

CITY OF LAWTON

# PARKS, SPORTS & RECREATION, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



Adopted March 8, 2022



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The following individuals are recognized for their significant contributions to the preparation of the City of Lawton Parks, Sports & Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan.

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Keith Jackson - Ward 2  
Linda Chapman - Ward 3  
Jay Burk - Ward 4  
Allan Hampton - Ward 5  
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# DEDICATION

*The City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Department would like to dedicate the Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan to the late Mr. Ross Hankins.*

Mr. Hankins was a steadfast supporter of the Lawton community, particularly advocating for the enhancement of Lawton's parks and recreation opportunities.

Before his passing in September 2021, Mr. Hankins served at the helm of the City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Commission. The foundation of this parks master plan for the City of Lawton was built on Mr. Hankins' passion for advancing Lawton's parks, curating quality recreation activities for children and adults, strengthening Lawton's three recreation centers, and amplifying all that the community of Lawton has to offer.

Mr. Hankins was one of eight children while growing up in Lawton. The front yard of the family home was their "sports complex." His siblings and the neighborhood kids, and anyone else who wanted to join them, would play all kinds of games, but football was one of their favorites, which is the sport that might have caused the grass to cease growing. In his early days, Elmer Thomas Park had a dozen or so backstops where kids could play basketball; city league games were also played there. He often spoke of Ahlschlager Park and wanted to get it back in top shape.

When he and siblings attended St. Mary's school, they played on the median of Gore Boulevard, which was a one-way street at that time with less traffic than today. At the end of the day, wherever they could grab a place to play, they took it and made it their playground. Mr. Hankins attended St. Mary's until the school closed, and he finished his senior year at Lawton Senior High School where he excelled at football and other sports. He received a full scholarship to West Texas State University where he played football until his knees could not tolerate the wear and tear. He returned home to Lawton and finished his degree at Cameron University.



# DEDICATION

*The City of Lawton Parks and Recreation Department would like to dedicate the Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan to the late Mr. Ross Hankins.*

Mr. Hankins had a heart for children and wanted them to always have a place to play sports, which he hoped would keep them out of trouble. He spent most of his spare time dedicated to enhancing the sports opportunities for children while also coaching many youth sports teams. Before his passing, Mr. Hankins was looking forward to Lawton being a center in Southwest Oklahoma for kids to excel in sports.

According to his wife, Ward 1 Councilwoman Mary Ann Hankins, Mr. Hankins wanted all parks where kids play to be top notch. He was an all or nothing kind of guy and possessed a knack for making things happen.

“Ross was the most giving person I have ever met,” Mrs. Hankins said. “He was a patient listener. He gave generously of his time, his money, and his skills to help others. I was fortunate to be the receiver of his complete and selfless love for 23 years. I had the best and was happy to share that with the community.”



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## 1 INTRODUCTION

- 2 Lawton Context
- 3 Plan Background
- 4 Planning Process

## 2 COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

- 6 Overview
- 7 Planning Area
- 8 Demographic Profile
- 13 Review of Existing Studies

## 3 COMMUNITY VISION

- 18 Introduction
- 19 Input Strategies
- 24 Master Plan Goals

## 4 PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- 26 Introduction
- 27 Inventory of Parks & Open Space
- 36 Needs Assessment
- 53 Summary of Key Themes

## 5 SPORTS & RECREATION

- 56 Introduction
- 57 Inventory of Facilities
- 67 Needs Assessment
- 73 Indoor Sports Complex
- 75 Summary of Key Themes

## 6 TRAILS

- 78 Introduction
- 79 Inventory of Facilities
- 82 Needs Assessment
- 87 Summary of Key Themes

## 7 OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE

- 90 Introduction
- 91 Inventory of Maintenance Facilities
- 93 Needs Assessment
- 103 Summary of Themes

## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 107 Goal 1 - Park Access
- 113 Goal 2 - Park Amenities
- 122 Goal 3- Sports & Athletics
- 129 Goal 4 - Recreation Facilities & Programs
- 137 Goal 5 - System Connectivity
- 145 Goal 6 - Maintenance
- 152 Goal 7 - Service Delivery
- 157 Overall System Recommendations

## 9 IMPLEMENTATION

- 163 Implementation Action Plan
- 177 Funding Strategies
- 179 Plan Administration
- 180 Conclusion

## 10 APPENDICES

- 183 Park Audit Summary
- 203 Community Engagement Results
- 240 Shepler Square Park Design Concept

# LIST OF FIGURES

## FIGURES

- Figure 2.1, Regional Context.....7
- Figure 2.2, Historical Growth (1960-2019).....9
- Figure 2.3, Age & Gender, 2019.....10
- Figure 4.1, Existing Park System Map.....28
- Figure 4.2, Neighborhood Parks 10-Minute Walkshed Coverage.....40
- Figure 4.3, Community Park 10-Minute Walkshed Coverage.....42
- Figure 4.4, Overall Park System 10-Minute Walkshed Coverage.....44
- Figure 4.5, Prioritized Facilities - Virtual Engagement Room.....45
- Figure 4.6, Sports League Participation (2016-2020).....45
- Figure 4.7, Top Priority for Investment for Outdoor Recreation Amenities....46
- Figure 4.8, Top Priority for Investment for Recreation Programs.....46
- Figure 4.9, Existing Resources Map.....50
- Figure 4.10, Park Audit Map.....52
- Figure 5.1, Sports & Recreation Facilities Inventory Map.....58
- Figure 5.2, Top Priority for Investment for Indoor Recreation Amenities.....69
- Figure 6.1, Existing & Proposed Trail and Bikeways Map.....80
- Figure 6.2, Regional Benchmark Comparisons.....83
- Figure 6.3, Opportunities Map.....86
- Figure 7.1, FY 2021/2022 Adopted Budget for Parks & Recreation Dept.....93
- Figure 7.2, Overall Ranking of Parks.....101
- Figure 8.2, Lee West Park Master Plan.....122
- Figure 8.2, Recommendations Map.....160

# LIST OF TABLES

## TABLES

- Table 2.1, Race & Ethnicity (2010-2019).....11
- Table 2.2, Household Characteristics (2010-2019).....12
- Table 4.1, Inventory of Regional Parks in Lawton.....29
- Table 4.2, Inventory of Community Parks in Lawton.....30
- Table 4.3, Inventory of Neighborhood Parks in Lawton.....32
- Table 4.4, Inventory of Special Purpose Parks in Lawton.....33
- Table 4.5, Inventory of Pocket Parks in Lawton.....34
- Table 4.6, Park Acreage Standard LOS.....37
- Table 4.7, Park Service Area by Type.....37
- Table 4.8, LOS Assessment for Neighborhood Parks.....39
- Table 4.9, LOS Assessment for Community Parks.....41
- Table 4.10, LOS Assessment for Overall Park System.....43
- Table 4.11, Current & Future Needs for Amenities.....47
- Table 4.12, Park Audit Amenities Scores.....51
- Table 5.1, Inventory of Publicly Accessible Sports Facilities.....59
- Table 5.2, Inventory of Private Sports & Recreation Facilities.....60
- Table 5.3, Benchmark Cities Populations.....67
- Table 5.4, Benchmark LOS.....67
- Table 5.5, Sports & Athletics Amenities LOS.....68
- Table 6.1, Existing & Proposed Facilities Inventory.....79
- Table 7.2, Existing Parks by Maintenance Mode.....95
- Table 7.3, Ranking by Council Ward.....102

# LIST OF TABLES

## TABLES

Table 8.1, Summary Table of Goal 1: Park Access.....	112
Table 8.2, Summary Table of Goal 2: Park Amenities.....	123
Table 8.3, Summary Table of Goal 3: Sports & Athletics.....	130
Table 8.4, Summary Table of Goal 4: Recreation Facilities & Programs.....	137
Table 8.5, Summary Table of Goal 5: System Connectivity.....	145
Table 8.6, Summary Table of Goal 6: Maintenance.....	152
Table 8.7, Summary Table of Goal 7: Service Delivery.....	157
Table 9.1, Implementation Action Plan - Park Access.....	165
Table 9.2, Implementation Action Plan - Park Amenities.....	166
Table 9.3, Implementation Action Plan - Sports & Athletics.....	168
Table 9.4, Implementation Action Plan - Recreation Facilities & Program...	169
Table 9.5, Implementation Action Plan - System Connectivity.....	170
Table 9.6, Implementation Action Plan - Maintenance.....	172
Table 9.7, Implementation Action Plan - Service Delivery.....	174
Table 9.8, Summary of High Priority Action Items.....	176

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

AASHTO – American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials  
ACS – American Community Survey  
ADA – Americans with Disabilities Act  
ADAAG – Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines  
APS – Accessible Pedestrian Signals  
CIP – Capital Improvement Program  
CMAQ – Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality  
CPTED – Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design  
CVB – Convention and Visitor’s Bureau  
D.U. – Dwelling Unit  
ESRI – Environmental Science and Research Institute  
ETJ – Extraterritorial Jurisdiction  
FHWA – Federal Highway Administration  
FTA – Federal Transit Administration  
HOA – Homeowner’s Association  
ITE – Institute of Transportation Engineers  
LATS - Lawton Area Transit System  
LBPP - Lawton Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan  
LETA - Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority  
LMATS- Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study  
LMPO- Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization  
LOS – Level of Service  
LPS – Lawton Public Schools  
LTS – Level of Traffic Stress  
LWCF – Land and Water Conversation Fund  
MTP- Metropolitan Transportation Plan

NACTO – National Association of City Transportation Officials  
NPS – National Park Service  
NRPA – National Recreation and Parks Association  
NTS – Not to Scale  
PHB – Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon  
PROWAG - Public Rights-of-Way Accessibility Guidelines  
RRFB – Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon  
SRTS – Safe Routes to School  
STBG – Surface Transportation Block Grant  
TIP – Transportation Improvement Program  
TLOS – Target Level of Service  
TPL – Trust for Public Land  
ODWC – Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation  
ODOT – Oklahoma Department of Transportation  
UPARR – Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act  
USACE – United States Army Corps of Engineers



# 1

## INTRODUCTION

- Lawton Context
- Plan Background and Purpose
- Planning Process

## LAWTON CONTEXT

The City of Lawton is located in Southwest Oklahoma and is the county seat of Comanche County. It is located approximately 85 miles southwest of Oklahoma City and 37 miles north of the Texas border. The Wichita Mountains can be found to the northwest of the city. This proximity to the mountains provides for convenient access to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge as well as other natural amenities like Lake Lawtonka. The Fort Sill United States Military base can be found just to the north of the city where military members from all over the country come to train. Lawton is home to over 70 park sites of various size and featuring different types of amenities.





## PLAN BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

A parks, sports and recreation, trails, and open space master plan serves as a blueprint to guide the future development of park and recreation facilities and amenities in a community. This plan is the first comprehensive parks master plan for the City of Lawton and will establish a prioritized set of implementation actions for the next ten years.

This assesses the existing park system, determines the current and future system needs based on population growth and demand, develops recommendations for improving and expanding facilities and amenities, and prioritizes system needs.

This plan represents the community’s vision for the future of parks, sports and recreation, trails, and open space in Lawton. Therefore, community engagement from residents, stakeholders, staff, and elected and appointed officials was critical to develop this master plan. Various input methods including virtual public meetings, a steering committee, and a statistically-valid community survey were used to gauge community desires and needs.

Upon adoption, this plan should be used by city staff, Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council to guide future park and facility improvements as well as any major capital expenditures for parks, sports & recreation, trails and open space. This master plan can also help the City apply for grant funding for park improvements. This is the first ever parks, sports and recreation, trails, and open space master plan the City has developed.

## BENEFITS OF MASTER PLAN

A parks, sports and recreation, trails, and open space master plan highlights the needs in the community to encourage return on investment. The addition of quality parks, sports and recreation, and trail amenities have been shown to have a positive economic impact on cities. The economic value of master plans has been measured by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) in the form of the following seven attributes.



PROPERTY VALUE



TOURISM



DIRECT USE



HEALTH



COMMUNITY COHESION



CLEAN WATER



CLEAN AIR



Elmer Thomas Park

## PLANNING PROCESS

This master plan took approximately 12 months to complete and included these major milestones:



### Community Profile

The project team developed a community profile that describes the current conditions of Lawton.



### System Inventory

The project team inventoried existing parks facilities and amenities as well as their conditions.



### Needs Assessment

A needs assessment was conducted of facilities to determine the current and future needs for existing parks, sports and recreation, trails, and open space facilities.



### Recommendations

Based on the community feedback and assessment of needs, a series of recommendations to improve the park system and future development was created.



### Implementation

The recommendations were prioritized into seven goals to be implemented.

## PLAN CONTENTS

The Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails and Open Space Master Plan is composed of 9 chapters:

**Chapter 1, Introduction:** States the purpose of the master plan and describes the planning process.

**Chapter 2, Community Understanding:** Identifies demographic and cultural characteristics of Lawton.

**Chapter 3, Community Vision:** Summarizes the community input received as part of the plan process and defines the plan goals.

**Chapter 4, Parks and Open Space System:** Inventories the existing parks, and open space facilities and amenities and presents key needs and opportunities for improvement.

**Chapter 5, Sports and Recreation:** Inventories existing sports fields and recreation facilities and presents key need and opportunities for improvement.

**Chapter 6, Trails:** Inventories existing trails and assesses opportunities for additional trail connections in the community.

**Chapter 7, Operations and Maintenance:** Reviews the existing operations and maintenance procedures of the department and identifies opportunities for streamlining.

**Chapter 8, Recommendations:** Presents the overall system recommendations related to policies, procedures, investments, and improvements.

**Chapter 9, Implementation:** Prioritizes the recommended strategies in an implementation action plan.



# 2

## COMMUNITY UNDERSTANDING

- Planning Area
- Demographic Profile
- Review of Existing Plans

*Frederick Douglass Seedling*  
Donated by Kevin A. Douglass Gr  
the great-great-grandson o  
Frederick A. Douglass, February 2  
*Boulder*  
Donated by Mr. & Mrs. Aaron M  
April 2003

## OVERVIEW

Lawton Area: 81.43 square miles  
2019 Population: 94,017\*  
2045 Estimated Population: 98,631

- 74 existing parks
- 697 acres
  - 599.9 developed
  - 97.1 undeveloped
- 3 existing recreation facilities
- 3.7 miles of existing off-street trail

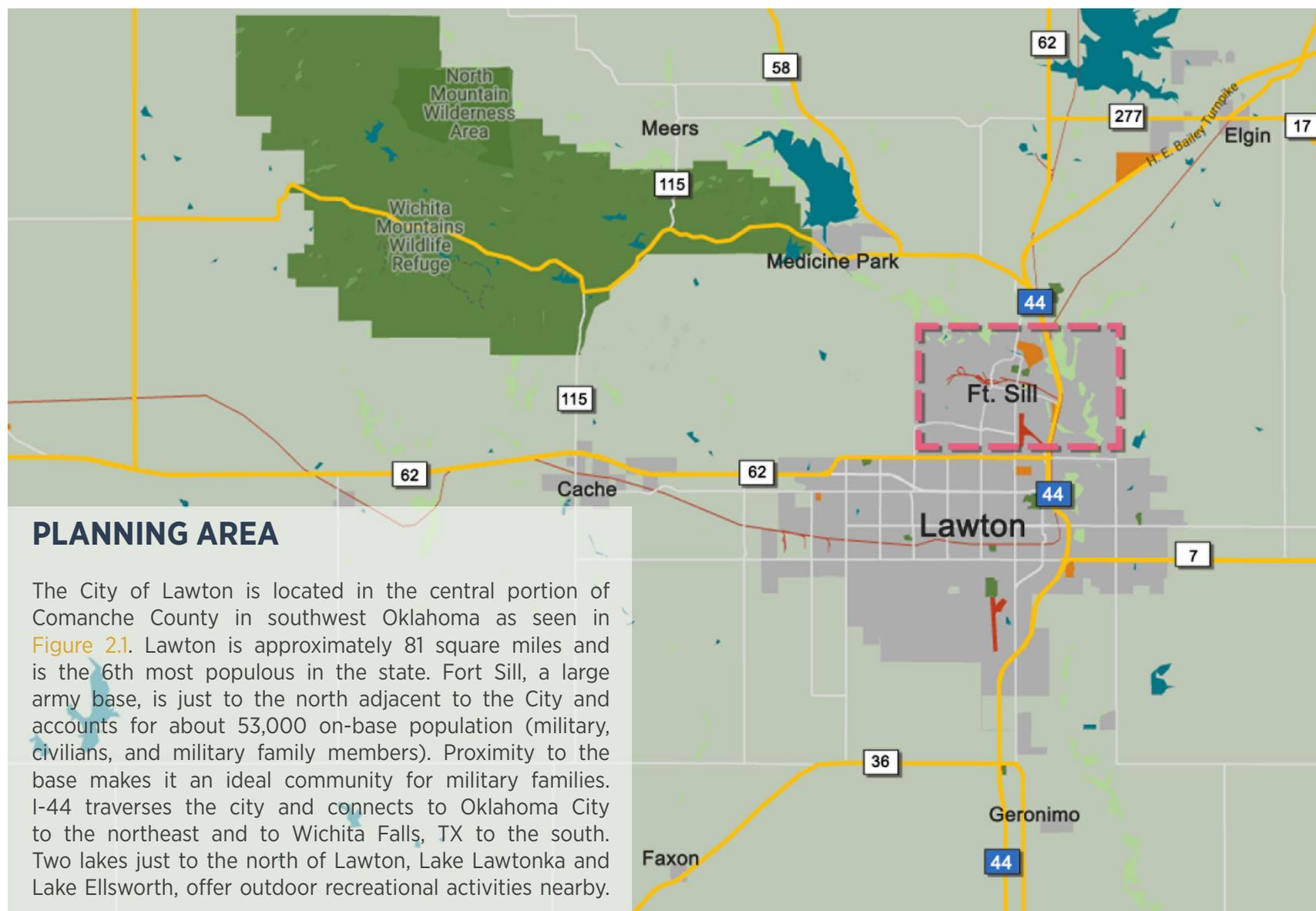
First parks system master plan for Lawton

*\*The current and future estimated population figures used for this plan include the population within the City of Lawton and the population of Ft. Sill Military Base. Separately, the 2019 population of Lawton was approximately 77,000 and the population for Ft. Sill was approximately 17,017. The combined figure of 94,017 is used for planning purposes since residents of the military base utilize parks and recreation facilities within the City of Lawton.*





Figure 2.1 - Regional Context Map



 Not to scale

## NATURAL RESOURCES

In addition to Lake Lawtonka and Lake Ellsworth, located just to the north of Lawton, the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge can also be found. The refuge was established in 1901 and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. At over 59,000 acres this refuge is home to a variety of native prairie grasses and grazing animals. The refuge is open to the public where visitors can enjoy activities such as, hiking, fishing, and other special events.



Lake Helen at Elmer Thomas Park

## CULTURAL RESOURCES

Lawton is home to a variety of museums where the history of Lawton's beginnings and cultural background can be discovered. Some examples of museums are the Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center and the Museum of the Great Plains both nestled adjacent to Elmer Thomas Park.

Lawton got its start when nearly 25,000 people arrived in 1901 to bid on the land and the population continued to grow from there. The military presence at Fort Sill began to build during World War 1 and has grown to become the well-known Army base it is today.



Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center



## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE

The demographic make-up of a community is important to understand at the beginning of a planning process. Analysis of characteristics such as age, gender, race, and income can help establish trends and identify the need for different parks and recreation amenities. The following information in this section is pulled from the U.S. Decennial Census, the 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Five - Year Estimates, the 2011-2015 American Community Survey (ACS) Five - Year Estimates, the 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) Five - Year Estimates, the City of Lawton, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization's (LMPO) 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

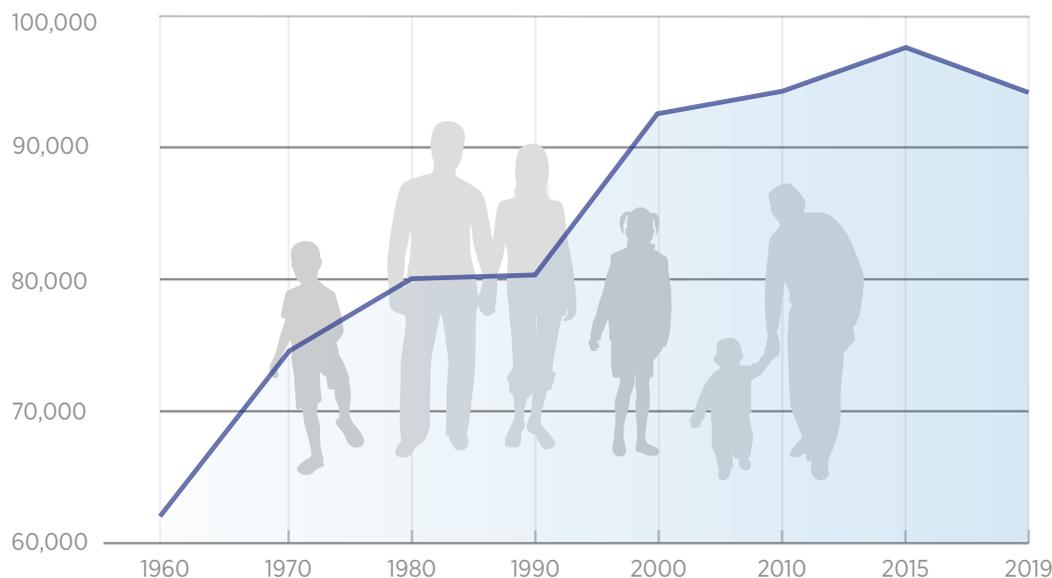
### GROWTH TRENDS

Figure 2.2 shows that between the years of 1960 - 2010, Lawton experienced a steady climb with a jump of 19% in 2010 from the previous decade. Since then the population growth has declined slightly and stalled, but the 2020 census count may change this trend. Lawton is the largest city within Comanche County, making up approximately 77.2% of the total county population as of 2019. Looking to the future, both Comanche County and Lawton are projected to experience growth.

The Oklahoma Department of Commerce estimates that Comanche County's population will increase by 13% by 2045. The LMPO's 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan projects that by 2045 the city's population will increase to 98,631, increasing by 5% from 2019\*.

*\*2019 population figure includes City of Lawton and Ft. Sill.*

Figure 2.2 - Historical Growth in Lawton, 1960-2019



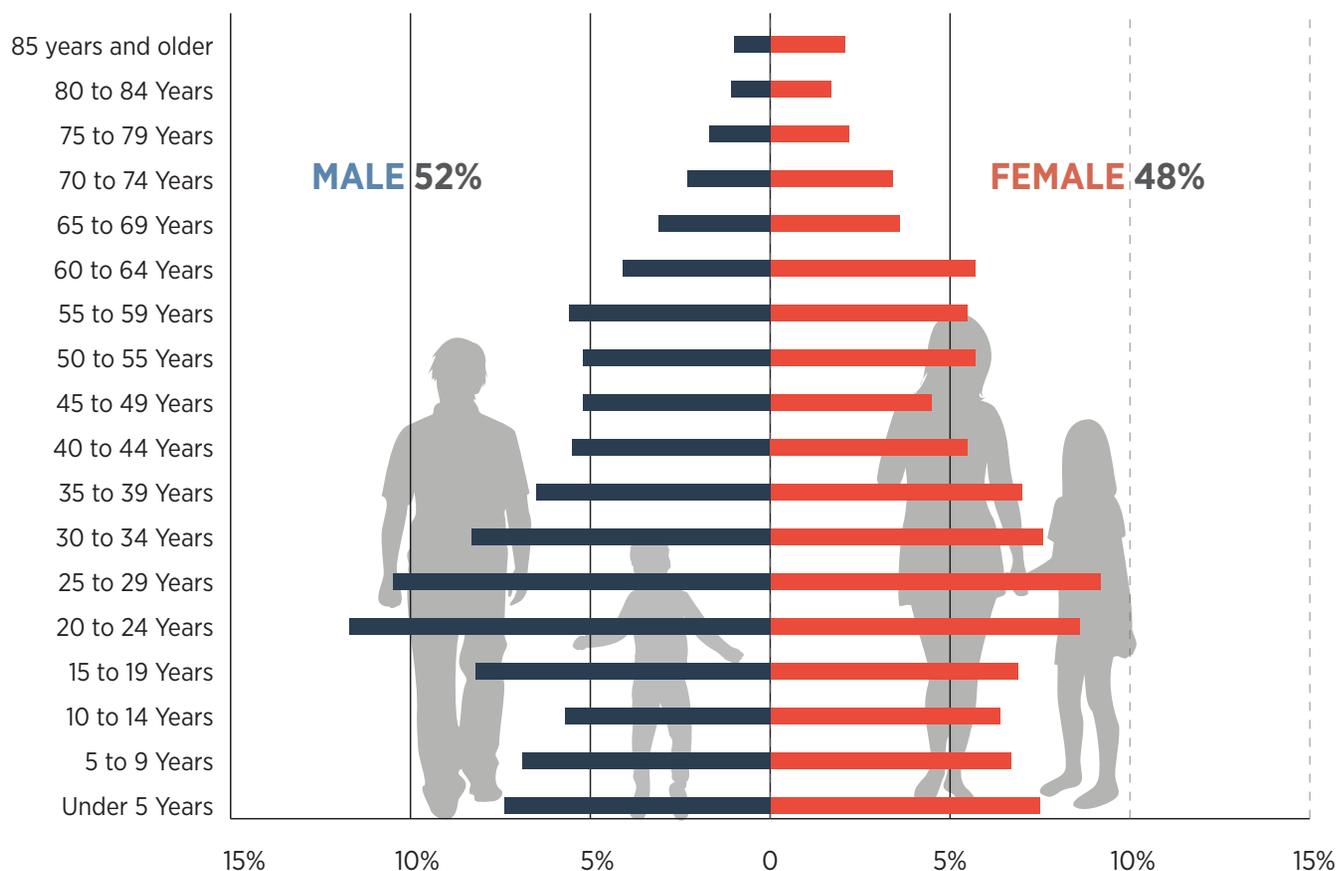
Source: U.S. Census Bureau; LMPO 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan - Table 5.1; Oklahoma Department of Commerce

## AGE & GENDER CHARACTERISTICS

Evaluating population by age and gender helps to ensure that a community has an appropriate mix of parks and recreation facilities. **Figure 2.3** shows the current age and gender composition of Lawton. The median age of residents in Lawton is 31.3 years. As of 2019, the largest population cohort is made up of 0-49 year olds, with 28% of that number being 20-34 year olds, likely due to the proximity to Fort Sill.

A significant working age adult population impacts park and recreation services regarding the type of amenities and programs prioritized by the community. Data shows there is a substantial number of individuals under 50, while the number of individuals nearing retirement age has a slight increase, the population over 50 is still less than that of under 50. This shift indicates that the population of retirees is decreasing.

**Figure 2.3** - Age & Gender Distribution in Lawton, 2019



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



## RACE AND ETHNICITY CHARACTERISTICS

Lawton has become slightly more racially and ethnically diverse since 2010. As the population of Lawton continues to diversify, the parks and recreation system should reflect that in the diversity of amenities and programs. The majority of the population (over 50% in 2019) identify as white, with the second highest population (over 20% in 2019) identifying as black. In 2010, 11% of Lawton’s population identified as Hispanic or Latino; this percentage increased to 14% in 2019. [Table 2.1](#) illustrates the changes in race and ethnicity in Lawton’s population over the past decade.

Table 2.1 - Race & Ethnicity (2010-2019)

Race or Ethnicity	2010	2015	2019
Total Population	94,217	97,589	94,017
White	59.8%	60.0%	57.6%
Black or African American	21.6%	20.6%	20.2%
American Indian & Alaska Native	4.6%	4.8%	5.0%
Asian	2.5%	2.5%	3.0%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%
Some Other Race	3.2%	2.5%	2.7%
Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (of any race)	11.7%	14.0%	14.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



Greer Park is a community park within Lawton



Sidewalk along SW C Ave.

## HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Another important component of a population profile is household characteristics which can indicate the type of facilities or amenities residents may demand. The percentage of renter-occupied homes has increased from 47% in 2010 to 55% in 2019. The increase in renter-occupied units, is likely due to the proximity to Fort Sill and military families renting for short-term stays corresponding to their tenure at the base.

Of the total housing units in Lawton in 2019 about 18% are vacant, which is comparable to the vacancy rate of Comanche County. The percentage of vacant housing units has increased significantly from about 11% in 2010 to 18% in 2019.

The median household income for the City of Lawton was \$47,779 in 2019, which has experienced a steady increase from \$41,940 in 2010. The median household income for Lawton is slightly lower than the median household income for Comanche County which was \$52,161 for 2019. [Table 2.2](#) illustrates key household characteristics in Lawton.

Table 2.2 - Household Characteristics (2010-2019)

	Lawton			Comanche County		
	2010	2015	2019	2010	2015	2019
Total Housing Units	38,258	40,001	40,206	49,484	51,481	51,637
Occupied Housing Units	88.5%	83.1%	82.0%	88.4%	84.0%	83.0%
Vacant Housing Units	11.5%	16.9%	18.0%	11.6%	16.0%	17.0%
Owner-Occupied Housing Units	52.2%	47.9%	44.9%	58.8%	55.2%	53.1%
Median Mortgage Cost	\$1,019	\$1,075	\$1,110	\$1,048	\$1,130	\$1,198
Renter-Occupied Housing Units	47.8%	52.1%	55.1%	41.2%	44.8%	46.9%
Median Rent	\$669	\$787	\$832	\$660	\$784	\$835
Total Households	82,897	88,453	84,769	108,456	116,230	112,447
Median Household Income	\$41,940	\$42,493	\$47,779	\$44,012	\$46,241	\$52,161

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

# REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS

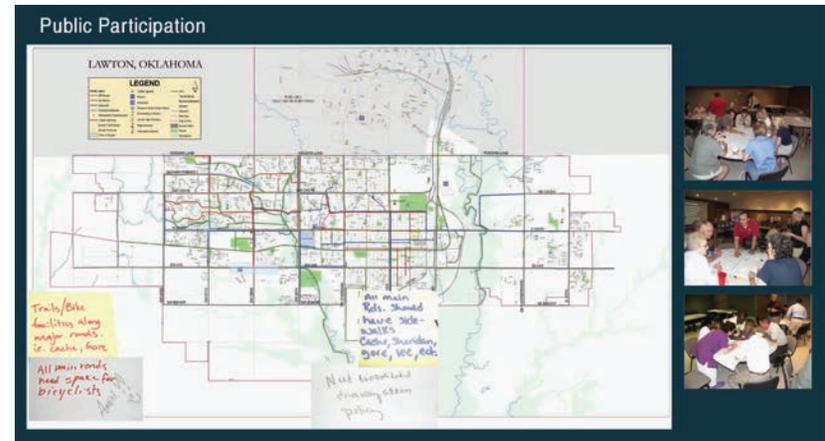
## LAWTON METROPOLITAN BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLAN

The 2008 Lawton Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (LBPP) is a continuation of the Friends of the Trail group’s efforts to implement bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Lawton Metropolitan Area. The purpose of this plan is to help guide the development of bicycle, pedestrian, and supporting multi-modal infrastructure, including shared-use paths, trails, sidewalks, transit interfaces, and all elements that comprise a “complete street” approach to transportation system implementation in Lawton, for the next 25 years. These facilities will ultimately extend throughout the Lawton metropolitan area and into Fort Sill and other parts of Comanche County.

The mission as documented within the adopted plan is *“to improve the quality of life and health for Lawton area residents and to enhance the overall appeal of the community now and in the years to come.”* The plan will ultimately be adopted as a supplement to the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization’s (LMPO) 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan.

The resulting vision plan identified routes that fulfill the following:

- Connect schools, transit, senior centers, libraries, parks, neighborhoods, and commercial districts;
- Include other areas of high pedestrian and/or bicycle activity;
- Provide routes through and between neighborhoods;
- Overcome barriers including freeways, railroad tracks, and challenging topographies that separate neighborhoods;
- Complement existing and proposed bike paths, lanes, and routes;
- Facilitate connections to bus stops and routes;
- Reinforce redevelopment around downtown; and
- Highlight creeks, ridge lines, and other natural features.



Public Engagement - Open House and Workshops



Map of Prioritization of Bike and Pedestrian Projects

**CALL OUT BOX FOR WHAT HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED SINCE ADOPTION OF PLAN**

## LAWTON BIKE PLAN PHASE 1 ROUTE ANALYSIS AND FEASIBILITY STUDY ON-STREET ROUTE SEGMENTS

The Lawton Bike Plan Phase 1 is an expansion on the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan where “on-street” and “trail” facilities were prioritized for Phase I implementation. The Master Plan placed an emphasis on the development of on-street facilities to maximize the length of the routes that can be provided with the limited funding available. The Lawton Bike Plan was a response to the challenges many of the prioritized routes faced. On-street routes focus on lower speed local and collector streets and consist primarily of the addition of striping and signage to avoid the costs of new or additional concrete or asphalt pavement.

As the City reviewed the other on-street priority routes more closely, it became evident that each of them has some kind of barrier or other impediment that precluded the simple “signage and striping” concept. It was determined that prior to implementing the routes, a Phase I Route Study was necessary. The study, performed in 2010, found that most of the prioritized routes are feasible and can be implemented, but there remained conflict points, most occurring at intersections. The Bike Plan highlights these areas of conflict and provides additional options for situations in which routes were not physically feasible. The Plan also expands on the design guidelines set forth in the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan including:

- RECOMMENDED RULES FOR BIKEWAY FACILITY TYPES BY ROAD CLASSIFICATION
- RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES FOR INTERSECTIONS WITH BIKEWAY FACILITIES; AND
- DESIGN STANDARDS FOR SHARED ROADWAYS AND BIKE LANES FOR VARIOUS ROAD TYPES

The study found that ultimately, the final design of individual bikeway facilities at specific locations depends, almost entirely, on the unique and current conditions along the specific route. If required, the recommendations and conclusions contained within the study could be adopted as amendments to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan and be used for future planning and grant applications.



Phase 1 Route Analysis and Feasibility Study for Cameron Connector

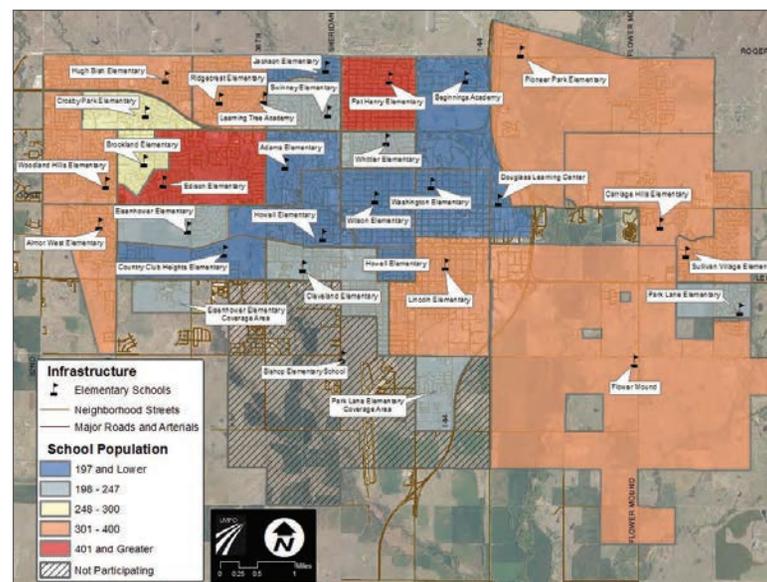
## SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY / WALKABILITY REPORT

The purpose of these reports is to highlight the current state of infrastructure and transportation resources available to elementary and secondary schools in the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (LMATS) area. The goal of this report is to be used as a reference for elementary and secondary school staff, administrators, or community leaders when applying for federal funding programs like Safe Routes to School (SRTS) or other programs that target strategies for building healthier communities. The information obtained from the findings will examine where improvements through infrastructure projects and education programs are most needed as well as where they will provide the greatest benefit.

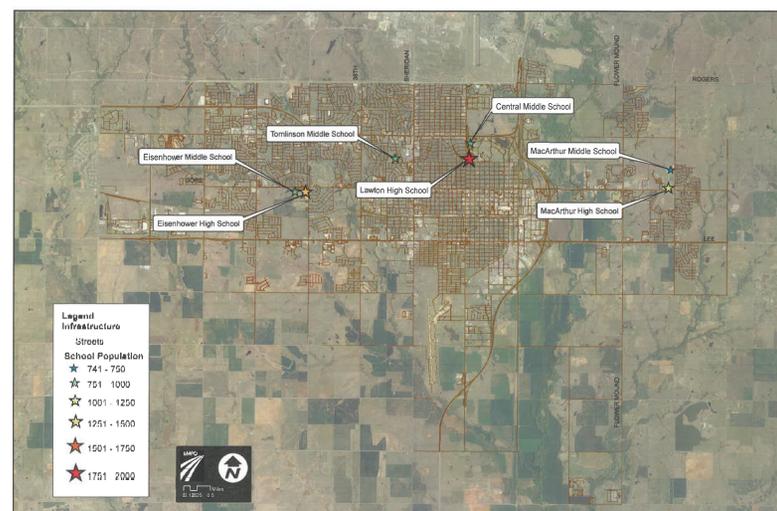
The study found that outside of SRTS, most of the elementary schools do not provide programming that either discourages or encourages the use of active transportation by students traveling between home and school. SRTS has the potential to provide funding to help implement facilities for active transportation, but at this time only 4 elementary schools have taken advantage of this opportunity.

The secondary school study noted that most of the unsafe pedestrian travel was observed in locations where appropriate infrastructure was absent. Most secondary schools in the Lawton public school district have at least one form of safety issue surrounding their buildings that has a negative effect on pedestrian travel.

Every school in this report was found to need some form of safety improvement that can be resolved through infrastructure or non-infrastructure projects. Further analysis from the study suggests that to improve the specific safety elements outlined in individual secondary school surveys, a considerable amount of investment in infrastructure development would be necessary.



Elementary School Coverage Area by School Population



Secondary School Coverage Area by School Population

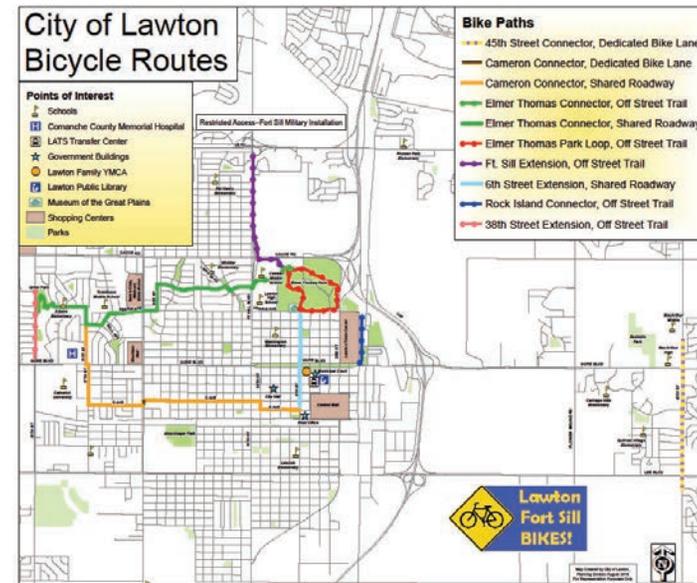
## 2045 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), updated from the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan adopted in 2015, is a long-range vision for the Lawton Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (LMATS) area focusing on anticipated transportation needs based on demographic and economic forecasting. The LMATS area boundary has remained unchanged since the adoption of the 2040 MTP, at roughly 99 square miles entirely within Comanche County.

The plan identifies transportation facilities such as major roadways, transit, airport, and bicycle and pedestrian routes. The MTP includes goals, objectives, and analysis of area trends and planned improvement projects throughout the study area as well as a study of roadway, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit improvements to be incorporated within the study area.

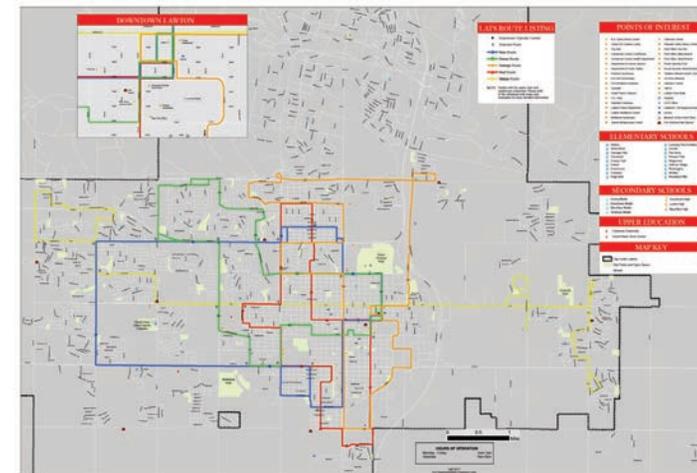
This study concludes that based on current best estimates, the automobile transportation network for the City of Lawton will see minimal increases in congestion between 2019 and 2045. The study also concludes that growth in alternative transportation options in the form of sidewalks and bicycle paths will be a boon to the built environment and a positive mechanism for improving all facets of the flow of people.

Map 8.2. Current Lawton Bicycle Routes



Existing Bike Facilities in Lawton

Map 8.1. LATS Routes





# 3

## COMMUNITY VISION

- Input Strategies & Results
- Master Plan Goals

## INTRODUCTION

Community input is a vital part of any master plan process. A variety of in-person and virtual input opportunities were made available during the development of this master plan. This chapter presents the different input opportunities that were used and the key findings from what the project team heard. Based on the community needs and desires, a series of overarching goals were developed that serve as the framework for subsequent recommendations outlined later in the plan document.





## INPUT STRATEGIES & RESULTS

The public engagement process for this master plan was community wide to ensure as many citizens as possible were engaged in the development of the plan. The approach utilized diverse input opportunities to collect feedback from citizens, City staff, and stakeholders. By utilizing this approach, measurable feedback was gained and used to develop a plan that reflects the desires of the community. These engagement opportunities included: an appointed steering committee, stakeholder meetings, an online and telephone community survey, and community public meetings. This section summarizes each of these input strategies in greater detail and highlights key findings from each.

### STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee was formed at the beginning of the process, composed of members appointed by City Council. The members include representatives from City Council, Fort Sill, Parks & Recreation Commission, Lawton Public Schools, Lawton Enhancement Trust Authority (LETA), Cameron University, major employers, and City staff. This committee met three times during this planning process to provide direction and to ensure the Plan reflected the values and initiatives of the City. The committee reviewed the plan at three stages: initial direction and purpose, preliminary recommendations, and final review.

### KEY FINDINGS

Consensus among the members of the Steering Committee agreed that the current park system was too expansive to receive adequate maintenance and the focus should be on providing quality parks that support the needs of the community and that provide attractive amenities and programs to increase resident interest.

### STAKEHOLDER FOCUS GROUPS

A series of stakeholder listening sessions was held at the start of the planning process to gain insight from representatives of various groups in Lawton. Invited attendees at these meetings included:

- Sports Organizations
- Lawton-Fort Sill Economic Development Corporation
- Fort Sill
- Art/Historic/Culture/Beautification Committees
- Chamber of Commerce
- Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Realtors Associations and Developers
- Homeowner Associations and Neighborhood Groups
- Business Owners & Developers

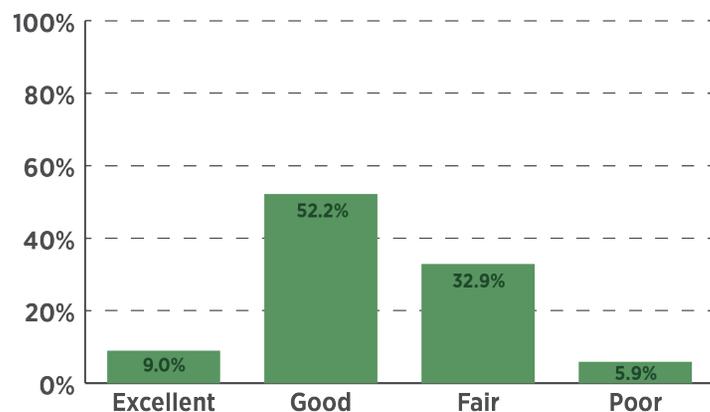
### KEY FINDINGS

During these meetings the majority of stakeholders agreed that diversity, access to nature, and location within the region make Lawton a great place to live. There was emphasis on improving the overall parks system by increasing maintenance, bringing technology into parks, having unique park amenities, and having programs and amenities that are inclusive.

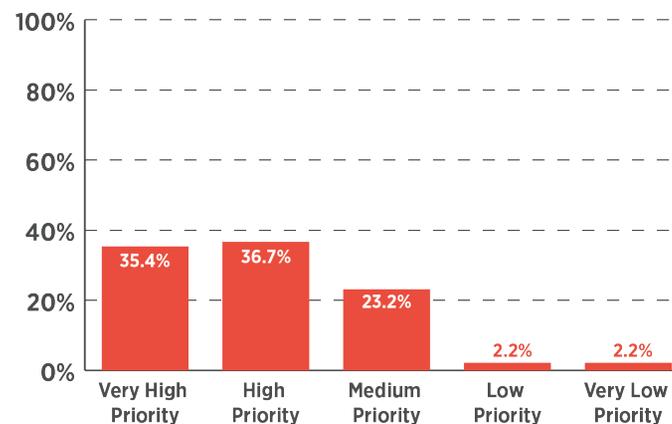
## STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

A statistically valid survey was prepared by ETC Institute with the goal to obtain 400 completed surveys from a random sample of Lawton residents. The survey aimed to gather opinions on a variety of aspects regarding parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services currently existing and needed in the future. Analysis of the survey responses help to establish priorities for future improvements to the overall parks and recreation system to better serve the community’s needs. The full findings report from the statistically-valid survey is included in the Appendix. Key feedback from the survey is illustrated below.

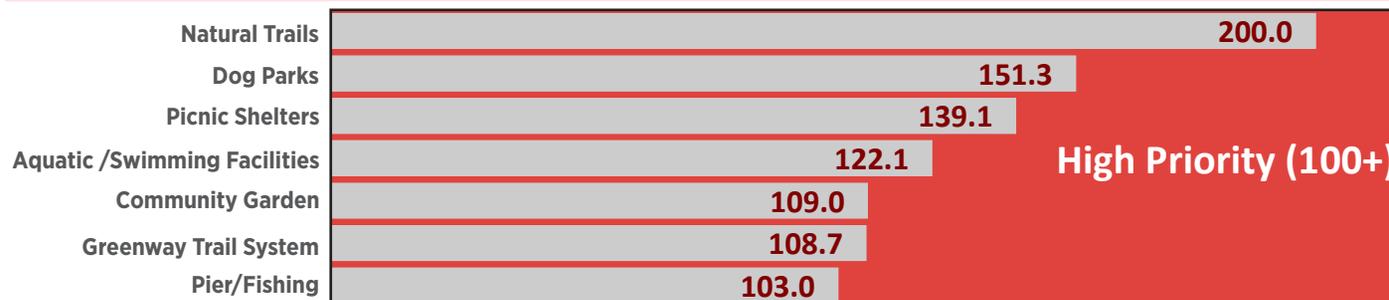
How would you rate the physical conditions of the park/facilities you and the members of your household have visited during the past year?



How high of a priority should it be for the City of Lawton to make improvements to parks, facilities, recreation programs, and special events compared to other priorities for the City?



Top priorities for investment for outdoor recreation amenities based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR)



A rating of 100 or above indicates there is a relatively high level of unmet need and residents generally think it is important to fund improvements in these areas. Improvements in this area are likely to have a positive impact on the greatest number of households.



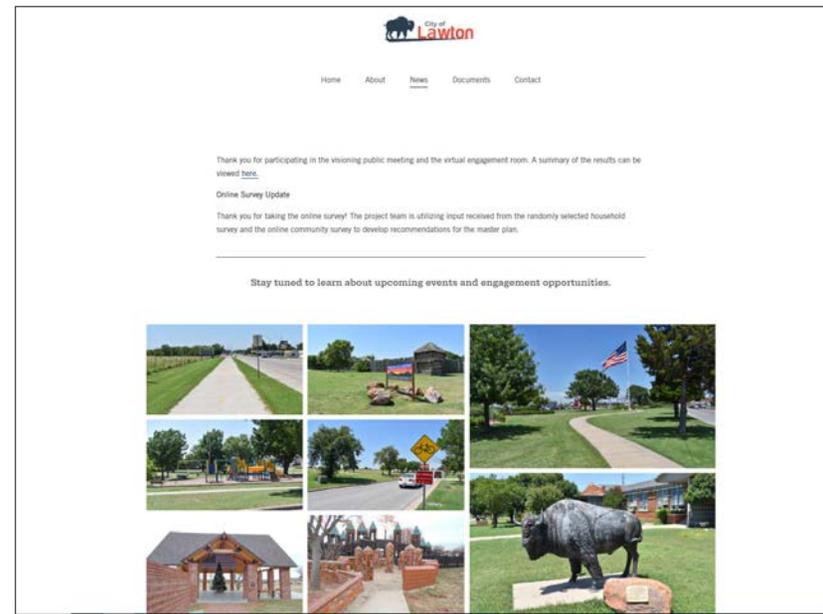
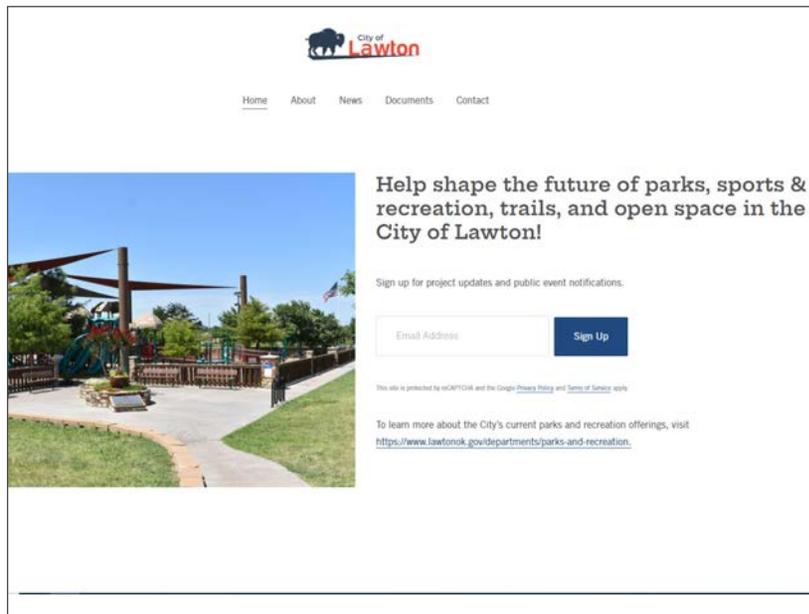
## ONLINE ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the plan process a variety of online engagement tools were utilized in an effort to reach a broad range of residents. The online tools used include a project website, a virtual public engagement room, an interactive map, and a community survey. Each method focused on obtaining feedback from residents and providing information about the overall plan purpose and process.

## PROJECT WEBSITE

One of the online tools used was a project website, which is an important resource that residents could use to learn about the planning process, stay informed about future engagement opportunities, and access documents created throughout the plan development.

<https://lawtonparksplan.com/>

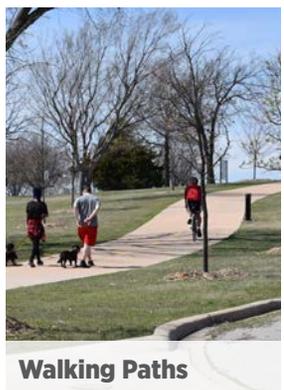


## VIRTUAL PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT ROOM

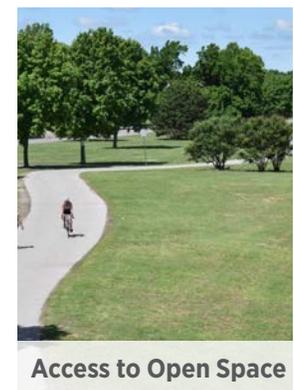
Public meetings were held during the planning process to engage residents and park and recreation users to provide insights about the future of parks, recreation, and open space in the Lawton. A virtual open house was held in February 2021 to introduce the plan process and gain input on community needs and desires.

Key input from the virtual public engagement room are summarized below:

### Park Amenities Prioritization



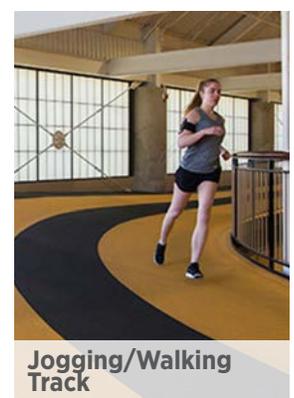
### Open Space & Natural Amenities Prioritization



### Sports & Athletic Amenities Prioritization



### Indoor Recreation & Aquatic Amenities Prioritization





## ONLINE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Feedback from the public is an essential part of the planning process. To reach a broad range of residents beyond the households that were randomly selected to participate in the statistically valid survey, the survey was made accessible to the public via an online link from April to June 2021. The survey had a variety of questions focused on aspects of Lawton’s parks and recreation system. The chapter 4-6 provides more detail regarding the survey findings.

Key feedback from the survey is illustrated below.

How would you rate the physical conditions of the park/ facilities you and the members of your household have visited during the past year?



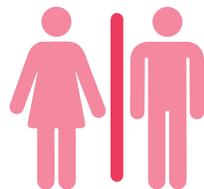
How would you rate the programs offered by the Parks & Recreation Department you and the members of your household have participated in during the past year?



Top three important parks amenities



Playgrounds



Restrooms



Trash Receptacles

Top three important recreation amenities



Playgrounds



Jogging/  
Walking Track



Natural Trails

## MASTER PLAN GOALS

The following goals were developed based on the input received during the community engagement process and reflect the overall community vision for parks and open space.

**Goals** are meant to be broader statements that reflect the direction the City intends to move forward in for future park planning efforts

### Goal 1 | Park Access

Promote equitable access to parks throughout the City for existing and future residents.

### Goal 2 | Park Amenities

Provide park and recreation amenities and services for the community to enjoy a clean and safe park environment creating multiple opportunities to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.

### Goal 3 | Sports & Athletics

Enhance the sports and athletics offerings in the community to attract and retain families in Lawton and promote sports tourism.

### Goal 4 | Recreation Facilities & Programs

Improve aquatic and indoor recreation facilities to provide quality programs and amenities that cater to varying ages, abilities, and community interests.

### Goal 5 | System Connectivity

Expand upon the community trails system to connect key destinations such as parks and recreation facilities, schools, and major employment areas.

### Goal 6 | Maintenance

Provide systematic, routine maintenance to all park and recreation facilities to ensure quality and safety over time.

### Goal 7 | Service Delivery

Update pertinent park and recreation policies and procedures to improve the efficiency of park and recreation service delivery.



# 4 PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- Inventory of Parks & Open Space
- Needs Assessment
- Summary of Key Themes

## INTRODUCTION

The Parks and Open Space chapter focuses on inventorying the existing parks system and identifying needs both today and in the future. First, park classifications are defined to help develop standardization of park amenities and an associated system-wide inventory is presented. Next, a three-prong approach to assessing needs is conducted based on access to parks, demand for amenities, and available resources. Finally, key themes to be addressed in the implementation plan are presented based on the established goals for the overall master plan.





## INVENTORY OF PARKS & OPEN SPACE

In Lawton today, there are five primary types of parks: regional, community, neighborhood, special purpose, and pocket parks. [Figure 4.1](#) on the facing page shows the overall location of the existing parks and recreation amenities in the city. Additionally, there are other parks and outdoor recreation opportunities such as open space areas, hike and bike trails, and facilities operated by other entities that support Lawton residents and help serve regional recreation needs. The inventory of parks and recreation classifications listed below provide an overview on typical amenities and for some park types the size standards established by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).

### REGIONAL PARKS

Regional parks are the largest park type that serve residents beyond the city limits for a specific purpose. The typical size of regional parks is greater than 100 acres and these parks feature both active and passive amenities.

### COMMUNITY PARKS

Community parks are typically greater than 10 acres and serve groups of neighborhoods within about 1 mile. They offer a range of active and passive recreation opportunities. Many of the community parks in Lawton serve as sports complexes.

### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Neighborhood parks are small parks roughly 2 - 10 acres in size that serve nearby residents within about a 1/2 mile. Typically they offer passive and active amenities including playgrounds, pavilions, and open areas for free play.

### SPECIAL PURPOSE PARKS

Special purpose parks tend to be diverse in size, category, and amenities because they are designed to serve a unique purpose or feature a unique amenity.

### POCKET PARKS

Pocket parks are the smallest parks that serve as small pockets of green space in developed areas. These parks have limited amenities and are typically less than 2 acres.

### OPEN SPACE AREAS

Open space areas preserve the natural landscape while providing opportunities for passive recreation. These environmentally focused areas tend to be minimally or unprogrammed spaces that offer amenities such as trails and nature viewing areas.

### HIKE AND BIKE TRAILS

Hike and bike trails are paved trails that provide an alternative option for bicycle and pedestrian travel to connect different parks and amenities. Trails are discussed further in Chapter 6.

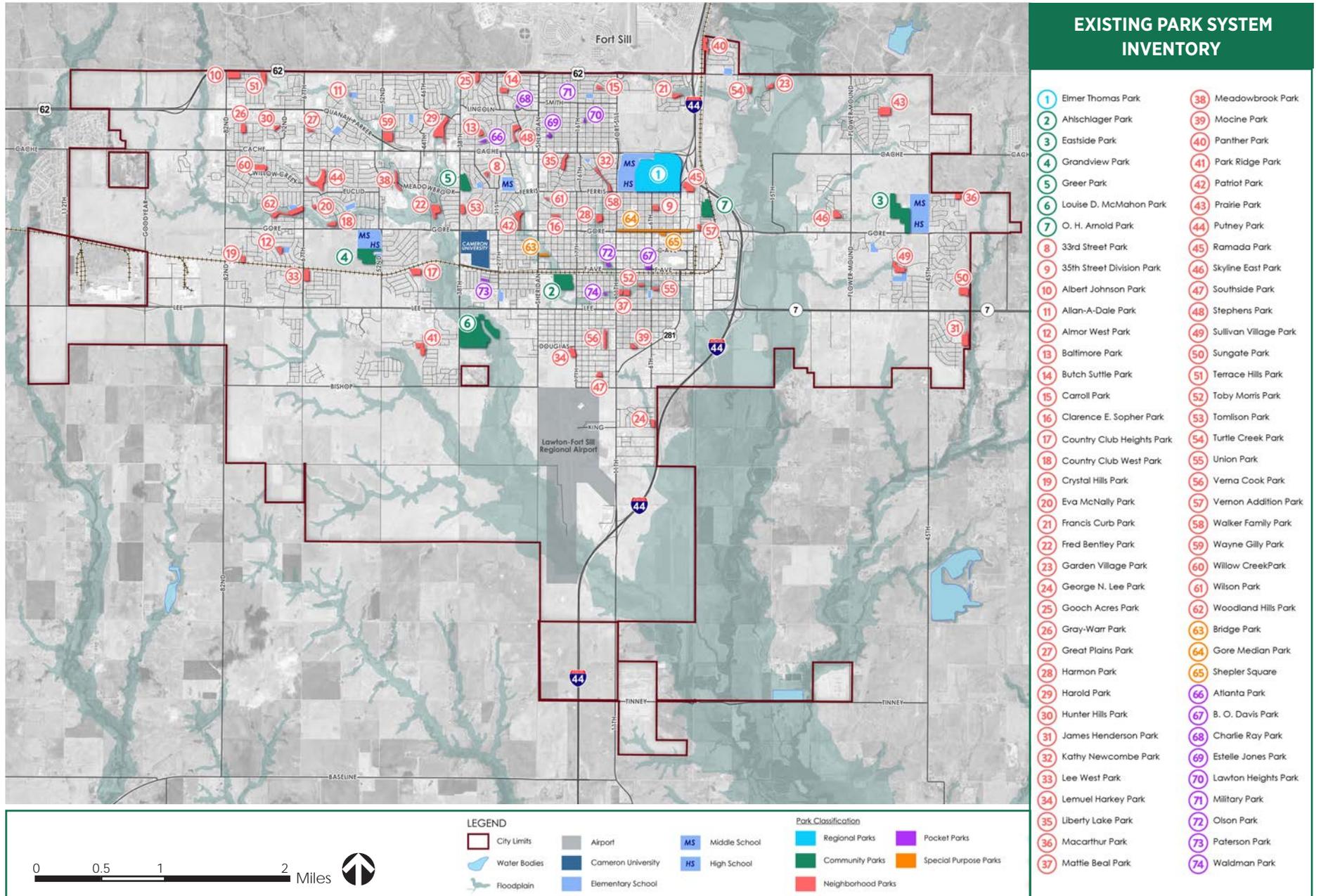
### OTHER ENTITIES

Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge is a public use area that features protected wildlife habitats to the northwest of Lawton. Activities include hiking, wildlife watching, hunting, fishing, and more. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service maintain the refuge.

Fort Sill Army Base is a military base adjacent to the City of Lawton. Within the base there are a number of park, recreation, and athletic facilities that support service members and their families.

Lawton Public Schools is another entity within the City that offers amenities such as playgrounds, sports and athletic fields, and open space for passive and active recreation.

FIGURE 4.1 - Existing Park System Map



### EXISTING PARK SYSTEM INVENTORY

- |                              |                          |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Elmer Thomas Park          | 38 Meadowbrook Park      |
| 2 Ahlschlager Park           | 39 Mocine Park           |
| 3 Eastside Park              | 40 Panther Park          |
| 4 Grandview Park             | 41 Park Ridge Park       |
| 5 Greer Park                 | 42 Patriot Park          |
| 6 Louise D. McMahon Park     | 43 Prairie Park          |
| 7 O. H. Arnold Park          | 44 Putney Park           |
| 8 33rd Street Park           | 45 Ramada Park           |
| 9 35th Street Division Park  | 46 Skyline East Park     |
| 10 Albert Johnson Park       | 47 Southside Park        |
| 11 Allan-A-Dale Park         | 48 Stephens Park         |
| 12 Almor West Park           | 49 Sullivan Village Park |
| 13 Baltimore Park            | 50 Sungate Park          |
| 14 Butch Suttle Park         | 51 Terrace Hills Park    |
| 15 Carroll Park              | 52 Toby Morris Park      |
| 16 Clarence E. Sopher Park   | 53 Tomlison Park         |
| 17 Country Club Heights Park | 54 Turtle Creek Park     |
| 18 Country Club West Park    | 55 Union Park            |
| 19 Crystal Hills Park        | 56 Verna Cook Park       |
| 20 Eva McNally Park          | 57 Vernon Addition Park  |
| 21 Francis Curb Park         | 58 Walker Family Park    |
| 22 Fred Bentley Park         | 59 Wayne Gilly Park      |
| 23 Garden Village Park       | 60 Willow Creek Park     |
| 24 George N. Lee Park        | 61 Wilson Park           |
| 25 Gooch Acres Park          | 62 Woodland Hills Park   |
| 26 Gray-Warr Park            | 63 Bridge Park           |
| 27 Great Plains Park         | 64 Gore Median Park      |
| 28 Harmon Park               | 65 Shepler Square        |
| 29 Harold Park               | 66 Atlanta Park          |
| 30 Hunter Hills Park         | 67 B. O. Davis Park      |
| 31 James Henderson Park      | 68 Charlie Ray Park      |
| 32 Kathy Newcombe Park       | 69 Estelle Jones Park    |
| 33 Lee West Park             | 70 Lawton Heights Park   |
| 34 Lemuel Harkey Park        | 71 Military Park         |
| 35 Liberty Lake Park         | 72 Olson Park            |
| 36 Macarthur Park            | 73 Paterson Park         |
| 37 Mattie Beal Park          | 74 Waldman Park          |



## REGIONAL PARK INVENTORY

As of 2021 there is one park classified as a regional park, as shown in [Table 4.1](#). Elmer Thomas Park is a large park with over 160 acres of park space that serve a variety of recreation interests and supports community events throughout the year. Elmer Thomas Park is located to the north of downtown and can be accessed from several adjacent streets (NW Cache Road, NW Ferris Ave, and NW Fort Sill Blvd).

## TYPICAL AMENITIES

Regional parks serve residents within and beyond the city limits and are typically greater than 100 acres. Characterized by abundant park acreage, regional parks are typically heavily programmed, accommodate amenities that require larger areas within parks, and address a wide range of outdoor recreation interests. Some of the programs and amenities that can be found at regional parks include:

- Amphitheater
- Pavilions and picnic areas
- Open play space
- Covered playground
- Splash pad
- Disc golf course
- Multi-use trails
- Sports & athletic fields
- Water access & recreation
- Restrooms
- Concession facilities



Amphitheater at Elmer Thomas Park

Table 4.1 Inventory of Regional Parks in Lawton

	PARK	ADDRESS	WARD	ACRES
1	Elmer Thomas Park	501 NW Ferris	2	167.0



Lake Helen at Elmer Thomas Park



Entrance sign at Elmer Thomas Park

## COMMUNITY PARK INVENTORY

As of 2021 there are six parks classified as community parks, as shown in Table 4.2. Community parks contribute to a large amount of the acreage that makes up the park system in Lawton today. Currently the six parks total 238 acres.

### TYPICAL AMENITIES

Community parks serve residents living within one mile of the park and are generally larger than 10 acres. The community parks in Lawton have amenities that support passive and active recreation, as well as sports and athletics. Some of the typical amenities found in community parks include:

- Playgrounds
- Sports & athletic fields
- Sports courts (i.e. basketball tennis, pickleball)
- Multi-use trails
- Picnic areas
- Pavilions
- Restrooms
- Concession facilities

Table 4.2 Inventory of Community Parks in Lawton

	PARK	ADDRESS	WARD	ACRES
2	Ahlschlager Park	1702 SW G Ave	5	22.2
3	Eastside Park	4202 E. Gore	4	40.0
4	Grandview Park	501 SW 52nd	8	29.4
5	Greer Park	711 NW 38th	1	14.5
6	Louise D. McMahon Park	1602 SW 38th	7	115.0
7	O.H. Arnold Park	102 NE Bell	7	16.4



Greer Park



Ahlschlager Park



Louise D. McMahon Park



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK INVENTORY

As of 2021 there are 54 parks classified as neighborhood parks, which contribute the most acreage to the overall park system in Lawton, as shown in [Table 4.3](#), on the facing page. Neighborhood parks total approximately 266.6 total acres, with 16.3 acres of that total being undeveloped.

### TYPICAL AMENITIES

Neighborhood parks serve nearby residents within about a 1/2 mile and are generally between 2 and 10 acres in size. Neighborhood parks are developed for both active and passive activities. Typical amenities in neighborhood parks include:

- Benches
- Playgrounds
- Covered & uncovered picnic areas
- Sports courts (i.e. basketball tennis, pickleball)
- Open space for play
- Backstops
- Multi-purpose fields



Picnic facilities at Mattie Beal Park



Thunder Basketball Court at Lee West Park



Walker Family Park

Table 4.3 Inventory of Neighborhood Parks in Lawton

	PARK	ADDRESS	WARD	ACRES
8	33rd St Park	808 NW 33rd	1	1.4
9	35th Division Park	501 NW Columbia	5	3.0
10	Albert Johnson Park	2801 NW 82nd St.	6	9.0
11	Allan-A-Dale Park	5701 NW Allan-A-Dale	8	1.9
12	Almor West Park	402 SW 71st	6	4.8
13	Baltimore Park	1602 NW 33rd	1	2.0
14	Butch Suttle Park	2702 NW 24th	1	3.5
15	Carroll Park	1236 NW Carroll	2	1.6
16	Clarence E. Soper Park	1920 NW Bell	5	1.8
17	Country Club Heights Park	710 SW 45th	3	5.9
18	Country Club West Park	15 NW Compass	8	3.2
19	Crystal Hills Park	7714 SW Delta	6	3.6
20	Eva McNally Park	6541 NW Columbia	8	1.4
21	Francis Curb Park	401 NW Woodridge	2	3.0
22	Fred Bentley Park	40 NW 40th	3	8.5
23	Garden Village Park	2705 NE Village	2	2.4
24	George N. Lee Park	601 SW Belmont	7	3.0
25	Gooch Acres Park	3510 NW Rogers	1	3.5
26	Gray-Warr Park	7901 7901 NW Taylor	6	4.2
27	Great Plains Park	1711 NW 67th	8	1.8
28	Harmon Park	1308 NW Bell	7	4.5
29	Harold Park	1420 NW 40th	1	14.0
30	Hunter Hills Park	7309 NW Andrews	6	2.1
31	James Henderson Park	1625 SE Hillcrest	4	7.4
32	Kathy Newcombe Park	1201 NW Ferris	2	3.1
33	Lee West Park	702 W 67th	8	5.6
34	Lemuel Harkey Park	2101 SW 17th	7	5.0
35	Liberty Lake Park	1302 NW Victory	7	5.7

Table 4.3 Inventory of Neighborhood Parks in Lawton (continued)

	PARK	ADDRESS	WARD	ACRES
36	MacArthur Park	4902 NE Euclid	4	2.9
37	Mattie Beal Park	909 SW 9th	7	6.4
38	Meadowbrook Park	5003 NW Meadowbrook	3	4.2
39	Mocine Park	810 SW Roosevelt	7	2.2
40	Panther Park	3602 NE Pioneer	2	5.8
41	Park Ridge Park	4518 SW Malcom	7	4.9
42	Patriot Park	2502 NW Bell	3	4.0
43	Prairie Park	2010 NE Kingsbriar	4	9.4
44	Putney Park	6302 NW Elm	8	15.4
45	Ramada Park	603 NW 2nd	2	9.7
46	Skyline East Park	2701 NE Bell	2	4.6
47	Southside Park	1308 SW Tennessee	7	2.2
48	Stephens Park	1804 NW 23rd	1	10.4
49	Sullivan Village Park	602 SE 38th	4	8.9
50	Sungate Park	5101 SE Aberdeen	4	6.6
51	Terrace Hills Park	2723 NW 75th	6	4.4
52	Toby Morris Park	701 SW I Ave	7	2.4
53	Tomlinson Park	301 NW 38th St	3	4.0
54	Turtle Creek Park	2601 NE Turtle Creek	2	1.8
55	Union Park	502 SW I Ave	7	2.5
56	Verna Cook Park	1208 SW Garfield	7	5.4
57	Vernon Addition	None	7	1.7
58	Walker Family Park	1201 NW Ferris	2	2.2
59	Wayne Gilley Park	5102 NW Cheyenne	1	8.5
60	Willow Creek Park	7501 NW Willow Creek	6	5.4
61	Wilson Park	2113 NW Columbia	5	1.5
62	Woodland Hills Park	402 NW 67th	6	12.3



## SPECIAL PURPOSE PARK INVENTORY

As of 2021 there are three special purpose parks in Lawton. The amenities within these parks include open space and unique elements. Special use parks make up 18.6 acres of the total overall city park land, as seen in [Table 4.4](#).

### TYPICAL AMENITIES

Special purpose parks may include specialized or single-purpose recreation activities, historical monuments, and can serve as the location for community events. Example of amenities that can be found in special purpose parks include:

- Historical monuments
- Dog parks
- Skate parks
- Benches
- Picnic tables
- Playgrounds
- Trails

Table 4.4 Inventory of Special Purpose Parks in Lawton

	PARK	ADDRESS	WARD	ACRES
63	Bridge Park	None	5	2.2
64	Gore Median Park	500 W. Gore	5	14.7
65	Shepler Square Park	402 W. Gore	5	1.7



Trail through Gore Median Park



Buffalo Solider statue in Gore Median Park

## POCKET PARK INVENTORY

As of 2021 there are nine pocket parks in Lawton ranging in size from 0.1-1.4 acres. Pocket parks contribute the smallest percentage of overall city park land, totaling only 6.6 acres, as shown in [Table 4.5](#).

### TYPICAL AMENITIES

Pocket parks are small park spaces that fill in gaps in park coverage typically serving the immediately surrounding area and address primarily passive recreational needs. Typical amenities found in pocket parks include:

- Benches
- Playgrounds
- Pavilions
- Picnic tables
- Open space

Table 4.5 Inventory of Pocket Parks in Lawton

	PARK	ADDRESS	WARD	ACRES
66	Atlanta Park	1502 NW 33rd	1	0.8
67	B.O. Davis Park*	601 SW F Ave	5	1.4
68	Charlie Ray Park	2220 NW Williams	1	0.4
69	Estelle Jones Park	1705 NW 20th	2	0.7
70	Lawton Heights Park	2002 NW 15th	2	0.5
71	Military Park	1709 NW Lindy	2	0.1
72	Olson Park	1201 SW E Ave	5	0.9
72	Patterson Park	1003 SW 28th	5	1.3
74	Waldman Park	1210 SW J Ave	5	0.5

\*B. O. Davis Park is not currently maintained by Parks & Grounds Department.



Playground equipment at Waldman Park



Playground equipment at Olson Park



## OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES FACILITY INVENTORY

In addition to the public facilities owned and maintained by the City, there are other entities that are responsible for operating and maintaining park and recreational facilities that are open to the public.

### WICHITA MOUNTAINS WILDLIFE REFUGE

This refuge provides a protected area for wildlife in danger of extinction and has public use areas throughout the wildlife habitats. The Wichita Wildlife Refuge is over 59,000 acres and is home to a variety of habitats ranging from grass prairies to large native grazing animals like the American Bison. Those who visit the refuge can revel in the myriad of activities offered such as, wildlife watching, fishing, hunting, hiking, and special events.



Wichita Mountains Wildlife Refuge entrance

### OTHER ENTITIES

#### FORT SILL

Within Fort Sill Army Base there are five outdoor parks, an Outdoor Adventure Center that offers equipment rentals, a golf course, and several sports and athletics fields that serve the Army Base community. Additionally, the nearby Lake Elmer Thomas Recreation Area (LETRA) is a recreation destination for camping, lake recreation, and other outdoor recreation opportunities accessible to the public.

#### LAWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Lawton Public Schools provide outdoor recreation amenities such as playgrounds sports & athletic fields, and open space that could serve the public, specifically surrounding neighborhoods, outside of school hours of operation.



Habitat within the Wildlife Refuge

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The following pages review the three-part assessment method utilized to analyze current and future park needs in Lawton. The assessment types include:

- Access-Based Assessment
- Demand-Based Assessment
- Resource-Based Assessment

### ACCESS-BASED ASSESSMENT

This assessment method analyzes the amount and distribution of park space and outdoor recreation facilities offered by a municipality with consideration to the current and projected population of a community. This assessment considers park acreage level of service (LOS) in and access to parkland.

- **Park Acreage LOS** - This method assesses total park acreage and whether or not the community is being served today and in the future.
- **Park Service Area** - This method looks at the location and distribution of parks in a community to determine overall park accessibility.

### DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

This assessment methods evaluates overall outdoor recreation demand to determine where investments in parks would be best utilized. A large part of this method is public feedback, which helps to develop consensus in what park needs are important and/or unmet. Usage and sports participation data is another indicator of how well current park amenities and programs are serving the community. Below are the resources used for this assessment:

- Usage data
- Sports and athletic league participation
- Community survey
- Public meetings
- Stakeholder listening sessions

### RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

This assessment method identifies key features within a City that can be leveraged to support parks and outdoor recreation needs through land acquisition, park expansion, or partnerships. Examples of these resources include:

- School district property
- City-owned land
- Floodplain
- Drainage easements
- Utility easements
- Natural/protected land
- Entities providing recreation services



## ACCESS-BASED ASSESSMENT

### PARK ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

Establishing an Acreage Level of Service (LOS) to compare to the benchmark LOS helps to understand where Lawton stands on how its residents are served by parkland. LOS is shown as a per-capita figure such as “X acres per 1,000 population.” The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has developed average ranges for park acreage LOS based on the type of park. Table 4.6 shows the breakdown of NRPA benchmarks for neighborhood parks, community parks, and the overall park system.

It is important to note that every community is unique and comparison to other communities in terms of overall acreage per capita can be deceiving since LOS does not factor in quality of parks. Communities also differ in what they consider to be parkland, which can impact their overall LOS. Therefore, this is just one portion of the overall needs assessment considered for this master plan.

### PARK SERVICE AREA

The NRPA has also established a general service area for different park types. The typical service area for different types of parks in Lawton is shown in Table 4.7. However, many communities today are assessing park service areas in terms of walkability to the parks. The 10-Minute Walk to a Park Initiative is a nationwide campaign led by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) to discern gaps in park access.

In 2021, 64% of Lawton residents are currently within 10-minutes of a park, which is higher than the national average of 55%. Although accessibility to park spaces is high, this benchmark does not consider the quality of programs and amenities available within parks.

Table 4.6 - Park Acreage Standard LOS

Park Type	NRPA Benchmark LOS Range
Neighborhood Parks	1-2 acres per 1,000 residents
Community Parks	5-8 acres per 1,000 residents
Park System*	7.9 acres per 1,000 residents

\*National median for all agencies with populations between 50,000 - 99,999 residents. Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review, 2021.

Table 4.7 - Park Service Area by Type

Park Type	Standard Radius
Neighborhood Parks	½ mile radius
Community Parks	1 mile radius
Special Use Parks	Variable
Open Space Areas	Variable



Shaded rest area within Elmer Thomas Park



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

### ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

The developed acreage of neighborhood parks in Lawton (250.3 acres) is above the NRPA high-end benchmark for neighborhood parks of 2-acres per 1,000 residents with a 62.17-acre surplus, as shown in Table 4.8. When considering future population growth, there is still a surplus of neighborhood park acreage based on the NRPA high-end target.

### SERVICE AREA

Figure 4.2, on the facing page, shows the areas of the City that have access to a neighborhood park within a 10-minute walk. The service areas shown do account for physical barriers that limit access such as highways, bodies of water, or lack of sidewalks. There is quite a bit of overlap in park service area due to the high number of neighborhood parks within the City.

Table 4.8 - LOS Assessment for Neighborhood Parks

	2021 Developed Parks	2021 Developed & Undeveloped Parks	2040 Developed Parks	2040 Developed & Undeveloped Parks
Population <sup>1</sup>	94,017 <sup>3</sup>	94,017 <sup>3</sup>	106,008 <sup>4</sup>	106,008 <sup>4</sup>
Population <sup>2</sup>	77,000	77,000	106,008 <sup>3</sup>	106,008 <sup>3</sup>
Acreage	250.3 acres	266.6 acres	250.3 acres	266.6 acres
Current LOS (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	2.66 acres per 1,000	2.83 acres per 1,000	2.36 acres per 1,000	2.51 acres per 1,000
Current LOS (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	3.25 acres per 1,000	3.46 acres per 1,000	N/A	N/A
Acres needed to meet 1-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	156.18-acre surplus	172.48-acre surplus	144.19-acre surplus	160.49-acre surplus
Acres needed to meet 1-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	173.20-acre surplus	189.50-acre surplus	N/A	N/A
Acres needed to meet 2-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	62.17-acre surplus	48.47-acre surplus	38.18-acre surplus	54.48-acre surplus
Acres needed to meet 2-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	96.20-acre surplus	112.50-acre surplus	N/A	N/A

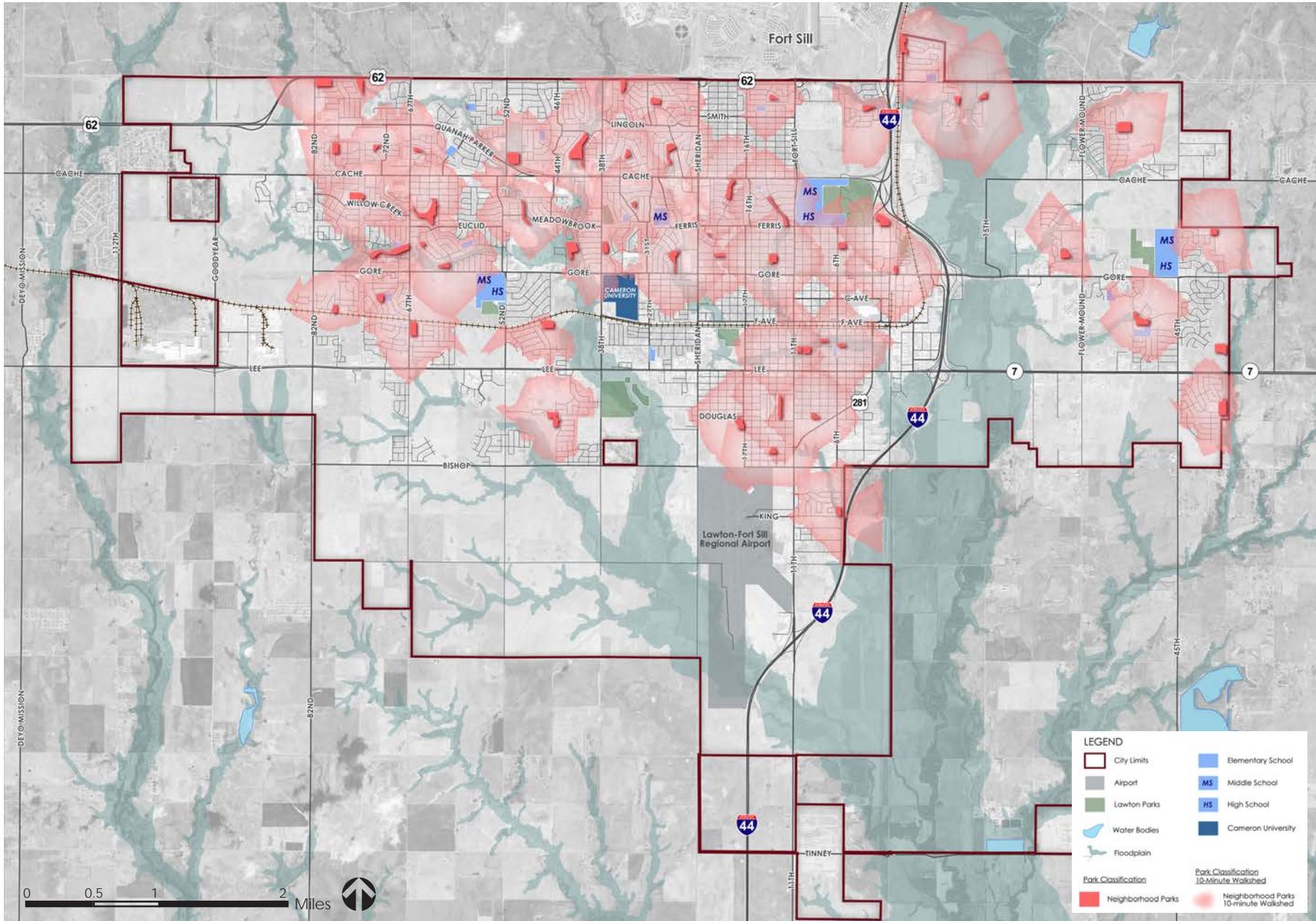
<sup>1</sup>Population figure includes Lawton and Ft. Sill population.

<sup>2</sup>Population figure uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone

<sup>3</sup>2021 population estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates.

<sup>4</sup>2040 population projection from Lawton Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Figure 4.2 - Neighborhood Parks 10-Minute Walkshed Coverage





## COMMUNITY PARKS

### ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

Lawton has six parks classified as community parks, but for this analysis the one regional park is included as well since it serves a similar purpose. The developed community park acreage of 323.7 acres is short of the NRPA low-end benchmark of 5-acres per 1,000 residents, as shown in Table 4.9. This deficit grows with the expected population growth by 2040.

### SERVICE AREA

Figure 4.3, on the facing page, shows the areas of the City that have access to a community park within a 10-minute walk. The service areas shown do account for physical barriers that limit access such as highways, bodies of water, or lack of sidewalks. Since there are only six community parks, there is not significant coverage today.

Table 4.9 - LOS Assessment for Community Parks

	2021 Developed Parks	2021 Developed & Undeveloped Parks	2040 Developed Parks	2040 Developed & Undeveloped Parks
Population <sup>1</sup>	94,017 <sup>3</sup>	94,017 <sup>3</sup>	106,008 <sup>4</sup>	106,008 <sup>4</sup>
Population <sup>2</sup>	77,000	77,000	106,008 <sup>3</sup>	106,008 <sup>3</sup>
Acreage	323.7 acres	404.5 acres	323.7 acres	404.5 acres
Current LOS (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	3.44 acres per 1,000	4.30 acres per 1,000	3.05 acres per 1,000	3.82 acres per 1,000
Current LOS (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	4.20 acres per 1,000	5.25 acres per 1,000	N/A	N/A
Acres needed to meet 5-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	146.4-acre deficit	65.6-acre deficit	206.3-acre deficit	125.5-acre deficit
Acres needed to meet 5-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	61.3-acre deficit	19.5-acre surplus	N/A	N/A
Acres needed to meet 8-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	428.4-acre deficit	347.6-acre deficit	206.3-acre deficit	125.5-acre deficit
Acres needed to meet 8-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	292.3-acre deficit	211.5-acre deficit	N/A	N/A

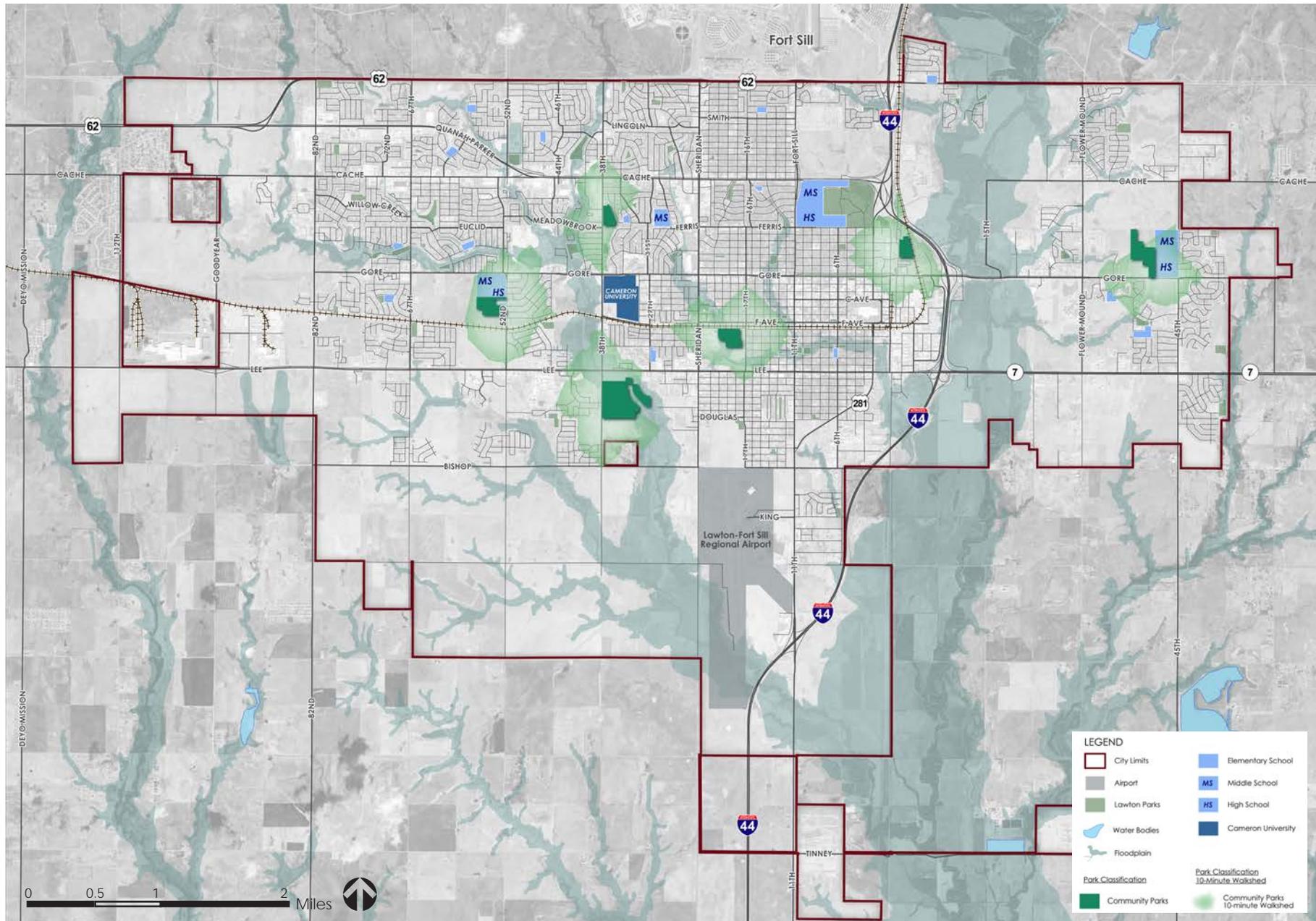
<sup>1</sup>Population figure includes Lawton and Ft. Sill population.

<sup>2</sup>Population figure uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone

<sup>3</sup>2021 population estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates.

<sup>4</sup>2040 population projection from Lawton Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Figure 4.3 - Community Parks 10-Minute Walkshed Coverage





## OVERALL PARK SYSTEM

### ACREAGE LEVEL OF SERVICE

As of 2021, the total acreage of developed parkland in Lawton is slightly less than 600 acres. Although Lawton has a significant amount of parkland there is a deficit in overall acreage when comparing to the national median for communities of similar size. Looking forward to 2040 the population is anticipated to grow and with that growth the projected deficit will increase, as shown in Table 4.10.

### SERVICE AREA

Figure 4.4, on the facing page, shows the overall park system service area for Lawton based on the 10-minute walk to a park metric. Looking at park service area coverage throughout the City, neighborhood parks provide the majority of overall coverage. Lawton parks are primarily concentrated towards the center of the city, west of Interstate 44, with a handful in the eastern part of the City where development has occurred. The western and southern parts of the city are mostly undeveloped, and therefore unserved by parks today.

Table 4.10 - LOS Assessment for Overall Park System

	2021 Developed Parks	2021 Developed & Undeveloped Parks	2040 Developed Parks	2040 Developed & Undeveloped Parks
Population <sup>1</sup>	94,017 <sup>3</sup>	94,017 <sup>3</sup>	106,008 <sup>4</sup>	106,008 <sup>4</sup>
Population <sup>2</sup>	77,000	77,000	106,008 <sup>3</sup>	106,008 <sup>3</sup>
Number of Parks	72	74	72	74
Total Park Acreage	599.9 acres	697 acres	599.9 acres	697 acres
Current LOS (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	6.38 acres per 1,000	7.41 acres per 1,000	5.66 acres per 1,000	6.57 acres per 1,000
Current LOS (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	7.79 acres per 1,000	9.05 acres per 1,000	N/A	N/A
Acres needed to meet 7.9-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>1</sup> )	142.83-acre deficit	45.73-acre deficit	221.03-acre deficit	130.69-acre deficit
Acres needed to meet 7.9-acre per 1,000 benchmark (Using Current Population <sup>2</sup> )	8.4-acre deficit	88.7-acre surplus	N/A	N/A

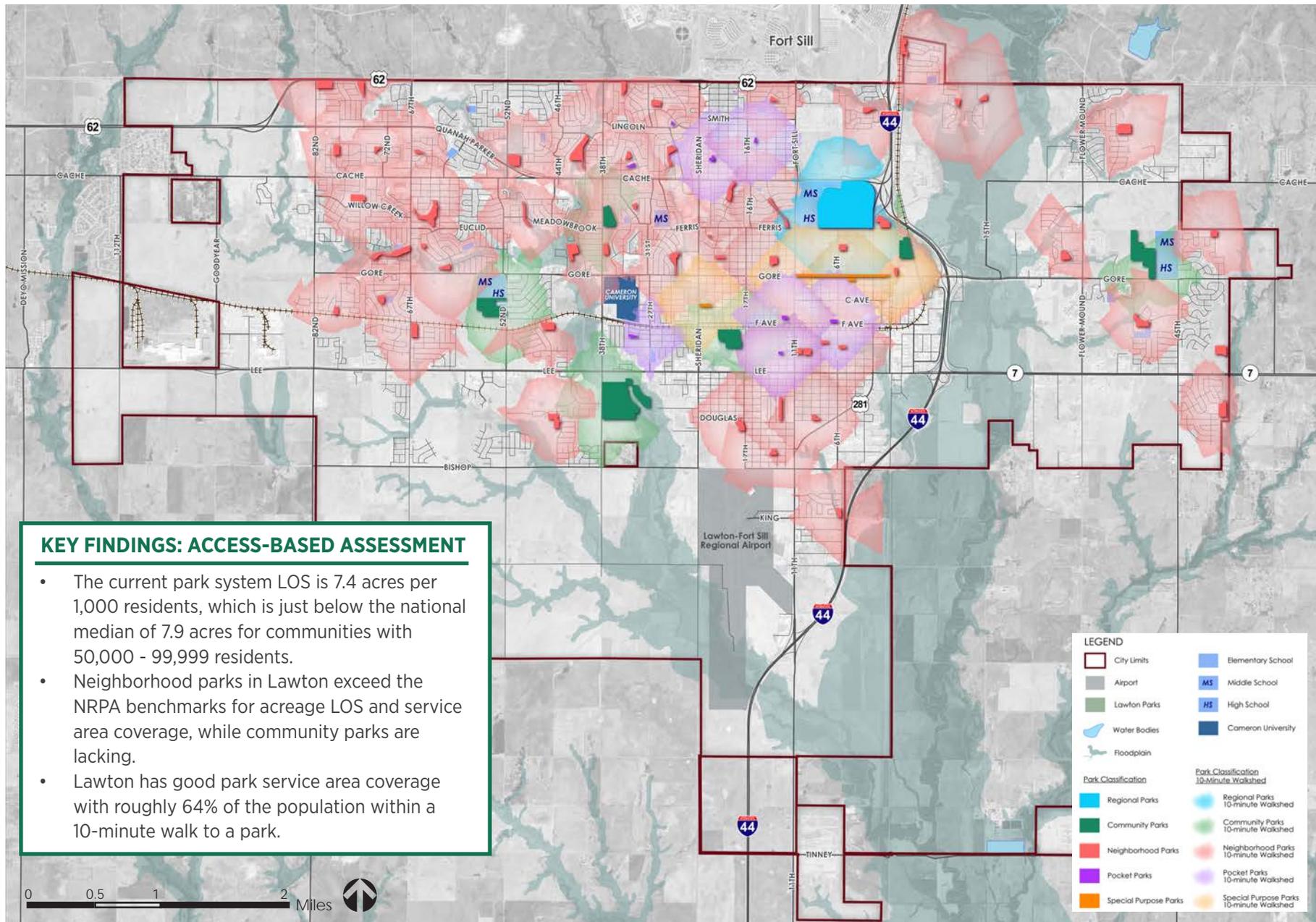
<sup>1</sup>Population figure includes Lawton and Ft. Sill population.

<sup>2</sup>Population figure uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone

<sup>3</sup>2021 population estimate from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Years Estimates.

<sup>4</sup>2040 population projection from Lawton Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Figure 4.4 - Overall Parks System 10-Minute Walkshed Coverage



## DEMAND-BASED ASSESSMENT

The demand-based assessment evaluates current facility usage, sport league participation, and public input to determine what amenities and programs residents feel are most needed within the community. Information was collected through several methods including a statistically valid survey, a virtual public engagement room, focus group discussions, and data provided by the city.

### COMMUNITY INPUT

As discussed in Chapter 3, community input is an essential part of this planning effort and highlights the community’s demand for parks and recreation needs. Input strategies such as the virtual public engagement room and the statistically valid survey help to paint the picture of community interests and needs that are currently unmet in Lawton’s park system.

Figure 4.5 - Prioritized Facilities - Virtual Engagement Room

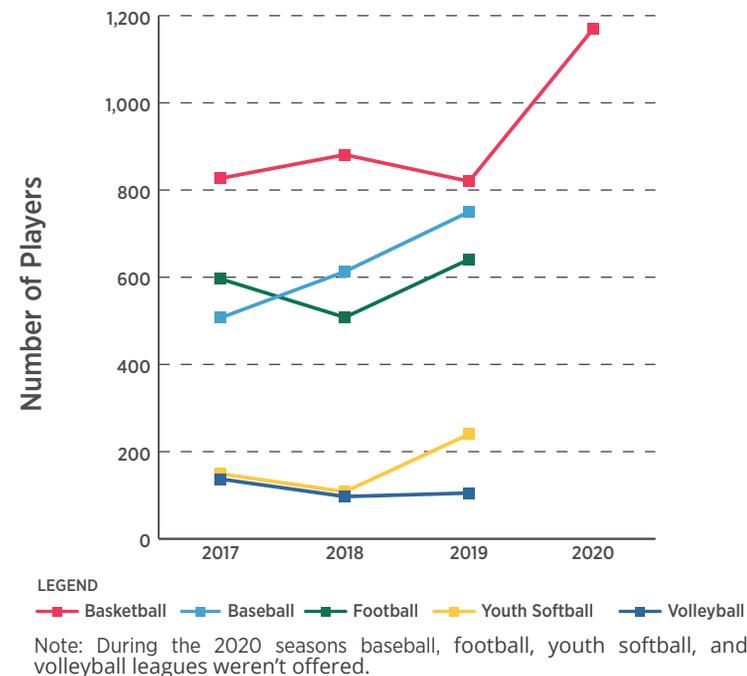


Figure 4.5 is an example of the type of information received through community engagement efforts, illustrating the amenities and facilities users of the virtual public engagement room prioritized.

### SPORTS LEAGUE PARTICIPATION

The demand-based approach looks at sports league participation as an indicator for current met and unmet recreation demand and interest. Figure 4.6 illustrates the level participation in various youth sports leagues offered in Lawton between 2016 and 2020. Over time most sports leagues have experienced an increase in demand, especially youth basketball between 2019 and 2020. This increase in youth basketball is likely a result of other sports not participating in the 2020 seasons.

Figure 4.6 - Sports League Participation (2016-2020)



## PRIORITY INVESTMENT RATING

As stated in Chapter 3, a statistically valid survey was conducted by ETC Institute at the beginning of the planning process that sought opinions on various aspects of the parks and recreation system.

One of the results of the statistically-valid survey included Priority Investment Ratings (PIR). The Priority Investment Rating was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities/amenities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices as determined by survey responses) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being met 50% or less or partly/ not met as determined by survey responses).

Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities/amenities and programs, the PIR weighs each of these components equally. The PIR reflects the sum of Unmet Need Rating (UNR) and the Importance rating (IR). For more detail and the full findings of the survey refer to the ETC Summary Report in the Appendix.

Figure 4.7 and Figure 4.8 show the amenities that rank as high priority based on the PIR for outdoor recreation amenities and recreation programs.

Figure 4.7 - Top Priority for Investment for Outdoor Recreation Amenities



Figure 4.8 - Top Priority for Investment for Recreation Programs





## AMENITIES LEVEL OF SERVICE

Evaluating the level of service that park amenities provide today informs current and future needs for additional amenities. The Current LOS column is based on Lawton’s population as of 2021 and the Future LOS column uses the 2040 projected population. The current and future LOS columns are compared to the Target LOS to determine amenity need. The Target LOS information comes from the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review and the benchmarks set for jurisdictions with populations between 50,000 and 99,999.

Table 4.11 summarizes the park amenity level of service for major park amenities that are typically found within parks. For many of the listed amenities Lawton currently has a surplus or is in need of very few additional amenities. Looking at future amenity needs in the year 2040 the need for additional amenities remains low.

The numbers shown for the current and future needs indicate that the current number of provided park amenities in the selected categories adequately serve Lawton residents. Two areas that need the most improvement are pavilions and trails. A more in depth analysis of trail level of service can be found in Chapter 6.

Table 4.11 - Current & Future Need for Amenities

Amenity	Number	Current LOS 94,017 residents <sup>1</sup>	Current LOS 77,000 residents <sup>2</sup>	Future LOS 106,008 residents <sup>1</sup>	Benchmark LOS <sup>3</sup>	Current Need <sup>4</sup>	Future Need <sup>4</sup>
Baseball Fields	22	1 per 4,274	1 per 3,500	1 per 4,819	1 per 7,222	none	none
Softball Fields	5	1 per 18,803	1 per 15,400	1 per 21,202	1 per 15,500	1	2
Basketball Goals	33	1 per 2,849	1 per 2,333	1 per 3,212	1 per 7,260	none	none
Cricket	1	1 per 94,017	1 per 77,000	1 per 106,008	1 per 59,227	1	1
Pavilions	31	1 per 3,033	1 per 2,484	1 per 3,420	1 per 2,000	16	18
Tennis Courts	17	1 per 5,530	1 per 4,529	1 per 6,236	1 per 6,242	none	none
Hike & Bike Trails	3.7 miles	1 per 25,410	1 per 20,811	1 per 28,651	1 per 4,000	20.3 Miles	22.3 Miles
Playgrounds	66	1 per 1,425	1 per 1,167	1 per 1,606	1 per 3,856	none	none
Skate Parks	1	1 per 94,017	1 per 77,000	1 per 106,008	1 per 62,567	1	1
Swimming Pools	3	1 per 31,339	1 per 25,667	1 per 35,336	1 per 47,009	none	none
Dog Parks	1	1 per 94,017	1 per 77,000	1 per 106,008	1 per 58,000	1	1

Source: Lawton Parks & Recreation Department, National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA)

<sup>1</sup>Population includes Lawton and Ft. Sill population.

<sup>2</sup>Population figure uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone

<sup>3</sup>Based on the NRPA’s recommended amenities LOS for communities with 50,000 to 99,999 residents.

<sup>4</sup>Amenities that have a current or future need of ‘none’ have a surplus of that amenity based on the NRPA standards.



Basketball Court at Lee West Park



Baseball Field at Ahlschlager Park

**KEY FINDINGS: AMENITIES**

The LOS for amenities in Lawton shows a **surplus** in the following amenities: playgrounds, ball fields, and basketball goals



Playgrounds



Baseball/Softball Field



Basketball Goals

The LOS for amenities in Lawton shows a **deficit** in the following amenities: Cricket fields, pavilions, and dog parks.



Cricket Fields



Pavilions



Dog Parks



## RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

The resource-based assessment identifies existing resources that can be used by the City to help determine existing and future sites for parks, sports & recreation, trails, and open space amenities.

These existing resources in Lawton provide for unique development opportunities to help enhance the existing parks system. [Figure 4.9](#), on the facing page, shows the existing resources and opportunities found in Lawton.

### GAPS IN PARK SERVICE

The areas shown on the map as gaps in park service represent those areas not currently within a 10-minute walk to a park based on the TPL's walkshed data. The majority of existing residential areas are served by existing parks, with the exception of a few residential areas in the southwestern part of the City.

### CANDIDATE PARKS FOR EXPANSION

There are a handful of parks that can be considered for expansion - Ahlschlager Park, Eastside Park, Lee West Park, and Grandview Park. Through expansion these parks would be able to support new or improved park, recreation, and sports facilities.

## CITY-OWNED LAND

The City of Lawton owns small parcels of land throughout the city, some of which are adjacent to existing parks. If demand for park space or amenities increases, city-owned land adjacent to parks should be considered for expanding existing park sites since there would be no acquisition costs. Further analysis would be required to determine the feasibility of using these sites.

### LAWTON PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY

Lawton Public Schools own a significant amount of land in the city both as existing school sites and reserved land. Some of this reserved land is adjacent to existing parks; if demand for park space and amenities increases, discussions with LPS should occur regarding potential land swaps. For the existing schools sites, the City should explore shared-use agreements to use playground or field spaces when not being used by the school.

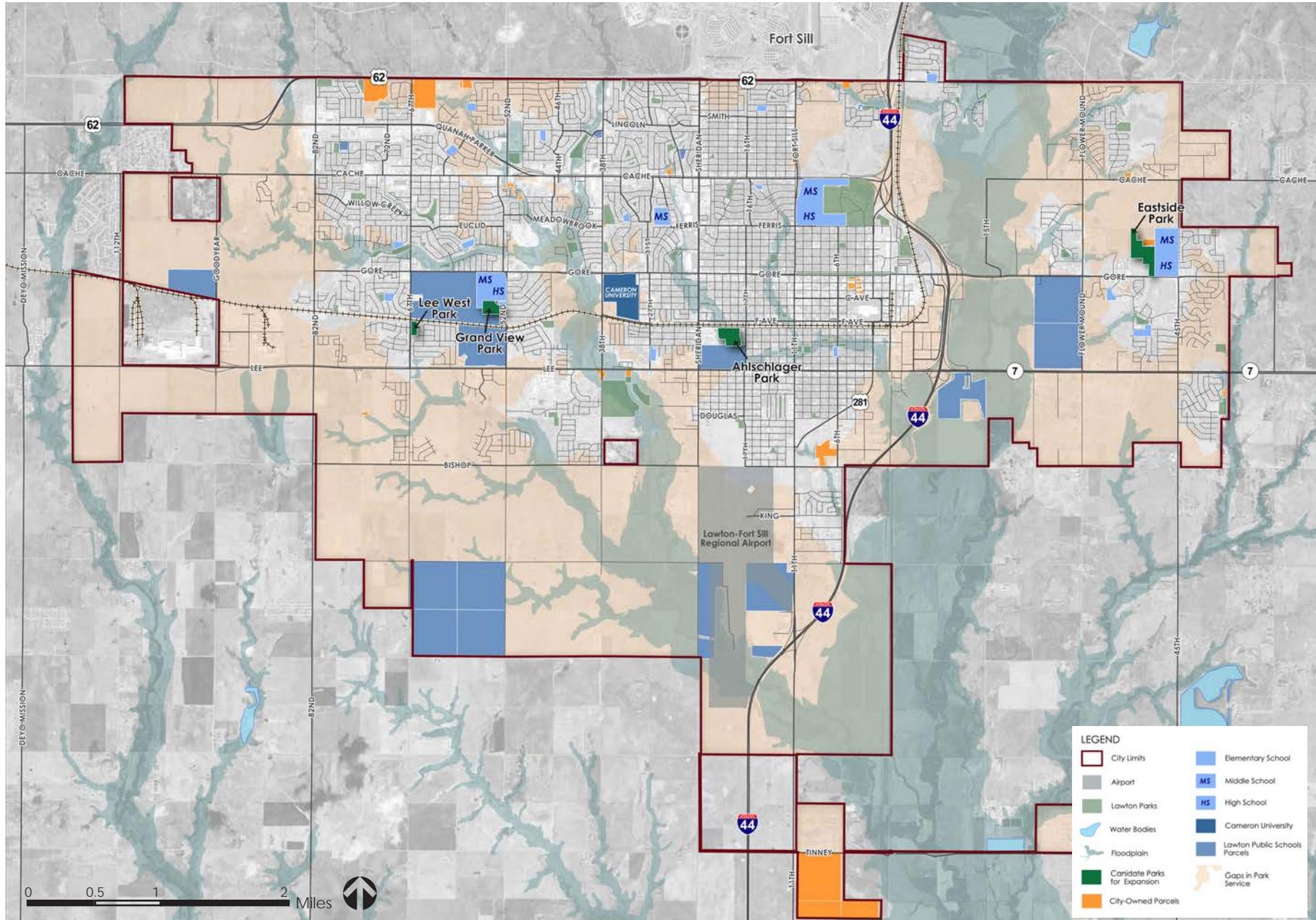
### FLOODPLAIN AREAS

Floodplain property can be good locations for park and trails as they are not typically good candidates for other development types. As the City explores expanding parks and developing trails, floodplain areas should be evaluated for feasibility.

## KEY FINDINGS: RESOURCE-BASED ASSESSMENT

- City-owned land has the potential to be an asset in expanding and enhancing the existing parks system
- Partnerships with schools in Lawton in the form of shared-use agreements could increase service of unmet park needs
- Expansion of existing parks will allow for new or improved park, recreation, and sports facilities to better serve the community

Figure 4.9 - Existing Resources Map



## PARK CONDITIONS ASSESSMENT

In order to complete an assessment of park conditions, an audit of ten parks was conducted. A variety of park types was selected to be representative of the larger park system. The park conditions assessment consisted of a number of existing park amenities and elements scored from 0-5, with 0 being non-existent/ not applicable to 5 being great condition with no maintenance required. The amenities and elements included were: park pathways/trails, sport courts, sport fields, structured play, park connectivity/access, additional site facilities, additional site amenities, open play areas, site lighting/signage, planting and trees, and turf.

Figure 4.10 on the following page shows the locations of each park visited for the park conditions assessment. Refer to the Appendix for an in depth review of the 10 parks.

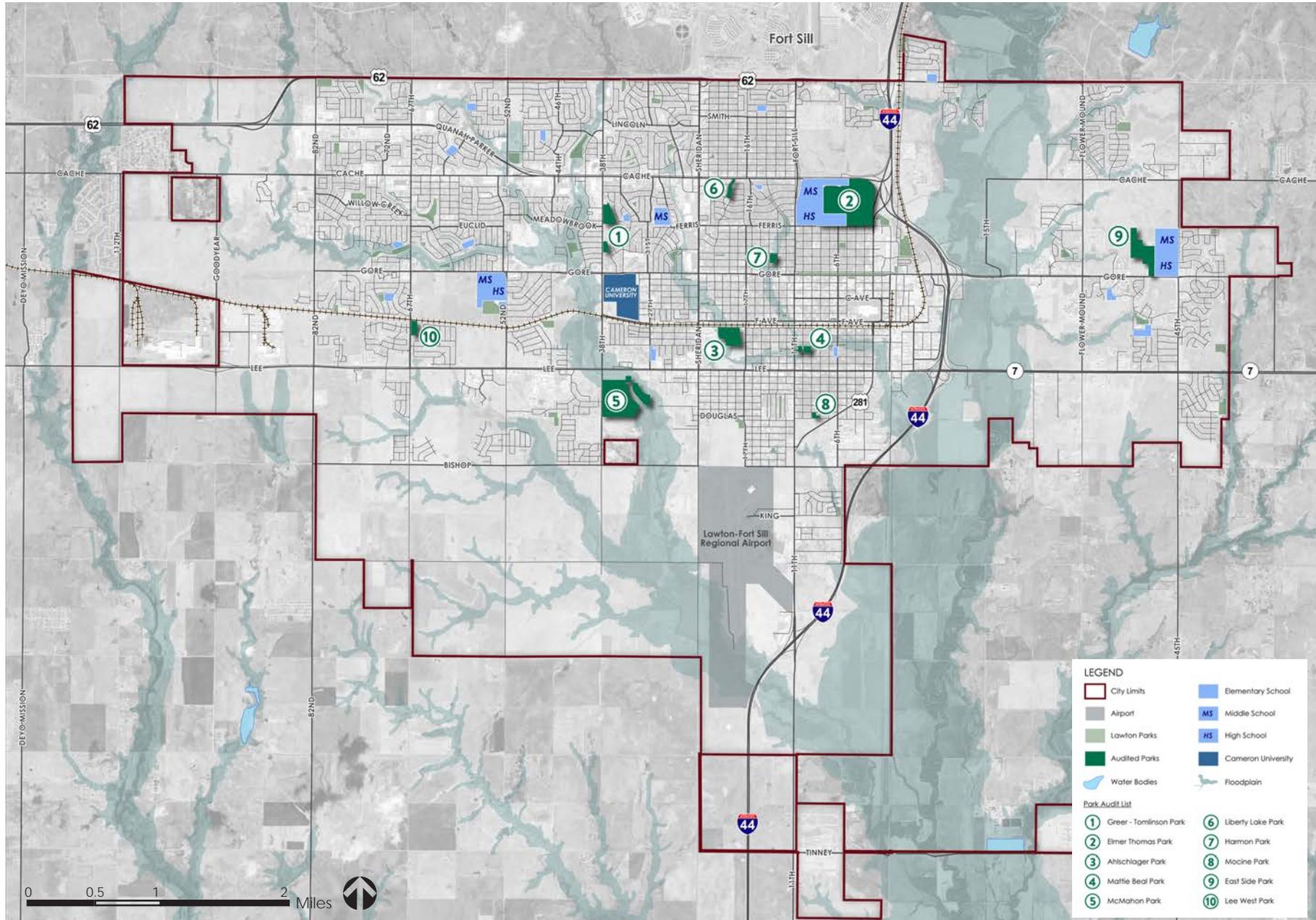


Retaining wall damage at L.D. McMahon Park

Table 4.12 - Park Audit Amenities Scores

Park Name	Sports Courts	Sports Fields	Park Pathways/ Trails	Public Gathering Spaces	Additional Site Facilities	Additional Site Amenities	Structured Play	Open Play Areas	Parking/Connectivity/ Access	Site Lighting/ Signage	Planting and Trees	Turf	Total Score	Weighted Average
Greer/Tomlinson Park	2		4	3	3	2	4	4	4	3	3	3	35	3.18
Elmer Thomas Park			3	4	4	3	5	4	3	3	4	3	36	3.60
Ahlschlager Park		3				2		2				2	9	2.25
Mattie Beal Park	3		3	3	2	2	1	3	2	2	4	3	28	2.55
L.D. McMahon Park		3	3		3	3	2		1	4	3	3	25	2.78
Liberty Lake Park			3	1	1	2	1	4	3	2	4	4	25	2.50
Harmon Park				1	2	2	2	3	1	2	2	2	17	1.89
Mocine Park	3		2	3	3		2				4	3	20	2.86
East Side Park		4	4		4	3	3		4	4	4	3	33	3.67
Lee West Park	4					1	3	3			2	1	14	2.33

Figure 4.10 - Park Audit Map





## SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES

### PARK ACCESS

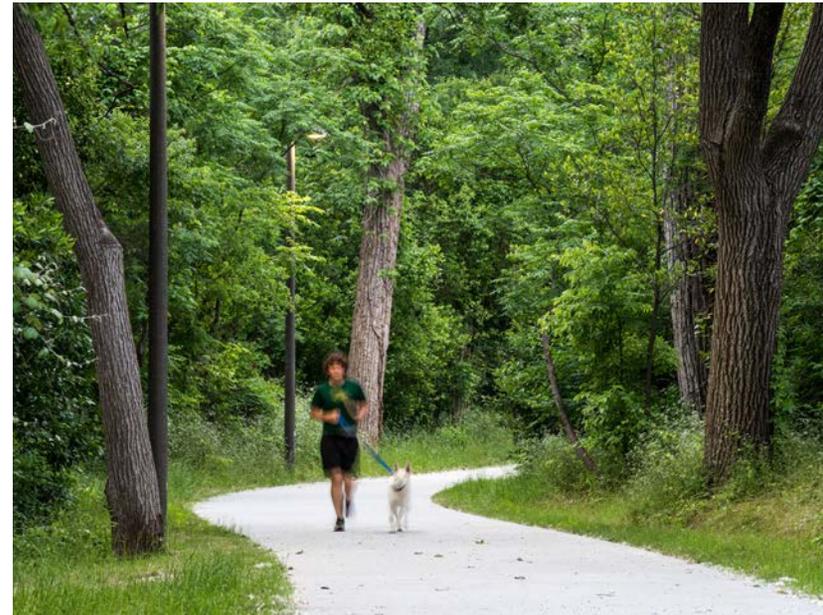
- Approximately 64% of Lawton residents live within a ten-minute walk to a park, which is higher than the national average.
- The existing park system features a high number of small parks, many with limited or outdated amenities.
- There is significant overlaps in park service area in some more developed portions of the City.
- Some existing neighborhoods further from the core of the City are not well-served by existing parks.
- There is a surplus in acreage of neighborhoods parks and a deficit in community park acreage based on national averages.
- Some parks have poor access in terms of the visibility and physically accessing the park.
- Opportunities for partnerships exist with Lawton Public Schools, Cameron University, Fort Sill, and the YMCA to expand access to parks and recreation amenities for Lawton residents.
- There is potential to expand existing park acreage at Lee West Park, Eastside Park, Ahlschlager Park, and Grandview Park.

### PARK AMENITIES

- Based on national standards, Lawton currently has a deficit in the number of softball fields, cricket fields, pavilions, trails, skate parks, and dog parks.
- The statistically-valid survey identified natural trails, dog parks, picnic shelters, outdoor swimming pools, community gardens, and fishing piers as the outdoor amenities that should be a priority for investment based on demand and unmet needs.
- In terms of outdoor programming, the statistically-valid survey identified outdoor concerts special events, outdoor adventure, and swimming as the top rated programs that should be a priority for investment based on demand and unmet need.
- Some playground equipment is obsolete and should be updated.
- There is a need for all-inclusive play or all-abilities play equipment within Lawton.
- There is a need to standardize the typical amenities for each of the park classifications so improvements moving forward are equitable.
- Parks in Lawton should have more of a balance of active and passive amenities.
- Approximately 35% of existing parkland is located within the 100-year floodplain which limits the type of amenities that can be constructed
- The park conditions assessment identified needed improvements for ten parks within Lawton based on various criteria.



Example of all-inclusive play equipment



Example of a paved multi-use trail



Example of park pavilion with picnic tables and restroom facilities



# 5

## SPORTS & RECREATION

- Inventory of Facilities
- Needs Assessment
- Summary of Key Themes

## INTRODUCTION

Indoor recreation, sports and athletics and aquatics services have evolved over time and local neighborhoods have changed which requires a continuing investment to renovate existing, or construct new facilities to be competitive with other cities. This chapter assesses each of the existing recreation, sports and athletics, and aquatic facilities, determines overall facility general condition and needs, and presents recommendations for improvement of existing facilities.





## INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

Indoor recreation, sports and athletics, and aquatics are an important quality-of-life component of Lawton's parks and recreation system. Today in Lawton there are a number of sports complexes, community recreation centers, and outdoor aquatic facilities that currently serve the community.

Figure 5.1 illustrates the location of the sports and athletic fields, recreation centers, and aquatic facilities in the city.

### PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SPORTS FACILITIES

In Lawton today there are four sports complexes, located at Ahlschlager, Eastside, Grandview, and Louise D. McMahon parks. These sports complexes offer a variety of adult and youth sports and athletics opportunities.

### PRIVATE SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

Other entities in Lawton with sports and recreation offerings include the Lawton YMCA, Lawton Soccer Club, Lawton Public Schools, Cameron University, and Fort Sill. These non-city entities provide additional recreation opportunities to a small portion of the community and should be considered for potential partnerships.

### RECREATION CENTERS

Lawton is served by three recreation facilities, one is more senior focused, with each center in a repurposed facility that was modified at one point to serve as a recreation center. All are relatively small, meant to serve the surrounding neighborhood. This is in contrast to the current trend of building larger multi-generational centers serving the entire community that have extensive amenities and programming.

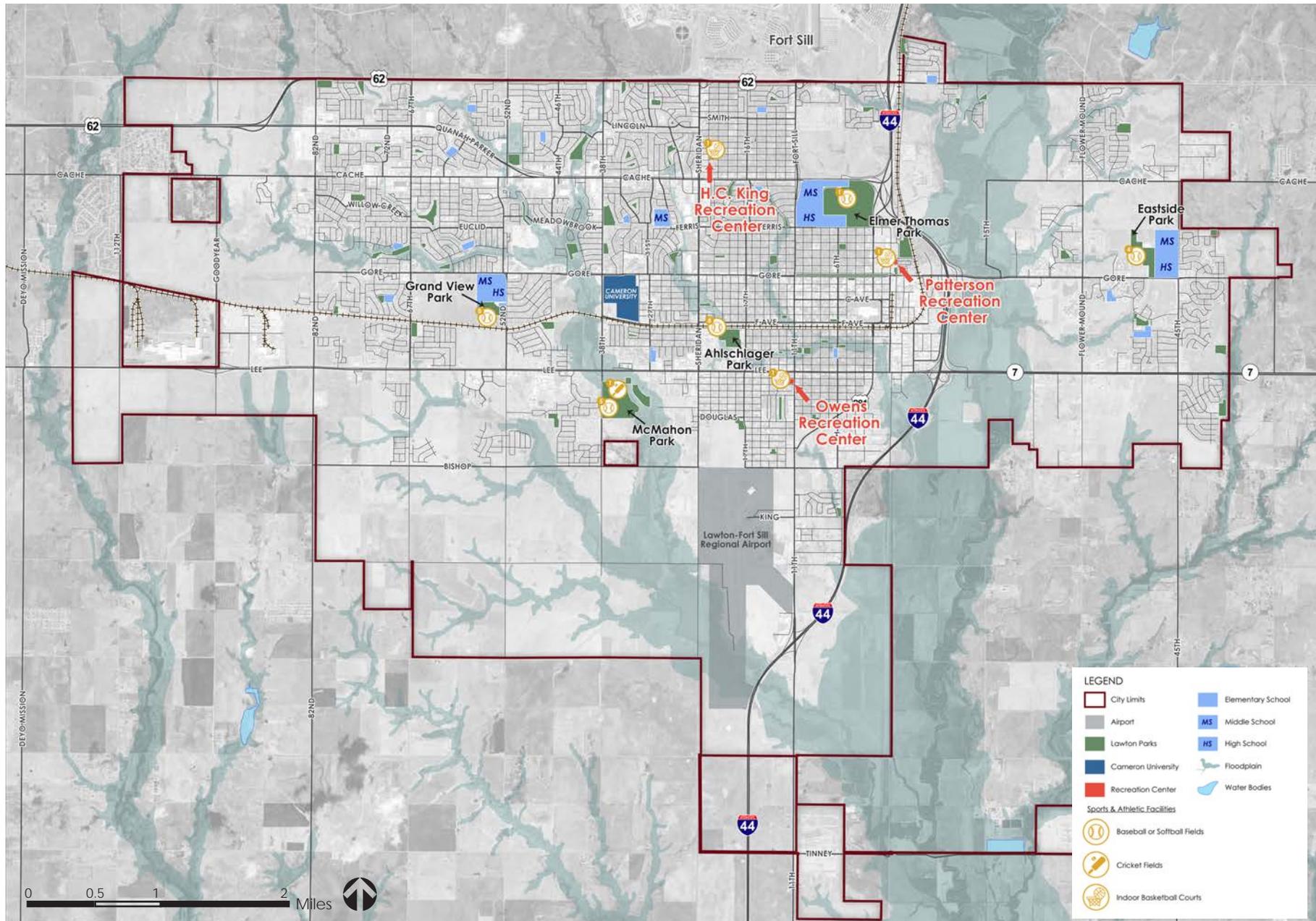
### AQUATIC FACILITIES

In terms of aquatics, Lawton has one outdoor pool, two splash pad, and aging wading pools. The outdoor pool has served the community well over time but has begun to age. The wading pools have also been a long-standing aquatic amenity that have seen a decline in use over time. The splash pad is relatively new and has become a popular amenity for Lawton residents. The attendance at the older facilities provides a clear picture that a new approach is needed.



Stage in gymnasium at Owens Recreation Center

Figure 5.1 - Sports & Recreation Facilities Inventory Map





## SPORTS FIELDS

### PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE SPORTS FACILITIES

A cornerstone of any park and recreation system is the sports offerings. Local sports leagues have long been a responsibility of parks and recreation departments, and while private traveling leagues are becoming more popular in communities across the country, local sports leagues are still an amenity that many parents seek. The Lawton Parks and Recreation Department maintains several sports complexes throughout the City and operates a number of youth and adult sports leagues.

### AMENITIES

There are four primary sports complexes within the Lawton Parks System, located at Ahlschlager, Eastside, Grandview, and Louise D. McMahon parks. Altogether, there are 20 youth baseball fields and five adult softball fields that are publicly accessible. Ahlschlager is primarily used for coach pitch, tee ball, and flag football games. Softball and football games are played at Eastside. Fields at Grandview are used for baseball and football and there are four additional fields as part of the complex that are the responsibility of Lawton Public Schools. Finally, McMahon is used for adult softball games and there is also a cricket pitch located at the park.

The recreation centers offer opportunities for indoor basketball and volleyball leagues. There are no regulation soccer fields that are publicly maintained within Lawton since the Lawton Soccer Club has a significant private complex in the eastern part of the City.

In addition, there are approximately 73 backstops used for practice and pick-up baseball and softball games in numerous parks throughout the city. There are also 24 multi-purpose fields used for practice or pick-up soccer or football games located throughout the City. However, there are no designated programmed practice field locations currently within Lawton.

Table 5.1 - Inventory of Publicly Accessible Sports Facilities

LOCATION	WARD	FACILITIES
<b>Outdoor</b>		
Ahlschlager Sports Complex	5	4 - 200-205' Baseball Fields 3 - 200-215' Baseball Fields 1 - 300' Baseball Field
Eastside Ball Park	4	4 - 225' Baseball Fields
Grandview Sports Complex	8	2 - 300' Baseball Fields 2 - 225' Softball Fields 4 - 225' Baseball Fields
Louis D. McMahon Park	7	5 - 300' Softball Fields 1 Cricket Pitch
Elmer Thomas Park	2	1 - All Abilities Softball Field (Miracle Field)
<b>Indoor</b>		
Owens Recreation Center	7	1 Basketball Court*
Patterson Recreation Center	5	1 Basketball Court*
H. C. King Recreation Center	2	1 Basketball Court*

\* Wood courts

## PRIVATE SPORTS & RECREATION FACILITIES

In addition to the publicly accessible sports fields, there are many non-city entities within Lawton that provide sports fields or courts. These are organizations that could be approached for potential partnerships for use of fields and courts in the future.

### AMENITIES

Lawton Soccer Club is the sole provider of recreational and competitive soccer leagues within Lawton. Their complex features over 30 fields of various sizes for different age groups. Cameron University is also a significant recreation provider for the school's student body. Sports facilities available to students and athletes include an indoor gym, tennis complex, competitive baseball and softball fields, and indoor driving range. Lawton Public Schools also feature three high schools, five middle schools, and 17 elementary schools with various sports fields and indoor gyms.

The Lawton YMCA is located in the center of the city and provides additional recreation services to the community. The programs and amenities provided by the YMCA include general recreation and fitness amenities, youth and adult sports leagues, fitness classes, after school and summer programs, aquatic programs and health and wellness programs. To take part in YMCA amenities residents must have a membership.

Fort Sill has four fitness centers on base that provide recreation opportunities to service members and their families. These recreation facilities offer a range of cardio and weight equipment, exercise classes, and aquatic programs.

Table 5.2 - Inventory of Private Sports & Recreation Facilities

LOCATION	WARD	FACILITIES
Lawton Soccer Club	7	35 Soccer Fields of various sizes
Cameron University	3	Aggie Gym Tennis Complex (8 outdoor courts) McCord Field (1 baseball field) McMahon Field (1 softball field) Golf Center (indoor driving range)
Lawton Public Schools	Various	Various sports fields & indoor gym
YMCA	5	Pool 3 Racquetball courts Indoor walking/jogging track Basketball gym
Fort Sill	1, 2	4 Fitness Centers 1 indoor pool



Lawton Soccer Club



## RECREATION CENTERS

### OWENS RECREATION CENTER

Owens Recreation Center is located on SW 11th, a main north-south roadway. The Park Administration offices are also housed in the center. The building has been repurposed to serve as a recreation center. The facility offers indoor recreation opportunities that are centered around a gymnasium and multipurpose spaces. It lacks some of the spaces traditionally seen in modern recreation centers such as cardio and weight rooms, multipurpose areas that accommodate classes on health and wellness, properly sized locker and restroom facilities, proper storage spaces, and lounge space for socializing. This center has a potential to serve as the southside recreation center for the city, after extensive renovation that would create a center for all ages.

#### FACILITY SNAPSHOT

Established in approximately 1971

Location: 1405 SW 11th Street

Size: 16,668 SF

Amenities found at this recreation center include:

- Crafts
- Game room
- Multi-purpose rooms
- Administrative offices
- Gymnasium with stage
- Kitchen



Game room



Recreation center entrance



Gymnasium

## PATTERSON RECREATION CENTER

This facility has served the city well starting out as a United Service Organizations (USO) facility for World War II and in 1963 was converted to a recreation center. Over time the city and the surrounding neighborhood has changed. The location of the center is not easily accessible from surrounding neighborhoods and somewhat hidden from main traffic patterns.

This recreation center has become increasingly senior focused with the gymnasium remaining accessible to visitors of all ages. The facility structure is more temporary in nature with the floor structure being wood and walls being siding and/or plaster. ADA accessibility challenges exist, which is not ideal for senior use. The recreation center is programmed in a way for the most optimal use of available space; however, more space is needed to reduce amount of effort to set-up and take-down for programs and other activities.

### FACILITY SNAPSHOT

Established in 1963, originally built in 1942

Location: 4 Arlington Avenue

Size: 11,381 SF

Amenities found at this recreation center include:

- Gymnasium with stage
- Game area
- Kitchen
- Multi-purpose rooms - including craft area
- Offices
- Library



Gymnasium



Multi-Purpose room



Game Area



## H. C. KING RECREATION CENTER

This facility was originally an office building that was repurposed as a community recreation center; in 1993 the space was expanded with the addition of a gymnasium. It is located on a minor street with the building entrance facing a storage building across the street. The majority of parking is across the street from the center. This recreation center is mainly used as a meeting venue for community groups and organizations. Additionally, it has the best basketball practice facility owned by the city.

### FACILITY SNAPSHOT

Building purchased in 1980, Gym added in 1993

Location: 1705 NW 20th Street

Size: 1490 SF

Amenities found at this recreation center include:

- Gymnasium
- Meeting Rooms
- Kitchen
- Game area



Recreation Center entrance



Game area



Gymnasium

## AQUATIC FACILITIES

### MUNICIPAL POOL

The Municipal Pool is considered old by pool longevity standards. The outdated design requires users to walk through the bath house to enter the pool with the toilet and changing area directly off the entry point. The pool is surrounded by a 6' chain link fence with the showers located at the end of the changing area instead of near the entry point. The pool is an "L" shape with a specific area designated for the diving board. There is a small children's pool separate from the main pool but is on the same filtration system as the main pool. Filtration and pumps are located in an outside environment enclosed by a fence and the pool chemical room is adjacent to the pumps. There is no ultraviolet light sanitizing system provided. There is some shade, but the pool would benefit from additional shade structures to increase level of comfort for users. The pool deck is exposed concrete, creating an uncomfortable walking surface in hot weather.

The pool fronts onto SW 11th Street and is adjacent to Mattie Beal Park. Single-story commercial buildings are to the north and south of the pool.

### FACILITY SNAPSHOT

Opened in 1967

Location: Mattie Beal Park

Size: 18,233 SF

Amenities found at this recreation center include:

- Diving Board
- Benches
- Covered Picnic Area
- Bath House with restroom and changing area
- Office/Storage room



Main pool



Pool filtration system



Bath house



## ELMER THOMAS SPLASH PAD

The splash pad in Elmer Thomas Park is one of two splash pads in the City, the other is located in Clement Washington Park. The Elmer Thomas Park splash pad is a newer addition to Lawton’s aquatic amenities and has been very successful. The splash play elements have proved to be very entertaining as evidenced by the high attendance. It is located in Elmer Thomas Park across the street from a major play structure, and the synergies of the two facilities can be leveraged to maximize usage and elevate current park and recreation standards.

### FACILITY SNAPSHOT

Opened in 2017

Location: Elmer Thomas Park

Size: 6,732 SF



Splash pad amenities



Splash pad amenities

## 35TH DIVISION, MOCINE, AND HARMON WADING POOLS

These circular wading pools are approximately 40' in diameter and approximately 18-24 inches deep.

The wading pools are places to cool off, but because of the shallow depth of pool the water quickly heats up from solar heating. At all locations there are several movable benches and a 6-foot chain link fence enclosing the pool. The pool mechanical equipment is in an equipment house. These facilities are not lifeguarded, which poses a potential safety concern. The attendance at each of these pools is very minimal compared to typical standards.

### FACILITY SNAPSHOT

#### 35th Division Wading Pool

- Opened in 1930

#### Mocine Wading Pool

- Opened in 1985

#### Harmon Wading Pool

- Opened in 1985



Entrance to 35th Division Park



Current condition of 35th Division wading pool



# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## STANDARD AND BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

### RECREATION CENTER LOS BENCHMARKS

As part of this study a comparison of Lawton’s Level of Service (LOS) with cities identified as comparison cities to Lawton. Benchmark cities included:

Table 5.3 - Benchmark Cities Populations

CITY	POPULATION
Broken Arrow	109,000
Edmond	102,000
Norman	122,000
Wichita Falls, TX	104,000

For purpose of this comparison Lawton’s population was estimated at 94,000 (includes Ft. Sill population).

The LOS results are expressed as square footage (SF) per population. This quantitative data was derived by dividing the estimated total square footage of centers by the cities population.

Results are as follows:

Table 5.4 - Benchmark LOS

	RECREATION CENTERS (SF)	SENIOR CENTERS (SF)
Average of Benchmark Cities	0.51	0.15
Lawton <sup>1</sup>	0.26	0.10
Difference	0.25	0.05
Lawton <sup>2</sup>	0.32	0.12
Difference	0.19	0.03

<sup>1</sup>LOS calculation uses Lawton and Ft. Sill population.

<sup>2</sup>LOS calculation uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone

This comparison is used to provide a general understanding of what competing cities are providing to their citizens. This data illustrates that Lawton is providing fewer facilities than the average of benchmark cities by approximately 23,500 SF for recreation centers and 4,700 SF for senior centers.

For the purpose of calculations for Lawton the following adjustments were made:

- **Patterson Recreation Center:** The gym square footage was removed since Patterson was used as the senior comparison.
- **H. C. King Recreation Center:** The gym square footage was only used since the other area was used mainly for meetings.
- **Owens Recreation Center:** The Parks Administration offices were removed from the center’s square footage.

Recommendations for Lawton recreation and senior needs could be expected to be in a range of 45,000 to 55,000 total square footage for recreation centers and 12,000 to 16,000 for a stand-alone senior center. This size could be expected to be less if seniors were combined with a recreation center.

**It is recommended that a feasibility study be developed to determine the exact needs of Lawton. This would include discussions on fee structure for users.**

## DEMAND ANALYSIS

### SPORTS FIELDS LEVEL OF SERVICE (LOS)

Based on the NRPA benchmarks for various sports fields, Lawton is currently meeting the targets for baseball fields, outdoor basketball goals, and tennis courts. The City is currently not meeting the target for softball fields and cricket fields, meaning that the community could support more of those types of sports amenities in the future. The City of Lawton offers the following seasonal leagues through the Recreation & Leisure Division of the Parks and Recreation Department:

#### Outdoor

- Three Recreational Youth Baseball Leagues (6U, 8U, 10U)
- Three Competitive Youth Baseball Leagues (8U, 10U, 12U)
- Two Recreational Youth Softball Leagues (8U, 10U)
- Two Competitive Youth Softball Leagues (10U, 12U)
- Seven Adult Softball Leagues (Summer - Men’s Lower, Men’s Upper, Men’s Church, Coed; Fall - Men, Coed, Men’s Church)
- Three Recreational Flag Football Leagues (6U, 8U, 10U)
- Three Competitive Flag Football Leagues (6U, 8U, 10U)
- One Recreational Tackle Football Leagues (10U)
- Two Competitive Tackle Football Leagues (10U, 12U)

#### Indoor

- Five Recreational Youth Basketball Leagues (6U - Coed, 8U - Boys, 8U - Girls, 10U - Boys, 10U - Girls)
- Eight Competitive Youth Basketball Leagues (8U, 10U, 12U, 14U - all boys and girls leagues)
- Three Competitive Youth Volleyball Leagues (10U, 12U, 14U)

Soccer leagues are provided through the Lawton Soccer Club.

Table 5.5 - Sports & Athletics Amenities LOS

AMENITY	CURRENT NUMBER	CURRENT LOS	FUTURE LOS	TARGET LOS*	CURRENT SURPLUS/DEFICIT	FUTURE SURPLUS/DEFICIT
Baseball Fields	20	1 per 4,701 residents	1 per 5,300 residents	1 per 7,222 residents	7 (surplus)	6 (surplus)
Softball Fields	5	1 per 18,803 residents	1 per 21,202 residents	1 per 15,500 residents	1 (deficit)	2 (deficit)
Basketball Goals	33	1 per 2,849 residents	1 per 3,212 residents	1 per 7,260 residents	20 (surplus)	18 (surplus)
Cricket	1	1 per 94,017 residents	1 per 106,008 residents	1 per 59,227 residents	1 (deficit)	1 (deficit)
Tennis Courts	17	1 per 5,530 residents	1 per 6,236 residents	1 per 6,242 residents	2 (surplus)	1 (surplus)

\*2020 NRPA amenity standards

## PRIORITY INVESTMENT RATING

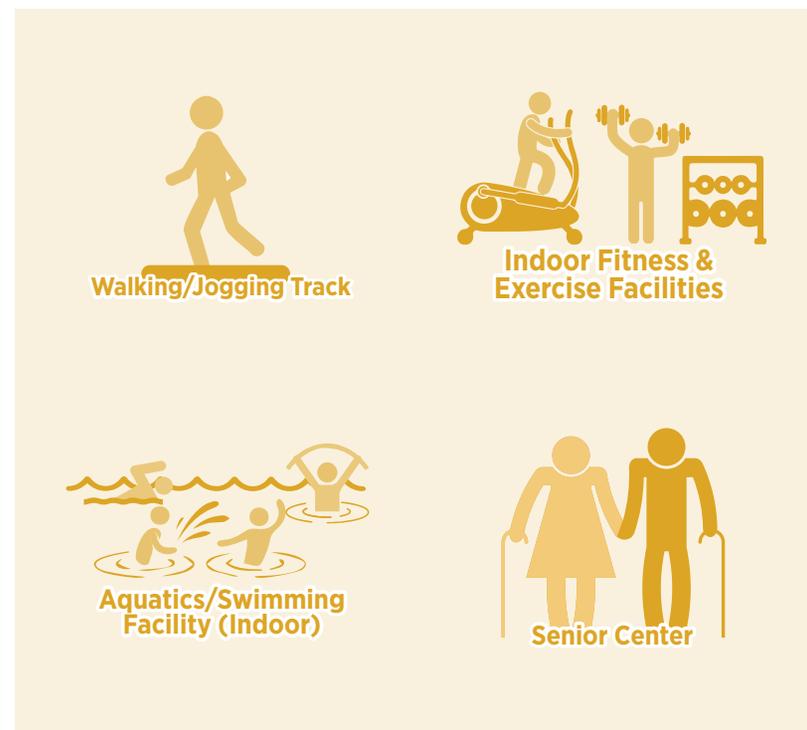
As stated in Chapter 3, a statistically valid survey was conducted by ETC Institute at the beginning of the planning process that sought opinions on various aspects of the parks and recreation system.

One of the results of the statistically-valid survey included Priority Investment Ratings (PIR). The Priority Investment Rating was developed by ETC Institute to identify the facilities/amenities and programs residents think should receive the highest priority for investment. The priority investment rating reflects the importance residents place on items (sum of top 4 choices as determined by survey responses) and the unmet needs (needs that are only being met 50% or less or partly/ not met as determined by survey responses).

Since decisions related to future investments should consider both the level of unmet need and the importance of facilities/amenities and programs, the PIR weighs each of these components equally. The PIR reflects the sum of Unmet Need Rating (UNR) and the Importance rating (IR). For more detail and the full findings of the survey refer to the ETC Summary Report in the Appendix

Figure 5.2 shows the amenities that rank as high priority based on the PIR for indoor recreation amenities.

Figure 5.2 - Top Priority for Investment for Indoor Recreation Amenities



## RECREATION CENTERS RECOMMENDATIONS

### OWENS RECREATION CENTER

#### *Assessment*

Minimal maintenance over the years as well as the age of the facility has resulted in the need for major interior renovations and replacements. Improving the utilization of the current space will increase the longevity of the building. Improvements will also allow the facility to be efficiently and safely managed with reduced staff and provide programming spaces that will increase facility attendance.

Space within the building is currently occupied as administrative office space for various City departments such as the Parks and Recreation Department. There is a substantial surface parking lot around the recreation center that may need to be expanded as attendance increases. Refreshed landscaping is a minimally expensive effort that adds to the quality experience of visitors.

#### *Recommendations*

- Develop new renovation plans for center that will provide improved flow for staff.
- Provide spaces that are consistent with current trends in recreation planning.
- Implement programs and activities that meet the needs and interests of the community to increase attendance.

### PATTERSON RECREATION CENTER

#### *Assessment*

As the oldest recreation center in Lawton the building has begun to show its age and has seen a handful of improvements in the recent past. The facility's interior has been well kept and organized however, when evaluating the physical attributes of the building there are areas that would benefit from renovation. For example, areas of the floor have begun to sag and inefficient insulation used during construction has contributed to higher operational costs. Other current challenges include restrooms where ADA standards are not being met, roof condition, and kitchen conditions. Lack of adequate storage spaces also creates operational challenges.

Recent improvements include a new gym floor in 2012, new kitchen floor in 2015, and new siding in 2019.

#### *Recommendations*

- Consider relocating the center to a new location based on current conditions of the center; age of the building, original construction standards, lack of space, and remote location.
- Look at feasibility of maintaining the gymnasium portion of the center to keep the courts open on a limited scheduled basis.
- Plan for increased senior attendance if the center is relocated in the future.



## H. C. KING RECREATION CENTER

### *Assessment*

Since the facility was repurposed from an office, the control point and the center's flow of visitors is compromised. The meeting area of the facility is experiencing some major floor settlement issues caused, in part, by standing water against the slab, which is present to a lesser degree at the gymnasium. There are also areas of the roof that are leaking. Kitchen and toilets require some major renovation as well as updates that would increase overall ADA compliance. A new gymnasium floor was installed in 2016.

Typically, a center operates best when in or close to a high traffic park, on a major roadway, or surrounded by neighborhoods; the current location is not ideal from an accessibility standpoint.

### *Recommendations*

- Consideration should be given to keeping gym and discontinuing the operation of the rest of the center.

## AQUATIC FACILITIES RECOMMENDATIONS

### MUNICIPAL POOL

### *Assessment*

As the only outdoor public pool that must serve the entire community, the current location within Mattie Beal Park is not centrally located to provide for optimal access by the community. Due to the age of the pool (54 years old) there is concern about leaks in the pipes as well as in the pool shell, especially since it is showing signs of cracking. The pool filtration system is located outside without cover, which shortens the lifespan of the equipment, and requires constant monitoring and adjustments by staff. The children's pool and main pool share the same pumping system, which decreases overall water quality. The bath house has extensive ADA accessibility issues that should be addressed. Additionally, attendance is very low for a pool of this size.

### *Recommendations*

- Because of condition and location, consideration should be given to replace the current pool with a family aquatic park type pool located in a more central and accessible location. This property being in a commercial zone could be sold and returned to the tax rolls. Attendance increases could be expected at a new aquatic experience.
- Implementing modern chemical feeders would reduce staff time and promote better water quality.
- The pool deck should have a large amount of shade elements.

## ELMER THOMAS SPLASH PAD

### *Assessment*

This splash pad is a recent addition to Lawton's inventory of aquatic amenities, built in 2017. Therefore, all of the elements are in good condition.

### *Recommendations*

- Additional shade structures would make the facility more user friendly especially since most users are children.
- Planting trees to encircle the splash pad would provide additional shade, help with wind control, and provide a visual reference for visitors.
- Provide a crosswalk in parking lot that is shared by park and splash pad visitors to address current safety issues for pedestrians.

## 35TH DIVISION, MOCINE, AND HARMON WADING POOLS

### *Assessment*

Attendance levels of these pools average approximately 11-14 visitors per day, which is very low when compared to the operational costs. The pools have numerous cracks and patches that are apparent maintenance issues. Today, there isn't appropriate access for visitors with physical disabilities, which does not comply with federal regulations. Shade at these pools provided by either trees or shade structures is nonexistent. The pools have been subject to vandalism because the existing chain link fencing does not provide adequate security.

### *Recommendations*

- Consideration for removal of these wading pools should be given due to limited attendance, limited positive aquatic experience by visitors and the deteriorating condition of these pools.
- Evaluate the feasibility of replacing pools with splash pads.
- Conduct an aquatics master plan to create a framework for the process to convert these wading pools to splash pads and/or the proper locations for new splash pads.

## LAWTON INDOOR YOUTH SPORTS CENTER

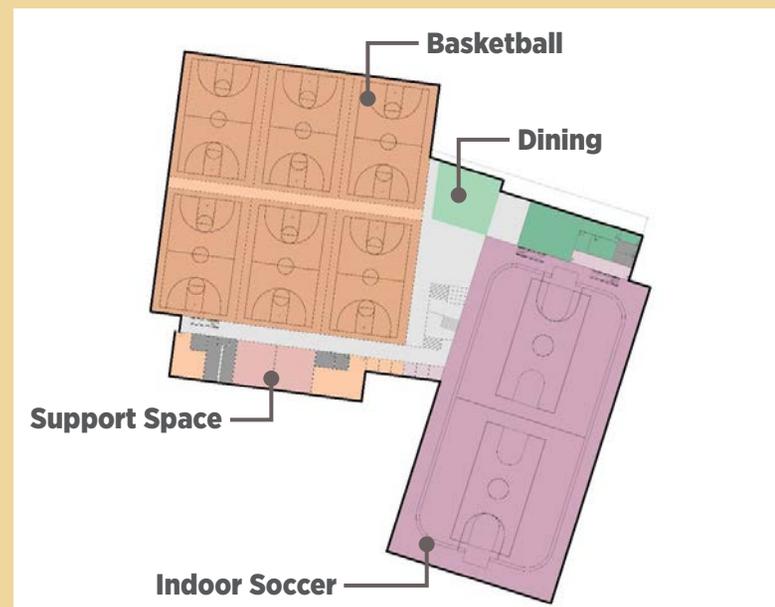
Community leaders in Lawton have long envisioned an indoor youth sports complex that can serve local community leagues as well as draw out-of-town teams for weekend tournaments. In 2019, citizens of Lawton passed a bond package totaling \$20M for parks and recreation improvements, \$8M of which has been earmarked for a new indoor sports complex. Since the bond package passed, the City has been working with community leaders and outside consultants to identify the best location for the complex and conceptually design the elements that will be included.

As of the writing of this master plan, the proposed indoor sports complex is being considered to be built within Elmer Thomas Park to draw from the existing visitor traffic there and the site's visibility from I-44. The proposed amenities within the facility include:

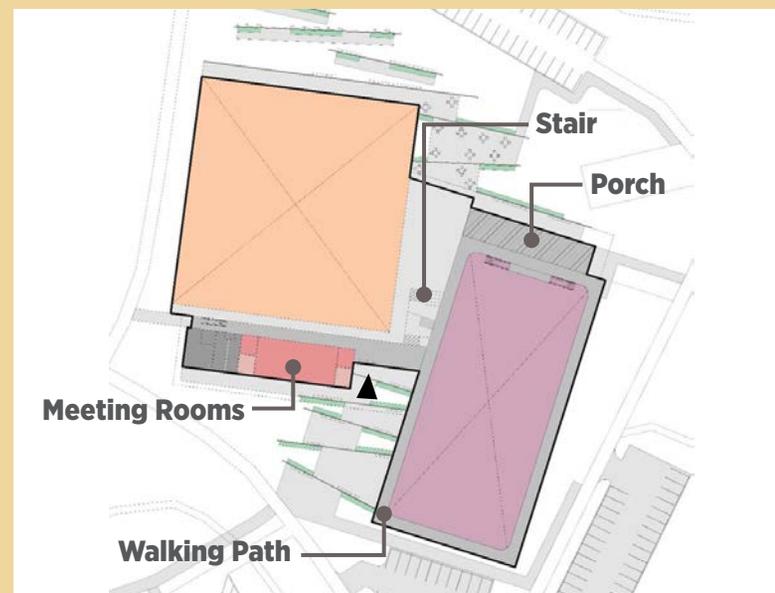
- Six basketball courts
- Indoor soccer field (arena style)
- Community room
- Concessions
- Restrooms
- Indoor walking track

During the planning and design of this facility, community leaders consulted with other communities that have been successful in such a venture, including the Plano Sports Authority headquartered in Plano, TX. Over the past several decades, the PSA has grown to four complexes in the North Texas area and the organization has annual revenues that exceed \$10M.

The indoor sports complex has the potential to be the community hub for indoor sports leagues for youth in Lawton while simultaneously serving as an economic generator on the weekends by hosting regional tournaments. Some important considerations moving forward include determining the structure for operating the sports complex, developing an operations plan, and ensuring the complex can be flexible to evolve with future sports trends and demands.



Lawton Youth Sports Center - Upper/Entry Level



Lawton Youth Sports Center - Lower Level



Lawton Youth Sports Center Site Design Concept



## SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES

### RECREATION CENTERS

- The existing recreation centers would benefit from updated amenities and additional programming.
- The statistically valid survey identified walking/jogging tracks, indoor fitness and exercise facilities, aquatics/swimming facilities (indoor), and senior center as the indoor amenities that should be a priority for investment based on demand and unmet need.
- Recreation centers need to expand the programs they offer and the population they serve.
- Compared to the average square footage for recreation and senior centers of benchmark cities, Lawton is underserving the community today.
- Opportunities for partnerships exist with Lawton Public Schools, Lawton YMCA, and Fort Sill to expand recreation opportunities for Lawton residents.
- A study should be conducted in the future to determine the feasibility of a multi-generational recreation center.
- Develop maintenance standards for future renovations, staffing, and programming of recreation facilities.

### AQUATICS

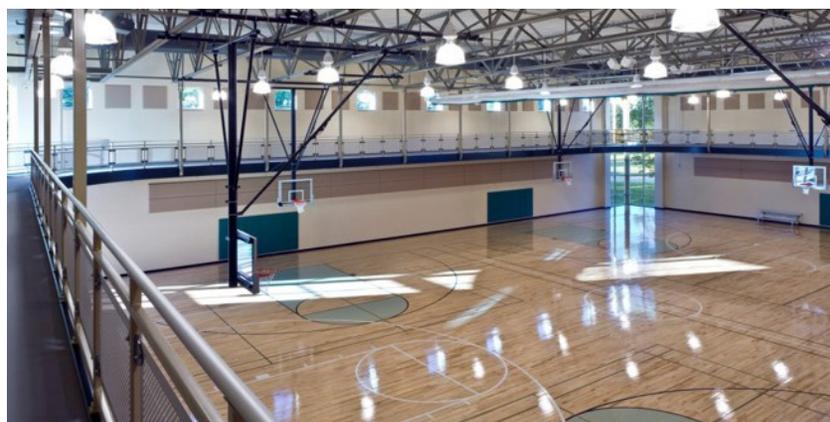
- There is currently only one public outdoor pool serving the community.
- Opportunities for partnerships exist with Lawton Public Schools, Lawton YMCA, and Fort Sill to expand aquatic amenities for Lawton residents.
- There is the potential to repurpose the wading pool locations into splash pads due to low attendance and extensive maintenance needs.
- There is a need to look at modernization of pool filtration system to improve overall water quality.
- All outdoor facilities need additional shade structures.
- An aquatics master plan should be conducted to guide removal, improvement, and construction of aquatic facilities to best serve the community.
- There is a demand for and unmet need for indoor aquatics that is publicly accessible to Lawton residents.

## SPORTS & ATHLETICS

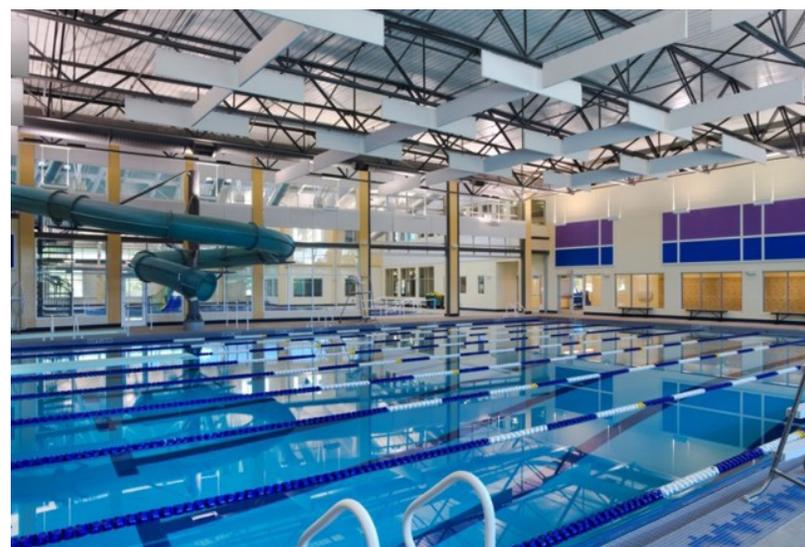
- Lawton Parks & Recreations Department offers a number of sports leagues for youth and a minimal number of leagues for adults.
- Lawton Soccer Club, a private authority, runs all of the soccer leagues within Lawton.
- There is a desire for tournament-quality fields to serve the local community and draw in tournaments from around the region.
- There is a need for designated practice fields within the community.
- The indoor sports complex presents an opportunity for a premier facility for indoor soccer, basketball, and volleyball, and could serve as a revenue generator for the City.
- Considerations for an outside authority managing the sports complex should be assessed to free up Parks and Recreation staff to focus on maintaining parks and administering programs.



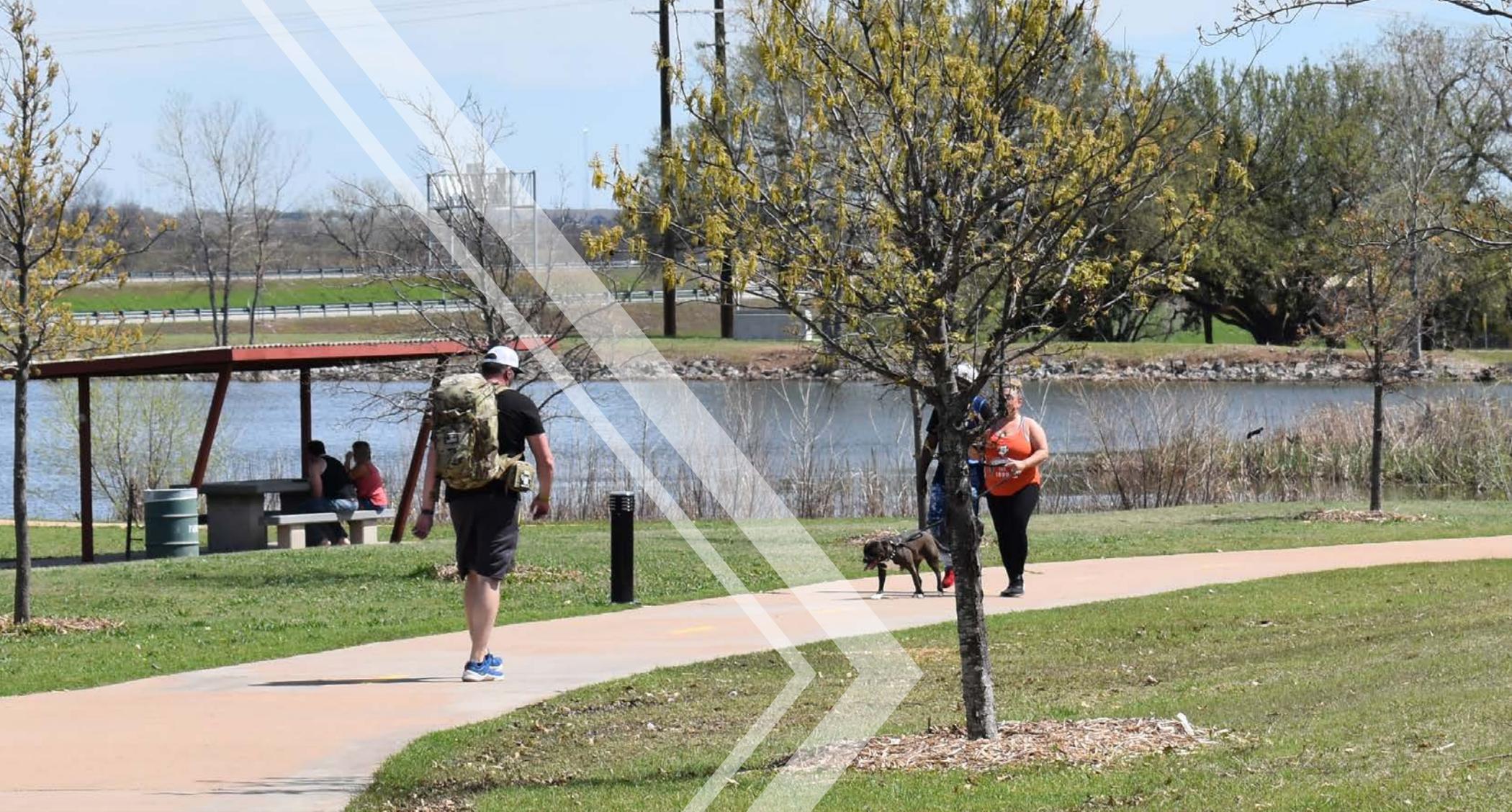
Example of a tournament-quality ball field



Example of a modernized indoor recreation facilities



Example of an indoor aquatic facility



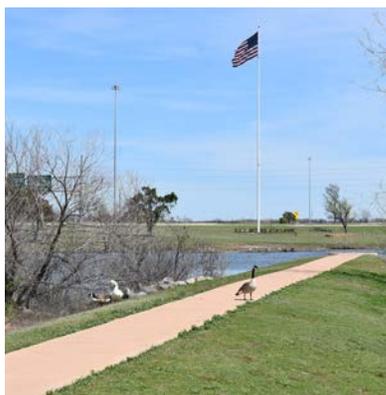
# 6

## TRAILS

- Inventory of Facilities
- Needs Assessment
- Summary of Key Themes

## INTRODUCTION

Pedestrian and bicycle facilities play an important role in providing a comprehensive parks and recreation system to a community. The Trails chapter focuses on inventorying the existing and proposed trails and bikeways facilities and classifying the types of facilities that make up the system. This chapter will also identify the needs for pedestrian and bicyclists facilities by assessing the conditions of existing facilities and comparing level of service to that of regional benchmark communities. Additionally, constraints and opportunities within the existing and planned system are identified.





# INVENTORY OF FACILITIES

## EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES

Table 6.1 summarizes the existing and proposed on and off-street trail and bikeway facilities in Lawton today. Figure 6.1 illustrates where these bicycle and pedestrian facilities are currently located and where future ones are proposed. The majority of the facilities shown are from the 2008 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, a handful of which have been constructed since the plan’s adoption. A subsequent effort was conducted in 2010 to prioritize implementation of the recommended corridors. For inventory purpose the following facility definitions are used:

**Off-Street Trails:** Paved or soft-surface multi-use paths that accommodate a variety of users and are typically 10’-12’ in width. These trails are typically located away from roadways in places such as drainage corridors, utility easements, greenbelts, and railroad corridors. Off-street trails serve both recreational and mobility purposes.

**Sidepaths:** These paved multi-use paths are located along roadways and are generally 8’-10’ in width. Sidepaths should be wide enough to comfortably accommodate a variety of users without conflict. Additional safety considerations are necessary because these paths are adjacent to roadways and will likely cross driveways and intersections.

**Shared-Use Lanes:** Shared lane markings and signage along roadways are used on existing roads that cannot accommodate separated bicycle facilities. The markings and signs inform motorists of the presence of bicyclists and suggest the likely positions of bicyclists in the travel lane.

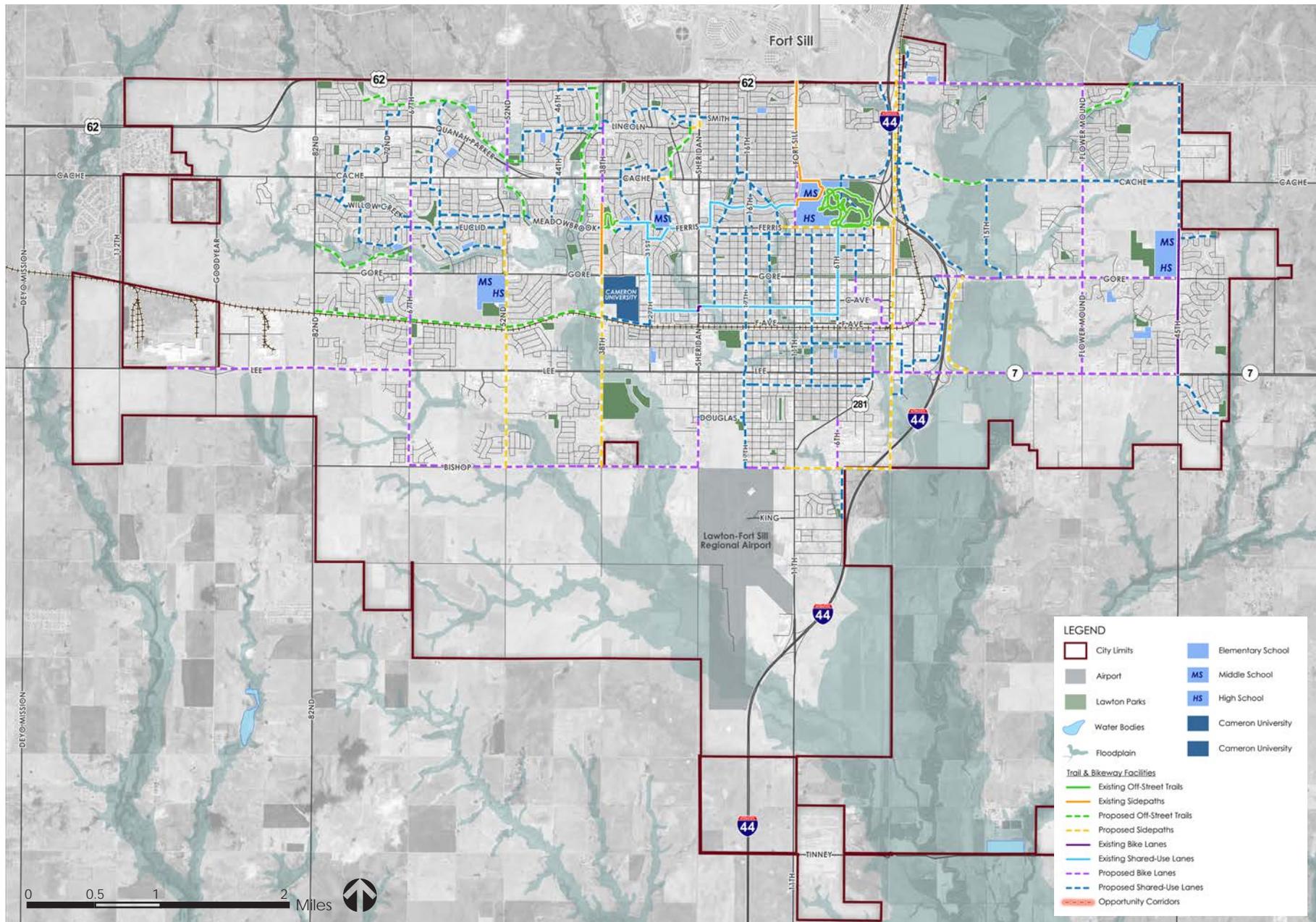
**Bike Lanes:** Bike lanes are a portion of the roadway that are designated for the exclusive use of bicyclists indicated by pavement marking, striping, and signage. The bike lane should be a minimum of 5’ in width to provide a comfortable space for the user to maneuver in, but additional width is preferred depending on the roadway condition. Bike lanes can also include a physical buffer to further separate the bicyclists from motor vehicles.

Table 6.1 - Existing & Proposed Facilities Inventory

FACILITY TYPE	LENGTH (MILES)
<b>Off-Street Trails</b>	
Existing Off-Street Trails (paved)	2.21
Existing Off-Street Trails (soft surface)	1.85
Existing Sidepaths	2.95
<b>Total Existing Trails</b>	<b>7.01</b>
Proposed Off-Street Trails	10.20
Proposed Sidepaths	12.07
<b>Total Proposed Off-Street Trails*</b>	<b>22.27</b>
<b>On-Street Bikeways</b>	
Existing Bike Lanes	1.56
Existing Shared-Use Lanes	5.98
<b>Total Existing Bikeways</b>	<b>7.54</b>
Proposed Bike Lanes	25.76
Proposed Shared-Use Lanes	44.93
<b>Total Proposed Bikeways*</b>	<b>70.69</b>

\*Proposed facilities based on the 2008 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

Figure 6.1 - Existing & Proposed Trails & Bikeways Map



## SUMMARY OF EXISTING & PROPOSED FACILITIES

Lawton’s existing trails system includes paved and soft surface trails and totals to 6.9 miles. The majority of the City’s existing trails are paved sidepaths, located along major roadways such as 38th Street, Fort Sills Boulevard, and Railroad Street. Sidepaths, totaling 2.95 miles, create connections to key destinations but currently only extend short distances, the longest of which is 1.3 miles and connects Elmer Thomas Park to the entrance of Fort Sill along Fort Sill Boulevard. Elmer Thomas Park contains a significant amount of the overall city trail mileage with 3.71 miles, of that total mileage 1.8 miles are part of a paved loop trail and the rest are soft surface trail connections throughout the park. The portion of the Elmer Thomas Park paved trail adjacent to the Museum of the Great Plains is designated as a Born Learning Trails. The City partnered with United Way of Southwest Oklahoma to implement interactive outdoor learning games along the trail, which aim to engage children and families.

The on-street bicycle facilities that exist in Lawton today are primarily shared-use lanes, creating an approximately 6-mile loop along major roadways in the city center and connecting to key destinations such as downtown and Cameron University. There is a short stretch along Sheridan Road with a dedicated bike lane that connects the shared-use route on D Ave and E Ave, where the route crosses a 4-lane roadway divided by a median. A designated bike lane, 1.5 miles in length, has recently been implemented on 45th Street which creates a protected bicycle route from surrounding neighborhoods to MacArthur Middle School and Senior High School in the far eastern part of the city.

The 2008 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan established a network of proposed facilities for the city. The plan identified 22.27 miles of additional off-street trail facilities and 70.69 miles of additional on-street bikeway facilities. These proposed facilities create a more expansive non-motorized transportation network by filling in gaps in the current system and providing safe and accessible options for users to reach key destinations throughout the city. The plan looks at utilizing existing features such as greenbelts and railroad corridors to create new connections.



The Bicycle and Pedestrian Network from the 2008 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan

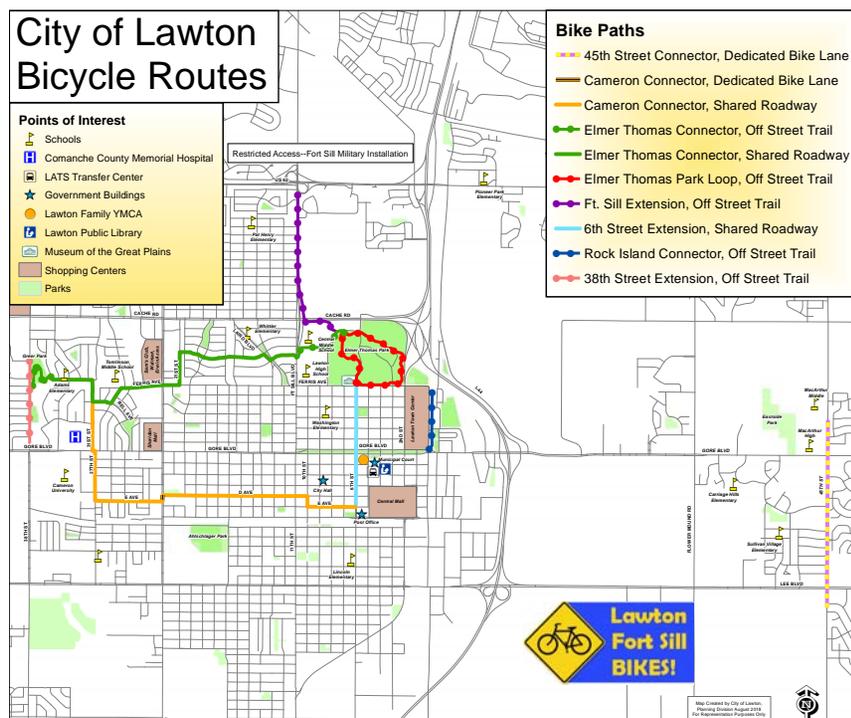
# NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## CONDITION OF SYSTEM

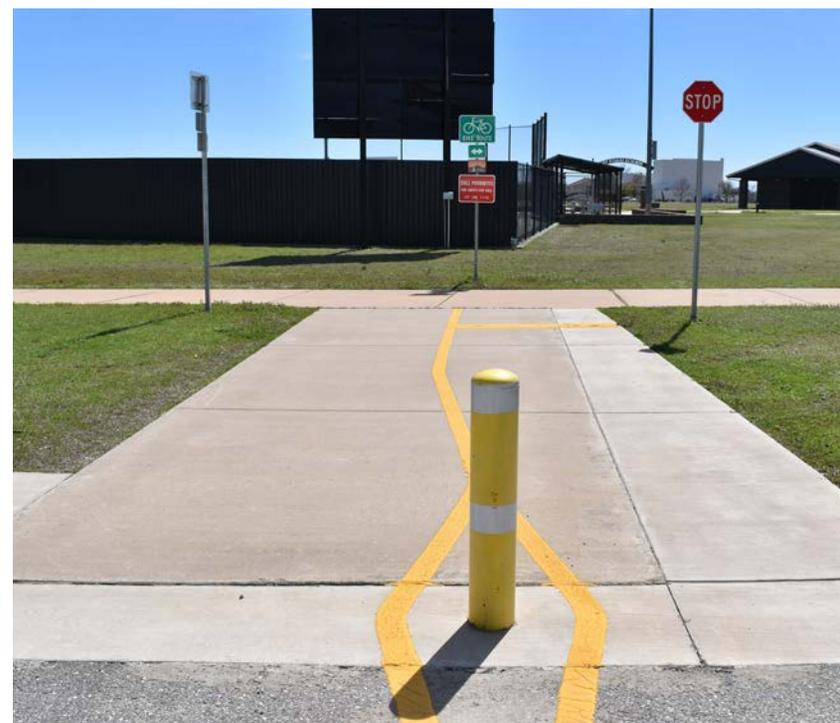
In 2018, the City of Lawton and the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization (LMPO) produced a Bicycle Routes brochure that illustrates the existing on-street bikeways and paved trail facilities. The majority of the facilities that are shown are shared-use lanes, which exclusively serve bicyclists, particularly riders that are comfortable sharing the road with motorists without any barriers. The trails that exist are primarily sidepaths adjacent to major roadways; however, these routes do not provide extensive connections.

Today's system is relatively limited and doesn't adequately serve the bicycle and pedestrian needs at the level necessary for a city of Lawton's size.

The existing shared use lanes use a combination of road signs and pavement markings to indicate bicycle facilities. Many of the roadways that have these facilities require maintenance to improve the pavement conditions and repainting of pavement markings, which will create a safer and more comfortable experience for bicyclists.



Lawton MPO 2018 Bicycle Route Brochure



Bike route within Elmer Thomas Park

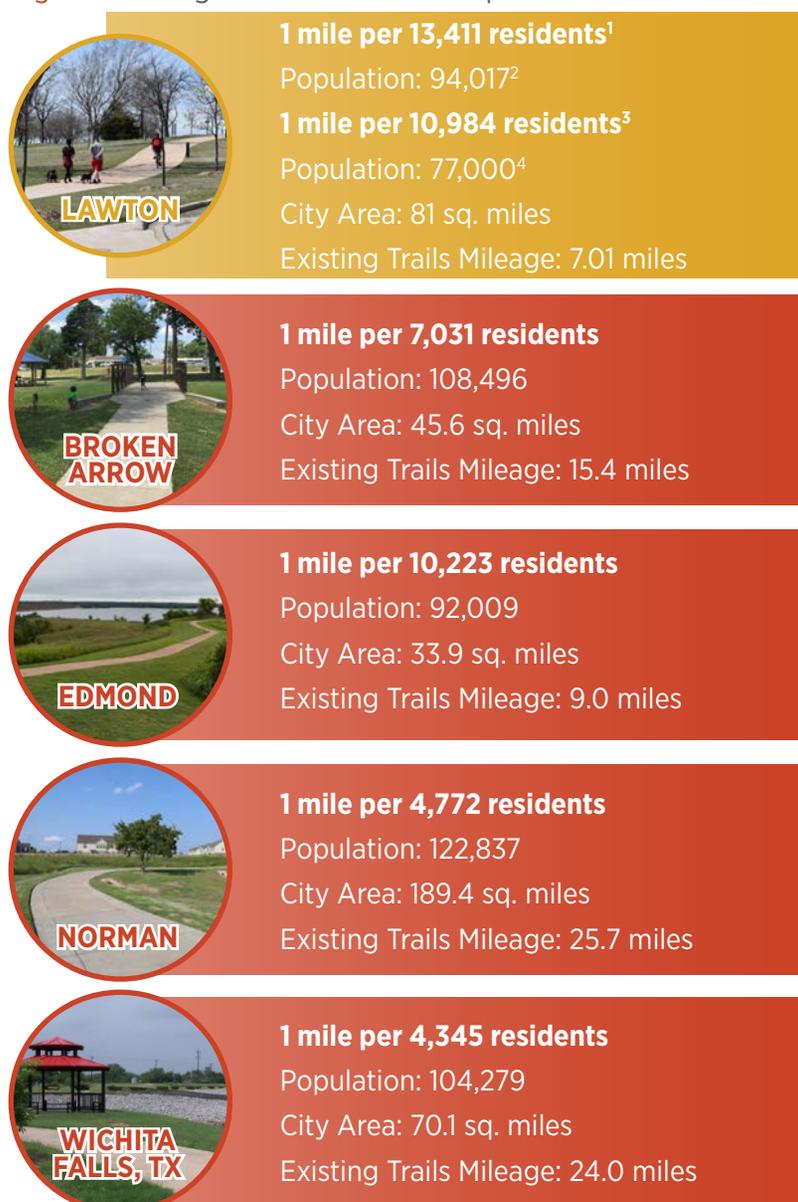
## REGIONAL BENCHMARKS

Level of service (LOS) is a ratio that compares the miles of trails in a community to the total population. When determining trail facility needs for Lawton it is advantageous to compare the existing system to those of peer communities.

Figure 6.2 compares the LOS of the five benchmark communities to Lawton. The benchmark cities were selected because they are comparable in size and development patterns to Lawton. A lower population-per-mile indicates there are more miles per capita in a city, resulting in a higher LOS. It is desirable to have a lower population-per-mile ratio as this indicates a higher level of service. Looking at the benchmark communities, Lawton has a higher population-per-mile ratio than the other cities, which indicates that these comparable communities have more expansive trail networks relative to their current population. Although this comparison is a great indicator of the expansiveness of a network it does not consider the overall condition or quality of trails.

Another benchmark used to determine trail LOS is the benchmark set by the NRPA for the median mileage of trails a city should maintain based on population ranges to best serve the community's recreation needs. Lawton falls into the population range of 50,000-99,999, which is identified as requiring 15 miles of trails to serve the community. Currently the City maintains a little over six miles of trail which is less than half the recommended mileage recommended to serve the needs of the community. Additionally, this low trail mileage is notable because Lawton is on the higher end of the population range; therefore, significantly more residents rely on the limited miles of trails than in a community on the lower end of the population range.

Figure 6.2 - Regional Benchmark Comparisons



<sup>1</sup>Trail LOS calculation uses 94,017 for the population  
<sup>2</sup>Population includes Lawton and Ft. Sill population.  
<sup>3</sup>Trail LOS calculation uses 77,000 for the population  
<sup>4</sup>Population figure uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone



Sidepath along Fort Sill Boulevard



Shared-use lane bicycle route identified with roadside signage



Paved off-street trail in Elmer Thomas Park



Born Learning Trail in Elmer Thomas Park



## OPPORTUNITIES & CONSTRAINTS ANALYSIS

When assessing the existing trails system and determining future corridors, it is important to first define the opportunities and constraints that currently exist. Constraints are barriers or features that will make it difficult to implement trails or bikeways. Opportunities represent features that the City can take advantage of or leverage to expand the trail and bikeway network. [Figure 6.3](#) depicts additional corridors that should be assessed for trail facilities in addition to what was already planned in the 2008 plan.

### Constraints

- Major intersections, highways, and railroads present connectivity barriers where there are typically unsafe crossing points.
- I-44 creates a significant east-west barrier that splits the city.
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) railroad creates a north-south and east-west barrier.
- The current system does not provide continuous routes to support commuting to key destinations.
- Existing facilities are primarily located in the central part of the city, with limited facilities elsewhere.
- Significant bridge structures will likely be necessary in some areas to cross natural features such as streams and creeks.
- The majority of existing bikeway facilities are shared-use lanes, which provide a low level of comfort and accessibility to some users.
- Many parts of Lawton are built-out, meaning it will be more difficult to come back and retrofit trail facilities along an existing roadway or within a developed area.

### Opportunities

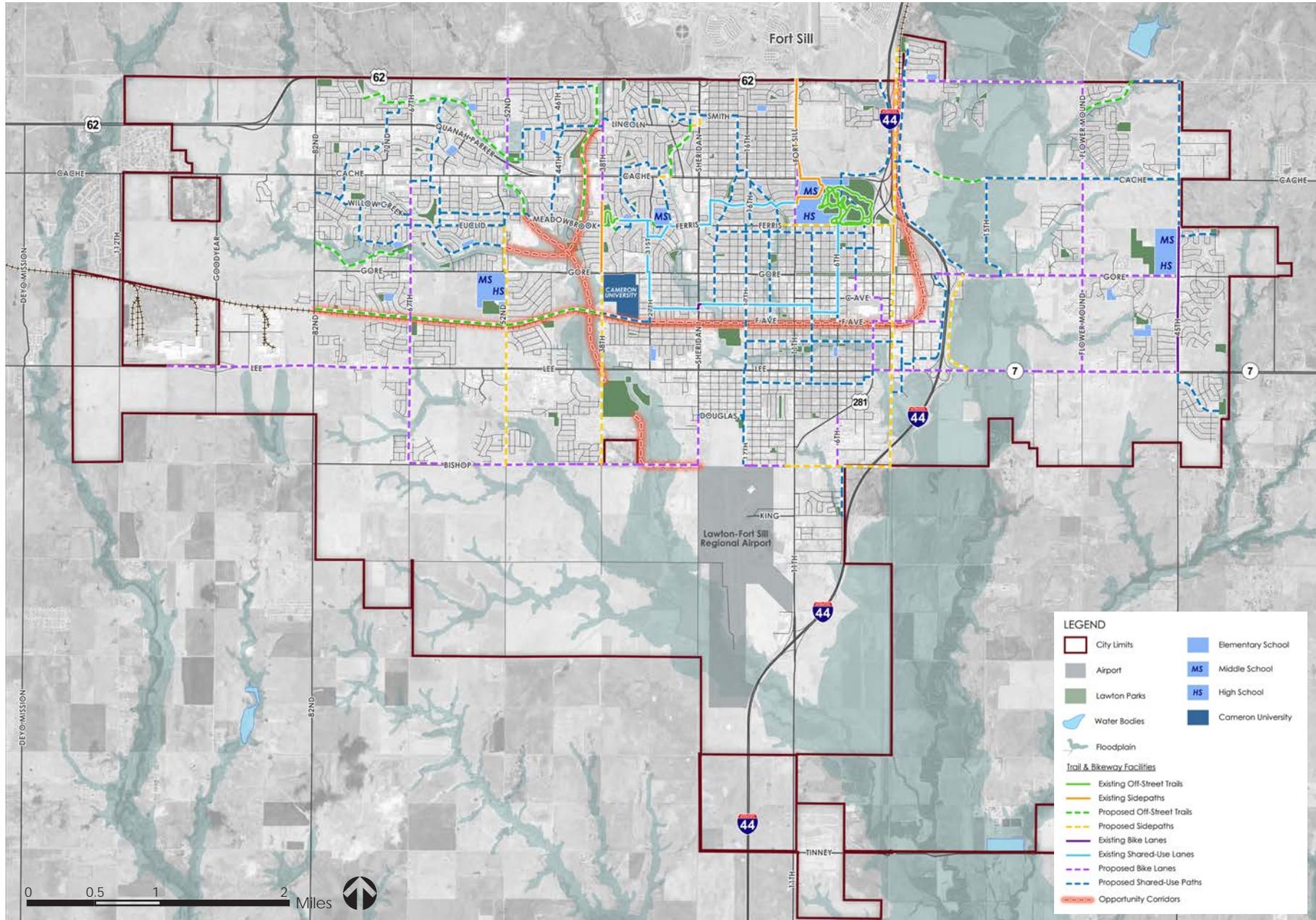
- Create more off-street trail connections that serve both recreation and mobility purposes.
- Utilize drainage corridors for off-street trails where feasible based on right-of-way and property ownership.
- Identify potential connections that fill in gaps in the current system.
- Expand current facilities to create a more comprehensive system for pedestrian and bicyclists.
- Further develop the trail and bikeway network to provide mobility and recreation opportunities.
- Create continuous north-south and east-west connections by utilizing greenbelts and railroad corridors.
- Supplement previous planning, which primarily proposes additional bicycle facilities with more trail facilities.

## OPPORTUNITY CORRIDORS

**Rails to Trail:** As shown in [Figure 6.3](#), a proposed corridor is shown along the railroad that runs adjacent to I-44 and then follows along F Ave to the western part of town. Although this is an active freight line, rail corridors represent great opportunities to integrate trails along the corridor. A 25' buffer is needed from the tracks to the trail, which appears to exist along most segments of the proposed corridor. Early and frequent coordination with the railroad would be needed to implement this corridor in the long-term.

**Wolf Creek:** The Wolf Creek greenbelt is an extensive area that connects several parks, including McMahan, Fred Bentley, and Meadowbrook parks. It also follows very closely to Cameron University and connects with other proposed trail corridors recommended in the 2008 plan. Implementation considerations for this corridor that should be further assessed include property ownership, right-of-way, and crossings with major roadways.

Figure 6.3 - Opportunities Map



## SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES

- Building off previous 2008 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.
- Utilize existing facilities such as rail corridors for future off-street multi-use trails.
- Utilize greenbelts for off-street trails that leverage the natural landscape of Lawton
- Create a wayfinding system for the trail and bikeway network to increase navigation and accessibility of the overall network.
- Look at opportunities to implement bridges where proposed off-street trails could provide increased connectivity.
- Partner with the Lawton Metropolitan Planning Organization (LMPO) for future feasibility studies to determine ideal locations for new trail and bikeway facilities.



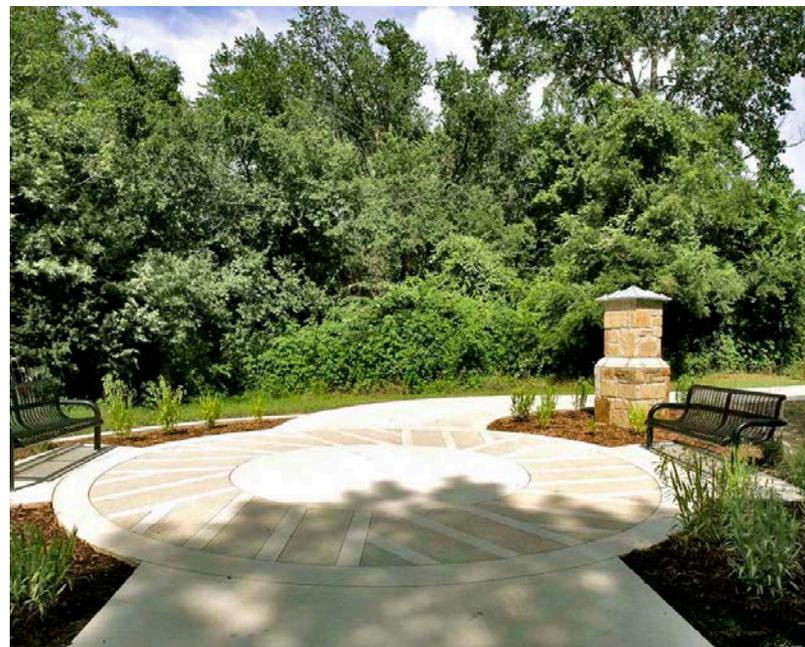
Example of a trail access point within a park



Example of a wayfinding map at the entrance of a multi-use trail



Example of a bridge along a multi-use trail facility



Example of a respite area along a trail



Example of vegetation incorporated along a trail



# 7 OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE

- Inventory of Maintenance Facilities
- Needs Assessment
- Summary of Key Themes

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on the operations and maintenance of the overall parks system. The other previous chapters detailed recommendations for amenities and additional facilities where appropriate; the operations and management of each of those areas is critical to ensure that parks and facilities remain in good condition. This chapter presents an assessment of existing maintenance facilities, discusses staffing and budget needs, and presents potential strategies for repurposing parks in the future.



## INVENTORY OF MAINTENANCE FACILITIES

There are two primary maintenance facilities used by the Parks and Recreation Department in Lawton – the Public Works Yard and the maintenance facility at Elmer Thomas Park. This section presents an assessment for the two existing facilities used for maintenance within the system today.

### PUBLIC WORKS YARD

#### *Facilities include:*

- Yard area and buildings total approximately 2.5 acres
- Three main buildings total 9,360 SF
- Two sheds for equipment protection
- One chemical storage building
- Yard area which is largely unpaved
- Shared yard and security gate with public works, staff parking is approximately 900 feet from buildings
- Location is on the south edge of the City

#### *Assessment:*

- All three main buildings are metal and in poor condition
- Yard area is largely unpaved which creates challenges for organization of equipment in yard
- There are inadequate indoor spaces for staff and staff support areas
- There are inadequate work areas, equipment storage and repair areas, and overall storage areas
- Open air sheds are in marginal condition

#### *Recommendations:*

Consideration should be given to do an in-depth study of needs of the department and develop a master plan for a new facility. The current facility would be difficult to modify to address issues facing the department. This would include a study to determine the best location to minimize staff travel time to job site locations. A new facility would allow staff to be more efficient in their work.



Covered storage for large equipment



One of the main buildings

## ELMER THOMAS PARK MAINTENANCE FACILITY

### *Facilities include:*

- Total Site is approximately 1.34 acres
- Facility is located adjacent to Elmer Thomas Park
- Approximately 50% of yard space is paved
- Yard is enclosed with a chain link fence
- The two main buildings are made of concrete one sizable metal building, and three sheds
- Spare parking is located directly south of facility across a road

### *Assessment:*

- Facility is well located adjacent to Elmer Thomas Park
- The two concrete structures are in good condition with five overhead doors
- The sheds are in marginal condition
- The sizable metal building is in sufficient shape
- Good location with excellent access
- Sufficient size for future use
- Could use better signage
- Suggest living screen around perimeter

### *Recommendations:*

- Remove marginal sheds
- Pave all yard area including entry from street
- Screen yard with living screen from highway and park. Living screens are walls designed to support plant life, integrating the natural environment into a structure that provides privacy.
- Keep for park maintenance use



Facility yard



Storage sheds



## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

This section reviews some key components related to parks operation and maintenance, including staffing and budget, maintenance modes, and potential park repurposing.

### STAFFING & BUDGET

As of 2021, the Parks and Recreation Department has 34 full-time equivalent employees (FTEs), of which 19 are focused solely on maintenance. The total number of Parks and Recreation Department employees translates to 3.6 FTEs per 10,000 residents. According to the NRPA, the average parks and recreation agency has 8.2 FTEs per 10,000 residents in 2021. This is a difference in approximately 43 FTE's between what Lawton has today and the national average based on the NRPA.

The Parks and Recreation Department maintains more than just public parkland. The department also mows medians, ROWs, and public facilities throughout the City, adding approximately 100 additional acres to mow.

The 2021-2022 budget for the Parks and Recreation Department is \$2.8M, of which 73% is used for the park maintenance and landscape maintenance divisions, as shown in Figure 7.1. Additionally, approximately 15% is dedicated to mowing. The maintenance costs per capita translates to \$21.69 and the cost per maintained acre is roughly \$2,559.01.

Table 7.1, on the following page, shows a comparison of these metrics for Lawton alongside peer communities. As depicted in the table, Lawton maintains more acres per 1,000 residents than the other Oklahoma communities, the overall maintenance budget is roughly on par with other communities, the maintenance cost per capita is less than other communities, and the number of maintenance employees is less. Overall, Lawton employees maintained the second highest number of acres of all the communities that were included in the assessment.

Figure 7.1 - FY 2021/2022 Adopted Budget for Parks & Recreation Department

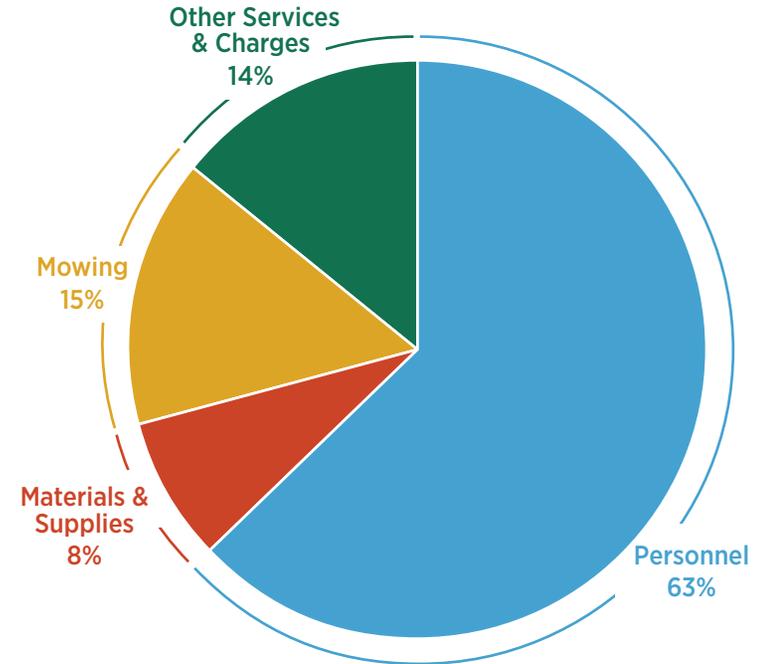


Table 7.1 - Maintenance Comparison to Area Cities

CITY	POPULATION	MAINTAINED ACREAGE	MAINTAINED ACREAGE PER CAPITA PER 1,000	PARK MAINTENANCE BUDGET	MAINTENANCE COSTS PER CAPITA	COST PER MAINTAINED ACRE	MAINTENANCE FTE'S	MAINTENANCE FTE'S PER CAPITA PER 1,000	MAINTAINED ACRES PER FTE
Lawton	94,017 <sup>1</sup>	797	8.48	\$2,039,534.00	\$21.69	\$2,559.01	19	0.20	41.95
Lawton	77,000 <sup>2</sup>	797	10.35	\$2,039,534.00	\$26.49	\$2,559.01	19	0.25	41.95
Norman	122,837	750	6.11	\$2,800,000.00	\$22.79	\$3,733.33	29.42	0.24	25.49
Edmond	92,009	700	7.61	\$1,925,000.00	\$20.92	\$2,750.00	15	0.16	46.67
Wichita Falls, TX	104,279	1,265	12.13	\$3,644,768.00	\$34.95	\$2,881.24	53.28	0.51	23.74
<b>Average</b>	<b>104,327.6</b>	<b>878</b>	<b>8.58</b>	<b>\$2,602,325.00</b>	<b>\$25.09</b>	<b>\$2,980.90</b>	<b>29.18</b>	<b>0.28</b>	<b>34.46</b>

<sup>1</sup>Population includes Lawton and Ft. Sill population.

<sup>2</sup>Population figure uses the 2019 population for the City of Lawton alone

City of Lawton Source: <https://www.lawtonok.gov/sites/default/files/publications/2020-06/COL%20Annual%20Budget%20FY%202020-2021.pdf>

City of Wichita Falls Source: [https://www.wichitafallstx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34886/AdoptedBudget\\_Final?bidId=](https://www.wichitafallstx.gov/DocumentCenter/View/34886/AdoptedBudget_Final?bidId=)

City of Norman Source: Wade Thompson, Parks Superintendent

City of Edmond Source: Gary Johnson, Parks Supervisor



## MAINTENANCE MODES

Depending on the type of park, the amenities found within parks will vary greatly. The associated level of maintenance required to maintain those different park types will also vary. Parks with more active amenities like sports fields require significantly more regular maintenance than a small park with just a playground. In order to get a better handle on what level of maintenance each park requires, the following maintenance modes were defined and applied to each of the existing parks (see [Table 7.2](#)).

**High Maintenance:** Regional, Community, or Neighborhood Parks with significant amenities that require regular maintenance, including mowing, emptying trash, and repairs.

**Medium Maintenance:** Neighborhood and Pocket Parks with fewer amenities requiring regular maintenance.

**Low Maintenance:** Neighborhood and Pocket Parks with minimal amenities requiring less routine maintenance.

Table 7.2 - Existing Parks by Maintenance Mode

PARK NAME	TYPE OF PARK	MAINTENANCE MODE	ACREAGE
35th Division	Neighborhood Park	High	3.00
Albert Johnson	Neighborhood Park	High	9.00
Almor West	Neighborhood Park	High	4.80
Butch Suttle	Neighborhood Park	High	3.50
Crystal Hills	Neighborhood Park	High	3.56
George N. Lee	Neighborhood Park	High	3.00
Fred Bentley	Neighborhood Park	High	8.50
Gray-Warr	Neighborhood Park	High	4.20
Gooch Acres	Neighborhood Park	High	3.50
Harmon	Neighborhood Park	High	4.54
Harold	Neighborhood Park	High	14.00
James Henderson	Neighborhood Park	High	7.41
Kathy Newcombe	Neighborhood Park	High	5.26
Lee West	Neighborhood Park	High	5.60
Lemuel Harkey	Neighborhood Park	High	5.04

Table 7.2 - Existing Parks by Maintenance Mode (continued)

PARK NAME	TYPE OF PARK	MAINTENANCE MODE	ACREAGE
Liberty Lake	Neighborhood Park	High	5.70
Mattie Beal	Neighborhood Park	High	6.40
Panther	Neighborhood Park	High	5.80
Patriot	Neighborhood Park	High	4.00
Prairie park	Neighborhood Park	High	9.36
Putney	Neighborhood Park	High	15.43
Skyline East	Neighborhood Park	High	4.60
Stephens	Neighborhood Park	High	10.37
Sullivan Village	Neighborhood Park	High	8.91
Verna Cook	Neighborhood Park	High	5.39
Walker Family Park	Neighborhood Park	High	2.20
Wayne Gilley	Neighborhood Park	High	8.50
Willow Creek	Neighborhood Park	High	5.38
Wilson	Neighborhood Park	High	1.50
Ahlschlager	Community Park	High	22.23

Table 7.2 - Existing Parks by Maintenance Mode (continued)

PARK NAME	TYPE OF PARK	MAINTENANCE MODE	ACREAGE
Eastside	Community Park	High	40.00
Grandview	Community Park	High	29.40
Greer	Community Park	High	14.50
Louis D. McMahon	Community Park	High	115.00
O. H. Arnold	Community Park	High	16.40
Elmer Thomas	Regional Park	High	167.00
Estelle Jones	Pocket Park	High	0.70
Bridge Park	Special Purpose Park	High	2.2
Shepler Square	Special Purpose Park	High	1.72
33rd Street	Neighborhood Park	Medium	1.40
Carroll	Neighborhood Park	Medium	1.60
Country Club West	Neighborhood Park	Medium	3.20
Clarence E. Soper	Neighborhood Park	Medium	1.80
Garden Village	Neighborhood Park	Medium	2.40
Eva McNally	Neighborhood Park	Medium	1.40



Table 7.2 - Existing Parks by Maintenance Mode (continued)

PARK NAME	TYPE OF PARK	MAINTENANCE MODE	ACREAGE
Great Plains	Neighborhood Park	Medium	1.80
Hunter Hills	Neighborhood Park	Medium	2.10
Meadowbrook	Neighborhood Park	Medium	4.20
Mocine	Neighborhood Park	Medium	2.17
Park Ridge Park	Neighborhood Park	Medium	4.88
Ramada	Neighborhood Park	Medium	9.70
Southside	Neighborhood Park	Medium	2.23
Toby Morris	Neighborhood Park	Medium	2.40
Tomlinson	Neighborhood Park	Medium	4.00
Turtle Creek	Neighborhood Park	Medium	1.80
Union	Neighborhood Park	Medium	2.50
Woodland Hills	Neighborhood Park	Medium	12.30
Charlie Ray	Pocket Park	Medium	0.43
Lawton Heights	Pocket Park	Medium	0.45
Olson	Pocket Park	Medium	0.86

Table 7.2 - Existing Parks by Maintenance Mode (continued)

PARK NAME	TYPE OF PARK	MAINTENANCE MODE	ACREAGE
Patterson	Pocket Park	Medium	1.30
Waldam	Pocket Park	Medium	0.45
Allan-A-Dale	Pocket Park	Low	1.90
Baltimore	Neighborhood Park	Low	2.00
Francis Curb	Neighborhood Park	Low	3.00
MacArthur	Neighborhood Park	Low	2.89
Atlanta	Pocket Park	Low	0.80
Country Club Heights	Neighborhood Park	N/A	5.90
Sungate	Neighborhood Park	N/A	6.60
Terrace Hills	Neighborhood Park	N/A	4.35
Vernon Addition	Neighborhood park	N/A	1.66
B. O. Davis*	Pocket Park	N/A	1.40
Military	Pocket Park	N/A	0.10
Gore Median Park	Special Purpose Park	N/A	14.70

\*B. O. Davis Park is not currently maintained by Parks & Grounds Department.

By combining the parks maintenance budget with the designated maintenance mode for each park, we are able to determine the approximate maintenance cost for each type.

**High Maintenance Parks** account for **587.57 total acres** and represent a total approximate maintenance cost of **\$1.66M per year**. This translates to approximately \$2,826 spent on maintenance per acre for this type of park.

**Average size of park: 15.07 acres**

**Medium Maintenance Parks** account for **65.4 total acres** and represent a total approximate maintenance cost of **\$250K per year**. This translates to approximately \$3,865 spent on maintenance per acre for this type of park.

**Average size of park: 2.85 acres**

**Low Maintenance Parks** account for **10.6 total acres** and represent a total approximate maintenance cost of **\$21,000 per year**. This translates to approximately \$2,003 spent on maintenance per acre for this type of park.

**Average size of park: 2.11 acres**

Based on the 2021 NRPA Agency Performance Review, the typical agency with a population similar to Lawton spends \$3,852 per acre of parkland on park maintenance. As shown through this analysis, the amount spent per park acre in Lawton ranges from \$2,003 for low maintenance parks to \$3,865 for medium maintenance parks, with an average amount spent per acre of \$2,331. **Therefore, Lawton should aim to increase the maintenance spent by approximately \$1,520 per acre to be on par with national benchmarks or reduce the acreage they are required to maintain.**



Tennis courts and Mattie Beal Park in need of resurfacing



Existing facilities in Elmer Thomas Park need of refreshed pavement markings

## PARK REPURPOSING

As evidenced by the analysis of the different maintenance needs of the various parks in Lawton, there are a substantial number of small parks resulting in significant area to maintain throughout the City. One objective of this master plan was to establish an objective process to look at park sites to potentially repurpose. Repurposing parkland could mean the following:

- The land is sold by the City and is developed as something else; or,
- Any existing amenities are removed from the site and the land remains as open space; or,
- Ownership of the site is transferred to a neighborhood association of HOA to take over maintenance of the site.

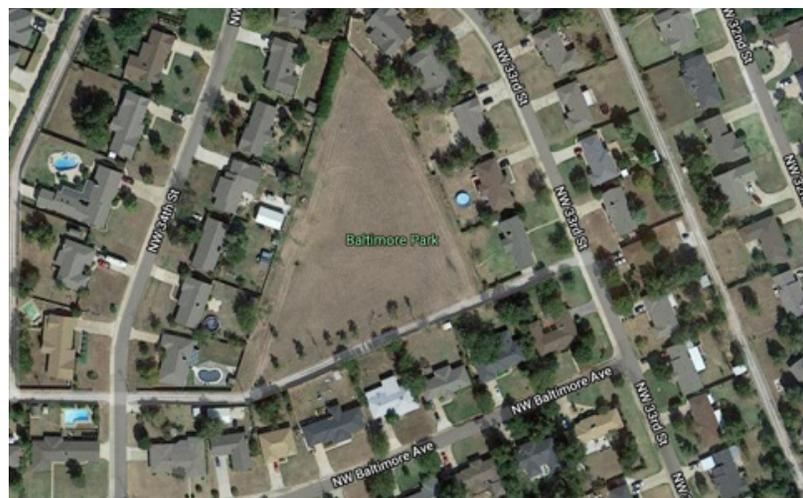
A set of objective criteria has been established to assess each of the existing parks and their potential to be repurposed in the future. Best management practices for parks and recreation operations and maintenance were used to develop the criteria and they were vetted by staff and the Steering Committee through this process.

## CRITERIA

**Number of People Served:** The Trust for Public Land (TPL) calculates the number of people served by a single park based on the most recent American Community Survey (ACS) population data. The service area for each park represents the 10-minute walkshed area. The number of people served by a single park in Lawton ranges from a low of 46 residents to a peak of 3,284 residents. For the purposes of this exercise, parks that serve a lower number of people would more likely be a candidate for potential repurposing.

**Estimate of Park Usage:** Park usage is an important indicator to represent how many people actually make use of the facility. This can be a hard factor to measure, but park maintenance employees who visit the parks routinely are able to get a good sense of park usage based on wear patterns in the grass and playground surfaces, how often the trash needs to be emptied, and how often the playground fill needs to be replaced. For the purposes of this exercise, parks that have a lower estimate of usage would more likely be a candidate for potential repurposing.

**Park Access/Security:** Access to parks is another important component of quality parks. There are some parks within Lawton that are not easily accessible due to being completely surrounded by houses or not having adequate roadway frontage to access the park. This poses issues related to safe access as well as security; if there are no cars driving by a park and it is well hidden, there is a greater threat for criminal activity to occur. For the purposes of this exercise, parks that have poor access would more likely be a candidate for potential repurposing.



Limited access to Baltimore Park from surrounding streets

**Overlap in Park Service Area:** The park service area used for this analysis is the TPL’s 10-minute walkshed area. In certain areas of the city, where there are several small parks located in close proximity, the service areas of multiple parks overlap. This indicates that there is more parkland that what is needed to serve those areas. Figure 4.4 on page 44 depicts the city-wide 10-minute walkshed coverage. Overall, 64 out of 74 total parks have an overlap in park service area. For the purposes of this exercise, parks whose service areas overlap with other parks would more likely be a candidate for potential repurposing.



Overlap in park service in this area of the city

**Number of Amenities:** The number of amenities varies within each park; larger parks like Elmer Thomas and the athletic complexes have a significant number of amenities while smaller neighborhood and pocket parks may just have a playground or benches. A score of 1-4 was applied to this criterion based on how many active and passive amenities are currently located within the park. For the purposes of this exercise, parks with few passive and active amenities would more likely be a candidate for potential repurposing.



Picnic tables at O. H. Arnold Park



Existing playground equipment

**Condition of Playgrounds:** The final criterion is based on the physical condition of the playground, if there is one within the park. There are a number of playground structures within Lawton that are functionally obsolete, meaning that parts are not readily available for replacement or they are outdated in terms of safety standards. A score of good, moderate, or poor was applied to each park based on the physical condition of the playground. For the purposes of this exercise, parks with playgrounds in poor condition would more likely be a candidate for potential repurposing.



## RESULTS

Each park in the existing system was given a score based on these criteria to produce an overall ranking. The parks were then divided into three tiers based on their final score. Tier I represents parks with the highest score indicating that these parks are least likely to be repurposed. Tier II represents parks that scored in the middle of the rankings and should be targeted for improvements

in the future. Finally, Tier III represents the parks that scored the lowest based on the objective ranking and should be considered by leadership on a case by case basis if they should be repurposed.

Figure 7.2 depicts the tiered ranking list of all the existing parks and Table 7.3 shows a breakdown of the ranking by Council Ward.

Figure 7.2- Overall Ranking of Parks



\*Estimated. When using best practices established by the NRPA.  
\*\*B. O. Davis Park is not currently maintained by Parks & Grounds Department.

Table 7.3 - Ranking by Council Ward

COUNCIL WARD	TOTAL # OF PARKS	TIER I	TIER II	TIER III	% OF PARKS IN TIER III
Ward 1	10	2	5	3	30%
Ward 2	13	6	2	5	38%
Ward 3	5	1	2	2	40%
Ward 4	6	2	2	2	33%
Ward 5	11	6	1	4	36%
Ward 6	8	4	5	1	13%
Ward 7	14	4	5	5	36%
Ward 8	7	2	3	2	29%
Total	74	27	25	24	36%

## NEXT STEPS

The results of this park repurposing analysis is based on an objective analysis and should be updated each year to reflect any changes within the park system. The results should be used by City Council, Parks & Recreation Commission, and staff to make informed decisions moving forward regarding any potential park repurposing. Coordination with legal and planning departments will be required to determine legal disposition options of properties.



Aging playground equipment



## USE OF THIRD-PARTY VENDORS FOR MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

While third-party facility management has been a successful model for numerous larger communities for years, a recent trend has seen more and more communities beginning to seek public private partnerships to enhance their parks and recreation programming. Communities that have successfully outsourced their parks and recreation departments have seen the following benefits:

- Higher resident activation
- More diverse programming
- Better talent acquisition and retention
- Better bottom-line performance

Additional advantages to employing this strategy may include reduced workload for overtaxed staff and allowing staff to focus on a reduced number of tasks/priorities. The responsibility of interviewing, hiring and scheduling seasonal referees/umpires is delegated to the third party. Typically, the vendor is responsible for day-to-day maintenance of facilities (mowing, irrigation, league play prep), with the City only being responsible for significant infrastructure maintenance and repairs, reducing the number of resources needed.

Potential disadvantages to consider include the perception of giving up control of the how leagues are operated and the quality of facility and field maintenance. These items can be overcome with a properly structured agreement. Another consideration is how to properly educate residents to an unfamiliar operations model. If they do not understand the new structure, complaints and inquires may feel dismissed or passed on when contacting the parks and recreation department and directed to contact a third party.

Like outsourcing facility management, communities should seek partners to operate recreation leagues that allow for them to maintain full transparency and control while providing access to increased operational capabilities and efficiencies.

## SUMMARY OF KEY THEMES

- Several deficiencies were identified in the existing maintenance facilities; these improvements should be made to increase efficiency in the overall department.
- Lawton is performing slightly worse than peer cities as it relates to maintained acres per capita, maintenance cost per capita, cost per maintained acre, maintenance FTE per capita, and maintained acres by FTE. These metrics should be regularly reviewed and updated to reflect any changes within the parks system.
- Today Lawton has 3.6 FTEs per 10,000 residents, which is below the nationwide average of 8.2 FTEs per 10,000 residents. The City should aim to increase the FTE per 10,000 resident target to reduce the burden on individual staff members.
- Fifteen percent of the total annual department budget goes towards mowing. The City should assess the opportunity to contract mowing to free up maintenance staff to focus on other park and facility maintenance issues.
- The majority of park acreage within Lawton requires a high level of maintenance. Standard procedures for the three different maintenance modes (high, medium, low) should be developed to streamline maintenance efforts.
- Lawton spends approximately \$1,520 less per park acre on maintenance each year than the national benchmark, resulting in several parks with maintenance issues.
- The park repurposing analysis found that 85.9 acres of parkland could be potentially repurposed based on the objective scoring criteria. The results of the analysis should be used to determine next steps for these properties. An additional 14.1 acres of parkland may be considered as well to meet the benchmark of reducing parkland by approximately 100 acres identified by the City.

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

There are several best management practices (BMPs) related to park maintenance that Lawton could employ to be more effective and efficient. The BMPs that should be explored include, but are not limited to, the following:

- **Staff Certifications:** Staff should continue to pursue specialized certifications such as Certified Playground Safety Inspector, Certified Professional Turf Manager, Licensed Irrigator and Certified Arborist.
- **Grow Zones:** The City could establish designated areas within parks that are mowed only a few times a year to reduce cost of mowing and establish areas for native grasses and wildflowers.
- **Work Order Track:** There are software solutions that can help streamline preventative maintenance, work scheduling, equipment lifecycle tracking, and other features.
- **Centralized Controls:** There are a number of systems that could be managed by a central control in one location, saving staff time and money by not having to go out to individual parks to make a change or fix a system. Systems that could be automated through a centralized or integrated control include irrigation access (e.g. time locks for restrooms), and sports lighting.
- **Energy Conservation:** Where possible, older lighting technologies should be replaced with LED lighting to save on energy costs.
- **Vegetation:** Utilize treatments and herbicides to reduce mowing and weeding needs. Plant native grasses and wildflowers to support natural habitats and ecosystems.



Example of a park trash and recycling receptacles



Example of a no mow area along a park trail



Example of contract mowing to help with park maintenance



# 8

## RECOMMENDATIONS

- Goal 1 - Park Access
- Goal 2 - Park Amenities
- Goal 3 - Sports & Athletics
- Goal 4 - Recreation Facilities & Programs

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the recommendations for each of the seven plan goal categories. There are subsequent objectives with related action items for the goals. Actions were developed to be measurable steps the city can utilize to achieve the intent of the goals and address concerns and opportunities observed through the needs assessment phase of the plan process and the input provided by the public and key stakeholders.

- Goal 5 - System Connectivity
- Goal 6 - Maintenance
- Goal 7 - Service Delivery
- Overall System Recommendations





## GOAL 1 - PARK ACCESS

***Promote equitable access to parks throughout the City for existing and future residents.***

Park space is a critical component to enhancing the overall quality of life in a community. More importantly, a community needs to provide appropriate park accessibility to its residents. The presence of parks provides health, economic and safety benefits that extend through the community for the residents. Studies done by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) and the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) have found that parks, especially those accessible by sidewalks, trails, or bikeways, positively impact the health of residents by providing increased opportunities for recreation.

Today, 64% of Lawton residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, according to the TPL ParkServe analysis, which is greater than the national average of 55%. The overall park system service area map on page 44 illustrates the 10-minute park walksheds, generated based on access to existing parks, indicating where there are gaps in service as well as overlaps in service coverage. As shown in the map, parks are not evenly distributed throughout the City, most parks are located in the north central part of the City; therefore, while the percentage of residents that are served is high, park accessibility is not provided equitably city-wide.

Park accessibility can also be measured by the type of programming available within a park, for example a park space can support active or passive recreation opportunities. Implementing a variety of passive and active recreation amenities throughout Lawton parks will increase accessibility and diversity in park facilities and programming to better meet the needs and interests of residents. A large part of accessibility is effectively spreading awareness about the

overall park system and the amenities and programs that are available. Increased awareness can be achieved through establishing a systemwide brand that creates an identity and promotes familiarity for current and future users.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to park access can be found; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to ensure equitable park accessibility is provided to Lawton residents today and in the future.



Lawton YMCA

**Objective 1.1: Prioritize improving existing park space and developing undeveloped park acreage.**

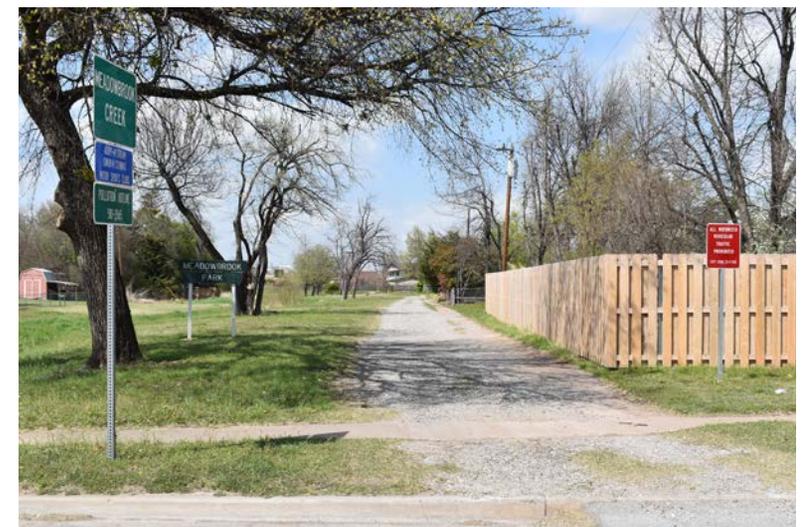
Lawton currently maintains 74 parks varying in size and range of amenities offered. With abundant parkland, both developed and undeveloped, there is opportunity for the City to prioritize improvements or expansion to existing parks to provide an increased level of service and access to recreational opportunities. These improvements should reflect the interests of the community as well as incorporate latest park and recreation trends. In existing parks, the age, quality, and level of need met by existing amenities should be evaluated to determine necessary improvements to create a more accessible, safe, and enjoyable park space. In parks where there is undeveloped acreage the City should consider developing programming that will fill the gap in service for unmet outdoor recreation demands and interests.

**Action 1.1.1** – Evaluate current park access points to determine those in need of improvements and where new access points are needed to create a more welcoming and accessible entrance to the park space.

Physical access to a park space is an important element to making a park welcoming and easily accessible to the community. Poor access to a park is primarily caused by lack of street frontage; consequently, the park space is difficult to find and creates an environment where users may feel unsafe. Additionally, barriers such as streams and creeks, buildings, and unmaintained footpaths can contribute to insufficient access. An evaluation of current access points into parks should be conducted to determine if new or additional access points are needed and where to implement them. Providing safe and convenient entrances to parks will create greater visibility of the overall park system and encourage more users to visit parks that were previously inaccessible or increase awareness of previously unknown park spaces.



Existing playground equipment



Access point into Meadowbrook Park



**Action 1.1.2** – Make strategic expansions to existing parks where feasible to create park spaces that serve the community at large.

The City of Lawton owns several parcels of land throughout the city, some of which are adjacent to existing park spaces. Strategic expansions to existing parks could most easily be achieved by utilizing land that the City already possesses rather than going through the process of land acquisition. Parks that are ideal candidates for expansion are those that currently provide necessary recreational services and through expansion would reach a larger portion of the community. Park expansion candidates also present the potential to support new park amenities that do not exist in Lawton today. Additional feasibility studies would need to be conducted to determine where park expansion would be most appropriate and beneficial for overall park accessibility.

**Action 1.1.3** – Regularly review parkland dedication requirements to support equitable access to park space.

Lawton’s park dedication policy is found in the City’s Code of Ordinances as part of the subdivision design standards. Under this section a developer has three options:

1. **Dedicate land for public park and recreation purposes;**
2. **Make an equivalent monetary contribution in lieu of land dedication, or;**
3. **Dedicate land to a homeowner’s association (HOA) to be used as private parkland.**

The funds collected from applicants that choose the fee in lieu alternative are held in a Park Fee Fund to be used exclusively for the purchasing of land and improvements to any public park within the service area of the subdivisions from which the funds were derived.

The City should conduct a review of its current dedication regulation standards to ensure it reflects existing park service needs. Adjustments to parkland dedication requirements should consider the park types the City needs most, where there is the greatest park service need, and the condition and quality of existing park amenities. For Lawton the best management of parkland dedication would be using fees to address maintenance issues, which would provide enhanced park service without increasing the amount of parkland the City will be required to maintain in the future.

***Objective 1.2 : Improve public awareness of existing parks and recreation facilities.***

Lack of public awareness of the existing park and recreation facilities can lead to underutilization and create the perception that there is unmet demand within the park system. Increasing public awareness can be achieved through stronger coordination between city departments to better share information and develop a brand for the overall parks and recreation system. Establishing a systemwide brand will allow residents and visitors to easily identify and navigate to park and recreation facilities. Additionally, brand recognition will support future advertising efforts for park events, activities, and programs. To better understand what outreach methods are most effective, the City should make public input opportunities available to learn what new or additional advertising methods to implement in the future.

**Action 1.2.1** – Establish park system branding to better identify park locations, amenities, and recreation facilities.

Park system branding is a great way to develop an identity for the system which increases visibility for new and current users. An established brand becomes recognizable to both residents and visitors and can be used as a form of advertisement for the City. Park branding should be unique to Lawton’s character and history, as well as be consistently implemented throughout the system to increase legibility and assist in navigation between various park amenities and programs. As parks are enhanced throughout the City, incorporating branded signage and other stylistic elements should be prioritized to emphasize the quality of Lawton’s park and recreation system.

**Action 1.2.2** – Promote spaces within parks that support community events occurring seasonally or annually.

Promoting parks as locations for community events presents the opportunity to increase awareness of the parks available in Lawton. Activating park spaces on a seasonal or annual basis creates consistent circumstances attracting residents and visitors from surrounding communities to engage with Lawton parks. Instituting events that are unique to the City and occur throughout the year will bolster the identity of the park system, especially if events are diverse and meet the interests of the community at large.

**Action 1.2.3** – Explore new methods of outreach to the community to communicate parks and recreation amenities, programs, and activities.

The best way for a community to stay informed about available amenities, programs, and activities within a parks and recreation system is through effective public outreach. This is accomplished by exploring methods that are innovative and reach the broadest audience. Coordination with Lawton’s Community Relations department should occur to identify new methods to disseminate information about ongoing and upcoming events, programs, and activities within parks and recreation facilities. Outreach methods can range from posting information at parks and recreation facilities to utilizing online resources such as the City website or social media pages.



Park branding in Prosper, Texas

**Objective 1.3 : Promote diversity in park and recreation opportunities to support community interests.**

To best serve the community it is critical that a city provides park and recreation options that align with the needs and interests of its residents. Park and recreation facilities within Lawton should incorporate passive and active recreation demand distributed throughout the park system. As a community with a large portion of the population between 20-40 years old there is a wide range of interests from those with young children who utilize playgrounds and youth sports to individuals that are active and depend on parks for exercise and social gatherings. Park classifications play a key role in balancing active and passive recreation opportunities as each park type has specified amenities and programming that have been determined suitable based on park size and location. Additionally, including amenities and programming that does not exist today, indicated by user demand and interests, would further diversify park and recreation offerings in the City.

**Action 1.3.1** – Explore shared-use agreements with local and regional entities such as Lawton Public Schools, Cameron University, Fort Sill, and YMCA to provide public access to recreation areas throughout the community

There are several local and regional entities that currently provide recreation opportunities to Lawton residents either through memberships or affiliation. The City should explore the use of shared-use agreements to allow for these spaces to be accessible to the community at large. Shared-use agreements are partnerships formed between the City and another public or private entity to allow the

use of recreation facilities by the general public in an agreed upon capacity that benefits both partners. Utilizing shared-use agreements can help fill in gaps in park service, particularly unmet recreational demand through access to new recreation amenities and facilities. Many communities have pursued shared-use agreements with school districts as schools typically have outdoor recreation amenities such as playgrounds and sports fields.



Enclosed playground at Elmer Thomas Park

Table 8.1 - Summary Table of Goal 1: Park Access

<b>Goal Statement: Promote equitable access to parks throughout the City for existing and future residents.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 1.1: Prioritize improving existing park space and developing undeveloped park acreage.</b>		108
1.1.1	Evaluate current park access points to determine those in need of improvements and where new access points are needed to create a more welcoming and accessible entrance to the park space.	108
1.1.2	Make strategic expansions to existing parks where feasible to create park space that serve the community at large.	109
1.1.3	Regularly review parkland dedication requirements to support equitable park space.	109
<b>Objective 1.2: Improve public awareness of existing parks and recreation facilities.</b>		109
1.2.1	Establish park system branding to better identify park locations, amenities, and recreation facilities.	110
1.2.2	Promote spaces within parks that support community events occurring seasonally or annually.	110
1.2.3	Explore new methods of outreach to the community to communicate about parks and recreation amenities, programs, and activities.	110
<b>Objective 1.3: Promote diversity in park and recreation opportunities to support community interests.</b>		111
1.3.1	Explore shared-use agreements with local and regional entities such as Lawton Public Schools, Cameron University, Fort Sill, and YMCA to provide public access to recreation areas throughout the community.	111

*Note: please see page 165 for additional details on the above actions items.*



## GOAL 2 - PARK AMENITIES

***Provide park and recreation amenities and services for the community to enjoy a clean and safe park environment creating multiple opportunities to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.***

The provision of park amenities is a primary goal of a complete park system, and these amenities should be safe, well-maintained, and meet the needs and interests of the community being served. Park amenities largely contribute to making parks a space that positively impact the overall quality of life of a community by providing resources that support healthy lifestyles. For many communities, park amenities require updates or improvements, often because they do not meet safety standards or current park and recreation trends. The City should strategically identify parks with amenities that are in the greatest need of upgrades or enhancements. By addressing amenity improvements over time parks will better serve residents and overall park usage will increase without needing to expand existing parks or developing new park space.

As discussed in previous chapters, part of this plan's development included a statistically valid survey conducted by ETC Institute, which identified priorities for facility and amenity investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) developed by ETC Institute is a tool used to measure priorities for park and recreation investments based on two factors determined by residents, importance of amenities and facilities compared to unmet need or demand. The amenities and programs designated as high priority based on PIR for outdoor recreation should be incorporated into park spaces where feasible.

This plan established five park types – regional parks, community parks, neighborhood parks, special purpose parks, and pocket parks – to inform design, safety, and amenity standards that are appropriate for parks based on size and amenity offerings. Determining the amenities and programs most suitable for each park classification should be based on the following principles:

- Parks should include passive elements contributing to a clean and comfortable environment;
- Active amenities and programming should support recreation to the intensity permitted by the size of a park; and,
- All amenities should be maintained equitably, based on park size, to ensure safety for park users.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to park amenities can be found; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to ensure equitable park amenities are provided in Lawton today and in the future.

**Objective 2.1: Deliver accessible and inclusive park and recreation amenities that serve users of all ages and abilities.**

Parks best serve a community when they provide amenities that meet the needs and interests of patrons of all ages and abilities. Creating an environment where all residents are presented the opportunity to recreate in parks positively impacts the health and lifestyle of the community and is a long-lasting investment to the City's quality of life. Delivering accessible and inclusive amenities is not limited to users with a physical disability but includes individuals with development delays, sensory limitations, cultural interests, and different age groups. As parks are intended to serve the public at large it is crucial that the needs and interests of residents are addressed through diversification of available amenities, programs, and sports that creates an environment where users feel safe and comfortable.



ADA accessible playground equipment

**Action 2.1.1 – Provide inclusive play equipment and recreation opportunities in parks where feasible.**

Providing outdoor recreation options that address the needs of users of all abilities is an essential responsibility of park and recreation services provided by the City. Implementing inclusive play equipment and recreation opportunities allows children, parents, and caregivers to enjoy a park space regardless of physical, mental, or sensory abilities. Cities nationwide have increasingly explored integrating inclusive play into new and existing park spaces to create a greater level of outdoor recreation service for residents and visitors. The City should determine parks where it would be feasible to incorporate inclusive play equipment as well as community partnerships to help realize efforts toward inclusive recreation.



Inclusive play equipment in a park in Grand Prairie, Texas

**Action 2.1.2** – Allow greater accessibility to play equipment by prioritizing protective, shock-absorbing play surfacing and even transitions on and off equipment.

The materials used when developing and updating programmed spaces within parks can significantly improve the safety and comfort users experience and make amenities more accessible. Specifically, surfaces implemented within play areas should provide smooth transitions to reduce tripping hazards and other navigation difficulties for wheeled mobility devices. Utilizing materials that are shock-absorbing will reduce the number of injuries experienced by users, cultivating a safer play environment. The City should carefully consider material selection options when developing and updating park spaces in the future to provide enjoyable, accessible, and safe user experiences.



Example of a playground with shock-absorbing surface

**Action 2.1.3** – Ensure passive amenities like paths, benches, tables, and drinking fountains meet current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.

Passive amenities are an essential part of parks as they contribute to the level of comfort users experience within park spaces. To best serve all users these amenities should follow the most current standards set by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines. ADA compliance includes design amenities like benches and drinking fountains in a manner that are accessible to users of all abilities. The City should develop an ADA Transition Plan for existing park amenities to determine where improvements should be prioritized and ensure ADA standards be met in the future.



Access to the playground area is not currently ADA accessible

**Objective 2.2: Provide diverse park and recreation amenities that offer multiple recreation opportunities at each park/facility.**

Parks should be designed in a manner that addresses a range of recreation preferences through availability of amenities and facilities. Rather than prioritizing a single use, park space should accommodate a multitude of uses to serve a larger portion of the population. For example, many of Lawton’s community parks have sports and athletic fields utilized by youth sports leagues, which means that many families visit these parks for practices and tournaments. Therefore, providing additional amenities like playgrounds and picnic facilities for visitors not participating in the sporting event would be better served. Diversification of amenities and facilities available within a single park space reduces the need for extensive parkland that is dedicated to singular services or programming.

**Action 2.2.1 – Design park and recreation facility amenities to respond to demographic, cultural, and neighborhood needs.**

Diversity in park amenities should consider the demographic, cultural, and neighborhood needs of the area surrounding a park space. Lawton’s population has become increasingly diverse over the past 20 years and will presumably follow this trend in the future. As demographics and neighborhood compositions are anticipated to change in the future this will entail a new set of demand and interests that will need to be addressed by park amenities and facilities. Providing adequate park amenities can be achieved through partnering with cultural organizations and neighborhood groups in the city to better understand the specific needs of residents.



Splash Pad at Elmer Thomas Park



Skate park within McMahon Park

**Action 2.2.2** – Distribute a variety of park amenities throughout Lawton to create a balance between active and passive recreation opportunities and access.

Park spaces should be developed and maintained in a manner that provides a balance between natural open space supporting leisure activities and passive programming with active recreation spaces that are more heavily programmed and support amenities such as athletic fields. Balancing passive and active amenities throughout parks in a city create a comprehensive park and recreation system that best meets the recreation needs and demands of the community. Developing a system that provides a diverse range of park and recreation opportunities reaches interests of a broader swath of the population both locally and regionally, especially when implementing new and trending amenities and programs into the system.

**Action 2.2.3** – Activate parks and facilities through vibrant programs, events, and recreation opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.

Creating spaces that support a variety of programs, events, and activities that activate parks throughout the year is a great way to provide opportunities for Lawton residents to engage with parks. Variety in the types of recreation opportunities hosted in parks will cast the largest net in terms of addressing the interests of the entire community. A key part of activating parks is ensuring that visitors of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds feel welcome and are able to participate.



Preserved natural landscape for passive recreation



Concert in the park

**Objective 2.3: Establish consistent and equitable amenities throughout the park system.**

As defined in Chapter 4, there are five park classifications that are characterized by size, recreation offerings, and level of service. Just as these parks differ in size, they also have varying capacities for the types of amenities that they can support. For example, neighborhood parks are intended to serve the immediate surrounding area and tend to be one of the smaller types of parks whereas regional parks are expansive and can host a variety of amenities that serve the entire city as well as surrounding communities. The differences illustrated in this example conclude that park types cannot be measured against one another as this would not accurately indicate how well a park serves the community. The City should consider developing a list of standard amenities specific to each park classification to ensure that amenities are distributed in a manner that is equitable and consistent across the city.

**Action 2.3.1** – Implement a palette of standard park amenities at parks based on the typologies outlined in the master plan.

For each of the park typologies a defined palette for park standards and amenities should be implemented to create consistency in park service and create parks that are equitable in the opportunities they present to the community. The five park classifications identified in this plan are designated to serve different recreational purposes based on the incorporation of amenities within the available park space; therefore, the standards developed should reflect the active and passive recreation options suitable for each park type. As the City implements park amenities standards, existing parks should be maintained and updated, and future parks should be developed to comply with the established amenities palette.



Playground equipment at McMahon Park



Playground equipment at Greer Park

**Objective 2.4: Design parks to achieve optimum safety and attractiveness while reflecting the character of the surrounding community.**

The design standards established for parks should emphasize creating spaces that are both safe and attractive to users. A key component of successful park design is reflecting the character of a community to enhance city identity. One of the most integral components to creating a safe and welcoming park environment is prioritizing existing maintenance needs and organizing regular maintenance schedules for amenities and facilities. To further create spaces in which users feel safe, the City should explore implementing strategies that have been practiced effectively in communities locally, regionally, and nationally, which aim to deter crime in public spaces such as parks. Showcasing the character and culture of Lawton into parks can be realized by incorporating local art projects and programs drawing inspiration from the history and identity of the community and its residents.

**Action 2.4.1 – Address deferred maintenance projects and improve facility conditions by implementing an asset replacement plan and associated funding.**

The most significant action that can be taken towards creating safe and attractive parks is addressing maintenance issues that have been deferred. One strategy the City can utilize is establishing an asset replacement plan to identify the park amenities and facilities in the greatest need of being updated. This plan involves inventorying current park assets and determining prioritization of maintenance improvements or replacement which will inform future budgeting decisions and the potential need to pursue funding options.

**Action 2.4.2 – Employ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies to reduce the incidence and fear of crime/undesired activities while improving community vitality and overall quality of life.**

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is an approach towards deterring crime and undesired activities in public spaces through design elements. This design strategy uses several principles to achieve safe, crime free environments – regulated access points, increased visibility, demarcation of ownership, and frequent maintenance. Focusing on the design and sense of place parks provide in a community, CPTED creates security without forfeiting attractiveness of parks. Parks recognized as safe places contribute to the overall quality of life of a community, inviting people to gather and participate in recreation activities.



Existing maintenance concerns at McMahon Park

**Action 2.4.3** – Support public arts programs, parks, and public spaces that reflect Lawton’s unique identity, heritage, history, and expressive character to create a distinct sense place.

Parks are ideal for placemaking opportunities in a city where the identity of a community can be displayed. Incorporating public art and art programs in parks throughout Lawton is a great strategy for reflecting history and the current culture of the city. Community groups that focus on the art, culture, and history of the area can be excellent resources for employing local talent into park spaces throughout the city. Additionally, interpretative or educational signage distributed in parks to identify historic locations, people, or events provide the opportunity to further highlight Lawton’s heritage.



Statue honoring the Buffalo Soldiers and the role they played in Lawton and American history



Born Learning Trail interactive signage



Public art at the entrance of the Elmer Thomas Park splash pad

**Action 2.4.4** – Conduct future studies to inform the development of conceptual master plans for select park facilities.

The City should identify park facilities as potential candidates for preparing conceptual master plans. These individual master plans evaluate the park programs and amenities that would be most appropriate for the park space through public input, site investigation and development of a series of conceptual designs. Additionally, these studies should provide order of magnitude costs estimates that the City can use to inform future budgets and prioritization of park improvements. Improvements proposed through these master plans should align with the amenities and program palette established for each park type as recommended in **Action 2.3.1**.

As part of this master plan, conceptual designs and associated probable costs for Lee West Park have been developed. The concepts developed focused on strategic programming the largely unprogrammed park to implement amenities and facilities that address the needs and interests of resident to provide new recreational opportunities in Lawton.



Basketball court in Lee West Park



Playground at Lee West Park



Unprogrammed space in Lee West Park

Figure 8.1- Lee West Park Master Plan





Table 8.2 - Summary Table of Goal 2: Park Amenities

<b>Goal Statement: Provide park and recreation amenities and services for the community to enjoy a clean and safe park environment creating multiple opportunities to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 2.1: Deliver accessible and inclusive park and recreation amenities that serve users of all ages and abilities.</b>		114
2.1.1	Provide inclusive play equipment and recreation opportunities in parks where feasible.	114
2.1.2	Allow greater accessibility to play equipment by prioritizing protective, shock-absorbing play surfacing and even transitions on and off equipment.	115
2.1.3	Ensure passive amenities like paths, benches, tables, and drinking fountains meet current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.	115
<b>Objective 2.2: Provide diverse park and recreation amenities that offer multiple recreation opportunities at each park/facility.</b>		116
2.2.1	Design park and recreation facility amenities to respond to demographic, cultural, and neighborhood needs.	116
2.2.2	Distribute a variety of park amenities throughout Lawton to create a balance between active and passive recreation opportunities and access.	117
2.2.3	Activate parks and facilities through vibrant programs, events, and recreation opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.	117
<b>Objective 2.3: Establish consistent and equitable amenities throughout the park system.</b>		118
2.3.1	Implement a palette of standard park amenities at parks based on the typologies outlined in the master plan.	118
<b>Objective 2.4: Design parks to achieve optimum safety and attractiveness while reflecting the character of the surrounding community.</b>		119
2.4.1	Address deferred maintenance projects and improve facility conditions by implementing an asset replacement plan and associated funding.	119
2.4.2	Employ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies to reduce the incidence and fear of crime/undesired activities while improving community vitality and overall quality of life.	119
2.4.3	Support public arts programs, parks, and public spaces that reflect Lawton's unique identity, heritage, history, and expressive character to create a distinct sense place.	120
2.4.4	Conduct future studies to inform the development of conceptual master plans for select park facilities.	121

*Note: please see pages 166-167 for additional details on the above actions items.*

## GOAL 3 - SPORTS & ATHLETICS

***Enhance the sports and athletics offerings in the community to attract and retain families in Lawton and promote sports tourism.***

Sports and athletics are an important component of Lawton’s overall park and recreation system. There are four sports complexes that offer a variety of youth and adult sports and the department offers numerous indoor and outdoor seasonal sports leagues. However, the condition of the sports fields acts as a deterrent to attracting more regional tournament play. Many sports teams travel to Chickasha or further on the weekends for soccer, baseball, softball, and other tournaments. This represents a significant missed opportunity for the City of Lawton as hosting tournaments is not only a benefit to local families that don’t have to travel but can also spur economic development from outside teams spending money on lodging and food. The objectives and subsequent strategies in this section focus on improving existing athletic fields, promoting sports tourism, and pursuing partnerships for sports and athletic offerings.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to sports and athletics are described; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to enhance the sports and athletics offerings in Lawton today and in the future.



Miracle League Field at Elmer Thomas Park



Baseball fields at McMahon Park

**Objective 3.1: Improve and enhance the existing fields to ensure tournament quality capabilities.**

There are four sports complexes within Lawton today: Ahlschlager, Eastside, Grandview, and Louise D. McMahon. Collectively, these complexes offer 16 baseball fields, seven softball fields, and one cricket pitch. Elmer Thomas Park also features an all-abilities softball field. From an indoor perspective, there is a basketball court at each of the three recreation centers. These sites are all in need of significant repair and enhancement in order to host local games and practices as well as larger regional tournaments.

**Action 3.1.1 – Improve and expand existing outdoor sports fields and courts.**

The major improvements needed at many of the facilities include better ADA accessibility, surface condition improvements, routine maintenance or replacement for nets and fencing, reconditioning of turf, and updates to support buildings like concessions and restrooms. The Park Audit Summary in the Appendix specifies recommendations for many of the existing sports complexes. Additionally, based on the type of amenities that exist at Lee West Park, that park could be expanded and additional athletic fields could be added as well and that park could be designated as a community park instead of a neighborhood park. According to the needs assessment there is a deficit of softball fields and cricket fields today and in the future based on anticipated growth.



City of Colleges Park, Arkansas youth baseball and softball fields



Multi-Purpose Fields in College Station, Texas

**Action 3.1.2** – Improve and expand existing indoor sports courts.

Currently there are only three indoor basketball courts within Lawton, which are also used for volleyball leagues. There are many sports that could be played indoors such as dodge ball pickleball, racquetball, and soccer. Indoor sports leagues are an important economic generator because they can be played year-round regardless of the weather. Some of these additional sports could be played in Lawton with additional striping to the existing courts. Other indoors sports, such as soccer, would require a new space such as the proposed indoor sports complex. Improvements needed to the existing gymnasium includes routine maintenance, more storage, and improving ADA accessibility.



Gymnasium at Owens Recreation Center

**Action 3.1.3** – Identify acquisition opportunities to expand existing facilities for league/ tournament complexes convenient to lodging and restaurants.

Three of the existing sports complexes are located adjacent to LPS property and/or vacant land. This represents an opportunity to expand park acreage to add additional fields at Ahlschlager, Eastside, and Grandview parks. With more quality fields at existing sports complexes, Lawton would be more attractive for regional tournaments.



Holiday House in Elmer Thomas Park

**Objective 3.2: Promote economic development through sports tourism.**

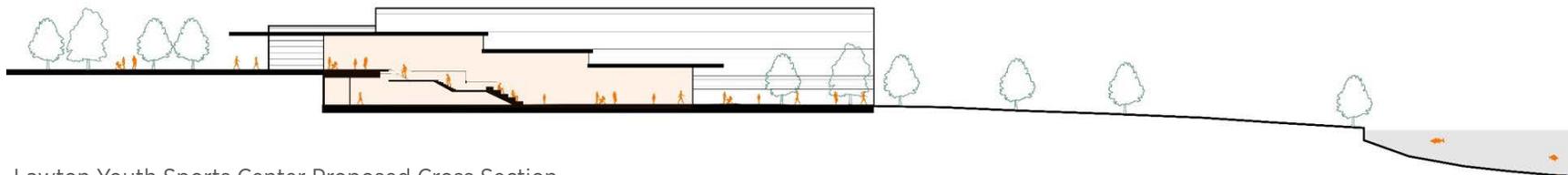
The concept of sports tourism relates to the travel associated with observing or participating in a sporting event. Sports tourism can generate significant economic development for a community. A 2017 study for the City of Plano, TX found that sports and tournament-related tourism generated \$39.2 million annually in direct visitor spending (Source: TPL). There are many models that other communities have used that Lawton can reference as the community builds towards sports tourism.

**Action 3.2.1** – Implement the indoor sports complex to provide court space for use by local teams and regional tournaments.

As described in Chapter 5, the proposed indoor youth sports complex was approved by voters as part of the 2019 bond package. \$8M has been earmarked for the design and construction of the center, which is proposed to have six basketball courts, an indoor soccer field, community room, concessions, restrooms, and indoor walking track. As of this report writing, the proposed complex is recommended to be within Elmer Thomas Park. This complex would provide significant recreation opportunities that don't exist today in Lawton both for local teams and for attracting regional tournament. Operational considerations moving forward include determining what to contract out versus what to manage within the parks department and developing a long-term operations plan. If an outside authority were to manage the sports complex, that would free up the Parks and Recreation Department staff to focus on maintaining parks and administering programs.



Lawton Youth Sports Center Proposed Site Plan



Lawton Youth Sports Center Proposed Cross Section

**Action 3.2.2** – Promote sports facilities to serve as host for regional sports tournaments to increase out-of-town visitor spending.

Once improvements to existing outdoor sports complexes are made and once the indoor sports complex is constructed, Lawton will have significantly more and higher quality sports offerings to host regional tournaments. The Parks and Recreation Department should work with the Community Relations Department and the Chamber of Commerce to help market the offerings to existing leagues as well as other communities.

**Action 3.2.3** – Coordinate with Chamber of Commerce and area sports leagues on continuing efforts for sport tourism opportunities.

The Lawton-Fort Sill Chamber of Commerce is a vibrant chamber that has many connections to existing businesses in the community. Not only can the Chamber help share marketing materials with their members, they could also work with existing businesses to provide discounts to local businesses and restaurants for tournament attendees to encourage patronizing their businesses. This is a model used by many communities to help encourage tournament goers to stay and shop local. The Lawton Soccer Club is also a well-established institution that could help promote additional use of sports fields in Lawton.



Founders Park sports complex in Wylie, Texas



Texoma Health Foundation Park sports complex in Denison, Texas

**Objective 3.3: Maintain, strengthen, and create new partnerships for sports and athletics.**

The City of Lawton maintains a number of seasonal sports leagues as described in Chapter 5. The Lawton Soccer Club, a private institution, manages all of the soccer leagues within the City. Once the indoor sports complex opens, there will be additional sports leagues that participate in Lawton, so additional partnerships opportunities will arise.

**Action 3.3.1 – Pursue partnership with Lawton Public Schools for shared use of fields associated with school, particularly high schools.**

LPS features 15 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 3 high schools. At each of these school campuses there are playgrounds or sports fields, depending on the age of students served. While these facilities are used frequently during the school year there is a potential to allow more public use of these facilities at other times of the year and when not being used by students. Many communities enter into a shared-use agreement with the school district for public use of specific school properties, which is a formal agreement for the recreation spaces to be open to the public for specific times. This can be a great way to fill in gaps in park service without the City having to spend money to acquire land and develop a new park with amenities.

**Action 3.3.2 – Explore partnership with Ft. Sill and potential funding opportunities.**

Ft. Sill is the largest employer in the Lawton area and features many park and recreation amenities on-base. While it is likely infeasible to allow residents other than military personnel and their families to access the recreation amenities on base, there could be partnerships formed with the Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) outlet at Ft. Sill to encourage recreation opportunities for all residents in Lawton.



Lawton Soccer Club fields

Table 8.3 - Summary Table of Goal 3: Sports & Athletics

<b>Goal Statement: Enhance the sports and athletics offerings in the community to attract and retain families in Lawton and promote sports tourism.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 3.1: Improve and enhance the existing fields to ensure tournament quality capabilities.</b>		125
3.1.1	Improve and expand existing outdoor sports fields and courts.	125
3.1.2	Improve and expand existing indoor sports courts.	126
3.1.3	Identify acquisition opportunities to expand existing facilities for league/tournament complexes convenient to lodging and restaurants.	126
<b>Objective 3.2: Promote economic development through sports tourism.</b>		127
3.2.1	Implement the indoor sports complex to provide court space for use by local teams and regional tournaments.	127
3.2.2	Promote sports facilities to serve as host for regional sports tournaments to increase out-of-town visitor spending.	128
3.2.3	Coordinate with Chamber of Commerce and area sports leagues on continuing efforts for sport tourism opportunities.	128
<b>Objective 3.3: Maintain, strengthen, and create new partnerships for sports and athletics.</b>		129
3.3.1	Pursue partnership with Lawton Public Schools for shared use of fields associated with school, particularly high schools.	129
3.1.2	Explore partnership with Ft. Sill and potential funding opportunities.	129

*Note: please see page 168 for additional details on the above actions items.*

## GOAL 4 - RECREATION FACILITIES & PROGRAMS

***Improve aquatic and indoor recreation facilities to provide quality programs and amenities that cater to varying ages, abilities, and community interests.***

Indoor recreation and aquatics make up another core component of Lawton's park and recreation system. Lawton is served by three recreation centers, one outdoor pool, two splash pads, and three wading pools. Based on today's standards for indoor recreation and aquatics, the majority of the facilities are quite outdated and in need of improvement or replacement. Current trends are moving away from neighborhood-centered recreation centers and small pools that are costly to maintain over time with little use and moving instead to larger, multi-generational recreation centers that can serve larger segments of the city and leisure aquatics and splash parks. There are some strategic improvements that Lawton can make in the short-term to improve existing facilities but longer term the City must determine what direction they want to go in terms of indoor recreation, either continuing the neighborhood-focused model or moving more towards a multi-generational approach.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to recreation facilities and programs are described; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to enhance the recreation facilities and offerings in Lawton today and in the future.



Craft area in Patterson Recreation Center



Shade and picnic amenities at Lawton Municipal Pool

**Objective 4.1: Implement improvements to existing recreation and aquatic facilities to improve quality and encourage use.**

The existing recreation and aquatic facilities are all showing their age; the oldest pool opened originally in 1930 and the oldest recreation center was originally built in 1942. There have been few updates to these facilities since their opening which has led to a number of maintenance and safety issues. Ongoing safety concerns, particularly at the aquatic facilities, limits patronage and creates unmet recreational demand for the community. To efficiently address the maintenance needs of the recreation facilities the City should determine those that would provide the greatest improvements in the near-term and prioritize them. Additionally, a study of how well facilities are serving the community and their capacity to provide for diverse recreational needs should be conducted to determine if repurposing current facilities is a more sustainable option. Providing for unmet indoor recreational demand and interests through introducing new or limited amenities and programs should be prioritized to better serve residents.

**Action 4.1.1 – Resolve code compliance issues at the current outdoor pools and splash pads.**

As part of this master plan Brinkley Sargent Wiginton Architects conducted a detailed assessment of the conditions of Lawton’s recreation facilities and provided a list of recommendations. Regarding the existing aquatic facilities, the primary concern is the age of facilities which has resulted in unmet safety standards, particularly ADA accessibility, outdated or absent amenities, equipment and infrastructure, and ability to sufficiently support Lawton’s current and future residents. The City should prioritize resolving issues with accessibility as this largely limits the people who are served by the facilities. Additionally, unaddressed infrastructure issues will lead to more significant problems over time such as closure of facilities.



Lawton Municipal Pool

**Action 4.1.2** – Conduct a feasibility assessment to determine how any of the existing recreation facilities should be repurposed.

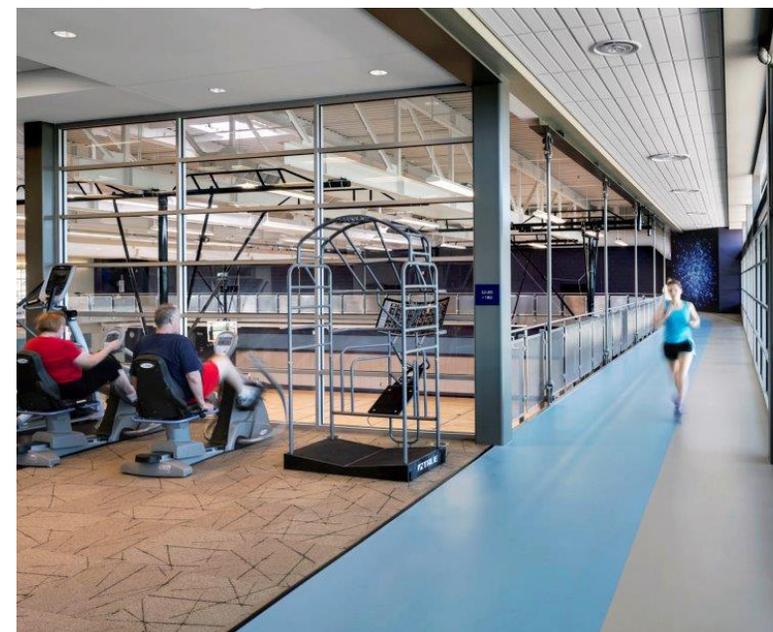
Some of Lawton’s existing recreation facilities are not providing optimal service to the community due to size, location, or ability to support a range of amenities and programs. Rather than maintaining existing facilities that are underperforming, the City should conduct a feasibility study to determine if any of the facilities would be eligible for repurposing. Repurposing facilities will allow for more focus on remaining facilities and for funding and resources to be redirected to elevate the level of service, available amenities, and facility operations.

**Action 4.1.3** – Prioritize providing the indoor recreation amenities identified as most needed through this process, including indoor walking track and fitness equipment.

This planning process included a variety of public input opportunities to gain insight on the types of recreational needs and interests of the public. Findings from the public input process concluded that Lawton’s current variety of indoor recreation offerings is limited and there is substantial need for new amenities and programs to satisfy unmet demand and keep up with current recreational trends. Indoor walking tracks and fitness equipment received high priority ratings from respondents to the statistically valid survey (discussed in detail on page 69) and should be incorporated in the city’s recreation centers where feasible.



Patterson Recreation Center



Example of an indoor jogging track and cardio equipment

**Objective 4.2: Provide modernized recreation facilities and programs that keep up with demand.**

Providing indoor recreation facilities that are modernized and offering programs that follow current recreation trends are key to effectively serving residents. Prioritizing updates to existing facilities to accommodate new amenities and programs should be a short-term goal of the City. Underutilized facilities in the recreation system present the opportunity to explore potential future uses that better serve recreation demand. Additionally, pursuing trends that peer communities have successfully incorporated can make the community a recreation destination and create opportunities that better make the needs of users of all ages and abilities. It is necessary to account for growing demand and changing recreational trends as the city grows and its population diversifies.



Example of an outdoor pickleball court

**Action 4.2.1 – Explore transitioning underperforming outdoor pools into splash pads.**

There are three wading pools in Lawton today with low patronage and numerous maintenance issues. To better serve residents with accessible and modern aquatic amenities, the City should explore the feasibility of transitioning the wading pools into splash pads. Based on the recent success of the Elmer Thomas Park Splash Pad, opening new splash pads in these locations would provide a much needed amenity to surrounding neighborhoods.



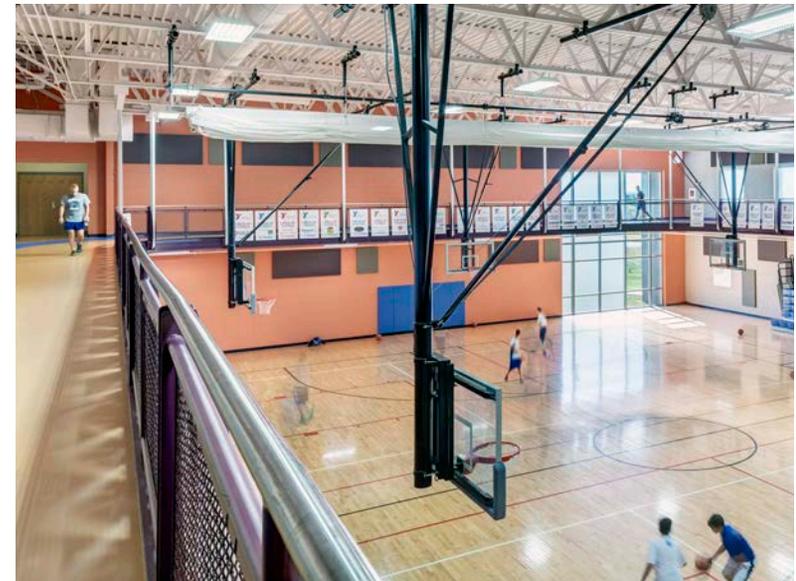
Wading pool at Mattie Beal Park

**Action 4.2.2** – Explore the feasibility of a multi-generational recreation center that could include indoor aquatics and a senior component.

Multi-generational recreation centers are a current trend in communities nationwide for providing indoor recreation opportunities. Typically, these centers are larger than traditional neighborhood recreation centers and focus on providing a diverse range of programs and amenities to meet the needs of residents at all stages of life. Ideally, a multi-generational recreation center should provide amenities that are currently lacking in the community such as publicly accessible indoor aquatics and more robust senior activities. Lawton should conduct a feasibility study to determine the best location for a multi-generational recreation center to continue to meet the demands of the population today and in the future.

**Action 4.2.3** – Prioritize recreation programs identified as most needed through this process, including outdoor concerts, adult fitness programs, special events, senior programs, education/life skills, outdoor adventure, and aquatic programs.

The public input process identified a number of recreation amenities that are currently offered in a limited capacity or not at all in Lawton today. As the City looks to implement new programs and amenities into the park and recreation system the amenities listed should be prioritized to diversify recreation offerings and create local and regional draw. Partnering with community groups, fitness organizations, and other entities can help to realize implementation of new recreational programming.



Example of a multi-generational recreation center



Adult fitness classes offered at a recreation center

**Objective 4.3: Explore partnerships for providing recreation facilities and programs.**

In and around Lawton, there are several entities that provide indoor recreation opportunities to individuals with memberships or affiliation with the private entity. These entities have facilities and offer amenities that are not currently available to the general public. To expand the indoor recreation offerings for the general public, the City should maintain and seek new partnerships with outside entities.

**Action 4.3.1** – Explore partnership opportunities with Cameron University and the YMCA for public use of indoor pool during specified times.

Both Cameron University and the YMCA have indoor pools, however these facilities are only accessible to those affiliated with the university or paid members of the YMCA. While this provides a portion of residents with the ability to use indoor pools there are still many residents without access. The City should explore partnership opportunities with these entities to allow public access to their indoor pools at specified hours. These potential partnerships would increase aquatic service to Lawton residents without substantial cost to the City.

**Action 4.3.2** – Maintain partnerships with the school district to maximize shared-use opportunities for indoor recreation facilities.

The City should maintain and leverage its relationship with the school district to increase access to indoor recreation facilities. As schools typically have indoor facilities like gymnasiums, this presents the opportunity to allow surrounding neighborhoods to conveniently access indoor spaces for play and exercise. Additionally, these spaces can support community fitness groups, recreational sports leagues, and neighborhood organization meetings, which previously may not have had adequate space to meet. Creating a shared-use agreement for the public utilization of indoor recreation space on school grounds can fill gaps in existing indoor recreation service citywide.



Lawton YMCA



Table 8.4 - Summary Table of Goal 4: Recreation Facilities & Programs

<b>Goal Statement: Improve aquatic and indoor recreation facilities to provide quality programs and amenities that cater to varying ages, abilities, and community interests.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 4.1: Implement improvements to existing recreation and aquatic facilities to improve quality and encourage use.</b>		132
4.1.1	Resolve code compliance issues at the current outdoor pools and splash pads.	132
4.1.2	Conduct a feasibility assessment to determine how any of the existing recreation facilities should be repurposed.	133
4.1.3	Prioritize providing the indoor recreation amenities identified as most needed through this process, including indoor walking track and fitness equipment.	133
<b>Objective 4.2: Provide modernized recreation facilities and programs that keep up with demand.</b>		134
4.2.1	Explore transitioning underperforming outdoor pools into splash pads.	134
4.2.2	Explore the feasibility of a multi-generational recreation center that could include indoor aquatics and a senior component.	135
4.2.3	Prioritize recreation programs identified as most needed through this process, including outdoor concerts, adult fitness programs, special events, senior programs, education/life skills, outdoor adventure, and aquatic programs.	135
<b>Objective 4.3: Explore partnerships for providing recreation facilities and programs.</b>		136
4.3.1	Explore partnership opportunities with Cameron University and the YMCA for public use of indoor pool during specified times.	136
4.3.2	Maintain partnerships with the school district to maximize shared-use opportunities for indoor recreation facilities.	136

*Note: please see page 169 for additional details on the above actions items.*

## GOAL 5 - SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY

***Expand upon the community trails system to connect key destinations such as parks and recreation facilities, schools, and major employment areas.***

Today, there are 7.0 miles of existing off-street trails and 7.5 miles of existing bikeway facilities in Lawton. Most of the existing trail facilities are found within parks and do not create significant connections to destinations throughout the city. The majority of bikeway accommodations form a loop in the central part of the city along major roadways, but the connections created are limited. Connectivity from neighborhoods to key destinations including parks, schools, employment centers, and areas of entertainment is lacking throughout the city as most trails serve recreational rather than mobility needs.

A well-connected park and recreation system can be achieved through a robust active transportation network. Implementing trails and bikeways that create connections to key destinations, are continuous covering long distances, and comfortable for users of all ages and abilities are the key components to establishing a non-motorized transportation network for mobility and recreation purposes. Partnering with local and regional entities to expand the current bicycle and pedestrian network can expedite the development of facilities especially as new development or redevelopment occurs. A comprehensive trails and bikeways master plan updating the existing system would significantly impact connectivity in Lawton by defining areas lacking connections and highlighting opportunities for new active transportation corridors. Through this plan process, the public input portion indicated a strong desire for new pedestrian and bicycle facilities connecting residents to destinations city-wide, in a manner that was convenient and safe. This demand will increase as the population grows in the future, requiring more facilities and new connections.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to system connectivity can be found; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to ensure comprehensive system connectivity is provided in Lawton today and in the future.



Multi-use trail in Elmer Thomas Park

**Objective 5.1: Implement a community-wide trail and bikeway system that connects residents to destinations throughout the community.**

The 2008 Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan proposed additional active transportation facilities to create a more comprehensive network, connecting residents to destinations throughout the city. The City should build off the momentum from this previous planning effort to expand the existing trail and bikeway network. Implementing pedestrian and bicycle routes that enable residents to utilize alternative forms of transportation to commute to work, run errands, and visit parks provides a quality of life service that increases the overall appeal of a community. New development or redevelopment projects present an opportunity to incorporate trails and bikeways, expanding the system over time through partnerships with other entities.

**Action 5.1.1 – Continue implementation of trails to connect existing and future park space.**

Park spaces connected by a trail system provide an increased level of accessibility to residents across the city. The majority of trails in Lawton today are within parks and do not create linkages to the surrounding area. Strategically implementing trails that serve as mobility routes is crucial to a city’s park and recreation system. Where feasible, the City should identify continuous trail routes that connect to existing parks that can be expanded upon to reach future park spaces.

**Action 5.1.2 – Update the existing bicycle and pedestrian plan to guide future development of active transportation facilities.**

Lawton has relied on a series of previous planning efforts to identify future pedestrian and bicycle routes, the Lawton Metropolitan Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan adopted in 2008 and the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan updated in 2019, which covers the entirety of Comanche County. Both plans propose extensive miles of trails and bikeways throughout the city to support alternative transportation options; however, these previous recommendations should be reviewed to ensure that safe, accessible, and comfortable routes are implemented in appropriate locations that connect key destinations. Updates to existing plans should include requiring future development and redevelopment projects to implement trail and bikeway facilities.



Existing bike lane on SE 45th Street

**Action 5.1.3** – Review existing and develop new policies that require pedestrian and bicycle facilities to be incorporated as new development occurs.

Lawton’s Code of Ordinances has limited requirements regarding implementation of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. Today, trails are an extraneous amenity expected to be included only in Simple Planned Unit Developments (SPUD). The City should update current development policies to require trails to be incorporated into new developments, supporting the proposed active transportation system identified in this plan. Updating policies to reflect plans to expand the current pedestrian and bicycle network will allow the city to more quickly build new facilities and create connections to new destinations. Additionally, the City should consider updating the thoroughfare plan to include on-street bicycle accommodations to better support active transportation.



Pavement markings on trail in Elmer Thomas Park

**Objective 5.2: Develop a recognizable and legible trail system that is accessible to residents and visitors.**

A successful trail system is one that is easy for the user to navigate and has an identity that is recognizable. A large part of developing accessible trails for all potential users is establishing trail design and construction standards, which promotes consistency throughout the system. Trail network branding is an approach to establishing a unique identity as well as creating familiarity among residents and visitors that use the trail system. Additionally, through branding, the City can generate a wayfinding program supporting the system’s identity while elevating its legibility. Most importantly, a trail system should create key connections throughout the system especially as new development occurs, which may require partnerships with public and private entities to assist in the development of new trail connections.

**Action 5.2.1** – Develop design and construction standards for trails to promote safe, accessible, and well-connected routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.

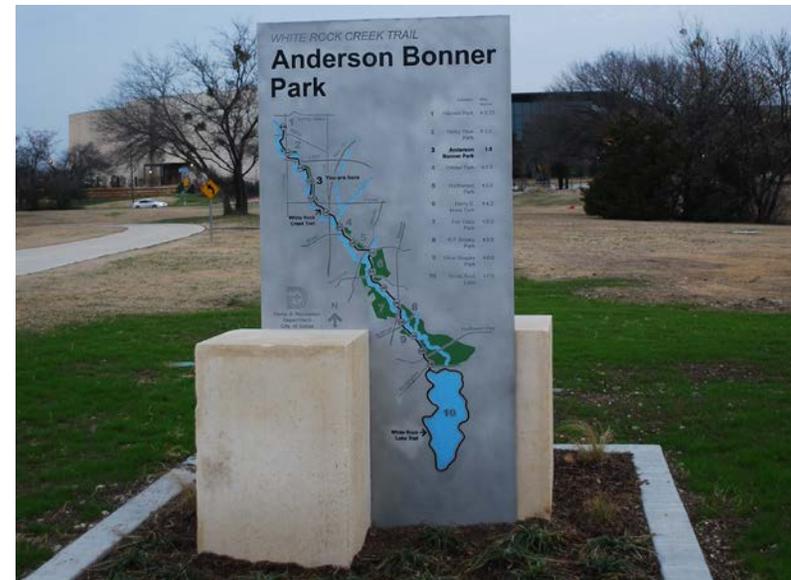
Trails best serve a community when they are designed and constructed based on standards that prioritize safety, accessibility, and connectivity. The City should develop a consistent set of design and construction standards for trails, optimizing the active transportation network to support a multitude of users of all ages and abilities. When developing these set of standards, the City should refer to those set by the American Association of State and Highways Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to achieve trails that meet national safety and accessibility service standards.

**Action 5.2.2** – Establish a wayfinding program unique to the Lawton trail system to increase ease of navigation for the overall network.

Wayfinding programs assist with the overall legibility of a trail system and create a more comfortable user experience by providing directional information that is easy to comprehend. A wayfinding program includes elements such as directional signage, maps, and informational kiosks. Wayfinding signage should be distributed throughout a trail system, particularly at trailheads, access points, and intersections with other trail and roadways. Wayfinding is important for residents and visitors who are unfamiliar with the system and looking for destinations and amenities. Upon developing a wayfinding program, the City should ensure it corresponds with the trail system brand and make decisions about signage placement and the information displayed.

**Action 5.2.3** – Develop a branded trail system that create key connections throughout the City.

A brand creates familiarity among residents and visitors and indicates to users that they are on the City of Lawton’s trail system. In order to develop a brand that is successful the following should be included: value the system provides; services available; and, amenities offered. A brand also allows the city to showcase its unique identity and advertise events, activities, and programs available throughout the parks, recreation, and trails system. Creating an easily identifiable trail network presents the opportunity to develop connections to key destinations, encouraging users to take non-motorized transportation routes because they are safe and simple to navigate.



Wayfinding Map within a park



Branded trail marker along a trail system

**Action 5.2.4** – Explore new funding options to support construction and maintenance of trails and trail amenities.

Over time, trail facilities and amenities will require maintenance or replacement, and to provide for future trail usage and connectivity needs new trails will need to be constructed. To support maintenance and construction demands the City should seek sustainable sources of funding. Diversifying funding methods can allow the City to more efficiently address maintenance concerns and expand the system to better serve the community. The City should pursue and maintain partnerships with public, private, and non-profit entities. As the largest city in Comanche County, Lawton supports much of the county’s park, recreation, and trail opportunities; therefore, the City should explore financial support locally and regionally.



Sidepath along Fort Sill Boulevard

**Objective 5.3: Create safe non-motorized connections that provide safe alternative routes for Lawton residents.**

Lawton is approximately 81 square miles in size and most of the city is not connected by non-motorized transportation routes. Expanding the city’s existing trails and bikeways will provide residents and visitors safe and accessible routes that connect to destinations throughout the city. It is key that these routes prioritize user comfort and formation of various linkages. Safety along non-motorized routes is substantially increased when there are additional traffic control measures implemented at intersections and roadway crossings. Additionally, educating and informing motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians on how to share spaces in and along roadways will increase safety and encourage more users to take advantage of active transportation options for commuting and recreation. Partnerships with public and private entities can be leveraged to promote utilization and implementation of non-motorized routes.



Pedestrian crossing near Lawton City Hall

**Action 5.3.1** – Coordinate with Lawton Public Schools and Cameron University to establish safe routes to schools.

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is a program dedicated to providing students with safe and accessible pedestrian and bicycle routes to access school campuses. Projects considered eligible under the SRTS program include bicycle lanes, crosswalks, separated bike lanes, signed bicycle routes, and multi-use paths. There are two major education entities within the city, Lawton Public Schools and Cameron University, that the City should explore partnering with for developing SRTS projects city-wide. These partnerships can help identify locations that are in the greatest need of new pedestrian and bicycle facilities and enhanced intersection crossings to create safer access for students, as well as funding opportunities the City can pursue.

**Action 5.3.2** – Explore Implementing safe pedestrian crossings at locations where trails cross roadways.

Trail crossings, especially at roadway intersections, present the highest potential for incidents to occur. Pedestrian and bicyclist safety can be greatly improved by implementing elements such as flashing pedestrian beacons, clear signage, and pedestrian refuge islands at intersections. The City should determine locations where there are currently unsafe roadway crossings and incorporate enhanced safety measures. As new trail routes are constructed these safety measures should also be applied at crossings. The appropriate safety countermeasures should be identified for individual road crossings as not all roadways can accommodate or require the same safety measures.



Students utilizing an enhanced pedestrian crossing



Enhanced trail crossing at a roadway

**Action 5.3.3** – Conduct a feasibility study for a rails to trails project along the I-44 corridor.

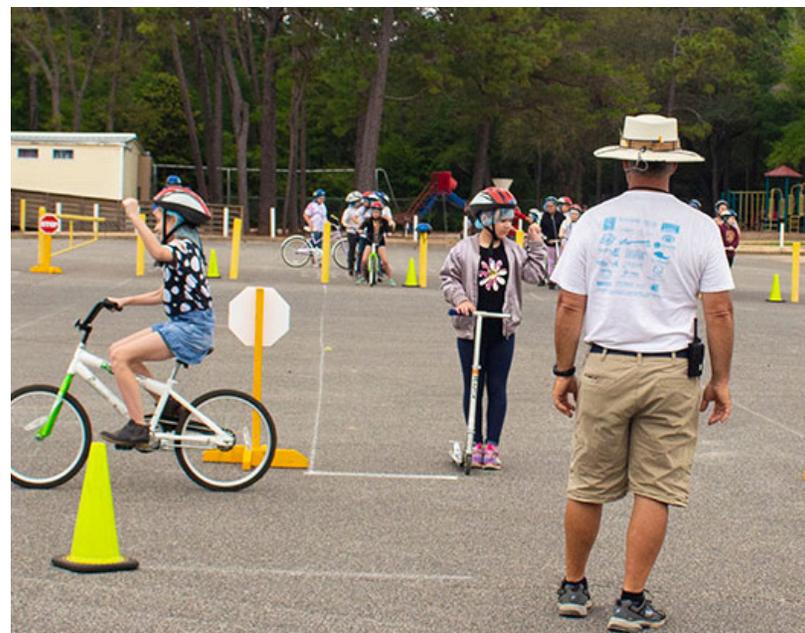
Railroad corridors present an opportunity to develop a continuous linear trail that connects to key destinations throughout the city. The rail corridor adjacent to I-44 presents an opportunity to create significant east-west and north-south connections. The City should perform a feasibility study of this corridor to determine if the development of a multi-use trail would be possible. Coordination with the rail line will be essential to the development the corridor.



Santa Fe Trestle Trail built within a railroad corridor in Dallas, Texas

**Action 5.3.4** – Develop a safety education program to teach and encourage motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians to safely share space along and within roads.

Initiation of a safety education program can inform motorists, pedestrians, and bicyclists about sharing the road in a manner that is safe and respectful of all modes of transportation. There are many communities nationwide that have launched educational programs to teach the community bicycle and pedestrian safety, especially in situations including roadway crossings, trail intersections, and interpreting signage and pavement markings as both an active transportation route user and a motorist. Many programs have been developed in partnership with schools where children, one of the more vulnerable user groups, can easily be reached.



Example of bicycle safety program at schools



Table 8.5 - Summary Table of Goal 5: System Connectivity

<b>Goal Statement: Expand upon the community trail system to connect key destinations such as parks and recreation facilities, schools, and major employment areas.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 5.1: Implement a community-wide trail and bikeway system that connects residents to destinations throughout the community.</b>		139
5.1.1	Continue implementation of trails to connect existing and future park space.	139
5.1.2	Update the existing bicycle and pedestrian plan to guide future development of active transportation facilities.	139
5.1.3	Review existing and develop new policies that require pedestrian and bicycle facilities to be incorporated as new development occurs.	140
<b>Objective 5.2: Develop a recognizable and legible trail system that is accessible to residents and visitors.</b>		140
5.2.1	Develop design and construction standards for trails to promote safe, accessible, and well-connected routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.	140
5.2.2	Establish a wayfinding program unique to the Lawton trail system to increase ease of navigation for the overall network.	141
5.2.3	Develop a branded trail system that create key connections throughout the City.	141
5.2.4	Explore new funding options to support construction and maintenance of trails and trail amenities.	142
<b>Objective 5.3: Create safe non-motorized connections that provide safe alternative routes for Lawton residents.</b>		142
5.3.1	Coordinate with Lawton Public Schools and Cameron University to establish safe routes to schools.	143
5.3.2	Explore Implementing safe pedestrian crossings at locations where trails cross roadways.	143
5.3.3	Conduct a feasibility study for a rails to trails project along the I-44 corridor.	144
5.3.4	Develop a safety education program to teach and encourage motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians to safely share space along and within roads.	144

*Note: please see pages 170-171 for additional details on the above actions items.*

## GOAL 6 - MAINTENANCE

***Provide systematic, routine maintenance to all park and recreation facilities to ensure quality and safety over time.***

The long-term maintenance of the parks and recreation system is critical to providing a safe, attractive, and inviting place to recreate for residents. As assessed in Chapter 7, compared to peer cities and national benchmarks, Lawton has fewer maintenance employees maintaining more acres of parkland and less budget to be able to spend on maintaining parks and facilities. Additionally, the majority of park acreage within Lawton today requires a high level of maintenance on behalf of staff. Finally, an analysis of existing park space found that over 80 acres of existing parkland could potentially be repurposed so staff can focus on maintaining the other parks at a higher quality for residents. The objectives and subsequent strategies in this section focus on opportunities to make the maintenance of the parks system more efficient over time.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to maintenance are described; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to enhance the maintenance in Lawton today and in the future.

***Objective 6.1: Establish standards for the design, maintenance, and operations of all park and recreation facilities.***

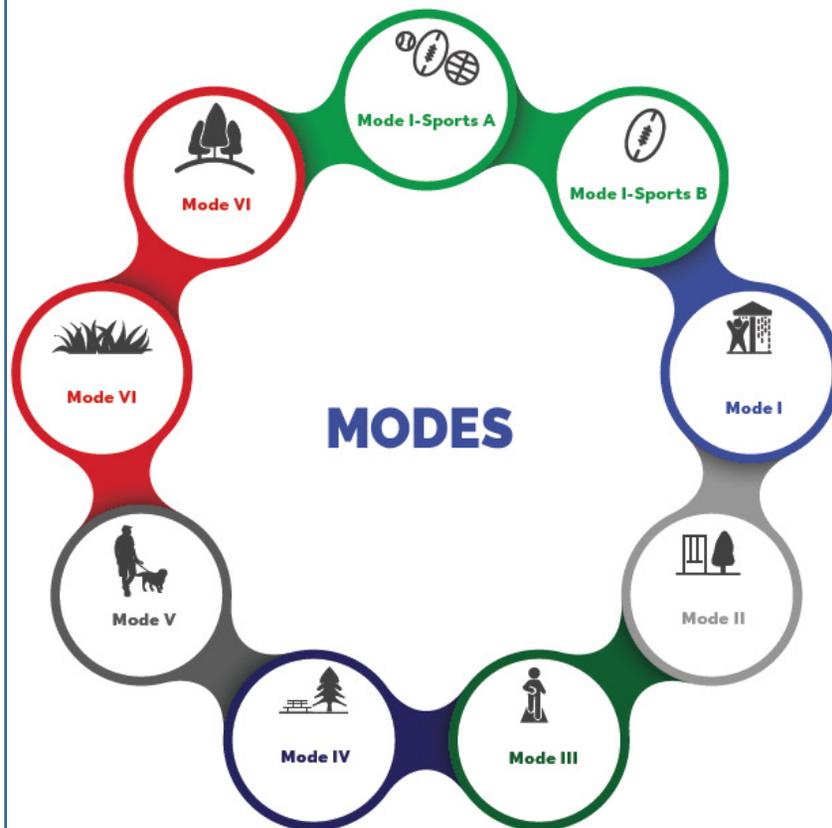
Many communities develop park design standards that are codified into ordinance that detail the types and specifications of amenities and maintenance standards for different park classifications. Within the standards manual additional detail on maintenance of parks can be specified such as operational strategies, mowing requirements, and other best management practices.

**Action 6.1.1** – Develop a parks operations and maintenance manual to guide the day to day O&M responsibilities of the department, including maintenance modes, areas, frequencies, and manpower estimates.

A parks operations and maintenance manual will specify maintenance requirements of all components of parks including turf care, fertilizer, irrigation, litter control, tree care, landscaping, lighting, surfaces, repairs, inspection, and restrooms. The manual should also specify the frequency in which each maintenance activity should occur, including but not limited to emptying trash cans, inspecting equipment, pruning, pressure washing, fertilizing, mowing, and striping fields. The frequencies can either be specific to each park (recommended for larger parks with unique amenities) or for each park classification type (recommended for smaller parks such as neighborhood and pocket parks). Finally, the manual should also provide manpower estimates to project how many staff and associated labor hours are needed to complete the designated maintenance frequencies for each park.

## NRPA PARK MAINTENANCE MODES

Levels of Service for maintaining parks and the frequency of maintenance are differentiated through a "mode system". Each mode is broken into thirteen elements. All parks or facilities may not contain all elements of each mode.



**Mode I-Sports A** – Involves state of the art maintenance applied to a high quality sports field or facility that receives high usage for games and practices.

**Mode I-Sports B** – Involves state of the art maintenance applied to a high quality sports field or facility that receives high usage for practices.

**Mode I** - Involves state of the art maintenance applied to a high quality, diverse landscape usually a high traffic urban areas such as public squares, malls and/or high coverage parks.

**Mode II** - Involves a high level of maintenance associated with well-developed park areas with reasonably high Usage.

**Mode III** - Involves a moderate level of maintenance associated with moderate or low development of parks with intermediate or low levels of usage.

**Mode IV** - Involves a low level of maintenance associated with undeveloped or remote parks with low usage.

**Mode V** - Involves maintenance for natural areas associated with limited opportunities for recreational use.

**Mode VI** – Grow Zone - Involves a minimum level of maintenance for areas identified as "Grow Zones".

**Mode VI** - Involves a minimum level of maintenance for undeveloped properties.



Example of a parks operations and maintenance guide

**Action 6.1.2** – Identify ‘grow zones’ within parks that can be left in a more natural state to reduce mowing requirements throughout the year.

Mowing is often one of the costliest expenses for a park and recreation agency but is required to keep parks and other public spaces looking their best. Based on the current department budget, 15% of the total budget is dedicated to mowing. Not only is mowing a significant budget line item, this also results in significant time spent mowing. In addition to exploring options to contract mowing (see **Action 6.1.4**), identifying grow zones within parks is another strategy to reduce overall mowing requirements. Grow zones are areas within parks that are only mowed a few times a year and left in a more natural state to allow for native grasses and wildflowers to grow. Designated grow zones should be placed in areas of parks that do not have equipment, sports fields, or programmed activities.

**Action 6.1.3** – Explore integrating best management practices and automation to make the maintenance of the park system more efficient, such as centralized irrigation control, time locks for restrooms, sports lighting controls, and standardized equipment.

Automation of various park systems can make the overall park system more efficient. Centralized controls can refer to irrigation, restroom time locks, and sports field lighting. Instead of having to drive out to each park to manually turn on/off lights, stop irrigation due to weather changes, or lock restrooms, centralized controls give staff the ability to manage these systems from a central location. While this would be a larger upfront investment, ultimately the time and cost savings would be worthwhile in the end.

**Action 6.1.4** – Contract mowing of non-parkland properties including medians, vacant lots, and other city-owned properties.

As mentioned in **Action 6.1.2**, Parks and Recreation staff currently mows all of the park acreage within the City plus an additional 100 acres of other public areas. Many communities have begun to contract out mowing of park sites to third parties to free up parks maintenance staff to focus on other preventative maintenance needs. Based on the current percentage of budget that is dedicated to mowing and the amount of time that is spent mowing each week, it would likely be a positive cost benefit to contract some or all of the mowing to a third party.



Heavily maintained vegetation and turf in Gore Median Park

**Objective 6.2: Ensure that the number of staff remains at a reasonable level compared to the amount of parkland acres maintained over time.**

Staffing within a department can fluctuate at any given time, but it is important to have a target staffing level that is adequate to effectively maintain and operate the current facilities and programs within the system. Additionally, if the amount of parkland was more aligned with the number of staff then the maintenance of the park system would be more manageable.



Picnic facilities in need of upgrades to meet accessibility standards

**Action 6.2.1** – Adopt a staffing ratio target that compares how many FTEs are needed concurrent with the number of parkland acres maintained.

Today in Lawton there are 3.6 FTEs per 10,000 residents, which is short of the NRPA benchmark of 8.2 FTEs per 10,000 residents. This translates to a difference of approximately 43 FTEs that Lawton needs to meet the national benchmark. Additionally, Lawton maintains nearly 42 acres per full-time employee, which is higher than most of the other peer communities that were reviewed in Chapter 7. Moving forward, the department should set a target for staffing levels that considers national best practices as well as the peer communities and work to budget additional staff members over time.

**Action 6.2.2** – Utilize the park repurposing criteria established as part of this master plan process to identify underperforming parks to potentially repurpose if legally feasible.

Due to the high level of maintenance required by many of the parks and low level of usage at several of them, this plan identified potential parks to repurpose based on a set of objective criteria. Each of the 74 existing parks were given a score and were then ranked and divided into three tiers. There are 24 total parks in Tier III (those with the lowest scores) which represents 85.9 acres and approximately \$230,000 in annual maintenance costs. These are the parks that should be considered on a case-by-case basis moving forward to potentially repurpose. Next steps associated with repurposing parks include review by decision makers and coordination with legal and planning departments to determine legal disposition options for properties.

**Action 6.2.3** – Routinely review the level of required maintenance for each park to ensure the appropriate staff and funding is allocated to each park.

As part of this master plan process, each park was assigned a ‘maintenance mode’ based on the level of maintenance required to maintain the park (high, medium, or low maintenance). Because the usage of parks fluctuates over time and the amenities found within parks can change, this type of review should be conducted by staff each year to have a better handle on the various levels of maintenance needed for each park and the associated approximate maintenance cost for the different categories.



Planting in Elmer Thomas Park requiring high level of maintenance

**Action 6.2.4** –Encourage the establishment of ‘friends of the park’ groups to provide volunteer efforts to help maintain parks.

Friends of the park groups can provide park clean up or beautification efforts on a volunteer basis for communities. These types of groups can help cultivate neighborhood pride for the local parks and the work that these groups do can augment ongoing maintenance efforts of the City. For future groups that are established the City should come up with projects that are not too complex for the volunteer groups to implement.



Bench dedicated to one of Lawton’s environmental organizations

**Objective 6.3: Improve effectiveness of the department by ensuring appropriate locations of maintenance facilities.**

There are two primary maintenance facilities that service parks and recreation in Lawton today – the Public Works Yard and the Elmer Thomas Maintenance Facility. Both facilities are in the eastern part of the City near I-44, so maintenance crews have to travel a significant distance to access parks further in the western part of the City. Maintenance efficiencies could be improved in the future by ensuring appropriate locations of maintenance facilities.

**Action 6.3.1** – Conduct an assessment of the existing Public Works Yard to determine the in-depth needs and the potential need for a new facility.

As part of this master plan, a high-level review of the Public Works Yard was conducted to identify surface level deficiencies. Some of these needed improvements included paving unpaved areas, addressing inadequate space and storage areas, and improving overall conditions of buildings. In order to determine a more detailed list of needs as well as associated cost estimates and priorities, an in-depth study and master plan should be prepared to determine if a new facility is needed based on department needs and where the best location would be.

**Action 6.3.2** – Implement the near-term recommended improvements as noted in the master plan assessment for the Elmer Thomas Maintenance Facility.

A high-level review was also conducted for the parks maintenance facility located within Elmer Thomas Park. The improvements recommended for this facility include removing marginal sheds, paving the yard area, and screening the yard from the highway and the park. Additionally, lots of times multiple departments will end up sharing storage areas in maintenance facilities; efforts should be made to ensure that this site remains just for use by the Parks and Recreation Department.



Public Works Yard maintenance facility storage

Table 8.6 - Summary Table of Goal 6: Maintenance

<b>Goal Statement: Provide systematic, routine maintenance to all parks and recreation facilities to ensure quality and safety over time.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 6.1: Establish standards for the design, maintenance, and operations of all park and recreation facilities.</b>		146
6.1.1	Develop a parks operations and maintenance manual to guide the day to day O&M responsibilities of the department, including maintenance modes, areas, frequencies, and manpower estimates.	146
6.1.2	Identify ‘grow zones’ within parks that can be left in a more natural state to reduce mowing requirements throughout the year.	148
6.1.3	Explore integrating best management practices and automation to make the maintenance of the park system more efficient, such as centralized irrigation control, time locks for restrooms, sports lighting controls, and standardized equipment.	148
6.1.4	Contract mowing of non-parkland properties including medians, vacant lots, and other city-owned properties.	148
<b>Objective 6.2: Ensure that the number of staff remains at a reasonable level compared to the amount of parkland acres maintained over time.</b>		149
6.2.1	Adopt a staffing ratio target that compares how many FTEs are needed concurrent with the number of parkland acres maintained.	149
6.2.2	Utilize the park repurposing criteria established as part of this master plan process to identify underperforming parks to potentially repurpose if legally feasible.	149
6.2.3	Routinely review the level of required maintenance for each park to ensure the appropriate staff and funding is allocated to each park.	150
6.2.4	Encourage the establishment of ‘friends of the park’ groups to provide volunteer efforts to help maintain parks.	150
<b>Objective 6.3: Improve effectiveness of the department by ensuring appropriate locations of maintenance facilities.</b>		151
6.3.1	Conduct an assessment of the existing Public Works Yard to determine the in-depth needs and the potential need for a new facility.	151
6.3.2	Implement the near-term recommended improvements as noted in the master plan assessment for the Elmer Thomas Maintenance Facility.	151

*Note: please see pages 172-173 for additional details on the above actions items.*



## GOAL 7 - SERVICE DELIVERY

***Update pertinent park and recreation policies and procedures to improve the efficiency of park and recreation service delivery.***

In addition to maintenance, efficient delivery of programs and services is an important emphasis of any parks and recreation system. Service delivery refers to the policies and procedures that govern the provision of programs and services. Within the Lawton Parks and Recreation Department there are five total divisions: Arts & Humanities, Lakes, Parks & Grounds, Recreation & Leisure, and McMahon Memorial Auditorium. Each of these divisions are responsible for different aspects of the department and maintain their own annual budget. The objectives and actions under this goal address areas of improvement for parks administration as well as how patrons interact with the department and the opportunity to generate revenue for the department. Even amongst park and recreation departments that are accredited by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) there are always opportunities for improvement as it relates to administration and service delivery.

In the following section, recommended strategies related to service delivery are described; each are focused on creating attainable and measurable actions that the City can implement over time to enhance parks and recreation service delivery in Lawton today and in the future.

***Objective 7.1: Adjust staffing and policies to enhance overall park administration.***

As a parks system grows and evolves, adjustments to staffing and policies are needed. For example, once the indoor sports complex is constructed, adjustments to current staff responsibilities and/or additional staff will be needed to support the new programs. Policies can relate to operating procedures for the department that also need to be reviewed from time to time as conditions change.

**Action 7.1.1** – Prioritize key staffing positions that are needed to fill unmet needs including a certified arborist, park inspectors, and outdoor recreation programs director.

As discussed in Goal 6, the parks and recreation department currently has a deficiency in terms of number of staff relative to the amount of acreage and programs for which the department is responsible. Some key positions that are currently vacant include a certified arborist, park inspectors, and an outdoor recreation programs director. A certified arborist will be able to identify diseased trees and plan for their treatment, direct proper tree care and pruning, and guide tree plantings that are native to the area. Park inspectors are an important position to ensure that play equipment and other park structures are routinely inspected, and that any deficiencies are addressed in a timely manner. Finally, there is currently a recreation programs director on staff, but the position is primarily focused on indoor programs, so creating a complementary position for outdoor programs would enhance the current offerings.

**Action 7.1.2** – Update the Parks and Recreation Commissioner Handbook from the 2007 version.

The Parks and Recreation Commission serves as an appointed advisory body to review matters related to the provision of recreation services and facilities for the community. This body makes recommendations that are then considered by the City Council for formal action. There are a total of 11 members, each of whom serve two-year terms. A Commissioner’s Handbook guides the procedures for the members, but it hasn’t been updated since 2007. In order to provide clear guidance moving forward, an updated handbook should be developed.

**Action 7.2.1** – Transition to a user-friendly, online reservation and registration system for renting of park amenities and notification of programs.

Many parks and recreation departments across the country, including Lawton, still require residents to either go in-person or call to make a reservation for pavilion or other rentals. This can be a barrier to some potential users since they would have to go during business hours or may lack transportation. In order to increase convenience and access, it is recommended that Lawton transition to an online reservation and registration system. This will streamline the process for users and also help staff keep digital records of all transactions and reservations in one centralized system.

**Objective 7.2: Improve convenience for park users and increase transparency of park department efforts.**

Based on the statistically valid survey that was conducted for this master plan, nearly 50% of respondents said that the primary reason they do not participate in recreation programs is because of lack of information about what is being offered. Communications and transparency around the programs and services that the department offers is critical to ensure that residents are aware of and utilizing those services. Convenience for residents is another element that can help increase overall park and recreation usage.



Trail near lake at Elmer Thomas Park



**Action 7.2.2** – Prepare an annual report on master plan implementation progress to show residents’ tax dollars at work.

Once this master plan is adopted it is important to measure and track progress on what goals, objectives, and actions the community is making progress towards achieving. An annual progress report that is presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council can serve this purpose of showing progress. The annual progress report should also be posted on the City’s website so it is available to be viewed by the public for greater transparency.

**Action 7.2.3** – Periodically conduct resident satisfaction surveys to measure met and unmet needs for overall park and recreation amenities and programs.

The statistically valid survey that was conducted to identify needs and priorities for this master plan shed light on several current priorities. However, as demographics shift and trends change, the priorities of residents will also change. Therefore, it is good practice to periodically conduct surveys to determine overall satisfaction with current facilities and programs and identify unmet needs. If these surveys are conducted on a regular basis, the department can track overall satisfaction ratings over time.

**Objective 7.3: Strive to increase revenue generating opportunities and maintain stable operating funds within the parks and recreation system.**

The majority of park and recreation departments operate at a loss, meaning that the cost to provide programs and services is higher than the revenue that the department generates. However, there are opportunities within a parks and recreation department to generate revenue and start to offset the costs required to operate the department.

**Action 7.3.1** – Conduct a cost of service analysis to determine propensity for fees for recreation programs and set appropriate cost-recovery goals.

A cost of service analysis assesses the balance between tax subsidy and fees or charges as well as addresses the overall philosophy behind the charges. Different service categories that are assessed include community events, recreation programs, sports leagues, and rentals. Through the analysis, a series of cost recovery goals are defined as well as the implementation action steps that are needed to achieve those goals. Many of the programs and services offered by the Parks and Recreation Department are very low cost; as the quality of amenities increases, there will need to be a discussion about potentially increasing charges/fees to be able to recover more costs.

**Action 7.3.2** – Increase revenue opportunities by making improvements to amenities available for rentals including pavilions and meeting rooms.

There are a number of pavilions within parks and meeting rooms within recreation centers that are available for community members to rent for a fee. However, several of the facilities need improvements to make them more attractive for users. For example, the pavilion at Mattie Beal Park is surrounded by a wrought-iron gate that is locked at all times except for when it is reserved by a resident or group. This does not make the space very inviting and discourages people from wanting to pay to use it. If improvements are made to these facilities, then an increase in the reservation fees would be justified and likely more accepted by the community



Pavilion in Mattie Beal Park

**Action 7.3.3** – Develop an operations and programming plan for indoor sports complex that maximizes revenue potential.

As discussed in **Goal 3**, the proposed indoor sports complex would add six basketball courts, one soccer field, a community room, a walking track, and concessions. This is a significant addition of facilities that would require a comprehensive operations plan that addresses staffing, contracting, and day-to-day operations of the complex. The operations plan should also address opportunities for revenue potential, such as pricing structure for leagues, rentals, tournaments, and concessions. Finally, the operations plan should also clearly delineate if any of the operations will be contracted out to a third party to free up other department staff to focus on maintaining parks and administering programs.

**Action 7.3.4** – Identify and pursue local, state, and federal funding opportunities to improve park, recreation, and trail amenities.

There are various funding opportunities available periodically through federal, state, and regional government agencies. Improvements to parks, recreation, and trail amenities are eligible under many of the available funding programs. Having a master plan in place that identifies the needs of the community can help make the applicant more competitive for many of these funding programs. More discussion of the different types of funding opportunities available are discussed in Chapter 9: Implementation.



Table 8.7 - Summary Table of Goal 7: Service Delivery

<b>Goal Statement: Update pertinent park and recreation policies and procedures to improve the efficiency of park and recreation service delivery.</b>		<b>Page</b>
<b>Objective 7.1: Adjust staffing and policies to enhance overall park administration.</b>		153
7.1.1	Prioritize key staffing positions that are needed to fill unmet needs including a certified arborist, park inspectors, and outdoor recreation programs director.	153
7.1.2	Update the Parks and Recreation Commissioner Handbook from the 2007 version.	154
<b>Objective 7.2: Improve convenience for park users and increase transparency of park department efforts.</b>		154
7.2.1	Transition to a user-friendly, online reservation and registration system for renting of park amenities and notification of programs.	154
7.2.2	Prepare an annual report on master plan implementation progress to show residents' tax dollars at work.	155
7.2.3	Periodically conduct resident satisfaction surveys to measure met and unmet needs for overall park and recreation amenities and programs.	155
<b>Objective 7.3: Strive to increase revenue generating opportunities and maintain stable operating funds within the parks and recreation system.</b>		155
7.3.1	Conduct a cost of service analysis to determine propensity for fees for recreation programs and set appropriate cost-recovery goals.	155
7.3.2	Increase revenue opportunities by making improvements to amenities available for rentals including pavilions and meeting rooms.	156
7.3.3	Develop an operations and programming plan for indoor sports complex that maximizes revenue potential.	156
7.3.4	Identify and pursue local, state, and federal funding opportunities to improve park, recreation, and trail amenities.	156

*Note: please see pages 174-175 for additional details on the above actions items.*

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## OVERALL SYSTEM RECOMMENDATIONS

Figure 8.1 depicts the recommended system map which was developed based on the findings of the needs assessment and the community and stakeholder input received during this process. The following sections describes the different components of the recommendations map.

### PARKS

**Candidate Parks for Expansion:** Represents existing parks that have been identified for potential expansion based on available land in the vicinity or opportunities to pursue agreements with Lawton Public Schools. The majority of these parks are athletic complexes. See page 49 for more discussion.

**Parks Potentially for Repurpose:** Represents existing parks that have been identified as potential sites to repurpose based on the objective analysis conducted as part of this master plan. As noted in **Chapter 7**, additional coordination with planning and legal departments is needed to determine legal disposition options of properties. See pages 99-102 for more discussion.

**Gaps in Park Service:** Represents the areas of the City that are currently outside of the 10-minute walk to a park service area. Much of this area falls within undeveloped land. The gaps in park service represent what the gaps would be if the parks that are categorized as potential for repurposing are no longer parks. See page 49 for more discussion.

## SPORTS & RECREATION

**Proposed Youth Sports Center:** Proposed location of the indoor youth sports complex within Elmer Thomas Park. See pages 73-74 for more discussion.

### TRAIL & BIKEWAYS

**Proposed Off-Street Trails:** Represent proposed trails located away from roadways as identified in previous planning efforts. See pages 79-81 for more discussion.

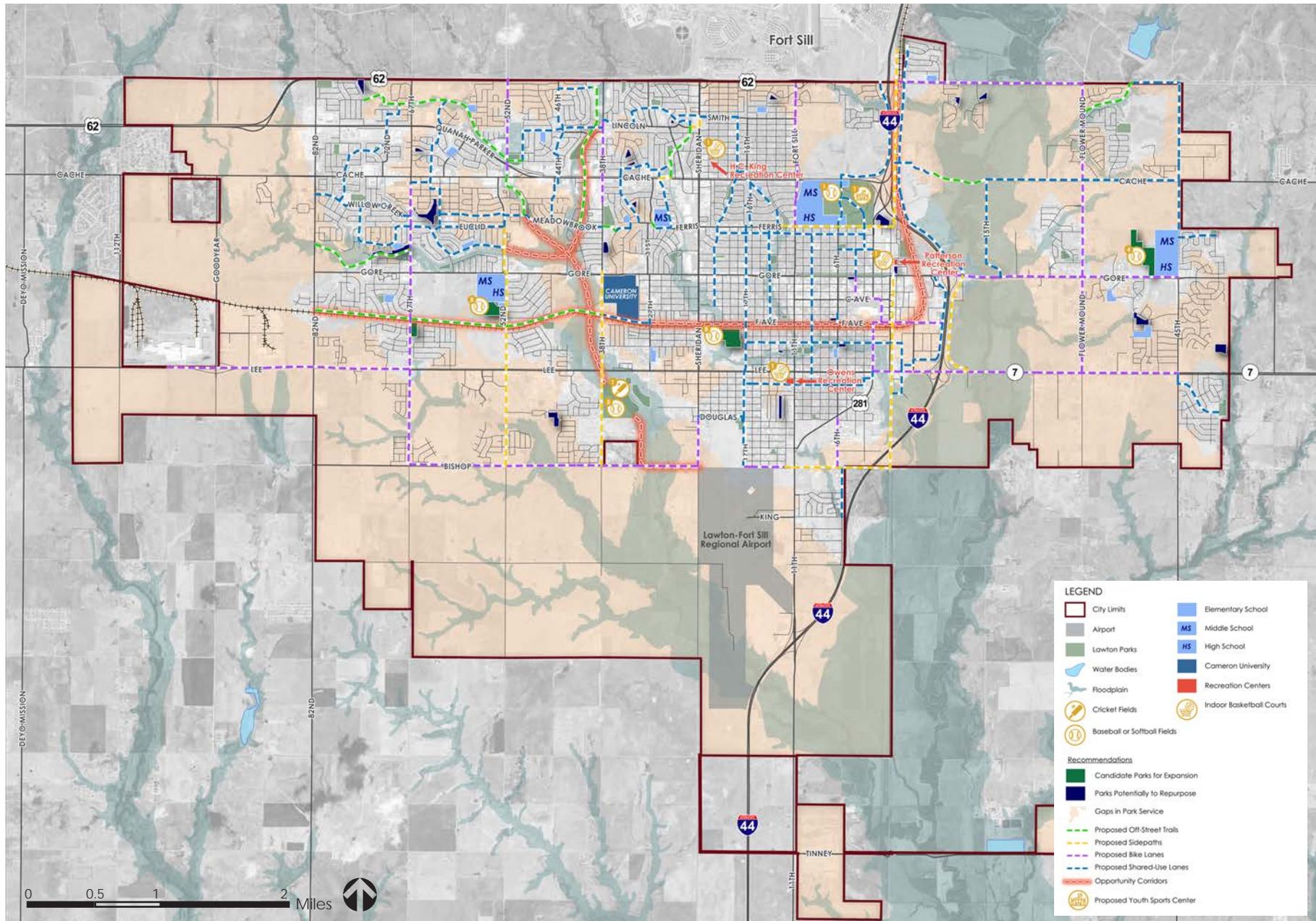
**Proposed Sidepaths:** Represents proposed trails located adjacent to roadways as identified in previous planning efforts. See pages 79-81 for more discussion.

**Proposed Bike Lanes:** Represents proposed bike lanes located along roadways as identified in previous planning efforts. See pages 79-81 for more discussion.

**Proposed Shared-Use Lanes:** Represents proposed shared-use lanes located along roadways as identified in previous planning efforts. See pages 79-81 for more discussion.

**Opportunity Corridors:** Represents major trail opportunity corridors along Wolf Creek and the railroad to provide additional connectivity in Lawton. See page 85 for more discussion.

Figure 8.2- Recommendations Map





# 9

## IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation Action Plan
- Funding Sources
- Plan Administration
- Conclusion

## INTRODUCTION

This final chapter establishes a framework for implementing the recommendations presented in Chapter 8 over time. The implementation action plan identifies the relative priority for each action, the type of action, implementation partners, and estimated costs, if applicable. This chapter also discusses potential funding sources and includes information regarding updating the master plan in the future.





## IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

The implementation action plan presented over the next several pages should serve as a checklist for the City to track progress of plan implementation over time. Successful implementation of this master plan will require coordination from multiple departments and outside entities. The following section describes the major components of the implementation action plan in more detail.

### ACTION TYPE

The category of action type determined for each action guides the City in the how and who will be responsible for initiating implementation and whether or not an action will have fiscal implications.

- **Investment:** New or adjusted capital or operational expenditures.
- **Operations:** Requires a new or modified program or staffing arrangements.
- **Policy:** Requires a new or modified process or policy.
- **Partnership:** Formal agreement or informal pursuit of shared goals with external entity
- **Regulation:** Requires Council approved modification to City ordinance.
- **Study:** Requires further analysis of investigation to determine most appropriate solution.

## TIMEFRAME

The timeframes assigned to each action item refer to the time period in which they should be initiated.

- **Short-Term:** This timeframe represents actions that should begin within 1-5 years after plan adoption. These items are identified as either high priority or determined to be feasible for implementation in the near term.
- **Medium-Term:** This timeframe represents actions to be initiated within 6-10 years of plan adoption. These action are not immediately feasible and require more complex planning and budgeting decisions.
- **Long-Term:** This timeframe represents action that should be initiated after the first ten years after plan adoption. These items support the long-term vision of the plan and will need additional studies, feasibility assessments, and significant funding to achieve.
- **Ongoing:** Actions within this category are those that do not have a specific timeframe and should be implemented over time or should be regularly implemented on an established schedule.

### HIGH PRIORITY

Actions that are identified as high priority in the following action tables indicate those to be considered for immediate implementation. The City should prioritize these actions when reviewing upcoming budgets and feasibility of near term implementation.

## PARTNERS

The implementation action tables identify the partners that would need to be involved in order to successfully implement an action. For some actions there are multiple partners required. The partners identified include a variety of City departments and public and private entities outside of the City.

## COSTS

For some of the identified action items there are associated cost considerations listed. This cost is an estimate of what is needed to implement the action. As these are probable costs, it should be noted that costs are subject to change as additional planning and design occurs for individual actions.



Benches and sidewalk art Elmer Thomas Park



Playground equipment in Mocine Park



Table 9.1 -Implementation Action Plan - Park Access

GOAL 1: PARK ACCESS						
Goal Statement: Promote equitable access to parks throughout the City for existing and future residents.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 1.1: Prioritize improving existing park space and developing undeveloped park acreage.						
1.1.1	Evaluate current park access points to determine those in need of improvements and where new access points are needed to create a more welcoming and accessible entrance to the park space.	Study	Short-Term	✓	Neighborhood Associations, HOAs	Varies
1.1.2	Make strategic expansions to existing parks where feasible to create park spaces that serve the community at large.	Investment, Operations	Long-Term		LPS, Planning Department, City Manager	Varies
1.1.3	Regularly review parkland dedication requirements to support equitable access to park space.	Policy	Ongoing		Parks & Recreation Commission, City Manager	N/A
Objective 1.2: Improve public awareness of existing parks and recreation facilities.						
1.2.1	Establish park system branding to better identify park locations, amenities, and recreation facilities.	Investment	Medium-Term		Community Relations	\$5-7K per sign
1.2.2	Promote spaces within parks that support community events occurring seasonally or annually.	Operations	Short-Term		Community Relations, Chamber of Commerce	N/A
1.2.3	Explore new methods of outreach to the community to communicate about parks and recreation amenities, programs and activities.	Operations	Short-Term	✓	Community Relations, Chamber of Commerce	N/A
Objective 1.3: Promote diversity in park and recreation opportunities to support community interests.						
1.3.1	Explore shared-use agreements with local and regional entities such as Lawton Public Schools, Cameron University, Fort Sill, and YMCA to provide public access to recreation areas throughout the community.	Partnership	Short-Term	✓	LPS, Cameron University, Fort Sill, YMCA	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.

Table 9.2 -Implementation Action Plan - Park Amenities

GOAL 2: PARK AMENITIES						
Goal Statement: Provide park and recreation amenities and services for the community to enjoy a clean and safe park environment creating multiple opportunities to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.						
ACTION		ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS
Objective 2.1: Deliver accessible and inclusive park and recreation amenities that serve users of all ages and abilities.						
2.1.1	Ensure improvements to existing parks/facilities and new parks/facilities accommodate users with both physical and developmental disabilities.	Investment	Medium-Term		User groups	N/A
2.1.2	Allow greater accessibility to play equipment by prioritizing protective, shock-absorbing play surfacing and even transitions on and off equipment.	Investment	Medium-Term		User groups	\$25-35 per SF
2.1.3	Ensure passive amenities like paths, benches, tables and drinking fountains meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.	Investment, Policy	Short-Term	✓	User groups	Varies
Objective 2.2: Provide diverse park and recreation amenities that offer multiple recreation opportunities at each park/facility.						
2.2.1	Design parks and recreation facility amenities to respond to demographic, cultural, and neighborhood needs.	Study, Policy	Short-Term		User groups, Neighborhood Associations, HOAs, Design Community	N/A
2.2.2	Distribute a variety of park amenities throughout Lawton to improve active and passive recreation opportunities and access.	Investment	Long-Term		User groups	Varies
2.2.3	Activate parks and facilities through vibrant programs, events, and recreation opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.	Partnership, Operations	Short-Term	✓	User groups, sports leagues	N/A
Objective 2.3: Establish consistent and equitable amenities throughout the park system.						
2.3.1	Implement a palette of standard park amenities at parks based on the typologies outlined in the master plan.	Regulations	Long-Term		Design community	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.



Table 9.2 -Implementation Action Plan - Park Amenities (continued)

GOAL 2: PARK AMENITIES						
Goal Statement: Provide park and recreation amenities and services for the community to enjoy a clean and safe park environment creating multiple opportunities to enjoy a healthy lifestyle.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 2.4: Design parks to achieve optimum safety and attractiveness while reflecting the character of the surrounding community.						
2.4.1	Address deferred maintenance projects and improve facility conditions by implementing an asset replacement plan and associated funding.	Investment, Operations	Medium-Term		Engineering	Varies
2.4.2	Employ Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) strategies to reduce the incidence and fear of crime/undesired activities while improving community vitality and overall quality of life.	Investment, Policy	Long-Term		User groups, design community	N/A
2.4.3	Support public arts through programs, parks, and public spaces that reflect Lawton's unique identity, heritage, history, and expressive character to create a distinct sense of place.	Policy	Short-Term		Arts & Humanities, historic and cultural groups	N/A
2.4.4	Conduct future studies to inform the development of conceptual master plans for select park facilities.	Study	Short-Term		User groups, design community	Varies

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.

Table 9.3 -Implementation Action Plan - Sports & Athletics

GOAL 3: SPORTS & ATHLETICS						
Goal Statement: Enhance the sports and athletics offerings in the community to attract and retain families in Lawton and promote sports tourism.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 3.1: Improve and enhance the existing fields to ensure tournaments quality capabilities.						
3.1.1	Improve and expand existing outdoor sports fields and courts.	Investment	Short-Term		Sports leagues	Varies
3.1.2	Improve and expand existing indoor sports courts.	Investment	Short-Term		Sports leagues	Varies
3.1.3	Identify acquisition opportunities to expand existing facilities for league/ tournament complexes convenient to lodging and restaurants.	Investment	Medium-Term		LPS, Planning	Varies
Objective 3.2: Promote economic development through sports tourism.						
3.2.1	Implement the indoor sports complex to provide court space for use by local teams and regional tournaments.	Investment	Short-Term	✓	Sports Leagues, Chamber of Commerce	\$8M
3.2.2	Promote sports facilities to serve as host for regional sports tournaments to increase out-of-town visitor spending.	Policy	Short-Term		Sports Leagues, Chamber of Commerce	N/A
3.2.3	Coordinate with Chamber of Commerce and area sports leagues on continuing efforts for sport tourism opportunities.	Partnership	Short-Term		Sports Leagues, Chamber of Commerce	N/A
Objective 3.3: Maintain, strengthen, and create new partnerships for sports and athletics.						
3.3.1	Pursue partnership with Lawton Public Schools for shared use of fields associated with school, particularly high schools.	Partnership	Short-Term		LPS	N/A
3.3.2	Explore partnership with Ft. Sill and potential funding opportunities.	Partnership	Short-Term		Fort Sill	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.



Table 9.4 -Implementation Action Plan - Recreation Facilities & Programs

GOAL 4: RECREATION FACILITIES & PROGRAMS						
Goal Statement: Improve aquatic and indoor recreation facilities to provide quality programs and amenities that cater to varying ages, abilities, and community interests.						
ACTION		ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS
Objective 4.1: Implement improvements to existing recreation and aquatic facilities to improve quality and encourage use.						
4.1.1	Resolve code compliance issues at the current outdoor pools and splash pads.	Investment	Short-Term	✓	User groups	\$15K per facility
4.1.2	Conduct a feasibility assessment to determine how any of the existing recreation facilities should be repurposed.	Study	Short-Term	✓	Recreation center leagues and users	\$30K
4.1.3	Prioritize providing the indoor recreation amenities identified as most needed through this process, including indoor walking track and fitness equipment.	Investment	Short-Term		Recreation center leagues and users	Varies
Objective 4.2: Provide modernized recreation facilities and programs that keep up with demand.						
4.2.1	Explore transitioning underperforming outdoor pools into splash pads.	Investment	Short-Term		User groups, neighborhood associations, HOAs	Varies
4.2.2	Explore the feasibility of a multi-generational recreation center that could include indoor aquatics and a senior component.	Study	Medium-Term		Recreation center leagues and users	\$40K
4.2.3	Prioritize recreation programs identified as most needed through this process, including outdoor concerts, adult fitness programs, special events, senior programs, education/life skills, outdoor adventure, and aquatic programs.	Operations	Short-Term		User groups	Varies
Objective 4.3: Explore partnerships for providing recreation facilities and programs.						
4.3.1	Explore partnership opportunities with Cameron University and the YMCA for public use of indoor pool during specified times.	Partnership	Short-Term		Cameron University, YMCA	N/A
4.3.2	Maintain partnerships with the school district to maximize shared use opportunities for indoor recreation facilities.	Partnership	Short-Term		LPS	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.

Table 9.5 -Implementation Action Plan - System Connectivity

GOAL 5: SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY						
Goal Statement: Expand upon the community trail system to connect to key destinations such as parks and recreation facilities, schools, and major employment areas.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 5.1: Implement a community-wide trail and bikeway system that connects residents to destinations throughout the community.						
5.1.1	Continue implementation of trails to connect existing and future park space.	Investment	Ongoing		County, ODOT, MPO	Approx. \$1.5M per mile
5.1.2	Update the existing bicycle and pedestrian plan to guide future development of active transportation facilities.	Study	Short-Term	✓	MPO, Trail & Bikeway User Groups	\$75-100K
5.1.3	Review existing and develop new policies that require pedestrian and bicycle facilities to be incorporated as new development occurs.	Regulation	Medium-Term		Planning, Engineering, Public Works	N/A
Objective 5.2: Develop a recognizable and legible trail system that is accessible to residents and visitors.						
5.2.1	Develop design and construction standards for trails to promote safe, accessible, and well-connected routes for pedestrians and bicyclists.	Regulation	Short-Term		Planning, Engineering, Public Works	N/A
5.2.2	Establish a wayfinding program unique to the Lawton trail system to increase ease of navigation for the overall network.	Investment	Medium-Term		Planning, Public Works	\$30-50K
5.2.3	Develop a branded trail system the creates key connections throughout the City.	Investment	Medium-Term		Planning, Trail & Bikeway User Groups	Varies
5.2.4	Explore new funding options to support construction and maintenance or trails and trail amenities.	Operations	Ongoing		County, ODOT, MPO, Developers	N/A
Objective 5.3: Create safe non-motorized connections that provide safe alternative routes for Lawton residents.						
5.3.1	Coordinate with Lawton Public Schools and Cameron University to establish safe routes to schools.	Partnership, Investment	Short-Term		LPS, Cameron University	Varies
5.3.2	Explore implementing safe pedestrian crossings at locations where trails cross roadways.	Investment	Short-Term		ODOT, Public Works, Engineering	Varies

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.



Table 9.5 -Implementation Action Plan - System Connectivity (continued)

GOAL 5: SYSTEM CONNECTIVITY						
Goal Statement: Expand upon the community trail system to connect to key destinations such as parks and recreation facilities, schools, and major employment areas.						
ACTION		ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS
5.3.3	Conduct a feasibility study for a rails to trails project along the I-44 corridor.	Study	Medium-Term		ORNL, ODOT	\$50K
5.3.4	Develop a safety education program to teach and encourage motorists, bicyclists and pedestrian to safely share space along and within roads.	Operations	Short-Term		MPO, Public Works, Trail & Bikeway User Groups	\$25K

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.

Table 9.6 -Implementation Action Plan - Maintenance

GOAL 6: MAINTENANCE						
Goal Statement: Provide systematic, routine maintenance to all park and recreation facilities to ensure quality and safety over time.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 6.1: Establish standards for the design, maintenance, and operations of all parks and recreation facilities.						
6.1.1	Develop a parks operations and maintenance manual to guide the day to day O&M responsibilities of the department, including maintenance modes, areas, frequencies, and manpower estimates.	Operations	Short-Term	✓	Maintenance Staff	\$60-80K
6.1.2	Identify 'grow zones' within parks that can be left in a more natural state to reduce mowing requirements throughout the year.	Operations	Short-Term		Maintenance Staff	N/A
6.1.3	Explore integrating best management practices and automation to make the maintenance of the park system more efficient, such as centralized irrigation control, time locks for restrooms, sports lighting controls, and standardized equipment.	Operations, Investment	Short-Term		Maintenance Staff	Varies
6.1.4	Contract mowing of non-parkland properties including medians, vacant lots, and other city-owned properties.	Operations	Short-Term		Third-Party Contractors, City Manager	N/A
Objective 6.2: Ensure that the number of staff remains at a reasonable level compared to the amount of parkland acres maintained over time.						
6.2.1	Adopt a staffing ratio target that compares how many FTEs are needed concurrent with the number of parkland acres maintained.	Policy	Short-Term		City Manager, City Council	N/A
6.2.2	Utilize the park repurposing criteria established as part of this master plan process to identify underperforming parks to potentially repurpose if legally feasible.	Operations	Short-Term	✓	Planning, Legal, City Manager, Parks & Rec Commission, City	N/A
6.2.3	Routinely review the level of required maintenance for each park to ensure the appropriate staff and funding is allocated to each park.	Operations	Ongoing		Maintenance Staff	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.



Table 9.6 -Implementation Action Plan - Maintenance (continued)

GOAL 6: MAINTENANCE						
Goal Statement: Provide systematic, routine maintenance to all park and recreation facilities to ensure quality and safety over time.						
ACTION		ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS
6.2.4	Encourage the establishment of 'friends of the park' groups to provide volunteer efforts to help maintain parks.	Policy	Short-Term		Volunteer groups	N/A
Objective 6.3: Improve effectiveness of the department by ensuring appropriate locations of maintenance facilities.						
6.3.1	Conduct an assessment of the existing Public Works Yard to determine the in-depth needs and the potential need for a new facility.	Study	Short-Term		Maintenance Staff, Public Works	\$50-75K
6.3.2	Implement the near-term recommended improvements as noted in the master plan assessment for the Elmer Thomas Maintenance Facility.	Investment	Medium-Term		Maintenance Staff	\$350K

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.

Table 9.7 -Implementation Action Plan - Service Delivery

GOAL 7: SERVICE DELIVERY						
Goal Statement: Update pertinent park and recreation policies and procedures to improve the efficiency of park and recreation service delivery.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 7.1: Adjust staffing and policies to enhance overall park administration.						
7.1.1	Prioritize key staffing positions that are needed to fill unmet needs including a certified arborist, park inspectors, and outdoor recreation programs director.	Operations	Short-Term	✓	City Manager, City Council	Varies
7.1.3	Update the Parks and Recreation Commissioner Handbook from the 2007 version.	Policy	Short-Term		Parks & Rec Commission	N/A
Objective 7.2: Improve convenience for park users and increase transparency of park department efforts.						
7.2.1	Transition to a user-friendly, online reservation and registration system for renting of park amenities and notification of programs.	Operations	Short-Term		Information Technology	Varies
7.2.2	Prepare an annual report on master plan implementation progress to show residents' tax dollars at work.	Policy	Ongoing		City Manager	N/A
7.2.3	Periodically conduct resident satisfaction surveys to measure met and unmet needs for overall park and recreation amenities and programs.	Study	Ongoing		Community Relations	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.



Table 9.7 -Implementation Action Plan - Service Delivery (continued)

GOAL 7: SERVICE DELIVERY						
Goal Statement: Update pertinent park and recreation policies and procedures to improve the efficiency of park and recreation service delivery.						
ACTION	ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	HIGH PRIORITY	PARTNERS	COSTS	
Objective 7.3: Strive to increase revenue generating opportunities and maintain stable operating funds within the parks and recreation system.						
7.3.1	Conduct a cost of service analysis to determine propensity for fees for recreation programs and set appropriate cost-recovery goals.	Study	Medium-Term		Finance	\$20-30K
7.3.2	Increase revenue opportunities by making improvements to amenities available for rentals including pavilions and meeting rooms.	Investments	Medium-Term		User groups	Varies
7.3.3	Develop an operations and programming plan for indoor sports complex that maximizes revenue potential.	Study	Short-Term	✓	User groups	\$60-80K
7.3.4	Identify and pursue local, state, and federal funding opportunities to improve park, recreation, and trail amenities.	Study	Ongoing		Funding partners	N/A

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.

Table 9.8 - Summary of High Priority Action Items

ACTION		ACTION TYPE	TIMEFRAME	PARTNERS	COSTS
1.1.1	Evaluate current park access points to determine those in need of improvements and where new access points are needed to create a more welcoming and accessible entrance to the park space.	Study	Short-Term	Neighborhood Associations, HOAs	Varies
1.2.3	Explore new methods of outreach to the community to communicate about parks and recreation amenities, programs and activities.	Operations	Short-Term	Community Relations, Chamber of Commerce	N/A
1.3.1	Explore shared-use agreements with local and regional entities such as Lawton Public Schools, Cameron University, Fort Sill, and YMCA to provide public access to recreation areas throughout the community.	Partnership	Short-Term	LPS, Cameron University, Fort Sill, YMCA	N/A
2.1.3	Ensure passive amenities like paths, benches, tables and drinking fountains meet current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines.	Investment, Policy	Short-Term	User groups	Varies
2.2.3	Activate parks and facilities through vibrant programs, events, and recreation opportunities for people of all ages, abilities, cultures, and interests.	Partnership, Operations	Short-Term	User groups, sports leagues	N/A
3.2.1	Implement the indoor sports complex to provide court space for use by local teams and regional tournaments.	Investment	Short-Term	Sports leagues, Chamber of Commerce	\$8M
4.1.1	Resolve code compliance issues at the current outdoor pools and splash pads.	Investment	Short-Term	User groups	\$15K per facility
5.1.2	Update the existing bicycle and pedestrian plan to guide future development of active transportation facilities.	Study	Short-Term	MPO, Trail & Bikeway User Groups	\$75-100K
5.3.4	Develop a safety education program to teach and encourage motorists, bicyclists and pedestrian to safely share space along and within roads.	Operations	Short-Term	MPO, Public Works, trail and bikeway user groups	\$25K
6.1.1	Develop a parks operations and maintenance manual to guide the day to day O&M responsibilities of the department, including maintenance modes, areas, frequencies, and manpower estimates.	Operations	Short-Term	Maintenance Staff	\$30-40K
6.2.2	Utilize the park repurposing criteria established as part of this master plan process to identify underperforming parks to potentially repurpose if legally feasible.	Operations	Short-Term	Planning, Legal, City Manager, Park & Rec Commission, City Council	N/A
7.1.1	Prioritize key staffing positions that are needed to fill unmet needs including a certified arborist, park inspectors, and outdoor recreation programs director.	Operations	Short-Term	City Manager, City Council	Varies
7.3.3	Develop an operations and programming plan for indoor sports complex that maximizes revenue potential.	Study	Short-Term	User groups	\$60-80K

See page 163-164 for a description of the action plan components.



## FUNDING STRATEGIES

There are a variety of federal, state, and local funding sources that communities such as Lawton can access to implement improvements to parks, recreation, and trails systems. This section lists potential funding sources and provides a brief description of each.

### FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

**Conservation Technical Assistance Program:** assists entities in planning and implementing conservation systems which aims to reduce erosion, improve soil and water quality, improve and conserve wetlands, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, improve air quality, improve pasture and range condition, reduce flooding, and improve woodlands.

Source: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/technical/>

**Emergency Watershed Protection Program:** Designed to help conserve natural resources by relieving imminent flood, fire, and windstorm hazards to life and property.

Source: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/landscape/ewpp/>

#### DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - U.S. FOREST SERVICE

**Urban and Community Forestry Program:** Assists local governments to improve natural resource management of trees and forests in urban areas.

Source: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf>

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

**Boating Access Program:** Provides funding to states and area fish and wildlife agencies for projects that develop new access to waterways or renovation/improvement of existing facilities.

Source: <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/grantprograms/boataccess/ba.htm>

**Sport Fish Restoration Program:** Provides funding for fish management, conservation, and restoration; funds are distributed through state fish and wildlife departments.

Source: <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/aboutus/aboutus1.htm>

#### DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**Land and Water Conservation Fund:** Provides funding for planning, acquisition, and development of park and recreation areas and resource-based facilities.

Source: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/lwcf/index.htm>

**Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program:** Provides funding to help create and improve state and local parks and other recreation areas, particularly in underserved communities.

Source: <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-announces-150-million-create-public-parks-expand-recreation>

#### DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

**Recreational Trails Program:** Provides funds to entities to develop and maintain trails for both motorized and non-motorized users. Funds are administered through the states.

Source: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational\\_trails/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/recreational_trails/)

**Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program:** Provides funding for on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trail projects, safe routes to school projects, and planning, designing, or constructing boulevards. Funds are administered through the states.

Source: [https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation\\_alternatives/](https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/transportation_alternatives/)

**Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Grant:** Provides funding for significant road, rail, transit, and port projects that achieve national objectives.

Source: <https://www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/about>

**Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ):** Provides funding for projects that improve air quality and reduces congestion, such as bicycle lanes, separated bicycle lanes, sidewalks, shared use paths, and signage.

Source: <https://www.transportation.gov/sustainability/climate/federal-programs-directory-congestion-mitigation-and-air-quality-cmaq#:~:text=The%20Congestion%20Mitigation%20and%20Air,attain%20national%20air%20quality%20standards.>

**Highway Safety Improvement Program:** Provides funding for improving safety along public roadways to reduce conflicts between pedestrians/bicycles and automobiles.

Source: <https://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/hsip/>

**Federal Lands Access Program:** Provides funding to improve transportation facilities to or within federal lands with preference given to high-use recreation sites and economic generators.

Source: <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs-access>

## STATE FUNDING SOURCES

### OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

**Oklahoma Land Access Program:** Provides financial incentives to landowners that allow public access for various uses including hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing.

### OKLAHOMA TOURISM & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

**Recreational Trails Programs:** The OTRD awards state funds for the federal-aid RTP program for developing and maintaining trails for both motorized and non-motorized users.

### OKLAHOMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Oklahoma Department of Transportation:** ODOT administers state funds for the federal program for on and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities, recreational trail projects, safe routes to school projects, and planning, designing, or constructing boulevards.



## LOCAL FUNDING SOURCES

**General Fund Expenditure:** for improvements or repairs to existing parks and facilities.

**Bond Funds:** Voter-approved debt financing that is paid back over time for large capital expenditures.

**Park Fee Ordinance:** A city ordinance that imposes a fee on developers when new development is built to pay for developing or improving parks. Depending on the structure of the ordinance, the city can require land to be dedicated for parks, cash in lieu of land for park development, or park development fees.

**Tree Mitigation Funds:** A city ordinance that can be enacted to ensure that developers replace trees removed during development or pay a fee for trees to be planted elsewhere.

## OTHER FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Aside from federal, state, and local funding, other organizations can provide funding or volunteer services to help support the improvement of the parks system. These groups include friends of the park groups, service groups, youth service providers, and private corporations for sponsorships.

## PLAN ADMINISTRATION

The City of Lawton and the partners identified in the implementation tables are collectively responsible for administering the plan and the associated action items. It is the obligation of the City to oversee the implementation of the plan, monitoring completion of action items, and incorporate plan items into annual planning and budgeting decisions.

## ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

The implementation action tables serve as a checklist for the City to utilize when prioritizing project implementation and tracking progress over time for both City Council and the Parks and Recreation Commission. Preparing an annual progress report will allow elected and appointed officials to discuss plan achievements and amendments to the action plan necessitated by recent developments of major changes. As items in the action plan are completed, the City should review remaining items to ensure future budgets and work programs incorporate action items within the various timeframes in subsequent years after plan adoption.

## FIVE-YEAR UPDATE

Five years after plan adoption staff should conduct a more comprehensive review of the plan to update the park, recreation, and trail inventory, incorporate growth and demographic trend changes, and ensure that action items are relevant and continue to reflect community goals.

## TEN-YEAR UPDATE

Ten years after plan adoption the City should expect significant changes and updates to the park, recreation, and trail system as well as generally development throughout the city. It is good practice to conduct a full update to a city's park master plan every ten years to stay up to date with community needs and national trends. If a revised master plan is not feasible the City should at least compile a summary of accomplishments since implementation of the plan, update system inventory and demographics, create public input opportunities, review action item prioritization, and update plan goals and maps.

## CONCLUSION

This master plan process is critical for a community to undergo every 5-10 years to ensure that parks, recreation facilities, and trails meet the needs and interests of residents. This master plan will serve as a guide for future budgetary, programming, and capital expenditures for the entire system. The recommendations for parks, recreation facilities, and trails identified in this plan reflect the input received during the public and stakeholder input process, observations made during needs assessments, and reflect the vision of the community. In partnership with various city departments and public and private entities the City can successfully implement action items in subsequent years following adoption.



Lawton City Hall



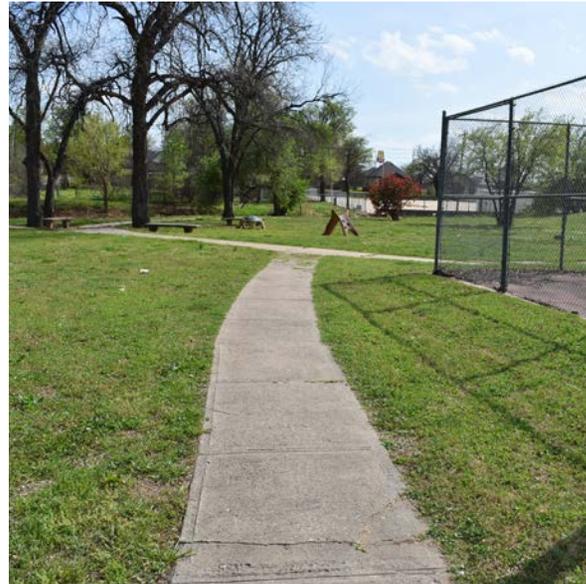
# 10

## APPENDIX

- Park Audit Summary
- Community Engagement Results
- Shepler Square Park Design Concept

## INTRODUCTION

The following pages summarize the park audit for 10 of Lawton Parks, providing assessment of existing conditions and recommendations for future improvements. Additionally, a detailed summary of the community engagement results are included in this section.





## GREER/TOMLINSON PARK

**Address:** 711 NW 38th Street/301 NW 38th Street

**Classification:** Community Park

**Location:** Ward 1 & 3

**Size:** 4 acres/14.5 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Greer/Tomlinson Park is a popular community park on NW 38th Street just south of NW Cache Rd, near NW Meadow Brook Drive in Ward 1. The park has a single point of access for vehicles from NW 38th Street. It is a special and unique community park approximately 18.5 acres in size with established neighborhoods all around it. Existing improvements and programming to this linear park are limited to the central third of the park, north of NW Meadow Brook Drive. Park users are mostly residents from the nearby neighborhoods. Typically, a visitor might observe at any time over the course of a day, populations speaking various languages, meeting in small groups to converse underneath the picnic pavilion, people walking, jogging or cycling on the interior concrete trail connecting to the neighborhood to the east, playing tennis, walking dogs, borrowing a book from the lending library, sitting at various benches throughout the park and watching children play at the Kid Zone playground. A well-maintained restroom building serves as a centralized hub to the tennis, playground and picnic pavilion area, provide accommodations to users. A large gravel parking lot with 7 concrete spaces (accessible) paralleling NW 38th provides ample parking for the park. A transit stop is located on NW 38th but an accessible route across the gravel parking lot is not available. A meandering 10-ft wide concrete trail connects on-street bike routes through the park and tie into NW 36th and NW Meadow Brook Drive. A longer soft surface walking path has been established in the north portion of the park and provides a good layout for future hard surface paths. 8 newly resurfaced tennis courts with new LED lighting create a tournament level tennis complex. Existing trees and shade in the park is limited but there are a few mature trees

in the immediate vicinity of the playground and tennis courts that provide some shade. The north and south thirds of the park are undeveloped and unprogrammed but are prime areas for expanding park amenities and programming.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Provide paved parking and access drive
2. Provide additional shade tree plantings throughout the park
3. Provide additional picnic/shade pavilions throughout the park
4. Provide a larger, paved walking path around the perimeter of the park.
5. Install modern security lighting (consider solar)

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Provide an addition curb cut for an entrance from NW 38th north of the existing parking lot
2. Provide basketball, futsal or multipurpose courts
3. Provide sports fields where topography allows
4. Prepare a master plan to program the underused/ underdeveloped areas of the park

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$250,000 - \$350,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$3,000,000 - \$5,000,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## ELMER THOMAS PARK

**Address:** 501 NW Ferris Avenue

**Classification:** Community Park

**Location:** Ward 2

**Size:** 167 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Elmer Thomas Park is the crown jewel of Lawton’s park system. Centrally located to all residents of Lawton, this Ward 2 park sits on 167 acres of land and functions as a Regional/Community park and hosts several programs and activities year-round. Most park amenities occur in the north east corner of the park. Several public streets circulation through the park, providing access to paved parking areas scattered around the park and multiple ingress and egress points for users arriving by vehicle. Not all parking areas provide ADA compliant parking. This vehicle circulation provides great opportunities for drive thru light displays during the holidays. Key features of the park include a +/- 15-acre pond, 1.8 mile concrete perimeter trail loop, soft surface walking trails, a new shaded playground, splashpad, new event pavilion and numerous military and memorials and monuments. A large, uncovered stage currently exists to the east of the playground and provides a good space for outdoor performances but spectator seating is in a drainage area and not ideal after rain events. That stage is not covered so no shelter for equipment or light rigging is available. A large portion of the central park area is unprogrammed open space with soft surface trails and disc golf. A large colony of prairie dogs inhabit this area. On the west side of the park, additional hard and soft surface trails are available and provide connections to the Museum of the Great Plains and McMahon Memorial Auditorium, both valuable assets and great community facilities to have within the park limits. The far northwest corner of the park is a little remote but is home to an inclusive baseball field, concession and restroom building, rentable group picnic pavilion, a small playground and the Armory facility used by the Parks department for storage. Shade trees occur sporadically throughout the park, mostly concentrated on the east and north sides but overall, the park is mostly open and lacks shade and vegetation.

## RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

### Short-Term Goals

1. Prepare a master plan for Elmer Thomas Park that considers pedestrian and bicycle connections to Ramada Park, OH Arnold Park, the Patterson Center, and Lawton Public Safety Center
2. Ensure Integration of the Indoor Sports Complex currently in conceptual design into the park and future improvements
3. Provide an inclusive playground
4. Provide a skate park feature
5. Expand the paved trail network east and north of the pond
6. Provide deck or pavilion features at the end of existing peninsulas in pond to create a more comfortable experience for users

### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Provide an outdoor concert and performance venue capable of hosting large concerts and performances.
2. Establish an annual tree planting program
3. Establish physical pedestrian and trail connections across NW 2nd St to Ramada and OH Arnold Parks and Patterson Recreation center expanding park and recreation opportunities
4. Provide 8 baseball/softball on the west side that compliment the existing inclusive field and create a complex that will be a regional tournament destination generating an economic impact for the community

### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$750,000 - \$1,500,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$10,000,000 - \$15,000,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





# AHLSCHLAGER PARK

**Address:** 1702 SW G Avenue  
**Classification:** Community Park  
**Location:** Ward 5  
**Size:** 22.23 acres

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Ahlschlager Park is an approximately 22 acre sports complex located off of SW G Avenue and SW 17th Street in Ward 5. The complex provides 7 lighted youth baseball fields and 1 prep field. Three separate gravel parking areas provide ample parking connected by a gravel drive. ADA compliant spaces and access to fields does not exist. Ponding water was observed in parking areas creating a nuisance to visitors and exacerbating maintenance issues. Spectator areas are not paved and large steel bleachers have no shade. The restroom and concession building located at the center of the 4-field complex does not appear operational, leaving a single restroom building on the south side of the complex to serve all 8 fields. Field fencing appears in good condition and dugout structures meet minimum standards.

## RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

### Short-Term Goals

1. Provide ADA compliant walks and parking
2. Provide pedestrian paving around fields and bleachers
3. Provide shade for spectators
4. Provide playing surface improvements/renovation
5. Provide irrigation system improvements/renovation
6. Prepare a master plan for the complex

### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Pave parking areas
2. Consider acquisition of additional land to south to expand sports facilities to a minimum of 12 softball/baseball fields creating a complex that will be a regional tournament destination generating an economic impact for the community.
3. Lighting system upgrades
4. Provide an inclusive playground with shade

### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$1,800,000 - \$2,000,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$2,000,000 - \$2,250,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## MATTIE BEAL PARK

**Address:** 909 SW 9th Street

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Location:** Ward 7

**Size:** 6.4 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Harmon Park is a 6.5 acre neighborhood park located in Ward 7, between SW 11th and SW 9th Streets, north of SW Park Avenue. This park has several unique amenities that set it apart from other parks in Lawton and add it the parks character. Located in an older neighbor, the park contains a WPA drainage channel with stone walls that cuts through the main portion o the park on an angle, provide opportunities for pedestrian bridge features. The Lawton Municipal Pool and parking lots occupies the west end of the site. As described in the aquatics facilities assessment, the pool is in need of replacement and the redesign for this area of the park could allow for enhancements to the park. The only dedicated parking area for the park is a paved lot of 20 spaces that is accessed from a residential street at SW I Avenue and SW 10th Street. From this parking area, a rental picnic pavilion that is secured/enclosed by black ornamental fencing can be accessed. A worn tennis court in need of resurfacing is immediately adjacent to the west and a circular concrete basketball court to the east. A playground with vintage, obsolete play equipment occupies this area as well. Stone picnic tables and benches occur sporadically through the park and ties into the WPA aesthetic. A 5-ft wide looped concrete path provides access through the park with some area of ADA noncompliance. At two points where the path crosses the drainage channel, pedestrian bridges are provided but appear to need replacement. Existing mature trees are located throughout providing shade and character that can't be replicated in newer park facilities but some maintenance is needed.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Assess existing trees, prune and maintain
2. Provide additional picnic/shade pavilions throughout the park
3. Install modern security lighting (consider solar)
4. Update site furniture such as benches, trash cans, picnic tables and bike racks
5. Prepare a master plan for the west end of the park

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Renovate aquatic facility
2. Create a dedicated entrance and parking for the park with access from SW 11th Street

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$250,000 - \$350,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$6,000,000 - \$8,000,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## MCMAHON PARK

**Address:** 1602 SW 38th Street

**Classification:** Community Park

**Location:** Ward 7

**Size:** 115 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

McMahon Park is a large community park of 115 acres located in Ward 7. The majority of that area is unprogrammed open space due to a large portion of the park is located in floodplain and is dissected by Wolf Creek, creating two very distinct areas of character. The Vito Baxter Puppy Promenade dog park is in the northeast corner of the park with a separate access via a gravel road from SW Lee Boulevard. Also on the east side of Wolf Creek is a large open space the in the past has been used for cricket and soccer fields. On the west side of Wolf Creek 5 softball fields with good quality playing surfaces. Fields are laid out in a manner where they are all oriented that same direction and does not adhere to layout best practices that groups all infields and spectator areas back-to-back so a single hub restroom and concession building serves all fields conveniently. Retaining walls located behind bleachers are beginning to separate and fail. Ample shaded bleacher seating is provided. Paths and pedestrian access are not ADA compliant. Ample paved parking is provided in a linear lot paralleling SW 38th Street with two points of vehicular ingress or egress. Some accessible spaces provided exceed maximum cross slope requirements and are non-compliant. A mostly central restroom and concession building as well as a maintenance building is located in the vicinity of W. Parkridge Boulevard. A secondary restroom building was constructed to serve the skate park and in-line hockey rink at the south end of the park but the restroom is remote and vandalism is an issue. A playground area with dated equipment is located centrally to the north three fields but has no paved, ADA compliant path to access it. Concrete walking paths around vegetated floodplain areas provide access to more natural areas of the park in the north.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Repair retaining walls at softball field bleachers
2. Provide ADA compliant walks and parking
3. Provide playing surface improvements/renovation
4. Provide irrigation system improvements/renovation
5. Install modern security lighting (consider solar)
6. Prepare a master plan for the park

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Reorganize field layout to make better use of land outside floodplain
2. Add 4-6 softball/baseball fields to create a complex that will be a regional tournament destination generating an economic impact for the community.
3. Provide a modern playground and safety surfacing
4. Provide a comprehensive trail network of hard and soft surface recreation and nature trails throughout the 115 acre park

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$5,000,000 - \$10,000,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## LIBERTY LAKE PARK

**Address:** 1302 NW Victory Boulevard

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Location:** Ward 2

**Size:** 5.7 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Liberty Lake Park is a neighborhood park measuring 5.7 acres located in Ward 2. It serves a primarily residential neighborhood population living within half mile radius. Liberty Lake Park is located off Cache Road, between NW Sheridan Road and Fort Sill Boulevard. The park is bounded on the east by NW Victory Boulevard and on the west by NW Pershing Drive. Without any dedicated parking areas, these streets provide the only location for parking on the street. A half mile curvilinear, ADA accessible concrete sidewalk that borders the edges of the park, paralleling the surrounding roadways and connecting to sidewalks at the major intersections.

Shade trees are located sporadically throughout the park, near walks and the small playground area. Benches are located along the walk, in shaded areas provided by trees. The on-site pond provides a nice visual amenity with a water fountain offering a visual display for onlookers from an overlook area located at NW Liberty Avenue and NW Victory Boulevard. An area of heavy erosion occurs between the playground and lake. Ducks and other waterfowl can be observed in and around the pond, adding to the aesthetic quality. Liberty Lake Park is currently used for passive recreation activities. Established neighborhood residents adjacent to Liberty Lake Park are heavily invested in any recommended improvements that could build upon current park amenities which support passive recreation.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Update site furniture such as benches, trash cans, picnic tables and bike racks
2. Provide picnic pavilions
3. Install modern security lighting (consider solar)
4. General beautification of the park and pond edge, repair and stabilization.

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Provide an inclusive playground with shade and safety surfacing
2. Provide additional fishing piers or boardwalks that allows users to safely access the water's edge for fishing
3. Other beautification efforts could include supplement upland plantings to help buffer heavy sheetflow, providing filtration and erosion protection at the water's edge.

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$250,000 - \$350,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$300,000 - \$600,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## HARMON PARK

**Address:** 1308 NW Bell Avenue

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Location:** Ward 5

**Size:** 4.54 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Harmon Park is a 4.5 acre neighborhood park located in Ward 7. This park has several unique elements that set it apart from similar-sized parks. Located in an older neighbor, the park is just south of the WPA era Ron Stephens Stadium. A sign observed on site states “the improvement of this site was financed in part through grants from the National Park Service, US Department of the Interior, under the provisions of the Urban Park and Recreation Recovery Act of 1978 and Community Development Block Grant.” A stone gateway establishes the park entrance off of NW 14th Street near NW Lake Avenue. A sidewalk leads to the second of three original circular wading pools from the 1920s passing a concrete block restroom building near residences on the south boundary of the park. A concrete bottomed channel line with sloped stone walls winds through the park north to south creating two distinct sides to the park. A large box culvert provides one crossing to the east of the wading pool and a pedestrian foot bridge provides another near the Lawton Community Theater that occupies the northwest corner of the park. A group picnic pavilion in the center of the park near the playground is showing its age. The playground features what appears to be a newer play structure supplemented with older swings and spring riders and pea gravel surfacing contained by a concrete curb. Cast in place circular picnic tables and benches are provided but some benches have been removed due to damage. Elsewhere in the park, stone tables, benches and a arch bridge feature also have the WPA stone aesthetic adding to the historic character of the park.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Provide 8-10 paved parking spaces on NW 14th at the existing stone gateway with ADA compliant spaces -OR-
2. Partner with Lawton Community Theater to repair their parking lot and share parking
3. Provide ADA compliant sidewalks and paths, creating a perimeter loop
4. Replace group picnic pavilion
5. Provide a multipurpose sport court
6. Provide additional shade tree plantings

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Partner with Lawton Community Theater to develop an outdoor performance venue within the park.
2. Renovate/replace the wading pool and restrooms
3. Provide an inclusive playground with shade and safety surfacing

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$250,000 - \$350,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$1,000,000 - \$1,500,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## MOCINE PARK

**Address:** 810 SW Roosevelt Avenue

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Location:** Ward 7

**Size:** 2.17 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Mocine Park is a neighborhood park located in Ward 7. At 2.17 acres, this park is packed with a variety of amenities for nearby neighborhoods and includes one of the cities original 1920s era wading pools. Existing concrete walks divide the park into a series of angular green spaces limiting large, cohesive open space. The park represents an area where the neighborhood could be actively involved in the future improvements. Neighborhood parks are characterized by easy pedestrian access, and community cohesion with some leisure activities, interspersed with moderate recreation. Mocine Park occupies three-quarters of the block bounded by SW Douglas Avenue on the south, SW 9th Street to the west, SW Roosevelt Avenue to the north and SW 8th Street on the east. The northeast quadrant of this block is private property with multiple residences abutting the park.

No dedicated parking is provided, only a small gravel area that can accommodate two or three vehicles on SW Douglas Avenue. Just off the gravel parking lot is small steel pavilion with steel picnic tables and a grilling area. A non-compliant ADA pedestrian path leads to the restroom building and wading pool enclosed by a chain link fence. A unique play feature on the south side of the park is a landform with an inclined walk that crosses over a concrete pipe tunnel. A single remaining mid-century modern style pavilion north of the wading pool hosts two concrete picnic tables with a stair stepped seating feature to the south. Immediately north, where an identical pavilion once stood, only a concrete pad and concrete tables remain. Mature trees are located throughout the park, provide shade for comfort. An odd, pie shaped concrete

pad contains a basketball goal in the southeast quadrant of the park but does not lend itself to basketball activities. The northeast border of the park property separated from the residences by chain link fencing. Overhead lighting is limited at the park to two utility/security lights.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Reconfigure, repair or replace pedestrian paths and sidewalks to provide ADA compliant access and a perimeter walk
2. Update site furniture such as benches, trash cans, picnic tables and bike racks
3. Replace picnic pavilions
4. Install modern security lighting (consider solar)

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Renovate/replace the wading pool and restrooms
2. Provide an inclusive playground with safety surfacing

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$400,000 - \$600,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$750,000 - \$1,000,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## EASTSIDE PARK

**Address:** 4202 E Gore Boulevard

**Classification:** Community Park

**Location:** Ward 4

**Size:** 40 acres

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Eastside Park is in Ward 4, just minutes from east of I-44 on E. Gore Boulevard adjacent to MacArthur Senior High School and Middle School and serving several single-family neighborhoods to the east and south. The park sits on a 40-acre parcel with four lighted softball fields that double as football fields in the fall. A single point of vehicular access from E. Gore Boulevard is gated to control access after hours. There are metal bleachers for spectator seating (unshaded), a single pedestrian access point into the softball complex area from the parking lot, and buildings that house concessions, restrooms and maintenance equipment. The complex appears to have maximized the space for as many fields as can operate in land available without minimizing parking and other on-site uses related to concessions, seating and storage and maintenance areas. A single parking lots exists on the south side of the complex that also serves a sparse playground area with multiple pieces and not a single shade tree. The parking lot is designed in a rectangular configuration to maximize the number of spaces. Newer multifamily development to the west is cut off from direct access to the park by a vacant parcel.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Provide shaded spectator seating at softball fields.
2. Improve playground amenities with new inclusive equipment, safety surfacing and shade – either with shade structures or trees.
3. Provide group picnic pavilions for teams and users.
4. Provide a splash pad and restroom.
5. Prepare a park master plan to establish a vision for the complex.

#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Consider acquisition of additional land to expand sports facilities to a minimum of 12 softball/baseball fields creating a complex that will be a regional tournament destination generating an economic impact for the community.

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$1,500,000 - \$2,000,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$12,000,000 - \$15,000,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*





## LEE WEST PARK

**Address:** 702 W 67th Street

**Classification:** Neighborhood Park

**Location:** Ward 8

**Size:** 5.6 acres (10.6 acres with LPS tract)

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Lee West Park is a neighborhood park located in Ward 8. At 5.6 acres, immediately adjacent to an additional five acres of land owned by Lawton Public School, the combined 10.6 acres could create a community park space in an area of town that lacks parks and open space improving pedestrian access, and community cohesion with some leisure activities, interspersed with recreation. A park with very few amenities, Lee West Park represents an area where the community could be actively involved in the future design. Recent resurfacing improvements to the existing basketball court and new equipment have made the court very desirable and active. A play structure with the only three shade trees in the park sits in the southwest corner of the park with no parking and no accessible route available for the playground or basketball court. Soccer goals on the east side of the park and a backstop in the northwest corner indicated the park is used for practice fields on occasion. The north boundary of Lee West Park is along an active railroad elevated above the park. A large concrete drainage channel exists the entire length of the west boundary and creates a barrier to access from SW 67th Street. Neighborhood streets – SW Lynnwood Avenue and SW 65th Street – define the south and east boundaries with residences fronting the park on Lynnwood and side yards of homes on SW 65th. These two streets provide the only access and parking opportunities for the park and on-street parking along Lynnwood Avenue, opposite of driveways can be problematic. Most of the site is open for future park development and programming. Active recreation, noise, and security may be concern for the adjacent neighborhood so solutions for this park should be responsive to this concern.

### RECOMMENDED PARK IMPROVEMENTS

#### Short-Term Goals

1. Finalize an Agreement with Lawton Public Schools to allow for park improvements on the larger 10.6-acre park parcel.
2. Construct new entry from NW 67th crossing the drainage channel, park drives, ADA compliant parking and walks, utilities, splash pad and restroom building

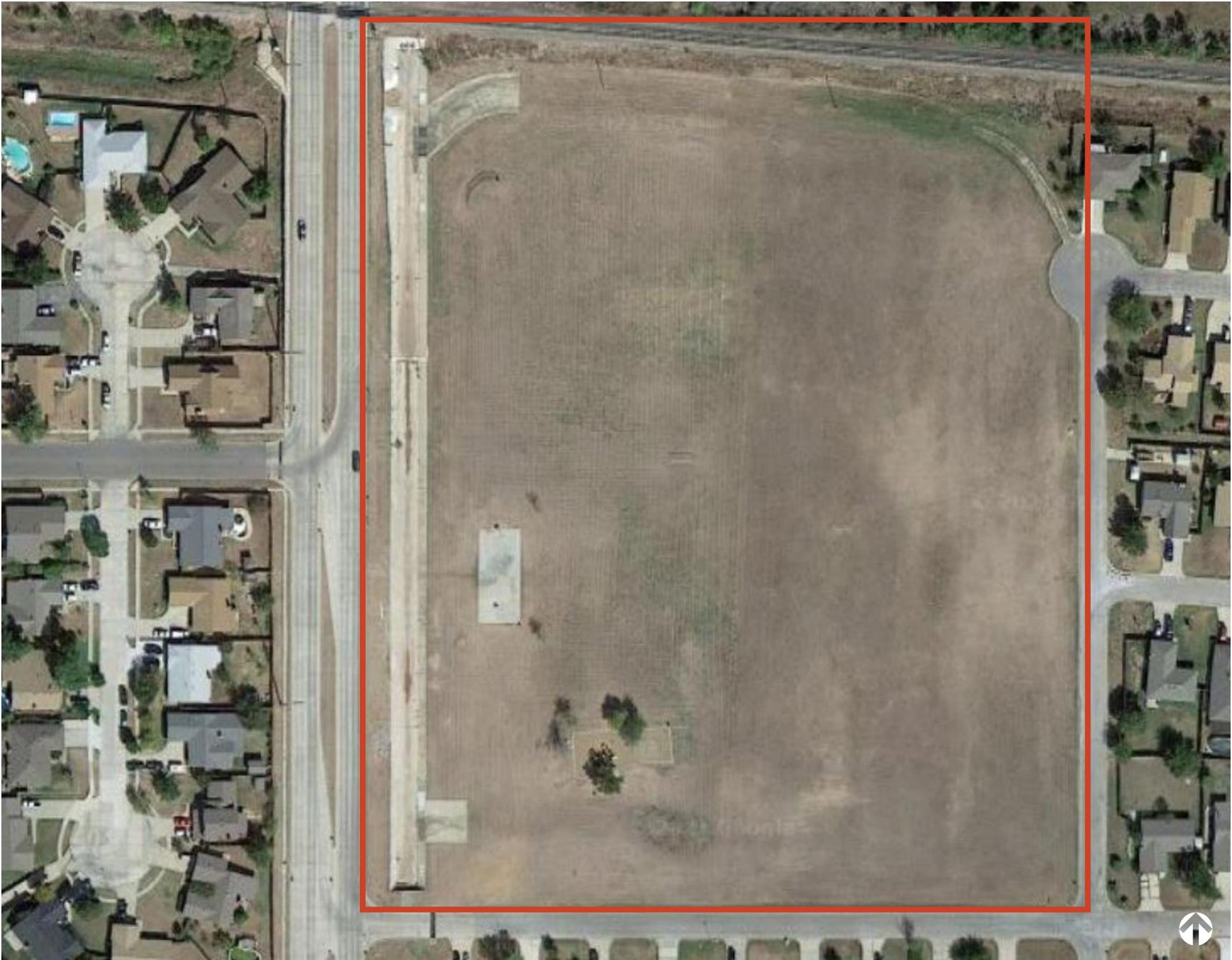
#### Mid-to-Long Term Goals

1. Construct new perimeter walking path, on street parking, additional sport courts, interactive soccer wall, group pavilions, lake and lake swing pavilion, inclusive playground and surface, dog park and landscape and site furniture enhancements.

#### Planning Level Cost Estimates\* (2021)

1. Short-term: \$1,800,000 - \$2,000,000
2. Mid-to-long term: \$2,000,000 - \$2,250,000

*\*Represents a planning-level cost estimate based upon 2021 costs. Costs may change with additional planning and design and should be updated based upon actual timeframe of work.*



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## STATISTICALLY VALID SURVEY

A statistically valid survey was prepared by ETC Institute with the goal to obtain 400 completed surveys from a random sample of Lawton residents. The survey aimed to gather opinions on a variety of aspects regarding parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services currently existing and needed in the future. The following pages contain the executive summary from the report compiled by ETC Institute.



Frederick Douglass Seeding Statue

## Purpose and Methodology



### Purpose

ETC Institute administered a Parks and Recreation Assessment Survey on behalf of the City of Lawton, Oklahoma. The purpose of the assessment was to analyze residents' opinion about various topics regarding the community's parks, trails, recreation facilities, programs, and services. Analysis will establish priorities for the future improvement of Parks and Recreation services and aid City leaders in making decisions that best reflect the community's needs.

### Methodology

ETC Institute mailed a survey packet to a random sample of households in the City of Lawton. Each survey packet contained a cover letter, a copy of the survey, and a postage-paid return envelope. Residents who received the survey were given the option of returning the survey by mail or completing it online at [www.LawtonParkSurvey.org](http://www.LawtonParkSurvey.org).

Approximately seven to ten days after the surveys were mailed, ETC Institute sent emails to the households that received the survey to encourage participation. The emails contained a link to the online version of the survey to make it simple for residents to complete. To prevent people who were not residents of the City from participating, everyone who completed the survey online was required to enter their home address prior to submitting the survey. ETC Institute then matched the addresses that were entered online with the addresses that were originally selected for the random sample. If the address from a survey completed online did not match one of the addresses selected for the sample, the online survey was not counted.



The goal was to obtain 400 completed surveys from City residents. A total of 422 surveys were collected.



The overall results for a sample of 422 surveys have a precision of at least +/- 4.7% at the 95% level of confidence.

### This report contains:

- **Charts** showing the overall results of the survey (Section 1)
- **Benchmark Analysis** comparing the City's results to national results (Section 2)
- **Priority Investment Ratings (PIR) Analysis** that identifies priorities for facilities/amenities and programs/activities in the community (Section 3)
- **Tabular Data** showing the overall results for all questions on the survey (Section 4)
- A copy of the **survey instrument** (Section 5)

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Use and Ratings



**City Park and Facility Use and Ratings.** Seven out of ten (70%) residents surveyed indicated they have visited City parks/facilities during the past year; 9% rated the physical condition of the parks/facilities visited as *excellent*, 52% gave the condition a rating of *good*, 33% gave a rating of *fair*, and 6% gave a rating of *poor*.

**Facilities Used.** Households surveyed were asked if they used specific facilities operated by the Parks and Recreation Department during the past year. The facility that was used by the most surveyed households, based on the highest percentage of responses, was **Elmer Thomas (61%)** and the facility with the second highest percentage of responses was Liberty Lake (25%).

**Residents Level of Importance of Various Park Features.** At least 74% of residents surveyed believe that the following park features, listed in the table below (Table 1), are either *very important* or *important* to them and/or members of their household.

Table 1: Top Ten Park Features Residents Think Are Important (Q4)

Park Feature	Sum of Very Important and Important Responses
Trash receptacles	94.3%
Mowed green space	91.0%
Benches & picnic tables	89.9%
Lighting	89.2%
Parking	89.1%
Restrooms	88.5%
Walking/biking paths	85.8%
Children's playground equipment	84.0%
Picnic shelters	74.7%
Landscaping or naturalized areas	74.3%

• **Adult Fitness Equipment:** Forty-one percent (41%) of respondent households indicated they believe adult fitness equipment is a *very important* or *important* park feature; 41% neither believe it is important or not important (*neutral*), and 18% believe it is either *not important* or *not at all important*.

• **Bike Racks:** Forty-one percent (41%) of residents surveyed think that bike racks are either a *very important* or *important* park feature; 37% neither think they are important or not important (*neutral*), and 21% think they are either *not important* or *not at all important*.

• **Drinking Fountains:** Fifty-four percent (54%) of residents surveyed think that bike racks are either a *very important* or *important* park feature; 29% neither think they are important or not important (*neutral*), and 17% think they are either *not important* or *not at all important*.

The top four park features that respondent households indicated are the **most important** to them and their household, based on the sum of the respondents' top four choices, were:

- Restrooms (49%),
- Mowed green grass (33%),
- Walking/biking paths (30%), and
- Lighting (30%).

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities



**Outdoor Amenity Needs.** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 25 amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest "unmet" need for various outdoor amenities. The four outdoor amenities with the highest percentage of households whose needs are being *partly* or *not met* are listed below.

- Natural Trails: 13,465 households (or 33%)
- Aquatics/Swimming Facility (outdoor): 10,489 households (or 26%)
- Dog Park: 10,421 households (or 26%)
- Community Gardens: 9,919 households (or 24%).

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 25 amenities that were assessed is shown in Figure 1 below.

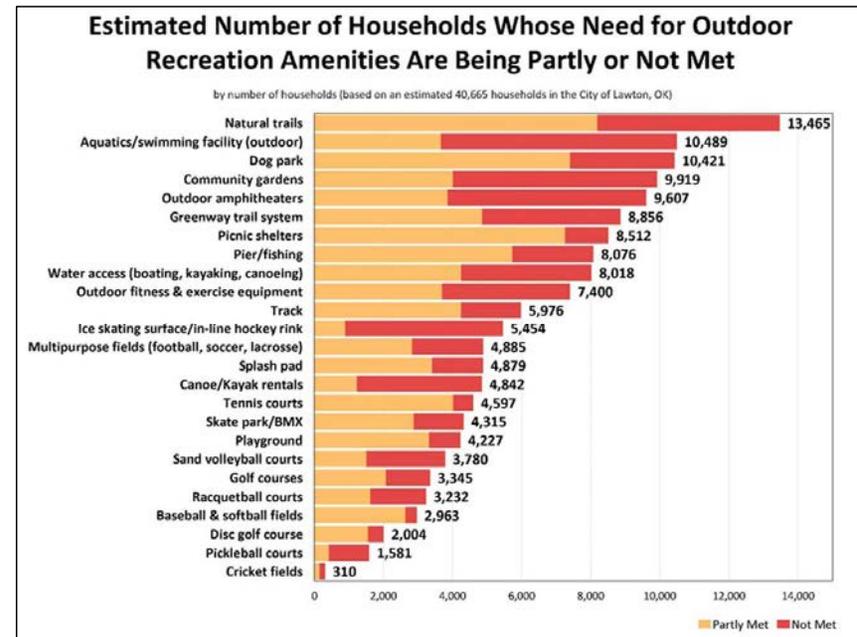


Figure 1: Residents' Surveyed Outdoor Amenity Needs

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities

**Outdoor Amenity Importance.** In addition to assessing the needs for each outdoor amenity, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each one. Based on the sum of respondents' top four choices, the most important amenities to residents were:

- natural trails (25%),
- picnic shelters (19%),
- dog park (18%), and
- playground (17%).

The percentage of residents who selected each outdoor amenity as one of their top four choices is depicted in Figure 2 below.

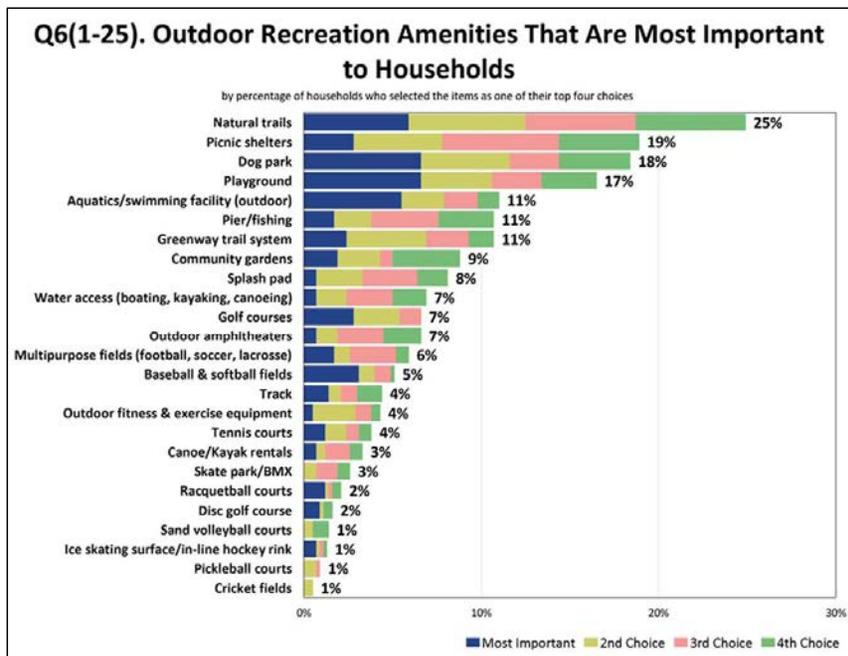


Figure 2: Residents' Surveyed Outdoor Amenity Importance

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities

**Priorities for Facility/Amenity Investments.** The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) was developed by ETC Institute to provide organizations with an objective tool for evaluating the priority that should be placed on Parks and Recreation investments. The Priority Investment Rating (PIR) equally weighs (1) the importance that residents place on each facility/amenity/program and (2) how many residents have unmet needs for the facility/amenity/program. Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided in Section 3 of the report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the seven outdoor amenities were rated as high priorities for investment are listed below.

- Natural Trails: PIR=200.0
- Dog Park: PIR=151.3
- Picnic Shelters: PIR=139.1
- Aquatics/Swimming Facility (outdoor): PIR=122.1
- Community Gardens: PIR=109.0
- Greenway Trail System: PIR=108.7
- Pier/Fishing: PIR=103.0

The Priority Investment Ratings for each outdoor amenity is shown in the chart below (Figure 3).

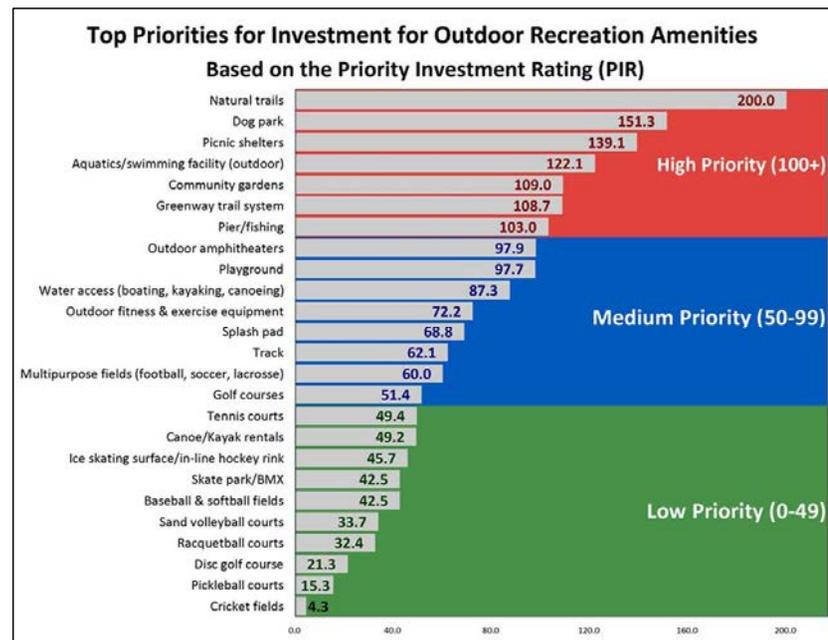


Figure 3: Outdoor Amenity Priority Investment Ratings (PIR)

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities



**Indoor Amenity Needs.** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 10 amenities and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various outdoor amenities. The three indoor amenities with the highest percentage of households whose needs are being *partly* or *not met* are listed below.

- Walking/Jogging Track: 11,243 households (or 28%)
- Aquatics/Swimming Facility (indoor): 10,668 households (or 26%)
- Walking/Jogging Track: 10,420 households (or 26%).

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 10 amenities that were assessed is shown in Figure 4 below.

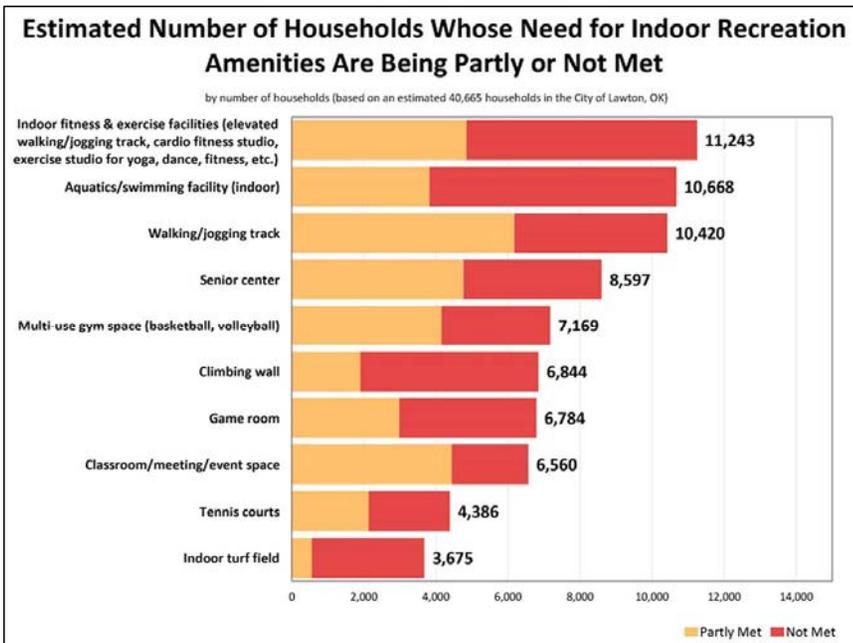


Figure 4: Residents’ Surveyed Indoor Amenity Needs

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities



**Indoor Amenity Importance.** In addition to assessing the needs for each outdoor amenity, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each one. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the most important amenities to residents were:

- walking/jogging track (27%),
- indoor fitness and exercise facilities (16%), and
- senior center (15%).

The percentage of residents who selected each indoor amenity as one of their top four choices is depicted in Figure 5 below.

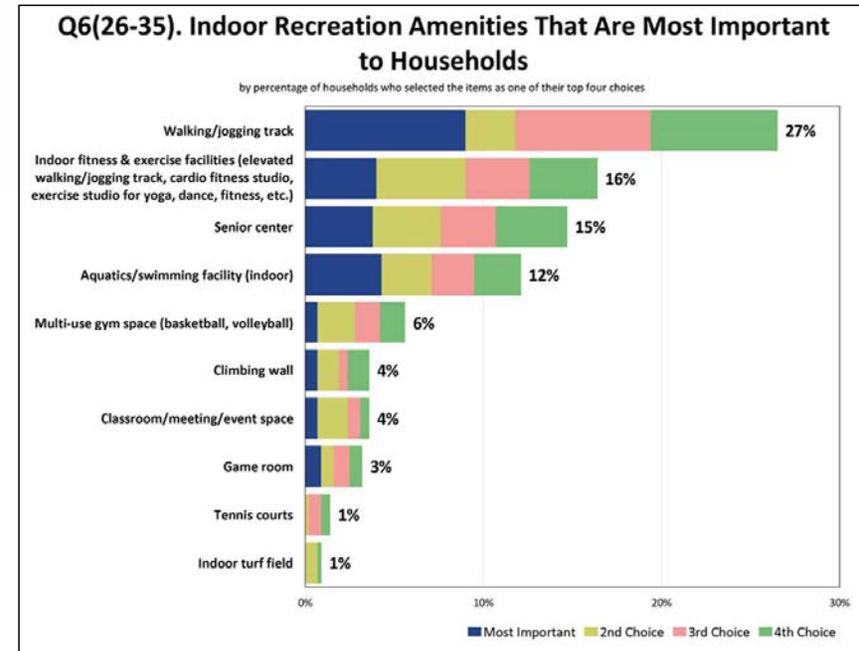


Figure 5: Residents’ Surveyed Indoor Amenity Importance

## Amenity, Facility, and Park Needs and Priorities

**Priorities for Indoor Amenity Investments.** Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided above on Page vi and in Section 3 of the Findings Report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the four indoor recreation amenities were rated as high priorities for investment are listed below.

- Walking/Jogging Track: PIR=192.7
- Indoor Fitness & Exercise Facilities: PIR=161.9
- Aquatics/Swimming Facility (indoor): PIR=140.5
- Senior Center: PIR=131.9

Figure 6 below shows the PIR for each indoor amenity that was analyzed.

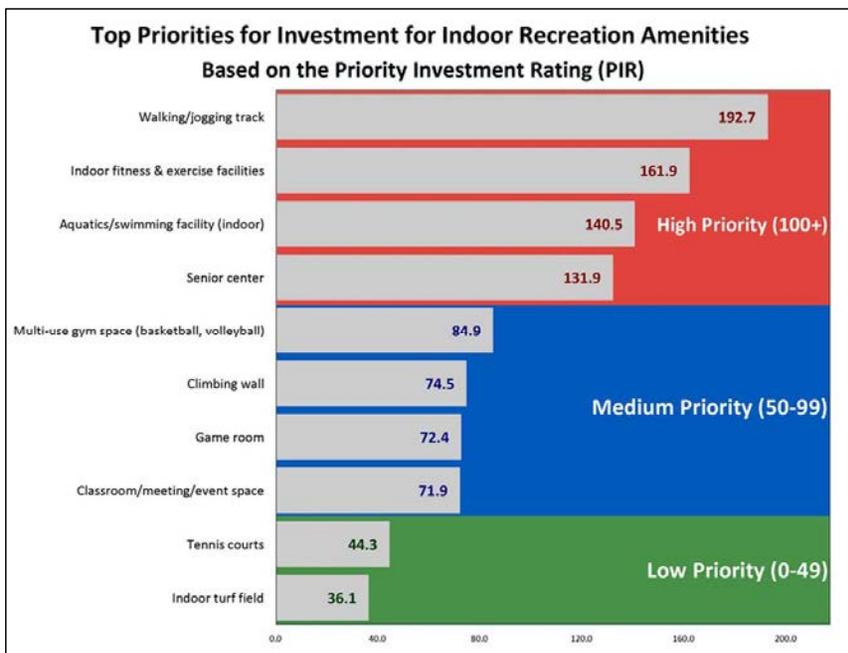


Figure 6: Indoor Amenity Priority Investment Ratings (PIR)

## Program and Activity Use and Ratings



**Program Participation and Ratings.** Thirteen percent (13%) of households surveyed indicated they or members of their residence have participated in programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department during the past year. Six out of ten residents (62%) gave the programs a rating of *excellent or good*; 35% rated the programs as *fair*, and 2% rated the programs as *poor*.

**Barriers to Program Participation.** The top three reasons that households indicated prevent them from using recreation programs, offered by the City's Parks and Recreation Department, were; lack of information/do not know what is offered (45%), not enough time/too busy (21%), and safety at facilities (19%).

**Communication.** Over half (56%) of residents surveyed indicated that they learn about Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities by *word of mouth*; 42% learn by *social media*, and 38% learn through the *newspaper*. Less than 9% of residents learn about programs and activities through conversation with staff (7%), Leisure Guide (6%), and direct e-mail (6%).

**Organizations Used by Residents.** The top three organizations used, by responding residents, for parks, trails, and recreation activities during the last year, were: Lawton Parks and Recreation (60%), State of Oklahoma Parks (39%), and churches/places of worship (39%). The organizations that had the highest percentages of residents indicating they use **most often** were: Lawton Parks and Recreation (43%), churches/places of worship (21%), and State of Oklahoma Parks (20%).

## Program and Activity Needs and Priorities

**Program Needs.** Respondents were asked to identify if their household had a need for 37 programs and rate how well their needs for each were currently being met. Based on this analysis, ETC Institute was able to estimate the number of households in the community that had the greatest “unmet” need for various programs. The four programs with the highest percentage of households whose needs are being *partly or not met* are listed below.

- Outdoor Music/Concerts: 13,426 households (or 33%)
- Adult Fitness & Wellness Programs: 12,056 households (30%)
- Special Events/Family Festivals: 11,615 households (or 29%)
- Education/life skills programs: 10,879 households (or 27%)

The estimated number of households that have unmet needs for each of the 47 programs that were assessed

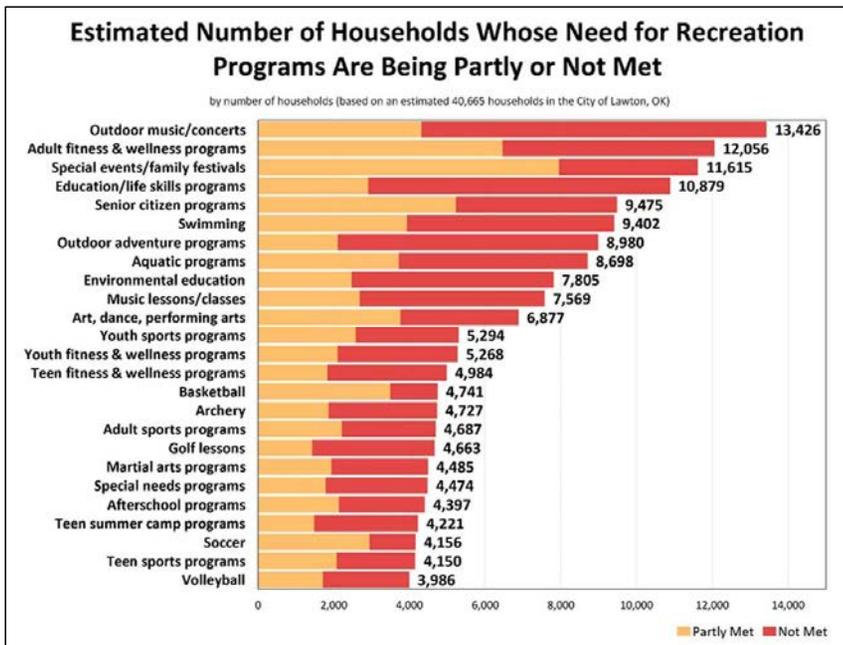


Figure 7: Residents’ Surveyed Recreation Program Needs

## Program and Activity Needs and Priorities

**Program Importance.** In addition to assessing the needs for each program, ETC Institute also assessed the importance that residents placed on each one. Based on the sum of respondents’ top four choices, the most valuable programs to residents were:

- outdoor music/concerts (26%),
- adult fitness and wellness programs (24%),
- special events/family festivals (24%), and
- senior citizen programs (18%).

The percentage of residents who selected each program as one of their top four choices is depicted in Figure 8 below.

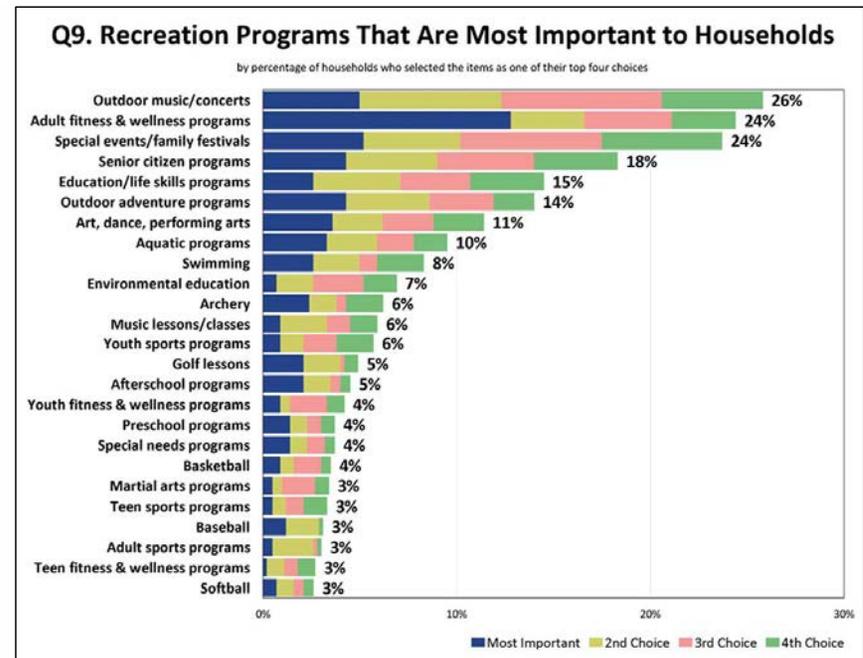


Figure 8: Residents’ Surveyed Recreation Program Importance

## Program and Activity Needs and Priorities

**Priorities for Program Investments.** Details regarding the methodology for this analysis are provided above on Page vi and in Section 3 of the Findings Report. Based on the Priority Investment Rating (PIR), the eight programs were rated as high priorities for investment are listed below.

- Outdoor Music/Concerts: PIR=200.0
- Adult Fitness & Wellness Programs: PIR=184.4
- Special Events/Family Festivals: PIR=178.4
- Senior Citizen Programs: PIR=141.5
- Education/Life Skills Programs: PIR=137.2
- Outdoor Adventure Programs: PIR=121.1
- Swimming: PIR=102.2
- Aquatic Programs: PIR=101.6

Figure 9 below shows the PIR for each program that was rated.

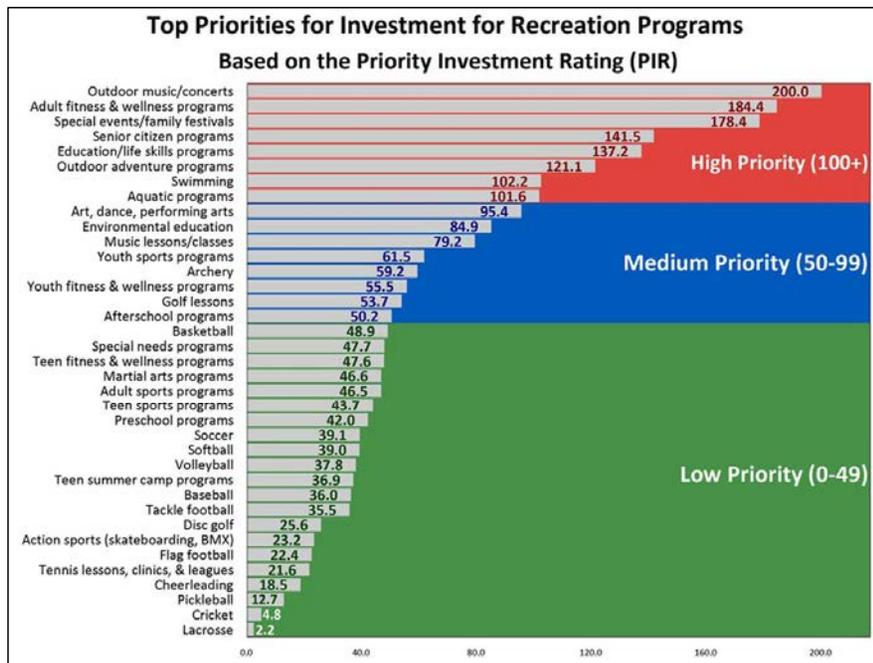


Figure 9: Recreation Program Priority Investment Ratings (PIR)

## Additional Findings



**Parks and Recreation Department.** Nine out of ten (90%) of residents surveyed indicated that they either *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement “**public parks add to quality of life in the community**”; 8% neither agree or disagree (*neutral*), 0.8% *disagree*, and 1% *strongly disagree*.

- Twenty-eight percent (28%) of residents surveyed indicated that they either *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement “**I am aware of recreation programs and activities that are offered**”; 26% neither agree or disagree (*neutral*), and 47% either *disagree* or *strongly disagree*.
- Twenty-four percent (24%) of residents surveyed either *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement “**I am satisfied with the variety of recreation programs offered by the City**”; 33% neither agree or disagree (*neutral*), and 43% either *disagree* or *strongly disagree*.
- Twenty-four percent (24%) of residents surveyed either *strongly agree* or *agree* with the statement “**I am satisfied with recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars**”; 34% neither agree or disagree (*neutral*), and 42% either *disagree* or *strongly disagree*.

**Potential Improvements.** Households surveyed were asked how high of a priority they think it should be for the City to make improvements to parks, facilities, recreation programs, and special events compared to other priorities for the City. Six out of ten (68%) of residents indicated they think making improvements should be either a *very high priority* or *high priority*; 22% think it should be *medium priority*, 2% *low priority*, 2% *very low priority*, and 5% did not provide their opinion.

**Programs/Services Financial Support.** Residents surveyed were asked for their opinion about the appropriate mix of financial support for Parks and Recreation Department programs and services. Table 2 below shows responses, in descending order, for programs/services that residents’ believe should receive support via taxes, mixture of taxes and user fees, and user fees, respectively.

Table 2: Level of Financial Support from Taxes and User Fees for Programs/Services

Q14. For each item listed below, please indicate what you believe is the appropriate mix of support from taxes versus user fees for each program/service provided by the Parks and Recreation Department. (without “not provided” responses) *responses in descending order					
Parks and Recreation Department Program or Service	Supported by Taxes (sum of “Taxes Pay More” and “4” responses)	Even Mix of Tax Support & User Fees	Supported by User Fees (sum of “Users Pay More” and “2” responses)		
Senior adult programming	46.0%	Aquatics programming	55.4%	Birthday parties	68.1%
Youth programming	45.0%	Adaptive recreation	52.3%	Pavilion rentals	51.0%
Community special events	37.8%	Adult programming	49.3%	Facility/room reservations	44.2%
Adult programming	21.5%	Camps	48.6%	Camps	36.8%
Sport field permits (league play)	21.0%	Sport field permits (league play)	47.4%	Sport field permits (league play)	31.5%
Adaptive recreation	20.1%	Community special events	42.0%	Aquatics programming	29.4%
Aquatics programming	15.1%	Facility/room reservations	42.0%	Adult programming	29.1%
Camps	14.8%	Youth programming	38.3%	Adaptive recreation	27.6%
Facility/room reservations	13.8%	Senior adult programming	36.4%	Community special events	20.3%
Pavilion rentals	12.8%	Pavilion rentals	36.3%	Senior adult programming	17.6%
Birthday parties	5.5%	Birthday parties	26.4%	Youth programming	16.6%

## Conclusions



To ensure that the City continues to meet the needs and expectations of the community, ETC Institute recommends that the Parks and Recreation Department sustain and/or improve the performance in areas that were identified as “high priorities” by the Priority Investment Rating (PIR). The ratings for outdoor amenities, indoor amenities, and recreation programs are in the table to the right (Table 3).

Investment Priorities	
<b>Outdoor Amenities PIR</b>	
Service/Program	PIR
Natural trails	200.0
Dog park	151.3
Picnic shelters	139.1
Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor)	122.1
Community gardens	109.0
Greenway trail system	108.7
Pier/fishing	103.0
<b>Indoor Amenities PIR</b>	
Service/Program	PIR
Walking/jogging track	192.7
Indoor fitness & exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.)	161.9
Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor)	140.5
Senior center	131.9
Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball)	84.9
<b>Recreation Programs PIR</b>	
Service/Program	PIR
Outdoor music/concerts	200.0
Adult fitness & wellness programs	184.4
Special events/family festivals	178.4
Senior citizen programs	141.5
Education/life skills programs	137.2
Outdoor adventure programs	121.1
Swimming	102.2
Aquatic programs	101.6

Table 3: Priority Investment Ratings



## ONLINE SURVEY

Once enough responses were received for the statistically-valid survey, the same questions were presented in an online survey that was made available to all residents. This survey was available between April and June of 2021 and a total of 307 responses were received. The following pages present the cumulative results for this survey method.



### Quick statistics

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

#### Field summary for Q1

Have you or other members of your household visited any parks or facilities offered by the Parks and Recreation Department during the past year?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (01)	281	91.53%
No (02)	26	8.47%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



### Quick statistics

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

#### Field summary for Q2

Have you or other members of your household participated in any programs offered by the Parks and Recreation Department during the past year?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (01)	77	25.08%
No (02)	221	71.99%
No answer	9	2.93%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



### Quick statistics

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

#### Field summary for Q1a

How would you rate the physical condition of the parks/facilities you and the members of your household have visited during the past year?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Excellent (01)	11	3.58%
Good (02)	75	24.43%
Fair (03)	138	44.95%
Poor (04)	54	17.59%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	27	8.79%



### Quick statistics

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

#### Field summary for Q2a

How would you rate the programs you and the members of your household have participated in during the past year?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Excellent (01)	3	0.98%
Good (02)	16	5.21%
Fair (03)	35	11.40%
Poor (04)	22	7.17%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	230	74.92%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q3

Have you or other members of your household used any of the following facilities operated by the Parks and Recreation Department during the past year?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Ahnschlagler (01)	28	9.12%
Albert Johnson (02)	9	2.93%
Country Club Heights (03)	7	2.28%
Eastside (04)	48	15.64%
Elmer Thomas (05)	236	76.87%
Fred Bentley (06)	7	2.28%
Grandview (07)	21	6.84%
Greer (08)	55	17.92%
H.C.King Rec Center (09)	12	3.91%
Harold (10)	5	1.63%
James Henderson (11)	1	0.33%
Kathy Newcombe (12)	19	6.19%
Lee West (13)	31	10.10%
Liberty Lake (14)	75	24.43%
Louise D. McMahon (15)	18	5.86%
Mattie Beal (16)	15	4.89%
O.H. Arnold (17)	6	1.95%
Owens Rec Center (18)	10	3.26%
Panther (19)	13	4.23%
Park Lane (20)	11	3.58%
Patterson Rec Center (21)	15	4.89%
Prairie (22)	10	3.26%
Putney (23)	1	0.33%
Stephens (24)	2	0.65%
Sullivan Village (25)	21	6.84%
Verna Cook (26)	2	0.65%
Wayne Gilley (27)	8	2.61%
Willow Creek (28)	34	11.07%
Woodland Hills (29)	47	15.31%
Other (30)	39	12.70%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(01)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household. [01. Mowed green space]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	177	57.65%
Important (04)	104	33.88%
Neutral (03)	20	6.51%
Not Important (02)	3	0.98%
Not at All Important (01)	2	0.65%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(02)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household. [02. Benches and picnic tables]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	158	51.47%
Important (04)	120	39.09%
Neutral (03)	25	8.14%
Not Important (02)	1	0.33%
Not at All Important (01)	1	0.33%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(03)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household. [03. Drinking fountains]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	100	32.57%
Important (04)	68	22.15%
Neutral (03)	80	26.06%
Not Important (02)	33	10.75%
Not at All Important (01)	19	6.19%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(04)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household. [04. Landscaping or naturalized areas]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	103	33.55%
Important (04)	124	40.39%
Neutral (03)	58	18.89%
Not Important (02)	17	5.54%
Not at All Important (01)	5	1.63%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(05)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[05. Restrooms]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	192	62.54%
Important (04)	89	28.99%
Neutral (03)	21	6.84%
Not Important (02)	1	0.33%
Not at All Important (01)	2	0.65%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(06)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[06. Picnic shelters]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	104	33.88%
Important (04)	106	34.53%
Neutral (03)	75	24.43%
Not Important (02)	16	5.21%
Not at All Important (01)	1	0.33%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(07)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[07. Walking/biking paths]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	182	59.28%
Important (04)	87	28.34%
Neutral (03)	33	10.75%
Not Important (02)	3	0.98%
Not at All Important (01)	0	0.00%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(08)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[08. Signage and wayfinding]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	64	20.85%
Important (04)	110	35.83%
Neutral (03)	106	34.53%
Not Important (02)	17	5.54%
Not at All Important (01)	4	1.30%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(09)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[09. Bike racks]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	38	12.38%
Important (04)	63	20.52%
Neutral (03)	143	46.58%
Not Important (02)	38	12.38%
Not at All Important (01)	18	5.86%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(10)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[10. Parking]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	125	40.72%
Important (04)	142	46.25%
Neutral (03)	37	12.05%
Not Important (02)	2	0.65%
Not at All Important (01)	0	0.00%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(11)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[11. Lighting]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	201	65.47%
Important (04)	74	24.10%
Neutral (03)	26	8.47%
Not Important (02)	6	1.95%
Not at All Important (01)	0	0.00%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(12)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[12. Trash receptacles]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	230	74.92%
Important (04)	71	23.13%
Neutral (03)	3	0.98%
Not Important (02)	0	0.00%
Not at All Important (01)	0	0.00%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(13)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[13. Adult fitness equipment]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	42	13.68%
Important (04)	85	27.69%
Neutral (03)	114	37.13%
Not Important (02)	37	12.05%
Not at All Important (01)	22	7.17%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(14)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[14. Children's playground equipment]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	208	67.75%
Important (04)	72	23.45%
Neutral (03)	19	6.19%
Not Important (02)	2	0.65%
Not at All Important (01)	3	0.98%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(15)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[15. Dog waste bags]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	77	25.08%
Important (04)	102	33.22%
Neutral (03)	88	28.66%
Not Important (02)	18	5.86%
Not at All Important (01)	14	4.56%
No answer	8	2.61%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q4(16)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[16. Sports fields]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	136	44.30%
Important (04)	83	27.04%
Neutral (03)	63	20.52%
Not Important (02)	8	2.61%
Not at All Important (01)	9	2.93%
No answer	8	2.61%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(17)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[17. Sports courts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	136	44.30%
Important (04)	88	28.66%
Neutral (03)	58	18.89%
Not Important (02)	7	2.28%
Not at All Important (01)	9	2.93%
No answer	9	2.93%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4(18)

Please rate how important each of the following park features are to you and members of your household.  
[18. Other]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Very Important (05)	44	14.33%
Important (04)	11	3.58%
Neutral (03)	21	6.84%
Not Important (02)	2	0.65%
Not at All Important (01)	0	0.00%
No answer	229	74.59%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q4x18

Please define "Other":

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	46	14.98%
No answer	31	10.10%
Not displayed	230	74.92%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q5(01)

Which FOUR of the features from the list in Question 4 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [1st:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Mowed green space (01)	46	14.98%
02. Benches and picnic tables (02)	10	3.26%
03. Drinking fountains (03)	8	2.61%
04. Landscaping or naturalized areas (04)	16	5.21%
05. Restrooms (05)	32	10.42%
06. Picnic shelters (06)	3	0.98%
07. Walking/biking paths (07)	43	14.01%
08. Signage and wayfinding (08)	1	0.33%
09. Bike racks (09)	0	0.00%
10. Parking (10)	3	0.98%
11. Lighting (11)	14	4.56%
12. Trash receptacles (12)	2	0.65%
13. Adult fitness equipment (13)	1	0.33%
14. Children's playground equipment (14)	67	21.82%
15. Dog waste bags (15)	1	0.33%
16. Sports fields (16)	39	12.70%
17. Sports courts (17)	9	2.93%
18. Other (18)	6	1.95%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q5(02)

Which FOUR of the features from the list in Question 4 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [2nd:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Mowed green space (01)	39	12.70%
02. Benches and picnic tables (02)	29	9.45%
03. Drinking fountains (03)	15	4.89%
04. Landscaping or naturalized areas (04)	15	4.89%
05. Restrooms (05)	48	15.64%
06. Picnic shelters (06)	6	1.95%
07. Walking/biking paths (07)	28	9.12%
08. Signage and wayfinding (08)	0	0.00%
09. Bike racks (09)	1	0.33%
10. Parking (10)	7	2.28%
11. Lighting (11)	22	7.17%
12. Trash receptacles (12)	13	4.23%
13. Adult fitness equipment (13)	7	2.28%
14. Children's playground equipment (14)	29	9.45%
15. Dog waste bags (15)	2	0.65%
16. Sports fields (16)	13	4.23%
17. Sports courts (17)	25	8.14%
18. Other (18)	1	0.33%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



### Field summary for Q5(03)

Which FOUR of the features from the list in Question 4 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [3rd:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Mowed green space (01)	35	11.40%
02. Benches and picnic tables (02)	38	12.38%
03. Drinking fountains (03)	14	4.56%
04. Landscaping or naturalized areas (04)	16	5.21%
05. Restrooms (05)	50	16.29%
06. Picnic shelters (06)	13	4.23%
07. Walking/biking paths (07)	24	7.82%
08. Signage and wayfinding (08)	2	0.65%
09. Bike racks (09)	0	0.00%
10. Parking (10)	13	4.23%
11. Lighting (11)	27	8.79%
12. Trash receptacles (12)	20	6.51%
13. Adult fitness equipment (13)	3	0.98%
14. Children's playground equipment (14)	21	6.84%
15. Dog waste bags (15)	2	0.65%
16. Sports fields (16)	11	3.58%
17. Sports courts (17)	10	3.26%
18. Other (18)	2	0.65%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



### Field summary for Q5(04)

Which FOUR of the features from the list in Question 4 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [4th:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Mowed green space (01)	29	9.45%
02. Benches and picnic tables (02)	33	10.75%
03. Drinking fountains (03)	15	4.89%
04. Landscaping or naturalized areas (04)	13	4.23%
05. Restrooms (05)	34	11.07%
06. Picnic shelters (06)	12	3.91%
07. Walking/biking paths (07)	25	8.14%
08. Signage and wayfinding (08)	1	0.33%
09. Bike racks (09)	1	0.33%
10. Parking (10)	18	5.86%
11. Lighting (11)	24	7.82%
12. Trash receptacles (12)	35	11.40%
13. Adult fitness equipment (13)	6	1.95%
14. Children's playground equipment (14)	16	5.21%
15. Dog waste bags (15)	2	0.65%
16. Sports fields (16)	8	2.61%
17. Sports courts (17)	21	6.84%
18. Other (18)	5	1.63%
99. None (99)	1	0.33%
No answer	8	2.61%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



### Field summary for Q6

Please select each of the following recreation amenities you have a need for.

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor) (01)	163	53.09%
02. Baseball and softball fields (02)	104	33.88%
03. Canoe/Kayak rentals (03)	76	24.76%
04. Community gardens (04)	121	39.41%
05. Cricket fields (05)	2	0.65%
06. Disc golf course (06)	36	11.73%
07. Dog park (07)	96	31.27%
08. Golf courses (08)	52	16.94%
09. Greenway trail system (09)	120	39.09%
10. Ice skating surface/in-line hockey rink (10)	52	16.94%
11. Multipurpose fields (football, soccer, lacrosse) (11)	128	41.69%
12. Natural Trails (12)	169	55.05%
13. Outdoor amphitheaters (13)	103	33.55%
14. Outdoor fitness and exercise equipment (14)	85	27.69%
15. Pickleball courts (15)	23	7.49%
16. Picnic shelters (16)	133	43.32%
17. Pier/fishing (17)	82	26.71%
18. Playground (18)	175	57.00%
19. Racquetball courts (19)	27	8.79%
20. Sand volleyball courts (20)	56	18.24%
21. Skate park/BMX (21)	64	20.85%
22. Splash pad (22)	138	44.95%
23. Tennis courts (23)	65	21.17%
24. Track (24)	82	26.71%
25. Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing) (25)	99	32.25%
26. Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor) (26)	110	35.83%
27. Classroom/meeting/event space (27)	64	20.85%
28. Climbing wall (28)	83	27.04%
29. Game room (29)	50	16.29%
30. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.) (30)	125	40.72%
31. Indoor turf field (31)	54	17.59%
32. Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball) (32)	94	30.62%
33. Senior center (33)	63	20.52%
34. Tennis courts (34)	52	16.94%
35. Walking/jogging track (35)	196	63.84%



### Field summary for Q6a(01)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [01. Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	7	2.28%
Partly Met (02)	38	12.38%
Not Met (01)	112	36.48%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	144	46.91%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(02)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [02. Baseball and softball fields]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	5	1.63%
Mostly Met (03)	17	5.54%
Partly Met (02)	48	15.64%
Not Met (01)	30	9.77%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	203	66.12%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(03)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [03. Canoe/Kayak rentals]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	4	1.30%
Not Met (01)	64	20.85%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	231	75.24%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(04)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [04. Community gardens]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	4	1.30%
Partly Met (02)	29	9.45%
Not Met (01)	81	26.38%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	186	60.59%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(05)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [05. Cricket fields]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	2	0.65%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	305	99.35%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(06)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [06. Disc golf course]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	3	0.98%
Mostly Met (03)	7	2.28%
Partly Met (02)	14	4.56%
Not Met (01)	9	2.93%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	271	88.27%

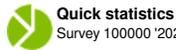
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(07)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [07. Dog park]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	4	1.30%
Mostly Met (03)	10	3.26%
Partly Met (02)	49	15.96%
Not Met (01)	28	9.12%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	211	68.73%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(08)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [08. Golf courses]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	4	1.30%
Mostly Met (03)	7	2.28%
Partly Met (02)	16	5.21%
Not Met (01)	23	7.49%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	255	83.06%

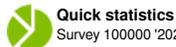
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(09)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [09. Greenway trail system]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	8	2.61%
Partly Met (02)	29	9.45%
Not Met (01)	75	24.43%
No answer	8	2.61%
Not displayed	187	60.91%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(10)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [10. Ice skating surface/in-line hockey rink]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	4	1.30%
Not Met (01)	45	14.66%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	255	83.06%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(11)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [11. Multipurpose fields (football, soccer, lacrosse)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	14	4.56%
Partly Met (02)	48	15.64%
Not Met (01)	58	18.89%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	179	58.31%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(12)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [12. Natural Trails]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	3	0.98%
Mostly Met (03)	14	4.56%
Partly Met (02)	55	17.92%
Not Met (01)	92	29.97%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	138	44.95%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(13)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [13. Outdoor amphitheaters]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	4	1.30%
Partly Met (02)	9	2.93%
Not Met (01)	79	25.73%
No answer	9	2.93%
Not displayed	204	66.45%



**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(14)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [14. Outdoor fitness and exercise equipment]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	17	5.54%
Not Met (01)	63	20.52%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	222	72.31%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(15)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [15. Pickleball courts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	23	7.49%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	284	92.51%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(16)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [16. Picnic shelters]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	5	1.63%
Mostly Met (03)	19	6.19%
Partly Met (02)	85	27.69%
Not Met (01)	20	6.51%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	174	56.68%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(17)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [17. Pier/fishing]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	4	1.30%
Mostly Met (03)	13	4.23%
Partly Met (02)	43	14.01%
Not Met (01)	19	6.19%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	225	73.29%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(18)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [18. Playground]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	20	6.51%
Mostly Met (03)	87	28.34%
Partly Met (02)	56	18.24%
Not Met (01)	8	2.61%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	132	43.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(19)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [19. Racquetball courts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	24	7.82%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	280	91.21%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(20)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [20. Sand volleyball courts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	2	0.65%
Not Met (01)	51	16.61%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	251	81.76%

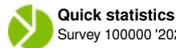
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(21)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [21. Skate park/BMX]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	7	2.28%
Partly Met (02)	29	9.45%
Not Met (01)	25	8.14%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	243	79.15%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(22)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [22. Splash pad]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	12	3.91%
Mostly Met (03)	51	16.61%
Partly Met (02)	62	20.20%
Not Met (01)	8	2.61%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	169	55.05%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(23)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [23. Tennis courts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	6	1.95%
Mostly Met (03)	12	3.91%
Partly Met (02)	28	9.12%
Not Met (01)	17	5.54%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	242	78.83%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(24)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [24. Track]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	3	0.98%
Mostly Met (03)	14	4.56%
Partly Met (02)	33	10.75%
Not Met (01)	30	9.77%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	225	73.29%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(25)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [25. Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	3	0.98%
Mostly Met (03)	6	1.95%
Partly Met (02)	25	8.14%
Not Met (01)	58	18.89%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	208	67.75%



**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(26)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [26. Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	15	4.89%
Not Met (01)	82	26.71%
No answer	8	2.61%
Not displayed	197	64.17%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(27)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [27. Classroom/meeting/event space]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	13	4.23%
Not Met (01)	42	13.68%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	243	79.15%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(28)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [28. Climbing wall]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	3	0.98%
Not Met (01)	79	25.73%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	224	72.96%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(29)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [29. Game room]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	4	1.30%
Not Met (01)	41	13.36%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	257	83.71%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(30)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [30. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	4	1.30%
Partly Met (02)	25	8.14%
Not Met (01)	84	27.36%
No answer	11	3.58%
Not displayed	182	59.28%

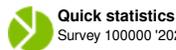
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q6a(31)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [31. Indoor turf field]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	50	16.29%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	253	82.41%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(32)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [32. Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	35	11.40%
Not Met (01)	53	17.26%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	213	69.38%

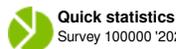
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(33)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [33. Senior center]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	5	1.63%
Partly Met (02)	21	6.84%
Not Met (01)	30	9.77%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	244	79.48%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(34)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [34. Tennis courts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	4	1.30%
Mostly Met (03)	9	2.93%
Partly Met (02)	24	7.82%
Not Met (01)	13	4.23%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	255	83.06%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q6a(35)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation amenities you selected. [35. Walking/jogging track]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	20	6.51%
Mostly Met (03)	53	17.26%
Partly Met (02)	86	28.01%
Not Met (01)	27	8.79%
No answer	10	3.26%
Not displayed	111	36.16%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q7(01)

Which FOUR of the amenities from the list in Question 6 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household? [1st:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor) (01)	29	9.45%
02. Baseball and softball fields (02)	31	10.10%
03. Canoe/Kayak rentals (03)	9	2.93%
04. Community gardens (04)	10	3.26%
05. Cricket fields (05)	0	0.00%
06. Disc golf course (06)	1	0.33%
07. Dog park (07)	9	2.93%
08. Golf courses (08)	5	1.63%
09. Greenway trail system (09)	18	5.86%
10. Ice skating surface/in-line hockey rink (10)	6	1.95%
11. Multipurpose fields (football, soccer, lacrosse) (11)	25	8.14%
12. Natural Trails (12)	31	10.10%
13. Outdoor amphitheaters (13)	8	2.61%
14. Outdoor fitness and exercise equipment (14)	1	0.33%
15. Pickleball courts (15)	0	0.00%
16. Picnic shelters (16)	0	0.00%
17. Pier/fishing (17)	4	1.30%
18. Playground (18)	34	11.07%
19. Racquetball courts (19)	0	0.00%
20. Sand volleyball courts (20)	2	0.65%
21. Skate park/BMX (21)	5	1.63%
22. Splash pad (22)	6	1.95%
23. Tennis courts (23)	5	1.63%
24. Track (24)	3	0.98%
25. Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing) (25)	2	0.65%
26. Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor) (26)	15	4.89%
27. Classroom/meeting/event space (27)	0	0.00%
28. Climbing wall (28)	0	0.00%
29. Game room (29)	0	0.00%
30. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.) (30)	6	1.95%
31. Indoor turf field (31)	2	0.65%
32. Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball) (32)	11	3.58%
33. Senior center (33)	4	1.30%
34. Tennis courts (34)	0	0.00%
35. Walking/jogging track (35)	16	5.21%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	9	2.93%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



Field summary for Q7(02)

Which FOUR of the amenities from the list in Question 6 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?  
[2nd:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor) (01)	27	8.79%
02. Baseball and softball fields (02)	18	5.86%
03. Canoe/Kayak rentals (03)	7	2.28%
04. Community gardens (04)	12	3.91%
05. Cricket fields (05)	0	0.00%
06. Disc golf course (06)	3	0.98%
07. Dog park (07)	14	4.56%
08. Golf courses (08)	6	1.95%
09. Greenway trail system (09)	21	6.84%
10. Ice skating surface/in-line hockey rink (10)	4	1.30%
11. Multipurpose fields (football, soccer, lacrosse) (11)	22	7.17%
12. Natural Trails (12)	33	10.75%
13. Outdoor amphitheaters (13)	6	1.95%
14. Outdoor fitness and exercise equipment (14)	4	1.30%
15. Pickleball courts (15)	3	0.98%
16. Picnic shelters (16)	11	3.58%
17. Pier/fishing (17)	6	1.95%
18. Playground (18)	17	5.54%
19. Racquetball courts (19)	2	0.65%
20. Sand volleyball courts (20)	3	0.98%
21. Skate park/BMX (21)	3	0.98%
22. Splash pad (22)	15	4.89%
23. Tennis courts (23)	4	1.30%
24. Track (24)	4	1.30%
25. Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing) (25)	4	1.30%
26. Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor) (26)	5	1.63%
27. Classroom/meeting/event space (27)	0	0.00%
28. Climbing wall (28)	0	0.00%
29. Game room (29)	1	0.33%
30. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.) (30)	5	1.63%
31. Indoor turf field (31)	7	2.28%
32. Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball) (32)	7	2.28%
33. Senior center (33)	2	0.65%
34. Tennis courts (34)	2	0.65%
35. Walking/jogging track (35)	13	4.23%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	16	5.21%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

Field summary for Q7(03)

Which FOUR of the amenities from the list in Question 6 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?  
[3rd:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor) (01)	16	5.21%
02. Baseball and softball fields (02)	3	0.98%
03. Canoe/Kayak rentals (03)	8	2.61%
04. Community gardens (04)	22	7.17%
05. Cricket fields (05)	0	0.00%
06. Disc golf course (06)	2	0.65%
07. Dog park (07)	10	3.26%
08. Golf courses (08)	7	2.28%
09. Greenway trail system (09)	12	3.91%
10. Ice skating surface/in-line hockey rink (10)	2	0.65%
11. Multipurpose fields (football, soccer, lacrosse) (11)	8	2.61%
12. Natural Trails (12)	25	8.14%
13. Outdoor amphitheaters (13)	12	3.91%
14. Outdoor fitness and exercise equipment (14)	3	0.98%
15. Pickleball courts (15)	3	0.98%
16. Picnic shelters (16)	9	2.93%
17. Pier/fishing (17)	8	2.61%
18. Playground (18)	32	10.42%
19. Racquetball courts (19)	1	0.33%
20. Sand volleyball courts (20)	5	1.63%
21. Skate park/BMX (21)	3	0.98%
22. Splash pad (22)	19	6.19%
23. Tennis courts (23)	5	1.63%
24. Track (24)	1	0.33%
25. Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing) (25)	4	1.30%
26. Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor) (26)	5	1.63%
27. Classroom/meeting/event space (27)	4	1.30%
28. Climbing wall (28)	6	1.95%
29. Game room (29)	2	0.65%
30. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.) (30)	10	3.26%
31. Indoor turf field (31)	2	0.65%
32. Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball) (32)	8	2.61%
33. Senior center (33)	3	0.98%
34. Tennis courts (34)	2	0.65%
35. Walking/jogging track (35)	24	7.82%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	21	6.84%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

Field summary for Q7(04)

Which FOUR of the amenities from the list in Question 6 are MOST IMPORTANT to your household?  
[4th:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Aquatics/swimming facility (outdoor) (01)	10	3.26%
02. Baseball and softball fields (02)	1	0.33%
03. Canoe/Kayak rentals (03)	3	0.98%
04. Community gardens (04)	9	2.93%
05. Cricket fields (05)	0	0.00%
06. Disc golf course (06)	2	0.65%
07. Dog park (07)	14	4.56%
08. Golf courses (08)	3	0.98%
09. Greenway trail system (09)	5	1.63%
10. Ice skating surface/in-line hockey rink (10)	8	2.61%
11. Multipurpose fields (football, soccer, lacrosse) (11)	6	1.95%
12. Natural Trails (12)	17	5.54%
13. Outdoor amphitheaters (13)	15	4.89%
14. Outdoor fitness and exercise equipment (14)	10	3.26%
15. Pickleball courts (15)	2	0.65%
16. Picnic shelters (16)	13	4.23%
17. Pier/fishing (17)	9	2.93%
18. Playground (18)	12	3.91%
19. Racquetball courts (19)	1	0.33%
20. Sand volleyball courts (20)	3	0.98%
21. Skate park/BMX (21)	5	1.63%
22. Splash pad (22)	7	2.28%
23. Tennis courts (23)	4	1.30%
24. Track (24)	6	1.95%
25. Water access (boating, kayaking, canoeing) (25)	12	3.91%
26. Aquatics/swimming facility (indoor) (26)	9	2.93%
27. Classroom/meeting/event space (27)	8	2.61%
28. Climbing wall (28)	5	1.63%
29. Game room (29)	4	1.30%
30. Indoor fitness and exercise facilities (elevated walking/jogging track, cardio fitness studio, exercise studio for yoga, dance, fitness, etc.) (30)	14	4.56%
31. Indoor turf field (31)	9	2.93%
32. Multi-use gym space (basketball, volleyball) (32)	9	2.93%
33. Senior center (33)	12	3.91%
34. Tennis courts (34)	0	0.00%
35. Walking/jogging track (35)	29	9.45%
99. None (99)	1	0.33%
No answer	30	9.77%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

Field summary for Q8

Please select each of the following recreation programs you have a desire to participate in.

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Action sports (e.g., skateboarding, BMX) (01)	42	13.68%
02. Art, dance, performing arts (02)	97	31.60%
03. Adult fitness and wellness programs (03)	173	56.35%
04. Adult sports programs (04)	80	26.06%
05. Afterschool programs (05)	91	29.64%
06. Archery (06)	67	21.82%
07. Aquatic programs (e.g., swim lessons, fitness) (07)	113	36.81%
08. Baseball (08)	75	24.43%
09. Basketball (09)	73	23.78%
10. Cheerleading (10)	27	8.79%
11. Cricket (11)	4	1.30%
12. Disc golf (12)	30	9.77%
13. Education/Life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (13)	111	36.16%
14. Environmental education (14)	73	23.78%
15. Flag football (15)	56	18.24%
16. Tackle football (16)	56	18.24%
17. Golf lessons (17)	50	16.29%
18. Lacrosse (18)	11	3.58%
19. Martial arts programs (19)	57	18.57%
20. Music lessons/classes (20)	69	22.48%
21. Outdoor Adventure programs (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing) (21)	128	41.69%
22. Outdoor music/concerts (22)	137	44.63%
23. Pickleball (23)	24	7.82%
24. Pre-School programs (24)	40	13.03%
25. Special needs programs (25)	36	11.73%
26. Senior citizen programs (26)	52	16.94%
27. Soccer (27)	61	19.87%
28. Softball (28)	51	16.61%
29. Special events/family festivals (29)	147	47.88%
30. Swimming (30)	99	32.25%
31. Teen fitness and wellness programs (31)	75	24.43%
32. Teen sports programs (32)	82	26.71%
33. Teen summer camp programs (33)	82	26.71%
34. Tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues (34)	48	15.64%
35. Volleyball (35)	41	13.36%
36. Youth fitness and wellness programs (36)	90	29.32%
37. Youth sports programs (37)	115	37.46%
38. Other (38)	11	3.58%



**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8x38

Please define "Other":

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	11	3.58%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	296	96.42%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(01)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [01. Action sports (e.g., skateboarding, BMX)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	13	4.23%
Not Met (01)	24	7.82%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	265	86.32%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(02)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [02. Art, dance, performing arts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	11	3.58%
Partly Met (02)	34	11.07%
Not Met (01)	48	15.64%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	210	68.40%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(03)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [03. Adult fitness and wellness programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	9	2.93%
Partly Met (02)	51	16.61%
Not Met (01)	107	34.85%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	134	43.65%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(04)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [04. Adult sports programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	16	5.21%
Not Met (01)	60	19.54%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	227	73.94%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(05)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [05. Afterschool programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	4	1.30%
Partly Met (02)	28	9.12%
Not Met (01)	56	18.24%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	216	70.36%

Field summary for Q8a(06)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [06. Archery]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	3	0.98%
Not Met (01)	62	20.20%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	240	78.18%

Field summary for Q8a(07)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [07. Aquatic programs (e.g., swim lessons, fitness)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	17	5.54%
Not Met (01)	92	29.97%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	194	63.19%

Field summary for Q8a(08)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [08. Baseball]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	7	2.28%
Partly Met (02)	33	10.75%
Not Met (01)	33	10.75%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	232	75.57%

Field summary for Q8a(09)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [09. Basketball]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	6	1.95%
Partly Met (02)	33	10.75%
Not Met (01)	33	10.75%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	234	76.22%

Field summary for Q8a(10)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [10. Cheerleading]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	7	2.28%
Not Met (01)	14	4.56%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	280	91.21%

Field summary for Q8a(11)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [11. Cricket]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	4	1.30%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	303	98.70%



**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(12)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [12. Disc golf]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	2	0.65%
Mostly Met (03)	5	1.63%
Partly Met (02)	10	3.26%
Not Met (01)	13	4.23%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	277	90.23%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(13)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [13. Education/Life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	8	2.61%
Not Met (01)	95	30.94%
No answer	8	2.61%
Not displayed	196	63.84%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(14)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [14. Environmental education]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	8	2.61%
Not Met (01)	60	19.54%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	234	76.22%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(15)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [15. Flag football]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	5	1.63%
Partly Met (02)	18	5.86%
Not Met (01)	31	10.10%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	251	81.76%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(16)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [16. Tackle football]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	18	5.86%
Not Met (01)	34	11.07%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	251	81.76%

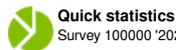
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(17)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [17. Golf lessons]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	3	0.98%
Not Met (01)	43	14.01%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	257	83.71%



**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

### Field summary for Q8a(18)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [18. Lacrosse]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	11	3.58%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	296	96.42%

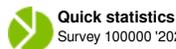


**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

### Field summary for Q8a(19)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [19. Martial arts programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	2	0.65%
Partly Met (02)	16	5.21%
Not Met (01)	35	11.40%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	250	81.43%

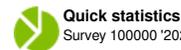


**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

### Field summary for Q8a(20)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [20. Music lessons/classes]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	5	1.63%
Not Met (01)	57	18.57%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	238	77.52%

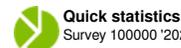


**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

### Field summary for Q8a(21)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [21. Outdoor Adventure programs (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing)]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	16	5.21%
Not Met (01)	105	34.20%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	179	58.31%

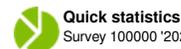


**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

### Field summary for Q8a(22)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [22. Outdoor music/concerts]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	4	1.30%
Partly Met (02)	34	11.07%
Not Met (01)	95	30.94%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	170	55.37%



**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

### Field summary for Q8a(23)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [23. Pickleball]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	0	0.00%
Not Met (01)	23	7.49%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	283	92.18%



**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(24)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [24. Pre-School programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	4	1.30%
Not Met (01)	33	10.75%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	267	86.97%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(25)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [25. Special needs programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	8	2.61%
Not Met (01)	27	8.79%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	271	88.27%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(26)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [26. Senior citizen programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	17	5.54%
Not Met (01)	28	9.12%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	255	83.06%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(27)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [27. Soccer]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	3	0.98%
Mostly Met (03)	8	2.61%
Partly Met (02)	24	7.82%
Not Met (01)	23	7.49%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	246	80.13%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(28)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [28. Softball]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	3	0.98%
Partly Met (02)	21	6.84%
Not Met (01)	27	8.79%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	256	83.39%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(29)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [29. Special events/family festivals]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	19	6.19%
Partly Met (02)	75	24.43%
Not Met (01)	45	14.66%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	160	52.12%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(30)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [30. Swimming]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	6	1.95%
Partly Met (02)	24	7.82%
Not Met (01)	67	21.82%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	208	67.75%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(31)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [31. Teen fitness and wellness programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	5	1.63%
Not Met (01)	67	21.82%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	232	75.57%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(32)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [32. Teen sports programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	15	4.89%
Not Met (01)	66	21.50%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	225	73.29%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(33)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [33. Teen summer camp programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	9	2.93%
Not Met (01)	71	23.13%
No answer	2	0.65%
Not displayed	225	73.29%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(34)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [34. Tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	1	0.33%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	8	2.61%
Not Met (01)	39	12.70%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	259	84.36%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(35)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [35. Volleyball]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	4	1.30%
Not Met (01)	35	11.40%
No answer	1	0.33%
Not displayed	266	86.64%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(36)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [36. Youth fitness and wellness programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	0	0.00%
Partly Met (02)	16	5.21%
Not Met (01)	68	22.15%
No answer	6	1.95%
Not displayed	217	70.68%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(37)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [37. Youth sports programs]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	11	3.58%
Partly Met (02)	37	12.05%
Not Met (01)	62	20.20%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	192	62.54%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q8a(38)

Please rate how well your needs are being met by each of the recreation programs you selected. [38. Other]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Fully Met (04)	0	0.00%
Mostly Met (03)	1	0.33%
Partly Met (02)	1	0.33%
Not Met (01)	5	1.63%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	296	96.42%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q9(01)

Which FOUR programs/activities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and members of your household? [1st:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Action sports (e.g., skateboarding, BMX) (01)	11	3.58%
02. Art, dance, performing arts (02)	14	4.56%
03. Adult fitness and wellness programs (03)	34	11.07%
04. Adult sports programs (04)	14	4.56%
05. Afterschool programs (05)	8	2.61%
06. Archery (06)	2	0.65%
07. Aquatic programs (e.g., swim lessons, fitness) (07)	13	4.23%
08. Baseball (08)	13	4.23%
09. Basketball (09)	7	2.28%
10. Cheerleading (10)	1	0.33%
11. Cricket (11)	0	0.00%
12. Disc golf (12)	2	0.65%
13. Education/Life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (13)	8	2.61%
14. Environmental education (14)	6	1.95%
15. Flag football (15)	0	0.00%
16. Tackle football (16)	15	4.89%
17. Golf lessons (17)	4	1.30%
18. Lacrosse (18)	0	0.00%
19. Martial arts programs (19)	2	0.65%
20. Music lessons/classes (20)	3	0.98%
21. Outdoor Adventure programs (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing) (21)	12	3.91%
22. Outdoor music/concerts (22)	21	6.84%
23. Pickleball (23)	1	0.33%
24. Pre-School programs (24)	5	1.63%
25. Special needs programs (25)	3	0.98%
26. Senior citizen programs (26)	3	0.98%
27. Soccer (27)	2	0.65%
28. Softball (28)	2	0.65%
29. Special events/family festivals (29)	21	6.84%
30. Swimming (30)	8	2.61%
31. Teen fitness and wellness programs (31)	4	1.30%
32. Teen sports programs (32)	5	1.63%
33. Teen summer camp programs (33)	6	1.95%
34. Tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues (34)	6	1.95%
35. Volleyball (35)	1	0.33%
36. Youth fitness and wellness programs (36)	6	1.95%
37. Youth sports programs (37)	21	6.84%
38. Other (38)	2	0.65%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	21	6.84%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

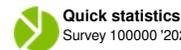
**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q9(02)

Which FOUR programs/activities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and members of your household? [2nd:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Action sports (e.g., skateboarding, BMX) (01)	2	0.65%
02. Art, dance, performing arts (02)	11	3.58%
03. Adult fitness and wellness programs (03)	25	8.14%
04. Adult sports programs (04)	7	2.28%
05. Afterschool programs (05)	10	3.26%
06. Archery (06)	14	4.56%
07. Aquatic programs (e.g., swim lessons, fitness) (07)	10	3.26%
08. Baseball (08)	8	2.61%
09. Basketball (09)	7	2.28%
10. Cheerleading (10)	1	0.33%
11. Cricket (11)	0	0.00%
12. Disc golf (12)	3	0.98%
13. Education/Life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (13)	26	8.47%
14. Environmental education (14)	6	1.95%
15. Flag football (15)	7	2.28%
16. Tackle football (16)	5	1.63%
17. Golf lessons (17)	5	1.63%
18. Lacrosse (18)	0	0.00%
19. Martial arts programs (19)	0	0.00%
20. Music lessons/classes (20)	4	1.30%
21. Outdoor Adventure programs (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing) (21)	15	4.89%
22. Outdoor music/concerts (22)	14	4.56%
23. Pickleball (23)	2	0.65%
24. Pre-School programs (24)	2	0.65%
25. Special needs programs (25)	5	1.63%
26. Senior citizen programs (26)	11	3.58%
27. Soccer (27)	5	1.63%
28. Softball (28)	4	1.30%
29. Special events/family festivals (29)	15	4.89%
30. Swimming (30)	6	1.95%
31. Teen fitness and wellness programs (31)	3	0.98%
32. Teen sports programs (32)	5	1.63%
33. Teen summer camp programs (33)	6	1.95%
34. Tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues (34)	3	0.98%
35. Volleyball (35)	3	0.98%
36. Youth fitness and wellness programs (36)	12	3.91%
37. Youth sports programs (37)	13	4.23%
38. Other (38)	1	0.33%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	31	10.10%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q9(03)

Which FOUR programs/activities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and members of your household? [3rd:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Action sports (e.g., skateboarding, BMX) (01)	4	1.30%
02. Art, dance, performing arts (02)	13	4.23%
03. Adult fitness and wellness programs (03)	17	5.54%
04. Adult sports programs (04)	6	1.95%
05. Afterschool programs (05)	8	2.61%
06. Archery (06)	3	0.98%
07. Aquatic programs (e.g., swim lessons, fitness) (07)	12	3.91%
08. Baseball (08)	7	2.28%
09. Basketball (09)	6	1.95%
10. Cheerleading (10)	2	0.65%
11. Cricket (11)	1	0.33%
12. Disc golf (12)	4	1.30%
13. Education/Life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (13)	20	6.51%
14. Environmental education (14)	17	5.54%
15. Flag football (15)	3	0.98%
16. Tackle football (16)	2	0.65%
17. Golf lessons (17)	3	0.98%
18. Lacrosse (18)	1	0.33%
19. Martial arts programs (19)	6	1.95%
20. Music lessons/classes (20)	2	0.65%
21. Outdoor Adventure programs (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing) (21)	14	4.56%
22. Outdoor music/concerts (22)	13	4.23%
23. Pickleball (23)	5	1.63%
24. Pre-School programs (24)	5	1.63%
25. Special needs programs (25)	2	0.65%
26. Senior citizen programs (26)	8	2.61%
27. Soccer (27)	6	1.95%
28. Softball (28)	2	0.65%
29. Special events/family festivals (29)	17	5.54%
30. Swimming (30)	8	2.61%
31. Teen fitness and wellness programs (31)	6	1.95%
32. Teen sports programs (32)	10	3.26%
33. Teen summer camp programs (33)	9	2.93%
34. Tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues (34)	3	0.98%
35. Volleyball (35)	1	0.33%
36. Youth fitness and wellness programs (36)	6	1.95%
37. Youth sports programs (37)	13	4.23%
38. Other (38)	3	0.98%
99. None (99)	0	0.00%
No answer	39	12.70%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



Field summary for Q9(04)

Which FOUR programs/activities from the list in Question 8 are MOST IMPORTANT to you and members of your household? [4th:]

Answer	Count	Percentage
01. Action sports (e.g., skateboarding, BMX) (01)	6	1.95%
02. Art, dance, performing arts (02)	5	1.63%
03. Adult fitness and wellness programs (03)	14	4.56%
04. Adult sports programs (04)	6	1.95%
05. Afterschool programs (05)	4	1.30%
06. Archery (06)	5	1.63%
07. Aquatic programs (e.g., swim lessons, fitness) (07)	6	1.95%
08. Baseball (08)	3	0.98%
09. Basketball (09)	4	1.30%
10. Cheerleading (10)	0	0.00%
11. Cricket (11)	2	0.65%
12. Disc golf (12)	2	0.65%
13. Education/Life skills programs such as cooking, budgeting, carpentry (13)	17	5.54%
14. Environmental education (14)	7	2.28%
15. Flag football (15)	4	1.30%
16. Tackle football (16)	3	0.98%
17. Golf lessons (17)	3	0.98%
18. Lacrosse (18)	0	0.00%
19. Martial arts programs (19)	3	0.98%
20. Music lessons/classes (20)	6	1.95%
21. Outdoor Adventure programs (e.g., canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, rowing) (21)	15	4.89%
22. Outdoor music/concerts (22)	15	4.89%
23. Pickleball (23)	1	0.33%
24. Pre-School programs (24)	3	0.98%
25. Special needs programs (25)	8	2.61%
26. Senior citizen programs (26)	8	2.61%
27. Soccer (27)	2	0.65%
28. Softball (28)	2	0.65%
29. Special events/family festivals (29)	23	7.49%
30. Swimming (30)	10	3.26%
31. Teen fitness and wellness programs (31)	9	2.93%
32. Teen sports programs (32)	4	1.30%
33. Teen summer camp programs (33)	8	2.61%
34. Tennis lessons, clinics, and leagues (34)	2	0.65%
35. Volleyball (35)	6	1.95%
36. Youth fitness and wellness programs (36)	10	3.26%
37. Youth sports programs (37)	22	7.17%
38. Other (38)	2	0.65%
99. None (99)	5	1.63%
No answer	52	16.94%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

Field summary for Q10

Which of the following reasons prevent you or other members of your household from using recreation PROGRAMS offered by the Parks and Recreation Department (if you currently use them, what prevents you from using them MORE OFTEN)?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Cost of participation (01)	58	18.89%
Facilities are too far from home (02)	66	21.50%
Inconvenient hours of operation (03)	68	22.15%
Lack of cleanliness (04)	104	33.88%
Lack of disabled access (05)	17	5.54%
Lack of information/don't know what is offered (06)	216	70.36%
Lack of maintenance (07)	129	42.02%
Lack of parking (08)	34	11.07%
Language/information is only available in English (09)	1	0.33%
Not enough time/too busy (10)	28	9.12%
Not interested in what is provided (11)	57	18.57%
Overcrowding (12)	32	10.42%
Safety at facilities (13)	58	18.89%
Waiting list for registration (14)	14	4.56%
Use Fort Sill MWR programs (15)	16	5.21%
Other (16)	38	12.38%
Nothing - I am actively using the City's recreation facilities and programs (17)	9	2.93%

Field summary for Q10x16

Please define "Other":

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	35	11.40%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	269	87.62%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q11

From the following list, please CHECK ALL of the ways you learn about Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Banners in public places (01)	58	18.89%
Bulletin boards (02)	15	4.89%
Conversation with staff (03)	13	4.23%
Direct email (04)	13	4.23%
Parks and Recreation Website (05)	69	22.48%
Leisure Guide (06)	14	4.56%
Newspaper (07)	53	17.26%
Social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) (08)	215	70.03%
Search Engine (e.g., Google, Yahoo, Bing) (09)	47	15.31%
Word of mouth (10)	172	56.03%
Other (11)	11	3.58%
None of these (12)	21	6.84%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q11x11

Please define "Other":

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	11	3.58%
No answer	0	0.00%
Not displayed	296	96.42%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q12(01)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. [1. I am aware of the recreation programs and activities that are offered]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree (05)	9	2.93%
Agree (04)	37	12.05%
Neutral (03)	54	17.59%
Disagree (02)	107	34.85%
Strongly Disagree (01)	82	26.71%
Don't Know (09)	13	4.23%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q12(02)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. [2. I am satisfied with recreation opportunities I receive for my tax dollars]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree (05)	2	0.65%
Agree (04)	9	2.93%
Neutral (03)	52	16.94%
Disagree (02)	96	31.27%
Strongly Disagree (01)	125	40.72%
Don't Know (09)	18	5.86%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q12(03)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. [3. I am satisfied with the variety of recreation programs offered by the City]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree (05)	2	0.65%
Agree (04)	8	2.61%
Neutral (03)	51	16.61%
Disagree (02)	94	30.62%
Strongly Disagree (01)	123	40.07%
Don't Know (09)	25	8.14%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q12(04)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. [4. Parks and recreation is an essential service to the City]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree (05)	202	65.80%
Agree (04)	63	20.52%
Neutral (03)	13	4.23%
Disagree (02)	11	3.58%
Strongly Disagree (01)	9	2.93%
Don't Know (09)	6	1.95%
No answer	3	0.98%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q12(05)

Please indicate your level of agreement with each of the following statements regarding the Parks and Recreation Department. [5. Public parks add to the quality of life in the community]

Answer	Count	Percentage
Strongly Agree (05)	228	74.27%
Agree (04)	53	17.26%
Neutral (03)	8	2.61%
Disagree (02)	5	1.63%
Strongly Disagree (01)	7	2.28%
Don't Know (09)	2	0.65%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for testDemographics

test

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	0	0.00%
No answer	307	100.00%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q17 [Under age 5:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	131
Sum	97.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.75
Average	0.74
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	3.0000000000

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q17 [Ages 5-9:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	151
Sum	145.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.83
Average	0.96
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	6.0000000000

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q17 [Ages 10-14:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	144
Sum	163.0000000000
Standard deviation	1.62
Average	1.13
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	14.0000000000

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q17 [Ages 15-19:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	105
Sum	91.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.93
Average	0.87
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	4.0000000000

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q17 [Ages 20-24:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	90
Sum	57.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.81
Average	0.63
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	0
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	4.0000000000

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q17 [Ages 25-34:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	129
Sum	135.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.77
Average	1.05
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	2
Maximum	3.0000000000

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q17 [Ages 35-44:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	160
Sum	198.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.77
Average	1.24
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	1
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	2
Maximum	3.0000000000

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q17 [Ages 45-54:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	93
Sum	83.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.86
Average	0.89
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	2
Maximum	4.0000000000

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q17 [Ages 55-64:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	91
Sum	72.0000000000
Standard deviation	0.7
Average	0.79
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	2.0000000000

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q17 [Ages 65-74:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	87
Sum	126.0000000000
Standard deviation	7
Average	1.45
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	1
3rd quartile (Q3)	1
Maximum	66.0000000000



**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q17 [Ages 75+:]

Including yourself, how many people in your household are...

Calculation	Result
Count	62
Sum	91.0000000000
Standard deviation	9.43
Average	1.47
Minimum	0.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	0
2nd quartile (Median)	0
3rd quartile (Q3)	0
Maximum	75.0000000000

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q18

What is your age?

Calculation	Result
Count	301
Sum	13056.0000000000
Standard deviation	13.95
Average	43.38
Minimum	17.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	34
2nd quartile (Median)	39
3rd quartile (Q3)	53
Maximum	80.0000000000

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q19

How many years have you lived in Lawton?

Calculation	Result
Count	305
Sum	8071.0000000000
Standard deviation	16.25
Average	26.46
Minimum	1.0000000000
1st quartile (Q1)	12
2nd quartile (Median)	28
3rd quartile (Q3)	37
Maximum	73.0000000000

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q20

Are you, or anyone in your household active-duty military?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Yes (01)	20	6.51%
No (02)	282	91.86%
No answer	5	1.63%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q21

What is your household income?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Under \$25,000 (01)	18	5.86%
\$25,000-\$49,999 (02)	62	20.20%
\$50,000-\$74,999 (03)	68	22.15%
\$75,000-\$99,999 (04)	49	15.96%
\$100,000-149,999 (05)	54	17.59%
\$150,000-\$249,999 (06)	14	4.56%
Over \$250,000 (07)	8	2.61%
No answer	34	11.07%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**  
Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

Field summary for Q22

What is your race/ethnicity?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Asian/Pacific Islander (01)	12	3.91%
Black/African American (02)	14	4.56%
Native American (03)	33	10.75%
White/Caucasian (04)	240	78.18%
Hispanic (05)	31	10.10%
Unknown/Don't know (77)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say (88)	0	0.00%
Other (99)	11	3.58%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q22x99

Please describe your race/ethnicity.

Answer	Count	Percentage
Answer	7	2.28%
No answer	4	1.30%
Not displayed	296	96.42%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q23

What is your gender?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Female (01)	223	72.64%
Male (02)	70	22.80%
Non-Binary (03)	0	0.00%
Prefer not to say (04)	7	2.28%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	0	0.00%

**Quick statistics**

Survey 100000 '2021 Lawton Parks, Sports and Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Needs Assessment'

## Field summary for Q24

Do you own or rent your primary residence?

Answer	Count	Percentage
Own (01)	224	72.96%
Rent (02)	76	24.76%
No answer	7	2.28%
Not displayed	0	0.00%



# VISIONING SUMMARY

At the beginning of the planning process a series of visioning meetings were held to engage residents, key staff, and various stakeholders to gain insight about the existing park, recreation, and trail needs and interests. The graphic below summarizes the key findings from the input process.

## Community Visioning Summary - February 2021

The following responses are from the:

- Technical Committee Meeting
- Stakeholder Listening Sessions
- Joint Meeting with Steering Committee, City Council, and Parks and Recreation Commission
- Virtual Public Engagement Meeting

Q: What is the greatest challenge and opportunity for parks in Lawton?

SPREAD PROGRAMS  
 CONSISTENT BRANDING  
**QUALITY OF LIFE**  
 CIP  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**  
 USABLE AREAS MASTER PLAN  
 ATTRACTING RESIDENTS GREEN SPACE  
 INCREASE AWARENESS  
 HIGHLIGHT PARKS QUANTITY MAINTENANCE  
 BUDGET MANPOWER  
 NEW FAMILIES

Q: What do you picture when you think about Lawton in 10 years?

**BETTER**  
 HOPEFUL AUTOMATED MAINTENANCE  
**TECHNOLOGY**  
 MINIMUM STANDARDS REDUCED SPRAWL  
**INVESTMENTS** GREEN PROUD  
 COMMUNITY INDOOR FACILITIES YOGA  
 IMPROVED **YOUTH USE** CLEANER  
**FAMILY ORIENTED**  
 INVESTED PEOPLE SURVEILLANCE  
 COMMUNICATION **PROGRAMS** COHESIVE  
 WOW FACTOR **DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFT**  
 SUSTAINABLE  
 REMOTE WORKING

## Visual Preference Images

What are your top three (3) preferred amenities for parks in Lawton?



Playgrounds



Walking Paths



Shade Trees

What are your top three (3) preferred amenities for sports & athletic fields in Lawton?



Multi-Use Fields



Basketball



Soccer

What are your top three (3) preferred amenities or programs for indoor recreation in Lawton?



Gymnasium



Jogging/Walking Track



Outdoor Pool\*

What are your top three (3) preferred amenities or facilities for trails in Lawton?



Sidewalks



Off-Street Trails



Protected Bike Lanes

What are your top three (3) preferred amenities for open space and natural areas in Lawton?



Nature Preserves



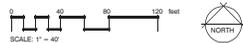
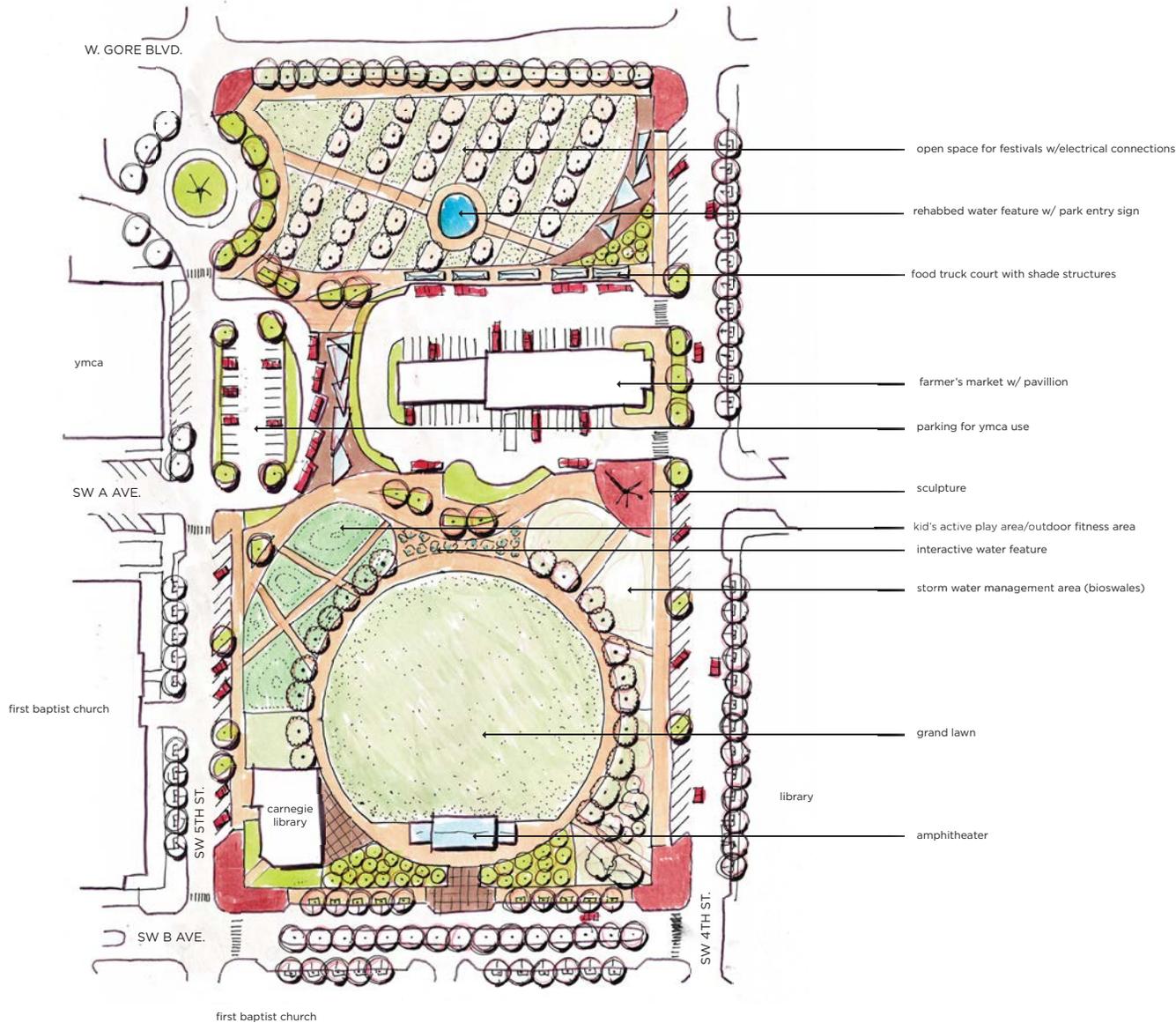
Environmental Education\*\*



Access to Open Space\*\*

\* Tied with Fitness Classes  
\*\* Tied with Preserving Scenic Views

# SHEPLER SQUARE PARK DESIGN CONCEPT



- open space for festivals w/electrical connections
- rehabbed water feature w/ park entry sign
- food truck court with shade structures
- farmer's market w/ pavillion
- parking for yymca use
- sculpture
- kid's active play area/outdoor fitness area
- interactive water feature
- storm water management area (bioswales)
- grand lawn
- library
- amphitheater



City of  
**Lawton**

# PARKS, SPORTS & RECREATION, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN



**HALFF**