improvements in flood-prone parks.

Parkland Access and Connectivity

- Safer and more complete sidewalk and trail network throughout the City.
- Trail links connecting schools, neighborhoods, and major parks.
- Regional trail connections along Buckners Creek and toward Fayette County destinations.
- Improved signage and wayfinding for park access.
- More ADA-accessible paths to facilities.

Park Facilities

- High priority aquatics facility (indoor or year-round pool, splash pad, water play).
- Inclusive playgrounds and upgraded play areas.
- Expanded trail network and loop trails for walking/ biking.
- Dog park and off-leash areas.
- Lighted sports fields and practice spaces for baseball, softball, and soccer.
- Multi-purpose courts and pickleball facilities.
- Amphitheater/event space for performances and festivals.
- Picnic pavilions and community gathering areas.
- Skate park offering a safe, youth-oriented space.

Recreational Programs

- Swim lessons and aquatics programming, once a new facility is built in future.
- Expanded teen and youth programming (sports leagues, skate/bike activities).
- More community events such as farmers markets, art/music festivals, and cultural events.
- Adult wellness and fitness classes (outdoor fitness circuits, walking groups).
- Environmental education and nature-based programs tied to creeks and riverfront.
- Broader seasonal programming to ensure year-round activity.

