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Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Bowling Green, Kentucky

October, 2015



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**Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Bowling Green, Kentucky**

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PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN CITY OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

EXISTING PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES IN BOWLING GREEN

The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department currently operates park sites in 25 locations, covering over 800 acres of land. These sites include three recreation centers and three golf courses. The four largest parks, Community Parks, are Lampkin Park (the site of the City's fairgrounds), Lovers Lane Park (the City's soccer complex), Preston Miller Park (the location of the Russell Sims Aquatic Center), and Spero Keriakes Park (the most used of Bowling Green parks). Bowling Green also operates several Neighborhood and Mini Parks throughout the City. These parks provide a variety of facilities including playgrounds, fields, courts, disc golf, trails, a dog park, and a skate park.

The City also provides several passive and Special Use Parks, including the gathering spaces at Fountain Square Park, Circus Square Park, and Riverwalk/Mitch McConnell Park, and natural areas at Chuck Crume Nature Park and Weldon Peete Park.

In addition to the facilities offered by the City of Bowling Green, two school districts provide playgrounds, athletic fields, and courts that can be used by the public when schools are not in session. Private organizations (including non-profits) also provides park facilities for use by the public. Additionally, several Warren County Parks are located vary near or adjacent to the City of Bowling Green.

THE NEED FOR A PLAN

The City of Bowling Green, incorporated in 1812, is located in southwestern Kentucky, approximately 60 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee. The City is centrally located in Warren County and has been the county seat since 1809. Founded in 1906, Western Kentucky University, and its 21,100 students, has had a powerful influence on the direction of the City of Bowling Green due to the presence in the City's downtown.

In 1900, the population of Bowling Green was just over 8,000, but this number increased to

nearly 18,347 by 1950 and 28,338 by 1960. Steady growth continued through 1980, reaching a population of 40,450. The population increased to 49,296 by 2000 and was 58,067 as of the 2010 Census. The composition of residents has also changed over time. The median age of the population (and proportion of seniors) has increased significantly and is expected to continue to do so into the future. Additionally, the City has seen a substantial growth in minority populations which is projected to continue into the future.

Changes to the makeup of the population have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in the City of Bowling Green. Recognizing that the needs of the population should be reassessed, the Board of Commissioners and staff of the Parks and Recreation Department determined that a comprehensive process should be completed to determine the needs of the community over the next 20 years, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan.

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

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

In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicated that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that a home buyer desires when considering a new home purchase. Finally, the preliminary findings of a recent study, *The Economic*

Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States Economy, conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that local and regional parks created \$140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

A CITIZEN DRIVEN PLAN

As the purpose of this Plan is to address the needs of the community, a primary focus of the Master Planning process was to identify those needs. A number of methods were utilized to determine the needs and desires of Bowling Green residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The public was involved in the process through the following methods:

1. A public workshop that functioned as a kick-off for the process (over 200 attendees)
2. A statistically valid Community Interest and Opinion Survey conducted by ETC/Leisure Vision that was completed by 479 residents
3. A web-based and handout survey that was completed by 1,520 residents
4. A web-based community engagement effort through the *Our BG Parks* website, powered by MindMixer, which provided opportunities for input throughout the Master Plan process
5. An active Parks and Recreation Master Plan Advisory Committee
6. Meetings with over 40 stakeholder groups representing:
 - Sports organizations
 - Community organizations
 - City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department staff
 - Elected officials
 - City-County Planning Commission
 - Greenways Commission
 - Parks and Recreation Board
 - Community leaders
 - Warren County Parks & Recreation
 - Elementary and Junior High School Students
7. Preliminary presentations of the public input findings

WHAT BOWLING GREEN RESIDENTS SAID

The information gathered from the various public input methods was used to identify the needs of Bowling Green residents. A brief summary of the findings and needs as communicated in the various public input methods is described below.

Statistically Valid Mail Survey

1. Eighty-seven (87%) of residents visited a park in Bowling Green over the past year (98% for the Web Survey), and 42% of these residents visited parks more than 20 times.
2. Fountain Square Park was the most visited park (60% reporting visiting), followed by Circus Square Park (54%). Spero Kereiakes Park was the third most used (51%) and the most used Active Park.
3. The improvements households would most like to see to existing parks included:
 - Improve/add restrooms (37%)
 - Sidewalks/trails (34%)
 - Drinking fountains (29%)
4. Ninety-two percent (88%) of households are either "very supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of City actions to upgrade older parks and recreation facilities. Other actions with very high levels of support included:
 - Purchase land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas (83%)
 - Develop recreational trails and connect existing trails (81%)
 - Upgrade existing youth/adult athletic fields, including new lighting (74%)
 - Develop an indoor aquatic facility (69%)

Web Survey respondents overwhelmingly supported an indoor ice rink (59% very supportive).

5. The most needed parks and recreation facilities for households were:
 - Walking and hiking trails (68%)
 - Large Community Parks (60%)
 - Small Neighborhood Parks (59%)
 - Picnic shelter/picnic areas (52%)
 - Natural areas/nature parks (50%)

The largest number of households had unmet needs for the following facilities:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

indoor swimming pools, walking and hiking trails, paved bike trails, and natural areas/nature parks.

6. The most needed parks and recreation programs for households were:

- Adult fitness and wellness (49%)
- Summer concerts (48%)
- Water fitness programs (35%)
- Nature programs (31%)
- Pet exercise (29%)

7. Respondents were asked how they would allocate \$100 among different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in Bowling Green. The top responses ranked as follows:

- Improvements and maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, game courts and picnic areas
- Development of new walking and biking trails
- Acquisition of land for open space, green space, and future parkland
- Development of new indoor recreation/community centers

Our BG Parks Website

1. Walking, running, or hiking was by far the highest ranked option for how respondents utilize the parks (75% selected this response).

2. The top ideas of users for a vision of the future were:

- Expand Greenways and trails (connect all parks and neighborhoods)
- Mountain biking facilities
- Expand Riverfront Park
- Ice rink (hockey and skating)

Public Workshop and Stakeholder Groups

Reoccurring themes included:

- Indoor multi-use facility (tennis, soccer, basketball, roller skating)
- More trails & better connectivity, safety, and access (walking/biking/running)
- Artificial turf fields
- Ice rink
- Indoor pool
- Riverfront Park (whitewater/biking)
- More outdoor fields and courts
- More events and tournaments

- Better communication and more collaboration / partnerships (both between agencies and with private organizations)

The input gathered from all of the methods yielded similar results. Several common themes appeared in all methods of public input. Residents would like to see upgrades to existing facilities, more trails, and more indoor facilities.

VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN BOWLING GREEN

Vision for the Future

The vision for the City of Bowling Green is to provide a wide range of park and recreational services that are balanced and inclusive for all residents and visitors. These services will encourage community health through the provision of welcoming parks, facilities, and programs, including athletics, that are clean, safe, and consistent in delivery. Services and facilities will be enhanced through collaboration and investment for a future that connects the community and embraces the City's diversity, both in terms of its residents and its resources.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide and direct priorities, actions, and investments and will help Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department work in concert with other City departments and potential partners to accomplish its vision.

1. Investment: Consideration for Both the Present and the Future

The City of Bowling Green will explore a wide variety of opportunities for investment in parks, facilities, and the people of Bowling Green. City investments will consider the long-term needs of the City and the impacts of those investments, including enhancements to quality of life and community health. Criteria for determining improvements will extend beyond financial considerations. Emphasis for investment decisions will be placed on the users (both in the present and in the future).

2. Balance: Equilibrium throughout the Park System (Both Facilities and Services)

The City will seek a balance between an array of community and service needs. To this end, the City will pursue a balance between the need for new facilities and improvements to existing facilities while assuring a fair distribution of facilities and programs throughout the City, considering both quality and quantity.

The balancing effort will extend to the acquisition and development of parkland where balance will be maintained between complementary (and sometimes conflicting) uses, while also considering conservation, preservation, and interpretation of natural resources.

3. Collaboration: Partnerships for the Maximization of Facility and Program Opportunities

The City of Bowling Green will seek partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to maximize parks and recreation services and facility offerings to residents and visitors of Bowling Green. Potential partners for both capital improvements and operations will include: school districts, colleges/universities, business groups, non-profits, churches, Warren County Parks, other government agencies (including other City departments), and more.

4. Connectivity: Inspire Sense of Place through Community Connections – Physical and Social

Bowling Green will facilitate connectivity throughout the City, helping to inspire a sense of place and community identity. Trails will be utilized to connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places. Parks will provide a venue for members of the community to gather and connect with each other socially through events and daily usage.

The City will connect residents through the programming of events which will be publicized electronically through online access, including social media, and new technologies as they become available. Efforts to connect the community will

extend beyond the Park and Recreation Department to include those offered by other agencies or organizations.

5. Diversity: An Assortment of Services for a Diverse Population

The City of Bowling Green will provide an array of affordable programs and facilities to meet the varying and evolving needs of its diverse population. Special attention will be made toward the engagement of park users of different ages, genders, income levels, and cultural backgrounds in addition to those with disabilities.

6. Security: Safe, Secure, and Welcoming Parks for Everyone

Bowling Green park facilities and programs will provide a welcoming environment that is consistent in both appearance and user experience. All park facilities will be well maintained and inspected regularly to assure safety for users and regulatory compliance. Parks will have adequate lighting, will be equipped with necessary emergency equipment, and will have sufficient presence of City staff to assure safety of users and security of facilities.

7. Excellence: In Facilities and Service Delivery

The City of Bowling Green will strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation. A highly trained, diverse, and passionate staff at all levels will inspire community trust in the Parks and Recreation Department and will help to ensure the overall quality of the parks system. This culture of excellence will enhance the public perception of the Parks and Recreation Department, encouraging community appreciation of parks, facilities, programs, and staff.

Proposed New Mission Statement

Bowling Green's mission for Parks and Recreation is:

To offer a comprehensive variety of excellent recreational programs and facilities that promote wellness and enhance quality of life in our community and represent our commitment to a safe and sustainable future.

PRIMARY RECOMMENDATIONS

This Master Plan includes seven Goals that were each derived from one of the Guiding Principles of the Vision. Objectives describe how to meet those Goals, and Strategies further describe how to meet each Objective. Timeframes for the completion of each strategy, 0-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, or over 10 years, are also suggested to help set priorities for improvements. Twenty-eight (28) objectives and 157 strategies describe in detail how to meet each of the seven goals (See Section IX Action Plan for details on each of the Objectives and Strategies). The following list broadly represents a summary of the primary recommendations for Parks and Recreation in Bowling Green.

1. Provide all-purpose trails at Lampkin, Lovers Lane, H.P. Thomas, and Pedigo Parks as well as all future parks.
2. Improve connectivity between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other popular destinations.
3. Develop seven new Neighborhood Parks in underserved and growth areas.
4. Pursue grants for development of trails, parks, and facilities as well as for operations of these improvements.
5. Develop spraygrounds at Lampkin and H.P. Thomas Parks (or new park in southern portion of City).



6. Develop additional rectangular fields, most notably at Preston Miller Park.
7. Improve, replace, or add playgrounds at most park.
 - Develop all-access playgrounds at Community Parks.
 - Match playground themes to parks and surrounding areas.

8. Explore partnerships for the development of artificial turf fields at Lover Lane Park.



9. Develop additional community gardens and ensure water access at all such facilities.
10. Determine the feasibility of the development and operation of an indoor multi-use facility utilizing partnerships with other local organizations.



11. Consider development of a Miracle Field at the Shake Rag property (adjacent to the Kummer/Little Recreation Center).
12. Determine the feasibility of an indoor ice rink, possibly as part of a partnership with the Nashville Predators.
13. Provide restroom facilities at all Community and Neighborhood Parks and drinking fountains at all parks.
14. Provide paved walkways to all facilities and spectator areas to improve access and meet ADA guidelines.
15. Add outdoor fitness equipment parks throughout Bowling Green for exercise and enjoyment.



16. Continue implementation of the recently updated Greenways Master Plan.
17. Develop the Riverfront Park into a unique destination for the area.
18. Provide Wi-Fi Hotspots in Community and Neighborhood Parks.
19. Improve safety in the parks.
 - Add lighting and security cameras.
20. Expand program offerings for all ages, including health and fitness, nature, and senior programs.
21. Develop programs to utilize all new facility developments.
22. Partner with other agencies and organizations to provide programs and facilities and for cross promotion of these offerings.
23. Encourage volunteer opportunities.

INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations are provided for each park (and other sites) in Bowling Green (see Section VIII). Concept plans were prepared for the primary park sites in the City. These figures can be seen in Section VIII of this Master Plan which also includes cost estimates for the outlined improvements. A summary of the individual recommendations are as follows:

1. C.W. Lampkin Park

- Perimeter trail system (1.5 miles)
- Nature trail
- Disc golf course (18 holes)
- Sprayground
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Playground replacement (all access)
- Replace shelters (#1 and #3)
- Hardcourts (resurface)
- Community gardens
- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

2. Lovers Lane Park

- Two artificial turf fields
- Perimeter trail (1.5 miles)
- Playground replacement

- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Landscaping
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains)

3. Preston Miller Park

- Four rectangular field complex
- Community or recreation center
- Playground replacement (all access)
- Three additional sand volleyball courts
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Expanded parking
- Community gardens
- Landscaping
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

4. Spero Kereiakes Park

- Playground equipment
- Two additional tennis courts
- Main diamond field fence extension (220 feet)
- Parking (reconfigure/expand)
- Landscaping
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

5. Covington Woods Park

- Replacement shelter
- Playground edging and ADA improvements
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains)

6. H.P. Thomas Park

- Perimeter trail (0.5 miles additional)
- Basketball court
- Sprayground
- Rectangular field (formalize existing)
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Playground replacement (all access)
- Picnic shelter with restrooms (north entrance)
- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Additional parking
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

7. Hobson Grove Park

- Dog park
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

8. Pedigo Park

- Perimeter trail (0.5 miles)
- Improvements to eastern section (bounded by Nomalview Drive on three sides)
- Two new shelters
- Main diamond field fence extension (220 feet)
- Replace playground
- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Landscaping
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

9. Reservoir Hill Park

- Playground edging
- Historic picnic shelter (façade and roof improvements, ADA ramp)
- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras)

10. Roland Bland Park

- Four pickleball courts (replaces one tennis court)
- Two bocce courts (replaces one basketball court)
- Multi-use court (replaces one basketball court)
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Picnic area
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains)

11. Ogden Park

- Playground edging
- Walkway enhancements (ADA)
- Picnic area improvements
- Drinking fountain

12. West End Park

- Small picnic shelter
- Site lighting
- Drinking fountain

13. Chuck Crume Nature Park

- Signage with wayfinding

- Interpretive signage along trail
- Small picnic shelter
- Drinking fountains

14. Riverfront Park

- Pump track
- Whitewater course
- Dog park
- Climbing boulders and play area
- Disc golf course (18 holes)
- Amphitheater
- Edible forest
- Wildflower area
- Picnic shelter with restrooms
- Walkways (ADA)
- Nature trail
- Additional parking
- Support facilities (Wi-Fi hotspots, security cameras, drinking fountains, bike racks)

15. Shake Rag Property and Kummer-Little Recreation Center

- Miracle Field and support facilities (parking, shelter/restrooms)
- Fully accessible playground
- Three program rooms at Kummer-Little Recreation Center
- Landscaping

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I. INTRODUCTION

THE NEED FOR A PLAN

The City of Bowling Green, incorporated in 1812, is located in southwestern Kentucky, approximately 60 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee. The City is centrally located in Warren County and has been the county seat since 1809.¹ Founded in 1906, Western Kentucky University, and its 21,100 students, has had a powerful influence on the direction of the City of Bowling Green due to the presence in the City's downtown.

In 1900, the population was just over 8,000, but this number increased to nearly 18,347 by 1950 and 28,338 by 1960. Steady growth continued through 1980, with a population of 40,450. Growth from 1980 to 1990 was slow, with an increase of only 191 (or 0.5%) over that period. The rate of population growth has since recovered with a population of 49,296 in 2000 which increased to 58,067 as of the 2010 Census and 63,632 in 2014.² The composition of these residents is still changing, however. The median age of the population (and proportion of seniors) has increased significantly and is expected to continue to do so into the future. Additionally, the City has seen a substantial growth in minority populations that is projected to continue into the future. More information about demographics can be found in Section II.

Parks and recreation services are currently provided primarily by the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department. The first parks board, the Board of Parks and Playgrounds, was founded in 1941 and replaced in 1957 by the Board of Park Commissioners.³ The Parks and Recreation Department currently operates park sites in 25 locations, including three recreation centers and three golf courses. The four largest parks, Community Parks, are Lampkin Park (the site of the City's fairgrounds), Lovers Lane Park (the City's soccer complex), Preston Miller Park (the location of the Russell Sims Aquatic Center), and Spero Kereiakes Park (the most used of Bowling Green parks).

Bowling Green also operates several Neighborhood and Mini Parks throughout the City. These parks provide a variety of facilities including playgrounds, fields, game courts, disc golf courses, trails, a dog park, and a skate park. The City also provides several passive and Special Use Parks, including the gathering spaces at Fountain Square Park, Circus Square Park, and Riverwalk/Mitch McConnell Park, and natural areas at Chuck Crume Nature Park and Weldon Peete Park.

In addition to the facilities offered by the City of Bowling Green, two school districts (the Bowling Green Independent School District and Warren County Public Schools) provide playgrounds, athletic fields, and courts that can be used by the public when schools are not in session. Private organizations, Lost River Cave, also provides park facilities for use by the public. Additionally, several Warren County Parks, including Ephram White, Basil Griffin, and Phil Moore Parks, are located vary near or adjacent to the City of Bowling Green.

Recreation programming for Bowling Green residents is primarily provided through the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department for athletic, aquatic, fitness, and senior programming. Additional programming in Bowling Green is offered by Warren County Parks and Recreation.

Changes to the makeup of the population have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in the City of Bowling Green. Recognizing that the needs of the population should be reassessed, the Board of Commissioners and staff of the Parks and Recreation Department determined that a comprehensive process should be completed to determine the needs of the community over the next 20 years, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan.

¹ City of Bowling Green website "Early History of Bowling Green," <http://www.bgky.org/history/early-history>.

² ESRT forecasts

³ City of Bowling Green website "History of Parks & Recreation," <http://www.bgky.org/history/parks-and-recreation>.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PARKS

This Master Planning effort, which will help determine the future of parks and recreation in Bowling Green, is important because parks provide a number of benefits and services to the community. Additionally, local agencies have the responsibility to manage parkland in an efficient manner that is consistent with the health, safety, and welfare of the community, and this Master Plan is intended to assist and direct the management of these lands and facilities. For many residents, parks provide their primary access to the natural environment, and for all residents, parks provide a variety of natural and active outdoor recreational opportunities. Access to these facilities helps to promote the health and wellness of the community.

The quality of a community's parks and recreation system is viewed as one of the indicators of the overall quality of life. A recent study titled, *The Economic Benefits of Land Conservation* by John L. Crompton for the Trust for Public Land, included a section on the impact of parks and open space on property taxes. This study indicated that property values were higher for properties near quality parks and open spaces than for similar properties located elsewhere. In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicated that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that a home buyer desires when considering a new home purchase. Finally, the preliminary findings of a recent study, *The Economic Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States Economy*, conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that local and regional parks created \$140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

The residents and leadership of the City of Bowling Green place a high value on parks and recreation services. Based on the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, 88% of residents support upgrading older parks and facilities and 83% support purchasing land to preserve open space (See Section V for more information). Finally, parks are important because they can serve as gathering places for the community and help to provide a positive community identity for Bowling Green.

MASTER PLAN PROCESS

The Master Plan process consisted of several different phases with frequent meetings between representatives of the City of Bowling Green and the Consultant. Each phase concluded with the submittal of a report and a presentation of findings to that point of the process. A summary of the process and details of each phase are outlined below.

Planning Context

The first phase of the Master Plan process launched with meetings with City of Bowling Green representatives, the gathering of information on City demographics and a review of existing data.

1. Master Plan Steering Committee

The City appointed a Master Plan Steering Committee to work with the Consultants throughout the process. The Consultants met regularly with the Steering Committee with updates of findings, from which the Committee assisted in establishing the future vision, goals, objectives, and priorities.

2. Demographic Analysis

Using information provided by the City of Bowling Green and other sources, the Consultant performed an analysis of the demographic and population characteristics of the City of Bowling Green. Demographic and land use trends and characteristics within the City limits were gathered from various sources. Information included:

- Demographic characteristics (quantity, ages, race, etc.)
- Five year population projections

- Household size
- Average or median household income and per capita income

3. Review of Previous Studies

Previous studies related to the delivery of parks, recreation and leisure services were reviewed to determine the existing conditions leading up to the start of the Master Plan process. These previous studies included: the previous parks plans, feasibility studies, annual reports, policies, use agreements, brochures, School District plans, and other planning studies. Summaries of the key findings of each report are included in Appendix A of this report

- City of Bowling Green Policy Review – A review of City of Bowling Green policies, and any mandated plans, was performed to determine how they may impact park and recreation facilities, programs, and services.
- Management Structure – The City of Bowling Green's existing management structure, staff levels, and operations were reviewed and analyzed.
- Funding Analysis – The budgets of the last five years were reviewed as were the proposed future operating and capital budgets.

Existing Parks, Facilities, and Programs Analysis and Needs Assessment

This phase of the Master Plan process consisted of an analysis of existing parks, facilities, and programs in their current form. This analysis was important in order to assess current conditions to compare against the desires of City residents as expressed in the following needs assessment phase.

1. Parks, Open Space, and Facilities Inventory

This process entailed an inventory of all existing parks and recreation facilities offered in and adjacent to the City of Bowling Green, including parks and facilities operated by others such as Warren County Parks, Bowling Green Independent School District and Warren County School District. Visits were made to all City of Bowling Green facilities to identify the existing conditions and assess opportunities for improvements. A Qualitative Assessment form was completed for each City of Bowling Green owned facility, plus the school facilities. These forms are included in this report as Appendix F.

2. Trails Inventory

The trails inventory process entailed the identification and mapping of existing and planned trails and linkages in the City of Bowling Green and the immediate surrounding area.

3. Recreation Programs Assessment

Using public input, staff input, and the Consultant's observations, a review was performed of current programs, service offerings, levels of usage, attendance, and customer satisfaction levels in each selected program/area. The Needs Assessment Survey was utilized to identify existing satisfaction levels. Stakeholder Groups were employed in the Needs Analysis Phase as part of this analysis. Core programs were identified that should be offered by the City of Bowling Green.

4. City-Wide Park and Recreation Facilities Map

A map was prepared using GIS software to illustrate all of the City-owned parks and recreation facilities as well as those of Warren County, both school districts, and other providers in the area.

5. Public Workshops

The initial public workshop and kick-off event was held at the Bowling Green Junior High School to identify the public perception of park facilities and programming needs. The purpose of this

public workshop was to solicit input from citizens and users regarding their concerns and opinions about existing facilities and programs and to determine their desires for future facilities and programs. The workshop was interactive and involved all participants in a variety of methods.

A second public workshop was held to present the findings and results from all of the public input, including the statistically valid surveys, handout/web survey, MindMixer comments on OurBGParks.MindMixer.com, stakeholder group meetings, dollar voting, and the initial public workshop. Maps of parks and facility service areas were also presented at this workshop.

6. Staff Input

Meetings and interviews were conducted with City of Bowling Green staff members regarding their perceptions of the public's needs and concerns, the potential for improved services, facilities, programs, and public access. Staff input was gathered from the Parks and Recreation Department, the City-County Planning Commission, and the Greenways Commission.

7. Stakeholder Groups

Meetings and round table discussions were conducted with many stakeholder groups representing a large variety of community and government organizations. These groups included: program users, school children, senior citizens, partner organizations, organized athletic leagues, the School Board, and other organizations. The City of Bowling Green provided invitations and meeting space for these meetings. Questions were prepared in advance and were approved by the Steering Committee. The questions were sent to the stakeholder group participants in advance for discussions with their organizations prior to the meeting with each focus group.

8. Benchmarking Comparisons to Similar Systems

Benchmarking Comparisons of Similar Park Systems were compiled for comparisons to similar parks and recreation systems. Comparison between these park systems consisted of a number of criteria such as: park acreage (developed and undeveloped), per capita budgets, capital improvement expenditures, types of facilities offered, and other relevant characteristics. Fourteen similar systems throughout the State of Kentucky (and Nashville, Tennessee area) were identified for comparison. The analysis used the NRPA PRORAGIS program to compare facilities, programs, and operating procedures with other like agencies.

9. MindMixer Web-Based Public Engagement Program

The website by the name Our BG Parks was setup to solicit public engagement using MindMixer, a web-based online community collaboration program. Residents could find out about the project, input their ideas, second ideas, respond to instant polls, respond to web surveys, and much more. The website was created specifically for the City of Bowling Green. During the development of this Master Plan, MindMixer became mySidewalk, and the engagement was concluded through that program.

10. Community Interest and Opinion Survey

A statistically valid mail survey (Mail Survey) was conducted by ETC/Leisure Vision with 479 responses from residents of Bowling Green. Surveys were mailed to 2,000 households. The survey was used to identify:

- Current satisfaction levels with programs and facilities
- Participation and satisfaction with current programs
- Parks currently used
- Needs for various indoor and outdoor facilities and programs

- Most needed indoor and outdoor facilities
- Primary functions that should be performed by the City of Bowling Green regarding parks, recreation, open space, trail linkages, programs, and facilities

11. Web-Based Survey

Additionally, a web-based survey (Web Survey) was conducted that asked similar questions to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey. Where the statistically valid mail survey reached a selected, random sample of residents, the goal of the Web Survey was to engage as many residents as possible. A total of 1520 local residents completed the survey. Questions were approved by the Master Plan Steering Committee. The City of Bowling Green promoted the use of the Web Survey through email blasts, newsletter announcements, placement on their web page, and other methods. A handout version of the survey was also created and completed by residents at the public workshops and other public events. The results of the survey were then analyzed and compared to the Mail Survey.

12. Geographic Distribution – Service Gap Analysis

An analysis was conducted to determine current service gaps by mapping the locations of current facilities with a defined service area and overlaying those areas with population density dots to compare the household locations to the facility locations. Individual maps were prepared for picnic shelters, playgrounds, rectangular fields, baseball/softball diamonds, tennis courts, and basketball courts to identify the distribution of these facilities throughout the community.

13. Level of Service Guidelines

Level of Service Guidelines were developed based on public input, benchmarking comparison surveys, and standards and guidelines developed by the Consultant through previous experience. These guidelines were presented and approved by the Master Plan Steering Committee.

Vision, Goals and Objectives

The Master Plan Steering Committee and the Consultant produced a vision for the future of parks and recreation services in the City of Bowling Green. Using the findings of this Master Plan process, a series of goals and objectives were identified with the Master Plan Steering Committee.

Physical Planning, Program, and Services Recommendations

Using the data collected throughout the Master Plan process, a series of recommendations were formulated to meet the needs and expectations of City Staff and residents of the City of Bowling Green. The recommendations were separated into the following five categories.

1. City-Wide Park, Program, and Facility Improvement Recommendations

System-wide improvements for facilities, programs, and operations were provided to direct Parks and Recreation over the next ten years and beyond. A city-wide map was produced to illustrate the proposed general locations of new parks.

2. Individual Park Recommendations and Costs

Specific potential improvements were identified at each park or recreation facility with an estimate of probable construction cost for each recommended capital improvement.

3. Park Concept Plans

Park concept plans were provided to illustrate the recommendations at the primary sites for improvements in the City of Bowling Green. Recommendations were also provided for improvements to other existing parks.

4. Facility Analyses

The following specific facility improvements were analyzed and evaluated:

- Indoor multi-use facility
- Indoor ice rink
- Additional Neighborhood Parks.
- Locations for sprayground development

5. Capital Improvement Priorities

City of Bowling Green staff and the Master Plan Steering Committee, with the assistance of the Consultant, prioritized each of the capital improvements and acquisitions. This process helped identify the timeframe for each recommendation: short-range (0-2 years), mid-range (3-5 years), or long-range (6-10 years), or beyond (over 10 years).

Action Plan

The final phase of the process consisted the creation of an Action Plan, a phased implementation plan, providing strategies for the implementation of the recommendations.

The Action Plan provided specific strategies for:

- Parks, trails, and open space,
- Facility Recommendations,
- Park and Facility Operations,
- Programs and Services.

This process identified action steps for recommendations in the short-range (0-2 years), mid-range (3-5 years or 6-10 years), and long-range (10 to 20 years), and the process also identified the responsible party and potential funding sources.

Draft Master Plan

Draft Master Plan, including the Action Plan, was submitted for review to City staff and the Master Plan Steering Committee, and a presentation of these findings was made to the Master Plan Steering Committee on September 23, 2015. Comments from on this Draft Master Plan were used to update and complete the recommendations of the Final Master Plan.

Final Master Plan

The final Master Plan document was completed and submitted to the City of Bowling Green and the Parks and Recreation Department on (date to be added), and the findings were presented to the Master Plan Steering Committee, the Board of Park Commissioners, and the Bowling Green Board of Commissioners.

II. PLANNING CONTEXT

INTRODUCTION

The Planning Context is a summary of the historical factors and trends that may influence the delivery of parks and recreation services throughout the City of Bowling Green. This section provides a summary of the population characteristics and demographic trends in Bowling Green with a focus on the effect of those trends on parks and recreation service expectations.

POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

An overall understanding of the population trends of Bowling Green is necessary to identify the present and anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Needs vary between demographic groups, and these needs also change over time.

Table 1 illustrates the population trends for the City from 1970 to 2030. This table uses U.S. Census Bureau data for historic figures, ESRI Business Analyst Solutions for 2014 numbers, and projections for 2020 and 2030 were calculated using previous Census data in conjunction with population projections for Warren County, provided by the Kentucky State Data Center. Trends indicate that the population has increased substantially in each ten year period (except 1980-1990) and is expected to continue to grow. The population of Bowling Green grew by over 20% from 1990 to 2000 and nearly 20% from 2000 to 2010. Growth is expected to continue at a significant but lower rate through 2030. The population of Bowling Green is projected to increase by 16.7% over the 2010 population by 2020 and by 34% over the 2010 population by 2030.

Table 1: Bowling Green, Kentucky Population History and Projections (1970-2030)

	Census					Projections		
	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014	2020	2030
City of Bowling Green	36,705	40,450	40,641	49,296	58,067	63,632	67,740	77,746
10 Year Growth %		10.2%	0.5%	21.3%	17.8%		16.7%	14.8%

Source: U. S. Census Bureau. ESRI Business Analyst for 2014.
Projections for 2020 and 2030 calculated using data from Kentucky State Data Center.

Households

Table 2 shows the number of households in 2010 and household size from 2000 to 2019. The table indicates that in the City of Bowling Green, the average household size increased slightly from 2000 to 2010 and is expected to remain steady through 2019. Despite this increase, the average household size for residents in the City of Bowling Green was lower in 2014 than that of the United States, the State of Kentucky, and Warren County for all time periods. The 2010 average household size was 2.30, compared to 2.46 for Warren County, 2.45 for the State of Kentucky, and 2.58 for the US as a whole.

Table 2: Household Size (2000 to 2019)

	Households	Average Household Size			
		2000 ¹	2010 ¹	2014 ²	2019 ²
USA	116,716,292	2.59	2.58	2.57	2.57
Kentucky	1,590,647	2.47	2.45	2.44	2.44
Warren County	35,365	2.46	2.46	2.46	2.46
City of Bowling Green	24,042	2.29	2.30	2.30	2.30

1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast

Median Age

Table 3 shows the median age for the City of Bowling Green, Warren County, the State of Kentucky, and the USA from 2000 through 2019. The trend at all geographic levels is an increase in the median age of residents. The median age in the City of Bowling Green was 28.6 in 2000 and is expected to increase to 30.9 by 2019. The median age in the City of Bowling Green was significantly lower than the County, while the County median age was lower than that of the State which was slightly higher than the US median. The estimated median age in 2014 was 29.3 in Bowling Green compared to 33.7 for Warren County, 38.8 for Kentucky, and 37.7 for the U.S. The age of the residents is important because Bowling Green needs to plan for the appropriate age groups that it will be serving. The median age in Bowling Green was lower in 2000 and is projected to continue to be substantially lower through 2019 (30.9), compared to the other geographies. The median age, however, is increasing at a fairly rapid rate.

Table 3: Median Age (2000-2019)

	2000 ¹	2010 ¹	2014 ²	2019 ²
USA	35.3	37.1	37.7	38.2
Kentucky	35.9	37.9	38.8	39.6
Warren County	32.3	32.8	33.7	34.9
City of Bowling Green	28.6	28.4	29.3	30.9

1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast

Seniors

Table 4 displays the population age 65 and over from 2000 to 2019 and shows that this age group increased greatly in population over this time period and is expected to continue to do so through 2019. The population over 65 in Bowling Green decreased from 12.0% to 10.7% from 2000 to 2010. The percentage of the population over 65 has since increased and is expected to continue to increase through 2019, matching the trend of the other geographies. In 2014, Kentucky had a greater percentage of the population in this age cohort than the US, and both Warren County and the City of Bowling Green had lower proportions of this age group than the State. In 2014, 11.5% of the population of Bowling Green was over the age of 65, compared to 12.3% for Warren County, and 14.8% for the State of Kentucky. These figures indicate that the importance of facilities and services for seniors is going to increase in the future.

Table 4: Population Age 65 and over (2000-2019)

	2000 ¹		2010 ¹		2014 ²		2019 ²	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
USA	34,991,753	12.4%	40,267,984	13.0%	45,432,239	14.3%	53,147,376	16.1%
Kentucky	504,793	12.5%	578,228	13.3%	654,225	14.8%	766,250	16.9%
Warren County	9,677	10.5%	12,440	10.9%	14,688	12.3%	17,814	14.0%
City of Bowling Green	5,895	12.0%	6,574	10.7%	7,324	11.5%	8,575	12.8%

1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast

Children

Table 5 identifies the population under age 18 from 2000 to 2019. The table indicates that in the City of Bowling Green the percentage declined slightly from 20.2% in 2000 to 19.7% in 2014. This trend contrasts to the previous table which identified the growing population over age 65. The percentage of the population under age 18 in the City of Bowling Green is lower than for the County, State, and the U.S. In 2014, the City of Bowling Green had 19.7% of the population within this age cohort, compared to 21.9% for Warren County, 22.6% for Kentucky, and 23.0% nationwide. This population, already lower than the comparison geographies, has decreased and is expected to continue to decrease through 2019. However, while the proportion of the population under 18

is decreasing, the population is still increasing in absolute numbers in all geographies, including Bowling Green.

Table 5: Population under Age 18 (2000-2019)

	2000 ¹		2010 ¹		2014 ²		2019 ²	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
USA	72,293,812	25.7%	74,181,467	24.0%	72,694,925	23.0%	74,564,876	22.7%
Kentucky	994,818	24.6%	1,023,371	23.6%	996,713	22.6%	1,007,866	22.3%
Warren County	21,398	23.1%	25,912	22.8%	26,160	21.9%	27,554	21.7%
City of Bowling Green	9,954	20.2%	11,675	20.1%	12,530	19.7%	12,973	19.4%

1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau
2. Source: ESRI Bis Forecast

All of this information indicates that the population of Bowling Green is younger than that of Warren County, the State of Kentucky, and the United States. However, the City of Bowling Green will experience the same trends of an increasing median age, more seniors, and smaller percentage of children (although a small increase in total numbers) as seen throughout the U.S.

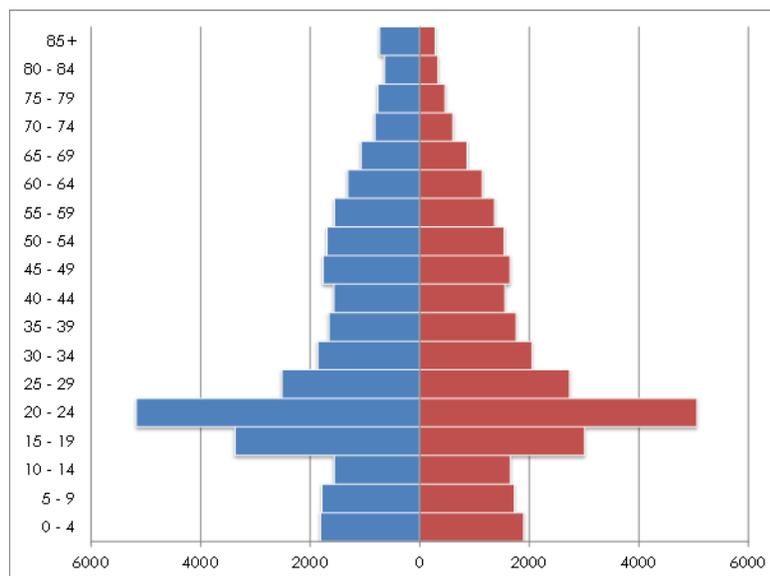
DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS IN BOWLING GREEN

The themes of aging, smaller households, static incomes, and diversification are apparent through the following trends. Each of these themes highlights particular changes in the City of Bowling Green, but the trends discussed below are linked and will collectively shape the future of the City.

Shifting of Age Demographics of the Population

The changes in age demographics in Bowling Green have followed a similar pattern to that of both Kentucky and to that of the United States as a whole. The baby boom that led to a jump in the population of Bowling Green starting in the 1950's, is now leading to the aging of the population (Bowling Green's population jumped nearly 55% from 1950 to 1960⁴). Figure 1 shows population by age group by sex for Bowling Green. From this chart, it is clear that the largest number of residents are in the 20-24 age range, due to the presence of Western Kentucky University in the City of Bowling Green. The numbers decrease quickly for the next few age groups before increasing again with the 45-49 age group. These residents (45-64) will move to the over 65 age group over the next 10 to 20 years. This chart also shows a greater number of women than men in the older age groups.

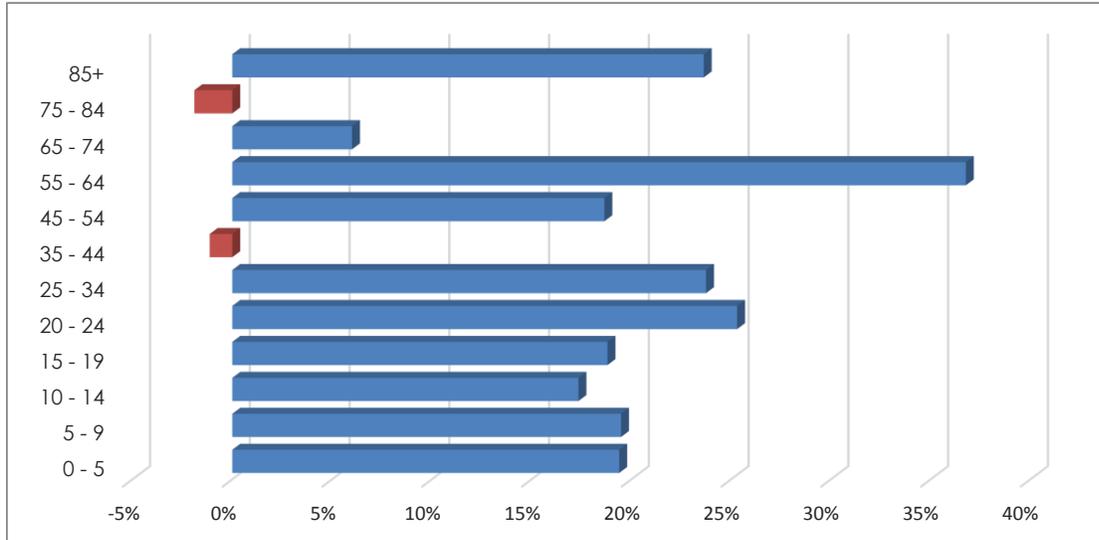
Figure 1: Population by Age and Sex in Bowling Green (Females-Blue/Males-Red)



⁴ Source: US Census

Like the rest of the State and the US, Bowling Green saw a substantial increase in the older demographic cohorts between 2000 and 2010. Figure 2 shows the change in population for each age group from 2000 to 2010. The largest increase over this 10 year period was seen in the 55-64 demographic, and these residents will age to the 65-74 cohort by 2020.

Figure 2: Change in Population by Age from 2000 to 2010



Addressing the needs of these older members of the community will be of great importance to the City of Bowling Green. The needs of other age ranges, nonetheless, will also be quite significant. The 20-24 and 25-34 age ranges also grew at a significant rate over this period (over 20%).

Changes in Households

The proportion of households made up of families has decreased in the City of Bowling Green from 60.3% in 1990 to 55.5% in 2000 and down to 51.7% in 2010. In 2010, over 35% of all households were nonfamily households, up from 33.5% in 2000. Most (73%) non-family households consist of a single person living alone. It is also important to note that 27% of households currently have a child under the age of 18, and one in five households now contain a senior age 65 or older.

The total number of households grew by 20.6% from 1990-2000 and slowed slightly to 19.9% from 2000-2010. This growth was slightly lower than that of Warren County which had a 23.5% increase from 2000-2010. The growth rate is expected to be slower over the next decade, although growth will still be substantial. The City of Bowling Green, KY: Affordable Housing Market Analysis, released in 2008, projected an increase in households of 14.8% from 2010-2020 and 15.5% from 2020-2030. The actual growth rate may be slightly higher, as the number of households in 2010 was higher than that study projected.

The City of Bowling Green has also seen an increased prevalence of rental units from 53% in 2000 to 59.4% in 2010. Bowling Green has many more renters than Warren County (39.7% of housing units are rental) due, in part, to the location of Western Kentucky University within Bowling Green.

The decreasing number of family households and increasing number of nonfamily households will have an impact on the parks and recreation needs of the City of Bowling Green, as these residents have different preferences than the residents they will replace. The percentage of households with a senior age 65 or older actually dropped slightly from 2000-2010 (21.3% to 19.7%), but, based on the large number of residents age 45-64, this number will increase dramatically in the near future. Additionally, the City also has a large number of residents in single person households, and while the number of children has been declining as a percentage, over one fourth of households

still have a child under the age of 18 (27% in 2010, down from 29% in 2000). Therefore, households with children still have a strong presence in Bowling Green. The parks and recreation needs of all of these groups, plus the needs of the City's substantial number of anticipated new households, must be assessed to best determine the needs for the future of the City of Bowling Green.

Income and Education Attainment

The City of Bowling Green has experienced limited growth of income and incremental educational attainment. Since 2000, the median household income has increased slightly from \$29,047 (not inflation adjusted) in 2000 to \$33,714 in 2013. After adjusting for inflation, the median household income has actually declined in Bowling Green. The median income in Bowling Green is lower than Warren County (\$44,135), as is the per capita income at \$19,792 (compared to \$23,853). Additionally, the unemployment rate in the City of Bowling Green is slightly higher than Warren County at 7.3%, compared to 6.1%.⁵

Educational attainment has increased slightly in Bowling Green but is slightly lower than that of Warren County. In the City of Bowling Green, 28.7% of residents age 25 and older have a Bachelor's Degree or above while 11.5% have a Master's Degree or above. These numbers have increased since 2000 from 26.9% for Bachelor's Degree and above or 11.6% for Master's Degree and above. The educational attainment numbers for Warren County, in contrast, are 28.4% for Bachelor's Degree and above and 11.0% for Master's Degree or above. Both Bowling Green and Warren County have lower educational attainment than Kentucky (21.5% with a Bachelor's Degree and 8.8% with a Master's Degree), and the State of Kentucky has lower educational attainment than the US as a whole (28.8% Bachelor's and 10.8% Master's).

The economic situation in the City of Bowling Green is projected to improve slightly, with the projected income growth in Bowling Green to slightly outpace Warren County, in terms of the percentage of income growth⁶. Income and educational growth provides both opportunities for the City and challenges to ascertain and meet the desires of these residents.

Growth of Ethnic Populations

The City of Bowling Green has had a reduction in the proportion of the population consisting of White residents while all other minority populations have increased (Table 6). In 2010, the White population had declined slightly to 75.8% percent compared to 80.8% percent in 2000. Additionally, over the same time period, the minority population has grown steadily. The Asian community has had the largest increase in percentage (151.9%) while the Black population has had the largest increase in absolute numbers (1,804). The Hispanic population has had the second highest increase in population both as a percentage (86.4%) and in absolute numbers (1,738).

Table 6: Race and Hispanic Origin 2000-2010

	Total Population	White Alone		Black Alone		Asian Alone		Other Race Alone		Two or More Races		Hispanic	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2000	49,296	39,842	80.8%	6,267	12.7%	959	1.9%	1,237	2.5%	991	2.0%	2,011	4.1%
2010	58,067	44,013	75.8%	8,071	13.9%	2,416	4.2%	2,018	3.5%	1,549	2.7%	3,749	6.5%
# Change	8,771	4,171		1,804		1,457		781		558		1,738	
% Change	17.8%	10.5%		28.8%		151.9%		63.1%		56.3%		86.4%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

The minority population in the City of Bowling Green was larger than Warren County at 27.0% compared to 18.4%. Minority populations made up a substantial percentage of Bowling Green residents and accounted for over 60% of population growth in the City. The White, non-Hispanic population grew by only 8.7% from 2000 to 2010. The growth rate of minority populations, particularly Hispanic and Asian populations, far exceeded the growth of White populations in Bowling Green. This trend is expected to continue and will have substantial impacts on the City's future.

⁵ 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

⁶ 2014 ESRI forecasts

Conclusion

Bowling Green's economy and growing diversity provide many opportunities for the future of the City, while the aging of the population and ample opportunities for new residential development opportunities will certainly guide the direction of the City. Bowling Green's young population and room for growth are powerful instruments for economic development, and the direction chosen for the City's parks and recreation facilities will provide opportunities to enrich its quality of life for years to come.

III. FACILITIES INVENTORY AND PROGRAMS ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

This section of the Master Plan identifies existing conditions of parks and recreation facilities and programs in Bowling Green. The section begins with a description of park type classifications to provide an understanding of the functions of the various park types. An inventory of parks in Bowling Green (and nearby) follows, including park locations, facilities offered, and other observations. Finally, parks and recreation program availability and participation rates are analyzed.

PARKS AND RECREATION CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM

The purpose of developing a parks and recreation classification system for a community is to evaluate the total recreation opportunities that are being made available to the public. Too often, a community will “meet the standard” in terms of acreage, but this provision may be met through only a single park that does not provide for the entire community. Therefore, a system of parks should be developed that provides a combination of local space such as Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks and support by county, regional, and state parks.

The parks and recreation facilities inventory in this section identifies each park by its park type category and also lists the specific facilities that are located within each park. Table 7 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served by each park, typical features and facilities, and desirable characteristics. The categories and descriptions were adapted from the Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines which was published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1987 and 1995.

A park system is generally reviewed and analyzed as a composite of recreation areas, each existing to meet a particular public need. Based on a review of national and regional standards, a parks and recreation area classification system has been developed to reflect the actual conditions and opportunities for the City of Bowling Green.

Table 7: Recommended Classification System for Parks and Recreation Areas

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Local Space				
Mini-Park (MP) or Pocket Park	+/- 1 Acre 1/8 – 1/4 Mile Service Radius 5 minute walk	0.25 Acre/1,000	Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches.	Often provided in association with school facilities. May also provide open space as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where children do not have access to yard space.
Neighborhood Park (NP)	5-15 Acres ½-1.0 mile service radius. To serve a population up to 5,000	2.0 Acres/1,000	Suited for intense development. Typical facilities include field games, court games, playground apparatus, small pools, small neighborhood centers, drinking fountains, and restrooms.	Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and biking distance). May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility. May not be needed in areas served locally by “community”, “county” or “regional” parks.

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PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Community Park (CmP)	25-50+ Acres 1.0-2.0 mile service radius To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000+.	5.0 Acres/1,000	Typical facilities include all those listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or court game complex, major recreation or community center, etc. May be an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc.	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas. Park should ideally be located at or near a school. May meet needs of a neighborhood park for users within a 1-mile radius.
Linear Park (LP)	N/A	N/A	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel (pleasure driving, hiking, walking, jogging, biking, etc.). May also include active play areas, fitness courses, picnic areas, etc.	Area developed for one or more varying modes of recreational travel (pleasure driving, hiking, walking, jogging, biking, etc.). May also include active play areas, fitness courses, picnic areas, etc.
Special Use-Local (SUL)	Serves community-wide area	N/A	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, such as golf courses, plazas in commercial areas, major pools, riverfront park areas, indoor facilities, etc.	Area should be located to meet the special needs of the intended use.
Regional Space				
County Park (CoP)	100 + Acres 5-6 mile service radius To serve most of the County. Located in rural areas but readily accessible to most of the city population. Travel time within 20 minutes.	5.0 Acres/1,000	Large properties that contain some active recreation facilities and a large percentage of natural or geographical features. Target size of 100 or more acres with 50% developed for active recreation. Should be located off of major roads. Destination-oriented parks. Should connect to linear park system.	Capable of providing a range of specific recreational facilities. Should include unique natural areas of ecological interest. May meet needs of neighborhood and/or community park for users within a 2-mile radius.

PARK TYPE	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Nature Parks (NaP)	Size as needed to protect the resource	N/A	<p>Majority of park to remain in its natural state.</p> <p>Facilities should focus on education by use of "nature activities" and should reinforce that philosophy by offering habitat enhancement, trails, nature centers, interpretive signage, parking and restrooms.</p> <p>The park should be of sufficient size to protect the natural resource and provide a buffer from offsite conditions.</p>	<p>Should include unique natural areas with ecological interest.</p> <p>Typical size should be over 50 acres for management efficiency.</p>

OVERVIEW OF PARKS AND RECREATION IN BOWLING GREEN

The residents of Bowling Green, Kentucky are offered a wide variety of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. The community's needs are currently being met by the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department, Warren County Parks, school facilities, and other facilities within the City. Table 8 provides a summary of the parks, recreation areas, and facilities within the City of Bowling Green and also indicates the park type category for each existing park. Figure 3: Existing Parks and Trails shows the location of each of the parks and recreation areas in Bowling Green.

The following text provides a detailed narrative summary of the parks and recreation facilities offered in Bowling Green. Aerial photos of the existing Bowling Green Parks are provided in Appendix B. An overview of nearby Warren County Parks and Schools located in or near the City of Bowling Green is also provided.

COMMUNITY PARKS

C.W. Lampkin Park – 69.9 acres

1. Site Location

C.W. Lampkin Park is located in the northwest portion of the City of Bowling Green and has five separate entrances. The required entrance depends on the facilities to be accessed as the entrances lead to specific facilities. The north entrance from Glen Lily Road leads to the fairgrounds which are closed when not in use.

The park can be accessed from two entrances on Morgantown Road at the southwest end of the park. One leads to the court facilities, while the other leads to two of the diamond fields. The other diamond fields, located at the east end of the park, can be assessed from Old Morgantown Road at the southeast edge of the park or from Woodway Street at the east side of the park.

2. Existing Facilities

The park is one of the four large Community Parks in the City of Bowling Green and has the largest number of diamond fields (five) of any Bowling Green Park. The park also has a large playground area, tennis courts, basketball courts, volleyball courts, a futsal court, and picnic shelters.

The two large softball fields are located at the east end of the park. These fields are very close together and share a press box/dugout building. Bleachers and a restroom/concessions building are located nearby to serve these fields.

The two small baseball/softball diamonds are located at opposite ends of the park. The large grass (Babe Ruth) field is located on the west side of the park near one of the smaller diamond fields. This field has a large accessible grandstand with attached concessions. The restroom building is located closer to the parking lot. All fields have bleachers, although most are not assessable, and all have outfield and side fences.

Facilities of this park include:

- Five baseball/softball diamonds (two large softball, one large baseball, and two small baseball/softball) – all lighted except one small diamond
- Three volleyball courts – lighted
- Two outdoor basketball courts – lighted
- Two tennis courts – lighted
- One futsal court – lighted
- One playground
- One open playfield (grassy area)
- Three large picnic shelters (all reservable)
- Three restroom facilities



3. Facility Issues

- No trails and minimal walkways
- Limited accessibility of facilities and seating areas
- Cracking/chipping in volleyball and futsal courts
- Dugouts for only one team at each of the large softball diamonds
- Southwest parking lot needs repaving
- No bike racks

Lovers Lane Park – 77.2 acres

1. Site Location

Lovers Lane Park is located on the east side of the City of Bowling Green and has one entrance from Lovers Lane. The park can also be accessed from the northeast via the Greenway along Lovers Lane.

2. Existing Facilities

Lovers Lane Park (or Soccer Complex) is the largest of the four Community Parks in Bowling Green and has the largest concentration of rectangular fields in the City. The park also

provides an 18 hole disc golf course with a small shelter. A wide walkway runs through the center of the park.

The park has approximately 11 full sized rectangular and three small-sided fields. The Lovers Lane Soccer Complex map at the park lists 15 fields of various sizes plus a field next to the playground. Two restroom buildings (one with concessions) and two shelters, including a large solar covered shelter, serve these fields. Most of the larger fields are Bermuda grass with the area at the back of the park (northwest end) remaining fescue.

Facilities of this park include:

- 14 rectangular fields (11 large, 3 small) – three lighted
- Two restroom buildings (one with concessions)
- One playground
- Three picnic shelters (one large with storage, one long solar shelter, and one small shelter near the disc golf course – none are reservable)
- 18 disc golf holes



3. Park Issues

- Most fields and solar shelter not accessible

Preston Miller Park – 53.6 acres

1. Site Location

Preston Miller Park is located on the western side of Bowling Green, just to the west of Veterans Memorial Lane. The park can be accessed at two locations on Tomblinson Way; one leads to a small parking lot near the sand volleyball courts, and one leads to the main parking lot near the Russell Sims Aquatic Center. The park can also be accessed via Greenway connections from the east (along Veterans Memorial Lane) and north (along Jennings Creek). Two short connecting trails also link the park (connecting to the perimeter trail) to the adjoining residential area to the northwest (Park Hills Street).

2. Existing Facilities

The park houses Bowling Green's only public outdoor aquatic facility, the Russell Sims Aquatic Center. This aquatic facility has a number of amenities including: zero depth entry, 50 meter lap lanes, two waterslides, two diving board, a sprayground, and a beach area. The park also has three sand volleyball courts, an all-purpose (biking/walking/etc.) perimeter trail, an outdoor basketball court, picnic shelters, and a large open grass area. The grass area is large enough for approximately four full sized rectangular fields but is typically programmed for only one.



Facilities of this park include:

- Russell Sims Aquatic Center
- Four rectangular fields (not fully utilized)
- One outdoor basketball court – lighted
- One playground
- Perimeter trail – all-purpose (approximately 1 mile)
- Three sand volleyball courts – lighted
- Two large reservable and one small non-reservable shelter
- 18 disc golf holes
- Two restroom facilities (one at shelter, one at pool)
- Maintenance Building



3. Park Issues

- Landscaping needed along trail (including trees)
- Limited accessibility (playground, trail at south parking lot)
- North/rear shelter – insufficient parking, minor repairs (fans)
- Large open grass area not fully utilized
- Playground equipment dated
- Insufficient bike parking

Spero Kereiakes Park – 47.7 acres

1. Site Location

Spero Kereiakes Park is located in the northern part of Bowling Green to the east of downtown and adjacent to Fairview Cemetery. The park can be accessed from the south via two entrances on Fairview Avenue. The park can also be accessed from the south and west through Greenway connections.

2. Existing Facilities

Spero Kereiakes Park is the most used of Bowling Green's parks due to its wide variety of facilities. The park has 10 tennis courts, the largest number in the City, all of which are lighted and have recently been resurfaced. The outdoor basketball court has also recently been renovated. An 18-hole disc golf course is located at the north end of the park. The park also offers picnic shelters, community gardens, and extensive walking trails.

The park has two baseball diamonds with grass infields (Little League), six batting cages, and four additional backstops for practices. The baseball diamonds both have dugouts, lighting, outfield and foul line fences, permanent bleachers, and press boxes. A restroom/concessions building is located adjacent to one of the fields.

Facilities of this park include:

- Ten tennis courts – all lighted
- One outdoor basketball court
- One playground
- Two baseball diamonds with grass infields (Little League)



- Six batting cages
- Four practice backstops
- One rectangular field
- Walking/biking trails – paved (0.6 miles) and unpaved (1.1 miles)
- Six picnic shelters – three large (two reservable) and three small (non-reservable)
- 120 community garden plots
- 18 disc golf holes
- Two restroom facilities (one at largest shelter, one at baseball diamonds)



3. Park Issues

- Limited accessibility (one large shelter, one baseball diamond, playground)
- Insufficient bike and vehicle parking

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Covington Woods Park – 9.9 acres

1. Site Location

Covington Woods Park is located in central Bowling Green and can be accessed via Covington Road from the north and Parkview Drive from the west. The park is located adjacent to the Paul Walker Golf Course.

2. Existing Facilities

This Neighborhood park offers a variety of facilities, including tennis courts, picnic shelters, a playground, and a basketball court. Two of the picnic shelters are fairly new, while the third is older but in good condition. The park also has some open areas, including a backstop for practice, climbing stones, and a croquet area.

Facilities of this park include:

- One playground
- One playfield
- Three large picnic shelters and a gazebo (all reservable)
- One outdoor basketball court – lighted
- Two tennis courts – lighted
- One practice backstop with playfield
- Climbing stones
- Croquet area



3. Park Issues

- Accessibility (older large shelter, basketball court)
- Tennis courts need some repairs
- Insufficient bike parking
- Few drinking fountains

The Crossings Park – 2.2 acres

1. Site Location

The Crossings Park is located in the southeastern portion of the City of Bowling Green on Crossings Boulevard. The park is accessed using sidewalks from Crossings Boulevard (from the north) and Valley Wood Way (from the south).

2. Existing Facilities

This small Neighborhood Park has a playground, a small shelter, and a walking trail. The park primarily serves the surrounding neighborhood, and parking is on the street.

Facilities of this park include:

- One small shelter (non-reservable)
- One playground
- Connecting trail



H.P. Thomas/Hills Dog Park – 14.5 acres

1. Site Location

H.P. Thomas/Hills Dog Park, also known as the Bark Park, is located in the southwestern portion of the City on Cave Mill Road. The park can be accessed from the south via Cave Mill Road and from the north via Debbie Drive. The park can also be accessed from the south via a Greenway that connects to Lost River Cave. Parking is available at both entrances.

2. Existing Facilities

The park has a number of facilities, including a playground, a picnic shelter, rectangle fields, and the Greenway. The main feature of this park, however, is the dog park, the only of its kind in Bowling Green. The dog park features two separate areas, one for small and one for large dogs plus a shaded area. The park also has a wooded area with tables for picnics.

Facilities of this park include:

- Dog park
- One playground
- One large picnic shelter with restrooms (reservable)
- Greenway (0.2 miles)
- One volleyball court
- Open grass area – partially sloped (approx. one large and one small rectangular field)
- Picnic area



3. Park Issues

- Some playground features dated

Hobson Grove Park – 35.9 acres

1. Site Location

Hobson Grove Park is located at the northern edge of the City of Bowling Green to the north of downtown, just north of Route 68. The Neighborhood Park can be accessed from the southwest on West Main Avenue. The park can also be accessed via Greenways from the east at two locations.

2. Existing Facilities

Hobson Grove Park has two large diamond fields, one baseball (grass infield, 300+ ft. outfield) and one softball (skinned infield, 260+ ft. outfield). Both fields are lighted and have permanent bleachers and dugouts. The fields share a press box and a restroom/concessions building. The park also has 18 disc golf holes and a Greenway follows the road through the park. The historic Hobson House and The Golf Course at Riverview Golf Course are also located at this park.



Facilities of this park include:

- Historic Hobson House
- Two large diamond fields – lighted restroom/concessions building
- 18 disc golf holes

3. Park Issues

- Parking lot needs repaving
- Disc golf very close to Hobson House

Parker Bennett Community Center – 1.9 acres

1. Site Location

The Parker Bennett Community Center is located to the northeast of downtown Bowling Green, just outside of Route 68. The site sits on the corner of Scott Way and Jenkins Drive, and parking lots are accessible from both of those roads.

2. Existing Facilities

The Parker Bennett Community Center provides a meeting room with a capacity of 75. The site also contains a Neighborhood Park that offers basketball courts, a playground, and a picnic shelter. The playground is relatively new with a rope climbing feature and is surrounded by a wide walkway. A single practice disc golf basket is located behind the building.



Facilities of this park include:

- Parker Bennett Community Center
- One playground
- Three outdoor basketball courts
- One small futsal court (or a large court in place of the basketball courts)
- One large picnic shelter (non-reservable)



3. Park Issues

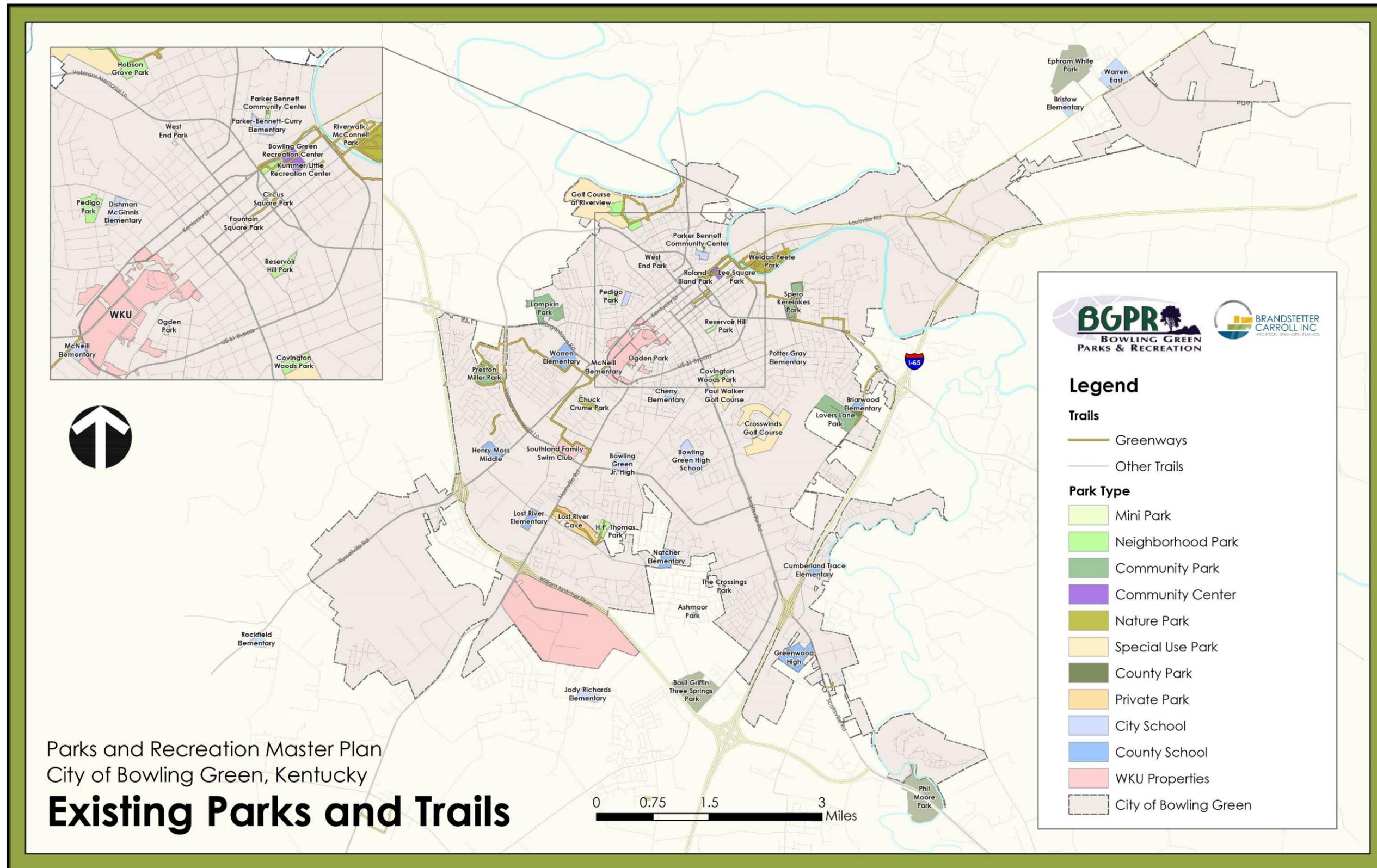
Some cracking at basketball courts

Table 8: Parks and Recreation Facilities in the City of Bowling Green

Facility Name	Park Type	Devel. Acres ¹	Total Acres ²	Baseball/Softball ³					Fields ⁴			Courts					Trails		Golf		Indoor		Shelters		Support		Other Comments							
				Small Grass Infield	Small Skinned Infield	Large Grass Infield	Large Skinned Infield	Batting Cages	Playfield	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Volleyball Court	Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playground	Skate Park	Dog Park	Outdoor Swimming Pool	Horseshoe Pits	Community Garden Plots	Boat Ramp	Historic Site	Paved	Unpaved	Golf Holes	Disc Golf Holes		Community Center	Indoor Swimming Pool	Gym	Large Pavilion	Small Pavilion / Gazebo	Restroom	Parking ⁶
CITY OF BOWLING GREEN																																		
City Parks																																		
C.W. Lampkin Park	Community	57.9	69.9		2	1	2		1			3	2	2	1													3		3	331	Fairgrounds, futsal court		
Covington Woods Park	Neighborhood	9.9	9.9						1				2	1	1					0.1							3	1		42				
The Crossings Park	Neighborhood	2.2	2.2												1					0.3								1		0				
H.P. Thomas/Hills Dog Park	Neighborhood	12.7	13.3						1	1	1				1					0.2							1		1	47				
Hobson Grove Park	Neighborhood	17.5	35.9			1	1												1	0.2		18						2	100					
Lee Square Park	Mini Park	0.3	0.3												1					0.1							1			0				
Lovers Lane Park	Community	77.2	77.2							3	11				1					0.3		18					2	1	2	663	3 lighted fields			
Ogden Park	Mini Park	0.6	0.8						1						1															0				
Parker Bennett Community Center	Neighborhood	1.9	1.9										3	1						0.1		1	1				1		1	20	Practice disc golf basket, climbing net			
Pedigo Park	Neighborhood	11.3	11.3	2				2	2				1	1													2	1	69	Lighted facilities, 2 backstops				
Preston Miller Park	Community	45.0	53.6							4	3		1	1					1	1.2		18					2	1	2	248				
Reservoir Hill Park	Neighborhood	5.7	5.7												1												1			8				
Roland Bland Park	Neighborhood	6.1	6.1						1			1	2	2	1	1				0.4							1	1	1	24				
Spero Kereiakes Park	Community	47.7	47.7	2				6		1		10	1	1						0.6	1.1	18					3	3	2	159				
West End Park	Mini Park	0.4	0.4												1													1 ^P		0				
Other West End Facilities ⁵	Neighborhood	0.2	2.7								1 ^P		1																	N/A				
Subtotal - Bowling Green City Parks		296.6	338.7	4	2	2	3	8	6	4	17	8	16	12	14	1	1	1	2	120	0	2	3.2	1.3	0	73	1	0	0	18	10	15	1711	
Special Use Parks																																		
Circus Square Park	Special Use	3.2	3.2																	1	0.1										27			
Crosswinds Golf Course	Special Use	132.0	132.0																			18							1	83				
F.O. Moxley Community Center	Recreation Center	6.8	6.8																				1		2				1	127				
Fort Webb Park	Special Use	0.0	1.3																											8				
Fountain Square Park	Special Use	1.1	1.1																											0				
Golf Course at Riverview	Special Use	119.2	203.3																			9							1	74				
James Hines Boatlanding Park	Special Use	2.9	2.9														1	1	0.2											20				
Kummer / Little Recreation Center	Recreation Center	2.6	2.6																				1		2				1	232				
Paul Walker Golf Course	Special Use	47.8	47.8																			9							1	80				
Subtotal - Special Use Parks		315.6	401.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	5	651		
Open Space																																		
Chuck Crume Nature Park	Nature	0.0	15.4																												5			
RiverWalk/McConnell Park	Special Use/Open Space	2.6	18.9													1	1	0.3	0.4										1	29				
Shake Rag Property	Undeveloped	0.0	0.8																											0				
Weldon Peete Park	Nature/Open Space	0.0	60.9																	1.5	2.9									0	Mountain bike trails (2.6 miles)			
Subtotal - Open Space		2.6	96.0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	34			
TOTAL - CITY OF BOWLING GREEN		614.8	835.7	4	2	2	3	8	6	4	17	8	16	12	14	1	1	1	2	120	2	6	5.2	5.5	36	73	3	0	4	18	10	21	2396	

Facility Name	Park Type	Devel. Acres ¹	Total Acres ²	Baseball/Softball ³					Fields ⁴			Courts				Trails				Golf		Indoor		Shelters		Support		Other Comments					
				Small Grass Infield	Small Skinned Infield	Large Grass Infield	Large Skinned Infield	Batting Cages	Playfield	Small Rectangular	Large Rectangular	Volleyball Court	Tennis Courts	Outdoor Basketball Courts	Playground	Skate Park	Dog Park	Outdoor Swimming Pool	Horseshoe Pits	Community Garden Plots	Boat Ramp	Historic Site	Paved	Unpaved	Golf Holes	Disc Golf Holes	Community Center		Indoor Swimming Pool	Gym	Large Pavilion	Small Pavilion / Gazebo	Restroom
County Parks																																	
Weldon Peete Park	Special Use	5.0	5.0																											20			
Warren County Aquatic Facility	Recreation Center	0.5	0.5																					1						N/A			
School Parks																																	
Bowling Green High School	City School	37.5	37.5		1		1			4		8																1	N/A				
Bowling Green Junior High	City School	16.0	17.5							3																				N/A			
Briarwood Elementary	County School	3.1	3.1		1							1	1								0.3								N/A				
Cumberland Trace Elementary	County School	8.0	8.0		2					1		2	1							0.3						1			N/A				
Dishman-McGinnis Elementary	City School	1.0	1.0						1			1	1																N/A				
Drakes Creek Middle	County School	12.9	12.9							3																			N/A				
Greenwood High	County School	27.8	27.8		1	1				2		6																	N/A				
Henry Moss Middle	County School	14.7	16.9		1					1																			N/A				
Lost River Elementary	County School	16.9	16.9		1								2																N/A				
McNeill Elementary	City School	2.2	2.2						1			1	1								0.1								N/A				
Natcher Elementary	County School	16.9	16.9		1					1		3	1								0.5		9				1		N/A				
Parker-Bennett-Curry Elementary	City School	3.0	3.0						1			0.5	1								0.2								N/A				
Potter Gray Elementary	City School	8.1	8.1							1	1	0.5	2								0.3								N/A				
T. C. Cherry Elementary	City School	4.7	4.7						1			2	1								0.3								N/A				
Warren Central High	County School	21.9	21.9		1	1				2		6									0.5								N/A				
Warren Elementary	County School	8.3	8.3							1		1	1								0.3								N/A				
Subtotal - School Parks		203.1	206.9	0	9	2	1	0	4	1	19	0	20	12	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	N/A				
Other Trail Facilities	Trails	N/A	N/A																		10.5	1.1							N/A				
Subtotal - Public Facilities		518.7	623.2	4	11	4	4	8	10	5	36	8	36	24.0	25	1	1	1	2	120	3	6	16.8	8.3	36	82	4	0	4	19	11	22	N/A
Private Facilities																																	
Lost River Cave	Private Park	11.6	70.3																		0.8	0.9							N/A				
Southland Family Swim Club	Private Park	5.8	5.8									2																					
Subtotal - Private Facilities		17.4	76.1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A	
TOTAL - BOWLING GREEN FACILITIES		536.1	699.3	4	11	4	4	8	10	5	36	8	38	24	25	1	1	2	2	120	3	6	17.7	9.2	36	82	4	0	4	19	11	22	N/A

Figure 3: Existing Parks and Trails



Parks and Recreation Master Plan
City of Bowling Green, Kentucky

Existing Parks and Trails

0 0.75 1.5 3 Miles

Pedigo Park – 11.3 acres

1. Site Location

Pedigo Park is located in the northwest portion of Bowling Green a quarter mile to the east of Lampkin Park, just north of Old Morgantown Road. Both parking locations are accessed via Normalview Drive, which runs through the park.

2. Existing Facilities

Pedigo Park provides facilities for Little League Baseball (home of West Little League) as well as a basketball court, a playground, and a small shelter. The two baseball fields have grass infields and 200 ft. outfield fences. Both fields have dugouts, permanent bleachers, and small press boxes. A restroom/concessions building (with picnic tables) serves the fields. The park also provides two backstops adjacent to open fields for practices.

Facilities of this park include:

- Two baseball diamonds (small grass infields)
- Two batting cages
- Two practice backstops (with playfields)
- One basketball court (undersized) – lighted
- One playground – lighted
- Climbing stones
- One small picnic shelter (non-reservable)
- Restroom/concessions building with seating



3. Park Issues

- Accessibility (all facilities)
- Playground needs improvement
- No trails and minimal walkways throughout the park
- Insufficient drinking fountains



Reservoir Hill Park – 5.7 acres

1. Site Location

Reservoir Hill Park is located in central Bowling Green, just north of Route 31 and adjacent to the Commonwealth Health Corporation campus. The park is bordered by High Street to the north, Parkway Street to the south, Cherry Drive to the east, and East 10th Avenue to the west with parking located on High Street.

2. Existing Facilities

Most of this park is characterized by fairly steep slopes and large stones. However, the park has some flat areas that offer facilities including a playground and a picnic shelter. The park is located on a historic site that once held fortifications during the Civil War (Fort C.F. Smith). The park also offers numerous trees and picnic tables.



Facilities of this park include:

- One playground
- One picnic shelter (built in 1911, non-reservable)

3. Park Issues

- Limited accessibility (both shelter and playground)



Roland Bland Park – 6.1 acres

1. Site Location

Roland Bland Park is located between Kentucky Street (to the north) and Center Street (to the south). The parking for the park is located along Center Street. The park is adjacent to the Bowling Green Recreation Center (F.O. Moxley) and Pioneer Cemetery.

2. Existing Facilities

Roland Bland Park provides several facilities for Bowling Green residents and visitors, including a large playground, tennis courts, basketball courts, and a picnic shelter. The most notable feature of the park is the Skate Park, the only such facility in Bowling Green. The fenced playground has three separate play areas for different age groups. Finally, the facilities in the park are all well connected with trails and walkways.

Facilities of this park include:

- The Skate Park – lighted, bleachers
- One playground – lighted
- Two tennis courts – lighted
- Two basketball courts – lighted
- One volleyball court
- Two horseshoe pits
- One picnic shelter (reservable), one gazebo (non-reservable)
- Playfield – small grass area with soccer goals
- Greenway (0.2 miles)
- Restroom building



3. Park Issues

- Limited accessibility at playground
- Some cracking at basketball and tennis courts
- Volleyball court (improvement or replacement)



MINI PARKS

Lee Square Park – 0.3 acres

1. Site Location

Lee Square Park is located between Max Hampton and State Street. The park can be accessed using the sidewalk on the south side or a Greenway on the north side. The park is a few blocks east of Roland Bland Park and the Recreation Center. Users must park on the street.

2. Existing Facilities

This small Mini Park primarily serves residents in the adjacent neighborhood. The park is fairly new and consists of a playground and a picnic shelter.

Facilities of this park include:

- One large picnic shelter (non-reservable)
- One playground
- One wide trail connecting Max Hampton and State Street



Ogden Park – 0.8 acres

1. Site Location

Ogden Park is located between Park Street and Hogle Drive, near the Western Kentucky University campus. The park does not provide parking. Visitors must park on the street.

2. Existing Facilities

The park provides a playground and a picnic area for the surrounding neighborhood. The park also has a small grass area and the picnic area has several trees for shade. The Mini Park, like the surrounding neighborhood, has no sidewalks or walkways.

Facilities of this park include:

- One playground
- Picnic area
- Small playfield

3. Park Issues

- Limited accessibility
- No walkways or sidewalks
- Picnic area needs repaving



West End Park – 0.4 acres (and other West End facilities – 2.7 acres)

1. Site Location

West End Park is located in the north side of Bowling Green on West Main Avenue. The Park also borders Brownslock Road to the west.

2. Existing Facilities

West End Park is a Mini Park opened recently to replace the facilities lost by the closure of Westside Park, located across Brownslock Road. This park currently offers a playground, and will eventually also offer a small picnic shelter. The park primarily serves the adjacent neighborhood.

A basketball court is still available at the former West End Park, and a full-sized rectangular field is under construction at the Foundry Church, just to the west on West 11th Avenue.

Facilities at these three sites include:

- One playground – West End Park
- One shelter (planned) – West End Park
- One basketball court – Westside Park
- One large rectangular field (planned) - Foundry Church

OPEN SPACE

Chuck Crume Nature Park – 15.4 acres

1. Site Location

Chuck Crume Park is located between Russellville and Nashville Roads to the southwest of Western Kentucky University and northeast of Veterans Memorial Lane. The park can be accessed from three locations: the intersection of Grandview Street and Belmont Avenue, Gatewood Avenue, and Topmiller Avenue (which has a small parking area).

2. Existing Facilities

Chuck Crume Park is a small Nature Park with a series of trails that meander through the property. The trails are dirt/natural and some signage directs users to various segments.



3. Park Issues

- Lacks wayfinding/mapping

RiverWalk/McConnell Park – 18.9 acres

1. Site Location

Mitch McConnell Park is located to the east of downtown Bowling Green on Riverview Drive along the Barren River. The parking for the site is located off Riverview Drive, near Route 68, and a Greenway runs through the park. The RiverWalk connects the plaza portion of the park to the large open, mostly undeveloped area on the opposing side of the river. The open portion of the property can also be accessed through a connection to the Greenway that runs along Old Louisville Road.

2. Existing Facilities

The park is made up of two different areas connected by an old rail bridge that has been converted to pedestrian use. The first portion of the park, to the southeast of the Barren River, is a Special Use Park with a plaza, or gathering space, at its center. This portion of the park also provides a restroom building and benches along the Greenway. The second portion of the park is mostly undeveloped with a large area of grassland on the site of a former landfill. This area has a gravel perimeter trail and provides a boat ramp for access to the river.

Facilities at this park (both areas) include:

- Plaza
- Greenways – paved to the southwest of the Barren River (0.3 miles, crosses Barren River on former rail bridge), unpaved trail to northeast of river (0.4 mile perimeter loop plus on-road portion)
- Boat ramp
- Restroom building
- Open grass area

3. Park Issues

- Walking trail loop surrounds open field
- Unmarked crossing required to reach perimeter trail from Greenway
- No connection to adjacent Weldon Peete Park
- Underutilized – previous plan for site not implemented

Weldon Peete Park – 60.9 acres

1. Site Location

Weldon Peete Park is located immediately adjacent (across Old Louisville Road) to the RiverWalk/McConnell Park, although the sites are not connected. The property can be accessed via a Greenway connection on Old Louisville Road to the east of the RiverWalk site. Additionally, the site can be accessed from the portion of the park operated by Warren County Parks which includes an unpaved parking lot.

2. Existing Facilities

Most of the site is undeveloped and is made up of large areas of both grassland and woodland. Currently, trails, both paved and unpaved, represent the only development on the property. A mountain biking trail runs through the wooded area on the northern and western portions of the site as well as around the perimeter. The trail surface is natural with wooden boardwalks throughout over low-lying areas. This trail was the culmination of a partnership between the City, the Southwest Kentucky Mountain Bike Association, and the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation. Pedestrian use is allowed, moving in the opposite direction as cyclists. A paved Greenway trail encircles and bisects the site.

Facilities of this park include:

- Greenway – paved loops (1.5 miles)
- Low Hollow Trail – mountain bike trail 2.65 miles total (hard route – easy route is shorter)

3. Park Issues

- No connection to adjacent RiverWalk/McConnell Park
- Underutilized – previous plan for site not implemented
- Drinking fountains needed



SPECIAL USE PARKS

Circus Square Park – 3.2 acres

1. Site Location

Circus Square Park is located in downtown Bowling Green between East 6th and East 7th Avenues, adjacent to the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center.

2. Existing Facilities

The site offers a public plaza that also functions as an outdoor amphitheater. The park provides an event lawn that faces the amphitheater. The plaza contains an at-grade fountain that provides a spray feature during the summer. A restored 1921 Standard Oil Station functions as a restroom facility for the park. A Greenway connects the park to Fountain Square Park.

Facilities at this park (both areas) include:

- Plaza/amphitheater
- Spray fountain
- Greenway (0.1 miles)
- Restroom building



Crosswinds Golf Course – 132.0 acres

1. Site Location

Crosswinds Golf Course is located to the southeast of downtown Bowling Green, just east of Scottsville Road and northwest of the Bowling Green Airport. The clubhouse and parking for the course are accessed from Wilkinson Trace.

2. Existing Facilities

Crosswinds Golf Course consists of 18 regulation holes (par 71) that traverse through the surrounding neighborhood.

Facilities at this location include:

- 18-hole golf course
- Golf shop/clubhouse

F.O. Moxley Community Center – 6.8 acres

1. Site Location

The F.O. Moxley Community Center is located on Kentucky Street in downtown Bowling Green, adjacent to Roland Bland Park and the Kummer/Little Recreation Center. The parking is accessed via East 3rd Avenue.

2. Existing Facilities

The F.O. Moxley Community Center (also known as the Bowling Green Recreation Center) offers a wide variety of indoor recreation opportunities as well as the Parks and Recreation Department offices. The Fitness Facility is also located within this structure. Many of the city's indoor recreation programs, including Silver Sneakers, are offered at this location.

Facilities at the location include:

- Two gyms (basketball and volleyball)
- Two racquetball courts
- Community room
- Large conference room
- Weight room
- Cardio room
- Locker rooms

Fort Webb Park – 1.3 acres

1. Site Location

Fort Webb Park is located on Fort Webb Drive at the northern edge of Bowling Green.

2. Existing Facilities

Fort Webb Park is a Civil War historic site containing an earthwork fortification called a lunette.

Features of this park include:

- Historic site
- Nature trail
- Earthworks



Fountain Square Park – 1.1 acres

1. Site Location

Fountain Square Park is located in downtown Bowling Green and is bound by East Main Street, Park Row, College Street, and State Street. On-street parking is available on East Main Street (east side of park) and Park Row (west side of park). A Greenway leads to the park from the east, connecting to Circus Square Park.

2. Existing Facilities

Fountain Square Park offers a plaza with a fountain, a wide walkway, and numerous park benches.

Facilities at this park include:

- Plaza
- Fountain



Golf Course at Riverview – 203.3 acres

1. Site Location

The Golf Course at Riverview is located at Hobson Grove Park on the northern edge of Bowling Green.

2. Existing Facilities

The Golf Course at Riverview consists of nine regulation golf holes (par 36). A large portion of this site remains wooded.

Facilities at this location include:

- Nine hole golf course
- Golf shop/clubhouse

James Hines Boatlanding Park – 2.9 acres

1. Site Location

James Hines Boatlanding Park is located at the northern edge of the City of Bowling Green on Boatlanding Road between the Barren River and Route 185.

2. Existing Facilities

Boatlanding Park offers access to the Barren River for boating and fishing. In addition, to the boat ramp, the park is crossed by a Greenway, has an observation area for viewing the river, and has several park benches.

Facilities at this location include:

- Boat ramp
- Greenway

Kummer/Little Recreation Center – 2.6 acres

1. Site Location

The Kummer/Little Recreation Center is located at the same site as the F.O. Moxley Center (to the southeast), adjacent to Roland Bland Park.

2. Existing Facilities

The Kummer/Little Recreation Center offers additional gym space and a walking track on the second floor. The structure also offers a multipurpose room and a commons area.

Facilities at this location include:

- Two gyms (basketball or volleyball)
- Indoor walking track
- Multipurpose room
- Commons area

Paul Walker Golf Course – 47.8 acres

1. Site Location

The Paul Walker Golf Course is located at Covington Woods Park in the central portion of Bowling Green, to the southeast of downtown.

2. Existing Facilities

The Paul Walker Golf Course consists of nine regulation golf holes (par 35).

Facilities at this location include:

- Nine hole golf course
- Golf shop/clubhouse

NON-PARK SITES

The Bowling Green Recreation Department manages several properties that are not included in the parks and recreation inventory, because they do not offer recreation services. These sites include three cemeteries (Fairview Cemetery, Mt. Moriah Cemetery, and Pioneer Cemetery), the Kaz Abe Landscape Facility, and the Parks Maintenance Facility.

COUNTY PARKS

Weldon Peete Park – 5.0 acres (Warren County Parks)

1. Site Location

This portion of Weldon Peete Park is managed by Warren County rather than the City of Bowling Green. This park is located along the Barren River and is accessed from Old Louisville Road.

2. Existing Facilities

The site offers a boat ramp for river access and parking which can be used for access to the neighboring city-owned park.

Facilities at this location include:

- Boat ramp

SCHOOL SITES

School sites typically have outdoor recreation areas for students that function as parks for nearby residents when schools are not in session. Schools in the City of Bowling Green are operated by two different school districts: the Bowling Green Independent School District and Warren County Public Schools.

Elementary school properties are more likely to provide an experience similar to what might be expected at a public park, for they offer facilities such as playgrounds, basketball courts, and open play areas that are typically found in a Neighborhood Park. Middle and high school recreation facilities, in contrast, tend to be limited to baseball/softball diamonds, rectangle fields, and tennis courts developed specifically for school sports teams and are often locked or otherwise closed for public use. These school parks are more accurately classified as Special Use Parks.

The recreation areas at the county schools are maintained by the Warren County Parks and Recreation Department with signage designating the area as a public park. As a result, the facilities at these schools are typically maintained to a higher level than those at the city schools, and the sites tend to offer a wider array of facilities.

Briarwood Elementary – 3.1 acres

1. Site Location

Briarwood Elementary School is part of Warren County Public Schools and is located on Lovers Lane on the eastern edge of Bowling Green.

2. Existing Facilities

Briarwood School Park, a Neighborhood Park, offers a large playground, a small diamond field, and a perimeter trail. The site also houses the Warren County Aquatic Facility.

Facilities at this park include:

- One small diamond field
- Four basketball goals (one court)
- One playground
- Unpaved walking trail (0.3 miles)
- Indoor pool



Cumberland Trace Elementary – 8.0 acres

1. Site Location

Cumberland Trace Elementary School is part of Warren County Public Schools and is located on Cumberland Trace Road on the southeastern edge of Bowling Green next to Interstate 65.

2. Existing Facilities

This school (or Neighborhood Park) offers a large playground with a separate tot area, a small diamond field, a rectangular field with a perimeter trail, two basketball courts, and a picnic shelter.

Facilities at this park include:

- One small diamond field – outfield fences, dugouts, bleachers
- Second infield – too close to driveway
- Two basketball courts (four goals)
- One playground with separate tot lot
- Picnic shelter
- Gaga pit
- Paved walking trail (0.3 miles)



Dishman-McGinnis Elementary – 1.0 acres

1. Site Location

Dishman-McGinnis Elementary School is part of the Bowling Green Independent School District and is located on Glen Lily Road in central Bowling Green near Pedigo Park. The site can also be accessed from the adjoining neighborhood via a connecting trail.

2. Existing Facilities

Dishman-McGinnis Elementary School and the accompanying recreation facilities were recently redeveloped. The site, a Mini Park, has a new basketball court and a new playground.

Facilities at this park include:

- One basketball court (two goals)
- One playground
- Grass play area



Lost River Elementary – 16.9 acres

1. Site Location

Lost River Elementary School is part of Warren County Public Schools and is located on Modern Way, near the intersection with Nashville Road, in the southwestern portion of Bowling Green.

2. Existing Facilities

Lost River School Park (Neighborhood Park) offers playgrounds in two area (one with a separate tot area) and a small lighted diamond field.

Facilities at this park include:

- One small diamond field – lighting, permanent bleachers, and outfield fences
- Two playgrounds (one with a separate tot lot)



McNeill Elementary – 2.2 acres

1. Site Location

McNeill Elementary School is part of the Bowling Green Independent School District and is located on Creason Street, adjacent to the Western Kentucky University Campus.

2. Existing Facilities

- This school site (Neighborhood Park) has a large playground with a second climbing area, a basketball court, and a short walking trail. Several picnic tables can also be found scattered throughout the site.

Facilities at this park include:

- One basketball court (two goals)
- One playground
- A playfield with goals
- Unpaved trail (0.14 miles)

Natcher Elementary – 16.9 acres

1. Site Location

Natcher Elementary School is part of Warren County Public Schools and is located on Cave Mill Road at the southern edge of Bowling Green.

2. Existing Facilities

Natcher School Park offers a wide variety of park facilities including an extensive unpaved walking trail and a 9-hole disc golf course. The Neighborhood Park also offers three basketball courts, a rectangular field, a diamond field, and a large playground with a gazebo.

Facilities at this park include:

- One small diamond field – with permanent bleachers and outfield fences
- One large playground – many separate areas, including a climbing net, separate tot area, and a small gazebo with a picnic table
- Nine disc golf holes
- One rectangular field
- Three basketball courts (six goals)
- Unpaved walking trail (0.5 miles) – fitness stations



Parker-Bennett-Curry Elementary – 5.4 acres

1. Site Location

Parker-Bennett-Curry Elementary School is part of the Bowling Green Independent School District and is located on Webb Drive, adjacent to the Parker Bennett Community Center.

2. Existing Facilities

This school site has a large playground, a half basketball court, an open grass area, and a short walking trail.

Facilities at this park include:

- One playground
- One half basketball court (one goal)
- A playfield with goals
- Unpaved trail (0.2 miles)



Potter Gray Elementary – 8.1 acres

1. Site Location

Potter Gray Elementary School is part of the Bowling Green Independent School District and is located on Wakefield Street, south of the Fairview Cemetery.

2. Existing Facilities

Potter Gray Elementary has a two separate playground areas, a perimeter trail with a seating area, a half basketball court, and rectangular fields. Picnic tables are available throughout the site.



Facilities at this park include:

- Two playground areas
- One half basketball court (one goal)
- Two rectangular fields (one small, one large)
- A backstop with benches
- Unpaved trail (0.3 miles)

T.C. Cherry Elementary – 4.7 acres

1. Site Location

T.C. Cherry Elementary School is part of the Bowling Green Independent School District and is located on Liberty Way in central Bowling Green to the southeast of Western Kentucky University.

2. Existing Facilities

This school site has a playground, a perimeter trail with fitness stations, and two basketball courts at opposite ends of the property.

Facilities at this park include:

- One playground with a climbing net
- Two basketball courts (four goals)
- Playfield (open grass area)
- Unpaved trail (0.3 miles)



Warren Elementary – 8.3 acres

1. Site Location

Warren Elementary School is part of Warren County Public Schools and is located on Loop Avenue on the western side of Bowling Green and shares a site with Warren Central High School. The school can also be accessed via a Greenway from the northwest.

2. Existing Facilities

Warren School Park has a large playground with a separate tot area, a basketball court, and a rectangular field. A Greenway runs along the edge to the site to the Warren Central High School property.

Facilities at this park include:

- One playground with a separate, fenced tot area
- One rectangular field – lighted (and locked)
- One basketball court (two goal)



Middle Schools and High Schools

Three high schools and three middle schools are located in the City of Bowling Green. These schools offer a substantial number of athletic fields and tennis courts which may be available to

the public at selected times if not in use by the school teams. The following list outlines the facilities at each school.

1. Bowling Green High

- Two diamond fields (one baseball, one softball) – lighted with grandstands and dugouts
- Four rectangular fields – three lighted, one with grandstands and running track
- Eight tennis courts – lighted

2. Bowling Green Junior High

- Three rectangular fields – one lighted with grandstands

3. Drakes Creek Middle

- Three rectangular fields – one lighted with bleachers

4. Greenwood High

- Two diamond fields (one baseball, one softball) – lighted with grandstands, dugouts
- Two rectangular fields – both lighted, one with grandstands and running track
- Six tennis courts – lighted

5. Henry Moss Middle

- One diamond field – skinned infield with bleachers
- One rectangular field – practice football field
- Large grass area

6. Warren Central High

- Two diamond fields (one baseball, one softball) – lighted with grandstands and dugouts
- Two rectangular fields – one lighted with grandstands and a running track
- Six tennis courts – lighted
- Greenway (0.5 miles)

FACILITIES BY OTHERS

Lost River Cave – 70.3 acres

1. Site Location

Lost River Cave is located in the southern portion of the City of Bowling Green on Nashville Road between Cave Mill Road and Dishman Lane. The property can also be accessed from the north via a Greenway connection to H.P. Thomas/Hills Dog Park.

2. Existing Facilities

Lost Rive Cave is a Nature Park managed by a non-profit organization, the Friends of Lost River. In addition to cave tours, Lost River Cave offers a series of nature trails, bird watching, and educational opportunities.

Facilities at this location include:

- Lost River Cave
- Visitor's Center
- Nature trails (0.9 miles)
- Greenway (0.8 miles)



Southland Family Swim Club – 5.8 acres

1. Site Location

Southland Family Swim Club is located in the southwestern portion of the City of Bowling Green on Fitzgerald Industrial Drive at the corner of Campbell Lane (Route 231).

2. Existing Facilities

Southland Family Swim Club is a private aquatic facility (Special Use Park) with lap lanes, diving boards, and a wading pool.

Facilities at this location include:

- Swimming pool
- Two tennis courts

NEARBY PARKS OUTSIDE OF BOWLING GREEN

Seven Warren County Parks are located near the City of Bowling Green that offer a wide variety of facilities and services, many of which are not available in the City of Bowling Green. A few schools and a neighborhood park are also located near the city limits.

Warren County Parks

1. Ashmoor Neighborhood Park

Ashmoor Neighborhood Park is a small Neighborhood Park (approximately 3 acres) located to the south of Bowling Green that offers a playground, a small shelter, and an unpaved walking trail.

2. Basil Griffin Three Springs Park

Basil Griffin Three Springs Park is a large County Park to the south of Bowling Green near the Interstate 65/Route 231 interchange. This park offers the widest array of athletic facilities of any park in the area, including a roller hockey rink, 10 diamond fields (eight lighted), rectangular fields (one lighted), tennis courts, and basketball courts. The park also has three playgrounds (including a Paradise Playground), four picnic shelters, walking trails, and an 18-hole disc golf course. A lake covers a large portion of the park and can be used for fishing and boating. The Heritage Aviation Park, a memorial to aviators from South Central Kentucky, is located within this park.

3. Ephram White Park

Ephram White Park, a County Park located to the northeast of Bowling Green, offers a wide variety of facilities, including the only Senior Center in the area. Additionally, the park offers an extensive series of walking trails, four baseball/softball diamonds, a playground, a picnic shelter, and an 18-hole disc golf course.

4. G. H. Freeman Community Park

G. H. Freeman Community Park (a Neighborhood Park) is a small park located to the southeast of Bowling Green. The park offers a playground, a volleyball court, horseshoe pits, three picnic shelters, and walking trails.

5. Michael O. Buchanon Park

Michael O. Buchanon Park is a Community Park located to the southwest of Bowling Green along Route 31W, approximately four miles from the edge of the City. The park offers eight softball diamonds (one four field complex with skinned small infields and one four field complex with large skinned infields), all of which are lighted with permanent bleachers and

central concessions. The park also offers rectangular fields, a playground, two miles of walking trails, and a picnic shelter.

6. Phil Moore Park

Phil Moore Park is the largest Warren County Park (in total acreage) and borders the southeastern edge of the City of Bowling Green. The park is bisected by New Scottsville Road (Route 231) with most of the facilities located on the southern portion of the park. These facilities include a variety of indoor and outdoor recreation amenities, including a community center with a full sized gym (or two youth courts) and a multipurpose room. The park houses a Soap Box Derby track and an 18 hole disc golf course. Other facilities available at this park include: two lighted baseball/softball diamonds (with concessions and permanent seating), rectangular fields, a playground, and a picnic shelter. The park is also the home of the Greenwood High School Cross-Country Course.

7. Romanza Johnson Park

Romanza Johnson Park, located approximately four miles from the southeastern edge of Bowling Green, offers a boat ramp for access to Trammel Fork of Drakes Creek.

Neighborhood and School Parks

The following Warren County schools are located near or adjacent to the City of Bowling Green. These schools include three elementary schools which function as Neighborhood Parks and a middle/high school (Special Use Park). Available facilities are listed below for each of these schools.

1. Bristow Elementary (Northeast of Bowling Green)

- One diamond field (small skinned infield)
- A playground
- One outdoor basketball court

2. Jody Richards Elementary (South of Bowling Green)

- Two playgrounds
- One outdoor basketball court

3. Rockfield Elementary (Southwest of Bowling Green)

- One playground
- Two outdoor basketball courts

4. Warren East High / Middle (Northeast of Bowling Green)

- Two diamond field (one small skinned infield, one large grass infield)
- Four rectangular fields
- Four tennis courts

PROGRAMS ANALYSIS

Quality recreational programming is an important aspect of a healthy community. As citizens of all ages seek to enrich their lives with productive use of leisure time, the availability of a diverse range of recreational activities becomes increasingly vital. Quality recreational programs also reinforce societal values such as a community's attractiveness to parents and business leaders and civic spirit/pride.

A wide variety of recreational programming is available in the City of Bowling Green in the form of athletic programs, camps, before and after school programs, special events, senior programs, programs for special populations, and more. The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation

Department provides and schedules the facilities for these programs; however, many of the programs and leagues are managed by other agencies or organizations.

Athletics

Most adult athletic leagues in Bowling Green are managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, while the youth leagues are managed by different organizations for each sport. Table 11 shows athletics programs in Bowling Green with the agencies managing the leagues, the seasons offered, the age ranges, and the types of leagues offered. This table only includes programs that are held at Bowling Green Parks and Recreation facilities. The table also shows the number of participants in each program (if available) and any relevant feedback from the associated stakeholder groups.

In addition to leagues, various other athletic programs are available in Bowling Green. SKY Soccer Club offers summer camps, for example. The Parks and Recreation Department offers adult and youth tennis camps (June and July) and summer tournaments. A variety of special events are offered throughout the year.

Golf

Bowling Green operates three golf courses: Paul Walker Golf Course, The Golf Course at Riverview, and Crosswinds Golf Course. Users can pay by the round (9 or 18 holes), or they can purchase annual memberships. Two membership options are available for reduced green fees: one membership that includes both Paul Walker and Riverview and one membership for Crosswinds. Additional memberships can be purchased to cover cart fees as well. Reduced rates are available for seniors and youth users.

The usage of these courses varies significantly. Table 9 shows the usage and revenue for each of the three courses for the 2009 through 2014 Fiscal Years. In general, both participation and revenue have been in decline over this five year period. Fiscal Year 2012 marked the highest numbers for both Riverview and Crosswinds, while the high numbers for Paul Walker were for Fiscal Year 2009. The approved 2015 budget allots \$1.8 million for golf with the previous three years budgets ranging from \$2 million to \$2.7 million. These numbers indicate an annual operating deficit of \$500,000 or more.

Table 9: Golf Participation and Revenue

Golf Course	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013		2014	
	Participants	Revenue										
Paul Walker	19,158	\$290,373	19,001	\$282,329	17,655	\$251,641	17,982	\$266,864	16,871	\$249,224	16,620	\$239,033
Riverview	13,827	\$238,389	12,472	\$207,012	10,727	\$195,687	18,944	\$260,023	18,598	\$251,136	16,341	\$221,845
Crosswinds	31,828	\$929,819	30,288	\$860,442	28,190	\$862,266	33,033	\$950,376	31,151	\$868,370	28,707	\$788,684
Total	64,813	\$1,458,581	61,761	\$1,349,783	56,572	\$1,309,594	69,959	\$1,477,263	66,620	\$1,368,729	61,668	\$1,249,562

Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department offers a series of free golf instructional opportunities including: youth golf clinics in the spring (one hour), adult lessons in the spring and summer (Saturdays), and a free week-long golf camp for ages 8-15. The Department also offers a youth golf academy for ages 8-15 for \$30 which includes ten program dates. Special golf events are offered throughout the spring and summer.

Aquatics

Bowling Green operates the Russell Sims Aquatic Center at Preston Miller Park that offers a variety of features (described previously in this section). Visitors can purchase seasonal or daily passes. Season passes range from \$75 for an individual to \$175 for a family. Daily passes range from \$2 to \$8 depending on the age of the visitor. Small children and seniors received discounted rates.

The usage and revenue for Russell Sims Aquatic Center can be seen in Table 10 for the Fiscal Years 2009 through 2014. Both participation and revenue increased through Fiscal Year 2012 but declined in 2013 and 2014.

Learn to Swim classes are offered through the American Red Cross in June and July for ages 6 and up at a cost of \$55 for a one week class or \$75 for a two week class. Lifeguard certification is also offered through the Red Cross at the Bowling Green Recreation Center and Warren County Aquatics Facility. The Parks and Recreation Department offers a Lap Swimming for Exercise program with half priced admission as well as a series of special events throughout the swim season.

Table 10: Russell Sims Aquatic Center Participation and Revenue

Fiscal Year	Participants	Revenue
2009	74,807	\$488,596
2010	80,146	\$496,034
2011	85,930	\$536,001
2012	94,116	\$626,547
2013	83,881	\$447,492
2014	68,719	\$447,070

Table 11: Bowling Green Athletic Programs

PROGRAM TYPE	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	SEASONS	USER GROUP	LEAGUE	LEAGUE TYPE/AGES	COST	PARTICIPANTS	STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK
Athletics								
Baseball	East Little League	Spring	Boys	Minors Majors 50/70	Competitive/7-9 Competitive/10-12	\$80	10 Minor teams, 6-8 Major teams, 200 children	Expand one field at Kereiakes Park to 220 feet and add one new field.
	West Little League	Spring	Boys	Minors Intermediate 50/70	Competitive/7-9 Competitive/10-12	\$80	4 Minor team, 2 Major teams, 56 children	Improve image of Pedigo Park.
	Bowling Green Athletic Association (BGAA)	Spring/Fall	Boys	Coach-Pitch	Recreational/6-9	\$50		
Softball	Bowling Green Athletic Association (BGAA)	Spring/Fall	Girls	Coach-Pitch Ponytail	Recreational/6-9 Recreational/10-12	\$50		
		Spring	Adults	Men's Open Men's Open Men's Church Coed	Recreational Competitive Competitive Recreational	\$425		
		Mid-Summer	Adults	Men's Closed Industrial 2nd Shift Men's Open Men's Church Women's Open Coed Open	Competitive Recreational Recreational Competitive Recreational Recreational	\$350		
		Fall	Adults	Men's Open Men's Church Women's Open Coed Open	Recreational Recreational Recreational Recreational	\$400		
T-Ball	Bowling Green Athletic Association (BGAA)	Spring/Fall	Boys and Girls	T-Ball, Softee-Ball	Recreational/4-6	\$45		
Basketball	Southern Kentucky Youth Basketball (SKYBL)	Winter	Boys and Girls	Beginners - Coed Boys Primary Boys Prep Boys JV Boys Varsity Girls Primary Girls Elementary	Recreational/6-7 Recreational/8-9 Recreational Recreational Recreational/16-18 Recreational Recreational	\$55 \$65 \$65 \$65 \$400 \$65 \$65	450-650 children	Add two indoor basketball courts.
	Bowling Green Parks and Recreation	Winter	Adults	Men's Open Men's Industrial Men's Church 2nd Shift Coed Women's Open	Recreational Recreational Recreational Recreational Recreational Recreational	\$425		
Soccer	SKY Soccer Club	Spring/Fall	Boys and Girls	Boys Recreational Boys Select Girls Recreational Girls Select	Recreational/U9-U18 Competitive/U9-U18 Recreational/U9-U18 Competitive/U9-U18	\$55 \$250- \$550 \$55 \$250- \$550	350 children	Add three artificial turf fields at Lovers Lane Complex. Improve opportunities for adult soccer.
	Bowling Green Parks and Recreation		Adults	Indoor Futsol Outdoor Futsol	Recreational Recreational			

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PROGRAM TYPE	AGENCY/ ORGANIZATION	SEASONS	USER GROUP	LEAGUE	LEAGUE TYPE/AGES	COST	PARTICIPANTS	STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK
Athletics								
Volleyball	Bowling Green Parks and Recreation	Spring/ Summer/ Fall	Adults	Men's Sand Men's Sand Coed Sand Women's Hardcourt Coed Hardcourt Coed Hardcourt	Competitive Recreational Recreational Recreational Recreational Competitive	\$75- \$100		
		Winter/ Pre-Spring		Women's Hardcourt Coed Hardcourt Coed Hardcourt	Recreational Recreational Competitive	\$75- \$100		
Tennis	Southern Kentucky Tennis Association (SOKY)		Adults	Men's Singles Women's Singles Mixed Doubles	Varies by age and skill level	\$23-\$25	120 members	Add four more courts at Kereiakes Park or another Bowling Green Park. Add a Parks and Recreation league.
Disc Golf	Bowling Green Disc Golf Club	Spring/ Fall	Adults	Weekly Doubles Tournaments	Varies by skill level	\$75		

Community Center Programs

Bowling Green offers programming at two community centers: Parker Bennett Community Center and F.O. Moxley Community Center. Additionally, the Fitness Facility, located within the Bowling Green Recreation Center, offers a series of exercise programs to local residents. Three different memberships to the Fitness Facility can be purchased for \$22 per month or \$190 per year for individuals. Memberships provide unlimited access to either weights/cardio equipment, aerobics/spin classes, or the racquetball courts. Discounts are available for students and seniors, and daily use rates are also available. The cost of programs at Parker Bennett Community Center and F.O. Moxley Community Center are typically \$30 or less per child. Examples of programs offered at each of these locations are listed below.

1. Parker Bennett Community Center

- Spring Break Camp
- Summer Camp
- After School Program

2. F.O. Moxley Community Center

- Summer Fun Camp
- Fall Break Camp
- Bidy Ball Basketball League
- Helping Hands Afterschool
- Youth Kickball League
- Youth Dodgeball League
- Special Events

3. Fitness Facility

- Aerobics/Spinning – Yoga, Totally Abs, Crunch @ Lunch, Pro Fit, Zumba, Advanced Chair Yoga, White Light Yoga, Boot Camp, Spin, Spin Express
- Silver Sneakers – Classic, Cardio, Yoga

In addition to the programs offered through the F.O. Moxley Community Center and the Fitness Facility, the Bowling Green Recreation Center offers use of the Carr Gymnasium, meeting rooms, weightlifting and fitness equipment, and racquetball courts. Kummer/Little Recreation Center participation is counted under Special Populations (programs described under the following heading) and includes uses of the gym, meeting room, and walking track.

Table 12 below shows the community center participation for Fiscal Years 2009 through 2014. The overall trend over this time period is a decline in participation; however, a closer look at the numbers shows a much more stable participation rate. The participation at the Bowling Green Recreation Center dropped from 2009 to 2010 but has remained steady from 2010 to 2014. The participation at Parker Bennett Community Center was actually up in 2014 (similar to 2009 numbers) after remaining relatively stable from 2010 to 2013. The Special Populations participation has decreased significantly since 2009 but has remained stable since 2012. Individual weightlifting accounts for two-thirds of Bowling Green Recreation Center use. Finally, these numbers do not include athletic league use of the gyms.

Table 12: Community Center Participation

Community Center	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bowling Green Recreation Center	176,756	146,842	149,227	148,437	145,610	142,565
Parker Bennett Community Center	20,741	17,157	18,482	17,770	18,769	21,207
Special Populations (Kummer/Little)	32,821	33,053	27,698	23,014	21,735	23,136
Total	230,318	197,052	195,407	189,221	186,114	186,908

Special Populations

Services for elderly and disabled residents are offered through two organizations in Bowling Green: Community Action Senior Center and the Housing Authority Senior Program. Additionally, the Bowling Green Adult Athletic Club (BGAAC) offers programs for the mentally or physically challenged.

1. Community Action Senior Center

The Community Action Senior Center is located on East 4th Avenue, attached to the Bowling Green Recreation Center and requires members to be 60 years of age or older. The Community Action Senior Center provides a variety of services for seniors, including meals, nutrition education, and other health services. Transportation to recreation opportunities, shopping, and medical appointments are also available for members. Many of the program offerings, including a monthly senior arts and crafts program, are offered cooperatively with the Parks and Recreation Department.

2. Housing Authority Senior Program

The Housing Authority also offers a Senior Program that provides opportunities for exercise, recreation, art, music, community outings, and health education. The Senior Program uses Parks and Recreation facilities, including the Carr Gymnasium for their Bingo Battle and other programs.

3. Bowling Green Adult Athletic Club (BGAAC)

The Bowling Green Adult Athletic Club (BGAAC) provides opportunities for the mentally or physically challenged. The club assists participants in preparation for Special Olympics events including: bowling, softball, basketball, and cheerleading at both the regional (Area 5) and state level. The indoor recreation activities are held at the Kummer/Little Recreation Center. The organization also offers a variety of social opportunities such as dances, field trips, and movies.

Cultural Arts

While the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department offers some arts and crafts programs, the largest selection of cultural arts programs are offered through Community Education, a collaborative agreement between both local school districts and Warren County Fiscal Court. Community Education programs are available in a wide variety of subjects and are offered in many locations throughout Bowling Green, including schools and private facilities. Most programs cost between \$10 and \$50 per participant. Example program offerings include:

- Arts and Photography – drawing, painting, photography, pottery, printmaking
- Crafts, Handwork, and Jewelry – crochet, cross stitch, jewelry making, quilting
- Fitness, Dance, and Recreation – belly dance, yoga, ballroom dance, line dancing, Zumba, meditation
- Swimming and Water Activities – swimming lessons, Aqua Zumba

WKU Continuing & Professional Development offers programs to local residents at the Knicely Conference Center. The organization offers some recreational and cultural arts programs such as a container gardening class and summer music camps (\$55 to \$65 per participant).

Performing arts programs are offered by the Southern Kentucky Performing Arts Center (SKyPAC). The organization offers arts and performance opportunities to children from six to 18 years old. The SKyPAC Youth Theatre provides opportunities for students to perform in theatre productions, including summer camps where children can learn and perform a full-length theatre productions (\$200).

Warren County Parks

Warren County Parks offers some athletics programs that are not available through Bowling Green Parks and Recreation, including inline hockey and football. Warren County Parks also offers a Babe Ruth Baseball League that is available to residents of Bowling Green. Other programs offered by Warren County Parks (but not available in Bowling Green) include: senior programs at their Senior Center, Soap Box Derby, and pickleball.

Other Program Providers

1. Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA)

The Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) provides the programming, including concerts, at Fountain Square and Circus Square Parks in downtown Bowling Green. The DRA also hosts a series of workshops at Gallery 916 (located adjacent to Circus Square Park).

2. Lost River Cave

Lost River Cave offers opportunities for many nature based activities, including hiking, picnicking, birdwatching, and geocaching. The park currently offers a series of nature programs for children grades 3 through 6. Costs vary from \$3 to \$25 per student, depending on the program. The programs are separated into two different categories: earth science and biology programs. Earth science program offerings include: Geology Rocks!, Sinking into Karst (topography), Wonder of Wetlands (pollution), and Cave Geology. Biology programs include: Birds of the Wetland (habitat), Animal Encounters, Life Cycles & Traits, and Cave Ecology. Lost River Cave also offers programs to tour the cave.

3. Bowling Green Road Runners

The Bowling Green Road Runners, a group that promotes walking and running in Bowling Green, arranges group runs several times per week and organizes and promotes walking and running races throughout the year.

4. Warren County InLine Hockey League (WCIHL)

The Warren County InLine Hockey League provides a hockey program for Bowling Green and Warren County residents. Games and practices are held at Basil Griffin Park (Warren County Parks), and all programming, equipment, concessions, referee fees are handled by the WCIHL. The organization currently has over 180 participants, up from 140 in 2009. The organization wants an indoor ice rink to expand opportunities for players and to appeal to visitors for tournaments.

5. Vette City Roller Derby

Vette City Roller Derby is an adult athletic organization made up of women athletes and volunteers. The organization is a member of the Women's Flat Track Roller Derby Association (WFTDA). The group currently has two teams that participate in competitive bouts with teams in other areas, and the members (approximately 30 athletes plus many volunteers) range in age from 18 to 45. The league currently has no permanent home and is seeks a place to practice and compete.

RESERVABLE FACILITIES

Reservable facilities allow users to schedule independent programs and events. Groups making reservations have exclusive access to a facility, assuring the facility is available for their needs at the time, date, and location of the scheduled event.

Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Facilities

Many parks and recreation facilities in Bowling Green are available to rent for events or athletic practices and competitions. Table 13 shows the outdoor facilities that can be rented from the

Parks and Recreation Department with the location of the reservable facilities. Most facilities are rented on an hourly basis (initial costs cover 4 hours at some facilities), but picnic shelters and disc golf courses can be rented on a per day basis. Additionally, not all facilities are reservable. For example, many parks have picnic shelters that are not included in this list, and most of the small shelters are non-reservable.

Table 13: Outdoor Rental Facilities

Facility	Per Hour	Add. Hour	Per Day	Locations
Basketball Courts	\$10			Lampkin, Parker Bennett, Pedigo, Preston Miller, Roland Bland
Tennis Courts	\$5			Covington Woods, Kereiakes, Lampkin
Volleyball Courts	\$10			Preston Miller (Sand), Lampkin (Asphalt)
Soccer ¹				
Bermuda Fields	\$75	\$20		Lovers Lane
Fescue Fields	\$50	\$15		Lovers Lane, Lampkin, Preston Miller, Other Park Open Space
Futsal (Asphalt Courts)	\$50	\$15		Lampkin, Parker Bennett
Softball Fields ²				
Games				
1 Field	\$20	\$10		Hobson Grove, Lampkin
2 Fields	\$30	\$10		Hobson Grove, Lampkin
3 Fields	\$35	\$10		Hobson Grove, Lampkin
4 Fields	\$40	\$10		Hobson Grove, Lampkin
5 Fields	\$50	\$10		Hobson Grove, Lampkin
Practice	\$10	\$10		Hobson Grove, Lampkin
Baseball Fields ²				
Games	\$30	\$10		Hobson Grove, Kereiakes, Lampkin, Pedigo
Practice	\$10	\$10		Hobson Grove, Kereiakes, Lampkin, Pedigo
Disc Golf Course			\$75	Hobson Grove, Kereiakes, Lovers Lane, Preston Miller
Picnic Shelters ¹	\$10-\$25		\$20-\$50	Covington Woods, Kereiakes, Lampkin, Preston Miller, H.P. Thomas, Roland Bland
Trails ¹	\$85	\$20		Kereiakes, Preston Miller

1. Initial rental cost covers 4 hours of use.
2. Additional hour cost refers to additional cost after 11pm.

Bowling Green Parks and Recreation also provides a wide range of reservable indoor recreation facilities. Table 14 shows the indoor facilities that can be rented from the Parks and Recreation Department. Facilities are available at Bowling Green Recreation Center, Kummer/Little Recreation Center, and Parker Bennett Community Center. These facilities are rented for three hours with an hourly cost for additional time. Weekend rentals have higher rates at many of the facilities. Finally, the facilities are not available year-round, because they are in use by camps (May – August) or indoor leagues (December – February).

Table 14: Indoor Rental Facilities

Facility	Monday - Thursday		Friday - Sunday	
	Per 3 Hours	Add. Hour	Per 3 Hours	Add. Hour
Bowling Green Recreation Center				
Community Room	\$75	\$25	\$120	\$40
Large Conference Room	\$45	\$15	\$75	\$25
Sid-Carr Gymnasium per Court	\$100	\$30	\$100	\$30
Kummer/Little Recreation Center				
Multipurpose Room	\$45	\$15	\$75	\$25
Commons Area	\$45	\$15	\$75	\$25
Gymnasium per Court	\$100	\$30	\$100	\$30
Parker Bennett Community Center				
Meeting Room	\$75	\$25	\$75	\$25

Warren County Parks and Recreation Facilities

Warren County Parks and Recreation has many reservable facilities. Several of which are located within Bowling Green at Warren County Public Schools. Many facilities are located close to Bowling Green, as noted previously. In general, the rental options are similarly priced to Bowling Green facilities.

Ball fields are reservable for practices for \$10 per hour after 5pm or for free before that time. Each field can be rented for tournaments at a \$70 per day rate. A gym court can be rented for \$25 per hour, and meeting rooms are available for \$60 for the first four hours (\$10 per each additional hour). Trails and disc golf courses can be rented for special events for \$70 per day. Finally, picnic shelters can be rented for \$25 per day or \$75 per day for large corporate shelters.

CORE PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The core program concept provides direction in the planning, scheduling, and coordination of community-based recreational activities. The guidelines are general, and emphasis must be given to the involvement of Bowling Green community representatives, parents, participants, and advisory groups in the planning and development programs to meet these core guidelines. An expanded description of the broad program categories can be found in Appendix D. These descriptions detail program formats, primary values served by the activity, and provide a list of specific program examples.

Core Program Components

1. Broad Appeal

Parks and community centers should have broad appeal by conducting activities and special events for people young and old and of varying needs and skill levels. Target groups for programs include:

- Preschool
- Elementary School Age
- Teens
- Adults
- Seniors
- Intergenerational
- Multiple Ages
- Special Needs

2. Administratively Feasible

Activities should be administratively feasible and the following factors should be considered as part of any program development process:

- Facility and Equipment Requirements
- Safety
- Cost vs. Benefits
- Specialized Instruction Requirements

3. Coordination

Program and service offerings should be of a coordinated nature within the community, thus serving to complement rather than duplicate activities already provided elsewhere by other organizations or agencies.

4. Variety of Settings

Activities should be conducted in a variety of settings and formats, formal and informal. Examples include:

- Instructional Classes
- Progressive Skill Levels

-
- Drop-In
 - Special Events
 - Special Interest Clubs
 - Leagues and/or Tournaments
 - Outings and Field Trips

5. Constructive Nature

Programs should be constructive in nature and satisfy the creative, cultural, physical, and social desires of the participants.

6. Diverse Range of Activities

A diverse range of activities should be offered and should include a balanced mix of the following broad program categories:

- Athletics
- Creative Arts
- Games
- Health and Wellness Education
- Outdoor/Nature Education
- Performing Arts
- Education and Seminars
- Special Events

Programs Component Analysis

Based on the program offerings described in the preceding text, between the Parks and Recreation Department and various other organizations offering programming, Bowling Green is currently meeting each of the six components to some degree.

Programs are available for a variety of groups from preschool age children through seniors and those with disabilities. Programs are offered in a variety of settings, and coordination is required since program needs are met by a number of different organizations. Finally, a diverse range of activities are available with offerings in all of the program categories.

Programs offerings that serve multiple groups (e.g. intergenerational) appear to be limited as are programs for healthy seniors. Improved coordination between the various organizations and agencies offering programming would improve awareness and participation rates. See Section IV for public input regarding specific program needs and deficiencies. Administrative feasibility will be an important consideration when determining any future program offerings, including those resulting from this Master Plan.

IV. NEEDS ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION

The Needs Analysis consists of the following elements:

- A discussion of the parks and recreation area needs by park types.
- Facilities Needs Analysis and Level of Service Standards formulated using accepted standards, guidelines, and past experience of the Consultant, and approved by the Master Plan Steering Committee.
- A discussion of the geographic distribution of parks and recreation facilities.
- The summary of the PRORAGIS benchmark survey of Kentucky and nearby Tennessee communities.
- A discussion of recent trends in parks, recreation, and leisure service.

PARK AND RECREATION AREA NEEDS BY PARK TYPE

The parks and recreation area classifications were described in Section III, followed by a description of each facility in Bowling Green. These classifications are consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines. Level of Service Standards (acres per thousand population) for each park type in Bowling Green were established by the Master Plan Steering Committee with the assistance of the Consultant. These goals are consistent with communities throughout Kentucky and the nation in addition to recent plans completed by the Consultant. Table 15, Parks and Recreation Land Level of Service Standards, provides a breakdown of the needs for each type of park in the City of Bowling Green. This table includes parks that are part of elementary school sites, because they serve some of the park needs for nearby residents.

Table 15: Parks and Recreation Land Level of Service Standards

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres	Recommended Acres/1000 Population	2014 Recommended Acres	2014 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Recommended Acres	2020 Surplus(+) Deficit(-)	2030 Recommended Acres	2030 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Mini Park ¹	2.3	0.25	15.9	-13.6	16.9	-14.6	19.4	-17.1
Neighborhood ²	138.8	2	127.3	11.5	135.5	3.3	155.5	-16.7
Community	227.8	5	318.2	-90.4	338.7	-110.9	388.7	-160.9
Total	368.9	7.25	461.3	-92.4	491.1	-122.2	563.7	-194.8

Population Projections³

2014 = 63,632
 2020 = 67,740
 2030 = 77,746

1. Mini Parks include 1 acre at school sites.
2. Neighborhood Parks include 71.3 acres at school sites.
3. Source: 2014 by ESRI Business Analyst, 2020 and 2030 calculated using data from Kentucky State Data Center.

This table identifies the current park acreage for the City of Bowling Green and estimates the future needs through 2030, based on projected population growth. The values includes the developed parkland that is owned by the City of Bowling Green, Bowling Green Independent School District, or Warren County Public Schools. The figure identifies a current deficit of 92.4 acres of developed parkland in 2014 which is projected to increase to 194.8 acre deficit by 2030. The 2014 deficit of parkland is mitigated by the large amount of recreation land at schools in Bowling Green. A majority (51%) of Neighborhood Park acreage is located on school properties.

In contrast to the surplus of Neighborhood Parks, the City has a deficit of both Community Parks and Mini Parks. The 2014 deficit of Mini Parks will grow to just over 17 acres in 2030 (up from 13.6 acres). Similarly, the deficit of Community Parks will increase from 90.4 acres in 2014 to over 160 acres in 2030.

For the purpose of this analysis, the City was divided into four regions (see Figure 4). Region 1 consists of the portion of Bowling Green in the 42101 zip code to the Northeast of Morgantown Road (US 231). Region 2 is the portion of the City in the 42104 zip code. Region 3 is made up of the portion of the City in either the 42103 or 42122 zip codes. Finally, Region 4 consists of the portion of Bowling Green in the 42101 zip code to the Southwest of Morgantown Road (US 231).

Figure 4: Map of City Regions

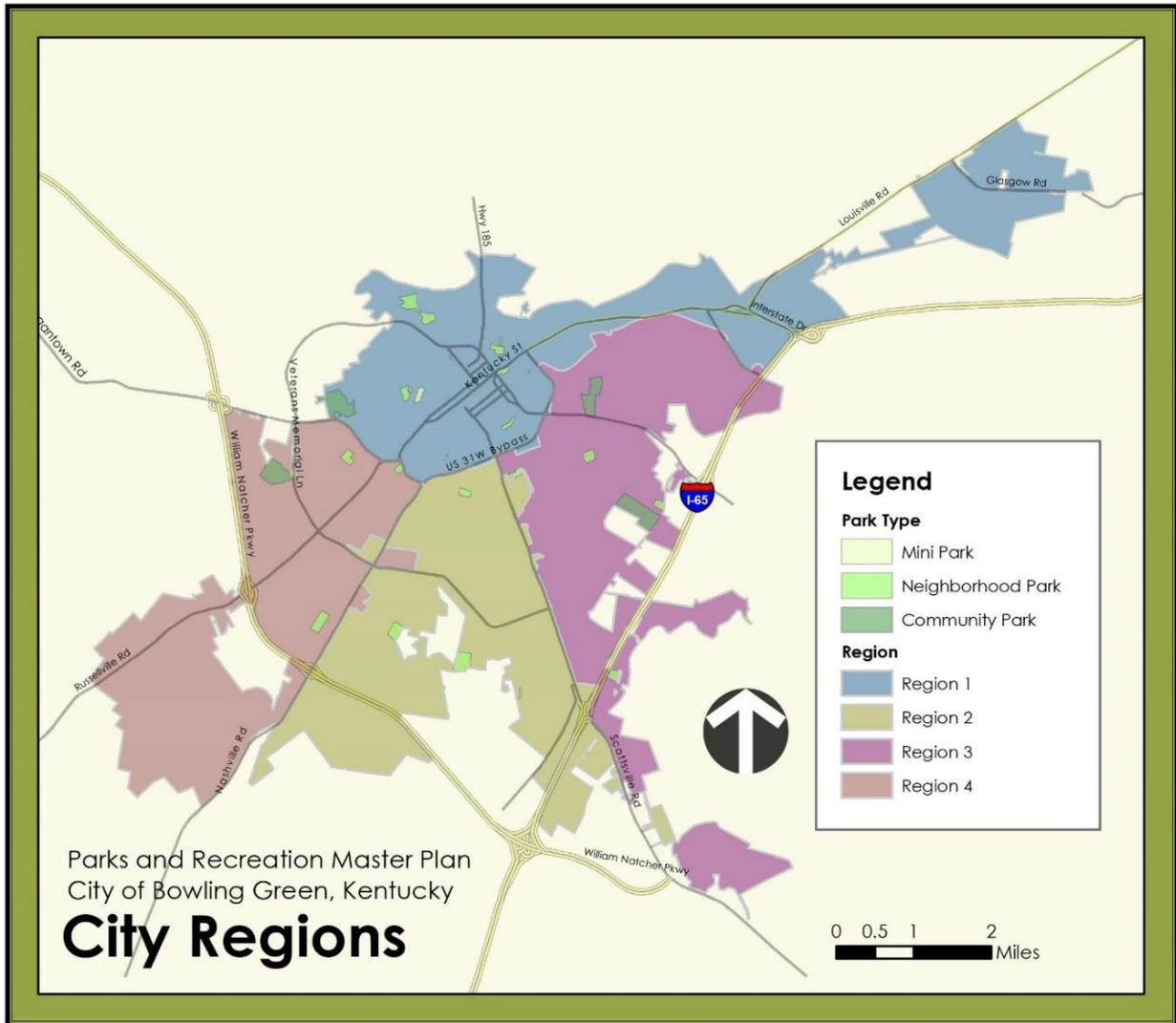


Table 16 identifies the parkland and population distribution in the four regions of the City of Bowling Green. The figures in this table indicate that the current population per developed park acre varies significantly between these four regions of the City of Bowling Green. The four regions are similar in physical size but very substantially in population and population density. Region 2 has the highest population per developed acre at 399, while Region 3 has the lowest at 83. Region 1 has the highest density of the four regions, while Region 2 has the lowest. Regions 1 and 4 have similar populations per developed acre of parkland at approximately 200. Based on these figures, on a per developed acre bases, Region 3 is the best served by parks.

Table 16: Existing Developed Parkland and Population Distribution by City Region

City Region	2014 Population	% of Population ¹	Total Planning Area Acres	Density (Population / Acre)	2014 Developed Park Acres	Population per Developed Park Acre
Region 1	21,760	34%	6,975	3.12	105.9	205
Region 2	16,328	26%	5,866	2.78	40.9	399
Region 3	12,429	20%	6,041	2.06	149.7	83
Region 4	13,114	21%	5,937	2.21	72.4	181
Total	63,632	100%	24,819	2.56	368.9	172

1. Based on 2010 Census Data

Table 17 identifies the parks and recreation needs by park type for the four regions. These numbers indicate that Region 1 currently has a deficit of 31.1 acres of developed parkland, and none of the other three regions have an overall deficit in total developed parkland. Region 3 is the only region with a surplus (70.7 acres), and Region 2 has the largest deficit (73.4 acres).

Table 17: Parks and Recreation Needs by Park Type and City Region

Park Type	Existing Developed Acres	Recommended Acres per 1000 Population	2014 Recommended Acres	2014 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Recommended Acres ⁵	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Region 1						
Mini Park	2.3	0.25	5.4	-3.1	5.8	-3.5
Neighborhood	45.7	2	43.5	2.2	46.3	-0.6
Community	57.9	5	108.8	-50.9	115.8	-57.9
Total ¹	105.9	7.25	157.8	-51.9	167.9	-62.0
Region 2						
Mini Park	0.0	0.25	4.1	-4.1	4.3	-4.3
Neighborhood	40.9	2	32.7	8.2	34.8	6.1
Community	0.0	5	81.6	-81.6	86.9	-86.9
Total ²	40.9	7.25	118.4	-77.5	126.0	-85.1
Region 3						
Mini Park	0.0	0.25	3.1	-3.1	3.3	-3.3
Neighborhood	24.8	2	24.9	-0.1	26.5	-1.7
Community	124.9	5	62.1	62.8	66.2	58.7
Total ³	149.7	7.25	90.1	59.6	95.9	53.8
Region 4						
Mini Park	0.0	0.25	3.3	-3.3	3.5	-3.5
Neighborhood	27.4	2	26.2	1.2	27.9	-0.5
Community	45.0	5	65.6	-20.6	69.8	-24.8
Total ⁴	72.4	7.25	95.1	-22.7	101.2	-28.8

1. Includes 4.0 acres at school sites.

2. Includes 21.6 acres at school sites.

3. Includes 19.2 acres at school sites.

4. Includes 24.4 acres at school sites.

5. Assumes unchanged population distribution from 2010.

Each of the regions has a deficit in two of the park types. Region 3's surplus is primarily a result of the presence of two large Community Parks: Spero Kereiakes and Lovers Lane. Region 2, in contrast, has no Community Parks but has a surplus of Neighborhood Parks, due to the presence of several schools. Region 1 holds all of the Mini Parks but has a 50.9 acre deficit in Community Parks. Region 4 has a small deficit (20.6 acres) of Community Parks and, like the Regions 2 and 3, has no Mini Parks. These figures indicate that Bowling Green's deficit of Community Parks is concentrated in the Regions 1 and 2 of the City. None of the regions currently has a notable deficit in Neighborhood Parks. With expected population increases, deficits will increase in the future.

Because most of the Neighborhood Parks in Regions 3 and 4 of the City are located at schools (77% and 89%, respectively), park options in these areas may be more limited during school hours. Some of the park acreage deficits are mitigated by the presence of nearby County Parks, most notably Basil Griffin Park to the south of Region 2. Ephram White and Phil Moore Parks are located very near the City of Bowling Green, and Michael O. Buchanon Park is located just two miles from City limits (to the southwest).

FACILITIES NEEDS ANALYSIS AND LEVEL OF SERVICE STANDARDS

Similar to the recommendations for parkland described previously, Table 18 details the facilities by type with the available supply compared to the needed supply to meet the goals established in this Master Plan. These goals were developed using a combination of existing standards and guidelines, desires of the Steering Committee, public input, and the past experience of the Consultant. This table includes many facilities that are located on school sites because they serve some of the needs for residents. However, facilities at middle and high schools are not included, because, while some may be available at certain times for a rental fee, the facilities primarily serve the school sports programs, rather than the public as a whole.

Table 18: Facility Level of Service Goals

Facility	Population Goal (1 Per)	2014 Existing Supply ²	2014 Required ¹	2014 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2020 Required ¹	2020 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2030 Required ¹	2030 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Outdoor Areas								
Picnic Shelter	2000	28	31.8	-3.8	33.9	-5.9	38.9	-10.9
Playground	2500	26	25.5	0.5	27.1	-1.1	31.1	-5.1
Paved Trails (miles) ³	2750	17.7	23.1	-5.4	24.6	-6.9	28.3	-10.6
Unpaved Trails (miles) ³	5000	8.3	12.7	-4.4	13.5	-5.2	15.5	-7.2
Swimming Pool	30000	1	2.1	-1.1	2.3	-1.3	2.6	-1.6
Outdoor Theater	30000	1	2.1	-1.1	2.3	-1.3	2.6	-1.6
Outdoor Fields & Court Areas								
Small Diamonds (50-65' bases)	4000	14	15.9	-1.9	16.9	-2.9	19.4	-5.4
Large Diamond (90' bases)	25000	2	2.5	-0.5	2.7	-0.7	3.1	-1.1
Rectangular Fields ⁴	2250	23.5	28.3	-4.8	30.1	-6.6	34.6	-11.1
Basketball Courts	3000	23.5	21.2	2.3	22.6	0.9	25.9	-2.4
Tennis Courts	3500	16	18.2	-2.2	19.4	-3.4	22.2	-6.2
Volleyball Courts	10000	8	6.4	1.6	6.8	1.2	7.8	0.2
Indoor Areas/Specialized Facilities								
Indoor Pool	60000	0	1.1	-1.1	1.1	-1.1	1.3	-1.3
Game Court/Gym	15000	4	4.2	-0.2	4.5	-0.5	5.2	-1.2
Recreation/Community Center	15000	3	4.2	-1.2	4.5	-1.5	5.2	-2.2

1. Population projections for 2020 and 2030 calculated using data from Kentucky State Data Center.

2014 = 63,632

2020 = 67,740

2030 = 77,746

2. All city or county owned/leased facilities and facilities at schools that are accessible to the public are included.

3. Totals include some trails on private property that are open to the public.

4. Soccer/football/lacrosse. Small-sided fields counted as 0.5 fields.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF PARKS

The spatial distribution of parks throughout the City of Bowling Green is important because residents are more able and willing to access facilities that are close to their homes. Figure 5, Park Service Areas, indicates an inventory of the existing parks and schools with service areas for each of the various types of parks. The map also includes dots to show the location of residents in Bowling Green, providing a visual representation of the density of the area.

The brown areas show a quarter mile range of a Mini Park, Neighborhood Park or Community Park. The green areas represent a half mile range of a Neighborhood Park or Community Park. The yellow indicates areas within one mile of a Community Park. The blue areas show portions of the

City within a half mile of a school neighborhood park.⁷ This map serves to indicate the gaps where neighborhoods are not served very well by parks.

The northern half of Bowling Green has the largest number of parks, and most of the area lies within the half mile range of a park. A large portion of this area is located within a quarter mile of a park. The southern half of the City has fewer parks, much of the area is beyond half a mile from a park on only within a half mile of a school park.

Based on Figure 5, the following four notable areas appear to not be very well served by parks:

- The southeastern portion of the City, along Route 231 and north of Interstate 65.
- The southwestern most portion of the City.
- The northeastern portion of the City, east of the Barren River and west of Interstate 65.
- South-Central portion of the City, south of downtown, between Routes 68 and 231.

The density dots indicate the presence of residents in these areas that are currently not well served by parks. The southeastern area has only one small Neighborhood Park (The Crossings) and school facilities. The southwestern most area of the City, while having a relatively low density, has no parks or school sites. The area in the northeast of the City is more than a mile from any park or school site and separated by the Barren River. The South-Central area only has school facilities located within a half mile, which are not available during school hours or during school events.

The northeastern and southeastern ends of the City also have no City of Bowling Green parks, but these areas are sparsely populated (primarily agricultural) and have close access to Warren County facilities.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF FACILITIES

Another portion of the analysis is a review of the geographic distribution of specific types of facilities that are provided to residents. Service areas for these key facilities are indicated in Figures 6-11. These maps indicate the parks and schools with the various facilities and displays the areas of the City of Bowling Green within a half mile of these facilities. Facilities at parks are signified by the green areas, and facilities at schools are signified by the blue areas. Only facilities that are open to the public are included in the following analysis. Density dots are included in each figure to show the location of residents. The service areas for picnic shelters, playgrounds, baseball/softball diamonds, rectangular fields, tennis courts, and basketball courts are discussed in the ensuing text.

Parks with Picnic Shelters

Service areas for picnic shelters are depicted in Figure 6, showing which portions of the City of Bowling Green are within a half mile of picnic shelters. Small shelters with few tables are excluded from this analysis as they are not suitable for planned events. Ten (10) different Bowling Green Parks have pavilions, some of which are rentable, with locations spread throughout the City. Three (3) Warren County Parks with shelters are located less than half a mile from the Bowling Green City boundary.

The picnic shelter locations are distributed throughout Bowling Green; however, most of the shelters are located in the northern half of the City. Only Hills Dog Park has a large shelter in the southern half of the City (The Crossings Park has a small shelter with one table). Shelters are also located at Three Springs and Phil Moore Parks, just outside of Bowling Green.

The largest population are outside of the half mile service areas for picnic shelters on the west side of downtown, between Hobson Grove and Western Kentucky University. This area, however, is relatively close to several shelters. The southeastern portion of Bowling Green north of the Scottsville Road/Interstate 65 interchange is another area outside of the service areas. Finally, no

⁷ These schools have parks with facilities similar to what is found in a typical Neighborhood Park.

shelters are located at the southwest portion of Bowling Green. This part of the City is currently somewhat sparsely populated (primarily agricultural and industrial uses).

Parks and Schools with Playgrounds

Figure 7 identifies the half mile service area of playgrounds throughout Bowling Green which are fairly well distributed. The blue dots on this figure represent children and demonstrate their presence in the identified less served areas.

The northern portion of the City is well-served by playground facilities with nearly the whole area within a half mile range of a playground and much of the area within a quarter mile range of a playground. Most of the southern portion of Bowling Green is also well-served by playground facilities.

While the highest density areas of the Bowling Green are within a half mile range of a playground, a few areas with residents under 18 are outside of this range. No playgrounds are located in the central part of the City near Bowling Green Junior High and Bowling Green High Schools. The southwest end of the City, while currently lightly populated, has no playgrounds. The area to the northeast of downtown, along the Barren River, also lacks playgrounds.

Parks with Baseball/Softball Diamonds

A half mile service area for baseball/softball diamonds in Bowling Green is presented in Figure 8. This map indicates that diamonds are fairly well distributed throughout the City. However, all of the diamonds offered by the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department are located at four parks (Lampkin, Pedigo, Hobson Grove, and Kereiakes), all located in the northern part of the City. The facilities in the southern part of the Bowling Green are all located at schools, and two Warren County Parks also offer baseball/softball diamonds in this area, just outside of the City.

Four notable areas in Bowling Green are more than a half mile from a diamond field. First, no fields are located in the downtown area between Pedigo and Kereiakes Parks, likely due to the lack of available land. The densely populated area surrounding Preston Miller Park is more than a half mile from Lampkin Park. Finally, the same somewhat lightly populated areas described previously in the northeast and southwest are also well beyond a half mile from any baseball/softball diamonds.

Parks and Schools with Rectangular Fields

Figure 9 displays the half mile service areas for rectangular fields in the City of Bowling Green. Rectangular fields are located at four (4) parks and several schools throughout Bowling Green, plus Three Springs Park, just outside of the City. These field locations well distributed around the City, with the largest number of fields located at Lovers Lane Park at the eastern end of Bowling Green.

The central portion of Bowling Green has no full-sized rectangular fields, although a few small playfields are located in this area. The two reoccurring areas in the northeast and southwest also lack any rectangular fields.

Parks and Schools with Tennis Courts

Four parks in the City and three schools have tennis courts. Additionally, Three Springs Park and Warren East High School, just outside of Bowling Green, have tennis courts. Figure 10 shows the areas of the City of Bowling Green within a half mile of a tennis court. These facilities are primarily located in the northern part of Bowling Green, leaving many residents with tennis courts nearby.

The most notable location lacking tennis courts is the southern area of the City from Preston Miller Park to Cumberland Trace Elementary. The area to the west side of downtown, between Hobson Grove and Western Kentucky University is also beyond a half mile range of tennis courts (although

the University provides courts that serve the student population). Finally, the two reoccurring areas in the northeast and southwest are also beyond a half mile range of tennis courts.

Parks and Schools with Outdoor Basketball Courts

Half mile service areas for outdoor basketball courts are displayed in Figure 11. Eight (8) Bowling Green parks provide outdoor basketball courts, and nine (9) schools in the City provide this facility. Three additional schools and Three Springs Park also provide basketball courts, just outside of Bowling Green. The locations of the basketball courts are well distributed through the City, especially in the northern half.

The areas beyond the half mile range of basketball courts include the two reoccurring areas in the northeast and southwest as well as the area to the southwest of downtown and north of Natcher Parkway. Additionally, all of the courts in the southern half of Bowling Green are located at schools, leaving none available for public use during school hours.

COMPOSITE FACILITY SERVICE AREAS

To better understand the overall level of service for the residents of Bowling Green, an analysis must be completed of the collection of available facilities. The preceding text described level of access to six different park facilities in Bowling Green as demonstrated in Figures 6 through 11. Figure 12 shows a composite of access to those key facilities. Darker shades of blue indicate access to a greater number of facilities within a half mile of a location. For example, a resident living within one of the darkest areas would be within a half mile of all six (6) key facilities, although those facilities might not be located at the same park or school.

Based on this figure, the area around Spero Kereiakes Park in the eastern portion of the City and area between Lampkin and Preston Miller Parks in the western portion of the City have the best combined access to these select facilities (all six facilities within a half mile). Various other areas throughout the City also have high levels of access (five or six facilities), including the area just south of downtown and the south-central portion on the City. The areas with low levels of service include the two reoccurring areas in the northeast and southwest (no facilities) and much of the area in the southeastern and southwestern portions of town with no facilities within a half mile or only facilities at schools.

The percentage of the population living within each of the composite areas, plus the percentage of land area covers, can be seen in Table 19. Based on this table, only 9% of the population lives within a half mile of all six facilities; however, 55% of the population lives within a half mile of three or more facilities. Eighty-one (81%) of the population lives within a half mile of at least one facility, so adding key facilities to existing parks could easily increase the population served by these facilities.

The percentage of the land area within these regions is also presented in this table. These numbers demonstrate that lower percentages of land area are within these regions compared to the population percentages in the same regions. These findings indicates that the facilities tend to be located closer to population centers, as would be expected.

Table 19: Population within Composite Facility Service Areas

Key Facilities	Proportion within Service Area			
	Population	Cumulative Population	Land Area	Cumulative Land Area
6	9%	9%	6%	6%
5	9%	17%	5%	12%
4	25%	43%	15%	26%
3	13%	55%	12%	39%
2	14%	69%	7%	45%
1	12%	81%	7%	52%
0	19%	100%	48%	100%

Figure 5: Park Service Areas

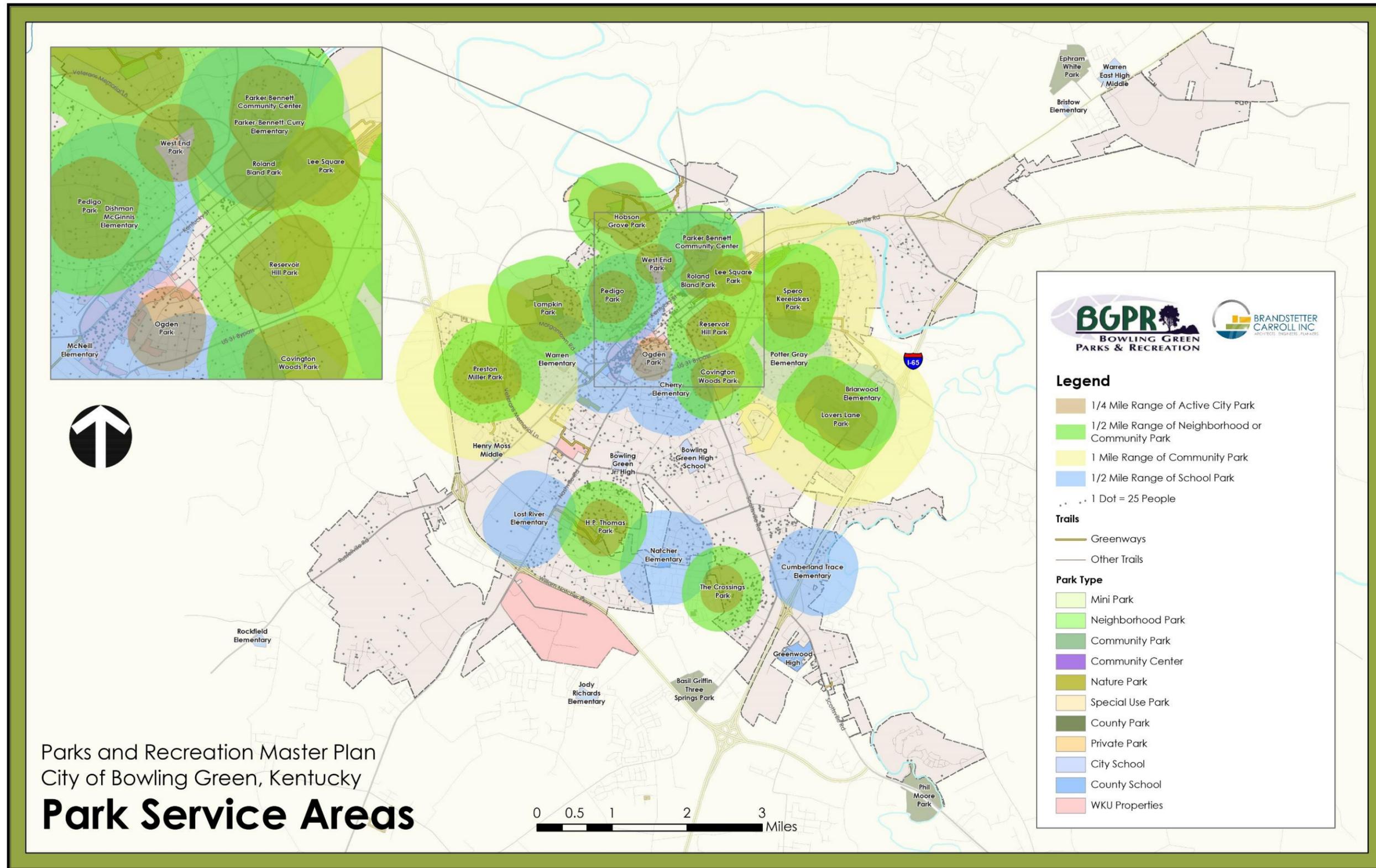
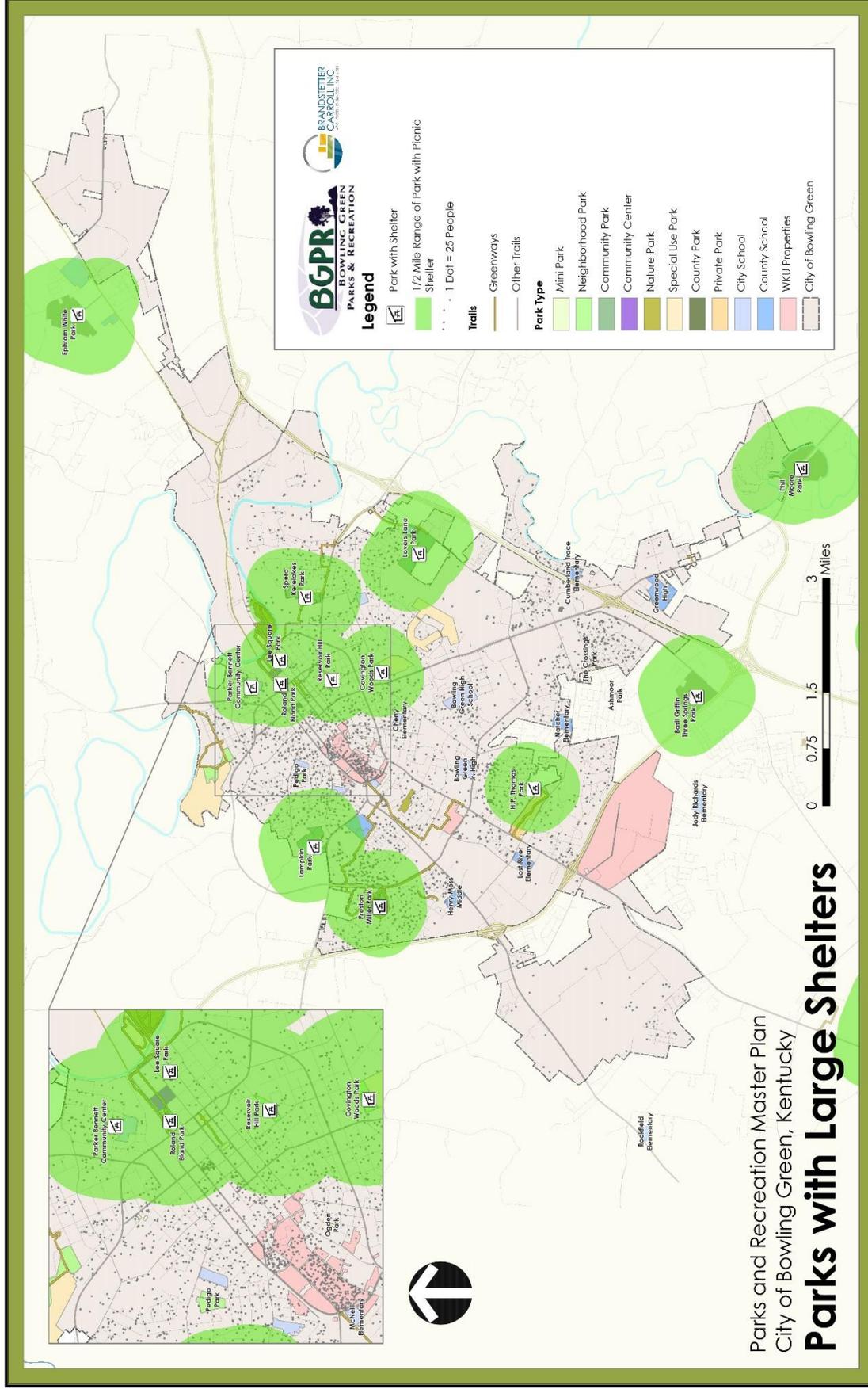


Figure 6: Parks with Large Shelters



Parks and Recreation Master Plan
City of Bowling Green, Kentucky
Parks with Large Shelters

Figure 7: Parks and Schools with Playgrounds

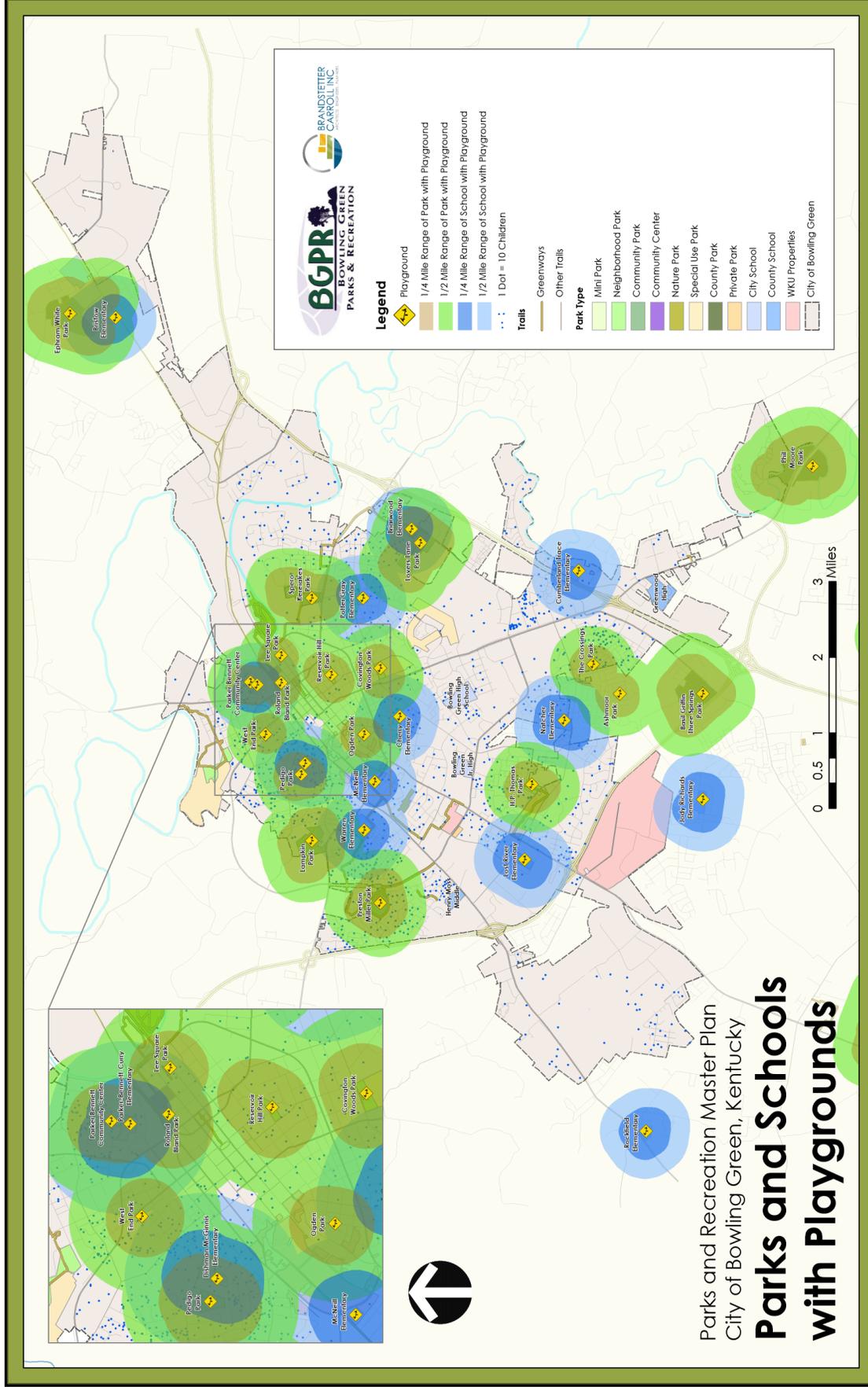


Figure 8: Parks and Schools with Baseball/Softball Diamonds

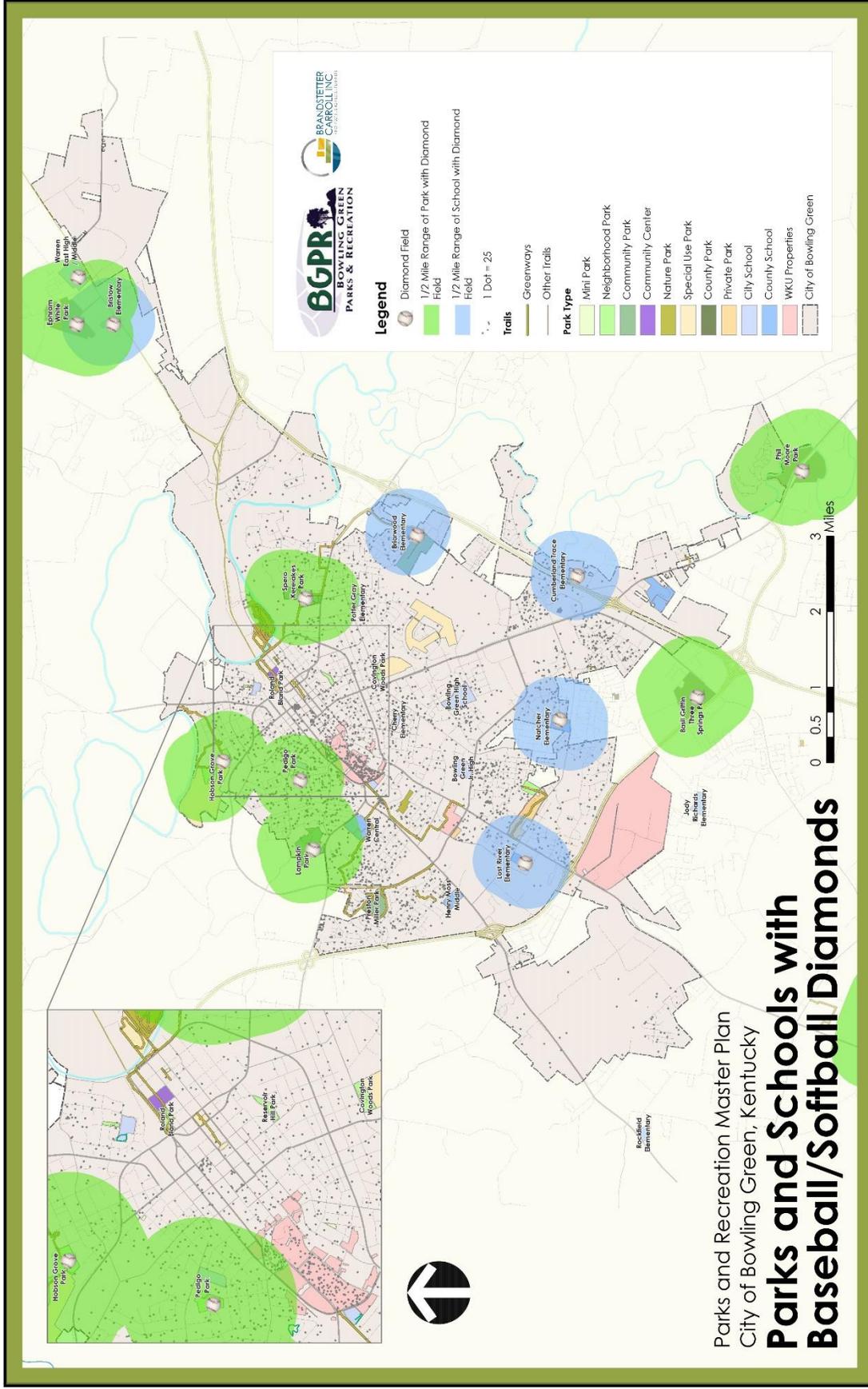


Figure 9: Parks and Schools with Rectangular Fields

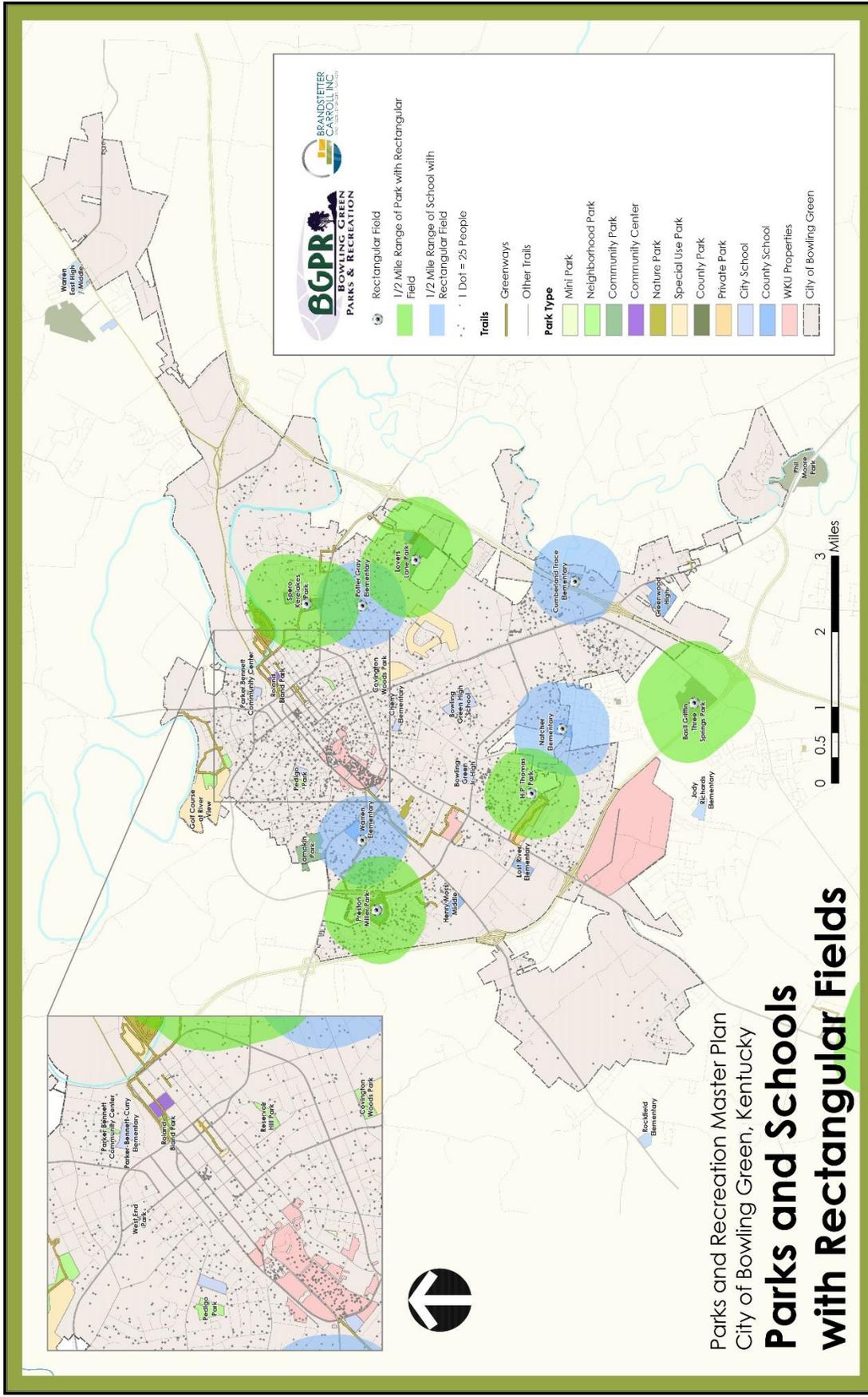


Figure 10: Parks and Schools with Tennis Courts

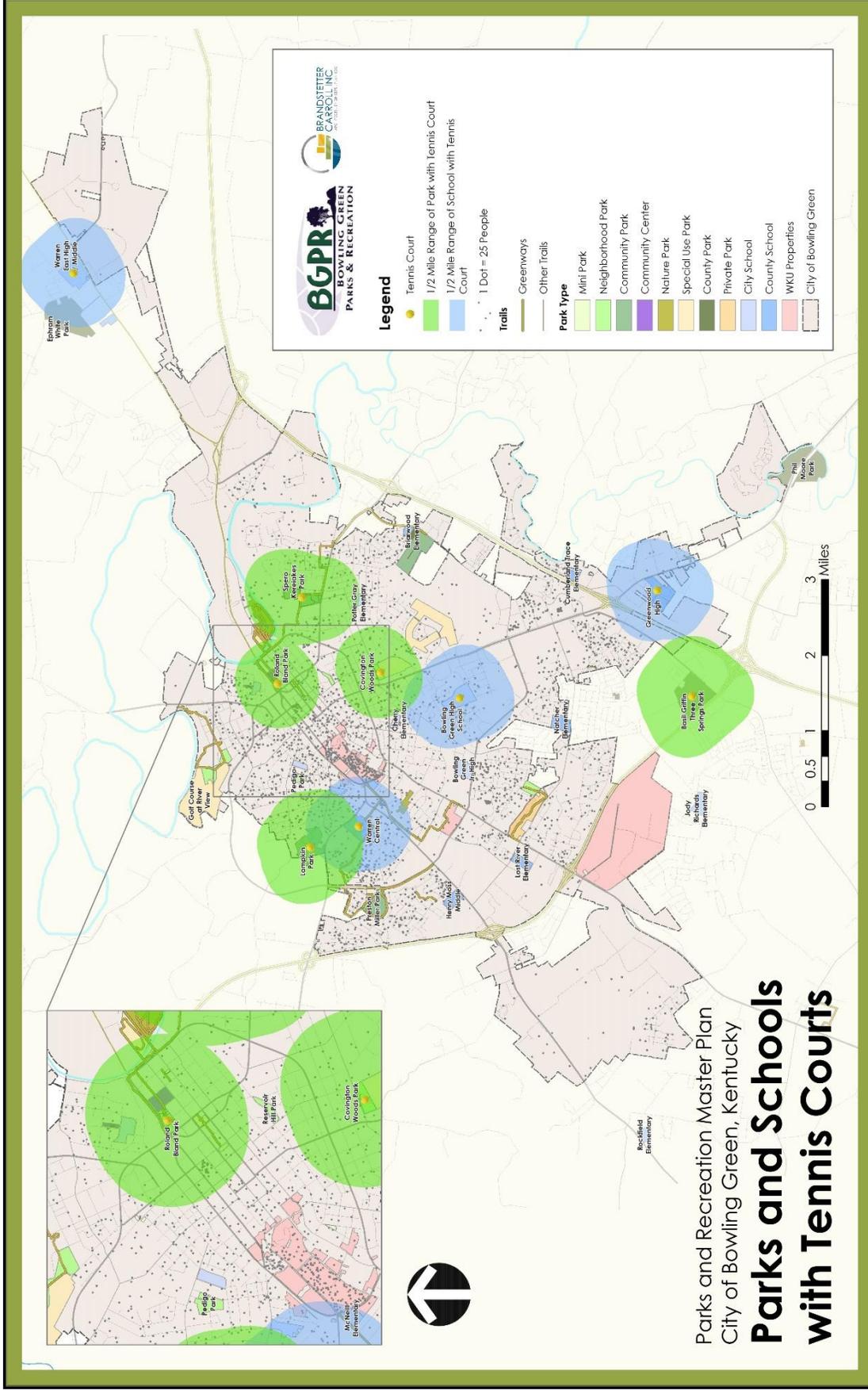


Figure 11: Parks and Schools with Outdoor Basketball Courts

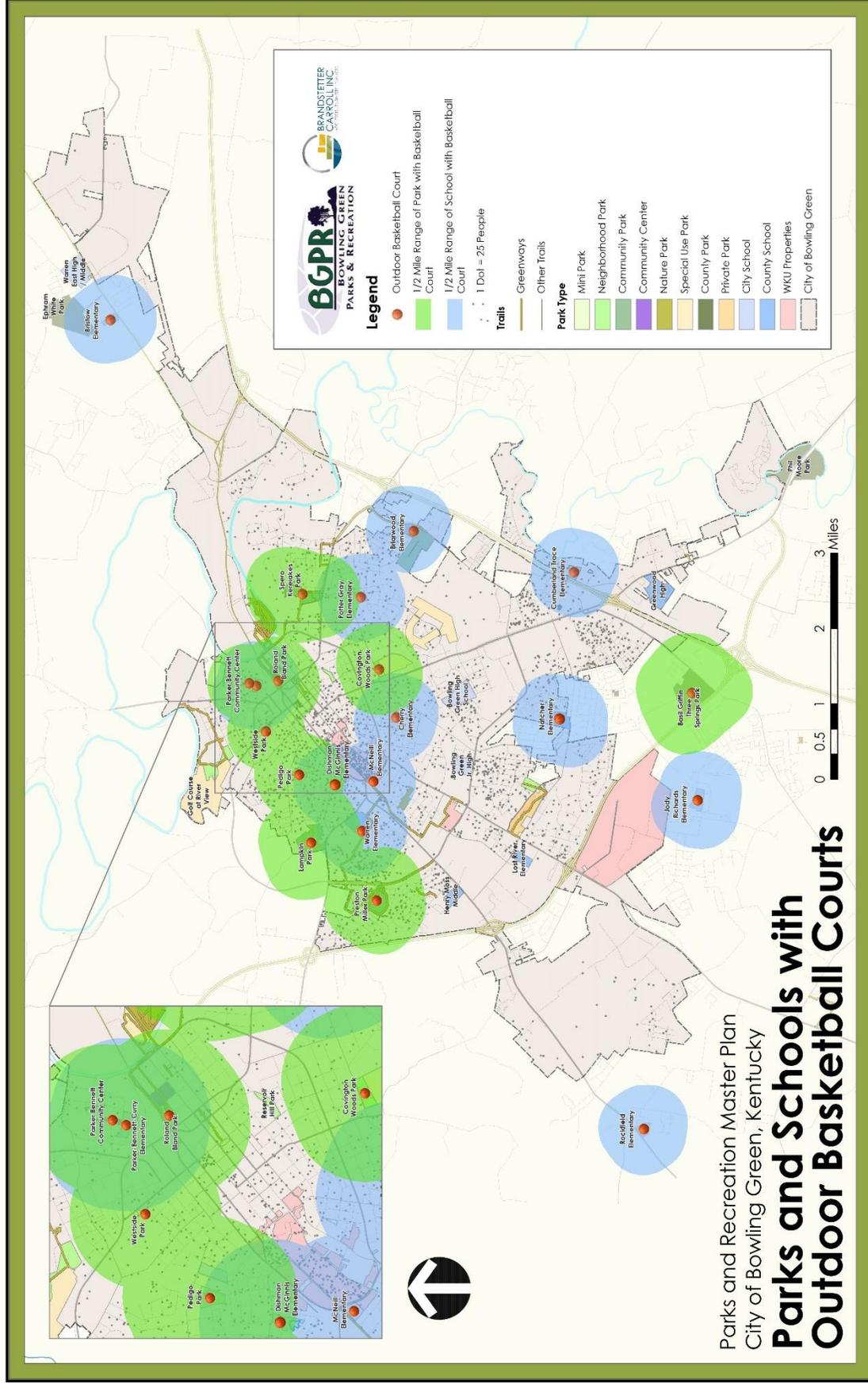
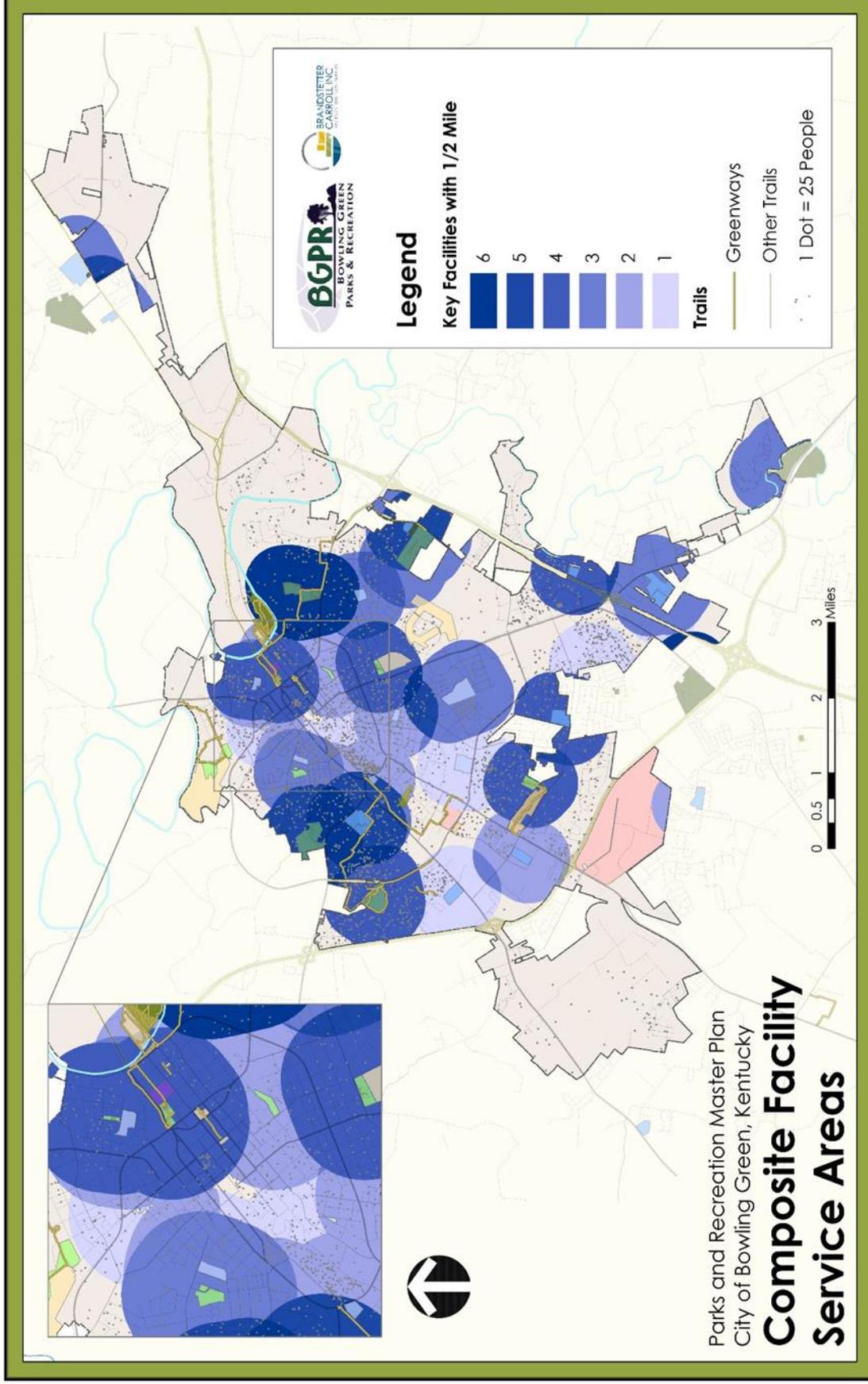


Figure 12: Composite Facility Service Areas



PRORAGIS BENCHMARKING SURVEY

One method of evaluating the park and recreation services offered in the community is to use benchmarking comparisons to other communities. For the comparisons to the City of Bowling Green, averages and medians from jurisdictions participating in the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Parks and Recreation Operating Ratio and GIS (PRORAGIS) Program were used. Communities for comparison were limited to 14 jurisdictions located in Kentucky and Tennessee that participated in the PRORAGIS program (regional and large city or county systems were excluded). These jurisdictions represented the most comparable departments with data available; however, the facilities and programs varied greatly between these departments, and only one municipality (Owensboro) had a similar population to Bowling Green.

The City of Bowling Green is a participant in the PRORAGIS program; however, the data for Bowling Green was incomplete and only as recent as 2011, so figures for these comparisons were derived from a variety of sources including budgets, annual reports, and department records. Because the data for other park systems was limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by the City of Bowling Green were included in this analysis (school facilities and Warren County Parks were not included). The figures used in this analysis for the City of Bowling Green were for the fiscal year 2014/2015 (ending June 30, 2015), and the figures for the comparison of Kentucky and Tennessee municipalities were for the latest available year between 2010 and 2014. The following table (Table 20) provides a list of the jurisdictions included in this benchmark comparison.

Table 20: Benchmark Jurisdictions

Jurisdiction	Population
Kentucky	
Berea Parks and Recreation	14,148
Boone County Parks	124,442
Daviess County Parks and Recreation	96,000
City of Glasgow Parks & Recreation	14,095
Owensboro Parks & Recreation	57,412
Paducah Parks Services	26,000
Richmond Parks & Recreation	32,550
Shelbyville / Shelby County Parks and Recreation	44,000
City of Somerset Parks & Recreation	11,447
Tennessee	
Clarksville Parks and Recreation	140,000
La Vergne Parks and Recreation	34,000
City of Mt. Juliet Parks & Recreation Department	25,775
Murfreesboro Parks and Recreation	108,755
Shelbyville Parks & Recreation Department	20,489

The Benchmarking Comparisons table follows this text (Table 21) and provides tabular data for all of the information discussed in this text. The analysis of comparisons are organized into the following categories.

1. Parkland Information
2. Department Functions
3. Staffing
4. Operating and Capital Budget
5. Facilities

The following text details the findings of these analyses. Note that the figures used in these comparisons are those which were reported to PRORAGIS by the municipalities and may vary from the actual budgets.

Parkland Information

The analysis indicates that the City of Bowling Green provides 13.1 acres of parkland per thousand population. This number is higher than the median of the comparison municipalities⁸ of 6.2 acres but lower than the upper quartile of 15.2 acres. Parks in the City of Bowling Green are slightly larger than other municipalities. Bowling Green has 34.7 acres per park, higher than the median of 31.9 acres but lower than the upper quartile of 39.3 acres for comparable municipalities in Kentucky and Tennessee. These figures suggest that the City of Bowling Green has a similar mix of large and small parks to other municipalities.

A look at the percentage of parkland that is developed for parks and recreation purposes indicates that 73.8% of Bowling Green's parkland is developed, compared to the median of 86.5% for the comparison municipalities. The 73.8% of developed parkland is slightly lower than the lower quartile of 75.0%, but the variation from these comparison values is minimal. Bowling Green has a slightly lower percentage of parkland that is developed and a slightly higher percentage that is in its natural state than the comparison municipalities.

The comparison of total miles of greenways and trails managed by the agency identifies the City of Bowling Green with 8.1 miles of trails separated from roads (and located within parks), compared to the average of the other municipalities of 15.7 miles. Bowling Green has fewer miles of trails than the comparison municipalities if only trails within parks are counted. However, if all trails, including those not located on properties managed by the Parks and Recreation Department are included, the total comes to 24.6 miles, well above the median of the other municipalities.

Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile is a measurement that controls for differences in the size of comparative municipalities. Counting only trails within parks, Bowling Green has 0.22 miles of trails per square mile of the City, slightly below the comparison municipality average of 0.31; counting all trails, Bowling Green's trails per jurisdiction square mile is 0.66, much higher than the comparison municipalities.⁹

Department Functions

A comparison of the services that are offered by the various park and recreation departments in the benchmarking comparison demonstrates that the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department manages most of the services that are most commonly offered by other agencies. Services managed by the Parks and Recreation Department that are also managed by a majority of comparison jurisdictions include: providing recreation and programming services; operating parks and facilities; maintaining street trees and medians; managing open space; managing a major aquatic complex; managing an outdoor sports complex; and conducting major jurisdiction wide special events.

The only services offered by 50% or more of the comparison municipalities that are not managed by the Parks and Recreation Department are environmental education programs and maintenance of public areas which is handled by another City of Bowling Green department. Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department maintains public cemeteries, historic properties, and community gardens, while less than half of comparison departments are responsible for these services.

⁸ The number of responding municipalities vary by question. The number of responses for question is included in the table at the end of this section.

⁹ The comparison municipalities may also have trails not included in these totals.

Staffing

The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department employs 49 full-time employees (of which 25 are related to park maintenance) and a total of 243 part-time and seasonal employees. Including these part-time employees, the Department employs 117.3 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.¹⁰ This total is much higher than the comparison departments, even if golf staff is not included (80.9 FTEs without golf).

Considering acres of parkland per full-time equivalent (FTE), the City of Bowling Green employs one Parks and Recreation Department employee per 7.1 acres compared to the median of one employee per 9.5 acres and a lower quartile of 7.5 acres per employee. The City of Bowling Green has a higher ratio of employees to parkland than most of the comparison communities, indicating that City of Bowling Green staff are responsible for less acreage than staff of other communities. Without golf (both staff and acreage), that number drops to 5.6 acres per FTE. These numbers result from the higher staffing requirements of income generating facilities such as the Russell Sims Aquatic Center and Bowling Green Recreation Center not offered by some of the comparison jurisdictions.

Limiting the analysis to maintenance staff only, Bowling Green employs one maintenance FTE per 18.7 acres, while the median of the other communities is one FTE per 15.4 acres. Using this measure, the Department's staffing levels are much more similar to the comparison department in other municipalities. Each maintenance employee is responsible for a larger number of acres than the comparative municipalities in Kentucky and Tennessee. Without golf, each maintenance employee is responsible for 16.5 acres, still above the median of comparison departments.

Analysis of the population served per FTE indicates that Bowling Green employs a staff member for every 542 people, which is much lower than the median (1,248) as well as the lower quartile value of 823. With golf staff excluded, that number increases to 787 people, just below the lower quartile value. These numbers, combined with the staff levels per acre, help to confirm that Bowling Green has a comprehensive parks and recreation system with a wide variety of facilities and programs compared to the other departments in this analysis.

Operating Budget

The total Department Operating Budget (including all park and recreation administration, programs, maintenance, and services) for the 2015 fiscal year for the City of Bowling Green (from the City Budget) was \$8.0 million, which is substantially higher than the \$2.2 million median of the other Kentucky and Tennessee municipalities. However, this number is comparable to the Parks and Recreation Department budget of the City of Owensboro which was reported at \$6.7 million for 2014. The Parks and Recreation budget represents 8% of the total operating budget of the City of Bowling Green. This number is only slightly higher than the median value of 7.4%, and nearly identical to Owensboro's value for this metric of 7.9%. If golf costs are not included, the expenditures represent only 6% of Bowling Green's total operating budget.

The per capita operating expenditures for the City of Bowling Green are \$126, compared to the median of \$55 for other departments. Again, however, these numbers are primarily a result of the smaller departments of the comparison jurisdictions that offer fewer services and facilities. The per capita expenditures for the City of Owensboro for 2014 were \$117, only slightly lower than the figure for Bowling Green.

A look at the revenue for the Parks and Recreation Department indicates that not all of these additional expenditures are coming from the City's general fund. The total non-tax revenue for the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department was estimated at \$2.7 million which was much higher than the comparison municipalities' median of under \$1 million and higher than the

¹⁰ These totals do not include cemetery staff since few comparison departments manage these facilities.

upper quartile number of just over \$1.5 million. Without golf, the revenue for the Department is substantially lower at \$1.4 million but still nearly as high as the upper quartile value.

The revenue per capita for Bowling Green was also much higher than the comparison communities at \$42.43, nearly three times the median of \$14.32. Without golf revenues, the per capita value is greatly reduced to \$21.73 but is still substantially higher than the median. These figures suggest that the City of Bowling Green is able to reduce the financial impact of Parks and Recreation services on the City's Operating Budget through the use of fees for services. The City of Bowling Green offers more services than the comparison jurisdictions which also allows for increased revenue generation.

The breakdown of sources of funding for operating expenditures confirms that City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation services are funded by fees and charges to a much higher degree than the comparison departments in Kentucky and Tennessee. Bowling Green receives far more of their funding from fees than the comparison municipalities at 33%, compared to only 14%. Sixty-three percent (63%) of funding in Bowling Green came from the general fund, compared to 84% for the comparison departments.

The total operating expenditure per acre of land managed or maintained is \$9,648 for the City of Bowling Green (\$13,806 without golf). This figure is higher than the median of \$7,513 but nearly the same as the upper quartile value of \$9,473. These numbers suggest that the City of Bowling Green operates more expensive facilities on a per acre basis or are maintaining those facilities to a higher level than the comparison departments.

Capital Budget

The approved Parks and Recreation Department Capital Budget was \$950,000 for 2014/2015 which is higher than the median (\$300,000) of comparison departments but was lower than the upper quartile value of \$1.2 million. The capital cost per capita for this year is similarly higher than the median for the other communities at \$14.93, compared to \$4.41 but below the upper quartile of \$19.27. Due to the availability of information, these numbers compare the capital budgets for one year; however, capital budgets vary greatly from one year to the next and should be considered over a longer term.

The capital needs for parks and recreation facilities in Bowling Green were derived from the Department's 5-year capital plan. The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department has identified capital need (both new and renovation) of \$5,055,550. This number is much lower than the median for comparison communities of \$12.5 million. These numbers could indicate that the facilities in the City of Bowling Green have been maintained to a higher level than the comparison communities or that the City has identified fewer new capital needs.

Facilities

A comparison between the City of Bowling Green and comparative communities for population per facility provides a way to evaluate the existing quantity of each type of facility and to help to identify which facilities the City might want to add in the future. This analysis looks at five types of facilities: playgrounds, tennis courts (outdoor), basketball courts (outdoor), diamond fields (small), and gyms.¹¹ This analysis does not, however, consider the location of facilities.

The City of Bowling Green has 14 playgrounds at 14 parks throughout the City. The resulting population per playground is 4,545 which is slightly below the median of the comparison communities (4,851). The lower quartile for these other Kentucky and Tennessee communities is 4,093 residents per playground, and the upper quartile is 8,450.

The Parks and Recreation Department in Bowling Green offers a large number of tennis courts, compared to the comparison communities. The 16 tennis courts at four Bowling Green parks yields

¹¹ The analysis was limited to these five facilities due, in part, to availability of data for comparison departments.

a value of 3,977 residents per court. This number is substantially lower than the median of 17,000 as well as the lower quartile of 9,805. The City offers many more tennis courts compared to its population than other Kentucky and Tennessee municipalities.

The City of Bowling Green, similarly, has a very low population per basketball court, as the City has 12 basketball courts at eight different locations. These facilities produce a population per court of 5,303, which is less than half of the comparison communities' median of 12,425. Bowling Green offers a large number of basketball courts compared to these comparison municipalities.

Bowling Green has nine small diamond fields¹² at four different parks, yielding a value of 7,707 residents per field. This number is slightly lower than the median for the other Kentucky and Tennessee communities of 8,202 and slightly higher than the lower quartile value of 5,990. These numbers suggest that Bowling Green has a slightly better supply of these fields than the comparison communities.

The last facility type for comparison is indoor gyms of which Bowling Green has four, giving the city one gym per 15,908 residents. The median of the other Kentucky and Tennessee communities is 32,550 and the lower quartile is 25,844 residents per gym, much higher than the Bowling Green number. Based on this comparison, the City's supply of this facility is above what other municipalities are offering which provides opportunities for a wider variety of program offerings.

Table 21: PRORAGIS Benchmarking Comparisons

	<u>Comparison</u>		
	<u>Bowling Green¹</u>	<u>Municipalities²</u>	
PARKLAND INFORMATION			
Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Population			
Number of Responses			13
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		4.4
Median	7.1	13.1	6.2
Upper Quartile			15.2
Acres per Park			
Number of Responses			13
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		15.8
Median	18.8	34.7	31.9
Upper Quartile			39.3
Acres of Parkland Managed or Maintained per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.			
Number of Responses			13
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		4.0
Median	12.2	22.5	8.8
Upper Quartile			10.2
What percent of your acreage is developed for parks and recreation purposes?			
Number of Responses			12
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		75.0%
Median	69.8%	73.8%	86.5%
Upper Quartile			98.0%
What is the total mileage of greenways and trails managed by your agency?			
Number of Responses			10 ³
	<i>Citywide</i>		
a. Multi-purpose - No Equestrian	18.3	7.2	8.0
b. Multi-purpose - Equestrian permitted	0	0	1.5
c. Hiking/walking only	6.3	0.9	4.7
d. Bicycling only	0	0	1.4
e. Equestrian only	0	0	1.2
Total	24.6	8.1	15.7
Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile	0.66	0.22	0.31

¹² This total includes fields with small infields (grass and skinned) and fields with large skinned infields. Fields with large grass infields were not included in the total.

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DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS			<u>Comparison</u>
			<u>Bowling Green¹ Municipalities²</u>
Does your department...			
Number of Responses			13
a. Provide recreation programming and services		X	100.0%
b. Operate parks and facilities		X	100.0%
c. Maintain street trees and medians		X	61.5%
d. Actively manage open space		X	76.9%
e. Maintain public school grounds and recreational facilities			30.8%
f. Maintain jurisdiction public areas			61.5%
g. Manage major aquatic complex		X	61.5%
h. Manage or maintain public cemeteries		X	23.1%
i. Manage or maintain fairgrounds			7.7%
j. Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center			15.4%
k. Manage historic properties		X	46.2%
l. Administer or manage farmer's markets			15.4%
m. Administer community gardens		X	30.8%
n. Manage large performance outdoor amphitheatres			53.8%
o. Administer or manage Professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack			7.7%
p. Administer or manage Tournament/Event quality Indoor Sports Complexes			38.5%
q. Administer or manage Tournament/Event quality Outdoor Sports Complexes		X	92.3%
r. Conduct major Jurisdiction wide special events		X	92.3%
s. Do you have snow plowing responsibility other than in the parks?			15.4%
t. Provide environmental education or natural history interpretive programs			61.5%
STAFFING			
Number of Full-Time Employees			
Number of Responses			10 ³
	<i>Without Golf</i>		
a. Department's top executives and related staff	0	0	2.0
b. Administrative (Human Resources, Finance, Accounting, etc.)	5	5	1.0
c. Operations (staffing and operating facilities)	11	12	7.7
d. Programs (programming classes and all events)	7	7	2.0
e. Maintenance (buildings, grounds, structures, and fleet)	19	25	8.9
f. Planning and Development	0	0	0.1
g. Other	0	0	0.2
Total	42	49	18.0
Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Staff^o			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		18.0
Median	80.9	117.3	27.0
Upper Quartile			83.0
Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Maintenance Staff^o			
Number of Responses			6
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		13.2
Median	27.2	44.5	18.0
Upper Quartile			22.4
Population Served per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)^o			
Number of Responses			10
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		823
Median	787	542	1,248
Upper Quartile			3,465
Acres of Parkland per FTE^o			
Number of Responses			10
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		7.5
Median	5.6	7.1	9.5
Upper Quartile			11.6

IV. NEEDS ANALYSIS

DRAFT

	<u>Comparison</u>		
	<u>Bowling Green</u> ¹		<u>Municipalities</u> ²
Acres of Parkland per Maintenance FTE³			
Number of Responses			6
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		10.0
Median	16.5	18.7	15.4
Upper Quartile			15.7
OPERATING BUDGET			
What are your department's TOTAL operating expenditures for your fiscal year?			
Number of Responses			12
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		\$1,502,264
Median	\$6,213,877	\$8,038,524	\$2,155,526
Upper Quartile			\$3,757,873
What are your department's TOTAL non-tax revenue for your fiscal year?			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		\$354,898
Median	\$1,382,800	\$2,700,000	\$883,952
Upper Quartile			\$1,521,118
What percentage of your total operating expenditures are in the following categories?			
Number of Responses			11
a. Personnel Services (expenditures for all salaries, wages and benefits)		60.6%	57.0%
b. Operations (expenditures for all functions of the Department)		32.6%	32.6%
c. Capital (expenditures for capital equipment, projects, and debt service. Paid from operating funds.)		6.6%	4.9%
d. Other			10.0%
What percentage of your total operating expenditures came from the following sources?			
Number of Responses			4 ³
a. Jurisdiction general fund		62.7%	83.8%
b. Agency fees and charges		33.0%	13.8%
c. Tax levy (specific parks and recreation)		0.0%	0.0%
d. School District Taxes		0.0%	0.0%
e. Foundation Grants		0.0%	0.0%
f. Sponsorships, please describe:		0.0%	0.5%
g. Endowment, please describe:		0.0%	0.0%
h. Special use taxes, please describe:		0.0%	0.0%
i. State Grants		0.0%	0.8%
j. Federal Grants		0.0%	1.3%
k. Other		4.3%	0.0%
What percentage of your annual non-tax revenues came from the following sources?			
Number of Responses			4 ³
a. Facility entry fees/memberships		48.3%	29.3%
b. Programs and class fees and charges		12.7%	37.5%
c. Facility Rentals		21.8%	27.5%
d. Facility, property or ROW leases		0.0%	0.0%
e. Concessions, resale items		16.0%	5.8%
f. Sale of real property		0.0%	0.0%
g. Other		1.2%	0.0%
Operating Expenditures per Capita			
Number of Responses			10
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		\$32.62
Median	\$97.65	\$126.33	\$54.99
Upper Quartile			\$74.67
Department Budget as a Percentage of Total Jurisdiction Operating Budget			
Number of Responses			5
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		5.3%
Median	6.1%	8.0%	7.4%
Upper Quartile			7.9%

IV. NEEDS ANALYSIS

DRAFT

		<u>Bowling Green</u> ¹	<u>Comparison Municipalities</u> ²
Operating Expenditures per Acre of Land Managed			
Number of Responses			10
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		\$4,428
Median	\$13,806	\$9,648	\$7,513
Upper Quartile			\$9,473
Revenue per Capita			
Number of Responses			8
Lower Quartile	<i>Without Golf</i>		\$6.59
Median	\$21.73	\$42.43	\$14.32
Upper Quartile			\$29.26
CAPITAL BUDGET			
Department's TOTAL capital budget?			
Number of Responses			11
Lower Quartile			\$175,500
Median		\$950,000	\$300,000
Upper Quartile			\$1,153,025
Total Capital Costs per Capita			
Number of Responses			9
Lower Quartile			\$3.98
Median		\$14.93	\$4.41
Upper Quartile			\$19.27
Department's amount of new capital and renovation need?⁴			
Number of Responses			4
Lower Quartile			\$945,321
Median		\$5,055,500	\$12,526,881
Upper Quartile			\$30,789,188
POPULATION PER FACILITY⁶			
Playgrounds			
Number of Responses			4
Lower Quartile			4,093
Median		4,545	4,851
Upper Quartile			8,450
Tennis Courts (Outdoor)			
Number of Responses			3
Lower Quartile			9,805
Median		3,977	17,000
Upper Quartile			17,250
Basketball Courts (Outdoor)			
Number of Responses			4
Lower Quartile			9,442
Median		5,303	12,425
Upper Quartile			14,750
Diamond Fields (50-65 ft base paths)			
Number of Responses			3
Lower Quartile			5,990
Median		7,070	8,202
Upper Quartile			21,601
Gym			
Number of Responses			3
Lower Quartile			25,844
Median		15,908	32,550
Upper Quartile			39,609

IV. NEEDS ANALYSIS

NOTES

1. Figures obtained through the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department and City of Bowling Green Annual Operating Budget (Fiscal Year 2014-2015). Population estimate used for 2014 provided by ESRI Business Analyst.
2. Based on averages of 14 communities that were located in Kentucky or Tennessee (Nashville area) and participated in the NRPA PRORAGIS Program using the most recent available data between 2010 and 2014. Median values were used unless otherwise noted.
3. Average values used.
4. Numbers include projects from 5-year capital plan from 2016-2020, provided by the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department.
5. The Parks and Recreation Department has 49 year-round full-time employees plus approximately 238 part-time and seasonal employees (not including 7 full-time and 5 part-time cemetery staff). These 238 employees were converted to FTEs for the determination of these figures.
6. Facilities only included if values for 3 or more benchmarking communities were available.

PARKS AND RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

The Aging Population

Throughout the nation, as in Bowling Green, the average age of the population is increasing, and the number of persons in the age group 65 and over is growing rapidly. Census data indicates that the percentage of the City of Bowling Green population age 65 and older was 12.0% in 2000 and is expected to increase to 12.8% by 2019. This small but significant increase as a percentage is exemplified by a 45% increase in total population of this age group from just under 6,000 to over 8,500 over this time period. As indicated earlier in the Planning Context (Section II), the median age will rise to 30.9 by 2019, up from 28.6 in 2000.

The relative health of these individuals is better than ever before and the activities they desire are more active than in the past. Senior citizens centers where seniors play cards and participate in more sedentary activities are being replaced and incorporated into larger, more active, community and recreation centers where individuals participate in fitness programs, walking, cardiovascular exercises, aerobics, and many other more active pursuits.

This aging trend encourages parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for the older population. This graying of America also generates demand for more paved walking trails, fishing areas, gardens, cultural and nature education, as well as other activities that are in demand for multiple age groups.

This data points clearly to the growing need to provide quality facilities and programs for this growing population in the City of Bowling Green. The Community Interest and Opinion Survey, as well as all forms of the public engagement process, indicated support from the community for providing additional programs and facilities for seniors.

Pickleball

One specific activity for seniors the sport of pickleball. This sport was originally conceived in 1965 by Joel Pritchard, Bill Bell, and Barney McCallum. The sport, which can be played both indoor and outdoor, grew slowly throughout the 20th century but has recently exploded in popularity. Places to play have doubled since 2010. The sport was designed as a game the whole family could play and is popular within community centers and retirement communities. Pickleball combines elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong and is played with a paddle and a plastic ball like a wiffleball. A pickleball court is 20



feet by 44 feet with a 36 inch net (34 inches at the center),¹³

While pickleball is generally associated with seniors, the sport is becoming increasingly popular with all age groups. According to the USA Pickleball Association (USAPA), the sport is now being taught in many middle and high schools throughout the United States. With its growing popularity, pickleball provides an opportunity for multigenerational programming.

Indoor Recreation

The typical recreation centers that include gymnasium space, locker rooms, and a few other attractions are being replaced by much larger, multi-generational facilities. The newer facilities have a much stronger emphasis on fitness, with aerobics rooms, free weights, exercise machines, cardiovascular areas, walking tracks, indoor swimming pools for both family oriented and lap swimming, lounges, concessions, and climbing walls, along with the traditional basketball and volleyball gymnasiums. These facilities may also include multipurpose rooms, which are used for a wide variety of indoor programming, such as arts and crafts, dance classes, and other community education programs.

Bowling Green provides most of these opportunities at the Bowling Green Recreation Center and Kummer/Little Recreation Center. The only notable facility missing at Bowling Green at recreation centers is an indoor pool. Public input from Community Interest and Opinion Survey, the public workshops (dollar voting), and the *Our BG Parks* website indicated some support for the development of such a facility. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey (Mail Survey) were “Very Supportive” or “Somewhat Supportive” of the development of an indoor aquatic facility.



Universal Access

Many park systems are developing unique facilities, (especially playgrounds) that are designed to go well beyond the minimum requirement for the Americans with Disabilities Act. By creating an environment that is totally accessible to persons of all ages and abilities, park system administrators are setting the best example for other organizations to follow.

In the case of playgrounds, accessibility results in facilities with several ground level activities, multiple ramps providing access to the decks, and the use of poured-in-place rubber surfacing. The City of Bowling Green does not currently have any fully accessible playgrounds. While it



¹³ Source: USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) website (<http://www.usapa.org/>)

may not be cost effective to develop this level of universal access at every playground facility, forward thinking recreation departments may desire some destination facilities with this level of access.

Universal access applies to much more than playgrounds. Textured edging on trails can help to make the facilities more accessible to the visually impaired. Fragrant plants and sensory gardens, interactive displays that allow a hands-on approach to education have also been developed to promote a better experience for special populations. Universal access can also apply to aquatic facilities (the Russell Sims Aquatic Center has zero depth access), interpretive facilities, access into buildings, and access to all programs and facilities offered by the community. The strategies in this Plan will help to identify recommendations for more barrier-free parks.

Trails and Interconnectivity

The demand for increased availability of trails and trail linkages between parks and open spaces (and other popular destinations) has been growing in many communities, including Bowling Green. A high level of demand for these facilities is identified in nearly every community where surveys have been conducted. Even communities with extensive trail systems, like Bowling Green's Greenways, still have a strong desire to continually connect and link the trails to neighborhoods, schools, shopping areas, and other community facilities.



Communities with extensive, connected trail systems are very livable communities where residents report a high quality of life. The need for trails for both recreational use and transportation was conveyed very clearly and strongly in all forms of the public input process.

Trails development received very high support in all forms of public input. Trails received the highest allotment in the dollar voting exercise. Trails and trail improvements represented three of the top five potential improvements to parks in the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, and 81% of respondents indicated they were very or somewhat supportive of trails development. Walking and hiking trails ranked highest among facilities for which households have a need at 68%, and similarly ranked as the most needed facility.

Dog Parks

The dog parks are an ongoing trend that have been increasing in popularity. The development of these fence enclosed areas where dogs can run leash free can be a positive addition to a community. Dog parks are good for improving the social interaction skills of dogs and are a very good social attraction for the dog owners. Quality dog parks need careful planning and a fairly extensive operating budget for maintenance and upkeep.



A typical dog park will provide three areas of at least an acre each: one for large dogs, one for small dogs, and an area unused to allow for regeneration of turf. Shade, sitting areas, water, and restrooms are typical amenities at these parks. Some communities have developed small dog parks in dense urban areas to supplement parks in larger parks.

The Bark Park at H. P. Thomas Park has separate areas for small and large dogs as well as a shade area with seating and water access. Dog parks ranked as the sixth most important facility to households in the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, and a contingency of dog owners would like to see more of these facilities.

Extreme Parks/Skate Parks

Due in part to the increased exposure to extreme sports in the media, interest in extreme sports activities has increased dramatically, especially for teenagers. For example, nearly every community that does not have a skate park has a very large contingent of teens and young adults that are strong advocates for the development of such a facility.

Other types of active pursuits in an extreme park include: BMX tracks, mountain bike trails, and climbing walls. These activities appeal to a demographic that often does not take advantage of traditional parks and recreation programming activities.

The communities, including Bowling Green, with successful skate parks entice dozens of teens to gather in the park. Such parks can be construed as teen oriented parks and should be supplemented with other facilities, such as basketball courts, sand volleyball courts, shade shelters, and snack bars.



The City of Bowling Green currently has one skate park at Roland Bland Park and some residents would like to see the facility expanded. However, this type of facility ranked low with respondents in the Community Interest and Opinion Survey. Skate parks also had the largest amount of opposition in the survey with 54% “Not Supportive” of the City expanding the skate park.

Disc Golf

Disc golf, formalized in the 1970s, was is similar to traditional golf in many ways. The disc, or Frisbee, is thrown from a tee toward a hole which is most commonly in the form of a “Pole Hole.” The player makes consecutive throws from the location of the landing of the previous throw until the disc lands in the basket or Pole Hole. Disc golf differs from traditional golf in some important ways: green fees are rarely required and only an inexpensive flying disc is needed to play. Disc golf appeals to a wide range of participants of all ages as well as those with disabilities, and the game can be played year-round. Courses also requires much less land than traditional golf (as little as five acres for a nine-hole course).¹⁴



The sport continues to grow in popularity and courses are available at many parks around the country. Bowling Green is at the forefront of this trend as disc golf is especially popular in the City, and many opportunities are available for the community to participate in the sport. Four City of Bowling Green Parks have 18-hole courses (Hobson Grove, Lovers Lane, Preston Miller, and Kereiakes). A nine-hole course is available at Natcher Elementary and Southcentral Kentucky Community & Technical College hosts an 18-hole course. Additionally, 18-hole courses are available near Bowling Green at three Warren County Parks (Basil Griffin, Ephram White, and Phil Moore).

Despite the availability of disc golf in Bowling Green, many residents would like to see more opportunities for this sport. The surveys did not ask respondents whether they support the development of additional disc golf courses; however, several requested the facility using the “Other” option in both surveys.

¹⁴ Professional Disc Golf Association, “A Guide to Disc Golf from the PDGA,” <http://www.pdga.com>, (June 2, 2015).

Fitness and Wellness

A strong emphasis has been placed at the state and the federal levels to improve the fitness of individuals throughout the United States. Local parks and recreation departments are often building upon this message. These departments are in a good position to make an impact on the overall fitness of the community through programs, promotions, and facilities that are available to local residents.



Respondents to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey indicated adult fitness and wellness as the most needed type of program with 49% of households reporting a need.

Fitness facilities do not need to be confined to indoor spaces as modern equipment can now be provided in outdoor environments that are similar to those seen typically in fitness centers. Such facilities can serve as an alternative to the old fitness and par-course trails.

Spero Kereiakes Park, Preston Miller Park, C. W. Lampkin Park, Weldon Peete Park, or even H. P. Thomas Park could be ideal locations for these type of activities to supplement programs offered at the Bowling Green Recreation Center. Additionally, many communities partner with health providers to offer fitness facilities and programs.

Artificial Turf Athletic Fields

Bowling Green is behind the trend of many parks systems and school districts in developing artificial turf fields to meet the ever increasing demand for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and other athletic pursuits. These artificial turf fields have a higher initial cost; however, the ability to play on the fields continuously (without the need to water, fertilize, mow, stripe, etc.) results in a maintenance savings to the community. The fields can be developed to be flat and can accommodate substantial rains without damage to the surface. The fields are safer than overused grass fields. The main benefits of synthetic turf fields include:

1. Lower operating costs per event
2. Safer surfaces for athletes
3. Ability to schedule significantly more events on the same area compared to natural grass fields
4. Ability to extend the season by allowing use earlier in spring and later in fall without damaging turf
5. Fewer rain outs
6. In communities with limited fields available, synthetic turf fields allow the maximum use on the same area
7. No need for watering, mowing, fertilizing, or striping



Communities must consider the long term need to replace the carpet every 8 to 15 years, based upon the use of the field. Only 6% of respondents to the Mail Survey rated artificial turf fields as facilities they would most like to see added to existing parks. However, a vocal contingent of residents would like to see artificial turf fields developed (specifically at Lover Lane Park, but another park may also be considered).

Outdoor Family Oriented Aquatics

In recent years, older rectangle and L-shaped swimming pools have experienced a declining level of appeal to aquatics patrons. The desire to have 3 ½ foot depths of water for flip turns, or competition swimming, dictated a deeper water depth of the pool which resulted in a lack of

shallow water. As a result, younger children were relegated to a "baby" pool, which really only appeals to babies and toddlers. Inadequate amenities for 4-10 year olds limit the draw of these older pools.

The newer family aquatic centers are geared toward the entire family with zero depth access, shallow water, interactive water spray activities, along with the traditional competition lanes and diving boards. Newer aquatic facilities are often incorporating lazy rivers, which are popular with people of all ages. The newer facilities also provide large water slides. These elements, along with shade structures, larger grass beach areas, and quality concessions, have resulted in a complete turnaround in the net operating costs to municipalities for aquatic facilities.



Whereas the older pools were a drain on the budget, the newer facilities are more likely to generate funds for the operations cost, and some have even shown a surplus, which can be used to pay off some of the debt service for the capital construction. Where older pools have been renovated to include the newer features, communities have seen as much as a 200% increase in attendance. This demand provides an opportunity for charging higher fees, potentially yielding a greater profit margin. Bowling Green's Russell Sims Aquatic Center (as described in Section III) generates more revenue than it costs to operate.

Another new concept that is sweeping the country is the development of splash pads or spraygrounds. These facilities have replaced wading pools at many aquatic facilities but can also be developed as standalone wet playgrounds in other park areas. Spraygrounds have several benefits. For instance, in most instances, they recirculate water, but, because there is no standing water, lifeguards are not needed. Therefore, the operation costs are considerably lower than for a swimming facility. The City of Bowling Green has a sprayground located within the Russell Sims Aquatic Center. Additionally, the fountain at Circus Square Park doubles as a popular spray feature.



The development of new outdoor pools in Bowling Green was not the highest priority based on the survey results or for attendees of the public workshops; however, nearly 4,000 households currently have their needs for outdoor pools met at 50% or less, according to the Mail Survey. These results could be due to the location of the single City pool in the west side of the Bowling Green. Similarly, 49% of Mail Survey respondents and 53% of Web Survey respondents were very or somewhat supportive of the development of additional spraygrounds.

Revenue Generation

With the tightened budgets throughout the country, facilities that generate revenue have become increasingly popular due to their ability to offset some of the operating costs. Most notably, the increased presence of concessions in parks and at other locations has improved the ability of the public sector to raise money. Multi-field complexes, in addition to miniature golf courses, carousels, paddleboats and canoe rentals, and other creative applications, have enhanced the community experience while lessening the tax burden by providing services for a fee. Summer camp programs and before and after school programs can also be a source of income for departments.

The City of Bowling Green currently recovers approximately a third of its parks and recreation operating costs, primarily through fees. This figure is well above the average of Kentucky communities of 14%, based on the PRORAGIS benchmarking survey. The Russell Sims Aquatic Center generates enough revenue to more than cover its operation expenses, while the golf courses revenues are insufficient to cover their operating costs.

Possibilities in Bowling Green to increase revenue generation can be found in potential upgrades to indoor recreation facilities, such as indoor aquatics, for additional memberships and additional programming at the recreation centers.

Economic Impact of Sports Tournaments

Tournaments can be a revenue generator by exacting entrance fees and promoting concession sales. Visitors also patronize local shops, restaurants, and hotels, generating additional tax revenue for the local government. Developing tournament level facilities is a trend aimed to attract better teams and better tournaments to the facilities. These high quality facilities are an asset to local leagues and activities when not being used for tournaments. A balance does need to exist between local league use and use for tournaments.

Facilities must be designed to accommodate tournaments which will require larger parking lots and an arrangement of fields in a cluster for easy accessibility, such as a wagon wheel configuration for baseball and softball fields. Quality restroom facilities are necessary, and concessions, shade, and other amenities should be available throughout the park that make it a desirable place to spend the day or a weekend. Bowling Green currently has a large, tournament quality complex at Lovers Lane Park for soccer, but the City cannot currently accommodate other sports at the same scale.



Environmental Education

The success of environmental education centers throughout the country and the strong desire for nature education demonstrated in both the Mail and Web Surveys suggest an interest by the public for better education regarding natural processes, resource management, and other nature education activities. These facilities work well in conjunction with school systems to supplement the science curriculum.

This environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces (including those owned and managed by municipalities). Many park departments and commissions take an outreach approach by providing environmental curriculum to schools in the form of nature center classes and activities. This tactic provides a method for promoting more use and appreciation of parks. These programs also provide an opportunity for county park systems and universities to work closely with municipal parks and recreation departments to provide a level of programming that the municipalities could not perform on their own.

While the need for nature programs ranked highly on both surveys, the Mail Survey also found over 6,000 households had 50% or less of their needs met for nature parks, the fourth highest unmet facility. Over 5,000 households had 50% or less of their needs met for nature programs, the third highest of unmet program needs. Partnerships opportunities could be explored with Warren County Parks, Lost River



Cave (currently offers some nature programming), both local school districts, and Western Kentucky University for this type of program, possibly at Crume Nature Park or Weldon Peete Park (or at one of the nearby Warren County parks).

Trends in Sports and Fitness Participation

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts an annual survey of individuals and households throughout the United States to determine participation in a variety of sports and fitness activities. The 2013 sample consisted of 42,356 online interviews (15,770 individuals and 26,593 households) intend to serve as representation of US population ages 6 and older. The following tables were generated using data from the SFIA report.

The chart (Figure 13) shows the difference in participation rates between generations for seven types of sports. The youngest generation had the highest participation rates for Individual Sports, Team Sports, and Outdoor Sports. Participation rates dropped for these three types of sports with each older generation. The youngest group also had the lowest participation in Fitness Sports, while the other three generational groups had similar participation rates for this type of sport. The remaining three types of sports (Racquet, Winter, and Water Sports) have similar trends with Millennials representing the highest level of participation.

Figure 13: Participation Rates by Generation

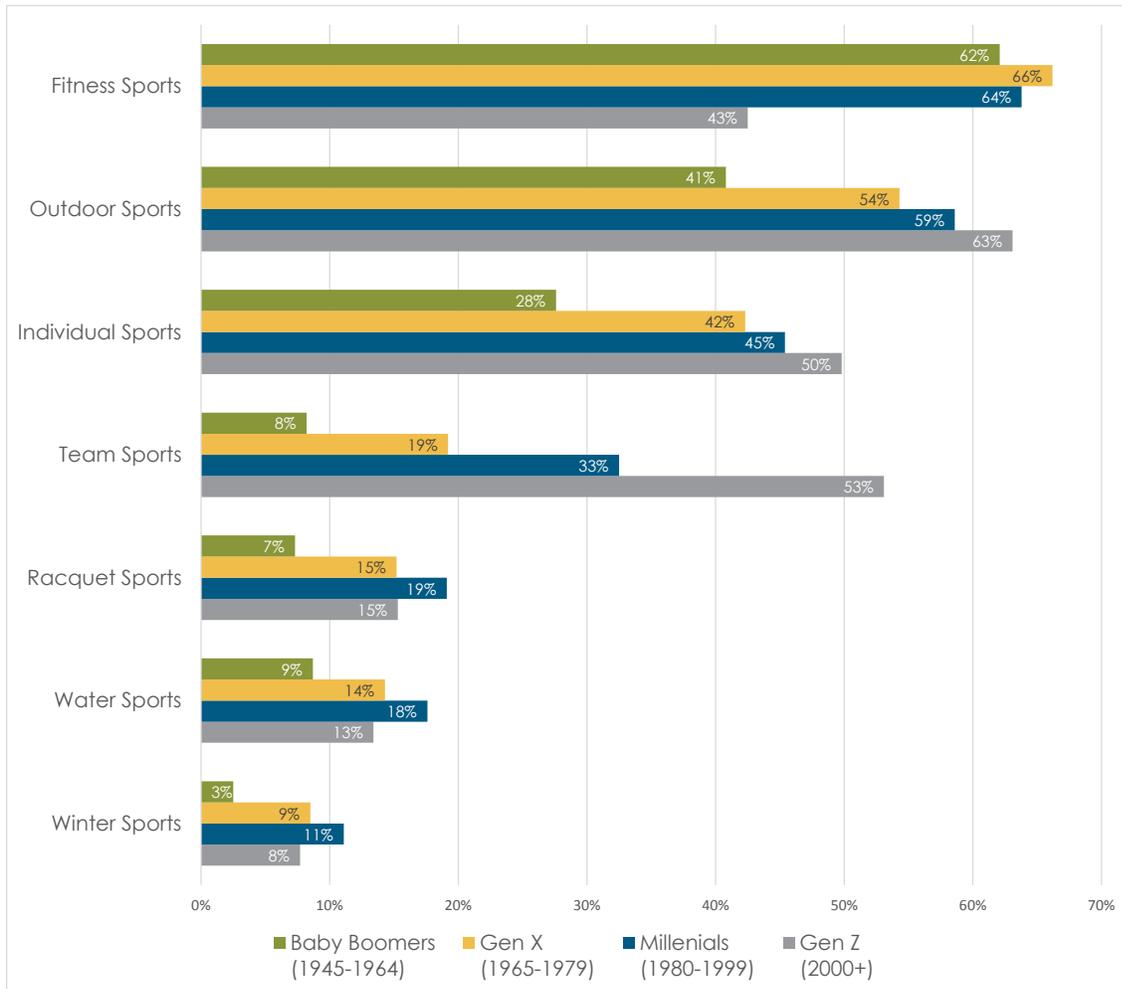


Table 22: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation

Sport/Fitness Activity	Participants (In Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth	Growth Rate Rank ²	Participant Rank ²
	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012			
Aerobics (High impact)	11,287	11,780	12,771	14,567	15,755	16,178	7.5%	2	10
Aerobics (Low impact)	22,397	23,283	24,927	26,431	25,950	25,707	2.9%	8	6
Archery	5,950	6,180	6,368	6,323	6,471	7,173	3.9%	6	15
Baseball	16,058	15,539	14,429	14,198	13,561	12,976	-4.2%	21	11
Basketball	25,961	26,108	25,131	25,156	24,790	23,708	-1.8%	20	7
Bicycling (Road/paved surface)	38,940	38,527	39,127	39,730	39,834	39,790	0.1%	15	4
Cheerleading	3,279	3,192	3,070	3,134	3,049	3,244	-0.1%	16	24
Football (Tackle)	7,939	7,816	7,243	6,850	6,448	6,220	-4.7%	22	19
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	43,821	43,409	44,466	45,928	46,944	46,564	1.2%	12	3
Hiking (Day)	29,965	31,238	32,542	32,534	33,494	34,519	2.9%	9	5
Ice Hockey	1,840	1,871	2,018	2,140	2,131	2,363	5.2%	4	26
Ice Skating	11,430	11,215	10,964	11,477	11,626	11,214	-0.3%	17	13
Lacrosse	1,058	1,092	1,162	1,423	1,501	1,607	8.9%	1	27
Martial Arts	6,865	6,818	6,643	6,002	5,037	5,075	-5.6%	24	21
Roller Skating (Inline wheels)	10,814	10,211	8,942	8,128	7,451	6,647	-9.2%	26	16
Running/Jogging	41,064	41,097	42,511	46,650	50,061	51,450	4.7%	5	2
Skateboarding	8,429	8,118	7,580	7,080	6,318	6,227	-5.8%	25	18
Soccer (Indoor)	4,237	4,487	4,825	4,920	4,631	4,617	1.8%	11	22
Soccer (Outdoor)	13,708	13,966	13,957	13,883	13,667	12,944	-1.1%	18	12
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,345	2,331	2,476	2,513	2,400	2,624	2.4%	10	25
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	9,485	9,660	9,180	8,477	7,809	7,411	-4.8%	23	14
Swimming for Fitness ¹					21,517	23,216	N/A	N/A	8
Tennis	16,940	17,749	18,546	18,719	17,772	17,020	0.2%	14	9
Trail Running	4,216	4,537	4,845	4,985	5,373	5,806	6.6%	3	20
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	3,878	4,025	4,324	4,752	4,451	4,505	3.2%	7	23
Volleyball (Court)	6,986	7,588	7,737	7,315	6,662	6,384	-1.6%	19	17
Walking for Fitness	108,740	110,204	110,882	112,082	112,715	114,029	1.0%	13	1

1. SFIA started collecting numbers for Swimming for Fitness in 2011.
 2. Rank of these selected sports and fitness activities. Top 5 in Bold.

The high demand for fitness sports programs in the City of Bowling Green is consistent with these findings in Figure 13. With the high percentage of residents in the older two generations, this type of program is likely to increase in demand into the future. Despite decreasing in popularity with age, outdoor sports are still popular with all age groups. Individual and team sports are most popular with the youngest generation. The availability of these facilities and programs will be an important consideration for families with children when choosing to live in Bowling Green.

Table 22 displays the 5-year participation rates for 26 different sports and fitness activities. This table also shows the 5-year annual growth rate as well as rankings for these sports based on growth in participation (Growth Rate Rank) and absolute numbers (Participant Rank). Based on these figures, the fastest growing sport is lacrosse at 8.9% annually, although the overall number of users is still fairly low. Aerobics (high impact), trail running, ice hockey, and running/jogging are also growing at rates of nearly 5% or higher. Walking for fitness has the greatest number of participants by a large margin at well over 100 million participants, with running/jogging coming in second at over 50 million participants. Hand weights had the third most users, followed by bicycling and hiking. With four of the top five activities (based on Participant Rank) using trails, it is no surprise these facilities are in such high demand.

Residents of Bowling Green have similarly expressed a strong interest in these type of trail-based activities, leading to a need for more of these facilities. Also, the City can prepare for the fastest growing sport, lacrosse, by making sure existing and new fields can accommodate the sport.

The Bowling Green Recreation Center is in a good position to meet the needs for quickly growing high impact aerobics needs and high participant levels for free weights, and low impact aerobics. The City of Bowling Green does not currently have a facility for the ice hockey, the fourth fastest growing sport in the table, and many residents have voiced their support for such a facility.

V. PUBLIC INPUT

INTRODUCTION

The Needs Analysis consists of the following elements:

- A summary of the public workshops and focus groups.
- A summary of the pertinent portions of the ETC/Leisure Vision Community Interest and Opinion Survey for the City of Bowling Green with a comparison to the web based survey distributed by the City of Bowling Green.
- A review of the usage and findings of the *Our BG Parks* website, powered by MindMixer, which provided opportunities for engagement throughout the Master Plan process.

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

Kick-Off Event – February 9, 2015

The Kick-off event at Bowling Green Junior High School was a tremendous success with over 200 residents in attendance. Over 60 people completed the surveys and 154 people used play money to vote on their preferred park improvements in Bowling Green.

Second Public Workshop - April 16, 2015

The findings and results from all of the public input, including the statistically valid surveys, handout/web survey, MindMixer comments on OurBGParks.MindMixer.com, stakeholder group meetings, dollar voting, and the first public workshop, were presented to the public at this meeting. Maps showing parks and facility service areas were also presented at this workshop. The PowerPoint presentation and the Mail Survey summary were posted online at the project's mySidewalk website (formerly MindMixer). Attendees of the workshop reacted favorable and were in agreement with information as presented.

Final Public Workshop - October 13, 2015

Insert final workshop summary

Themes from this Final Public Workshop (Not in Order)

Insert final workshop summary

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

The Consultant, BCI, met with Stakeholder Groups in January and February of 2015. Complete summaries of the meeting with each of these groups can be found in Appendix C.

Officials and Boards

- Greenways Commission
- BG Area Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Tree Board
- BGPR Staff
- Program Staff
- Golf Staff
- Maintenance Staff
- Administrative Staff
- Arborist and Landscape Division Manager
- City Manager, Mayor, and City Commissioners

- Parks and Recreation Board
- City-County Planning Commission
- Warren County Parks & Recreation

Sports Groups

- WKU Swimming
- East Little League
- West Little League
- SOKY Tennis
- SKY MBA
- SKY Soccer
- SKY Youth Basketball
- Skatepark
- Ice Hockey
- Vette City Roller Derby

Focus Groups

- Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation
- Community Action of Southern Kentucky
- Housing Authority
- Bowling Green-Warren County Community Education
- Lost River Cave
- Barren River Health Department
- Bowling Green Independent School District
- BGAAC – Special Needs / Special Olympics
- Parker-Bennett After-School Children Focus Group
- Moxley Center After-School Program
- Bowling Green Junior High School Students (2 groups)

COMMON THEMES FROM FIRST PUBLIC WORKSHOP AND STAKEHOLDER GROUPS (NOT IN ORDER)

- Indoor multi-use facility (tennis, soccer, basketball, roller skating)
- Artificial turf fields
- More trails & better connectivity, safety, and access (walking/biking/running)
- Ice rink
- Indoor pool
- Riverfront Park (whitewater/biking)
- More outdoor fields and courts
- More events and tournaments
- Better communication and more collaboration/partnerships (both between agencies and with private organizations)

DOLLAR VOTING

Participants at the Kick-off event at Bowling Green Junior High School were given \$1,000 in play money to distribute how they felt the City should allocate funds for various aspects of parks,

recreation, trails, and open space. The following table (Table 23) shows the totals for the various categories. Participants could also write specific items they wanted on the money they placed in the “Other” box. The combined results for the 154 participants at the event are listed below with the dollars for each park improvement option and the percentage of the total allocated for the improvement.

Table 23: Dollar Voting Park Improvement Allocations

Park Improvement	Total	%
Develop a new indoor multi-use athletic field house facility	\$23,300	15%
Development of new indoor recreation / community centers	\$20,000	13%
Development of new walking and biking trails	\$12,900	8%
Develop additional skate/bike park features	\$8,800	6%
Improvements/construction of new athletic fields	\$6,700	4%
Improvements/maintenance of existing parks	\$5,100	3%
Develop additional off-leash dog parks	\$3,200	2%
Acquisition of land for open space/green space/future parkland	\$2,900	2%
Other park improvements (next table)	\$71,100	46%
Total	\$154,000	100%

Of the options provided, the largest allocation was given to the development of a “new indoor multi-use athletic field house facility” with 15% of the funding allocations or \$23,300. The development of new indoor recreation or community centers received the second largest allocation of these options (13%), followed by the development of new walking and biking trails (8%).

The development of “Other park improvements” (Table 24) received the largest allocation at \$71,100 or 46% of the allocated dollars. The most popular “Other” option was an ice rink which received an allocation of \$29,900, more than any of the provided park improvement options. The development of a senior center received the second largest allocation of “Other” dollars.

Table 24: Dollar Voting Other Park Improvements

Other Park Improvements	Total	%
Ice rink	\$29,900	42%
Senior center and programs	\$11,000	15%
Unmarked	\$7,200	10%
Roller rink	\$6,600	9%
Indoor tennis	\$5,900	8%
Pickleball courts	\$3,900	5%
Ice and roller rink	\$2,200	3%
Indoor pool	\$1,700	2%
Artificial Turf field at Lovers Lane	\$1,000	1%
More Classes at Moxley Center	\$700	1%
Bike pump track	\$700	1%
Drop floor for multi-purpose courts	\$300	0%
Total	\$71,100	100%

COMMUNITY INTEREST AND OPINION SURVEY

Statistically Valid Survey - Overview and Methodology

The Consultants subcontracted with ETC/Leisure Vision to conduct a Community Interest and Opinion Survey (Mail Survey) in the winter of 2015 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks and recreation facilities, programs, and services within the community. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the City of Bowling Green. The survey was administered by mail, web, and phone.

Leisure Vision worked with City of Bowling Green officials, as well as members of the Brandstetter Carroll Inc. project team in the development of the survey questionnaire. This collaboration allowed the survey to be tailored to issues of strategic importance to effectively plan the future of the parks system.

The six page survey was mailed to a random sample of 2,000 households throughout the City of Bowling Green. Approximately three days after the surveys were mailed, each household that received a survey also received an automated voice message encouraging them to complete the survey. In addition, about two weeks after the surveys were mailed, ETC/Leisure Vision began contacting households by phone. Those who had indicated they had not returned the survey were then given the option of completing it by phone.

The goal was to obtain a total of at least 400 completed surveys. ETC/Leisure Vision exceeded that goal with a total of 479 surveys completed. The results of the random sample of 479 households had a 95% level of confidence with a precision rate of at least +/- 4.3%.

Web Survey

In addition to the Mail Survey, the City of Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department and Brandstetter Carroll Inc. prepared a handout and web-based survey (Web Survey) using Survey Monkey. A total of 1,520 local residents completed this survey. Of these respondents, 709 were city residents, 698 were from Warren County outside of Bowling Green, and 83 were from outside of Warren County.¹⁵ Many of the surveys were completed on handout versions that were available at the public workshops, stakeholder meetings, and park facilities throughout the community which were manually entered into the computer. In the tables on the following pages, the results of the Web Survey and the Mail Survey were combined into one figure where possible for comparison of the results.

National Benchmarking

Since 1998, Leisure Vision (a division of ETC Institute) has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities in over 45 states across the country.

The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled database of information to compare responses from household residents in client communities to "National Averages" and, therefore, provide a unique tool to "assist organizations in better decision making." The National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix E. Selected information is included on the charts in this section.

Survey Results

The following pages summarize the major survey findings. The results of both surveys are presented in this text for comparison. Because the Mail Survey results were collected using a statistically valid random sample, the results are intended to represent the residents of Bowling Green as a whole, both users and non-users. The Web Survey was available to be completed by any resident who

¹⁵ 30 respondents skipped the question

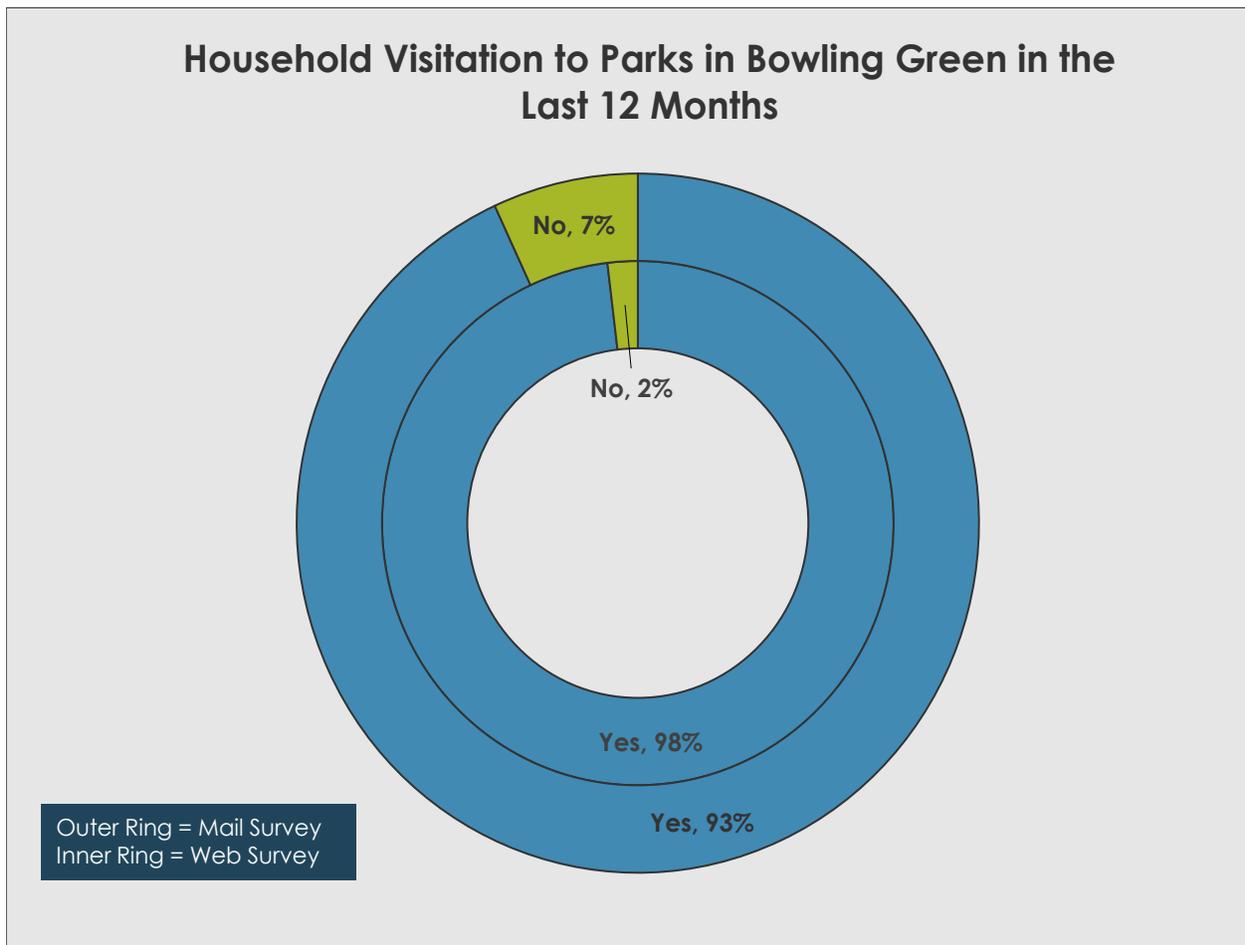
chose to be involved in the process. As a result, the Web Survey had many more responses, and these responses reflected the motivated members of the community, including users of the facilities. The figures summarizing survey responses below were sorted based on the results of the Mail Survey.

1. Visitation of Parks and Facilities in the City of Bowling Green

Respondents to both surveys were asked about their visitation to parks and recreation facilities in Bowling Green in the last 12 months. Figure 14 shows the proportion of respondents for both surveys that reported that a member of their household visited a park or recreation facility in the last 12 months.

According to the statistically valid Mail Survey, ninety-three percent (93%) of Bowling Green households visited parks or recreation facilities in the City of Bowling Green over the past 12 months. Similarly, 98% of Web Survey respondents reported that members of their households visited parks or recreation facilities in the City of Bowling Green over the past 12 months. The national average for park visitation is 80%. Accordingly, residents in Bowling Green were more likely than residents of other communities to visit parks.

Figure 14: Visitation of Parks in Bowling Green



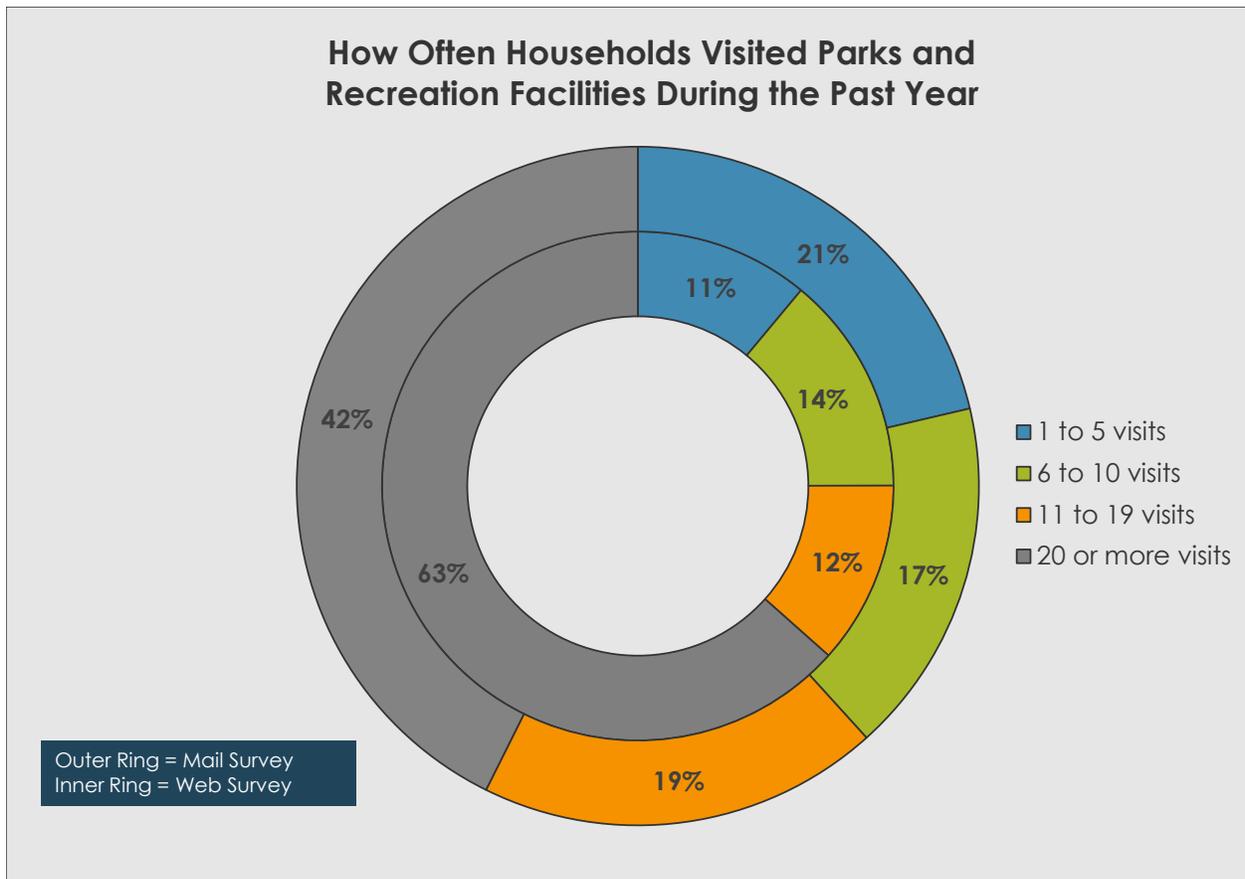
2. Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities in the City of Bowling Green

Respondent households that have visited parks and recreation facilities in the City of Bowling Green during the last 12 months were asked to indicate how often they have visited those facilities during that time. The results are presented in Figure 15.

According to the Mail Survey, Bowling Green households who visited parks or recreation facilities over the last 12 months were likely visited numerous times. Forty-two percent (42%) reported visiting facilities 20 or more times over the last year. Results for the other visitation levels were: 1-5 times (21%), 6-10 times (17%), and 11-19 times (19%).

The numbers for the Web Survey indicated a higher level of usage. Sixty-three percent (63%) of respondent households reported visiting parks and recreation facilities 20 or more times over the previous year. Only 11% reported visiting 5 or fewer times. Fourteen percent (14%) of households reported visiting facilities between 6 and 10 times, and 12% reported visiting 11 to 19 times. Looking at the responses cumulatively, 61% of these households visited parks 11 or more times, and 79% visited parks six or more times.

Figure 15: Number of Visits to Parks in the Last Year



3. Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited in the Past 12 Months

Respondents to the surveys were asked to indicate all of the parks and recreation facilities their households had visited over the past 12 months. The list included 29 parks and recreation facilities offered by the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department, plus options for school facilities and Warren County Parks. Figure 16 shows the percentage of respondents whose households used each facility in the past 12 months.

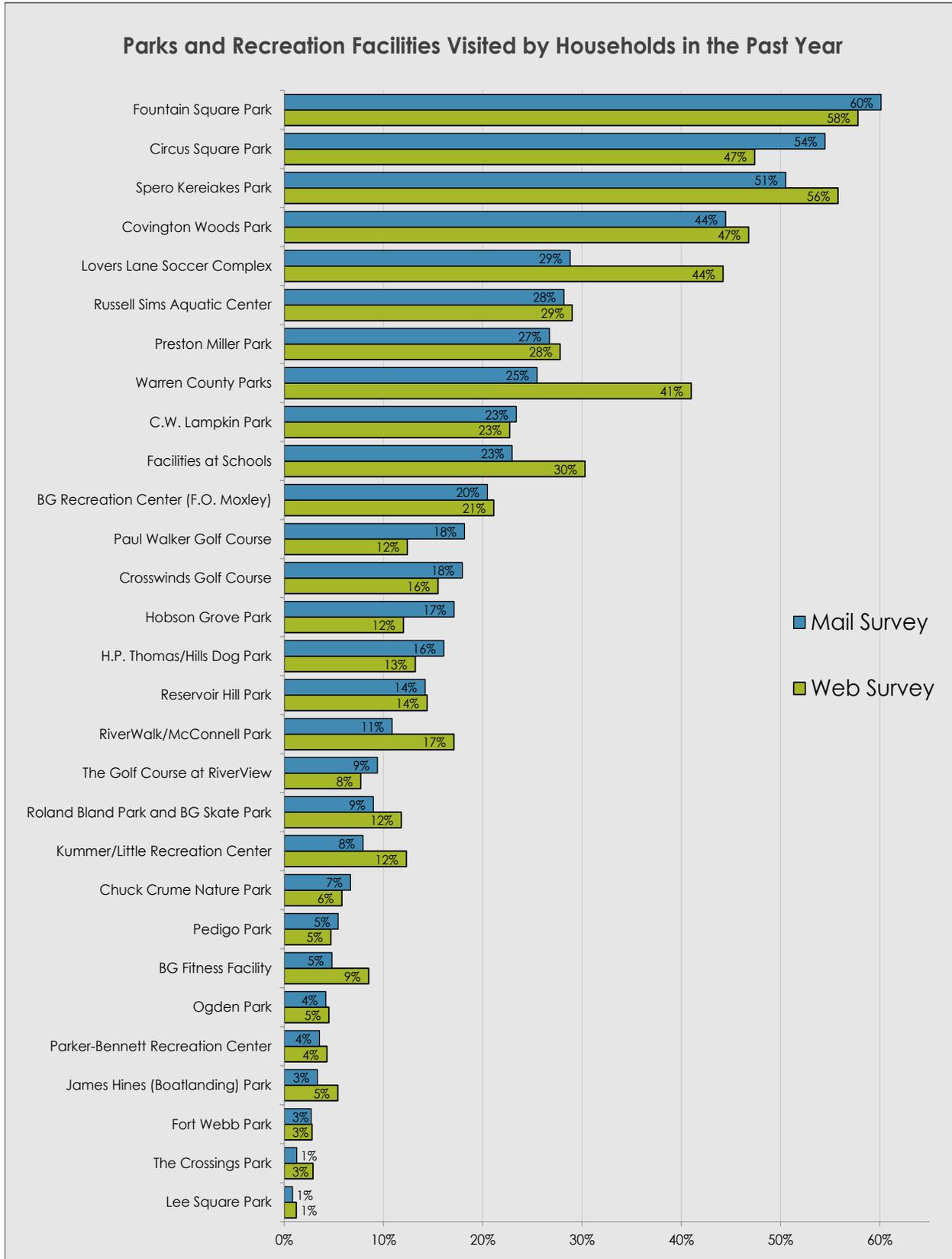
According to the Mail Survey, 60% of Bowling Green households visited Fountain Square Park and 54% visited Circus Square Park over the past 12 months. These two parks rank highly for respondents to the Web Survey as well at 58% and 47% respectively. These results are likely due to these plazas location near the center of town, close to population centers.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of Bowling Green residents visited Spero Kereiakes Park according to the Mail Survey, making it the most used active park.¹⁶ Similarly, 56% of Web Survey respondents reported using this park. Covington Woods was the next most used park with 44% of Mail Survey respondents and 47% of Web Survey respondents reporting that their household used this park.

The reported household usage rates were similar for both surveys for the majority of parks and facilities with some notable exceptions. Web Survey respondents were much more likely than Mail Survey respondents to report household use of Lovers Lane Soccer Complex (44% compared to 29%), Warren County Parks (41% compared to 25%), and school facilities (30% compared to 23%). A higher percentage of Mail Survey respondents than Web Survey respondents reported visiting all three golf courses.

¹⁶ An active park refers to parks with recreation facilities such as playgrounds, courts, and fields.

Figure 16: Most Visited Parks

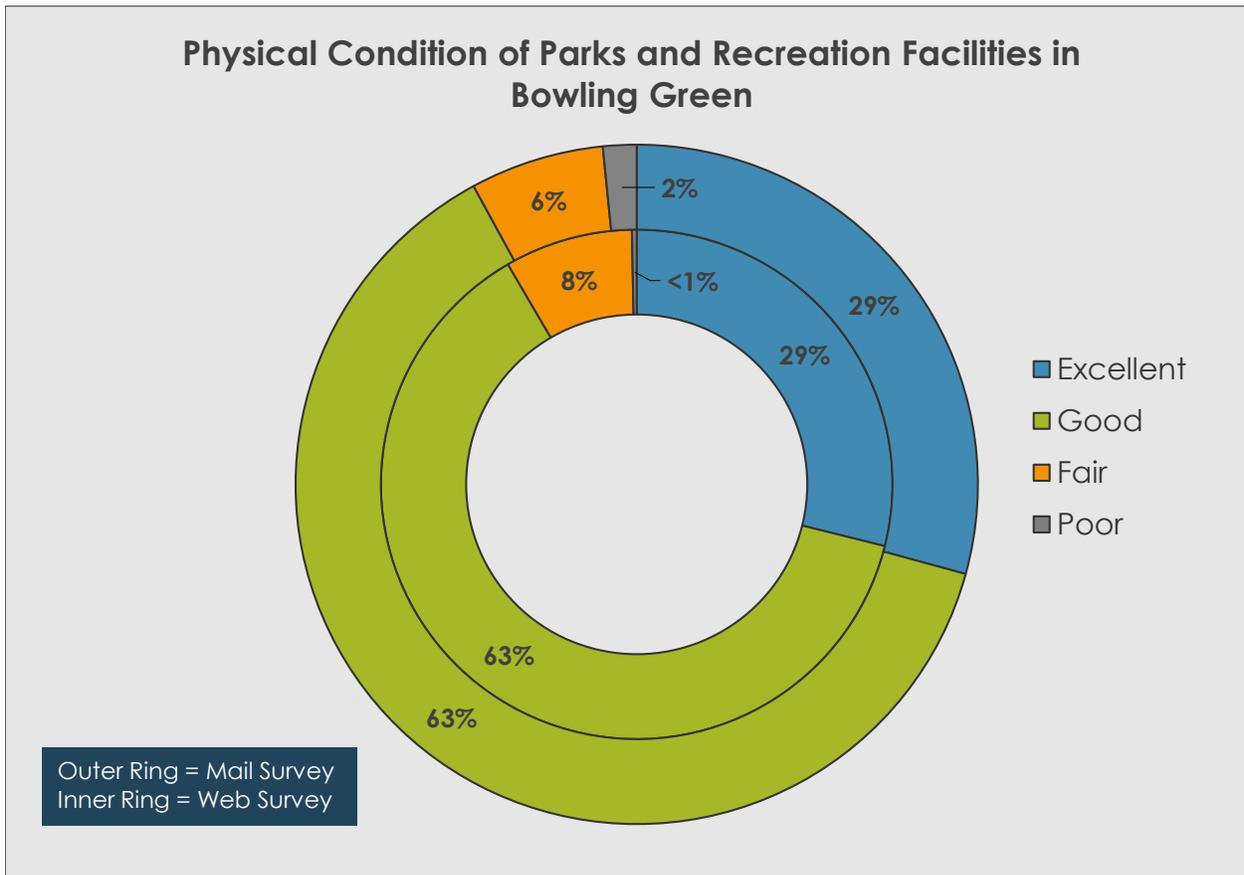


4. Physical Condition of Parks and Facilities Visited

Respondent households that have visited parks and recreation facilities in Bowling Green during the past 12 months were asked to rate the physical condition of those City parks and facilities. Figure 17 shows respondents ratings of the condition of parks and recreation facilities in Bowling Green.

According to the Mail Survey, 63% households who visited facilities over the past 12 months rated the condition of those facilities as good, 29% rated the condition of the facilities as excellent, and 6% rated the condition as fair. Only 2% rated facilities as poor. Web Survey respondents had nearly identical ratings of Bowling Green facilities with slightly more rating facilities as fair (8%) and slightly fewer rating facilities as poor (less than 1%).

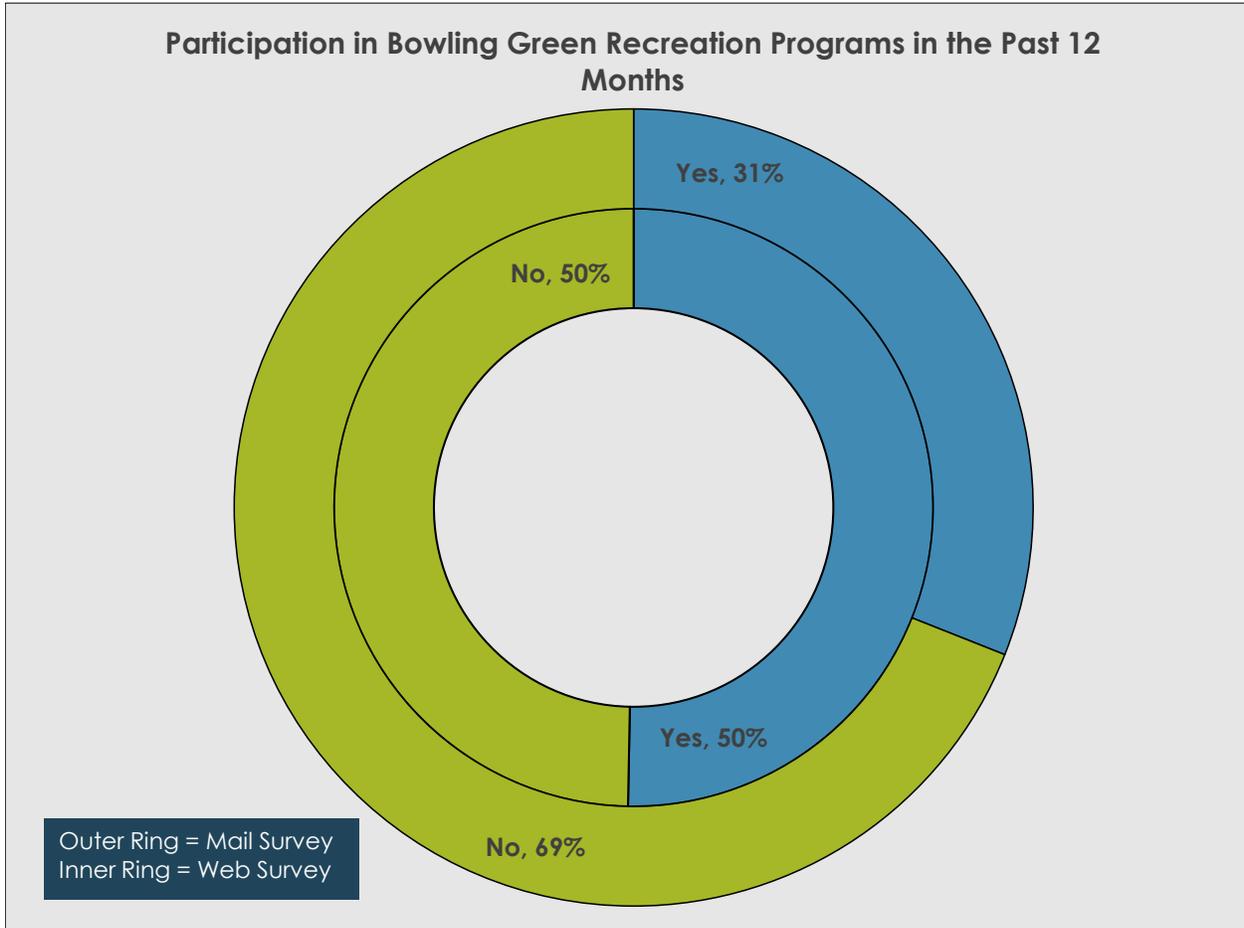
Figure 17: Condition of Parks and Recreation Facilities



5. Participation in Recreation Programs Offered by the City of Bowling Green Over the Past 12 Months

Respondents were asked if any members of their household participated in recreational programs offered by the City of Bowling Green over the past 12 months. These results can be seen in Figure 18 below. According to the Mail Survey, approximately one third (31%) of Bowling Green households participated in recreation programs offered by the City of Bowling Green over the past 12 months and two thirds (69%) did not. In contrast, half (50%) of Web Survey respondent households participated in programs and half (50%) did not.

Figure 18: Participation in Recreational Programs

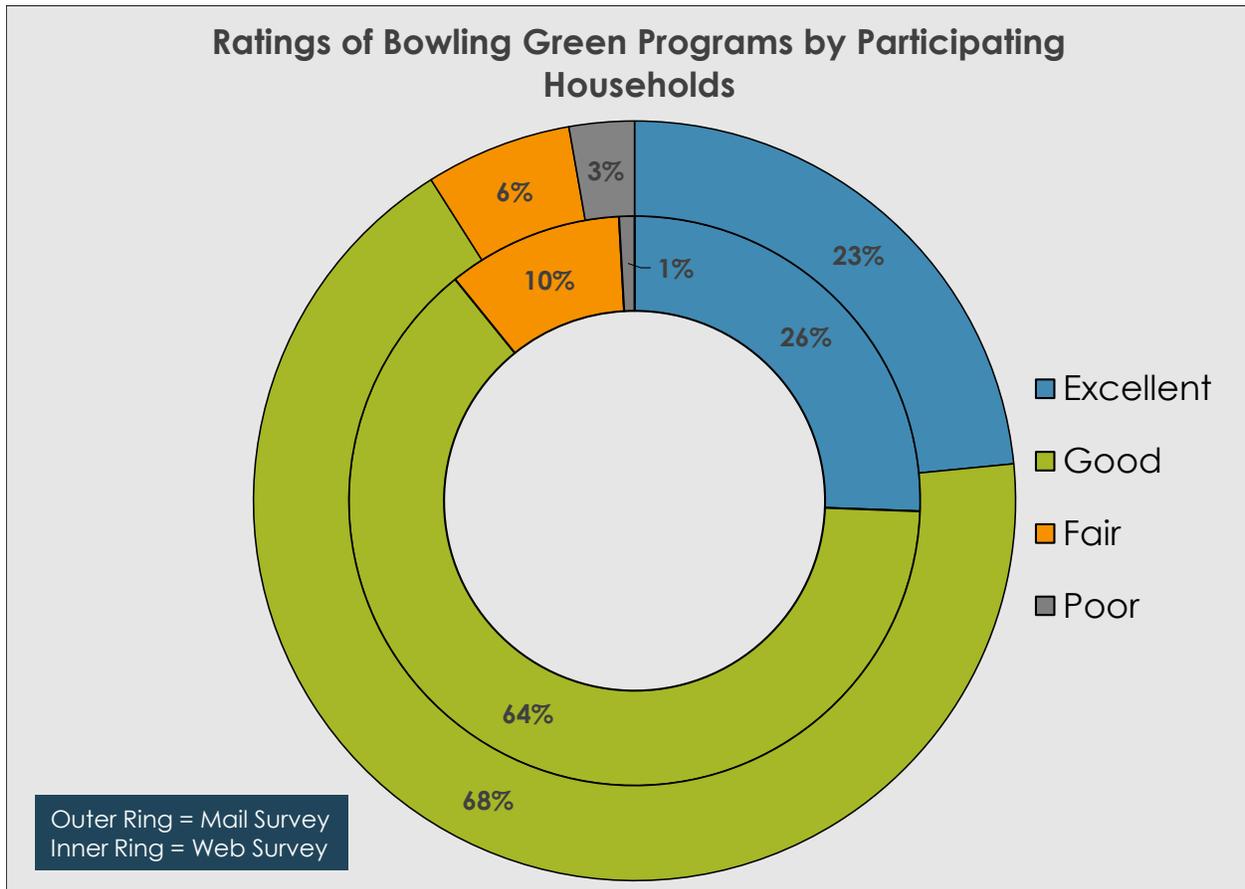


6. Quality of Recreational Programs

Respondents who participated in recreational programs offered by the City of Bowling Green over the past 12 months were asked to rate the quality of those programs. Figure 19 shows the results for household ratings of programs in Bowling Green.

According to the Mail Survey, 68% of households who participated in programs over the past 12 months rated those programs as good. Twenty-three percent (23%) rated programs as excellent, 6% rated programs as fair, and 3% rated programs as poor. The results of the Web Survey were very similar with 64% of participants rating programs as good, 26% rating programs as excellent, 10% rating programs as fair, and 1% rating programs as poor. Overall, these numbers indicate that participants are satisfied with the quality of recreation programs in Bowling Green.

Figure 19: Quality of Programs

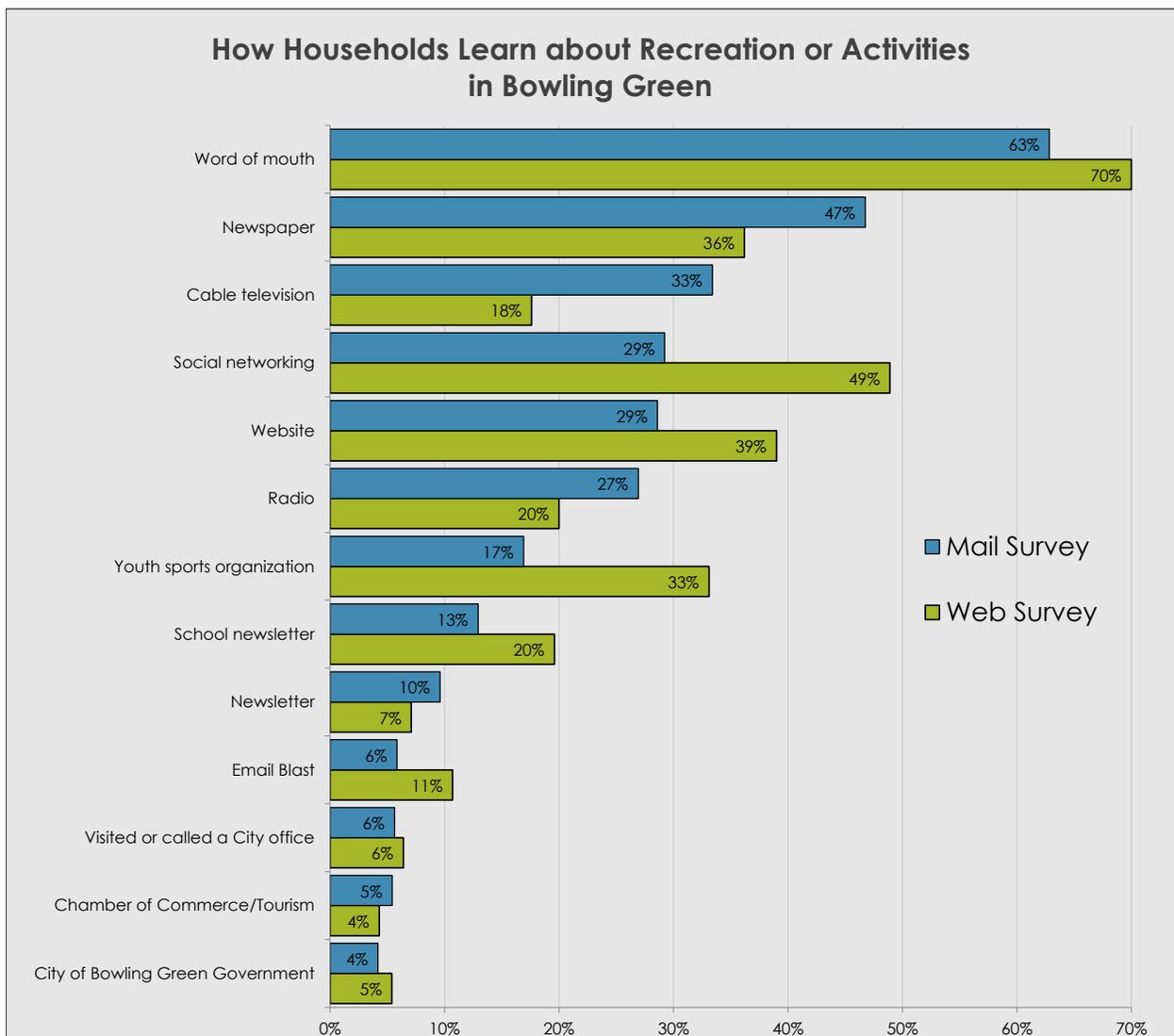


7. Learning about Recreation or Activities in Bowling Green

Both surveys asked respondents to identify (from a list) all of the ways from which they learn about recreation or activities in Bowling Green. The results can be seen in Figure 20. Respondents to both surveys rated word of mouth as the most likely way they learn of recreation and activities in Bowling Green with 63% of Mail Survey respondents and 70% of Web Survey respondents choosing this option.

Web Survey respondents were more likely to learn about recreation from most of the sources in the survey due, likely, to their greater level of participation in these activities. Web Survey respondents were much more likely to hear about recreation through social networking than Mail Survey respondents (49% compared to 29%), a website (39% compared to 29%), or a youth sports organization (33% compared to 17%). Mail Survey respondents, and therefore residents as a whole, were more likely than Web Survey respondents to learn of programs through a newspaper, cable television, and radio. Most Web Survey respondents completed the survey online, suggesting they are more likely than the general public to be computer users with internet access.

Figure 20: How Households Learn about Recreation or Activities in Bowling Green



8. Improvements to Existing Parks

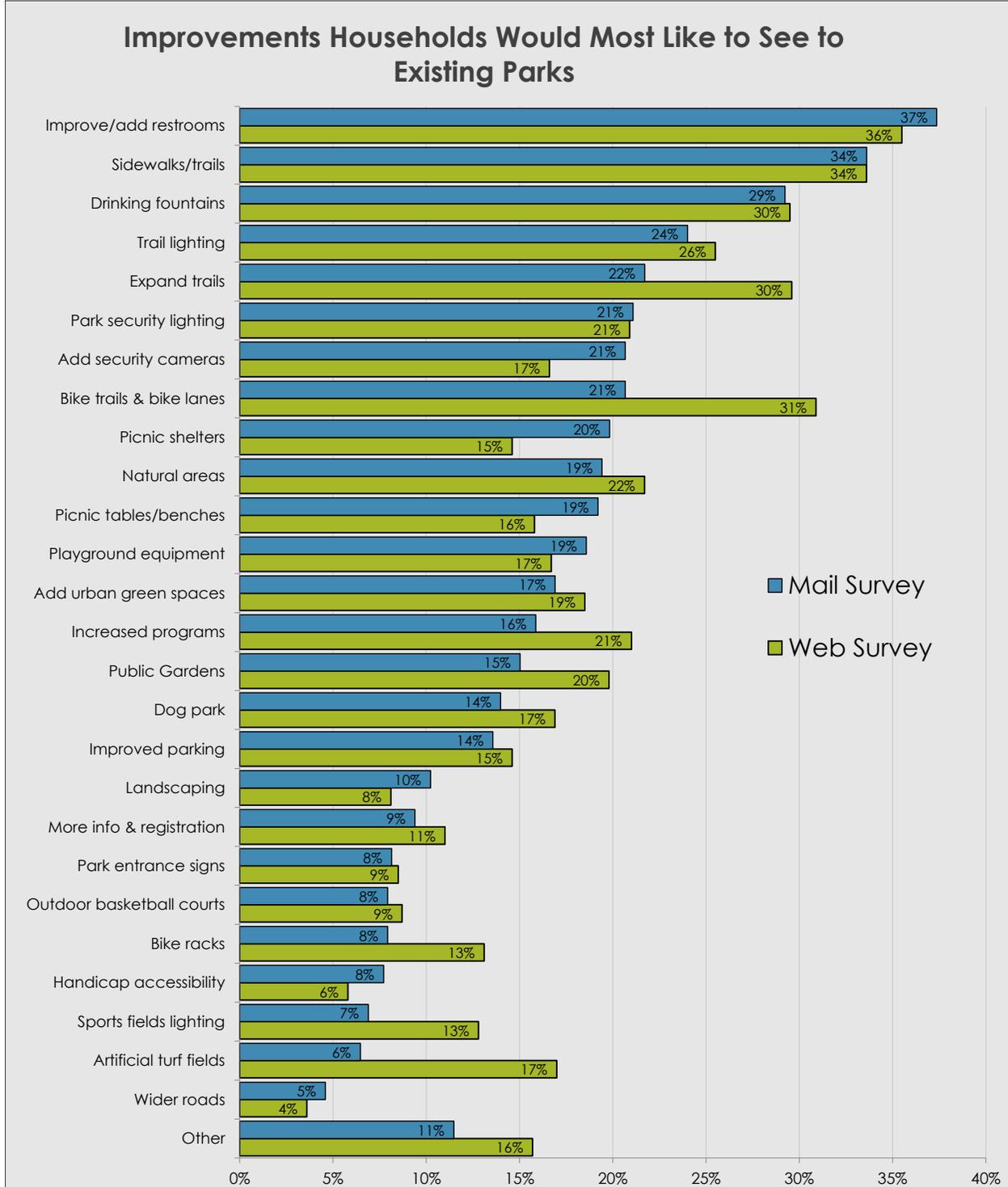
Respondents to both surveys were asked to identify all of the improvements their household would like to see to existing parks, and the responses from both surveys can be seen in Figure 21. *Improve/add restrooms* and *sidewalks/trails* were the top two responses for both surveys, receiving support by over 30% of respondents. *Drinking fountains* also received a high level of support in both surveys.

Web Survey respondents were more supportive of trail improvements. Thirty percent (30%) supported *expand trails* (compared to 22% for the Mail Survey), and 31% supported *bike trails & bike lanes* (compared to 21% for the Mail Survey).

Web Survey respondents were more supportive than Mail Survey respondents of most of the listed improvements. However, Mail Survey respondents were more supportive of a few improvements, notably *add security cameras*, *picnic shelters*, *picnic tables/benches*, and *playground equipment*.

Respondents to both surveys were given the option to choose “Other” improvements not listed in the survey. Frequent “Other” responses to the Web Survey included an ice rink, indoor tennis, and indoor soccer. “Other” responses in the Mail Survey were more focused on security and cleanliness of the parks and facilities, although several did request indoor facilities.

Figure 21: Improvements to Existing Parks Households Would Most Like to See

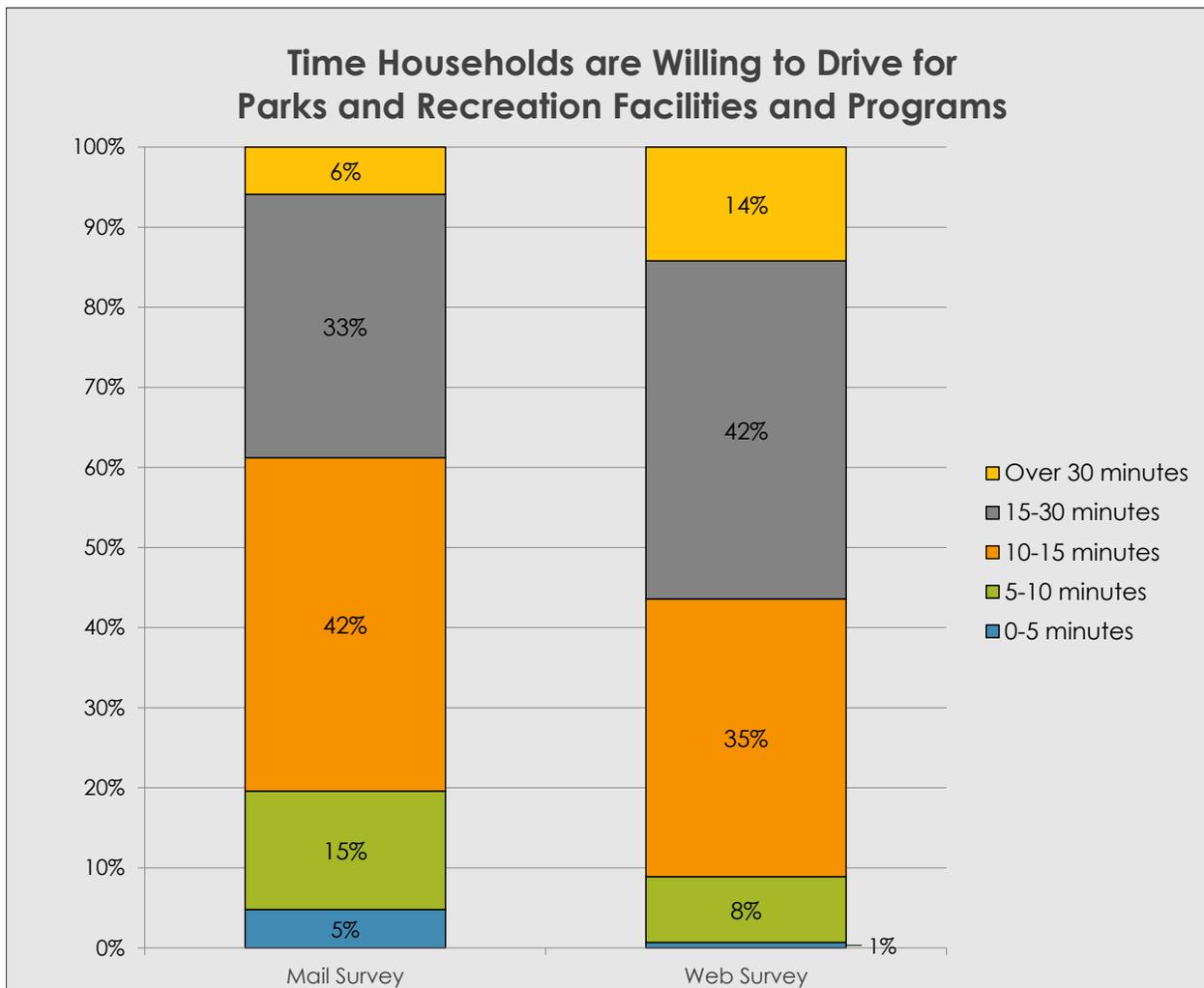


9. Drive Time for Parks and Programs

Survey respondents were asked how long they would be willing to drive to visit parks and attend programs. Figure 22 presents the results of this question and shows that Web Survey respondents were willing to drive longer for parks and programs than Mail Survey respondents. Less than 1% of Web Survey respondents were willing to drive only 5 minutes or less to parks and programs, while 5% of Mail Survey respondents reported a willingness to drive up to 5 minutes.

Similarly, 9% (1% + 8%) of Web Survey respondents claimed 10 minutes was the limit to how long they would drive, compared to 20% (5% + 15%) of Mail Survey respondents. Finally, 56% (42% + 14%) of Web Survey respondents were willing to drive 15 minutes or more, compared to 39% (33% + 6%) of Mail Survey respondents. These results are consistent with previous findings with Web Survey results showing a high level of interest in park facilities.

Figure 22: Drive Time for Parks and Programs



10. Reasons Preventing Use of Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Programs More Often

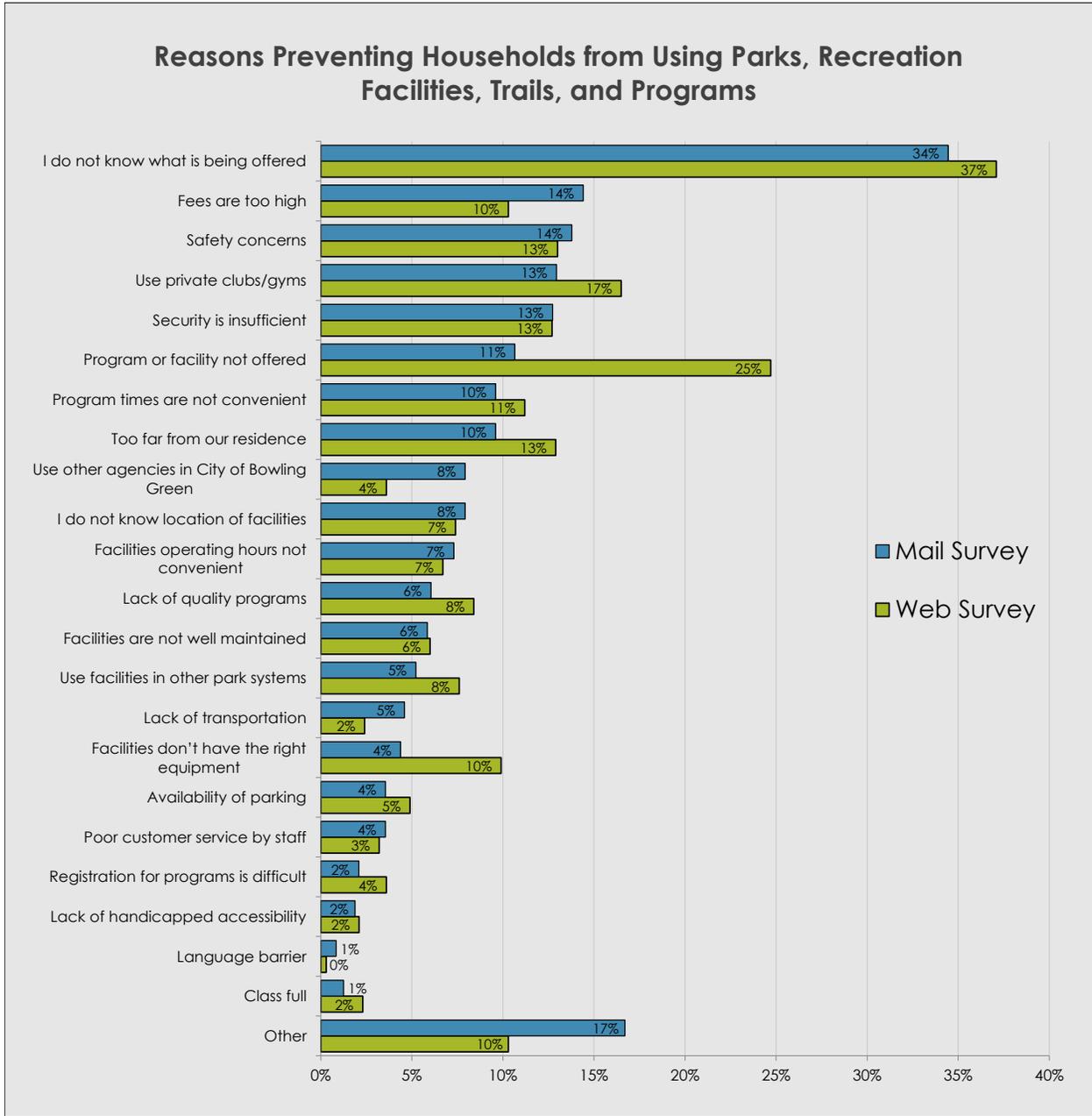
Respondents of both surveys were asked to select all barriers to their households' use of parks and recreation facilities from a list of 22 options. Figure 23 shows these results. The number one reason for not using these facilities, by a large margin, in both surveys was that households *do not know what is being offered*. Based on the results of the Mail Survey, more than a third (34%) of Bowling Green residents did not use parks or attended programs because they did not have enough information. According to the National Benchmarking,¹⁷ this reason is often at the top of the list; however, Bowling Green's response rate to this option of 34% was much higher than the national average of 22%. Additionally, Web Survey respondents, despite having a higher representation of parks and program users, were even more likely to choose this option.

The next most common reasons Mail Survey respondents provided for not using parks and programs were *fees are too high*, *safety concerns*, *use private clubs/gyms*, and *security is insufficient*. In contrast, Web Survey respondents chose *program or facility not offered* as the second most common reason for non-participation at 25%, compared to 11% for Mail Survey respondents. The lack of a facility or programs may have been a motivating factor for completing the survey.

Both surveys allowed respondents to choose "Other" to enter a reason not included in the list. Web Survey respondents used this option to provide specific programs and facilities not offered. Reoccurring program and facility needs included: a need for more trail connections and longer trails, ice rinks with hockey/skating programs, artificial turf fields for soccer, a roller skating facility (or allowing skating at existing facilities), and indoor tennis. Mail Survey respondents primarily cited a lack of time.

¹⁷ Provided by Leisure Vision (see Appendix E).

Figure 23: Support for Parks and Recreation Improvements



11. Need For Parks and Recreation Facilities

From a list of 28 various parks and recreation facilities, respondents were asked to indicate which facilities they or members of their household had a need. Figure 24 shows the results for both the Mail and Web Surveys as well as the National Average¹⁸ for each facility.

According to the Mail Survey, the greatest percentage Bowling Green (68%) residents had a need for *walking and hiking trails*, followed by *large community parks* (60%) and *small neighborhood parks* (59%). Other facilities with a high level of need in Bowling Green, according to the Mail Survey, included: *picnic shelters/picnic areas, natural areas/nature parks, indoor swimming pools/water parks, playgrounds, indoor exercise and fitness facilities, and paved bike trails*, all of which were needed by between 40% and 50% of Bowling Green households.

The order of results of the Web Survey were similar to that of the Mail Survey; however, Web Survey respondents reported a greater need for all facilities by a substantial margin. Like the Mail Survey, *walking and hiking trails* (90%) and *large community parks* (89%) were the two most needed facilities on the Web Survey, but the third most needed facility was *natural areas/nature parks* (83%). *Ice skating/hockey facility* ranked much higher in the Web Survey (11th) than the Mail Survey (21st). Similarly, *indoor gymnasium space/game courts* ranked 12th in the Web Survey, compared to 19th in the Mail Survey.

Compared to the National Benchmarks, City of Bowling Green responses to the Mail Survey showed a greater than average need for *large community parks, off-leash dog parks, ice skating/hockey facility, and mountain bike trails/BMX course*. Responses indicated a lower than average need for *indoor exercise and fitness facilities, paved bike trails, outdoor swimming pools, community centers, outdoor stages, and community gardens*. Survey results were within 5% or unavailable for the other categories.

The Mail Survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for parks and recreation facilities and estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less. Figure 24 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these facilities.

The order of the items in Figure 25 is quite different than the list of needed facilities (Figure 24). Approximately 7,500 households had unmet needs for *walking and hiking trails*, the most needed facility. However, the largest number of households had an unmet need for *indoor swimming pool/water parks* (8,000 households), despite ranking as the 6th most needed facility. Similarly, *ice skating/hockey facility* had approximately 4,500 households (7th most) with needs met at 50% or less, despite ranking as the 21st most needed facility. These numbers indicate that a small percentage of residents had a need these facilities, but a large percentage of those needs were not being met.

Other facilities with high numbers of households with unmet need included:

- Indoor exercise and fitness facilities
- Small neighborhood parks
- Natural areas/nature parks
- Paved bike trails

¹⁸ Provided by Leisure Vision (see Appendix E).

Figure 24: Need for Parks and Recreations Facilities

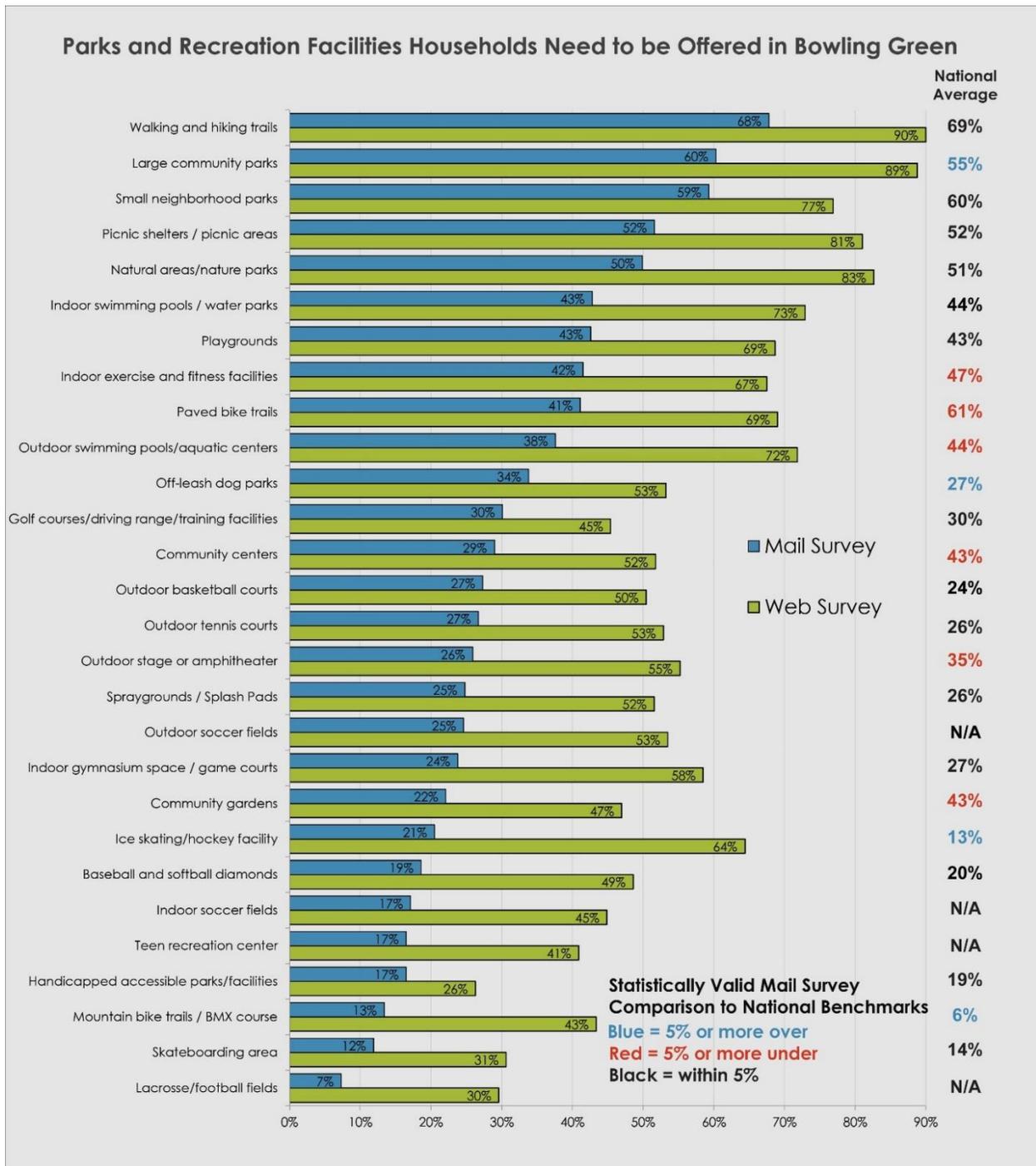
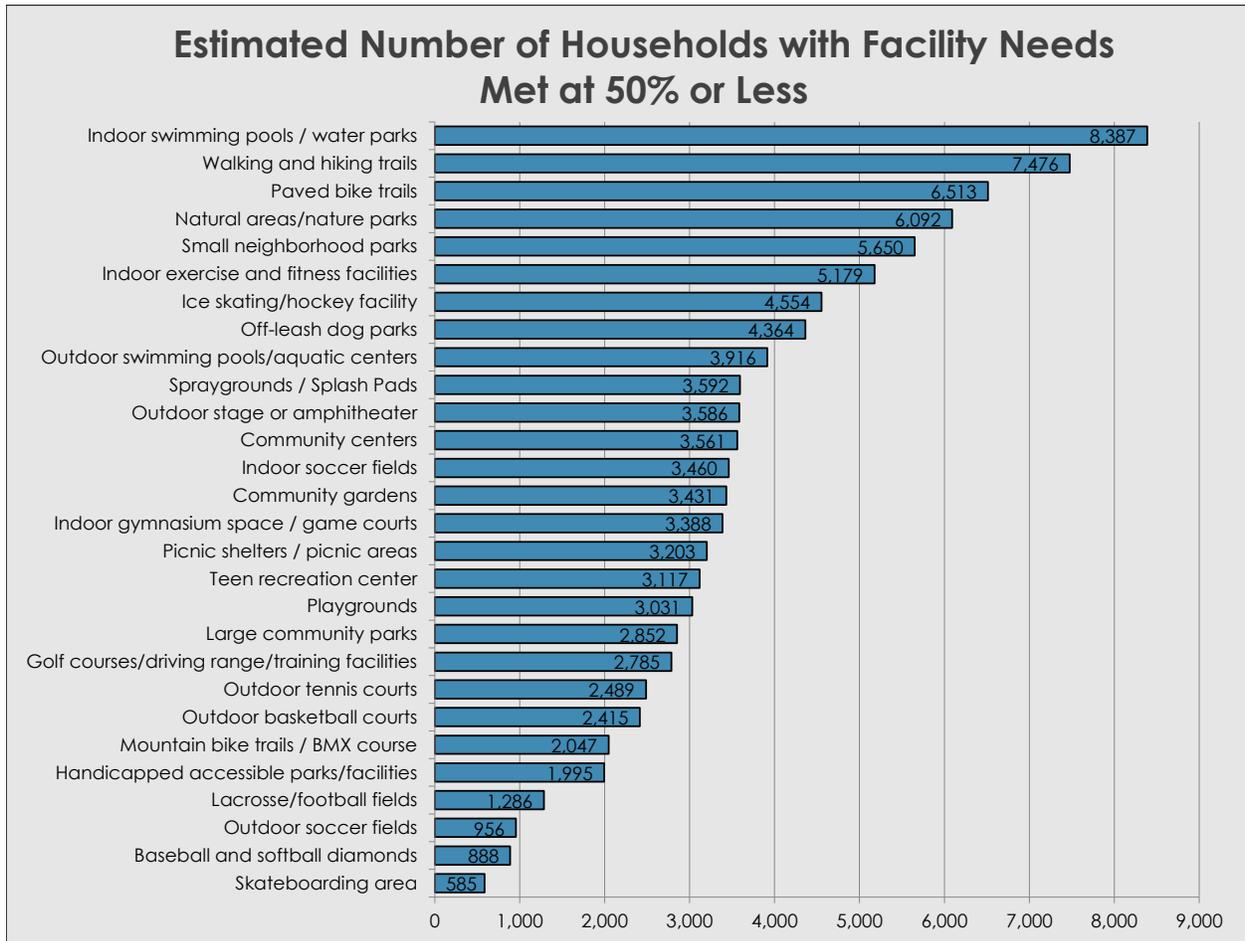


Figure 25: Households with Facility Needs Met by 50% or Less



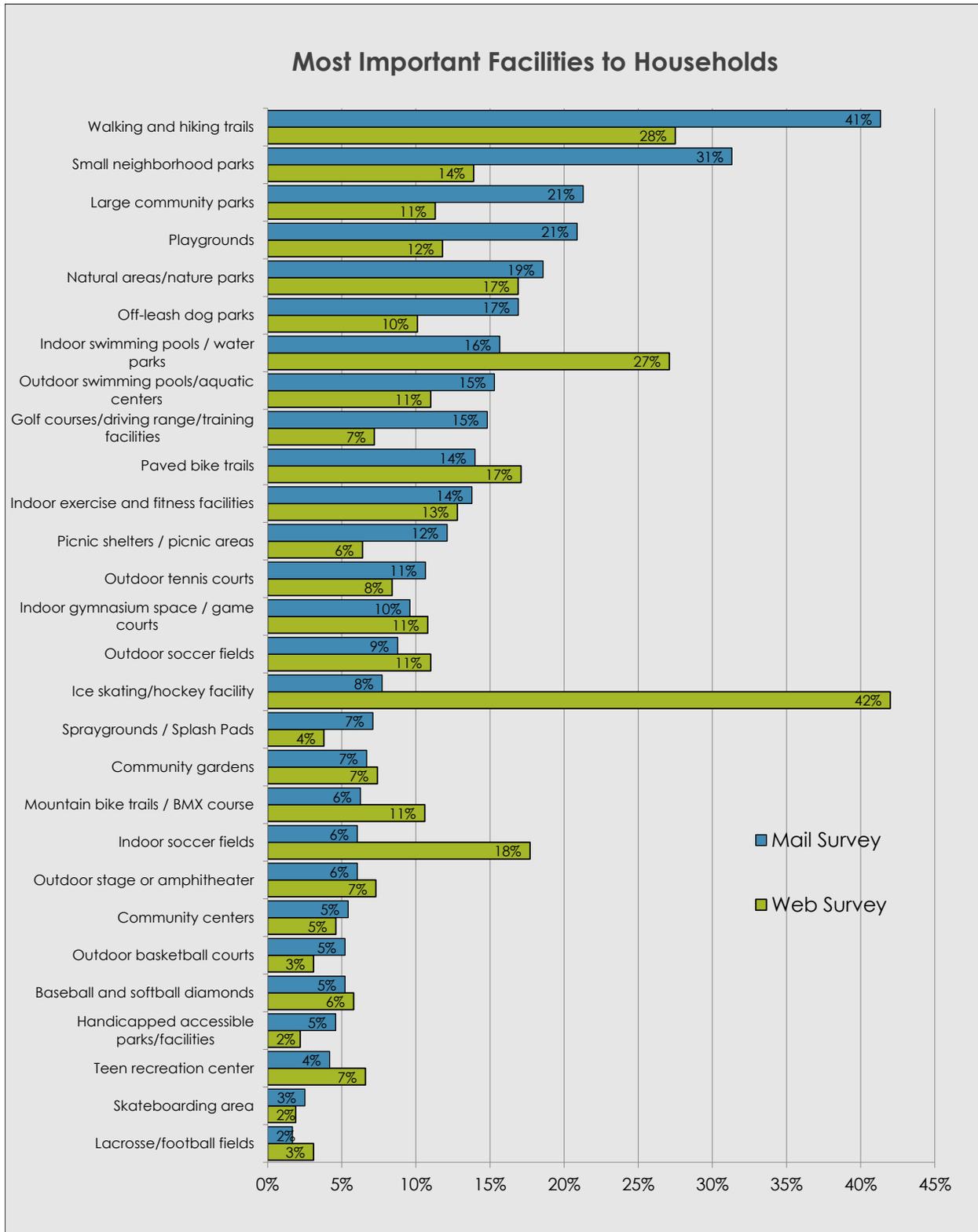
12. Most Important Facilities

As a follow up to the question of needed facilities, respondents of both surveys were asked to select the four most important facilities to their households, in contrast to the previous question where respondents could select any or all options. Figure 26 shows the importance of programs limited to households' top four choices.

The top response to this question in the Mail Survey was the same as the most needed facility (Figure 24), but the order of the results varied substantially after that point. *Small neighborhood parks* and *large community parks* reversed order of importance but remained second and third. *Playgrounds* were the fourth most important facility, compared to seventh most needed, and *Picnic shelters/picnic areas* were the 12th most important facility, despite ranking as the fourth most needed in Table 24.

The differences between the Mail and Web Surveys were also quite apparent. *Ice skating/hockey rink* ranked as the most important facility by a large margin in the Web Survey with 42% of respondents ranking it as one of the four most needed facilities. Mail Survey respondents ranked this facility as the 16th most needed. *Walking and hiking trails* ranked second, *Indoor swimming pools/water parks* ranked third (compared to 7th in the Mail Survey), and *indoor soccer fields* ranked fourth (compared to 20th in the Mail Survey). These results suggest that Web Survey respondents' priorities vary significantly from those of the Mail Survey (and Bowling Green population).

Figure 26: Most Important Facilities to Households



13. Need For Recreation Programs

From a list of 21 recreation programs, respondents were asked to indicate which facilities they or members of their household had a need. Figure 27 shows the results for both the Mail and Web Surveys as well as the National Average¹⁹ for each program.

According to the Mail Survey, *adult fitness and wellness programs* (49%) were the most needed recreation programs by Bowling Green residents, followed closely by *summer concerts* (48%). Based on the Mail Survey, *water fitness programs* and *nature programs* also had a high level of need in Bowling Green, with over 30% of respondent households reporting a need.

The order of results of the Web Survey were quite different from the Mail Survey, and Web Survey respondents reported a greater need for all programs. The top two ranked programs were the same as the Mail Survey, although *summer concerts* was first with 72%. *Nature programs* were the third most needed program in the Web Survey. Both *adult* and *youth sports programs* ranked higher in the Web Survey than in the Mail Survey, but *adult sports programs* ranked much higher at 5th in the Web Survey, compared to 11th in the Mail Survey.

Compared to the National Benchmarks, City of Bowling Green responses to the Mail Survey showed a greater than average need for *water fitness programs* and *birthday parties*. Responses indicated a much lower than average need for special events at 26%, compared to the National Average of 39%. Survey results were within 5% or unavailable for the other categories.

Respondents were also provided the option to choose a program not listed. Most of these “Other” responses in both surveys were for facilities rather than programs, including an ice rink, indoor tennis, artificial turf fields, and disc golf courses.

The Mail Survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for parks and recreation programs and estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less. Figure 28 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these facilities.

The order of the items in Figure 28 is quite similar to the list of needed programs in Figure 27. Approximately 6,400 households had unmet needs for *adult fitness and wellness programs*, the most needed option. *Water fitness*, *nature programs*, and *summer concerts* were the next three highest unmet needs, all by more than 5,000 households. These four unmet needs were the same as the top four needs in Table 27, suggesting that the most important programs are not currently being met.

¹⁹ Provided by Leisure Vision (see Appendix E).

Figure 27: Need Recreation Programs

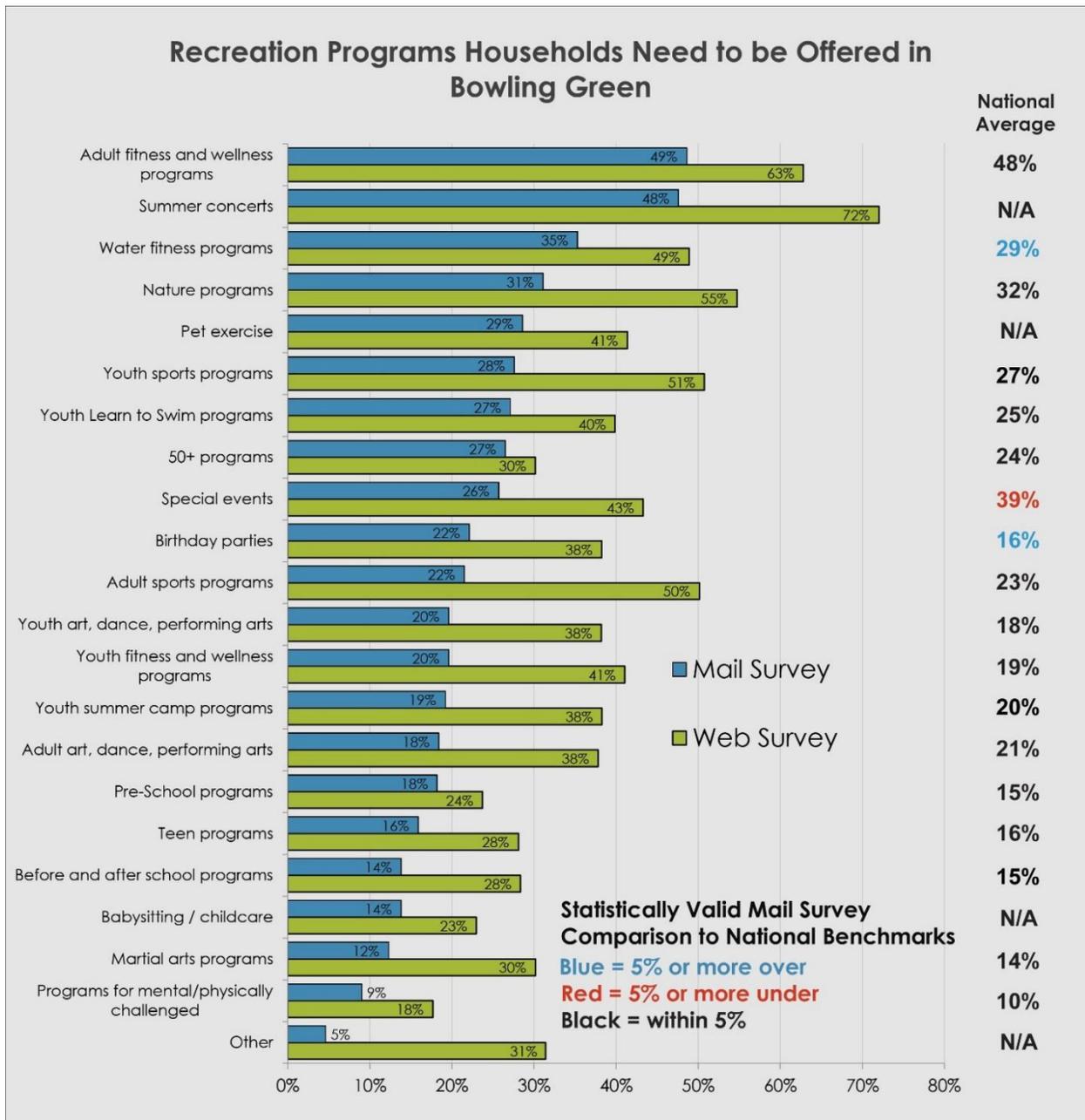
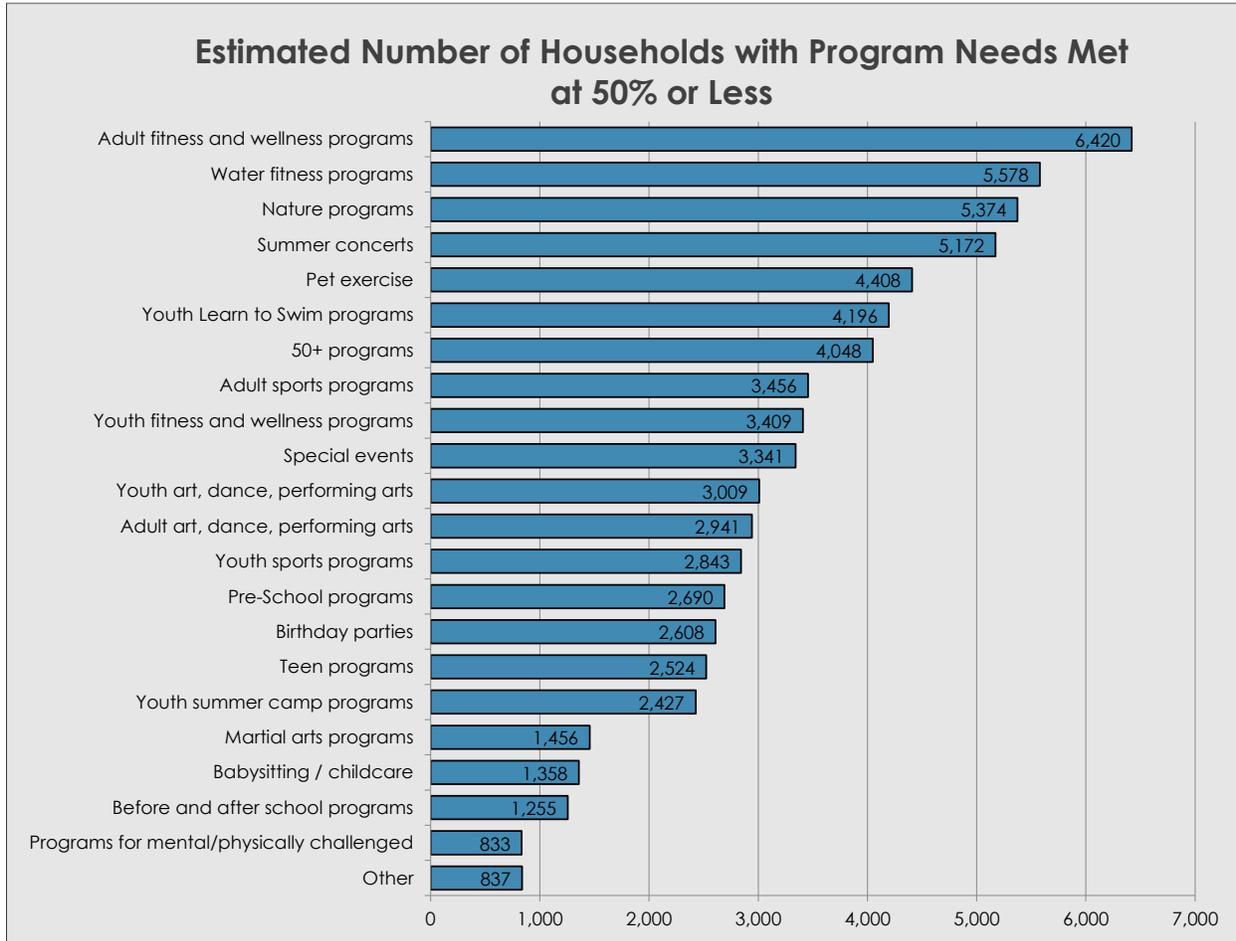


Figure 28: Households with Program Needs Met by 50% or Less

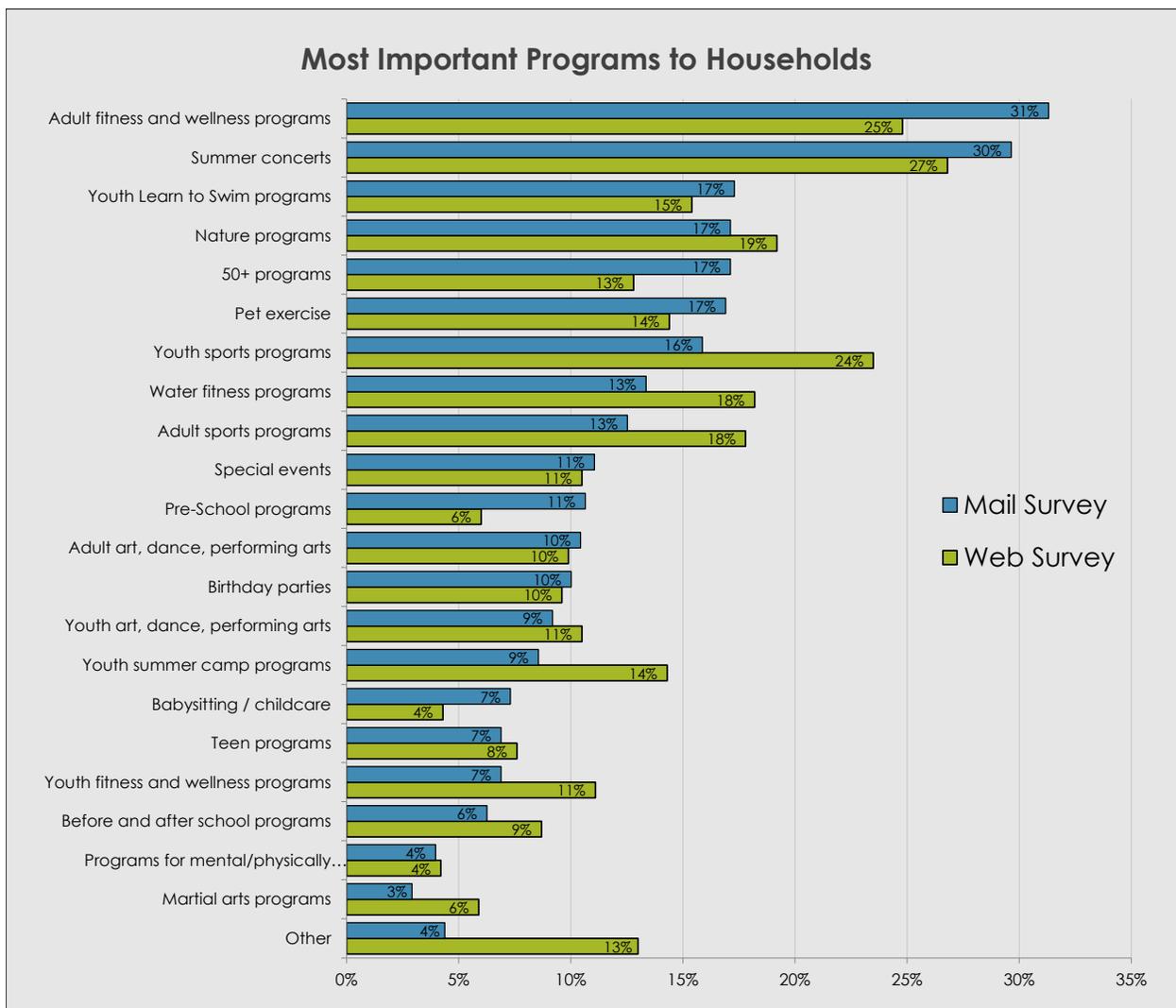


14. Most Important Programs

As a follow up to the question of needed programs, respondents of both surveys were asked to select the four most important programs to their households, in contrast to previous question where respondents could select any or all options. Figure 29 shows the importance of programs limited to households' top four choices.

The top two responses to this question were the same for both surveys, and the overall order of the items is very similar as the needed programs (Figure 27). In contrast to the previous results, several programs were more important to Mail Survey respondents than to Web Survey respondents. Accordingly, Mail Survey respondents (and, therefore, the Bowling Green population as a whole) ranked *adult fitness and wellness*, *summer concerts*, and *50+ programs* more highly than did Web Survey respondents. Web Survey respondents were much more interested in *youth sports programs*, *water fitness programs*, and *adult sports programs* than were Mail Survey respondents.

Figure 29: Most Important Programs to Households



15. Support for Park Improvements

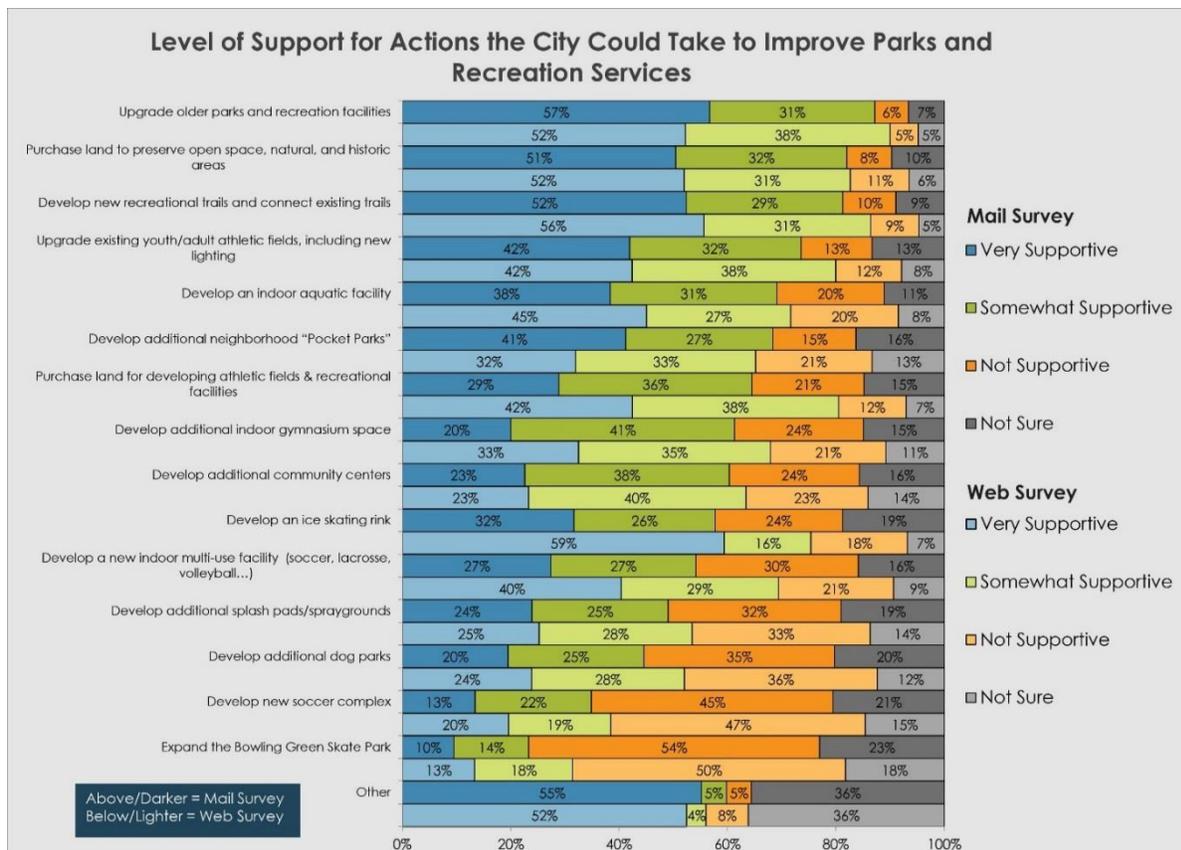
Respondents to both surveys were asked to indicate whether they were *very supportive*, *somewhat supportive*, *not supportive*, or *not sure* to 15 actions Bowling Green could make to improve parks and recreation services. The results for both surveys can be seen in Figure 30 with Mail Survey in darker shades, above the Web Survey results. The results were sorted based on the combined total of very supportive and somewhat supportive responses for the Mail Survey.

The highest level of support was given, in both surveys, to *upgrading older parks and recreation facilities* with 88% of Mail Survey respondents supporting this action (57% very supportive). *Purchasing land to preserve open space, natural, and historic areas* and *developing new recreational trails and connect existing trails* also received high levels of support (over 50% very supportive in both surveys). A majority of Mail Survey respondents were supportive of all but four options provided.

Web Survey respondents were much more supportive than Mail Survey respondents of *developing an ice rink* with 75% supporting (59% very supportive), compared to 58% (32% very supportive). Web Survey respondents were similarly more supportive of *purchasing land for developing athletic fields & recreational facilities* and *developing a new indoor multi-use facility*.

Many Web Survey respondents provided “Other” actions they would support with indoor tennis courts appearing the most frequently. Pickleball courts and artificial turf fields also were reoccurring suggestions. Trends were less apparent in Mail Survey suggestions with bicycle facilities and security improvements appearing the most often.

Figure 30: Level of Support for Actions the City Could Take to Improve Parks and Recreation Services



16. Allocation of \$100 Between Parks and Recreation Improvements

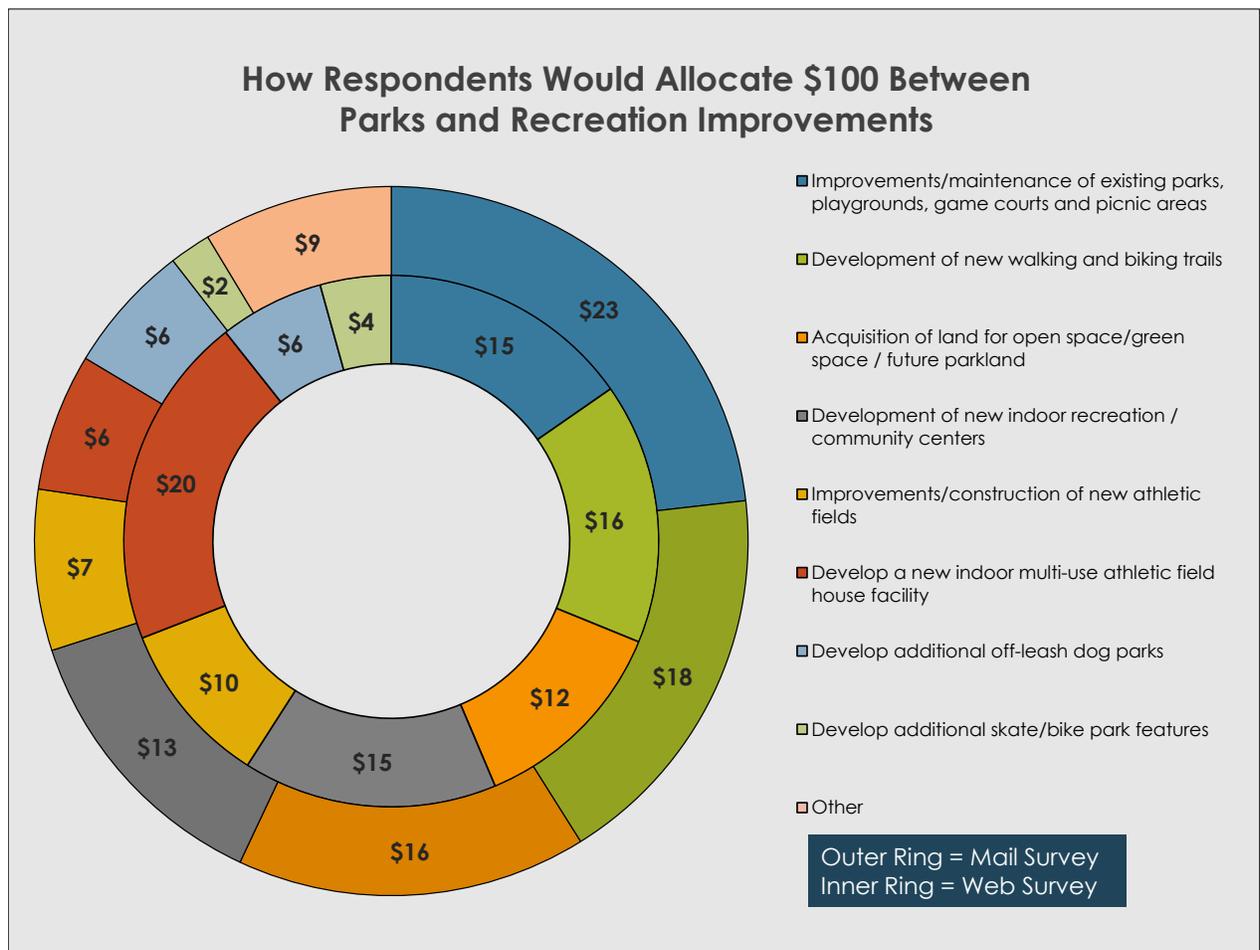
Survey respondents were asked how they would allocate \$100 between eight different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in the City of Bowling Green. (Figure 31)

According to the Mail Survey, residents would allocate \$23, the largest allotment of funds, toward improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, game courts and picnic areas; \$18 toward development of new walking and biking trails; and \$16 for the acquisition of land for open space, green space, and future parkland.

In contrast, Web Survey respondents would allocate the largest amount of funds (\$20) to the development of an *indoor multi-use athletic field house facility*. *Development of new walking and biking trails* received the second largest allocation (\$16), and the *development of new indoor recreation/community centers (with game courts, fitness areas, walking track, and multi-purpose rooms)* and *improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, game courts, and picnic areas* tied for third with \$15 each.

Development of *additional skate/bike parks* and *off-leash dog parks* received low allocations in both surveys (\$2-\$6). Finally, an “Other” allocation was only included in the Mail Survey and the most frequent allocations were for a hockey/ice rink and an indoor pool.

Figure 31: \$100 Allocation for Park Improvements



17. Other Major Findings of the Statistically Valid Mail Survey

Fifty-five percent (55%) of respondent households indicated they used Bowling Green Parks & Recreation for parks and recreation programs and facilities. Other organizations respondent households reported using for parks and recreation facilities include: Warren County Parks (50%), Kentucky State Parks (39%), Western Kentucky University (35%), and churches (30%).

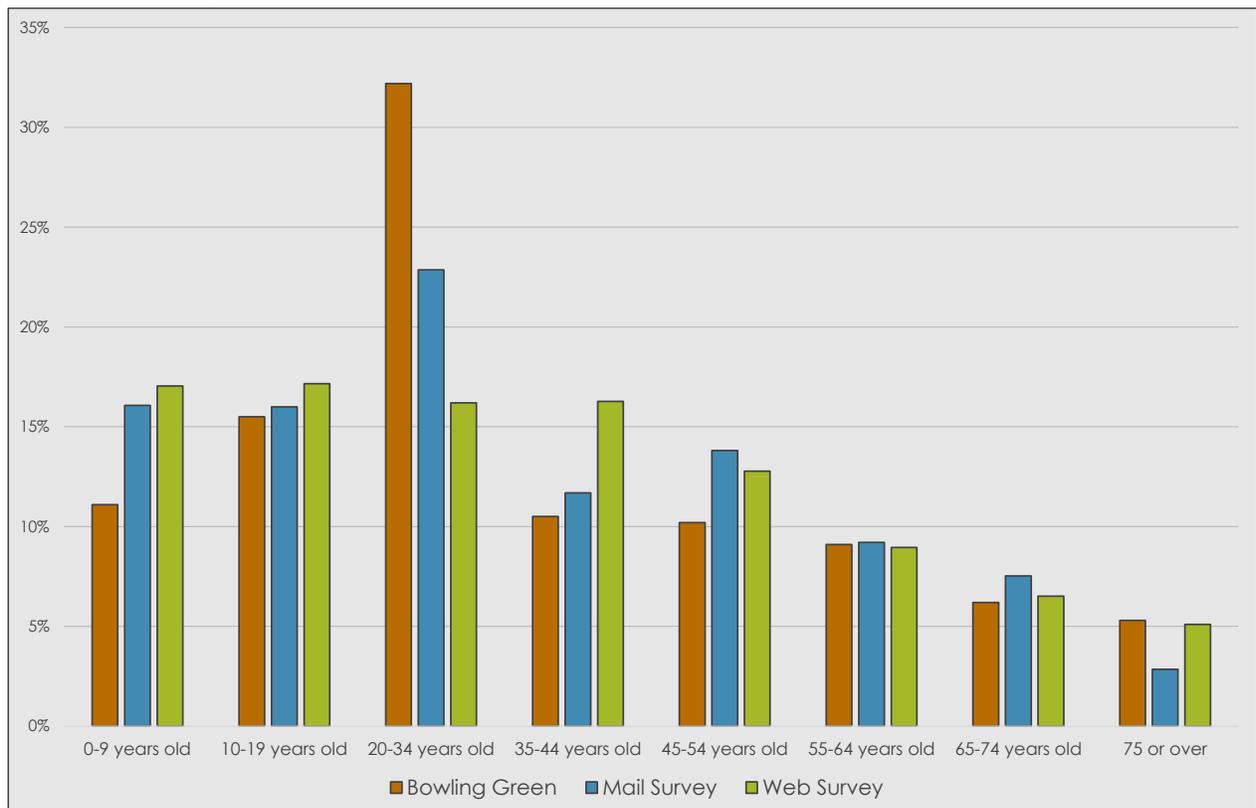
Based on respondent households' top two choices, 41% indicated that they used Bowling Green Parks & Recreation the most for recreation and parks programs and facilities. Other organizations respondent households used the most often include: Warren County Parks (24%), churches (14%), and Kentucky State Parks (11%).

18. Survey Household Demographics

In an effort to compare the demographic representation of the survey responses with that of the population of the City of Bowling Green, the distribution of age groups of respondent households was compared to the most recent population estimates.²⁰ Figure 32 shows the representation by age group of survey respondent households as well as the Bowling Green population of each group.

Based on this comparison, the respondents of the surveys fairly closely aligned with the age demographics of the Bowling Green population. Neither the Mail nor the Web Survey results matched the high percentage of 20-34 years olds in the City, although the Mail Survey results were closer to this proportion. The Web Survey had an overrepresentation of 35-44 year olds, and both surveys overrepresented 0-9 years olds and 45-54 year olds. The Mail Survey also had an underrepresentation of the oldest age group (75 and over).

Figure 32: Survey Household Demographics

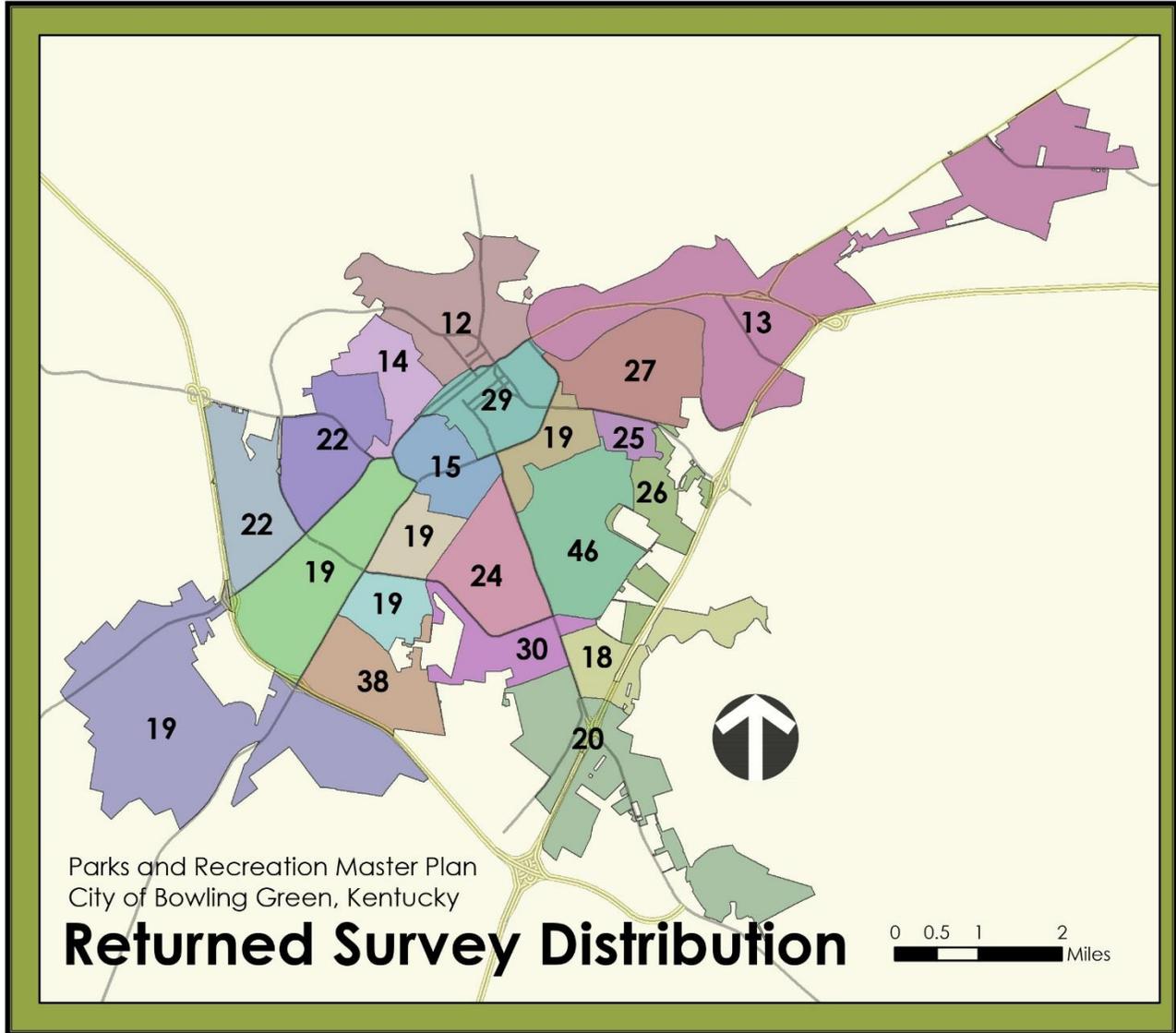


²⁰ ESRI Business Analyst 2014 estimates

19. Distribution of Returned Surveys

Leisure Vision provided data for the location of returned surveys. The results, which follow Census Block Groups (some of which were combined), can be seen in Figure 33. All areas are represented in the survey results, with the largest number of returned surveys coming from the area to the southeast of downtown.

Figure 33: Returned Survey Distribution



OUR BG PARKS WEB-BASED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

In an effort to engage all City residents, the City utilized an online civic engagement tool that enabled residents to provide input regardless of their location or the time of day and in more than 75 languages. The site, *Our BG Parks*, was designed explicitly for the City of Bowling Green and provided a forum for residents to submit ideas and recommendations, react to potential solutions, provide input on priorities, engage in conversation with City leaders and others, and stay up-to-date on the planning process. The website was managed and updated by the planning consultants and staff. A total (as of 3/6/2015) of 8,609 page views, 3,588 unique visitors, and 246 total participants were involved. The average age of participants was 37 years old, with the vast majority residing in the 42101, 42104, and 42103 zip codes.

Below is a summary of the results of the website. The results are presented in the order in which the topics were added as new polls and idea submission requests were added throughout the Master Plan process. Topics on the *Our BG Parks* website were posted in an effort to follow-up on previous public input and to keep the public involved throughout the process.

Two different types of topics were posted on this website: Instant Polls and Idea Submissions. Instant Polls Results for Instant Polls are presented in charts, while Idea Submissions are presented in table form. The results for Idea Submission question are measured in points. These points are determined by website user ratings of each response: "I Love It!" (3 points), "I Like It" (2 points), and "It's Okay" (1 point). Additionally, duplicate ideas (and their points) are combined, and submissions with multiple ideas and separated and listed individually. Comments and Ideas with no points are assigned one point and added to the totals accordingly.

Overall Site Statistics

The figure below (Figure 34) provides a snapshot of the overall statistics related to visitation to the site.

Figure 34: Website Visitation Snapshot

Welcome to Our BG Parks's Reporting Interface

The **Reporting Interface** displays all of the activity from your project.

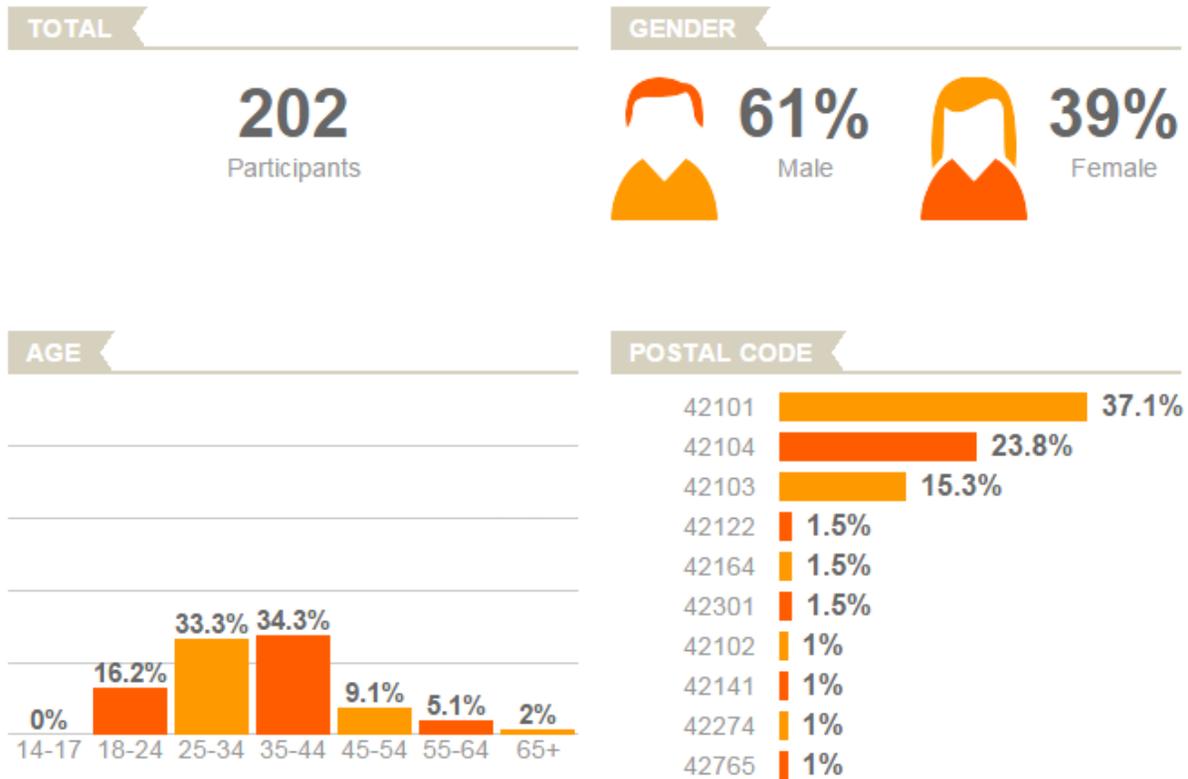


Age, Gender, and Geographic Distribution

Figure 35 below outlines the characteristics of the average visitor to the *Our BG Parks* website. The participants are more likely to be male than female at 61% to 39%. A large majority (67.6%) of respondents are between the ages of 25 and 44. The largest percentage (37.1%) of respondents live in the 42101 zip code, followed by the 42104 and 42122 zip codes. Three fourths of respondents reside in these three zip codes.

Figure 35: Age, Gender, and Geographic Distribution of Participants

Participants



[View All Postal Codes](#)

Demographic information may not be provided on 100% of participants.

Visioning Bowling Green Parks and Recreation

When asked to envision the future of parks and recreation in the City of Bowling Green, respondents provided the ideas presented in Table 25 below. The number in the column on the right side indicates the number of “points” received for a particular item. Thirteen (13) ideas were submitted, some of which were duplicates, and seven (7) users provided comments. A total of 66 users participated in this topic. The points for these ideas were combined in the following table.

Table 25: Visioning Ideas

Idea	Points
Expand Greenways and trails (connect all parks and neighborhoods)	176
Mountain biking facilities	66
Expand Riverfront	54
Ice rink (hockey and skating)	39
Connect Kereiakes and Weldon Peete Parks	26
Rafting opportunities	18
Embrace Bowling Green's nature	15
Sprayground	2
Playground	2
Senior facilities	1
Indoor sports	1
Park near Campbell Lane	1

By far the most preferred idea for envisioning the future of parks in Bowling Green was the expansion of Greenways and trails to connect parks and neighborhoods with 176 points. The second highest ranked idea (66 points) was to add more mountain biking facilities to the parks. The riverfront was suggested as a location for these facilities, and the expansion of the riverfront was the third most preferred idea which included whitewater options in addition to biking facilities. The development of an ice rink was the next highest rated idea.

Making One Change

Website visitors were asked to comment or “vote” on “If you had a magic wand, what one change would you make to improve Bowling Green Parks and Recreation?” The responses are displayed in Table 26. The number in the column on the right side indicates the number of “points” received for a particular item. Nineteen (19) ideas were submitted, some of which were duplicates, and six (6) users provided comments. A total of 63 users participated in this topic. The points for these ideas were combined in the following table (Table 26).

Table 26: Making One Change Ideas

Idea	Points
Ice rink (hockey and skating)	178
Formal partnerships with local organizations	65
Multi-use sports complex	32
Whitewater park	30
Improve recreation funding	23
Bike lanes	17
Silver Sneakers space	11
Edible landscaping	10
Youth activities	8
Mountain biking facilities	6
Indoor pool	3
Riverfront Bike Park	2
Move recreation center	1

The “One Change” idea with the most support was to develop an ice rink for hockey and skating with 178 points. Residents state that they currently travel to Owensboro and Nashville for access to an ice rink. The idea receiving the second most points (65) was for the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department to form formal partnerships with other local agencies and organizations, including the Greenways Commission, the Riverfront Foundation, and the Southwest Kentucky Mountain Bike Association. These partnerships would also increase the opportunities for grants for improvements.

The idea receiving the third most points (32) was the development of a multi-use sports complex which would offer facilities for a variety of activities including: indoor soccer, volleyball, archery, basketball, baseball, and possibly the ice rink. A whitewater park received the fourth most points at 30.

Focus of the Master Plan

Website visitors were asked to comment or “vote” on “Where should the City focus its efforts to improve parks and recreation services?” The responses are displayed in Table 27. The number in the column on the right side indicates the number of “points” received for a particular item. Thirty-one (31) ideas were submitted, some of which were duplicates, and fifty-six (56) users provided comments. A total of 189 users participated in this topic. The points for these ideas were combined in the following table.

Table 27: Focus of the Master Plan

Idea	Points
Ice rink	390
Riverfront Bike Park (mountain biking)	313
Walking/Biking trails	89
Riverfront Park (whitewater, climbing, etc.)	68
Indoor pool	58
Inline hockey rink/roller rink	40
Access to waterways	27
Drop floor for roller derby and other sports	25
Indoor playgrounds	18
Security improvements, including cameras, at all parks and facilities	17
Indoor tennis	14
Existing park maintenance	11
Multi-use sports facility	10
Senior center and services	9
Spray park	8
Whitewater park	3

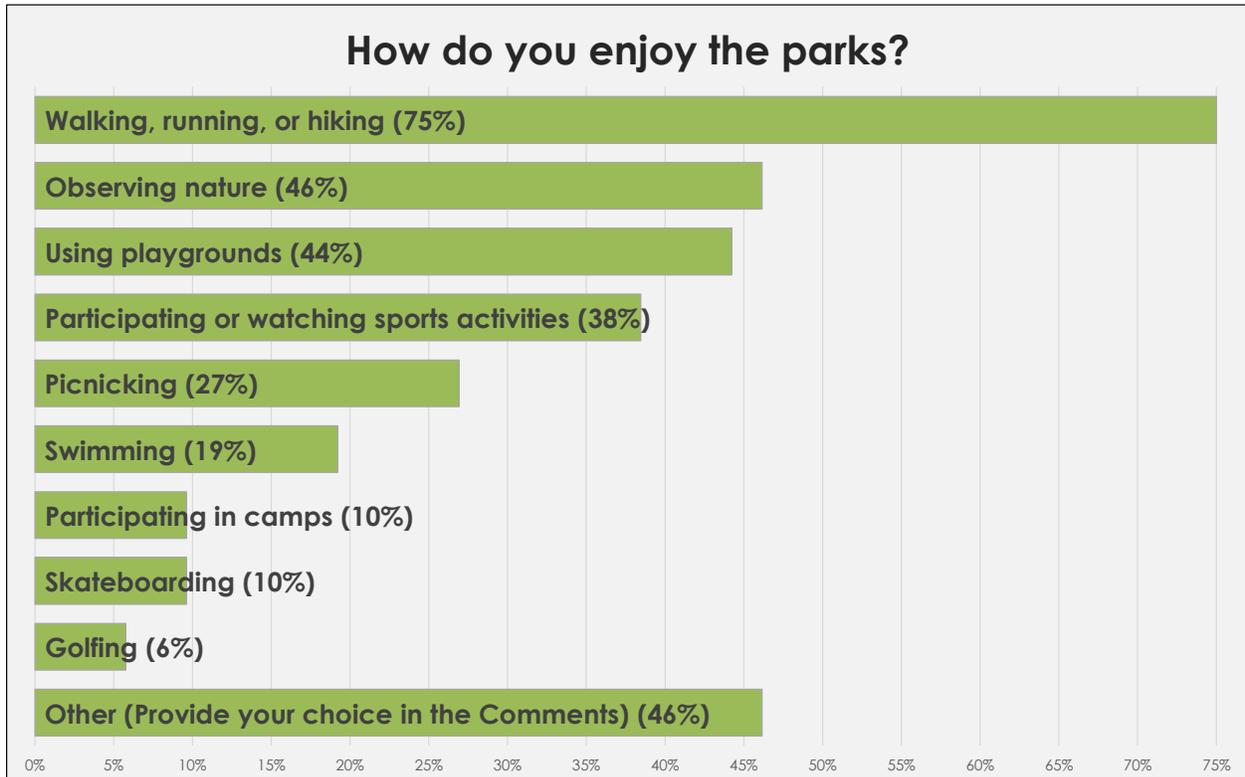
This topic had a very high level of participation, and two ideas generated by far the highest level of support: an ice rink and a Riverfront Bike Park. Both of these ideas received over 300 points with the ice rink receiving nearly 400 points. Supporters of an ice rink currently travel out of town for this facility. The supporters of mountain biking facilities at the riverfront believe such a park would bring visitors to the City of Bowling Green. Other activities at the Riverfront Park, including whitewater rafting and rock climbing, also received support as the fourth ranked idea with 68 points.

The third highest ranked idea was additional walking and biking trails, and an outdoor pool was the fifth ranked idea. An indoor rink for inline hockey, roller skating, and roller derby was the sixth most popular idea.

Favorite Park Activities

The figure below shows the responses or “votes” received in response to the question, “How do you enjoy our parks?” The total number of votes for this question was 52. Users could select all of the activity in which they participated. Figure 36 shows the results of this Instant Poll. The option with the most votes was “Walking, running, or hiking,” with 75% reporting participating in these activities at the parks. “Observing nature” and “Other” tied for second at 46.2%, and “Using playgrounds” was a close fourth at 44.2%. Most of the comments for this topic discussed the need for an indoor ice rink, and two provided support for riverfront park development (mountain biking and whitewater rafting).

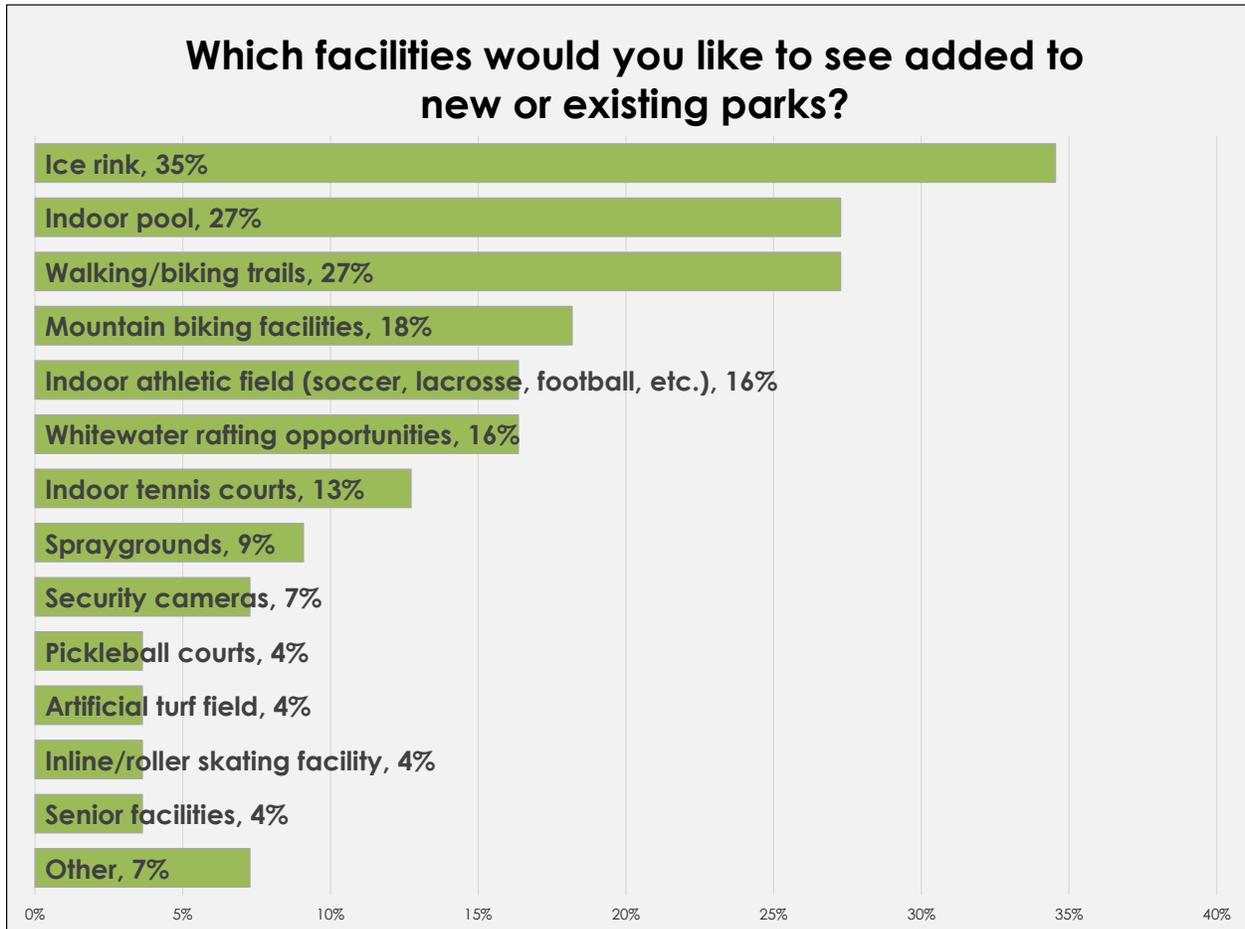
Figure 36: Park Activities



Preferred New Facilities

As a follow up to previous feedback, respondents were asked to choose their preferred facility improvements from a list of reoccurring requests recorded throughout the public input process. The figure below shows the responses or "votes" received in response to the question, "Which facilities would you like to see the City of Bowling Green add to new or existing parks?" The total number of votes for this question was 55. Users could select up to two facilities they would like to see developed. Figure 37 shows the results of this Instant Poll. The option with the most votes was "ice rink," with 35% reporting a preference for this facility. "Indoor pool" was tied for second with "walking/biking trails" at 27%.

Figure 37: Preferred New Facilities



VI. STRATEGIC PLAN, GOALS, AND OBSERVATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This Master Plan represents the collective vision for parks, recreation, and trails for the City of Bowling Green. This cohesive vision for continually improving parks and recreation opportunities in the City of Bowling Green represents the culmination of the engagement process. The vision with guiding principles and mission statement outlined below will guide the implementation of this Master Plan and the future of parks, recreation, and trails in the City of Bowling Green. The Vision and Mission Statement lead directly to a series of Goals and Objectives which will help realize this vision. Finally, a series of observations and potential solutions are described as possible ways to achieve these goals.

VISION STATEMENT

The vision for the City of Bowling Green is to provide a wide range of park and recreational services that are balanced and inclusive for all residents and visitors. These services will encourage community health through the provision of welcoming parks, facilities, and programs, including athletics, that are clean, safe, and consistent in delivery. Services and facilities will be enhanced through collaboration and investment for a future that connects the community and embraces the City's diversity, both in terms of its residents and its resources.

Guiding Principles

The following principles will guide and direct priorities, actions, and investments. These principles help the Parks and Recreation Department work in concert with other City departments and other potential partners to ensure the City of Bowling Green accomplishes its vision and maintains the qualities that make it such an attractive place to live and visit. Residents and visitors will encounter the following characteristics in Bowling Green facilities, programs, and interactions with staff.

1. Investment: Consideration for Both the Present and the Future

The City of Bowling Green will explore a wide variety of opportunities for investment in parks, facilities, and the people of Bowling Green. City investments will consider the long-term needs of the City and the impacts of those investments, including enhancements to quality of life and community health. Criteria for determining improvements will extend beyond financial considerations. Emphasis for investment decisions will be placed on the users in the present and in the future.

2. Balance: Equilibrium throughout the Park System (Both Facilities and Services)

The City will seek a balance between an array of community and service needs. To this end, the City will pursue a balance between the need for new facilities and improvements to existing facilities while assuring a fair distribution of facilities and programs throughout the City. This fair distribution will include consideration of both the quality and quantity of facilities and programs.

The balancing effort will extend to the acquisition and development of parkland where balance will be maintained between complementary (and sometimes conflicting) uses. Additionally, conservation, preservation, and interpretation of natural resources will be considered as part of park and facility development with efforts made to maintain a balance between the proportion of parkland that is left in its natural state rather than developed.

3. Collaboration: Partnerships for the Maximization of Facility and Program Opportunities

The City of Bowling Green will seek partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to maximize parks and recreation services and facility offerings to residents and visitors of Bowling Green. Potential partners for both capital improvements and operations will include: school districts, colleges/universities, business groups, non-profits, churches, Warren

County Parks and Recreation, other government agencies (including other City departments), and more.

4. Connectivity: Inspire Sense of Place through Community Connections – Physical and Social

Bowling Green will facilitate connectivity throughout the City, helping to inspire a sense of place and community identity. Trails will be utilized to connect parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places. Parks will provide a venue for members of the community to gather and connect with each other socially through events and daily usage.

The City will connect residents through the programming of events which will be publicized electronically through online access, including social media, and new technologies as they become available. Efforts to connect the community will extend beyond the Park and Recreation Department to improve awareness of all activities in Bowling Green, including those offered by other agencies or organizations, through strategies such as cross promotion of events and the creation of common calendars.

5. Diversity: An Assortment of Services for a Diverse Population

The City of Bowling Green will provide an array of affordable programs and facilities to meet the varying and evolving needs of its diverse population. Special attention will be made toward the engagement of park users of different ages, genders, income levels, and cultural backgrounds in addition to those with disabilities. Such efforts will assure that opportunities are available for all community members of all skill levels and will provide opportunities for interaction between these different groups.

6. Security: Safe, Secure, and Welcoming Parks for Everyone

Bowling Green park facilities and programs will provide a welcoming environment that is consistent in both appearance and user experience. All park facilities will be well maintained and inspected regularly to assure safety for users and regulatory compliance. Parks will have adequate lighting and will be equipped with necessary emergency equipment in order to maintain adequate security. Parks will have sufficient presence of City staff to assure safety of users and security of facilities.

7. Excellence: In Facilities and Service Delivery

The City of Bowling Green will strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation. A highly trained, diverse, and passionate staff at all levels will inspire community trust in the Parks and Recreation Department and will help to ensure the overall quality of the parks system. This culture of excellence will enhance the public perception of the Parks and Recreation Department, encouraging community appreciation of parks, facilities, programs, and staff.

MISSION STATEMENT

Current Mission Statement

Our mission is to offer a comprehensive variety of quality recreational programs and facilities to the residents and guests of our community.

Proposed New Mission Statement

Bowling Green's mission for Parks and Recreation is:

To offer a comprehensive variety of excellent recreational programs and facilities that promote wellness and enhance quality of life in our community and represent our commitment to a safe and sustainable future.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Seven goals represent areas of strategic priority for action over the next five to ten years. Objectives further describe specific areas of emphasis for each goal area, to which the City of Bowling Green will invest time, energy, and resources over this time period. Strategies represent the concrete, specific actions the City will take to accomplish each of these objectives. These actions follow directly from the vision established by the City, in accordance with the mission statement of the Parks and Recreation Department, and are a culmination of all previous steps of the Master Planning process.

The following section outlines the seven goals and 28 objectives included in this Master Plan. A detailed, consolidated table of these goals and objectives plus 157 strategies with corresponding timelines, funding sources, and responsible parties is located in Section IX, Detailed Action Plan.

Goal 1: Invest in Services for the Community with Consideration to Both the Present and the Future

Strategically plan short- and long-term investments in parks, facilities, and the community of Bowling Green with a focus on community health (especially personal health and youth development) and quality of life through acquisition, preservation, and proactive maintenance.

Objectives:

- 1.1. Prioritize enhancements to quality of life and community health considering acquisition or development of parkland and recreation facilities.
- 1.2. Explore a wide variety of opportunities for investment in parks, facilities, and the people of Bowling Green.
- 1.3. Consider the long-term needs of the City and financial sustainability as part of any investment process.
- 1.4. Maximize the utility of parkland and open space properties through careful prioritization of acquisitions and improvements.

Goal 2: Maintain Balance throughout the Park System

Preserve a balance between a wide array of community and service needs.

Objectives:

- 2.1. Pursue a balance between the need for new facilities and improvements to existing facilities.
- 2.2. Endeavor to assure a fair and even distribution of facilities and programs throughout the City that considers both the quality and quantity of facilities and programs.
- 2.3. Maintain a balance between complementary (or conflicting) uses at all park or open space sites.
- 2.4. Consider the conservation, preservation, and interpretation of natural resources as part of park and facility acquisition, development, and programming.
- 2.5. Maintain a balance between the proportion of parkland that is left in its natural state rather than developed.

Goal 3: Develop Partnerships to Maximize Facility and Program Opportunities

Collaborate with local organizations, including school districts, colleges/universities, business groups, non-profits, churches, and other government agencies, to increase parks and recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- 3.1. Investigate partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to develop facility offerings for residents and visitors and to avoid the duplication of services.

-
- 3.2. Seek partnerships for the operation and maintenance of facilities as needed to reduce ongoing costs to the people of Bowling Green.
 - 3.3. Collaborate with other agencies and organizations to develop and provide educational and recreational programs needed but not currently offered in the City of Bowling Green.
 - 3.4. Join forces with community partners to ensure Bowling Green becomes and remains a major destination for tourism at both the regional and national levels.

Goal 4: Inspire Sense of Place through Community Connections – Physical and Social

Utilize improved connectivity to inspire a sense of place and community identity through parks, trails, programs, and events and by improving awareness of parks and recreation opportunities.

Objectives:

- 4.1. Develop trail connections between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places.
- 4.2. Utilize parks to inspire a sense of place for the community and as venues for members of the community to gather, connect, and socialize.
- 4.3. Facilitate connections between residents through the programming of events.
- 4.4. Publicize parks and recreation opportunities electronically through online access and new technologies as they become available.

Goal 5: Provide an Assortment of Services for a Diverse Population

Ensure a variety of opportunities for all members of the community regardless of background or skill level.

Objectives:

- 5.1. Engage park users of different ages, genders, income levels, and cultural backgrounds in addition to those with disabilities.
- 5.2. Provide an array of affordable programs to meet the varying and evolving needs of Bowling Green's diverse population.
- 5.3. Assure the availability of opportunities for community members regardless of age, skill level, or disability.

Goal 6: Assure that Parks are Safe, Secure, and Welcoming for Everyone

Provide a welcoming environment at all facilities, programs, and events through consistency in appearance and program delivery combined with high levels of safety and security.

Objectives:

- 6.1. Provide a welcoming environment that is consistent in both appearance and user experience.
- 6.2. Assure that all park facilities are well maintained and regularly inspected as needed to assure safety for users.
- 6.3. Maintain a reassuring presence (staff, partner organizations, City Police, volunteers) at parks to assure sense of safety for users and security of the facilities.
- 6.4. Instill and maintain a perception of safety and security through design, mechanical, and human resource methods.

Goal 7: Strive for Excellence of Both Facilities and Service Delivery

Strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation, including facilities, staff, programs, and events, while inspiring the trust, interest, and involvement of the community.

Objectives:

- 7.1. Utilize a highly trained, diverse, and passionate staff at all levels through ongoing training to inspire community trust in the Parks and Recreation Department.
- 7.2. Ensure meticulous maintenance to ensure the overall quality of the parks system while enhancing community appreciation of parks, facilities, programs, and staff and ensuring that parks and recreation facilities remain a major attraction for the City.
- 7.3. Encourage volunteerism to cultivate community ownership and a vested interest in the parks and programs.
- 7.4. Set a standard for excellence in parks and recreation service delivery.

OBSERVATIONS, ANALYSES, AND POTENTIAL SOLUTIONS

The following are a series of observations, findings, and information gained from the focus groups, workshops and surveys, along with the Consultant's analyses. Throughout the planning process, potential solutions were identified which will later become the recommendations after discussions with the Steering Committee and City Staff.

Existing Park Improvements

1. Observations and Analysis

- The highest level of support was given, in both surveys, to upgrading older parks and recreation facilities with 88% of Mail Survey respondents supporting this action (57% very supportive).
- The most visited parks, Fountain Square and Circus Square Parks, were visited by between 50% and 60% of Bowling Green residents. The most visited active parks, Spero Kereiakes and Covington Woods Parks, were visited by between 40% and 50% of resident. The other parks were used at substantially lower rates, likely due to a combination of more limited facilities and park locations.
- According to the Mail Survey, residents would allocate \$23 (of \$100), the largest allotment of funds, toward improvements/maintenance of existing parks, playgrounds, game courts and picnic areas.
- Eighty-eight percent (88%) of residents support upgrading older parks, according to the Community Interest and Opinion Survey (Mail Survey).
- The need for improved access to restrooms was the number one potential improvement to parks in the Mail Survey.
- The addition of drinking fountains at the parks also received strong support (third highest rated potential improvement in the Mail Survey). Many Bowling Green Parks currently provide insufficient access to drinking fountains (Pedigo, Covington, Weldon Peete).
- The City of Bowling Green does not currently have any fully accessible playgrounds. Additionally, many playgrounds are in need of renovation.
- Some groups would like to see the basketball court removed from Pedigo Park due to undesirable behavior on and around the court.
- Safety concerns and insufficient security were two of the top five reasons residents did not use parks and programs more often, and security cameras and lighting were two of the top 10 most desired improvements to existing parks.
- Seventy-four percent (74%) of residents support upgrading or improving existing fields (Mail

Survey).

- Trails were consistently the most requested facility and might be potentially part of any park improvement.
- The Americans with Disabilities Act established new requirements as of March 2012 which required an assessment of the accessibility of all facilities, programs, and communications. Accessibility of facilities and seating areas is limited at most parks.
- Bowling Green currently offers facilities that are used for programming for mentally and physically challenged individuals (the Kummer/Little Recreation Center).

2. Potential Solutions

- Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications. This assessment could be accomplished by trained staff or an outside consultant.
- Initial focus should be directed toward improvements to existing, key facilities such as trails, playgrounds, game courts, picnic shelters, and athletic fields.
- The addition of needed support facilities, including trails, restrooms, signage, and drinking fountains should be part of any park improvement.
- Playgrounds at Spero Kereiakes Park and either Preston Miller or Lampkin Park should be redeveloped as large, all-access, destination playgrounds with themes matching the character of the area.
- Consider the removal of the basketball court at Pedigo Park to promote a more family friendly environment.
- Provide an accessible route to all athletic fields and spectator areas.
- Install security cameras and additional lighting to all Community and Neighborhood Parks to encourage a safe atmosphere and preventing damage to park property, starting with the most used parks or those perceived as most in need of such improvements.
- Establish an implementation committee to monitor timelines, measure progress, update priorities, and ensure continued enthusiasm for Master Plan goals and recommendations.
- Expand the facility offerings for mentally and physically challenged individuals through the development of a Miracle Field (potentially at the Shake Rag property, adjacent to the Kummer/Little Recreation Center).

New Park and Facilities Development

1. Observations and Analyses

- No playgrounds are located in the south-central part of the City near Bowling Green Junior High and Bowling Green High Schools. Additionally, the areas at the southwest end of the City and to the northeast of downtown (along the Barren River), while currently lightly populated, have no playgrounds.
- All basketball courts in the southern half of Bowling Green are located at schools, leaving none available for public use during school hours.
- The City of Bowling Green has a deficiency of Community Park acreage (160 acre deficit by 2030), especially in the southern part of the City (all but the eastern portion of City have some deficit).
- Only one large reservable picnic shelter is located in the southern portion of Bowling Green (Hills Dog Park), although several are available just to the southeast of the City at Basil Griffin and Phil Moore County Parks.
- Several residential areas in the City of Bowling Green are more than a half mile from a park or key park facilities. In some cases, no park facilities are located within a half mile (two reoccurring areas in the northeast and southwest).

- Small Neighborhood Parks, large Community Parks, and playgrounds were all in the top five most needed and most important facilities.
- For Web Survey respondents, the second most cited reason for not participating more in parks and recreation activities was that their desired program or facility was not offered (number five for the Mail Survey). The most desired (and not currently offered) facilities were ice rinks, roller skating rinks, artificial turf fields, and indoor tennis courts.
- Similar improvements were requested through the “Other” option in the dollar voting exercise at the public workshop: roller rink, indoor tennis, pickleball courts, and artificial turf fields.
- Many of the needed facilities for existing parks could be incorporated into new parks including: trails, courts, fields, indoor facilities, and picnic pavilions.
- Despite the availability of disc golf in Bowling Green, many residents would like to see more opportunities for this sport. The surveys did not ask respondents whether they support the development of additional disc golf courses; however, several requested the facility using the “Other” option in both surveys.
- The City of Bowling Green currently has only one event space at Circus Square Park and no amphitheater/bandshell. A substantial number of residents have an unmet need for this facility for summer concerts and other events.
- Portions of several Bowling Green Parks are underutilized or left mostly unused (Preston Miller, RiverWalk/McConnell, Weldon Peete, H.P. Thomas).

2. Potential Solutions

- The City should investigate opportunities to acquire land for additional Neighborhood Parks in select areas, including the northeast, southwest, and south-central portions of the City (see map for target areas). Mini Parks (pocket parks) should be developed in areas where larger parcels of land are unavailable.
- New park development should include reservable picnic shelters where possible, particularly in the southern half of Bowling Green.
- All new park developments should include playgrounds, especially in the southern half of the City where few exists outside of schools.
- The City should consider developing an outdoor basketball court at an existing or new park in the southern half of Bowling Green where none exist outside of school properties.
- Plans for Weldon Peete and RiverWalk Park should be updated and implemented to utilize the assets provided by these parks.
- Encourage developers to set aside land for parks and opens space as part of any large residential development through the use of incentives or regulations.
- Develop an additional amphitheater/bandshell for community events (summer concerts, movies, music, etc.). Possible locations include: Weldon Peete, Preston Miller, Lampkin, and H.P. Thomas Parks).
- Playgrounds and basketball courts are needed outside of school properties in the southern half of Bowling Green.
- Consider unmet facility needs as part of any new park development.
- Convert an existing tennis court to pickleball courts to provide a needed facility for seniors and intergenerational activity (possibly at Roland Bland Park).

Trails

1. Observations and Analyses

- Based on input from the public workshop and stakeholder groups, residents want more

trails with better connectivity, improved safety, and more access for walking, biking, and running.

- Residents would allocate \$18 (of \$100), the second highest allotment, toward development of new walking and biking trails (Mail Survey).
- Trails improvements were a reoccurring topic at all stages of public engagement and were the third highest choice in the dollar voting exercise at the public workshop.
- Trails and trail improvements, including lighting, represented three of the top five potential improvements to parks in the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, and 81% of respondents indicated they were very or somewhat supportive of trails development.
- According to the Mail Survey, walking and hiking trails were the most needed facility (and most important to households) in Bowling Green and second highest unmet need, while paved bike trails were the third highest unmet need.
- Expand Greenways and trails (connect all parks and neighborhoods) was the highest voted idea in the visioning exercise (*Our BG Parks* website), more mountain biking facilities was second.
- The Greenways Commission has a goal to have every home within a half mile of a Greenway.
- Trails within parks were the second most supported improvement to existing parks. Trails and connecting walkways are limited within some parks, particularly Lampkin and Pedigo Parks.
- Some parks provide limited connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods (no walkways or connecting trails despite adjacency).
- Bicycle parking is generally insufficient at the parks.
- Currently an unmarked crossing is required to reach the RiverWalk perimeter trail from the Greenway along Old Louisville Road. Access to Weldon Peete requires the use of a driveway and is not directly across from RiverWalk Park.

2. Potential Solutions

- The connection between Weldon Peete and RiverWalk Park should be improved, particularly the street crossing.
- Continue implementation of the Greenways Master Plan, including prioritizing the connection of existing segments.
- Identify and develop trail connections between parks and neighborhoods, particularly those immediately adjacent but disconnected.
- Increase availability of bicycle parking at all parks, focusing first on those with existing bicycle access.
- Add walking trails to parks currently lacking those facilities (particularly Pedigo and Lampkin Parks) and improve connectivity within parks through added walkways and connecting paths.

Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education

1. Observations and Analyses

- Eighty-three percent (83%) of residents support purchasing land for the preservation of open space in the City of Bowling Green, according to the Mail Survey (90% support in Web Survey).
- Nature programs were the fourth highest needed program and the third highest unmet need according to the Mail Survey.
- Improvements to the Riverfront Park (Weldon Peete and McConnell/RiverWalk Parks),

including whitewater rafting and mountain biking, were a reoccurring theme at the public workshop and stakeholder meetings. These improvements were amongst the top ideas for three questions on the *Our BG Parks* website.

- Residents would allocate \$16 (of \$100), the third highest allotment, toward the acquisition of land for open space, green space, and future parkland.
- Nature Parks were in the top five needed facilities in both surveys, and one of the top five most important facilities in the Mail Survey.
- The only services offered by 50% or more of the comparison municipalities not managed by the Parks and Recreation Department were environmental education programs.
- Chuck Crume Nature Park currently lacks sufficient signage and wayfinding. Additionally, promotion of the park is limited, and the park is difficult to find. Only 7% of residents reported using the park over the past year (Mail Survey), despite the unmet need for this type of facility.
- Lost River is in the process of raising funds to develop a nature center.

2. Potential Solutions

- Partnerships opportunities should be explored with Warren County Parks, Lost River Cave (currently offers some nature programming), both local school districts, and Western Kentucky University for nature programs, possibly at Crume Nature Park or Weldon Peete Park (or at one of the nearby Warren County parks).
- Promote the offerings at Lost River Cave, including the planned Nature Discovery Center, within the seasonal recreation bulletin to avoid duplication of programming.
- Provide natural areas at future parks where possible and endeavor to maintain and protect such areas at existing parks.
- Prioritize the implementation of nature based and passive recreational opportunities at existing parks (Weldon Peete, RiverWalk). Improvements should be made to Chuck Crume Park, including improved signage and wayfinding (possibly picnicking opportunities), to attract more participation.
- Seek opportunities for acquisition of additional open space through both acquisition and donation. The City could consider incentives for land donation for parks and open space. Priority for these acquisitions should be given to properties adjacent to existing parks and those with quantifiable natural resource significance.
- Efforts should be made to maximize the utility of these natural resources for the recreational opportunities and enhancement of quality of life in Bowling Green.

Outdoor Athletic Fields

1. Observations and Analyses

- Sixty-four percent (64%) of residents support upgrading existing fields, including new lighting.
- Bowling Green is behind the trend of many parks systems and school districts in developing artificial turf fields to meet the ever increasing demand for soccer, football, lacrosse, rugby, and other athletic pursuits. An artificial turf field was a common request at the public workshop and in meetings with stakeholder groups. Soccer groups want an artificial turf field (or fields) at the Lovers Lane Complex. The Bowling Green Convention and Visitors Bureau would also like to see an artificial turf field developed.
- Lacrosse is the fastest growing sport in America, and the City currently does not have facilities to support this programming need. A club program has started at Bowling Green High School.
- The City currently has a need for more rectangular fields which will increase as the

population increases and programs offerings are expanded.

2. Potential Solutions

- Develop one or more artificial turf fields at Lover Lane Park and/or Preston Miller Park,
- Opportunities should be considered to develop additional rectangular fields at existing parks or at future parks.
- The City should prepare for lacrosse by making sure existing and new fields can accommodate the sport. This could possibly be coordinated with Warren County Parks.
- Fields should be developed to allow more open, unscheduled play and for use by adults.

Programming

1. Observations and Analyses

- The number one needed program and the number one unmet need for programs was for adult fitness and wellness, according to both the Mail Survey (number two in Web Survey).
- The number two most needed program (number one in Web Survey) was for summer concerts. These programs were the second most important program to households in Bowling Green (number one in Web Survey).
- Residents were also in need of nature programs (#4 needed program and #3 unmet need).
- Residents would like to see more events and tournaments.
- Water fitness programs were the third most needed program and second highest unmet program need (Mail Survey).
- The percentage of the City of Bowling Green population age 65 and older was 12.0% in 2000 and is expected to increase to 12.8% by 2019. The median age will rise to 30.9 by 2019, up from 28.6 in 2000.
- Senior (50+) programs were in the top 10 for most needed programs (top five most important) and for most households with unmet needs. Specifically, programs appear to be limited for healthy seniors.
- SOKY Tennis would like to see a tennis league managed by the Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department.
- Bowling Green does not currently offer programming for lacrosse, the fastest growing sport.
- Program offerings that serve multiple groups (e.g. intergenerational) are somewhat limited in Bowling Green.
- Bowling Green currently offers programming for mentally and physically challenged individuals at the Kummer/Little Recreation Center through the Bowling Green Adult Athletic Club (BGAAC).
- The Bowling Green Independent School District operates a pool at Bowling Green High School, which is currently being replaced.

2. Potential Solutions

- Establish a pickleball program in conjunction with the construction of the associated facility. The program should include offerings, including classes and tournaments, for both seniors only and multi-generational participants.
- Expand the availability of programs for seniors, particularly healthy seniors, at Kummer/Little Recreation Center or at any new community center. Partner with the Community Action Senior Center and the Housing Authority Senior Program to avoid duplication of services, determine program needs, and to provide transportation to these programs. Expand the Silver Sneakers program.

- Seek additional opportunities for multigenerational and intergenerational programming. Intergenerational programming could include nature-based activities outdoors (fishing, gardening, bird watching) and arts and crafts activities indoors (music, painting, cooking). Programs can be offered simultaneously so parents can participate in one program, while their children participate in another.
- Establish and manage a tennis league to help reduce costs to residents who want to participate in this sport.
- Utilize the existing event space at Circus Square Park and any future amphitheater/bandshell for more community events (summer concerts, movies, music, etc.).
- Continuously examine program satisfaction levels and monitor suggestions, attendance, and trends to ensure program offerings match the needs of the community.
- A Miracle League, in conjunction with a Miracle Field, would offer additional programming for mentally and physically challenged individuals.
- Investigate the level of interest in the community for a lacrosse program.
- Look for opportunities to establish a water fitness program at a local aquatic facility. Investigate opportunities to partner with schools (or, possibly, Total Fitness Connection) to increase availability of these programs.
- Seek partnerships with health care providers to increase availability of programs related to health and wellness for all ages.

Indoor Recreation

1. Observations and Analyses

- The development of new indoor recreation/community centers receive the second highest allotment of provided options.
- Some groups have a need for additional gym space (SOKY Youth Basketball, the Housing Authority – would like to see a gym at Parker Bennett Community Center).
- Web Survey respondents would allocate the largest amount of funds (\$20) to the development of an indoor multi-use athletic field house facility. A multi-use facility was one of the top Make One Change ideas on the *Our BG Parks* website.
- The desire for an indoor multi-use facility was a reoccurring theme at the public workshop and in stakeholder groups. Such a facility received the largest allotment in the dollar voting exercise (of the provided options).
- An active and vocal group wants an indoor ice rink (based on the public workshop, stakeholder groups, and *Our BG Parks* website). Web Survey respondents demonstrated a very high level of support for the development of an ice rink received (75% supporting – 59% very supportive). An ice rink ranked as the most important facility to households in the Web Survey. However, the facility ranked 16th most important in the statistically valid Mail Survey.
- An indoor ice rink also ranked in the top 10 for most households having an unmet need for a facility (Mail Survey). An ice rink received the largest allotment in the dollar voting exercise despite not having a box designated for the facility. Ice hockey is also the fourth fastest growing sport (2nd fastest growing team sport).
- The City of Owensboro has an indoor ice rink which operates at an annual deficit of approximately \$250,000.
- As part of a multi-use facility, some residents also requested a place for indoor roller skating, including inline hockey and roller derby, or a surface that would allow this use at an existing facility.

- Public input from the Community Interest and Opinion Survey, the public workshops (dollar voting), and the *Our BG Parks* website indicated support for the development of an indoor aquatic facility. Sixty-nine percent (69%) of respondents to the Mail Survey were supportive (38% very supportive) of the development of such a facility (Web Survey – 80% supportive), and the Mail Survey indicated an indoor pool was the facility for which the largest number of households have an unmet need. An indoor pool was one of the top ideas for the Focus of the Master Plan on the *Our BG Parks* website. Several of the focus groups expressed support for an indoor pool, including SOKY Youth Basketball, Community Education, and the Bowling Green Adult Athletic Club (special needs).
- The City of Bowling Green currently has limited programming and facilities for healthy seniors. However, the need for senior (50+) programs is substantial and increasing. Many residents travel to Ephram White Park in Warren County to use the Senior Center at that park for these facilities and programs.
- The indoor pool at Bowling Green High School was developed in 1971 and in need of major renovation. Three clubs plus a master swimmer program use this pool.

2. Potential Solutions

- Expand Silver Sneaker programming at the Kummer/Little Recreation Center to meet the needs of this growing segment of the community.
- Ensure that any new community or recreation center includes facilities needed for senior recreation uses and programming.
- Collaborate with both school districts as well as private facilities, including D1 and Total Fitness, to maximize use of existing indoor facilities.
- Determine the feasibility of a multi-use indoor facility with spaces for an ice rink, roller rink/inline hockey, indoor tennis, and indoor turf areas. Such a facility would likely require a series of partnerships and fundraising efforts to fund both the capital construction costs and the annual operating costs.
- A community center could be constructed to meet indoor recreation needs on the western or southern parts of the City. An indoor pool could be included as part of this facility or as part of a multi-use facility. A potential location for these facilities would be Preston Miller Park.
- Investigate the potential of partnerships with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Schools on the development and operations of an indoor swimming facility.

Outdoor Aquatics

1. Observations and Analyses

- Outdoor pools were in the top 10 facilities with household needs met at 50% or less (nearly 4,000 households), according to the Mail Survey. These results could be due to the location of the single City pool in the west side of the Bowling Green.
- Nearly, half (49%) of Mail Survey respondents and 53% of Web Survey respondents were very or somewhat supportive of the development of additional spraygrounds. This facility was also in the top 10 of household needs met at 50% or less.

2. Potential Solutions

- Develop spraygrounds at strategic locations to provide a better balance of aquatic services throughout Bowling Green.
- Consider the development of a party room at the Russell Sims Aquatic Center for additional revenue and program opportunities.

Golf

1. Observations and Analyses

- Bowling Green operates three golf courses: Paul Walker Golf Course, The Golf Course at Riverview, and Crosswinds Golf Course. Usage and revenue have declined in recent years.
- The Special Revenue Fund for Crosswinds Golf Course generated approximately \$431,000 last year, resulting in an overall operating deficit for all three courses of approximately \$30,000. The Parks and Recreation Department has previously attempted to outsource the management of the two nine-hole courses (Paul Walker and Riverview) without success.

2. Potential Solutions

- Investigate the financial ramifications of outsourcing the management of the golf courses to determine whether this strategy is an advantageous or viable option for the City.

Maintenance

1. Observations and Analyses

- Outdoor hardcourts (basketball, tennis, volleyball, futsal) at several parks are in need of repair (Lampkin, Covington, Parker Bennett, Roland Bland).
- Several playgrounds are in need of repair or equipment is dated (Preston Miller, Pedigo, Hills Dog Park).
- Volleyball court at Roland Bland Park needs improvement or replacement.
- Several parking lots need repaving (Hobson Grove, Lampkin).
- The Greenways Commission has established an Adopt-a-Trail Program to keep the trails free of litter. This program does not extend to Greenways within the parks or to park trails that are not part of the Greenways system.
- Trash receptacles are unavailable along Greenways outside of parks.

2. Potential Solutions

- Establish a program to recruit and organize volunteers to adopt sections of trails in Bowling Green Parks, including paved trails, nature trails, and trails along disc golf courses.
- Prioritize short term maintenance of existing parks and facilities over long term capital improvements.
- Improve/expand Pedigo Park playground, possibly add swings.
- Work with the Greenways Commission to install trash and recycling receptacles at high traffic locations along Greenways to reduce litter and improve the appearance of these critical facilities. Establish a strategy for the pick-up of this material once collected.
- Employ parks as models for sustainable practices. Parks should be utilized to exemplify Best Management Practices (BMPs) for stormwater runoff, etc.).
- Upgrade the Parks and cemetery maintenance facility to the standards of Public Works with more storage and updated facilities.

Partnerships and Sponsorships

1. Observations and Analyses

- Partnerships and sponsorships can provide opportunities to reduce upfront capital costs as well as operating costs.
- Residents frequently requested better communication and more collaboration/partnerships (both between agencies and with private organizations) throughout the public input process.

-
- The Barren River Health Department would like to partner with the Parks and Recreation Department to improve awareness and participation of their programs.
 - The City of Bowling Green previously partnered with Southwest KyMBA and the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation for the construction of the Low Hollow Trail in Weldon Peete Park. The groups desire to continue this partnership.
 - The Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation has developed a plan for RiverWalk and Weldon Peete Parks that includes a bicycle pump track, a rock climbing boulder garden, and a whitewater park.
 - Improved coordination between the various organization and agencies offering programming would likely improve awareness and participation rates.
 - The Nashville Predators have previously partnered with cities to operate an indoor ice rink and have expressed some interest in doing so in Bowling Green. The facility would not necessarily need to be limited to hockey.
 - The Owensboro-Daviess County Tennis Association manages the recently constructed Owensboro Tennis Complex (Centre Court) with six indoor courts and nine outdoor courts. Construction of the facility was funded through a partnership between the organization and the city. The Tennis Association is responsible for the management of the facility. The City of Ashland, Kentucky has a similar facility in which the City was given a former private tennis club. The facility includes four indoor courts and ten outdoor courts, of which five are lighted. This facility operates at a deficit of approximately \$15,000 annually, which does not include capital improvements which are funded by the City.

2. Potential Solutions

- Maintain and expand existing partnerships for the development of the Riverfront Park.
- Seek opportunities for collaboration with other organizations to improve the number and variety of program offerings and to help fill program deficiencies. Work with these other agencies and organizations to improve awareness of programming opportunities and to coordinate offerings to avoid duplication of services.
- Explore a partnership with the school districts for the development of an indoor aquatic facility to meet aquatic needs, including the need for additional swim lessons.
- Continued partnership with Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) could be utilized to expand offerings for community events (summer concerts, movies, music, etc.).
- Consider the ideas proposed by the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation as part of a plan to redevelop RiverWalk and Weldon Peete Parks. This organization and others should be utilized as partners for this project. A Master Plan for these parks should encompass the entire park area and should also include additional support elements, including parking and restrooms, not included in the Foundation's plan.
- Establish partnerships for both the securement of funding for capital improvements and for the operation of new facilities, particularly for high cost projects. Partnerships should require detailed documentation of funding sources and operating strategies (pro-forma).
- Investigate the opportunity for a partnership with the Nashville Predators for the construction of an indoor ice rink, possibly as part of a multi-use facility. Similar partnerships should be investigated for other facilities (indoor tennis courts, artificial turf fields, indoor fields, an indoor pool, etc.), if developed.
- Establish a partnership with law enforcement for an increased presence in the parks and an improved perception of safety for park users.
- Maintain and expand, as additional facilities are developed, sponsorships for residents who cannot afford to use facilities or participate in programs, including athletics. Partnerships should be utilized to help mitigate these costs.

Tourism

1. Observations and Analyses

- Bowling Green currently has a large, tournament quality complex at Lovers Lane Park for soccer, but the City cannot currently accommodate other sports at the same scale.
- The SOKY Tennis organization would like to see four more tennis courts at Kereiakes Park (or at another park) to improve opportunities for tournaments.
- Artificial turf fields could help draw more tournaments to the area, particularly if the fields could accommodate multiple sports.
- A multi-use sports facility, including an ice rink and other facilities, would provide many opportunities for events and tournaments, while attracting visitors from throughout south central Kentucky.
- The proposed improvements at Riverwalk and Weldon Peete Parks would make the Riverfront a destination, drawing many visitors to Bowling Green.

2. Potential Solutions

- Examine opportunities to add additional tennis courts to Kereiakes Park to promote tournament use. If more courts are not feasible, pursue opportunities to meet this need at other parks.
- Develop artificial turf fields to support multiple sports, increasing the opportunities for tournaments. The fields could be developed at Lover's Lane Park or at another park. If developed at Lover's Lane, it would be with the understanding that they would not be exclusively for soccer.
- Pursue opportunities to develop indoor facilities that may be unavailable to residents locally, helping to make Bowling Green a center for a wide variety of events in the region.
- Develop a Master Plan for Riverwalk and Weldon Peete Parks that provides unique features to draw visitors to Bowling Green.

Budget

1. Observations and Analyses

- The City of Bowling Green currently recovers approximately a third of its parks and recreation operating costs, primarily through fees.
- The percentage of funding from user fees is higher than most of the comparison communities. Fees are charged to use golf courses, the Russel Sims Aquatics Center, the Bowling Green Recreation Centers, and for programs, including athletics.
- The second most cited reason for not participating more in parks and recreation was that fees are too high.

2. Potential Solutions

- Investigate new and inventive funding sources for parks and recreation improvements.
- Pursue grants for development and operation of parks and recreation facilities and programs.
- Consider selling naming rights to facilities to help mitigate capital and operating costs. Right could be sold to whole facilities (recreation center, senior center) or to areas within a facility (meeting rooms, fields, courts).
- Continue to offer rentals of existing and new facilities as an additional revenue source, but carefully balance the availability of these facilities for open public use.
- Additional balance is needed to assure cost recovery for programs and facilities without

excluding users from participation. numerous

- A scholarships program for program and facility fees could be established for those that cannot afford to pay.

Communications

1. Observations and Analyses

- Over a third (34%) of residents reported that they do not participate in programs because they do not know what is being offered (Mail Survey)
- According to the both surveys, the largest proportion of residents learn of recreation opportunities through word of mouth (Mail Survey – 63%, Web Survey – 70%), followed by advertisements in the newspaper (47%). In contrast, Web Survey respondents reported social networking (49%) as the second most used method of learning of activities.
- Residents frequently requested better communication and more collaboration/partnerships (both between agencies and with private organizations) throughout the public input process.
- There are 32 different languages spoken in Warren County Schools, highlighting the diversity of nationalities in the area.

2. Potential Solutions

- Cooperate with other agencies and organizations toward the creation and promotion of a common calendar for activities and events in Bowling Green, including opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism. Cross promotion of events should also be part of such an agreement.
- The Department should periodically solicit feedback from users to assure new and changing needs are met.
- Special attention should be paid to engage underserved populations, including low income, minority, and disabled residents, to improve awareness of recreation opportunities and to ensure transportation is not a barrier to participation.
- Actively promote park improvements and new program offerings as they become available.
- Provide Wi-Fi in all Neighborhood and Community Parks with initial focus on the most used parks currently lacking this amenity.
- Develop, promote, and regularly update a mobile application (smart phone/tablet app) to communicate program offerings and improve park experiences (event information, park/trail maps).
- Utilize social media to promote programs and events to residents and visitors.
- Ship program booklets to all new residents to assure awareness of parks and recreation opportunities in Bowling Green. Send annual mailers to households to remind residents of parks and recreation opportunities.
- Program information needs to be available in multiple languages and shared with various nationality community leaders to promote diversity of programs.

Standards of Excellence

1. Observations and Analyses

- The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department has a well established reputation for quality programs and facilities and regular maintenance. The public input throughout this Master Plan process has demonstrated a desire for the continuation of this high level of service. Bowling Green resident's desire excellence in Parks and Recreation, and the resulting quality of life benefits, will direct the Department's future.

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- The National Recreation and Park Association has established a procedure for the accreditation of park and recreation agencies. The agency that administers this program is the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA). This process is a self-assessment and peer review procedure. The guidelines can be found in the agency's *Self-Assessment Report and Visitation Report*.
 - The goal of this process is to develop and maintain an agency that is efficient, effective, and professional in its operational system and which delivers quality services. Agencies accredited by these standards have demonstrated not only that they meet the standards of quality operation, but also that they have the professional competence and the community support to complete the extensive process.
 - Other Departments in the City have achieved accreditation through their professional associations, demonstrating a level of excellence.

2. Potential Solutions

- Train leadership staff to become experts in their respective fields.
- Continuously train staff and emphasize customer service.
- Create and implement professional and career development plans for all staff. Management level staff should attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations.
- The Department should pursue CAPRA Accreditation within the next five years.
- Review and update this Master Plan at intervals not to exceed five years to evaluate progress and to reassess priorities.
- Establish a program for internal benchmarking of program offerings and facility maintenance.
- The Parks and Recreation Department should annually review the results of the internal benchmarking, as well as feedback from user groups.

VII. PARK, PROGRAM, AND FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Park, Program, and Facility Recommendations describes the overall recommendations which are based on the Strategic Plan and Goals described in Section VI. This section describes the recommendations for Parks and Recreation in Bowling Green and provides details of recommended changes to operations, programs, and facilities in the City. The major facilities include design criteria intended to define the recommendations for facilities and to provide general guidelines to consider in follow-up planning and design. Images of sample facilities are included to illustrate the concepts discussed. See Section VIII for detailed information for each park and Section IX for the Action Plan with specific strategies and timeframes for attaining each of the goals and recommendations in this Master Plan.

PARK AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

The City of Bowling Green offers numerous parks throughout the City as well as a variety of programs, including athletics, to meet the needs of the community. The Master Plan process has identified the need for additional park locations and new or expanded programs to meet the needs of the growing population and trends in parks and recreation.

New Park Locations

While Bowling Green parks are distributed throughout the City, park locations are concentrated on the older portions of the City, closer to the downtown area and Western Kentucky University. Parks and recreation offering in the remainder of the City are often only available at elementary schools. Several areas of Bowling Green are beyond a half mile radius of either a park or an elementary school that serves as a park. Additionally, several portions of Bowling Green are experiencing residential growth and will need parks to serve these new areas.

Figure 38 shows proposed service areas for seven Neighborhood Parks. These potential service areas represent general areas for the parks to be developed, not specific locations. The general locations of the proposed parks are numbered from one to seven simply as a means of identification, not to indicate any priority ranking. However, priority should be given to the three parks in the more established portions of the City near Henry Moss Middle School (Number 1), Bowling Green Junior High (Number 2), and Bowling Green High School (Number 3).²¹ These three areas should be given higher priority due to the both the presence of existing residents and because locating land suitable for park development will likely be difficult.

The remaining four proposed locations are growth areas, both currently and identified as future growth areas in Bowling Green and Warren County's future land use plan. Opportunities may exist to work with developers to identify and develop Neighborhood Parks in these areas.

If suitable land cannot be acquired in these seven areas, Mini Parks should be developed if possible to meet some of the needs of nearby residents. Mini Parks should also be considered if small parcels of land become available in other areas of the City that are located outside of the service areas for parks or have access inhibited (such as by major road crossings).

Expanded Program Offerings

The Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department offers a wide variety of programs (as outlined in Section III). As a result of changing demographics and parks and recreation trends, some additional programs should be developed. Program offerings should be available for all residents regardless of age or disability. Programs should also be designed to maximize

²¹ These schools do not function as Neighborhood Parks because the facilities are generally available only for school sports teams. These parks also do not offer facilities such as playgrounds and picnic shelters typical of a Neighborhood Park.

opportunities for participation by providing convenient locations, a variety of starting times, and by providing opportunities for multiple generations, particularly parents and children, either in one program or through concurrent programming.

Adult fitness and wellness programs were identified as the most needed program based on the surveys (Section V) as well as the largest unmet program need. Opportunities should be investigated to develop additional fitness programs to meet this need. Bowling Green residents would also like to see more special events, including summer concerts, offered throughout the year.

Nature programs were the third highest unmet program need, which can be met through a variety of methods. First, partnerships should be established with Lost River Cave, Warren County Parks, and the school districts to maximize these opportunities. Bowling Green has natural areas in several parks, including the underutilized Chuck Crume Nature Park, that should be utilized for this type of programming which should include guided hikes and educational opportunities;

Water fitness programs ranked as the second highest unmet program need. In order to address this need, Parks and Recreation will need to partner with local schools or private organizations that operate pools for use of their facilities for programs or partner with these organizations to offer programs.

The need for additional programming for seniors, particularly Silver Sneakers programs, was a reoccurring theme throughout the process. Bowling Green should take steps to expand these types of programs as this age group represents one of the fastest growing demographics in the City.

New programs should be developed to take advantage of any new facilities that are developed in Bowling Green. The next portion of this section describes a number of new facilities, all of which should have accompanying programs developed to maximize the benefits of facility development.

FACILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

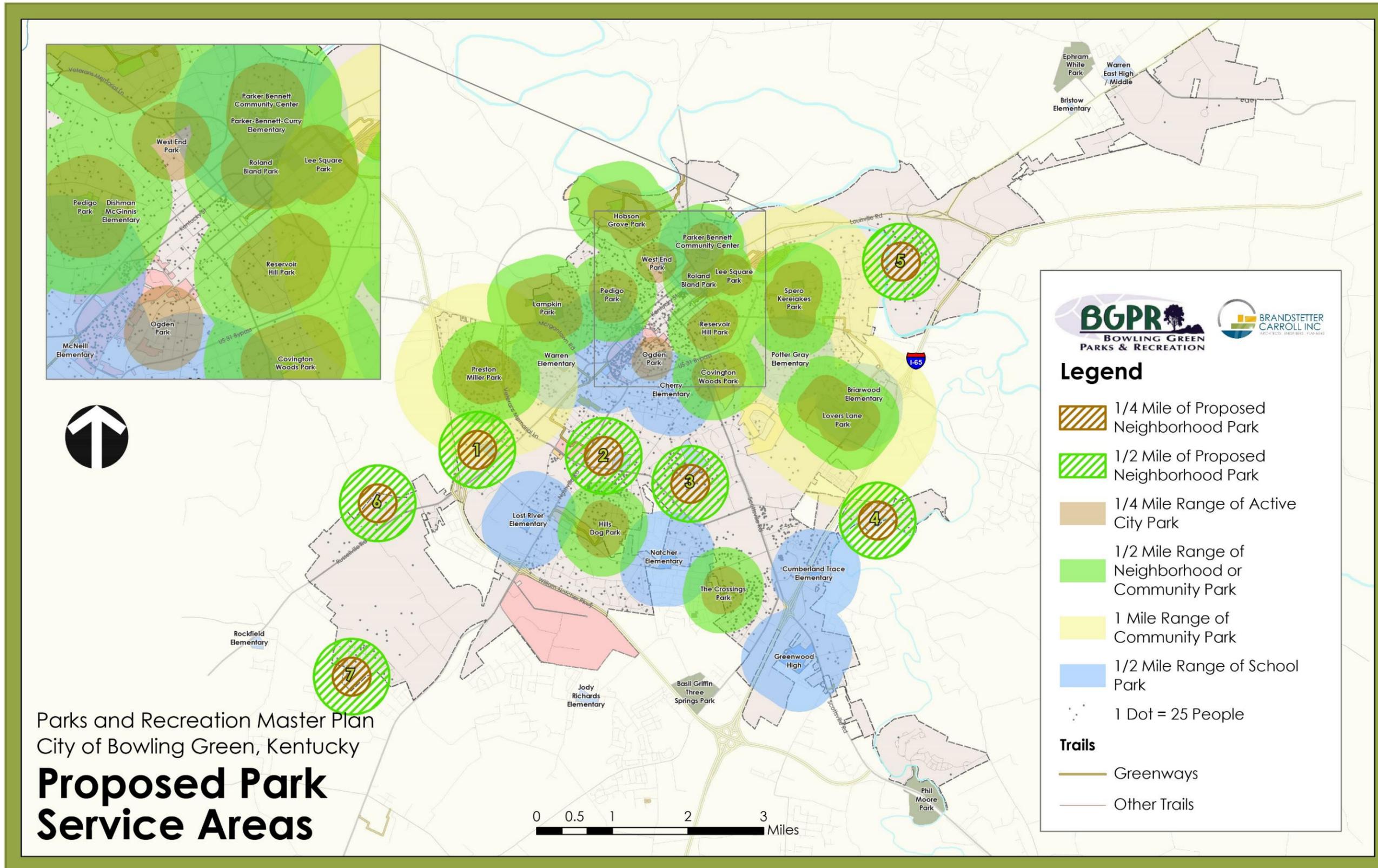
While the Parks of Bowling Green offer a variety of amenities, some of park features are in need of improvement, and additional facilities will improve service levels and help meet the needs of changing demographics. In general, public input indicates that priority should be given to maintenance of and improvements to existing facilities, including the addition of support facilities at existing parks. However, many desired park improvements were identified and are outlined in the following text.

These improvements range from small improvements, such as restrooms and drinking fountains, to large capital projects, requiring significant budgets and extensive planning. The next section of this Master Plan, Section VIII: Individual Park Recommendations, provides greater detail on specific improvements to each park.

Trails

Walking and hiking trails (both paved and unpaved) and bike trails were among the top activities that residents would use more if facilities were provided. The Community Interest and Opinion Survey (Mail Survey) results showed the second largest number of households in Bowling Green with unmet needs for these facilities. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of households reported that they had a need for “walking and hiking trails,” and 41% reported a need for “paved bike trails.” The numbers for the Web Survey were even higher (90% and 69%, respectively). These high percentages of support represent very strong desire for more trails and a series of integrated trail systems.

Figure 38: Proposed Park Service Areas



1. Greenways

The Greenbelt System Master Plan (1999) outlined a system of Greenways throughout Bowling Green and Warren County with three primary routes: the Inner Loop, the Outer Loop, and the Barren River Greenway. The goal of the plan was to provide an interconnected system of trails, including smaller connections to these primary routes. The Greenways Commission, founded as a result of this Plan, has administered over \$7.6 million in grants for the construction of over 20 miles of trails throughout Bowling Green and Warren County.

The Greenways Master Plan was recently completed to update this plan and to help guide continued implementation of the Greenways system. The recommendations are intended to improve connectivity throughout Bowling Green and Warren County by placing a priority on trails that link schools, recreations areas, neighborhoods, destinations, and other Greenways. Finally, the Plan encourages collaboration between the City of Bowling Green, Warren County, the State Departments, and other public and private organizations to realize the vision of the Plan.

The Greenways Master Plan identified the following four Short Term priorities:

- A shared-use trail along Jennings Creek or a bicycle/pedestrian facility along Veteran's Memorial Lane to complete the Inner Loop
- A trail between the WKU/downtown area and Smallhouse Road
- A connection between WKU South Campus and Lost River Park
- A connection between Moss Middle School and the Creekwood Trail

The proposed trails for Bowling Green, as outlined by the Greenways Master Plan, can be seen in Figure 39 as dotted lines. The Short Term Priorities are shown in red, and the other proposed trails appear in blue. Multiple options are shown for the Inner Loop connection, and the Moss Middle School connection does not appear in the figure.

The Plan identifies the need for pedestrians and cyclists to safely use the existing street network to access the Greenways before the system can be fully connected to the community. The Plan indicates that the adoption of a Complete Streets ordinance as a long term goal to assure that streets have a place for all modes of travel. The plan also encourages Greenways to link to blueways, including streams and access points, where possible. See Appendix A for more detailed summaries of the two Greenways plans.

In addition to the desire to continue implementation of the Greenways Master Plan, Bowling Green residents also desire the development of additional trails, including trail loops, within the parks. These trails should be either paved or unpaved, depending on the location and intended use. Paved all-purpose trails should be developed around the main activity areas of general use parks to link the facilities and provide a smooth walking surface. These trails should link to adjacent neighborhoods, schools, existing trails, and sidewalks where possible. Paved trails can also help provide ADA accessibility. Natural trails with earth, stone, or bark chip surfaces are appropriate to provide opportunities for nature education, wildlife viewing, and hiking.

2. Recommended Park Trails

Additional trails are recommended at many of the parks in Bowling Green. All-purpose perimeter trails are recommended at C.W. Lampkin Park and Pedigo Park which currently lack a system of connecting trails. Perimeter trails are also recommended for Lovers Lane Park, H.P. Thomas Park (utilizing existing Greenway), and all future Neighborhood or Community Parks. These all-purpose perimeter trails should be 10' to 12' wide to allow for use of all types, including walking, running, inline skating, and biking.

A walking trail around the natural area (disc golf) in Lovers Lane Park which could be paved or unpaved (paved would provide more access). Nature trails, which should have natural or wood chipped surfaces, are recommended for C.W. Lampkin Park and on the County-owned portion of Weldon Peete Park (Riverfront Park) to offer opportunities to interact with nature and to provide educational opportunities.



Special effort should be made to connect these park trails with the surrounding neighborhoods to encourage use of the trails and to improve access to the parks. The City should also attempt to link the proposed park perimeter trails to existing and proposed Greenways. The proposed perimeter trails at Lampkin and Pedigo Parks, in particular, should be connected to the proposed Greenway connection between Veteran's Memorial and downtown Bowling Green which would also provide a connection between these two parks. Additionally, these parks could then be utilized as trailheads for the Greenways.

3. Trail Design Criteria

According to survey results, the recommended trails would be heavily used for bicycling, walking, and jogging. Therefore, the perimeter, most heavily used trails, should be 10' to 12' wide and paved to provide ample room for a wide variety of potential users to minimize conflict. Initial phases could include natural, wood chip, or gravel type trails to allow pedestrian access only, but these trails would not allow for the maximum use of the proposed facilities.

The original Greenbelt System Master Plan includes a description of improvement types with examples and opportunities for signage, surfaces, pavement markings, and bicycle parking. Most of these guidelines are still appropriate; however, the AASHTO (American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials) standards have since been updated. Accordingly, trails should be developed to the standards published in the AASHTO Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, 2012.

Hike and bikeways routes under these guidelines follow a three tiered system.

- Hikeways
 - Class One: Hiking Only
 - Class Two: Hike and Bikeway combined
 - Class Three: Hikeway on the berm of a vehicle right-of-way
- Bikeways
 - Class One: Bikeway Only
 - Class Two: Hike and Bikeway Combined
 - Class Three: Bikeway shared with vehicles, without a barrier but with marked off lanes and signs indicating bike lane.

In this Master Plan, trails should be developed under Class One or Class Two guidelines. The perimeter trails designed for multiple uses, for example, would be characterized as Class Two trails, and walking and hiking only trails would be considered Class One trails. Where necessary to connect destinations in developed areas, Class Three Trails are acceptable for some Greenways under the Greenbelt System Master Plan.

Playgrounds

Playgrounds are typically developed at nearly every Mini Park, Neighborhood, Community, and County Park. Playgrounds should be designed for the age specific group for which they are intended. At larger Community Parks and some Neighborhood Parks, separate areas should be designated for pre-school and school-aged children.

A variety of experiences should be provided at each playground. Safe and durable materials such as plastic components, plastic coated steel decks, steel posts, and similar materials should also be used. The overall design of the playground in each facility should meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission Guidelines. Proper safety surfacing should be provided under all equipment. Universal design and accessibility is a major issue, which must be considered in the design of each existing and future playground.

At Community Parks, larger and very creative destination playgrounds should be developed since these parks typically have the infrastructure to handle larger groups of people. These large Community Parks tend to have the capacity to attract regional populations. All playgrounds must meet minimum ADA requirements, but a higher level of universal access is desirable and should be provided at all Community Parks as well as some Neighborhood Parks.

The most used parks in Bowling Green, particularly Spero Kereiakes, Preston Miller, and C.W. Lampkin Parks, should have large destination playgrounds. These playground should be fully accessible with a wide variety of attractions.



Most of the playgrounds in Bowling Green will need improvement or replacement over the next 10 years. Some playgrounds need minor improvements such as edging and ADA accessibility improvements (Covington Woods, Reservoir Hill). All playgrounds should have edging. Concrete edging is preferred, which would be 12" wide, and wood plank edging should be used in more natural areas.

When playgrounds are replaced, efforts should be made to develop themes consistent with the overall park as well as the character of the surrounding area. For example, a new playground in H.P. Thomas Park could have a theme related to the dog park located in that park, or Lovers Lane Park could have a playground with a soccer theme.

A playground with a focus on accessibility and rehabilitative uses is recommended adjacent to the Kummer/Little Recreation Center as part of a potential expansion of offerings for physically and mentally challenged individuals. This playground should have poured in place rubber surfacing as well as ramps leading to the various play areas.

A climbing play area constructed using natural materials, such as wood and stone, is recommended as part of the development of the Riverfront Park. This play area should have a variety of climbing features and a natural surface, providing a unique feature different from what is found anywhere else in the City of Bowling Green or Warren County. Additionally, this feature should interface smoothly with a boulder garden as recommended in concepts previously developed by the Riverfront Foundations.

Game Courts

Bowling Green has several different types of game courts in many of the City's parks (see Section III). Most of the courts have hard surfaces, usually asphalt, including basketball, volleyball, tennis, and a futsal court. The City has sand volleyball courts at Preston Miller Park as well as indoor courts

at Bowling Green Recreation Center and Kummer/Little Recreation Centers. Some of these courts need repair, while others are underutilized. Additionally, some parks are need of additional facilities.

1. Basketball Courts

Basketball is one of the most popular sports in the United States. Based on the trends in sports participation portion of this document (Section IV), basketball was the seventh most popular sport and the most popular team sport in the US. The City of Bowling Green currently has indoor basketball courts at the Recreation Center and outdoor basketball courts at eight parks (and nine schools).



The City generally has enough outdoor basketball courts, but few facilities are located in the southern portion of Bowling Green (all at schools). As a result, it is recommended that a basketball court be developed at H.P. Thomas Park and at new Neighborhood Parks in this part of the City. A full sized basketball court requires a pad approximately 90 feet by 60 feet to accommodate the 84' by 50' playing area.

2. Volleyball Courts

The existing asphalt volleyball courts at C.W. Lampkin Park appear to be meeting the needs for this type of facility based on the public input gathered as part of this Master Plan. However, these courts are in need of resurfacing.

The sand volleyball courts at Preston Miller Park are heavily used and the expansion of this facility at this park to include an additional three courts would provide for additional opportunities for tournaments.

3. Tennis Courts

The City of Bowling Green has a total of 16 tennis courts at four parks, the majority of which are located at Spero Kereiakes Park. Most of these courts are in good condition, including those at Kereiakes Lampkin, and Covington Woods Parks. The courts at Roland Bland Park are in need of improvement, but are currently underutilized, so they provide an option for conversion. Two additional tennis courts at Spero Kereiakes Park would enhance the ability to host tournaments, so if possible, these two courts should be developed at the tennis complex.

4. Pickleball Courts

Pickleball courts can be constructed as a new facility but are often developed through a tennis court conversion, which can be temporary or permanent. A pickleball court is 20' by 44' with a 36" net (34" at the center).²² The simplest way to convert a pickleball court is to add the necessary lines to a tennis court and lower the net to 34 inches in the center (Figure 40). Four courts can also be painted on one tennis court with nets for each. A permanent conversion provides the best gameplay by adding fencing around courts and removing tennis court lines (Figure 41).

²² USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) website (<http://www.usapa.org/>)

Figure 40: Temporary Court Conversion - One Court

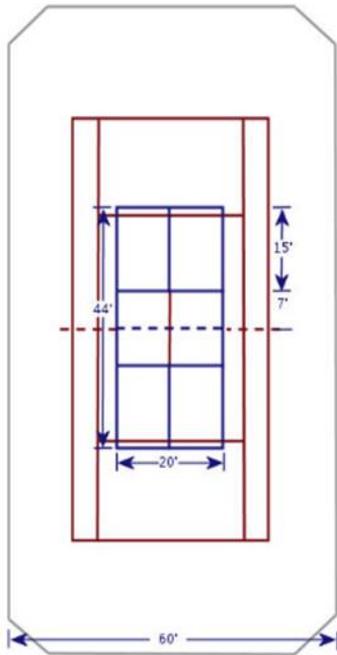
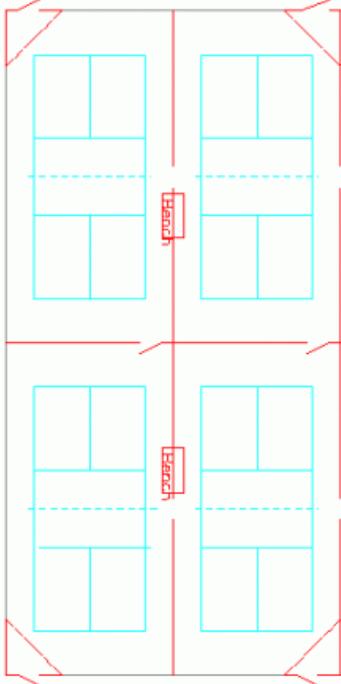


Figure 41: Permanent Court Conversion - Four Courts



This Master Plan recommends the conversion of one of the two tennis courts at Roland Bland Park to four pickleball courts. The second tennis court could be converted to two additional pickleball courts if the initial conversion, and associated program, is successful and additional courts are needed.

5. Other Courts

Roland Bland Park has two basketball courts that are also underutilized. As part of the expansion of opportunities for seniors, one of these basketball courts could be replaced with two bocce courts. The second basketball court at Roland Bland Park could be replaced with a multi-use court that would provide for a wide variety of uses, including basketball (see the image to the right).²³ This type of court can also be used for basketball, tennis, volleyball, soccer, inline hockey, or other sports, depending on the surface. With walls on all sides, this court could be utilized for activities for physically and mentally challenged individuals which are currently offered at the adjacent Kummer/Little Recreation Center.



Picnic Areas

The development of picnic areas and picnic shelters were high on the list of needed items identified in the surveys. Picnic areas are best if developed in a natural setting and should be developed in every Neighborhood, Community, and Mini Park. Community Parks provide better opportunities for the development of large shelters (group reservable picnic shelters). These facilities could be used for events such as company picnics, family reunions, church outings, etc. The best group rental facilities are developed in conjunction with playgrounds, sand volleyball courts, walking trails, or open fields for games. Shelters should be located in close proximity to parking and restrooms. The most used shelters are located in a natural setting. The most inviting natural settings for picnic areas include: wooded areas, open fields, lakes for fishing, and natural stream corridors.

The vicinity of athletic complexes also provide potential locations for picnic shelters. Families often spend many hours at the ball fields on game days, and these shelters provide a place to get out of the sun and a place for teams to meet.

Most major park facility developments should include picnic shelters. Additional picnic shelters are recommended for many of the parks in Bowling Green, and several other parks need shelters replaced or improved. New reservable shelters are recommended at H.P. Thomas Park, Pedigo Park, the Riverfront Park, and all future Neighborhood Parks. Replacement shelters are recommended at Lampkin and Covington Woods Parks. Small picnic shelters are recommended at most smaller parks, including Mini Parks and Chuck Crume Nature Park. Additional picnic areas are also recommended as space is available.²⁴

Outdoor Fitness Equipment

As described in the Trends portion of Section IV, the installation and use of outdoor fitness equipment has been growing in the United States due in part to the aging community. These facilities include equipment such as elliptical and arm press equipment and are also referred to as outdoor or open-air gyms. The facilities are free to use and can include wheelchair accessible equipment.²⁵

The equipment does need regular maintenance to remain functioning properly. Equipment can be located along trails, at playgrounds, or as a separate facility. Bowling Green currently has no facilities of this type, but with the high demand for adult fitness and wellness, such facilities should be very popular.

²³ This image displays a court in the Freegame line from Kompan.

²⁴ See Section VIII for specific park recommendations.

²⁵ Haya El Nasser, "Fitness parks" catch on in cities," *USA Today*, December 14, 2012.



Several locations are recommended for outdoor fitness equipment, including Preston Miller, Lampkin, Roland Bland, and H.P. Thomas Parks. In each of these locations, it is recommended that the equipment be installed in one location to maximize accessibility, community interaction, and programming opportunities.

Community Gardens

Community gardens allow residents to sign-up to maintain a plot on shared open space to grow both edible and inedible plants. Plots can vary in size community gardens provide a number of benefits to communities including quality-of-life, social opportunities, nutritious food, resource conservation, and educational opportunities.



The City of Bowling Green currently offers plots measuring either 30' by 60' or 30' by 30' at Kereiakes Park. These plots are very popular and sell out quickly. Additional plots, particularly at different locations in Bowling Green, would likely be popular and would provide a possible use for underutilized portions of various parks. Preston Miller and Lampkin Parks offer opportunities to establish community gardens in a different part of the City.



These sites should be developed, and, if these gardens become popular, opportunities should be investigate to expand the program at these parks and at additional parks in Bowling Green. Additionally, the current gardens at Kereiakes Park do not offer water access adjacent to the plots. It is recommended that water access be provided at these and future community garden plots.

Amphitheater/Covered Stage

The development of an amphitheater, or bandshell with a covered stage at a park in the City of Bowling Green would provide additional opportunities for a variety of cultural arts programs, concerts, and other presentations that are of value to the community. These structures should be designed to accommodate the types of performances for which the programs would be planned. The images below indicate some typical types of successful amphitheaters and cover stages that have been used in other communities.



These facilities should be supported by the presence of restrooms, drinking fountains, parking areas, and paved walkways for access. One possibility is to add an amphitheater or bandshell as

part of the Riverfront Park development. Another possibility would be to purchase a mobile stage which could be used in various locations and parks throughout Bowling Green. This facility would provide a second option in the City, in addition to Circus Square Park, for the programming of events such as concerts.

Support Facilities

1. Walkways and Connecting Trails

Additional walkways and connecting trails are needed at all parks in Bowling Green to improve overall connectivity within the parks as well as to provide accessibility for handicapped and disabled park users. All park facilities, including playgrounds, game courts, shelters, athletic fields, and spectator areas should be connected through paved walkways. To assure that all portions of parks meet accessibility requirements, the City of Bowling Green should conduct an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications.

2. Restrooms

One of the most requested improvements to existing parks was the addition of restrooms. The desire for such facilities is common in most surveys completed by the Consultant. Residents desire restrooms with running water, flush toilets, and sinks for hand washing. They should be developed of masonry materials, be easy to clean, and should be designed to withstand heavy use and frequent cleaning.

Prefab restroom buildings can come preassembled or can be assembled on site and can include additional amenities such as concessions, picnic shelters, or storage. Restrooms can be attractive buildings that match the rest of the park, like the one at McConnell Park (pictured). These buildings can also be heated to allow for year-round use.



Many parks in Bowling Green would benefit from additional restrooms, including all future Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks.

3. Drinking Fountains

Drinking fountains should be provided at all parks and should be placed throughout the site to allow easy access. Most parks in Bowling Green would benefit from additional drinking fountains. It is also recommended that drinking fountains include a spigot to allow for hose attachments, pet watering, and bottle filling.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

The demand for athletic fields is ever increasing as population and participation grows. It is ideal for these facilities to be developed in complexes rather than in single fields scattered throughout the City. A complex is more efficient for several reasons (see Section IV, Needs Analysis, under the heading of Parks and Recreation Trends Analysis).

Types of Fields

1. Synthetic Turf Fields

The City may consider the development of synthetic turf fields. These fields can be used earlier in the year, later in the year, and more often during the playing seasons than natural grass fields. Additionally, these fields are safer to play upon. The long term costs are higher for the development, replacement, and maintenance, but these costs are offset by the greater number of events that can take place on the fields.

Bowling Green does not currently offer any artificial turf fields, but this type of field was a reoccurring request by athletic groups throughout the public input process. The Lovers Lane Soccer Complex is one possibility for artificial turf fields, but a fields could also be developed at Preston Miller Park which could be used for many sports, in addition to soccer.



2. Natural Grass Fields

Fields for soccer, baseball, and lacrosse should be irrigated if possible to provide better rejuvenation of the lawn. Also, rectangular fields, such as soccer fields can be rotated in different directions for various seasons or keep some fields out of use each year to allow them to rejuvenate the grass in the wear areas. The seasons for soccer are typically in the spring and fall, which are the prime growing seasons for grass, which makes it difficult on fields with heavy use to maintain a good lawn.

Based on the input for various athletic groups, Bowling Green in in need of at least four additional rectangular fields. The primary location recommended for new rectangular fields is Preston Miler Park. The existing open grass area could accommodate four full-sized soccer fields, and many more small-sided fields. This complex would need all of the recommended support facilities below under heading 4.

An additional rectangular field could be located at H.P. Thomas Park in part of the area that is currently used for unprogrammed play, which would offer an additional field for Bowling Green residents, particularly adult sports, and no such fields are currently located at parks in the southern portion of the City (support facilities would not be necessary at this field as it is primarily intended to be used for pick-up games, practices, and as an extra field when all others are unavailable).

3. Baseball Infields

A variety of admixtures are available for improving infields of ball fields. Fields should contain primarily dirt with admixtures to improve the playing surface if they are used for multiple age groups or girls' softball. In cases where organizations desire grass infields, which require more maintenance, then the organization should be responsible for the maintenance and up keep of those fields.

The need for baseball/softball diamonds is generally being met in Bowling Green, but some fields need repair or improvements, including regrading. The Little League organizations would like to see their primary fields fences extended (at Spero Kereiakes and Pedigo Parks).

4. Recommended Support Facilities

- Bleacher/stadium seating, ideally withy shade cover
- Parking for at least 60 vehicles per field
- Restroom and concession facilities
- Paved accessible path to fields and spectator seating areas
- Lighting to extend use where consistent with the Zoning Code

Miracle Field

A Miracle Field is a fully accessible diamond field with a rubberized turf surface that can accommodate wheelchairs and other assertive devices. These fields are developed because a typical grass diamond field is not accessible to many individuals with mental and physical disabilities.

These fields typically have 50' baselines and outfield fences between 115' and 125' to allow children the opportunity to hit the ball over the fence. The pitcher's mound is located 33' from

home plate.²⁶ The dugouts are located at the same level as the field to maximize accessibility. In addition to the recommended support facilities described previously, a large shelter building is recommended for team meetings and to provide shelter from the elements. See the pictures below for examples of Miracle Fields.²⁷ Additionally, ample ADA parking spaces are needed to provide for the athletes and spectators.



The Shake Rag property adjacent to the Kummer/Little Recreation Center would provide a great location for this facility. Programs are currently offered for individuals with mental and physical disabilities at this location, making the site a convenient location of this type of facility. Development of this field would require the formation of a Miracle League as part of the programming for the facility. The City will need to work with the Miracle League Association for the formation of the league and as part of the facility development process. The facility should be developed in conjunction with an accessible playground (describe previously).

OUTDOOR AQUATICS

The City of Bowling Green operates one large family aquatic center at Preston Miller Park, the Russell Sims Aquatic Center. The facility meets most of the outdoor aquatics needs of City residents with various private pool families helping to fill the need for outdoor pools. The fountain at Circus Square Park also functions as a water play feature.

Outdoor Family Aquatic Centers

The existing Russell Sims Aquatic Center meets most of the aquatic needs for Bowling Green residents, averaging over 80,000 users per year between 2009 and 2014. The facility would benefit from the construction of a party room which would provide an additional opportunity for planned events for residents and an additional source of revenue for the City.

Spraygrounds

The development of spraygrounds, or water playgrounds, has become very popular among communities for a variety of reasons. One reason is that they are less costly to both develop and operate than an outdoor swimming pool or aquatic center, and they do not require lifeguards. They do, however, require pumps, filtration system, chemical feeders, and systems similar to swimming pools to recirculate and reuse the water. Additionally, they must be located near restrooms and showers.

These facilities are usually available earlier and later in the season than pools and aquatic centers, especially if they are separate facilities. Because they are much less expensive to operate than an outdoor pool or aquatic center, spraygrounds offer an option for cities to expand the availability of aquatic facilities, particularly in areas or parks where the operation of an outdoor pool is not feasible. These facilities can be used to offer aquatic opportunities in multiple locations throughout the City.

²⁶ The Miracle League website (<http://www.themiracleleague.net/>)

²⁷ Images from the Miracle League website

The Russell Sims Aquatic Center, located in Preston Miller Park on the western side of the City of Bowling Green, offers a sprayground. However, this location leaves the rest of the City without close access to aquatic facilities. The fountain at Circus Square Park provides a place for children to play and cool off in the downtown area. However, no similar facility exists in the southern part of town. Such a facility could be developed at H.P. Thomas Park, or at a future Neighborhood Park in this part of Bowling Green.

While public input did not rank outdoor aquatics as one of the highest priorities for improvements, both outdoor aquatics and spraygrounds ranked in the top 10 for facilities meeting household needs at 50% or less. New facilities could provide a variety of opportunities for interactive elements such as those pictured below. Support facilities for a sprayground area include: seating areas with shade, restrooms, and parking.



COMMUNITY/RECREATION CENTERS

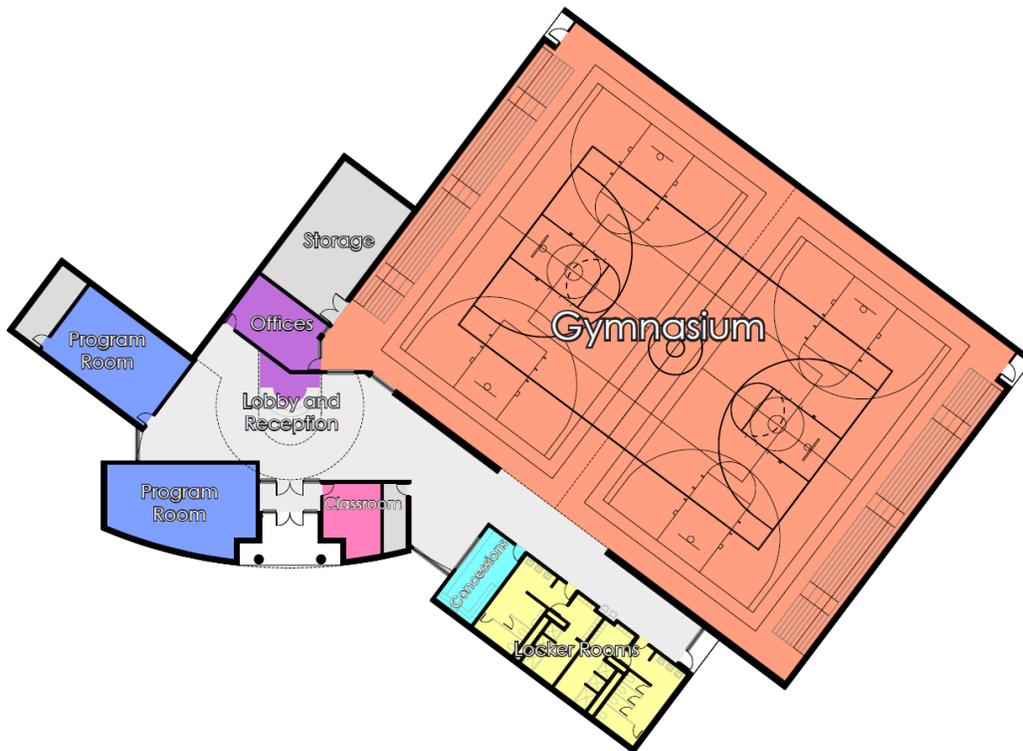
The City of Bowling Green currently operates three recreation and community centers in two locations: the Bowling Green Recreation Center, Kummer/Little Recreation Center, and Parker Bennett Community Center. These facilities offer a wide variety of indoor programming, as described in Section III, but all existing facilities are located near downtown Bowling Green. No indoor facilities are available in the western or southern portions of the City. Preston Miller Park offers the best opportunity for the development of an additional community or recreation center at an existing Bowling Green Park, and this park is located in the western portion of the City, approximately five miles from the existing centers. A center in the southern portion of the City could be considered in the long term at a future park.

According to the statistically valid Mail Survey, 61% of residents support the development of additional community centers, and a similar percentage support the development of additional gymnasium space. Recreation centers often contain indoor pools, and the development of an indoor aquatic facility was supported by 69% of residents. The levels of support for all of these improvements were even higher in the Web Survey.

At a minimum, a center at Preston Miller Park would need to contain a multi-purpose rooms, and a kitchen, similar to the existing Parker Bennett Community Center. However, such a facility would meet only some of the needs of the community. Optimally, the facility would include multi-purpose rooms, a fitness area, a running track, a gymnasium, a game room, a kitchen, locker rooms, a concessions area, and more. Figure 42 below shows a floor plan for a typical recreation center (approximately 18,000 square feet). The facility should be designed to meet the needs of various age groups, including seniors. A needs assessment for such a facility should be conducted as part of a Master Plan for Preston Miller Park.

The capital cost for the center would likely range from \$1 million for the facility offering only multi-purpose rooms to \$5 million for a facility with a variety of areas including those listed above. An indoor pool or aquatic center could be added to the facility, either initially or as a later expansion, at a cost of approximately \$4.5 million.

Figure 42: Typical Recreation Center Floor Plan



INDOOR MULTI-USE FACILITY

Throughout the Master Plan process, a common theme was the desire for a variety of indoor recreational facilities, including tennis courts, turf fields, a roller rink, an ice rink, an indoor pool, and more. An indoor multi-use facility received the second highest allotment in the dollar voting exercise at the public workshop (first of the provided options). Any of these facilities, and all of the community/recreation center features (described above), could be incorporated into a multi-use facility. The inclusion of community/recreation center features would allow the facility to meet these needs as well.

Few facilities of this type are currently operated by municipalities in Kentucky or the rest of the United States; however, many public agencies are pursuing this type of facility. A multi-use facility, due to its substantial capital and operations costs, would most likely be developed as part of a public/private partnership.

Although municipal facilities are rare at present, many colleges and universities operate indoor field houses, a large open area with field or court space often surrounded by a running track. The images below show some examples of this type of facility. This type of facility would likely cost between \$10 million and \$15 million for a facility with the space of one full-sized rectangular field (suitable for soccer, football and lacrosse), a running track, and support facilities such as locker rooms and bleachers.

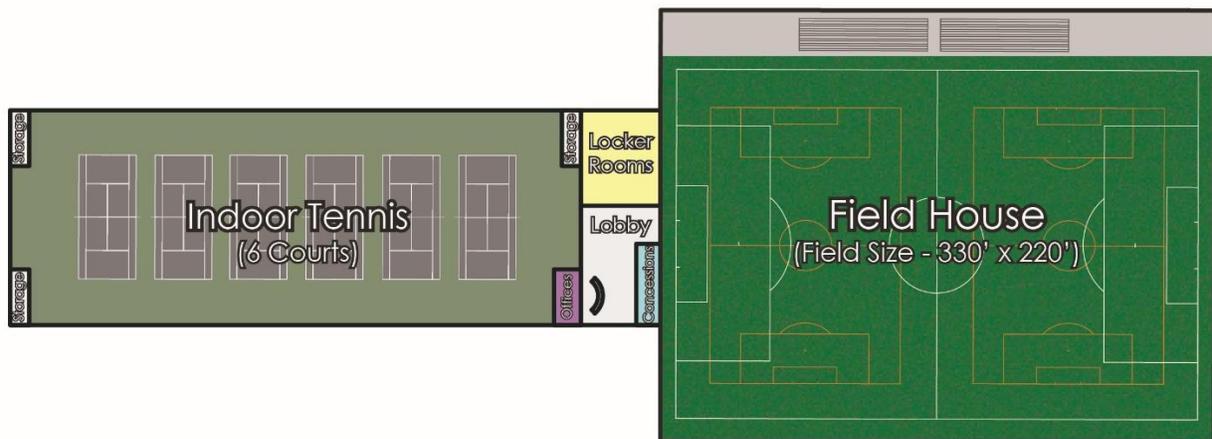


Indoor tennis courts could potentially be part of a multi-use facility, either sharing the field house surface or as a separate facility. Some municipal examples of this type of facility can currently be found in Kentucky. The City of Owensboro recently opened an indoor tennis facility, Centre Court, which is operated by the Owensboro-Daviess County Tennis Association (ODCTA) as part of a public/private partnership. The ODCTA raised \$500,000 in funds which the City of Owensboro agreed to match. Ultimately the City secured a \$1.2 million bond and provided land for the project. The tennis facility received funding from additional partners, including Daviess County and individual donations.²⁸ The total cost of the facility was approximately \$4 million and includes four indoor courts and nine outdoor courts. The City of Ashland also operates an indoor tennis facility with four indoor courts as well as several outdoor courts.



The total capital cost for a multi-use facility would range greatly, depending on the facilities included, and to what level those uses share spaces. As described in the preceding paragraphs, a facility with a field house with a single full-sized field would cost between \$10 million and \$15 million, and a tennis only facility could be developed for under \$5 million. However, a facility with separate areas for tennis and field sports (see Figure 43) would likely cost between \$15 million and \$20 million (or more if other spaces are added, which could include a pool, an ice rink – see the next heading, or more). The facility depicted in Figure 43 is approximately 150,000 square feet in size, providing a full-sized turf field, six tennis courts, and support areas. A needs assessment or feasibility study should be conducted to determine the contents of any facility of this type.

Figure 43: Multi-Use Facility Floor Plan



INDOOR ICE RINK

The development of an indoor ice rink was a reoccurring theme throughout the public workshops. This facility was ranked and the most important to households in the Web Survey, with 42% reporting an ice rink was open of the top four most important facilities to their household. An indoor ice rink also received the highest allocation in the dollar voting exercise, despite not appearing as one of the provided options. An ice rink was also a top ranked idea on the *Our BG*

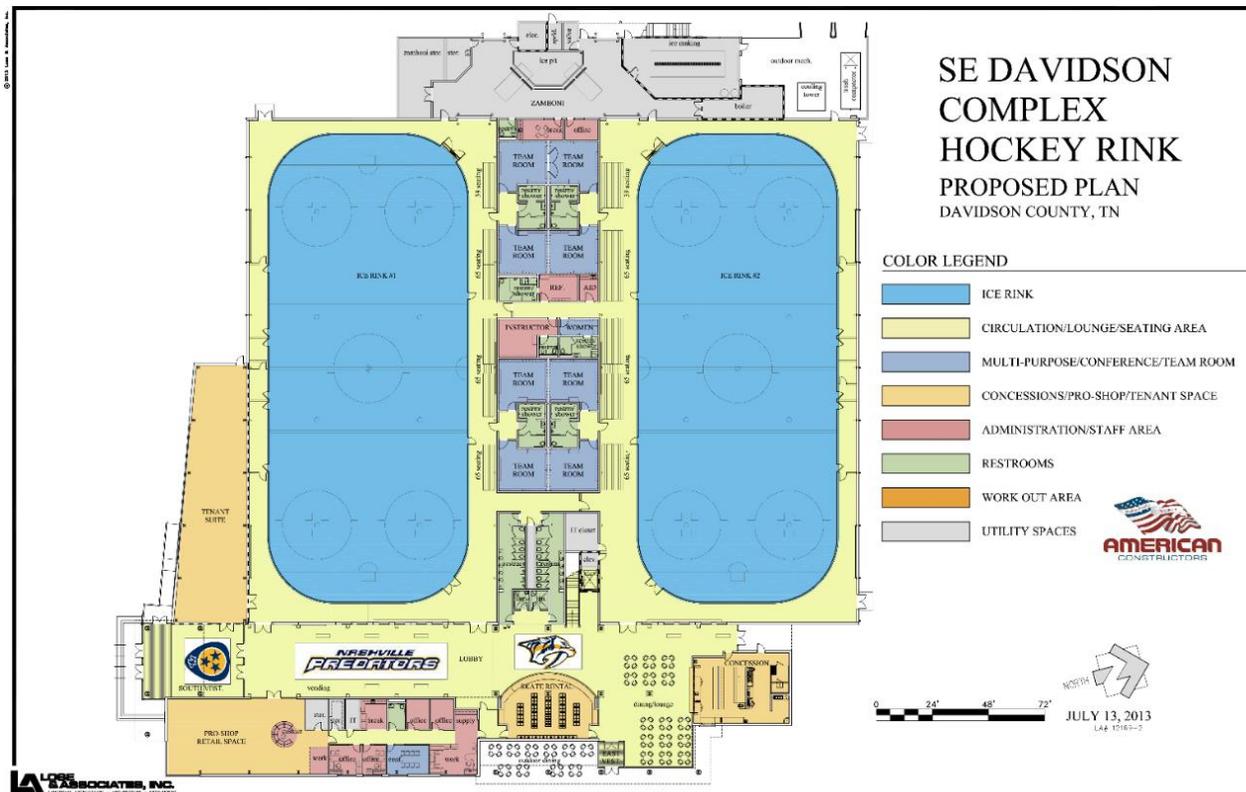
²⁸ Centre Court website (<http://www.owensborotennis.net/>)

Parks website. Clearly, a segment of Bowling Green residents would like to see an indoor ice rink developed in the City. It is important to note that the facility ranked much lower in the Mail Survey results, although it still ranked in the top 10 for facility needs met at less than 50%.

If an indoor ice rink is developed in Bowling Green, the facility will likely be developed as part of a public/private partnership, as the development of such a facility would have substantial capital and ongoing operating costs. The Nashville Predators would be a potential partner for this facility as the organization has partnered with other jurisdictions to develop facilities of this type in the past. Additionally, the organization has indicated some interest in partnering with the City of Bowling Green to develop such a facility through discussions with the Consultant as well as members of the Bowling Green community. The Predators are also considering partnering with other communities in the Nashville area for the development of other indoor athletic facilities, such as artificial turf fields, in conjunction with an ice rink.

The Nashville Predators currently operate the recently completed Ford Ice Center in the Antioch community in southeastern Davidson County, within the Nashville Metropolitan Government. The facility, which opened in August of 2014, had an overall cost of approximately \$15 million. The funds were bonded by the City, and the Predators will pay a \$400,000 per year for the next 20 years to lease and operate the facility. Nashville obtains the remainder of the funds required to pay the \$1 million annual debt service for the facility through a ticket surcharge on events at the Bridgestone Arena (home of the Predators). The lease agreement calls for the Predators to absorb any losses, and the organization will share profits with the City if they reach over \$300,000 annually. This facility contains the following primary elements: two ice rinks, a concession stand, a Pro Shop, a meeting/event space, eight locker rooms, training/off-ice conditioning rooms, and a ballet/yoga studio. Figure 44 shows the floor plan of the Ford Ice Center.

Figure 44: Ford Ice Center Floor Plan



No site is identified as part of this Master Plan, but the property would need to be City-owned, and should be a minimum of five acres to accommodate the facility and parking. However, the

development could be part of a larger site, including the potential multi-use facility, even if the facilities are built in separate phases or as separate structures. A facility in Bowling Green would likely be smaller, containing only one ice rink, which would reduce the capital cost and likely the annual lease agreement. Additionally, if a partnership was formed with the Nashville Predators to operate the facility, an additional source of funding would be needed to bridge the gap between the lease agreement and the annual debt service if the project is to be cost neutral in terms of its impact on the City's operating budget.

Assuming a similar cost per square foot to the Davidson County project, the ice rink would cost approximately \$10 million. A needs assessment or feasibility study should be conducted, which could be part of or separate from the multi-use facility study, to properly determine the needs, both for facilities and programming.

SIGNAGE

Proper signage is a key factor to allowing the community to find and relate the parks to a quality of life asset provided by the City of Bowling Green. Each park should have a quality and consistent sign identifying the facility, and a series of coordinated wayfinding signs to provide directions to other parks and directions to amenities within the park.

These signs should also be coordinated with educational signage, Parks and Recreation Department documentation, and sign boards/kiosks providing park program information with information detailing where to sign up or learn more about the offerings.

PROPOSED FACILITY LOCATIONS AND SERVICE AREAS

If the recommended improvements are made to parks, the facility service areas will be expanded. Figures 45 through 50 show the recommended facility locations and potential updated service areas for these facilities. These maps include recommendations for future Neighborhood Parks based on Typical Neighborhood Park (see Figure 60).

The figures show increased service areas for all of the park facilities with the most noticeable improvements for picnic shelters (Figure 45), rectangular fields (Figure 48), and rectangular fields (Figure 50). Much of the expanded service areas require the development of new Neighborhood Parks as described at the beginning of this section.

Figure 45: Proposed Picnic Shelter Locations

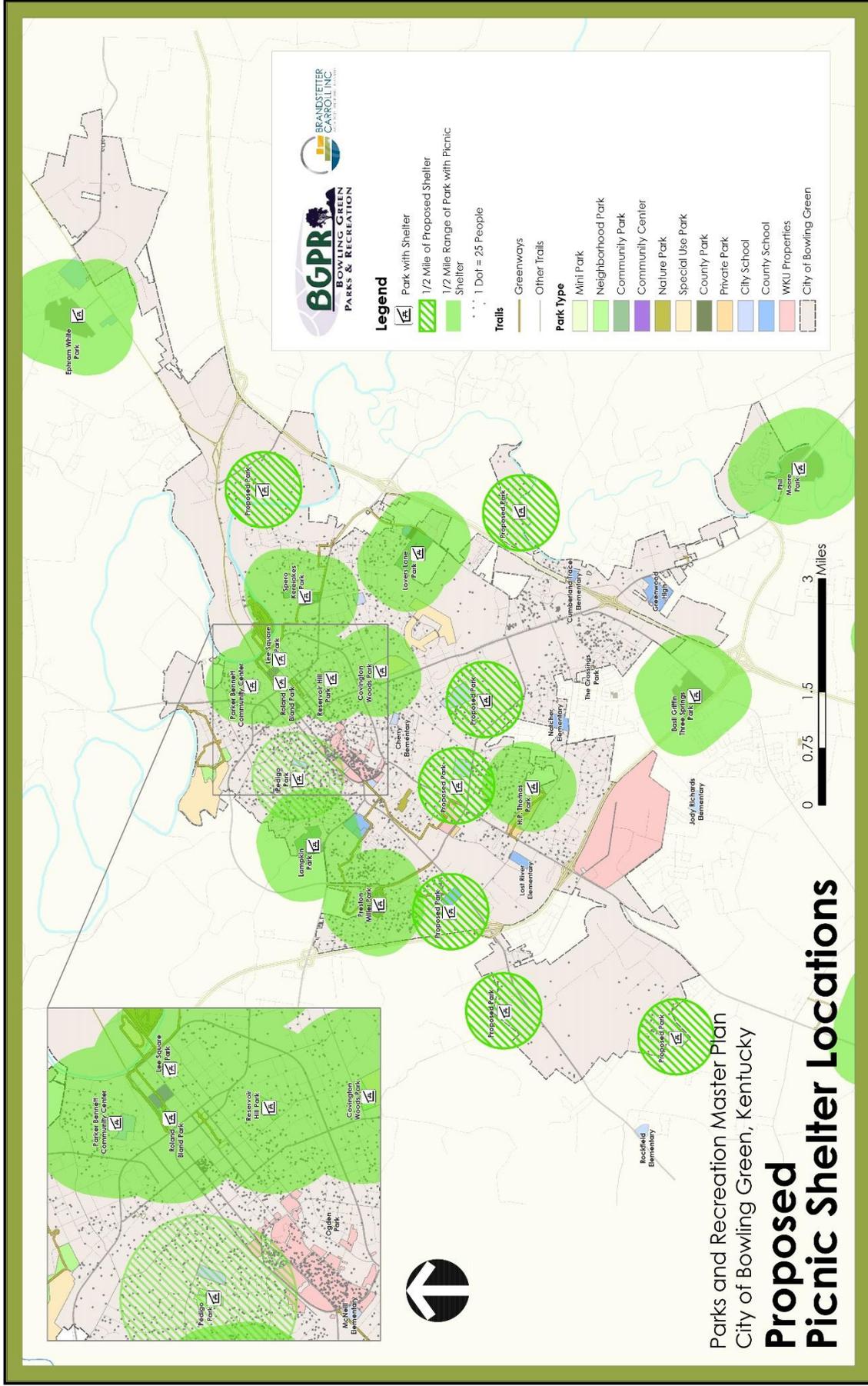


Figure 46: Proposed Playground Locations

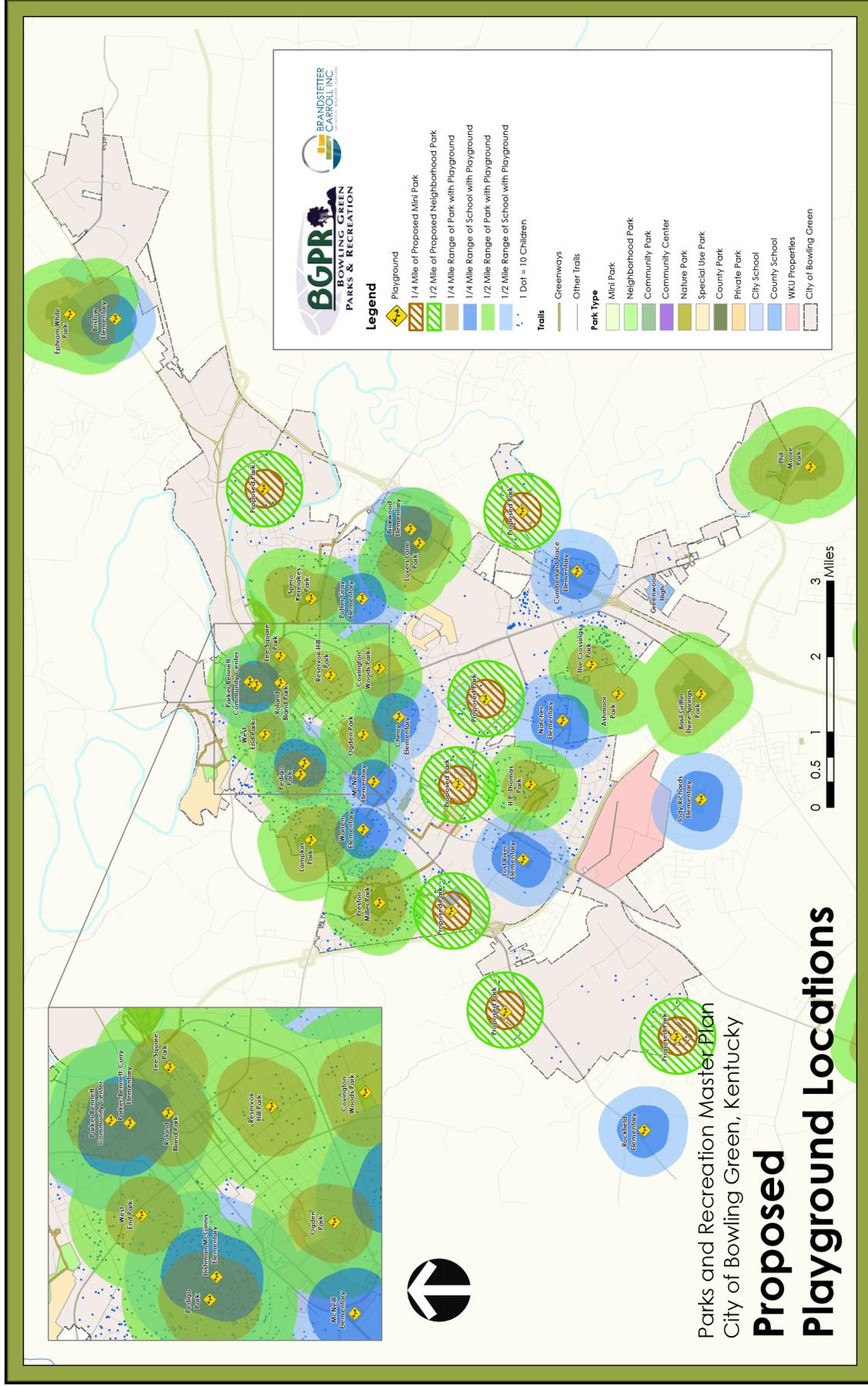


Figure 47: Proposed Diamond Field Locations

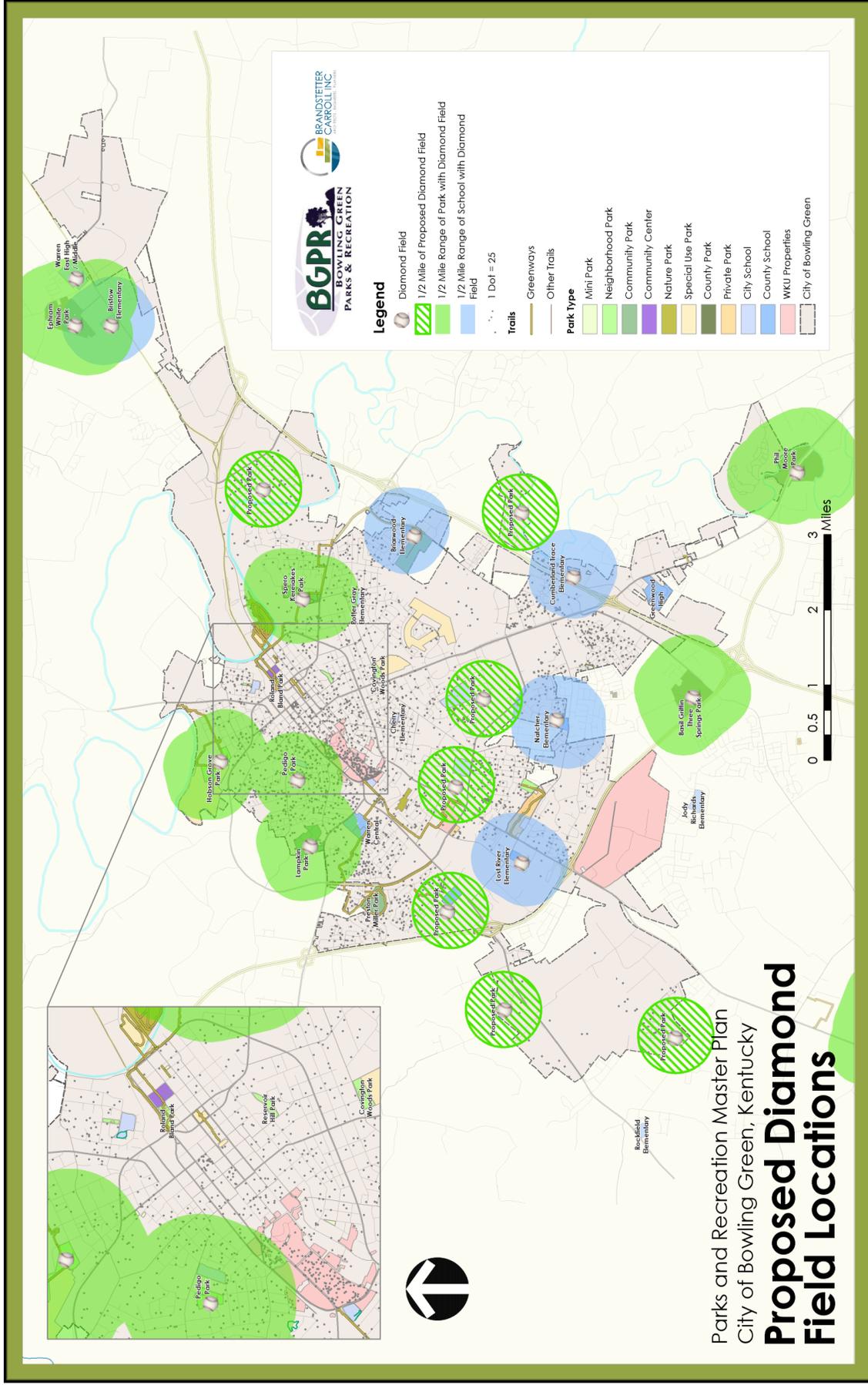


Figure 48: Proposed Rectangular Field Locations

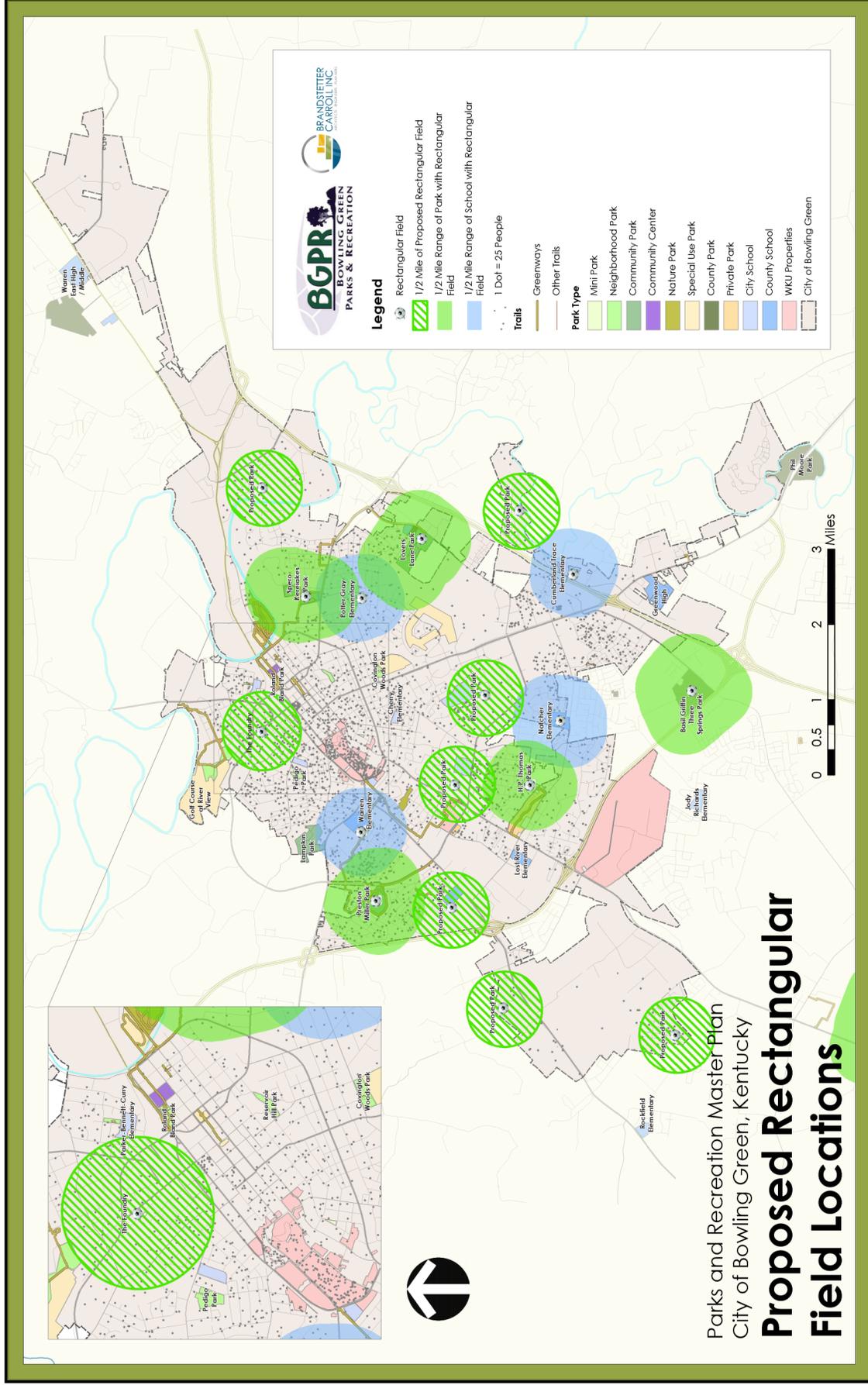


Figure 49: Proposed Tennis Court Locations

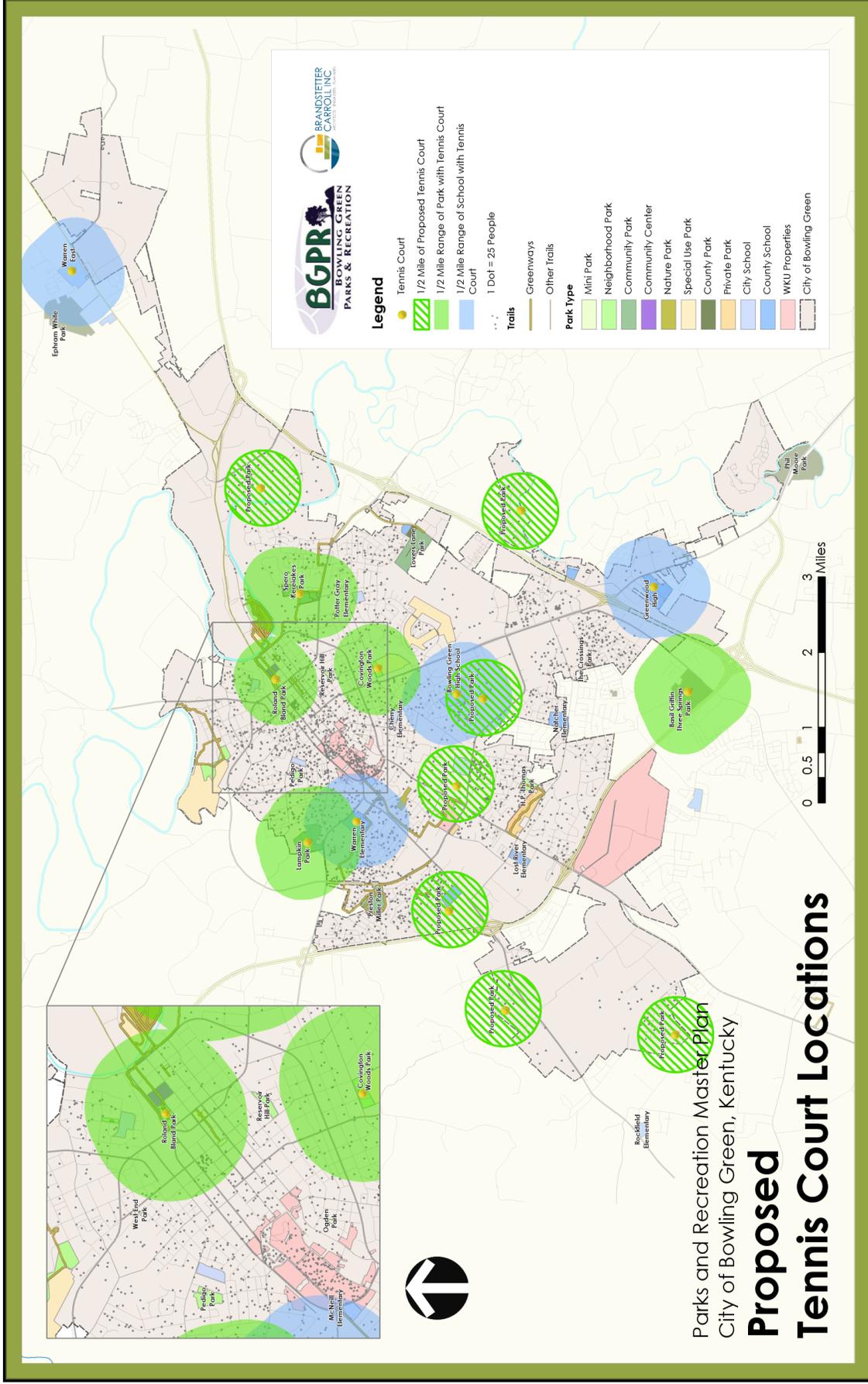
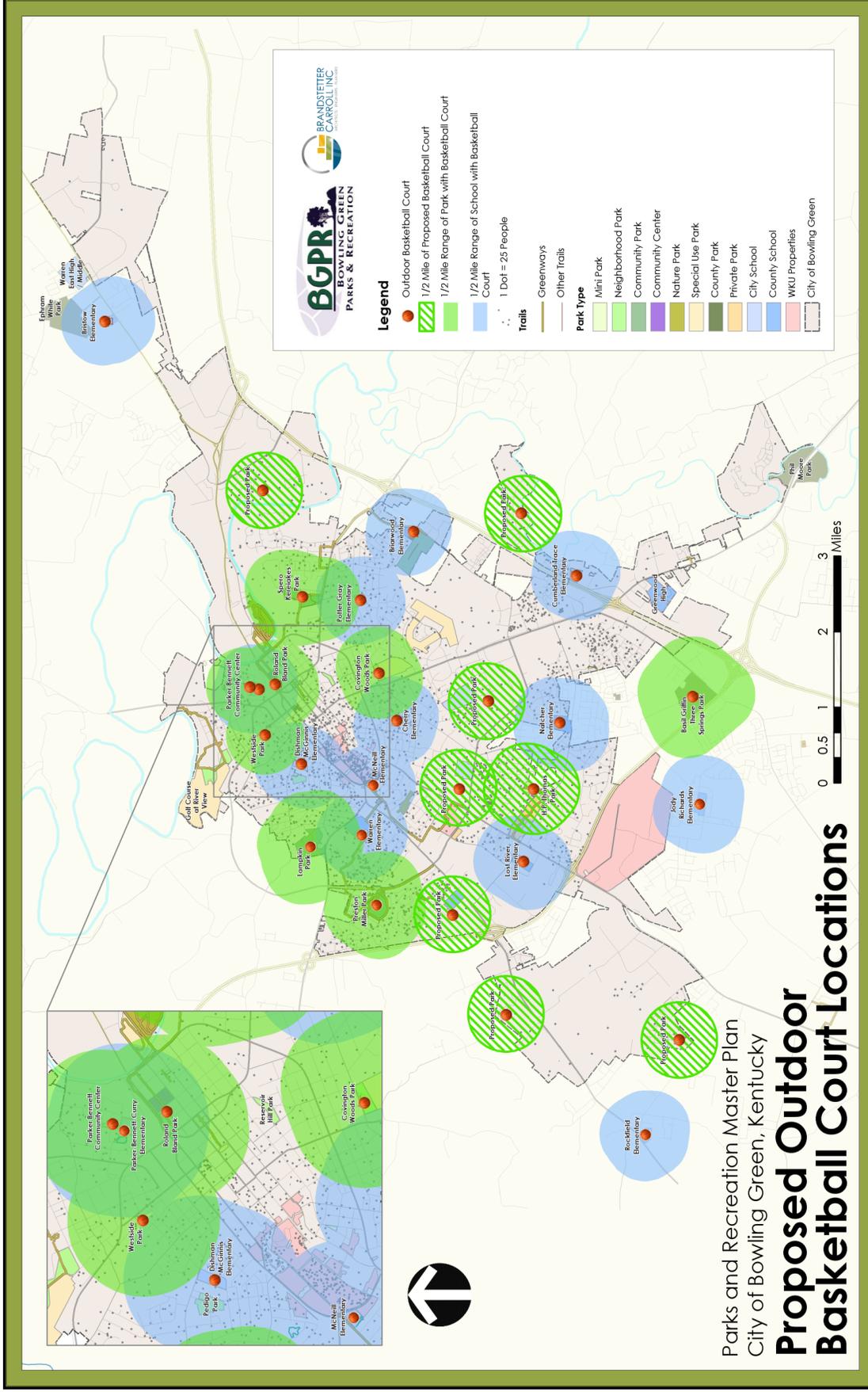


Figure 50: Proposed Outdoor Basketball Court Locations



VIII. INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

INTRODUCTION

This section details recommendations for improvements to the existing parks and proposed new facilities. Site concept plans are included in this section for several parks to illustrate possible configurations of proposed facilities. These recommendations and concepts should be used as a starting point for further discussions with the community, users, and neighbors in the design of the parks. Further investigation of these parks is required to determine their capability to support the desired facilities and to identify the precise arrangement of facilities. See Section VII for a more detailed description of each type of improvement.

Some improvements are not shown in concept plans due to undetermined locations. Others are not shown due to the small physical sizes of the facilities. These improvements include bike racks, drinking fountains, security cameras, and Wi-Fi hotspots. These improvements are recommended at all Neighborhood and Community Parks and at some other parks. Additionally, landscape improvements are recommended for most parks and should be considered as part of any improvement.

The total costs associated with these support facilities, as seen in the cost estimates later in this text, reflect the number of locations needed for each of these improvements and are largely dependent on the size of the park. In general, these facilities should be located at all shelters, playgrounds, and athletic fields. Recommendations for these support facilities can be found in the cost estimates for each park, located at the end of this section. These cost estimates also include estimates for several parks without concept plans.

COMMUNITY PARKS

C.W. Lampkin Park

Lampkin Park is one of the largest parks in Bowling Green, but this Community Park is currently underutilized. According to the surveys, Lampkin Park is the least used of the Community Parks. Many of the facilities at this park are dated, the park lacks connectivity, having no walking trails and limited connecting walkways. Accordingly, this park should be improved to serve as a major asset for the City of Bowling Green. The concept plan for the proposed improvements are can be seen in Figure 51.

1. Perimeter Trail System

One of the most important amenities park users reported they would like to see in Bowling Green parks was trails. The development of systems of all-purpose trails would help to tie the facilities together and would provide an important opportunity for many residents who do not currently use the park. The concept outlines three separate loops (approximately 1.5 miles in total) that would be connected through a trail along the park road.

2. Nature Trail

A nature trail (just over a half mile in length) in the northwest portion of the park would utilize this currently unused section of the park while providing opportunities for hiking, viewing nature, and educational programs. This portion of the park has an existing cave and a blue hole that could be incorporated into this development.

3. Disc Golf

The large amount of open space in this park provides a great opportunity for a disc golf course. This improvement has a relatively small capital cost but would provide an additional opportunity for recreation at this park.

4. Sprayground

A sprayground would provide an opportunity for residents to cool off during the summer months and would provide a major attraction to the park. Located near an existing picnic shelter, the sprayground would provide a great opportunity for additional rentals of that shelter.

5. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment will provide an opportunity for residents to exercise and improve their health. The location of the equipment will be convenient to the perimeter trail as well as the playground, allowing parents to potentially utilize the equipment while their children play.

6. Existing Facility Improvements

As mentioned above, some of the facilities at this park are in need of repair. Two shelters have previously been designated for replacement, and the hardcourts are in need of resurfacing. The playground also is in need of repair and should be redeveloped as an all access destination playground. Some parking areas need resurfacing, particularly the lot near the Babe Ruth field. Finally, the small field in the eastern part of the park (Maroney) is in need of regrading.

7. Community Gardens

Community gardens could be established to take advantage of underutilized space near the tennis courts. Currently, gardens are only offered at one location, Spero Kereiakes Park, and these plots quickly sell out. Water access should be provided, which could be run from the existing restroom building at a nominal cost.

8. Walkway Enhancements

Connection sidewalks between the facilities and parking will make this area accessible and ADA compliant. These walkways will provide better access for spectators, particularly at the two small skinned fields, and will allow all community members to take advantage of these great park facilities. Opportunities should also be investigated to connect the park to the adjacent neighborhood to the north.

Lovers Lane Park

Lovers Lane Park is the City's major soccer complex, but the park has little to offer other users. The concept for this park, Figure 52, is intended to enhance the parks use for soccer tournaments while improving the offerings for all residents.

1. Artificial Turf Fields

Many residents expressed desire for artificial turf fields in Bowling Green. Two fields at this park would provide for extended play and improved field conditions for athletes and would expand the opportunities to host tournaments. The development of these fields should be part of a public/private partnership, potentially with the soccer leagues that use the fields.

2. Perimeter and Walking Trails

A perimeter trail would provide a potential additional use for the park. Due to the parks large size, the perimeter trail has the potential to provide a lengthy loop, over 1.5 miles in length. The connecting trails, described below, could potentially be utilized to shorten loops, if desired. Landscape improvements will help improve the appeal of this new trail. An additional walking trail surrounds the disc golf course, providing an additional scenic walking area.

3. Existing Facility Improvements

Most of the facilities at this park are in good shape; however, the playground features are dated and should be updated or replaced with improved accessibility.

4. Walkway Enhancements

Access to the seating areas for the fields at this park is limited, a series of walkways should be constructed to all facilities to make them more accessible and ADA compliant. Some of these walkways are currently under construction.

Preston Miller Park

Preston Miller Park has a large open area that is largely left unused in its current configuration. Originally designated for a diamond field complex, this area now provides the City of Bowling Green an opportunity to add much needed facilities and to expand the usage level of this park. The concept for Preston Miller Park can be seen in Figure 53.

1. Four Rectangular Field Complex

Rectangular fields are needed in Bowling Green, particularly in the western portion of the City. The concept shows space for four full-sized rectangular fields which could be configured into many more small-sized fields. The concept also shows an option to develop one of these fields into an artificial turf field, which could be developed as an alternative to or in addition to the fields at Lovers Lane Park. This development would most likely be part of a future phase.

2. Community or Recreation Center

All of Bowling Green's community or recreation centers are located in the eastern portion of the City, close to downtown. With its location on the opposite end of the City from the existing recreation centers, this park provides an ideal location and has ample space for the development of a new center. The facility would be located centrally in the park, adjacent to expanded parking at the north end of the park. The initial footprint includes multi-purpose rooms and a single gym. Future expansion options are shown for a second gym and an indoor pool.

3. Existing Facility Improvements

The playground at this park is dated and should be replaced with an all access destination playground. Expansion of the sand volleyball area to include an additional three courts is also shown to encourage tournament use. Finally, landscaping improvements will make the existing perimeter more enticing to users and help to beautify the park.

4. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment is shown in this concept in the southern portion of the park near the sand volleyball courts to provide an additional fitness option for residents.

5. Walkway Enhancements

Finally, a series of walkways should be constructed to connect the facilities and parking to make all facilities accessible and ADA compliant. Walkways are needed to connect the new facilities as well as the existing playground and volleyball courts.

6. Expanded Parking

Additional parking will be needed to support these new facilities. Substantial parking is required for the four rectangular fields and the recreation center. The existing parking is needed for the Russell Sims Aquatic Center, so an additional parking lot with 225 spaces is shown at the north end of the park where a small parking lot currently exists. Additionally, expanded parking is shown along the south end of the park to serve the expanded volleyball complex.

7. Community Gardens

Community gardens are recommended between the new parking lot and the perimeter trail to utilize this open space and provide an additional location for this popular amenity. Water access would be readily available at the nearby shelter.

8. Other Improvements

A restroom and concessions building is shown to serve the volleyball court and the rectangular fields. The recreation center could also be configured to provide concessions in the northern portion of the park. A picnic area is also shown in the open space between the rectangular fields and the recreation center.

Spero Kereiakes

Spero Kereiakes is the most used active park in Bowling Green. As the park is highly developed at present, more modest recommendations are shown in this concept (Figure 54). Aside from the improvements needed to all Community Parks (security cameras, drinking fountains, etc.), all of the improvements at this park are to improve or expand existing facilities. The playground equipment is dated and should be replaced with an all access destination playground, especially since this park is so widely used. Two additional tennis courts are recommended to encourage tournament use.

Improvements are needed to the main Little League field, including regrading and walkway improvements for connectivity and ADA accessibility. Additionally, East Little League would like the outfield fence extended to 220 feet to meet tournament guidelines. This extension would require the realignment of the adjacent trail. Water access should be added for the community gardens, as users currently have to walk across the park to the shelter near the parking lot for water access. Finally, the park has insufficient parking, reconfiguration of the existing parking west of the shelter/restroom building could add approximately 15 more spaces, and a small extension of the parking to the east of this building could add 10 more.

NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Covington Woods Park

Covington Woods Park is the most used Neighborhood Park in Bowling Green, due to its location and the wide variety of amenities offered at the park. No new facilities are recommended for the park, but some improvements are needed to existing facilities, in addition to the support facilities recommended for all Neighborhood Parks. The shelter at the eastern side of the park (shelter #2) needs to be replaced, and the playground needs edging and would benefit from ADA improvements since the park is so heavily used.

H.P. Thomas Park

H.P. Thomas Park is the home of the Hills Dog Park and is the only Neighborhood Park in the southern portion of Bowling Green. Fortunately, the park has plenty of space for potential improvements while still leaving much of the park open and unprogrammed. Figure 55 presents the concept for this park.

1. Perimeter Trail

H.P. Thomas Park currently has a Greenway running through the center of the site but offers no internal trail for recreation or exercise. The concept shows the utilization for this portion of Greenway as part of a loop surrounding the eastern half of the park.

2. Basketball Court

A basketball court is recommended for this park as no such facility is located within a park in the southern portion of Bowling Green. The location of the court in the concept plan is near the center of the main entrance, close to the parking. One full sized court is recommended, and additional side goals can be added if needed.

3. Sprayground

As the only park in the southern portion of the Bowling Green, this site is recommended for a sprayground to offer an aquatic facility to residents in this portion of the City.

4. Rectangular Field

A rectangular field is recommended to formalize one of the existing fields so that it can be used for practices and other programming as necessary. No parks currently offer formal rectangular fields in this part of the City.

5. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment is recommended to be located in the north portion of the park near the existing playground to offer additional fitness opportunities for residents of the area.

6. Existing Facility Improvements

The playground at this park needs improvement and will eventually need replacement. The existing playground lacks edging and offers minimal accessibility. As the only park in this portion of the City, it should offer an all access playground.

7. Picnic Shelter with Restrooms

A picnic shelter with restrooms is recommended at the opposite end of the park from the existing shelter to support the existing and new facilities in that area and to provide an additional picnic option for residents.

8. Walkway Improvements

Finally, a series of walkways should be constructed for ADA compliance and to connect to the trail, facilities, and parking areas.

9. Additional Parking

If the recommended facilities are developed at this park, additional parking will be needed. Minimal space is available to expand parking near the main entrance, so most of the additional parking will be located at the north end of the park.

Hobson Grove Park

Hobson Grove Park has recently received some needed updates, including accessible walkways at the two diamond fields. The park needs the same support facility improvements recommended for all Neighborhoods Parks, including bike racks, Wi-Fi hotspots, and security cameras. Additionally, a dog park could be developed at this park to take advantage of space that is mostly left unused.

Pedigo Park

Pedigo Park is the home of West Little League with two diamond fields and also offers a large amount of open space. Normal View Street runs along the eastern side of the park, and then runs through the park toward the north end, separating a 1.3 acres portion of the property from the rest of the site. The concept for this park (Figure 56) aims to improve connectivity throughout the site while making it an asset to the surrounding neighborhood.

1. Perimeter Trail

Pedigo Park lacks overall connectivity between the various facilities located throughout the park. An all-purpose perimeter trail will improve connectivity while providing an opportunity for residents to improve fitness and enjoy what this park has to offer. Additionally, trees are recommended along the trail to provide a more visually appealing experience.

2. Disconnected Eastern Section

The disconnected section of the park is currently underutilized, offering only a backstop and minimal landscaping. For this section, the concept shows a tree lined edge to define the space while maintaining the open area in the middle for recreation. A walkway is recommended to connect the neighborhood to the larger park. Finally, a gazebo will provide

an opportunity for residents to gather and enjoy this improved space.

3. Shelters

In addition to the gazebo, a new shelter with restrooms is recommended adjacent to the playground. The existing restroom is located behind the baseball diamonds and is not always open for general park use. A second picnic shelter is recommended to replace the small shelter at the north end of the park. The existing shelter is very small and in need of repair. These two shelters will provide additional rental facilities, currently lacking in this area of Bowling Green.

4. Existing Facility Improvements

The fence at the main diamond field should be extended to 220 feet for West Little League to meet tournament guidelines. This extension requires the relocation of the existing batting cages. The playground at this park is dated and needs to be replaced. Additionally, the playground is quite small and lacks swings or other supplemental amenities. The recommended removal of the existing basketball court provides an opportunity to expand and improve the playground. Finally, the parking lot at the north end of the park needs to be repaved.

5. Walkway Enhancements

A series of walkways are needed for ADA compliance and to connect the facilities to the parking areas and to the perimeter trail. In addition to the walkway in the disconnected area, described previously, walkways are needed around the playground and along the parking lot. Some walkways currently exist around the diamond fields, but they are too narrow and the grade is too steep in many places to provide ADA compliance, so they need to be improved. Finally, a walkway should be developed to connect to Auburn Way to the north where an informal path currently exists.

Reservoir Hill Park

Reservoir Hill Park is made up primarily of open space; however, the park offers some recreational facilities which would benefit from some minor improvements. This Neighborhood Park should receive security cameras and Wi-Fi hotspots to improve perceived safety and encourage use as a gathering space. The playground, while in good condition, lacks edging, and none of the amenities in the park offer ADA accessibility. The historic picnic shelter (built in 1911) needs some improvements including façade and roof improvements and a ramp for ADA accessibility. Finally, the parking lot needs to be repaved.

Roland Bland Park

Roland Bland Park is located adjacent to the Bowling Green Recreation Center and Kummer/Little Recreation Center. The park has two tennis courts and two basketball courts that are used sparingly by Bowling Green residents. The concept for this site (Figure 57) should lead to increased usage of this park. The park also houses the Skate Park.

1. Tennis Court Improvements

Senior programming is currently offered at the Community Action Senior Center, located adjacent to this park (attached to the Bowling Green Recreation Center). The underutilized tennis courts provide an opportunity to expand facility and program offerings for seniors. One tennis court could be converted to four pickleball courts. Pickleball is popular with seniors and was requested during the public input process of this Master Plan. The second court could remain a tennis court which could be converted to two additional pickleball courts in the future if necessary.

2. Basketball Court Improvements

The underutilized basketball courts provide another opportunity to expand facility and program offerings. One basketball court could be converted to two bocce courts, offering a

recreational opportunity that is popular with seniors. The second court could be converted to a multi-use court that could be used for a wide variety of activities, including basketball. This facility would provide opportunities for all Bowling Green residents, including both seniors and for mentally or physically challenged individuals (whose programs are currently offered at the Kummer/Little Recreation Center).

3. Outdoor Fitness Equipment

Outdoor fitness equipment would provide a great opportunity for exercise and therapy uses. With the programs for seniors, as well as those for mentally or physically challenged residents, located adjacent to this park, this location is ideal for this type of facility. The equipment at this location should include several machines that are wheelchair accessible.

4. Picnic Area

The remainder of the area previously utilized as a sand volleyball court (which includes the location of the outdoor fitness equipment) should be utilized as an expanded picnic area. This use will provide an area for users of the adjacent equipment to congregate and rest, while also offering a space for larger gatherings at the existing picnic shelter.

MINI PARKS

Bowling Green currently offers three Mini Parks: Lee Square, Ogden, and West End Parks. Lee Square Park was recently completed and does not currently need any improvements. West End Park is still under construction, but future planned improvements are included in the recommendations of the Master Plan.

Ogden Park

Ogden Park is a Mini Park located within a neighborhood, just east of the WKU campus. The park offers a playgrounds, a picnic area, and some open space. The park needs a few minor improvements, including walkways to the facilities. The surrounding neighborhood also lacks sidewalks. Edging should be added to the playground, the picnic area needs to be repaved and improved, and a drinking fountain should be added.

West End Park

The new West End Park has three improvements planned in future years that should be implemented: a small picnic shelter, site lighting, and a drinking fountain.

OPEN SPACE/NATURE PARKS

Chuck Crume Nature Park

Bowling Green offers a 15 acre Nature Park with nearly a mile of trails that currently sees limited use. Some improvements should help draw some additional use to the park. First, the park needs signage with wayfinding at all entrances, so users can plan their hike. The trail should include interpretive signage throughout to point out key features along the trails and to provide educational opportunities. A small picnic shelter with a drinking fountain, near the main entrance to the park, would provide a place for users to rest and gather. Finally, the parking lot needs to be repaved.

Riverfront Park

The Riverfront Park concept (Figure 58) covers two different Bowling Green properties and attempts to better tie these two adjacent sites together. This concept, incorporating ideas previously proposed by the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation, would provide a unique destination with a wide variety of mostly passive uses that should draw users to Bowling Green from Warren County and beyond.

1. Pump Track

A pump track for BMX and mountain bikes has previously been proposed for the portion of the McConnell/RiverWalk Park that sits on the site of a former landfill. This facility would offer an opportunity not currently available in Bowling Green. No other use has been proposed for this facility, and this feature is consistent with the overall concept for the park. Additionally, the capital costs associated with the development of this feature are relatively modest and should be mitigated through partnerships with local groups, including the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation and Kentucky Mountain Bike Association. Additionally this feature was a reoccurring theme at the public workshops and on the *Our BG Parks* website.

2. Whitewater Course

Another reoccurring theme at the public workshops and *Our BG Parks* website was the development a whitewater course at the Riverfront Park. This course, shown in the Barren River to the western edge of the property, would consist of several pools of water with rapids for users to navigate. The course would require a variety of supporting elements, including a launch area, a portage trail, terraced seating, and overflow parking for events. Finally, the course would require a takeout when users are finished that does not appear on the concept because no suitable location currently exists on City-owned property. This facility comes with substantial capital, so development would require partnerships with local agencies.

3. Dog Park

A dog park offers a possible use for the open space in the center area of the Weldon Peete property. The area is currently cleared, so development of this facility would require fencing, a pad with water access and shade, and seeding for turf.

4. Climbing Boulders and Play Area

An area with climbing boulders or a “boulder garden” has been proposed by the Riverfront Foundation, several potential examples have been provided. This area should be developed with a variety of climbing opportunities. In addition to the boulder area, additional climbing features should be developed which would transition into a climbing play area constructed out of natural materials. This area of the park should provide opportunities for all ages and would provide an attraction unavailable anywhere in the areas.

5. Disc Golf

A disc golf course could be developed around the perimeter of the various attractions in a manner that minimizes conflict but still offers an additional opportunity for fans of this sport.

6. Amphitheater

The development of an amphitheater or covered stage with an event lawn would provide an opportunity for the City to host additional events. Although events are currently offered at Circus Square Park, no large open lawn area for events currently exists in the City of Bowling Green. This feature would require careful planning for event parking. If a portable stage is purchased, it could be utilized at this location as well as many others throughout the City.

7. Open Areas

A number of different improvements to open areas around the park are recommended to add additional attractions, educational opportunities, and to improve the overall appearance of the properties. An edible forest has been proposed in the past and is included in the concept, covering an area approximately four acres in size. A wildflower area is also recommended with a series of natural walkways to allow for immersion in nature and educational opportunities. Finally, landscaping is shown throughout the site with earth berms established in the landfill area to help provide more character to the site and to allow planting without risk of disturbance to the landfill cap.

8. Picnic Shelter with Restrooms

A picnic shelter with restrooms is recommended near the main parking area and the climbing/play area. This facility is important to allow for users to spend extended time at the park.

9. Walkways and Trail Improvements

A series of walkways should be developed throughout the site to connect the facilities and for ADA compliance. The existing perimeter trail on the RiverWalk portion of the site should be paved to encourage use by cyclists, as it connects to paved Greenways. The crossing that connects this trail to the Weldon Peete trails should be moved to the intersection where the existing Greenway, leading to Weldon Peete Park, meets Old Louisville Road and should include a marked and signed crosswalk. A nature trail should be investigated in the unused, wooded portion of the County-owned portion of the site which would require a partnership with Warren County Parks.

10. Parking

These developments would require additional parking, both at the Weldon Peete entrance and at the RiverWalk site. The concept shows a lot with 138 spaces on the Weldon Peete property, adjacent to the existing unpaved County parking. The County's parking should be paved and, if possible, expanded, which would reduce the need for additional parking on the City-owned portion of the site. The parking lot on the RiverWalk portion of the park (40 spaces) would serve the pump track and serve as a trailhead for the perimeter trail and the Greenways as a whole.

SPECIAL USE PARKS

The recommendations for the Special Use Parks in Bowling Green are primarily related to programming (see the Action Plan in Section IV), but facility recommendations are recommended at one location, the Kummer-Little Recreation Center. This recommendation includes the adjacent Shake Rag property.

Shake Rag Property and Kummer-Little Recreation Center

This concept (Figure 59) includes the southeastern portion of the Kummer-Little Recreation Center site and the adjacent City-owned Shake Rag property. The improvements are focused on providing additional facilities that emphasize accessibility.

1. Miracle Field and Support Facilities

This concept shows a Miracle Field and a large shelter with restrooms. Parking for the facility, particularly ADA accessible parking, is provided around the perimeter of the property with access from East 3rd Street and the adjoining alley. This facility would provide additional opportunities for programs for mentally or physically challenged individuals (see Section VII for facility descriptions).

2. Fully Accessible Playground

A fully accessible playground is recommended to be developed in conjunction with the Miracle Field. The Miracle League Association recommends these facilities be developed in close proximity. This playground should have a special focus on accessibility and rehabilitative uses for physically and mentally challenged individuals and should have poured in place rubber surfacing as well as ramps leading to the various play areas.

3. Program Rooms at Kummer-Little

Three program rooms are recommended as an expansion of the Kummer-Little Recreation Center. Currently, groups hold meetings on the indoor walking track. These program rooms would allow the track to be used for its intended purpose while providing a better environment

to attendees of programs. If an additional gymnasium is developed at the Kummer-Little Recreation Center, the program rooms could instead be developed even with the front of the building (College Street entrance), and the playground could be shifted closer to East 3rd Street.

NEW PARKS

Seven new Neighborhood Parks are recommended in the City of Bowling Green to fill gaps in service and to accommodate future residents. These locations were discussed in Section VII and were presented in Figure 38. As noted previously, these locations should not be interpreted as specific locations for land acquisition. Rather, if land of sufficient size (8 to 12 acres) becomes available in these areas, the City should investigate the potential for park development at those properties. A concept for a Typical Neighborhood Park can be seen in Figure 60.

This concept represents a fairly compact site with minimal grade changes. Depending on the topography of each potential site, more acreage may be needed or some facilities could be eliminated or reduced in size. The sample site is approximately nine acres in size. Additionally, depending on needs of the surrounding area, modifications should be made to this concept to meet those needs. For example, courts developed in these parks could be replaced with any of the courts described in this Master Plan.

Figure 51: C.W. Lampkin Park Concept



Figure 52: Lovers Lane Park Concept



Lovers Lane Park

0 100 200 400 600 Feet



Parks and Recreation Master Plan
City of Bowling Green, Kentucky



Figure 53: Preston Miller Park Concept



Figure 54: Spero Kereiakes Park Concept

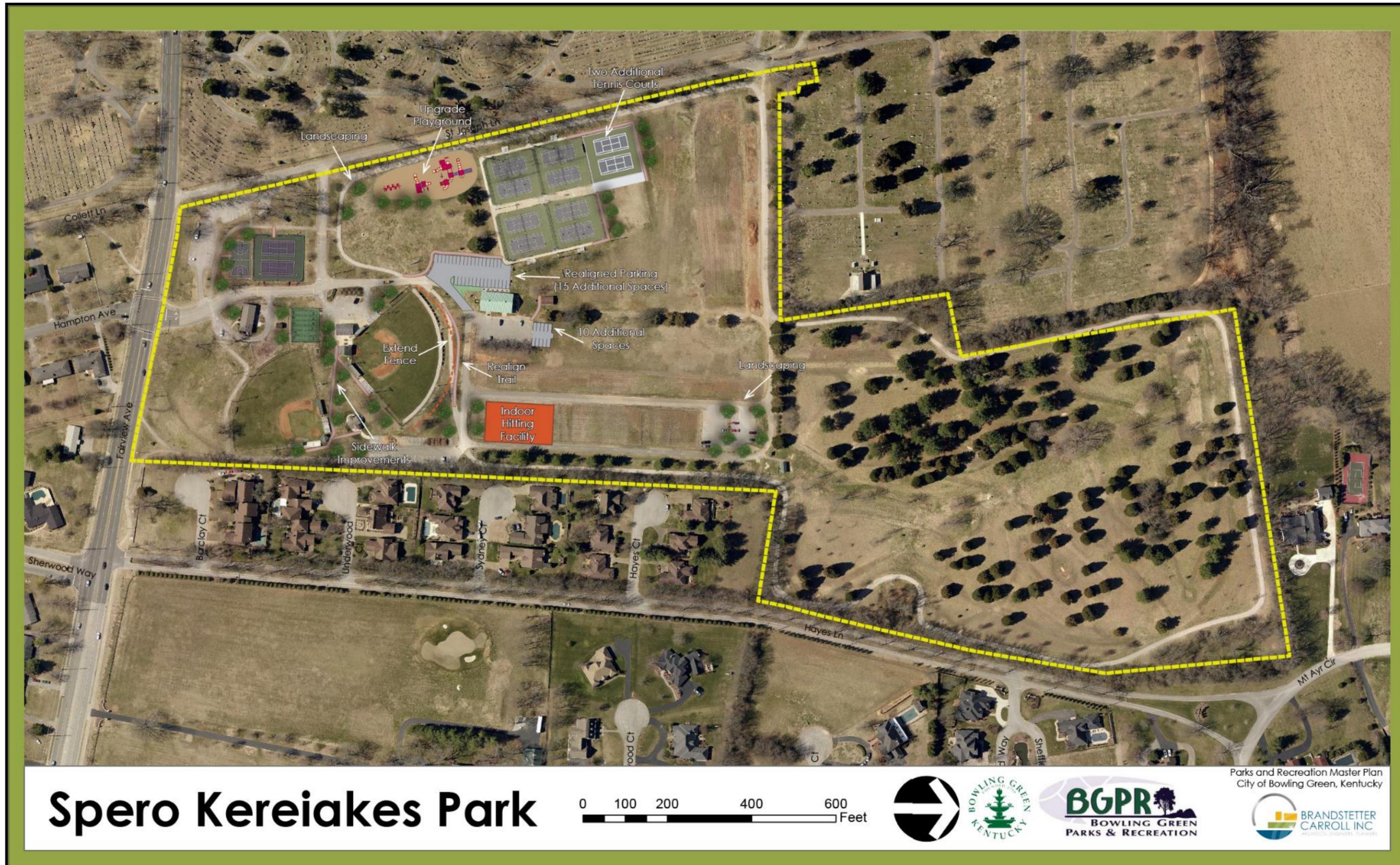


Figure 55: H.P. Thomas Park Concept



H.P. Thomas Park

0 50 100 200 300 Feet



Parks and Recreation Master Plan
City of Bowling Green, Kentucky



Figure 56: Pedigo Park Concept



Figure 57: Roland Bland Park Concept



Figure 58: Riverfront Park Concept



Figure 59: Shake Rag Property and Kummer-Little Recreation Center Concept

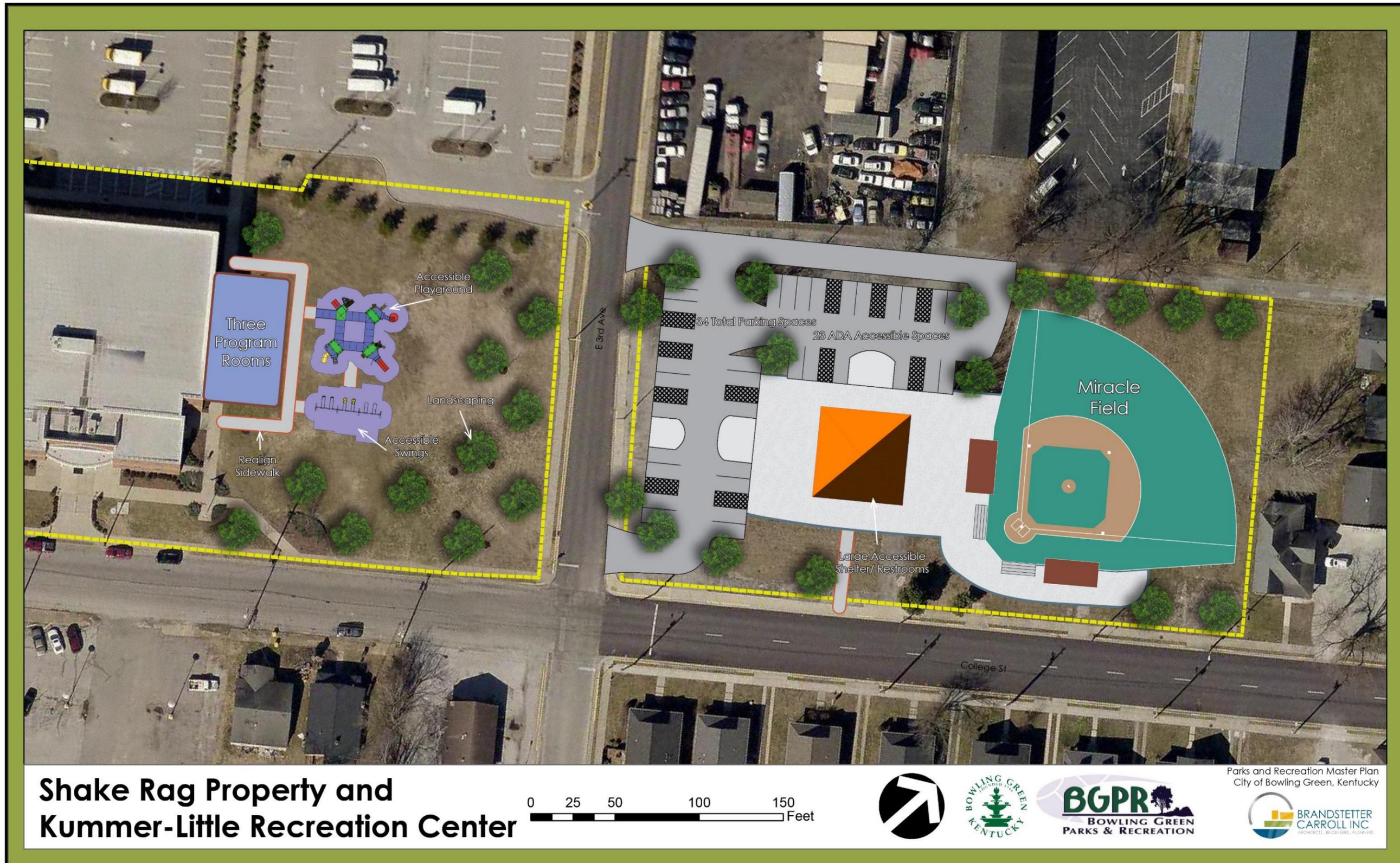


Figure 60: Typical Neighborhood Park Concept



ORDER OF MAGNITUDE CAPITAL PROJECT ESTIMATES

The following project costs are order-of-magnitude cost estimates for the improvements described previously in this section of the Master Plan. The provided concept plans are very general, and final designs should be coordinated with neighborhoods and park users through a more formal park design process. As described at the beginning of this section, the illustrations show possible park configurations and how proposed facilities could potentially fit on each site. The estimated project costs below are presented for each park and are sorted in order of descending improvement cost. For a full list of project priorities, see the Action Plan in Section IX.

The cost estimates provided below (Table 28) are estimated using actual cost from previous projects, in conjunction with *RSMeans Site Work & Landscape Cost Data*.²⁹ Some costs are also derived from the existing Parks and Recreation Department Capital Plan. Costs associated with Riverfront Park improvements are based on data provided by the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation,³⁰ and the Miracle Field costs are based on information on the Miracle League Association website.³¹

Table 28: Order-of-Magnitude Cost Estimates for Improvements

Community Parks		Cost
C.W. Lampkin Park		
1. Sprayground		\$400,000
2. Replace/upgrade playground (all access)		\$200,000
3. Perimeter trail system (all-purpose)		\$200,000
4. Replace shelters (#1 & #3)		\$160,000
5. Resurface volleyball and futsal hardcourts		\$92,000
6. Outdoor fitness equipment		\$60,000
7. Walkways (all access)		\$50,000
8. Repave parking lot (west side)		\$40,000
9. Nature trail		\$30,000
10. Wi-Fi Hotspots		\$25,000
11. Security cameras		\$25,000
12. Disc golf		\$18,000
13. Drinking fountains with spigots		\$12,000
14. Regrade diamond field (Maroney)		\$10,000
15. Bike racks		\$4,000
16. Community gardens (60x30 ft. plots) with water access		\$4,000
Subtotal for Construction		\$1,330,000
Contingency (10%)		\$133,000
Construction Total		\$1,463,000
Design/survey/bidding (12%)		\$175,560
Project Total		\$1,638,560
Lovers Lane Park		
1. Perimeter trail (all-purpose)		\$200,000
2. Replace/upgrade playground		\$100,000
3. Walkways (all access)		\$80,000
4. Site landscaping		\$65,000

²⁹ *RSMeans Site Work and Landscape Cost Data*. 34th Annual ed. Norwell, MA: RSMeans, 2014. Print.

³⁰ Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation website (<http://www.bgriverfront.org/>)

³¹ The Miracle League website (<http://www.themiracleleague.net/>)

		Cost
5.	Walking trail (south end)	\$42,000
6.	Security cameras	\$20,000
7.	Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
8.	Drinking fountains with spigots	\$6,000
	Subtotal for Construction	\$523,000
	Contingency (10%)	\$52,300
	Construction Total	\$575,300
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$69,036
	Project Total	\$644,336
<hr/> <i>Potential Partnership Projects</i>		
	Artificial turf fields (2)	\$2,000,000
	Bleachers and pad for turf fields	\$100,000

Preston Miller Park

1.	Recreation center	\$4,700,000
2.	Artificial turf field option	\$1,000,000
3.	Field lighting	\$600,000
4.	Additional parking (soccer fields - north portion)	\$280,000
5.	Replace/upgrade playground (all access)	\$200,000
6.	Rain gardens/stormwater management	\$200,000
7.	Walkways (all access)	\$100,000
8.	Site landscaping	\$80,000
9.	Outdoor fitness equipment	\$60,000
10.	Bleachers and pad for turf field	\$50,000
11.	Three sand volleyball courts	\$45,000
12.	Additional parking (volleyball)	\$45,000
13.	Four soccer fields (grading, seed, scoreboards, benches, irrigation)	\$40,000
14.	Security cameras	\$30,000
15.	Sand volleyball lighting	\$20,000
16.	Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$20,000
17.	Drinking fountains with spigots	\$9,000
18.	Community gardens (60x30 ft. plots)	\$2,000
	Subtotal for Construction	\$7,481,000
	Contingency (10%)	\$748,100
	Construction Total	\$8,229,100
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$987,492
	Project Total	\$9,216,592
<hr/> <i>Potential Partnership Projects</i>		
	Recreation center expansion - pool	\$4,500,000
	Recreation center expansion - 2nd gym	\$2,000,000

Spero Kereiakes Park

1.	Replace/upgrade playground (all access)	\$200,000
2.	Two tennis courts with paved area	\$100,000
3.	Connecting trails and walkways (all access)	\$40,000
4.	Reconfigure existing parking	\$32,000
5.	Diamond field regrading	\$30,000

		Cost
6.	Security cameras	\$30,000
7.	Landscaping improvements	\$15,000
8.	Additional parking	\$10,000
9.	Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
10.	Water access for community gardens	\$10,000
11.	Drinking fountains with spigots	\$9,000
12.	Diamond field fence extension	\$9,000
13.	Realign walking trail for fence extension	\$6,000
14.	Bike racks	\$4,000
	Subtotal for Construction	\$505,000
	Contingency (10%)	\$50,500
	Construction Total	\$555,500
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$66,660
	Project Total	\$622,160

Neighborhood Parks

Covington Woods Park

1.	Upgrade/replace shelter #2	\$50,000
2.	Playground improvements (edging, ADA)	\$25,000
3.	Security cameras	\$15,000
4.	Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
5.	Drinking fountains with spigots	\$3,000
	Subtotal for Construction	\$103,000
	Contingency (10%)	\$10,300
	Construction Total	\$113,300
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$13,596
	Project Total	\$126,896

H.P. Thomas Park

1.	Sprayground	\$400,000
2.	Replace/upgrade playground	\$150,000
3.	Picnic shelter with restrooms	\$150,000
4.	Outdoor fitness area	\$60,000
5.	Perimeter trail (all-purpose)	\$50,000
6.	Large soccer field	\$35,000
7.	Basketball court	\$30,000
8.	Additional parking	\$22,000
9.	Security cameras	\$10,000
10.	Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
11.	Connecting trails and walkways (all access)	\$7,000
12.	Drinking fountains with spigots	\$6,000
13.	Bike racks	\$2,500
	Subtotal for Construction	\$932,500
	Contingency (10%)	\$93,250
	Construction Total	\$1,025,750
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$123,090
	Project Total	\$1,148,840

	Cost
Hobson Grove Park	
1. Dog park	\$100,000
2. Security cameras	\$10,000
3. Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
4. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$3,000
5. Bike racks	\$2,500
	<hr/>
Subtotal for Construction	\$125,500
Contingency (10%)	\$12,550
	<hr/>
Construction Total	\$138,050
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$16,566
	<hr/>
Project Total	\$154,616
Pedigo Park	
1. Replace/upgrade playground	\$100,000
2. Shelter/restroom building	\$100,000
3. Repave existing small parking lot	\$65,000
4. All-purpose perimeter trail	\$55,000
5. Shelter	\$50,000
6. Diamond field fence extension	\$40,000
7. Connecting trails and walkways (all access)	\$35,000
8. Relocate/replace batting cages	\$35,000
9. Site landscaping	\$24,000
10. Security cameras	\$20,000
11. Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$20,000
12. Gazebo	\$20,000
13. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$12,000
	<hr/>
Subtotal for Construction	\$576,000
Contingency (10%)	\$57,600
	<hr/>
Construction Total	\$633,600
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$76,032
	<hr/>
Project Total	\$709,632
Reservoir Hill Park	
1. Shelter improvements	\$20,000
2. Playground improvements (edging, ADA)	\$10,000
3. Security cameras and lighting	\$10,000
4. Walkway improvements (all-access)	\$9,000
5. Repave existing parking lot	\$5,000
6. Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$5,000
	<hr/>
Subtotal for Construction	\$59,000
Contingency (10%)	\$5,900
	<hr/>
Construction Total	\$64,900
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$7,788
	<hr/>
Project Total	\$72,688

	Cost
Roland Bland Park	
1. Replace one basketball court with multi-use court	\$80,000
2. Outdoor fitness area	\$60,000
3. Convert one tennis court to four pickleball courts	\$15,000
4. Convert one basketball court to bocce court	\$15,000
5. Security cameras	\$15,000
6. Convert remaining tennis court to two pickleball courts	\$12,000
7. Expand picnic area	\$6,000
8. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$3,000
9. Walkway improvements (all-access)	\$2,000
	\$208,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$208,000
Contingency (10%)	\$20,800
	\$228,800
Construction Total	\$228,800
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$27,456
	\$256,256
	\$256,256
Mini Parks	
Ogden Park	
1. Playground improvements (edging, ADA)	\$10,000
2. Walkway improvements (all-access)	\$7,000
3. Improve picnic area	\$6,500
4. Repave parking lot	\$4,000
5. Drinking fountain with spigots	\$3,000
	\$30,500
Subtotal for Construction	\$30,500
Contingency (10%)	\$3,050
	\$33,550
Construction Total	\$33,550
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$4,026
	\$37,576
	\$37,576
West End Park	
1. Small picnic shelter	\$30,000
2. Lighting	\$15,000
3. Drinking fountain with spigots	\$3,000
	\$48,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$48,000
Contingency (10%)	\$4,800
	\$52,800
Construction Total	\$52,800
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$6,336
	\$59,136
	\$59,136

Nature Parks

	Cost
Chuck Crume Nature Park	
1. Small picnic shelter	\$30,000
2. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$6,000
3. Wayfinding and signage	\$5,000
4. Interpretive signage	\$2,500
Subtotal for Construction	\$43,500
Contingency (10%)	\$4,350
Construction Total	\$47,850
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$5,742
Project Total	\$53,592

Special Use

Riverfront Park (Riverwalk and Weldon Peete Parks)

1. Boulder garden	\$350,000
2. Amphitheater	\$200,000
3. Parking (south portion)	\$170,000
4. Shelter/restroom building	\$150,000
5. Pave existing perimeter trail (north portion)	\$100,000
6. Landscaping and earth berms (north portion)	\$100,000
7. Permeable overflow parking	\$90,000
8. Landscaping (south portion)	\$70,000
9. Dog park	\$60,000
10. Play area and climbing apparatus	\$60,000
11. Parking (north portion)	\$55,000
12. Marked and signed crossing (Old Louisville Road)	\$50,000
13. Walkways (all-access)	\$45,000
14. Wildflower fields	\$25,000
15. Security cameras	\$25,000
16. Security lighting	\$20,000
17. Disc golf	\$18,000
18. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$15,000
19. Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
20. Bike racks	\$3,500
Subtotal for Construction	\$1,616,500
Contingency (10%)	\$161,650
Construction Total	\$1,778,150
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$213,378
Project Total	\$1,991,528
<i>Potential Partnership Projects</i>	
<i>Whitewater course (plus related elements)</i>	\$6,000,000
<i>Pump track</i>	\$200,000
<i>Pave existing lot (on County property)</i>	\$75,000
<i>Edible Forest</i>	\$20,000
<i>Nature trail (County property)</i>	\$14,000

		Cost
Shake Rag Property and Kummer-Little Recreation Center		
1.	Program rooms (3)	\$720,000
2.	Miracle Field	\$300,000
3.	Accessible playground	\$250,000
4.	Large Shelter with restrooms	\$200,000
5.	Paved area	\$100,000
6.	Parking for Miracle Field	\$60,000
7.	Security cameras	\$25,000
8.	Security lighting	\$11,000
9.	Site landscaping	\$10,000
10.	Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
11.	Walkway improvements (all-access)	\$8,000
12.	Drinking fountains with spigots	\$6,000
	Subtotal for Construction	\$1,700,000
	Contingency (10%)	\$170,000
	Construction Total	\$1,870,000
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$224,400
	Project Total	\$2,094,400

New Parks³²

Neighborhood Park 1		\$700,000
Neighborhood Park 2		\$700,000
Neighborhood Park 3		\$700,000
Neighborhood Park 4		\$700,000
Neighborhood Park 5		\$700,000
Neighborhood Park 6		\$700,000
Neighborhood Park 7		\$700,000
	Subtotal for Construction	\$4,900,000
	Contingency (10%)	\$490,000
	Construction Total	\$5,390,000
	Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$646,800
	Project Total	\$6,036,800

Other Improvements

Parks and Recreation Department

1.	ADA Accessibility Assessment	\$20,000
2.	Signage for wayfinding at all parks	\$30,000
3.	Master Plan for Riverfront Park	\$40,000
4.	Master Plan for Lampkin Park	\$20,000
5.	Master Plan for Preston Miller Park	\$20,000
6.	Feasibility Study for Multi-Use Facility	\$15,000
7.	Feasibility Study for Ice Rink	\$15,000
	Project Totals	\$160,000

³² Totals do not include land acquisition

Total Parks

The total cost for all improvements will depend on which of the recommendations are ultimately implemented. However, the total cost for the projects described above comes to approximately \$25 million, including the development of the seven new parks. Figure 29 shows the estimated cost required to develop each of these parks (not including land acquisition), sorted by the cost of each feature.

Grant opportunities exist, and should be explored, for many of these improvements, helping to reduce the required contributions by the City of Bowling Green. Additionally, partnerships, including fundraising by interest groups or the sale of naming rights, should be considered as part of any improvement, particularly those with substantial capital costs.

Projects listed as potential partnership projects are not counted in the total because they are only recommended as part of potential partnerships, so these projects should be financed in part, or entirely, through separate funding sources. Such projects also include the possible developments of a multi-use facility or an indoor ice rink at undermined locations.

Table 29: New Park Costs

	Cost
Typical Neighborhood Park	
1. Restroom building	\$125,000
2. Playground	\$100,000
3. Tennis courts	\$90,000
4. Perimeter trail	\$70,000
5. Parking	\$65,000
6. Diamond field	\$50,000
7. Shelter	\$50,000
8. Basketball court	\$40,000
9. Site landscaping	\$30,000
10. Walkways	\$25,000
11. Rectangular field	\$20,000
12. Volleyball court	\$15,000
13. Security cameras	\$15,000
14. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$12,000
15. Wi-Fi Hotspots	\$10,000
16. Bike racks	\$3,500
Subtotal for Construction	\$720,500
Contingency (10%)	\$72,050
Construction Total	\$792,550
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$95,106
Project Total	\$887,656
Typical Mini Park	
1. Playground	\$50,000
2. Shelter	\$30,000
3. Basketball court (or other court)	\$40,000
4. Site landscaping	\$5,000
5. Walkways	\$6,000
6. Drinking fountains with spigots	\$3,000
7. Bike racks	\$1,000
Subtotal for Construction	\$135,000
Contingency (10%)	\$13,500
Construction Total	\$148,500
Design/survey/bidding (12%)	\$17,820
Project Total	\$166,320

IX. ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN STRATEGIES

The table on the following pages details the recommendations of this Master Plan and should serve as direction for the Bowling Green Board of Commissioners, Parks and Recreation Department, and Parks Board of Commissioners regarding the implementation of this Plan. A total of seven goals, 28 objectives, and 157 strategies are outlined in this Action Plan. The legend at the top of the table identifies the abbreviations used throughout the table in columns for “Responsibility” and “Funding Source.”

The table identifies each goal, followed by a series of objectives to meet those goals. Strategies further describe how to meet each objective and represent specific actions for the City of Bowling Green to make. Check marks indicate the timeframe for the completion of each strategy: 0-2 years, 3-5 years, 6-10 years, or over 10 years. Some strategies are indicated as “Ongoing” as they apply to all timeframes or represent more general actions that should always be considered. A total for strategies by timeframe can be find at the end of the table.

The four columns at the right of the table provide information regarding the implementation of each strategy. “Responsibility” indicates the organization or agency that should lead implementation of the recommendation. “Category” describes the type of action within the following five options: capital (capital improvements), policy (guidelines for Parks and Recreation Department and City Commission, possibly including legislation), planning (long-term parks outlook, could include conduction of a study), operations (Parks and Recreation Department actions), or partnership (completion should include partners).

“Funding Source” indicates how the strategy should be funded or the type of funds used. For example, CP indicates that funds come from a source related to Capital Project Funds, including existing or future revenue sources. The final column “Related Comp Plan Actions” lists actions from the City’s comprehensive plan, *Focus 2030*, that are consistent with specific strategies in the Master Plan.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RANKING

The Master Plan Steering Committee and community leaders reviewed the potential solutions and recommendations of the Master Plan and then participated in an exercise to help establish capital priorities for the Action Plan. Committee Members were asked to rank each of the potential improvement projects with a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0).

The priority ranking was used to indicate the importance of the improvements and not necessarily the order in which they would be developed. Figure 61, located after the Action Plan, identifies the capital improvement ranking based on the average of the ranking for each item. These rankings were used as part of the process for recommending priorities, along with public input and analyses completed throughout this Master Planning process.

ACTION PLAN								
Goals, Objectives, and Strategies								
	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations								
Parks = Bowling Green Parks and Recreation Department	County = Warren County Parks and Recreation							
City = City of Bowling Green, City Commission, Other City Departments	CP = Capital Project Funds (bond proceeds, grant receipts, and developer contributions)							
OP = City Operating Budget								
Partner = Other organizations or government agencies (i.e. Businesses, Civic Associations, state/federal grants, etc.)	Schools = Bowling Green Independent School District or Warren County Public Schools							
Goal 1: Invest in Services for the Community with Consideration to Both the Present and the Future								
Strategically plan short- and long-term investments in parks, facilities, and the community of Bowling Green with a focus on community health and quality of life through acquisition, preservation, and proactive maintenance.								
Objective 1.1: Prioritize enhancements to quality of life and community health considering acquisition or development of parkland and recreation facilities.								
Strategy 1.1.1: Formally recognize this Master Plan as the guiding document for parks and recreation improvements following presentations to the Steering Committee and City Commission.	✓				City	Policy		PR 2, PR 6
Strategy 1.1.2: Establish an implementation committee to monitor timelines and ensure continued enthusiasm for Master Plan goals and recommendations.	✓				Parks, City	Planning		
Strategy 1.1.3: Focus short term capital improvements on renovation/improvement to existing, key facilities (trails, playgrounds, game courts, picnic shelters, and athletic fields).	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Policy		
Strategy 1.1.4: Ensure that the addition of needed support facilities, including walkways, restrooms, signage, and drinking fountains are part of any park improvement project.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Policy		
Strategy 1.1.5: Prioritize the development of conveniently located facilities that promote the health of residents (trails, fitness equipment).	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Policy		
Objective 1.2: Explore a wide variety of opportunities for investment in parks, facilities, and the people of Bowling Green.								
Strategy 1.2.1: Prepare more detailed Master Plans for Preston Miller and Lampkin Parks to ensure that the improvements meet the long-term needs of Bowling Green residents.	✓	✓			Parks, City	Planning	OP, CP	
Strategy 1.2.2: Prepare a more detailed Master Plan for the Riverfront Park to ensure that the site becomes a unique destination.		✓			Parks, City	Planning	OP, CP, Partner	
Strategy 1.2.3: Develop additional rectangular fields at existing parks, including a new complex at Preston Miller Park.		✓			Parks, City	Capital	CP	PR 1
Strategy 1.2.4: Consider, during the Master Plan process, the development of an artificial turf field as part of a potential rectangular field complex at Preston Miller Park.	✓	✓			Parks, City	Planning	CP	
Strategy 1.2.5: Develop an artificial turf field at Preston Miller Park if chosen as an appropriate site for such a facility.			✓		Parks, City	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 1.2.6: Develop outdoor fitness equipment at parks throughout Bowling Green (Lampkin, Preston Miller, H.P. Thomas, Roland Bland Parks) to provide convenient access to additional healthy activities for residents.		✓			Parks, City	Capital	CP	PR 1
Strategy 1.2.7: Develop a dog park at Hobson Grove Park.		✓	✓		Parks	Planning, Capital	CP	
Strategy 1.2.8: Add restroom facilities at needed locations at existing Neighborhood and Community Parks.	✓				Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 1.2.9: Add drinking fountains as needed at all existing Parks.	✓				Parks	Capital	CP	

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Objective 1.3: Consider the long-term needs of the City and financial sustainability as part of any investment process.								
Strategy 1.3.1: Consider the long-term financial impacts and sustainability of major investments in terms of both capital and operating/maintenance costs (including partnership projects).	Ongoing				Parks, City	Policy		
Strategy 1.3.2: Consider economic development opportunities a part of park and trail development.	Ongoing				City	Policy, Partnership		PR 16
Strategy 1.3.3: Investigate new and inventive funding sources for parks and recreation improvements.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Policy, Partnership	OP, Partner	
Objective 1.4: Maximize the utility of parkland and open space properties through careful prioritization of acquisitions and improvements.								
Strategy 1.4.1: Prioritize the implementation of nature based and passive recreational opportunities at existing parks.	✓				Parks	Policy, Planning		
Strategy 1.4.2: Prioritize acquisition of properties adjacent to existing parks or with quantifiable natural resource significance.	Ongoing				City	Policy, Planning		
Strategy 1.4.3: Consider incentives for land donation for parks, open space, and trails.	✓				City	Policy		LU 7
Strategy 1.4.4: Consider standards to ensure that land acquired or preserved through such incentives offers recreational or ecological value.	Ongoing				City	Policy		LU 3
Strategy 1.4.5: Continue to pursue blueway (or boat access) opportunities at parks and as part of greenway and trail development.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Policy, Planning	OP, Partner	PR 19
Strategy 1.4.6: Incorporate natural resources into any park improvement (or new park development) to maximize the utility of these assets for recreational opportunities and for the enhancement of quality of life.	Ongoing				Parks	Planning	OP	
Strategy 1.4.7: Implement improvements to Chuck Crume Park, including improved signage, wayfinding, and picnicking opportunities, to attract more participation at this underutilized park.	✓				Parks, City	Capital	CP	
Goal 2: Maintain Balance throughout the Park System								
Preserve a balance between a wide array of community and service needs.								
Objective 2.1: Pursue a balance between the need for new facilities and improvements to existing facilities.								
Strategy 2.1.1: Balance the upgrading or replacement of existing facilities, particularly playgrounds and picnic shelters, with the development of additional facilities to ensure that quality remains consistent throughout the parks system.	Ongoing				Parks	Policy, Planning		PR 1
Strategy 2.1.2: Seek a balance between the needs for organized youth sports, adult leagues, and open/unscheduled play as part of field development.	Ongoing				Parks	Policy, Planning		
Strategy 2.1.3: Improve the playground (and add swings) and remove the basketball court at Pedigo Park to promote a more family friendly environment.	✓				Parks, City	Capital	CP	
Strategy 2.1.4: Ensure that any new fields can accommodate the growing sport of lacrosse.	Ongoing				Parks	Planning, Operations	OP	PR 1
Strategy 2.1.5: Add parking as facilities are expanded to assure adequate access to facilities is maintained.	Ongoing				Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 2.1.6: Add two additional tennis courts to Kereiakes Park to promote tournament use.		✓			Parks	Planning, Capital	CP	
Strategy 2.1.7: Add three sand volleyball courts with lighting at Preston Miller Park to meet the existing need for more courts and to provide additional opportunities for tournaments.		✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Objective 2.2: Endeavor to assure a fair and even distribution of facilities and programs throughout the City that considers both the quality and quantity of facilities and programs.								
Strategy 2.2.1: Investigate opportunities to acquire land for additional Neighborhood Parks in both growth areas and areas that are currently underserved by parks.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Planning	OP	PR 3

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Strategy 2.2.2: Prioritize acquisitions in areas where development threatens the availability of land for potential parks and open space.	Ongoing				City	Policy, Planning		PR 4
Strategy 2.2.3: Acquire and develop Neighborhood Parks (8-10 acres) in three locations with established populations in the southern portion of the City (See Figure 38).		✓			Parks, City	Capital, Planning	CP, Partner	PR 3
Strategy 2.2.4: Acquire and develop Neighborhood Parks (8-10 acres) in four growth areas along the current City limits (See Figure 38).			✓		Parks, City	Capital, Planning	CP, Partner	PR 3
Strategy 2.2.5: Develop Mini Parks in underserved if larger parcels of land are unavailable or to fill smaller gaps in service if properties become available.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Capital, Planning	CP	
Strategy 2.2.6: Develop an outdoor basketball court at H.P. Thomas or new park (or both) in the southern half of Bowling Green where no such facilities exist outside of school properties.	✓	✓			Parks	Planning, Capital	CP	
Strategy 2.2.7: Encourage developers to set aside land for parks and opens space as part of any large residential development through the use of incentives or regulations.	Ongoing				City	Policy		LU 7
Strategy 2.2.8: Develop spraygrounds at strategic locations to provide a better balance of aquatic services throughout Bowling Green (Lampkin Park and H.P. Thomas Park or a future park in the southern part of the city).	Ongoing				Parks	Capital	CP	PR 1
Objective 2.3: Maintain a balance between complementary (or conflicting) uses at all park or open space sites.								
Strategy 2.3.1: Provide a variety of options at all parks to meet the needs of users with different needs and preferences, including both active and passive recreation.	Ongoing				Parks	Planning	CP	PR 1
Strategy 2.3.2: Include reservable picnic shelters in new park development where possible, particularly in the southern half of Bowling Green where these facilities are currently limited.	Ongoing				Parks	Planning	CP	PR 1
Strategy 2.3.3: Develop community gardens at Lampkin and Preston Miller Parks to take advantage of underutilized parkland and to expand the availability of this popular amenity.	✓	✓			Parks	Planning	CP	PR 1
Strategy 2.3.4: Provide water access at the community gardens at Spero Kereiakes Park and at new community gardens at Lampkin, Preston Miller, and future parks.	✓	✓			Parks	Planning	CP	PR 1
Strategy 2.3.5: Ensure that all new park developments include playgrounds (or other play areas), especially in the southern half of the City where few exists outside of schools.	Ongoing				Parks	Planning	CP	
Strategy 2.3.6: Continue to offer rentals of existing and new facilities as an additional revenue source, but carefully balance the availability of these facilities for open public use.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations, Policy		
Strategy 2.3.7: Balance fee structures to provide cost recovery for programs and facilities without excluding users from participation.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Objective 2.4: Consider the conservation, preservation, and interpretation of natural resources as part of park and facility acquisition, development, and programming.								
Strategy 2.4.1: Develop nature trails to take advantage of existing natural resources at Lampkin Park, Weldon Peete (County-owned area), and future parks.		✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 2.4.2: Utilize Chuck Crume Nature Park and at future nature trails for guided hikes and to provide additional educational opportunities.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 2.4.3: Utilize parks as examples of Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater detention, rain gardens, etc.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Policy	CP	CF 14, CF 15, NCR 10
Strategy 2.4.4: Develop nature based programs and events to increase awareness of sensitive resources and to provide educational opportunities to Bowling Green residents.	✓	✓			Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 2.4.5: Provide interpretive signage at locations of natural resources and along nature trails.	Ongoing				Parks	Capital, Planning	CP	
Objective 2.5: Maintain a balance between the proportion of parkland that is left in its natural state rather than developed.								
Strategy 2.5.1: Provide and maintain natural areas at future parks where possible and endeavor to maintain and protect such areas at existing parks.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations, Planning	CP, OP	

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Strategy 2.5.2: Develop an open space plan to identify, preserve, and monitor environmentally sensitive lands.	✓	✓			City	Planning	CP	PR 9
Strategy 2.5.3: Seek opportunities for acquisition of additional open space through both acquisition and donation.	Ongoing				City	Planning	CP	
Goal 3: Develop Partnerships to Maximize Facility and Program Opportunities								
Collaborate with local organizations, including school districts, colleges/universities, business groups, non-profits, churches, and other government agencies, to increase parks and recreation opportunities.								
Objective 3.1: Investigate partnerships with other public agencies and private organizations to develop facility offerings for residents and visitors and to avoid the duplication of services.								
Strategy 3.1.1: Consider a partnership with Bowling Green Independent School District to maintain school properties formally and public parks (similar to existing agreement between Warren County Schools and Warren County Parks).	✓				Parks, City, Schools	Policy, Partnership, Operations	OP, Schools	PR 5
Strategy 3.1.2: Collaborate with Warren County Parks for improvements to the County-owned portion of Weldon Peete Park, including improved/expanded parking and nature trails.		✓			Parks, County	Partnership	County	
Strategy 3.1.3: Explore a partnership with soccer groups to develop one or more artificial turf fields at Lover Lane Park.		✓			Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital	Partner, CP	
Strategy 3.1.4: Collaborate with both school districts as well as private facilities, including D1 and Total Fitness, to maximize use of existing indoor facilities.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	CF 25
Strategy 3.1.5: Determine the feasibility of a multi-use indoor facility (feasibility study) on City-owned property (spaces for indoor turf areas, indoor tennis, and more) as part of a partnership with private agencies.	✓	✓	✓		Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Planning	CP	
Strategy 3.1.6: Pursue partnerships for both the capital construction costs and the annual operating costs of any such facility.			✓	✓	Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations, Capital	Partner, CP	
Strategy 3.1.7: Determine the feasibility of an indoor ice rink (feasibility study) on City-owned property, possibly as part of a multi-use facility, as part of a partnership with private agencies.	✓	✓	✓		Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Planning, Capital	CP	
Strategy 3.1.8: Pursue a partnership with the Nashville Predators for the operation of a potential indoor ice rink and repayment of associated capital costs.			✓	✓	Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital, Operations	Partner, CP	
Strategy 3.1.9: Investigate the potential for partnerships with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Schools on the development and operations of an indoor swimming facility.		✓	✓		Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Planning	OP	
Strategy 3.1.10: Develop an indoor swimming facility as part of a partnership with the Convention and Visitors Bureau and Schools, if deemed feasible (possible as part of a multi-use facility).			✓	✓	Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital	Partner, Schools, CP	
Strategy 3.1.11: Require detailed documentation of funding sources and operating strategies (pro-forma) as part of any facility partnership agreement.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations		
Objective 3.2: Seek partnerships for the operation and maintenance of facilities as needed to reduce ongoing costs to the people of Bowling Green.								
Strategy 3.2.1: Seek grants from state, federal, and non-profit sources for trail and bikeway improvements.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital	OP	
Strategy 3.2.2: Establish policies for selling of naming rights (facilities, rooms, etc.).	✓				Parks, City	Policy, Partnership	OP	
Strategy 3.2.3: Establish policies for recognition of naming rights (signage, etc.).	✓				Parks, City	Policy, Partnership	OP	
Strategy 3.2.4: Consider selling naming rights for to help fund ongoing costs, particularly at new facilities, once these policies are established.	✓				Parks, City	Policy, Partnership		
Strategy 3.2.5: Investigate the financial ramifications of outsourcing the management of the golf courses to determine whether this strategy is an advantageous or viable option for the City.		✓			Parks, City	Policy, Operations	OP	

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Strategy 3.2.6: Recruit sponsors for larger programs and events to offset costs.	Ongoing				Parks	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 3.2.7: Work with the Greenways Commission to install trash and recycling receptacles at high traffic locations along Greenways to reduce litter and improve the appearance of these critical facilities.	✓				Parks, City	Partnership, Capital, Operations	CP, OP, Partner	
Objective 3.3: Collaborate with other agencies and organizations to develop and provide educational and recreational programs needed but not currently offered in the City of Bowling Green.								
Strategy 3.3.1: Collaborate with local agencies and organizations for cross promotion to improve awareness of programming opportunities and to coordinate offerings to avoid duplication of services.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	ED 41
Strategy 3.3.2: Seek partnerships with health care providers to increase availability of programs related to health and wellness for all ages.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 3.3.3: Look for opportunities to establish a water fitness program at a local aquatic facility (possibly schools or Total Fitness Connection).	✓				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 3.3.4: Explore partnership opportunities for nature programs with Warren County Parks, Lost River Cave (currently offers some nature programming), both local school districts, and Western Kentucky University for nature programs (possibly at Crume Nature Park or Weldon Peete Park).	✓				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 3.3.5: Promote the offerings at Lost River Cave, including the planned Nature Discovery Center, within the seasonal recreation bulletin to avoid duplication of programming.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	NCR 27
Strategy 3.3.6: Investigate partnerships with local groups to offer indoor roller-skating opportunities and programs (including inline hockey, roller derby, and recreational skating) at an existing facility using protective flooring or as part of a future multi-use facility.	✓				Parks, City, Partner	Operations, Partnership, Capital	OP, Partner	
Objective 3.4: Join forces with community partners to ensure Bowling Green becomes and remains a major destination for tourism at both the regional and national levels.								
Strategy 3.4.1: Maintain and expand the existing partnership with the Bowling Green Riverfront Foundation.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership	OP	PR 22
Strategy 3.4.2: Pursue the development of the Riverfront Park, including (but not limited to) the potential development of a bicycle pump track, boulder garden, and whitewater course.		✓	✓		Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital	CP, Partner	PR 22
Strategy 3.4.3: Pursue partnership opportunities to develop indoor facilities that may be unavailable to residents locally, helping to make Bowling Green a center for a wide variety of events in the region.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital	OP, Partner	
Strategy 3.4.4: Pursue grants for development and operation of parks and recreation facilities and programs.	Ongoing				Parks, City, Partner	Partnership, Capital, Operations	OP, Partner	
Goal 4: Inspire Sense of Place through Community Connections – Physical and Social								
Utilize improved connectivity to inspire a sense of place and community identity through parks, trails, programs, and events and by improving awareness of parks and recreation opportunities.								
Objective 4.1: Develop trail connections between parks, schools, neighborhoods, and other gathering places.								
Strategy 4.1.1: Continue implementation of Greenways Master Plan placing priority on the connection of existing segments, particularly the four links designated in that plan as Short-Term Priorities.	Ongoing				City	Policy	CP, Partner	PR 13, PR 17
Strategy 4.1.2: Improve connectivity within parks through added walkways and connecting paths.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 4.1.3: Increase availability of bicycle parking at all parks, focusing first on those with existing bicycle access.	✓				Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 4.1.4: Develop all-purpose perimeter trails at Lampkin, Lovers Lane, H.P. Thomas, and Pedigo Parks.	✓	✓			Parks, City	Capital	CP	
Strategy 4.1.5: Connect Lampkin and Pedigo Parks to the proposed Greenway connection between Veteran's Memorial Lane and downtown Bowling Green to provide a connection between these two parks and to allow these parks to be utilized as trailheads for the Greenways.	✓	✓			Parks, City, Partner	Planning, Capital	CP, Partner	

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Strategy 4.1.6: Improve the connection between Weldon Peete and RiverWalk Parks by relocating the street crossing to an intersection with a lined and signed crosswalk that leads directly into both sites.	✓				Parks, City	Capital	CP	
Strategy 4.1.7: Identify and develop trail connections between parks and disconnected but adjacent streets to improve both access to parks and neighborhood connectivity.	✓	✓			Parks, City	Planning, Capital	CP, Partner	PR 17
Strategy 4.1.8: Identify and develop trail connections between parks and schools, neighborhoods, cultural institutions, historic areas, and other recreational opportunities to promote both connectivity and tourism activities.	✓	✓			City	Planning, Capital	CP, Partner	PR 17, PR 18
Strategy 4.1.9: Develop all-purpose perimeter trails at all future parks.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 4.1.10: Consider the establishment of a "complete streets" program to ensure accommodation of bicyclists, pedestrians, and automobiles.		✓			City	Policy	CP, Partner	TR 11
Strategy 4.1.11: Develop natural trails in park areas where paved trails are not feasible.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Policy, Capital	CP	
Strategy 4.1.12: Continuously monitor trends and make accommodations for new modes of transportation within parks and throughout the City.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Planning	OP	
Strategy 4.1.13: Consider connections to blueways (boat access) as part of park and trail development.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks	Planning		PR 19
Objective 4.2: Utilize parks to inspire a sense of place for the community and as venues for members of the community to gather, connect, and socialize.								
Strategy 4.2.1: Ship program booklets to all new residents to assure awareness of parks and recreation opportunities in Bowling Green.	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 4.2.2: Send annual mailers to households to remind residents of parks and recreation opportunities.	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 4.2.3: Collaborate with community leaders of Bowling Green's numerous nationalities to provide program information in multiple languages and to promote diversity of programs.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, Partner	Operations	OP	
Strategy 4.2.4: Provide Wi-Fi hotspots in all Neighborhood and Community Parks with initial focus on the most used parks currently lacking this amenity.	✓				Parks	Capital	CP	ED 29
Strategy 4.2.5: Develop an additional amphitheater/bandshell for community events (Lampkin Park or new Riverfront Park are potential locations).		✓	✓		Parks	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 4.2.6: Develop a party room at the Russell Sims Aquatic Center for an additional revenue source and program opportunities.		✓	✓		Parks	Capital	CP	
Objective 4.3: Facilitate connections between residents through the programming of events.								
Strategy 4.3.1: Utilize the existing event space at Circus Square Park and any future amphitheater/bandshell for more community events (concerts, movies, music, etc.).	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks	Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 4.3.2: Continue to partner with Downtown Redevelopment Authority (DRA) to schedule and promote the community events.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, Partner	Operations, Partnership	OP, Partner	
Strategy 4.3.3: Engage underserved populations, including low income, minority, and disabled residents, to improve awareness of recreation opportunities (and to increase participation rates) through collaboration with community leaders and organizations.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks	Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 4.3.4: Ensure transportation is not a barrier to program participation by ensuring that transportation to programs is provided to those in need.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, City	Planning, Operations	OP, Partner	
Objective 4.4: Publicize parks and recreation opportunities electronically through online access and new technologies as they become available.								
Strategy 4.4.1: Create and promote a common calendar for activities and events in Bowling Green, including opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism.	<i>Ongoing</i>				Parks, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 4.4.2: Develop, promote, and regularly update a mobile application (smart phone/tablet app) to communicate program offerings and improve park experiences (event information, park/trail maps).	✓				Parks	Capital, Operations	CP, OP	

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Strategy 4.4.3: Utilize social media to promote programs and events to residents and visitors.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 4.4.4: Actively promote park improvements and new program offerings as they become available.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Goal 5: Provide an Assortment of Services for a Diverse Population								
Ensure a variety of opportunities for all members of the community regardless of background or skill level.								
Objective 5.1: Engage park users of different ages, genders, income levels, and cultural backgrounds in addition to those with disabilities.								
Strategy 5.1.1: Redevelop playgrounds at Community Parks (Spero Kereiakes, Preston Miller, Lampkin Park) as large, all-access, destination playgrounds with themes matching the character of the park and surrounding area.		✓			Parks	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 5.1.2: Determine the feasibility of the development of a Miracle Field (possibly at Shake Rag property, adjacent to the Kummer/Little Recreation Center) to expand the facility offerings for mentally and physically challenged individuals.	✓				Parks, Partner	Planning	OP, Partner	
Strategy 5.1.3: Develop a Miracle Field, if determined feasible, at the Shake Rag property adjacent to the Kummer/Little Recreation Center.		✓	✓		Parks, Partner	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 5.1.4: Develop a fully accessible playground with a solid rubber safety surface in conjunction with the Miracle Field (on the Kummer/Little property).		✓	✓		Parks, Partner	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 5.1.5: Develop a recreation center as part of improvements to Preston Miller Park.		✓	✓		Parks, Partner	Capital	CP, Partner	
Strategy 5.1.6: Consider the development of a recreation center as part of a future park development in the southern part of Bowling Green.				✓	Parks, Partner	Capital, Planning	CP, Partner	
Strategy 5.1.7: Develop facilities for seniors as part of any new community center development or expansion.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Capital, Planning	CP	
Strategy 5.1.8: Convert one tennis court at Roland Bland Park to four pickleball courts.	✓				Parks, City	Capital	CP	
Strategy 5.1.9: Replace basketball courts at Roland Bland Park with a bocce court and a multi-use court (to provide for a variety of activities, including basketball).		✓	✓		Parks, City	Capital	CP	
Objective 5.2: Provide an array of affordable programs to meet the varying and evolving needs of Bowling Green's diverse population.								
Strategy 5.2.1: Seek additional opportunities for multigenerational and intergenerational programming, including nature-based outdoor activities (fishing, gardening, bird watching) and arts and crafts indoor activities (music, painting, cooking).	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.2.2: Continue to partner with the Community Action Senior Center and the Housing Authority Senior Program to avoid duplication of services, determine program needs, and to provide transportation to these programs.	Ongoing				Parks, Partner	Partnership, Operations	OP, Partner	
Strategy 5.2.3: Expand the availability of programs for seniors, particularly healthy seniors, at Kummer/Little Recreation Center or at any new community center.	✓	✓			Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.2.4: Expand the Silver Sneakers program to meet the needs of the growing number of healthy seniors in the community.	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.2.5: Establish a pickleball program in conjunction with the construction of the associated facility that includes classes, tournaments, and potentially leagues for both seniors only and multi-generational participants.	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.2.6: Develop programs to take advantage of outdoor fitness equipment and to provide additional fitness and wellness programming.		✓			Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.2.7: Develop programs to utilize the multi-use and bocce courts at Roland Bland Park if developed.		✓	✓		Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.2.8: Monitor the level of interest in the community for lacrosse programs for various age groups.	Ongoing				Parks	Operation	OP	
Strategy 5.2.9: Investigate the interest in a Parks and Recreation managed tennis league to offer an affordable option for residents who want to participate in this sport.		✓			Parks	Operations	OP	

	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Strategy 5.2.10: Maintain and expand, as additional facilities are developed, sponsorships for residents who cannot afford to use facilities or participate in programs, including athletics.	Ongoing				Parks, Partner	Operations, Partnership	OP, Partner	
Objective 5.3: Assure the availability of opportunities for community members regardless of age, skill level, or disability.								
Strategy 5.3.1: Ensure that existing programs continue to provide opportunities for community members of all ages, skill levels, and those with disabilities.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.3.2: Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications.	✓				Parks, City	Policy, Planning	CP	
Strategy 5.3.3: Provide an accessible route of travel to all athletic fields and spectator seating areas.	✓				Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 5.3.4: Work with the Miracle League Association to evaluate the potential for the foundation of a Miracle League (in conjunction with the development of the Miracle Field).	✓				Parks, City, Partner	Planning, Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.3.5: Pursue the foundation of a Miracle League, if a field is developed, to provide additional programming for mentally and physically challenged individuals.		✓	✓		Parks, City, Partner	Planning, Operations	OP	
Strategy 5.3.6: Expand the availability of programs for adults and children running simultaneously, so parents can participate in one program, while their children participate in another.	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Goal 6: Assure that Parks are Safe, Secure, and Welcoming for Everyone								
Provide a welcoming environment at all facilities, programs, and events through consistency in appearance and program delivery combined with high levels of safety and security.								
Objective 6.1: Provide a welcoming environment that is consistent in both appearance and user experience.								
Strategy 6.1.1: Implement a signage program for consistent and attractive park entrance signs, directional signs, trail system identification, wayfinding, etc.	✓				Parks	Capital, Policy	CP	
Strategy 6.1.2: Improve landscaping within all existing parks (rather than only entrances) to make facilities more attractive and inviting.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital, Policy	CP	
Strategy 6.1.3: Provide signage for wayfinding at all parks detailing locations of trails and facilities.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Objective 6.2: Assure that all park facilities are well maintained and regularly inspected as needed to assure safety for users.								
Strategy 6.2.1: Upgrade the Parks and cemetery maintenance facility to the standards of Public Works with more storage and updated facilities.		✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 6.2.2: Improve paving of parking lots at parks throughout Bowling Green.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Objective 6.3: Maintain a reassuring presence (staff, partner organizations, City Police, volunteers) at parks to assure sense of safety for users and security of the facilities.								
Strategy 6.3.1: Coordinate with Police Department for increased presence at parks and programs.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Policy	OP	
Strategy 6.3.2: Utilize volunteer groups to assist in the maintenance and patrol of trails and park facilities (See also Objective 7.3).	✓				Parks, Partner	Operations, Partner	OP, Partner	
Objective 6.4: Instill and maintain a perception of safety and security through design, mechanical, and human resource methods.								
Strategy 6.4.1: Prioritize safety improvements at the most used parks and those perceived as most in need of such improvements.	Ongoing				Parks	Policy		
Strategy 6.4.2: Install security cameras to all Community and Neighborhood Parks to encourage a safe atmosphere and preventing damage to park property.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital	CP	
Strategy 6.4.3: Install security lighting at all Community and Neighborhood Parks to improve visibility and discourage undesirable activities.	✓	✓			Parks	Capital	CP	

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	0-2 YEARS	3-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	10+ YEARS	RESPONSIBILITY	CATEGORY	FUNDING SOURCE	RELATED COMP PLAN ACTIONS
Goal 7: Strive for Excellence of Both Facilities and Service Delivery								
Strive for excellence in all aspects of parks and recreation, including facilities, staff, programs, and events, while inspiring the trust, interest, and involvement of the community.								
Objective 7.1: Utilize a highly trained, diverse, and passionate staff at all levels through ongoing training to inspire community trust in the Parks and Recreation Department.								
Strategy 7.1.1: Train leadership staff to become experts in their respective fields.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.1.2: Create and implement professional and career development plans for all staff.	✓				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.1.3: Encourage management level staff to attend professional development programs offered by state, regional, and national training organizations.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.1.4: Continuously train staff and emphasize customer service.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Objective 7.2: Ensure meticulous maintenance to ensure the overall quality of the parks system while enhancing community appreciation of parks, facilities, programs, and staff and ensuring that parks and recreation facilities remain a major attraction for the City.								
Strategy 7.2.1: Continuously examine program satisfaction levels and monitor suggestions, attendance, and trends to ensure program offerings match the needs of the community.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.2.2: Conduct regular assessments and evaluations of existing parks and facilities for their functionality, accessibility, aesthetics, and ability to meet established standards of service.	Ongoing				Parks	Operations	OP	
Objective 7.3: Encourage volunteerism to cultivate community ownership and a vested interest in the parks and programs.								
Strategy 7.3.1: Organize a "Friends of Bowling Green Parks" foundation to be an advocate for this Master Plan and to raise funds for improvements through donations, endowments, bequests, trusts, and grants.	Ongoing				Parks, Partner	Operations, Partnership	OP, Partner	
Strategy 7.3.2: Establish a program (possibly as part of "Friends of Bowling Green Parks") to recruit and organize volunteers to adopt sections of trails within Bowling Green Parks, including paved trails, nature trails, and trails along disc golf courses.	✓				Parks, Partner	Operations, Partnership	OP, Partner	
Strategy 7.3.3: Utilize this program to collect waste at receptacles along Greenways, if installed.		✓			Parks, Partner	Operations	OP, Partner	
Objective 7.4: Set a standard for excellence in parks and recreation service delivery.								
Strategy 7.4.1: Pursue CAPRA Accreditation.		✓			Parks	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.4.2: Establish a program for internal benchmarking of program offerings and facility maintenance.	✓				Parks, City	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.4.3: Annually review the results of the internal benchmarking in conjunction with feedback from user groups.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Operations	OP	
Strategy 7.4.4: Review and update this Master Plan at intervals not to exceed five years to evaluate progress and to reassess priorities.		✓	✓	✓	Parks, City	Planning	OP, CP	PR 2
Strategy 7.4.5: Reference this Master Plan in future updates to the City's Comprehensive Plan.	Ongoing				Parks, City	Policy, Planning	OP, CP	
Totals by Timeframe	Ongoing = 66	57	50	19	5			
Total Number of Strategies = 158								

Table 30: Capital Improvement Ranking

Capital Improvements Ranking by Steering Committee Members	
Capital Projects Rank - High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), or Not Needed (0).	
Priority Rank	Capital Improvement
2.92	All parks - Security cameras, Wi-Fi, drinking fountains, bike racks
2.67	All parks - Walkway improvements (connectivity, ADA)
2.58	Select parks - Playground improvements and replacement
2.42	Pedigo Park improvements (perimeter trail/picnic shelters/field improvements)
2.42	New Neighborhood and Mini Parks
2.33	Lampkin Park - Other improvements (sprayground/shelters/community gardens)
2.33	Preston Miller Park - Soccer fields
2.17	Lampkin Park - Perimeter trail system
2.17	Preston Miller Park - Recreation/community center
2.17	All parks - Site landscaping improvements
2.08	H.P. Thomas Park improvements (sprayground/perimeter trail/soccer field/basketball court)
2.08	Lovers Lane Park - Perimeter trail
2.08	Riverfront Park - Other improvements (climbing areas/play areas/amphitheater)
2.08	Roland Bland Park improvements (pickleball courts/bocce/multi-use court)
2.08	Shake Rag & Kummer-Little Recreation Center improvements (Miracle Field/meeting rooms/accessible playground)
2.08	Select parks - Outdoor fitness equipment
2.08	Indoor multi-use facility
2.00	Other park improvements (Covington Woods/Reservoir Hill/Ogden/West End/ Chuck Crume)
1.92	Lampkin Park - Court and field improvements
1.92	Riverfront Park - Whitewater course
1.83	Riverfront Park - Pump track
1.67	Lovers Lane Park - Artificial turf fields
1.67	Spero Kereiakes Park improvements (additional tennis courts)
1.58	Preston Miller Park - Additional volleyball courts
0.50	Indoor ice rink at a site to be determined

X. APPENDIX
A. EXISTING PLANS

APPENDIX A – EXISTING PLANS

FOCUS 2030 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN, WARREN COUNTY/BOWLING GREEN

Prepared by Wallace Roberts & Todd for the City-County Planning Commission of Warren County, Kentucky, Adopted by Bowling Green on September 20, 2012

Introduction

The Focus 2030 Comprehensive Plan is a long range plan (20 years) to guide the future of all of Warren County, including Bowling Green. The Plan replaces the 1990 Comprehensive Plan for Warren County. The Plan serves as a guide to development in the County and provides a “big picture” for meeting the future and existing needs of residents and businesses. The Plan calls for reasonable development standards and flexibility while helping to reduce growth pressures on rural and agricultural areas to maintain the quality of life that results from these communities. The main portion of the Plan (Volume 1) consists of a Vision Statement, seven sections or elements, and an implementation strategy.

Vision Statement

The Vision Statement identifies the following items as the primary assets of Warren County to protect and enhance:

- scenic natural environment
- educational and cultural opportunities
- economic strength
- functional infrastructure
- productive agricultural base and rural countryside
- excellence in governance

The Vision consists of four themes to express what Warren County and Bowling Green will do for their communities by 2030.

1. Quality of Life

- Strengthen identity of Bowling Green and its historic neighborhoods.
- Encourage compact and infill development.
- Maintain scenic rural character.
- Accommodate growth in accordance with natural resources while preserving open space.
- Preserve open space and stream corridors through trails and greenways.

2. Sustainable Growth/Economic Strength

- Promote compact and pedestrian-friendly development patterns to promote walking and biking.
- Reduce pressure on development of farmland while reinvesting in older neighborhoods.

3. Balance Transportation, Infrastructure, and Public Facilities

- Continue to provide a wide variety of parks and recreational activities.

4. Excellence in Governance

- Anticipate long-range needs and plan for adequate public facilities.
- Promote greater intergovernmental coordination.

Policy Framework

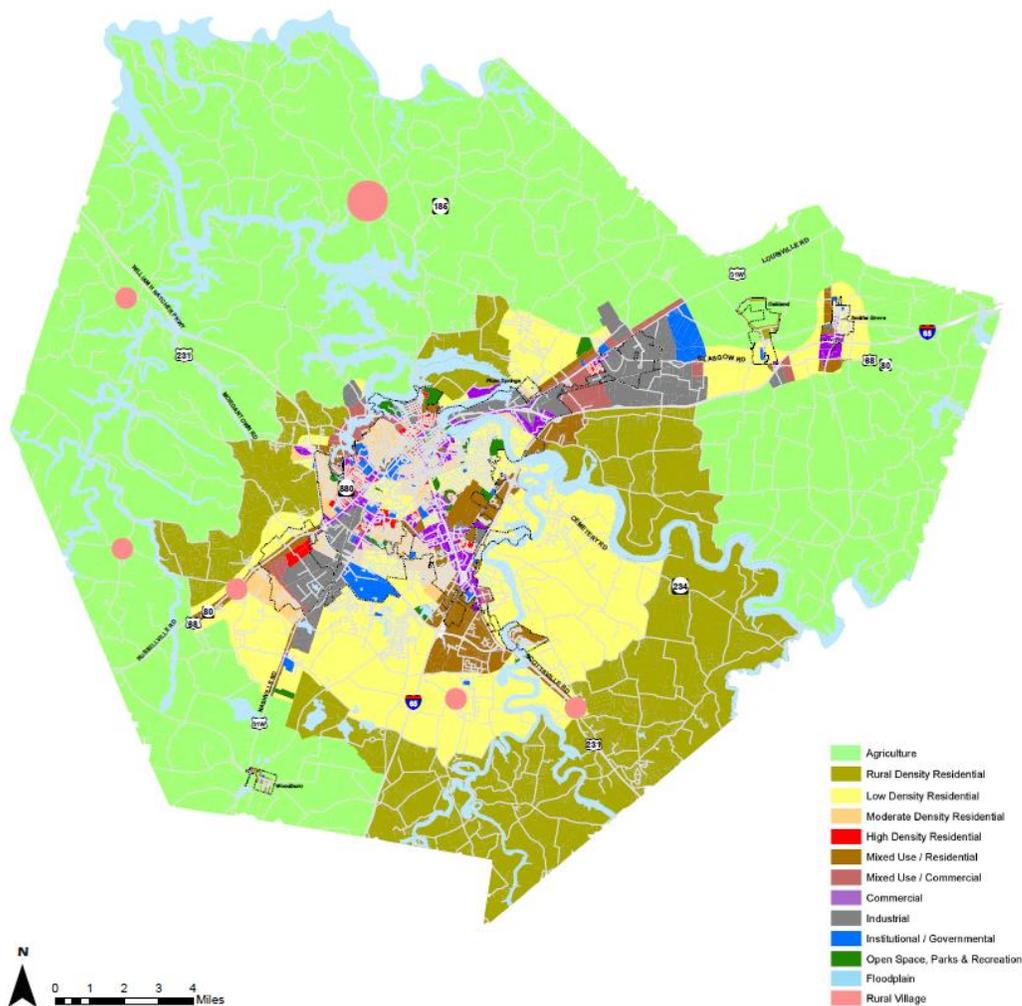
The Policy Framework begins with the Future Land Use element, including the Future Land Use Map (Figure A-1) before describing the six other elements: Transportation, Infrastructure and Community Facilities, Parks and Recreation, Natural and Cultural Resources, Housing and Neighborhoods, and Economic Development. Each element provides a series of goals and objectives.

1. Future Land Use Element

The focus, and first goal, of the Future Land Use element is the reestablishment of the Future Land Use Map to guide future development. This map replaces the previous guideline based on three unmapped development districts established in the 1990 Plan. This Plan uses 13 land use designations to guide future development.

The second goal of this element is to “encourage compact, sustainable, high quality development” that varies by the character of the location in the County. This goal encourages new development to consider provisions for greenway links, schools, parks, and other services.

Figure A- 1: Future Land Use



2. Transportation Element

The Transportation Element contains a single goal to “provide a safe, efficient multimodal transportation system that provides for optimum growth and regional mobility.” This element is primarily focused on the road network but also has objectives for pedestrian and bicycle mobility, transit, and freight.

The pedestrian and bicycle mobility objective encourages the adoption of a complete streets policy to accommodate all modes of transportation. This objective supports the implementation of (and updating of) the Greenbelt Plan. This objective encourages coordination with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) and Warren County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), and other local organizations for bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

3. Community Facilities Element

The Community Facilities Element goal is to “provide community facilities and services that meet the physical, social, and cultural needs of the population.” This element covers facilities including: Water and sewer, Solid Waste, Stormwater management, Public safety services (police, fire, and emergency services), Schools, Library services, and Telecommunications.

The Community Facilities Element encourages the requirement of land for schools and other facilities. This element also encourages the continued implementation of low impact and green developments to reduce stormwater runoff and preserve water quality.

4. Parks and Recreation Element

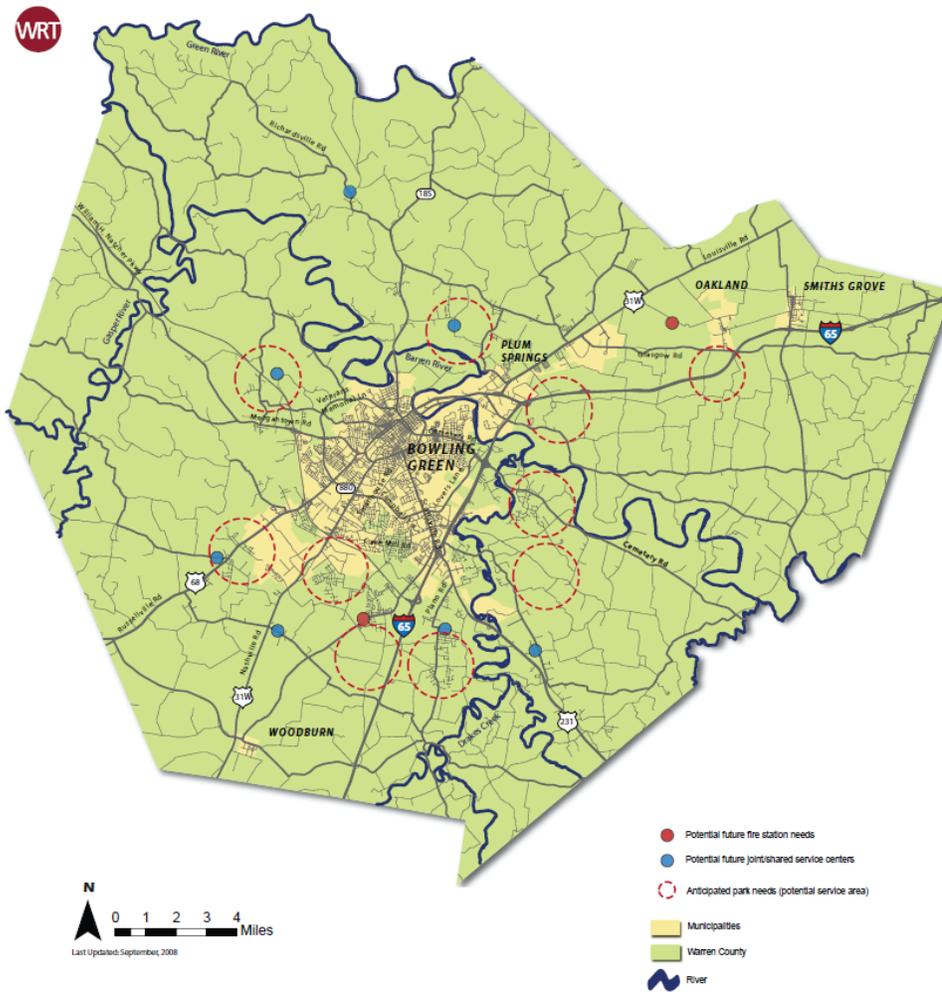
The Parks and Recreation Element provides some background of the facilities in Bowling Green and Warren County and find that the City of Bowling Green has a need of more Neighborhood and Mini Parks. The Plan provides a map (Figure A-2) showing 10 locations in Warren County with potential park needs, and three of these areas include significant portions of land in Bowling Green. The Parks and Recreation goal is to “provide all residents and visitors of Warren County with quality parks and recreational facilities and services.”

The Parks and Recreation Element contains five objectives including:

- Provide parks and recreational facilities and programs appropriate to accommodate Warren County’s future population. Actions for this objective include:
 - Expand the system of parks, greenways, and preserves.
 - Prepare master plans and use in conjunction with the future land use map.
 - Focus acquisitions where development pressure threaten resources.
 - Identify preserve, and track environmentally sensitive lands.
- Seek equitable ways to distribute the cost of open space and recreational facilities necessary to serve new development between the private and public sectors. Actions for this objective include:
 - Reserve 6.5% of area as open space, possibly as a public park for all developments.
 - Formulate a process to guide ownership of these lands.
- Continue to implement the Greenbelt System Master Plan and other programs that support bicycle and pedestrian recreation and mobility. Actions for this objective include:
 - Consider easements for trails upon development of a parcel.
 - Coordinate with the KYTC and the MPO for bicycle and pedestrian paths.
- Make Bowling Green and Warren County a premier community for bicycling. Actions for this objective include:
 - Build upon the Greenbelt System Master Plan.

- Encourage bicycling links between the historic, cultural, educational, scenic, and recreational destinations to support tourism.
- Promote a diversity of recreational water-based activities and programs as well as waterfront uses that are appropriate to and compatible with the environment, character, and long-term sustainability of the County's blueways. Actions for this objective include:
 - Connect blueways system with pedestrian and bicycle system.
 - Continue to pursue the development of riverside walkways and bicycle paths avoiding conflict with natural habitat.
 - Continue to support the development of a whitewater course on the Barren River.

Figure A- 2: Anticipated Park Needs



5. Natural and Cultural Resources Element

The Natural and Cultural Resources Element describes the unique natural and cultural resources of Warren County. The County has a scenic backdrop of woodlands, rolling hills, vistas, and limestone outcrops. The County also has karst topography that presents development challenges (including sinkhole risks) and leads to vulnerability of groundwater. This element has two goals. The first goal focuses on protection of the natural and scenic resources of Warren County, while the second goal focuses on the preservation of the County's cultural resources.

Objectives of the first goal, to “protect, enhance and restore Warren County’s irreplaceable natural and scenic resources...” include:

- Ensure that land use and development decisions consider the physical suitability and natural resources of individual sites.
 - Consider using zoning to ensure protection of environmentally-susceptible area and to incentivize protection of existing trees.
- Protect Warren County’s air quality and its water supply and quality,
 - Use design standards for stormwater structures and outlets to reflect an emphasis on water quality, protection of stream ecology.
 - Monitor well-head protection programs to ensure they continue to protect drinking water supplies.
- Ensure that development is compatible with the natural environment, preserves unique landscapes and natural areas.
 - Explore design standards to retain open space, create green linkages, and increase stream corridor/floodplain protection.
 - Explore partnerships with private land trusts, foundations, and other organizations to assist the County in acquiring land, obtaining conservation easements, and maintaining open space and natural resources.
 - Prepare a plan to identify, preserve, and track environmentally sensitive lands.
 - Identify and prioritize potential areas to add to the County’s Greenbelt Plan
- Take advantage of local natural resources to create, protect, and enhance, and maintain recreational, educational, and cultural opportunities and activities
 - Improve zoning and subdivision ordinance provisions for pedestrian and bicycle facilities in private developments, including encouraging extension of greenways.
 - Continue to promote the development of the Lost River as a nature center, botanical garden, and karst education center.

Objectives of the second goal, to “preserve significant elements of Warren County’s historic, agricultural, architectural and archaeological heritage” include:

- Gather, analyze and continuously update data about Warren County’s unique cultural resources.
- Support educational efforts to increase awareness of Warren County’s cultural resources and to foster their preservation
- Consider the application of regulatory tools and incentives to promote rehabilitation of historic/archaeological structures, properties and districts.

6. Housing and Neighborhoods Element

The Housing and Neighborhoods Element describes changes in housing stock and needs for the future resulting from changes to demographics and household size. The Housing and Neighborhoods goal is to “meet the demand for residential options that are affordable and integrated into vibrant neighborhoods and diverse districts.”

7. Economic Development Element

The goal for the Economic Development Element is to “maintain a strong local economy that provides opportunities and resources to everyone in Warren County.” The goal is divided into 10 objectives that focus on retaining and attracting businesses and encouraging academic achievement. Objectives also expresses the desire to strengthen the position of Downtown Bowling Green and encourage coordination and partnerships of other organizations.

Implementation

The Comprehensive Plan includes an Action Plan that lists 251 actions recommended by the document and is intended to guide for the implementation of the Plan.

GREENWAYS MASTER PLAN

Greenways Commission of Bowling Green and Warren County, Kentucky, Draft November 3, 2014

Introduction

The Greenways Master Plan is an update to the Greenbelt System Master Plan, which was adopted by the Bowling Green City Commission and the Warren County Fiscal Court in 1999. The Greenways Commission of Bowling Green and Warren County was created in 2001 as a result of the original plan. The Commission has since administered over \$7.6 million in grants for the construction of over 20 miles of trails throughout Warren County.

The Greenways Master Plan sets the following goals:

Goal 1 – Create a framework for the systematic expansion of greenway trails throughout the community.

Goal 2 – Pursue all available opportunities to provide a long-rang funding source for the construction greenway trails. Explore local funding options, as well as federal and state grants to support the development and future maintenance of the trail system.

Goal 3 – Present avenues for the Greenways Commission to create a sustainable public presence for greenways in Bowling Green and Warren County.

Vision and Guiding Principles

The Greenways Master Plan states that the Vision of the Plan is to set a clear direction for the Greenways Commission and to raise awareness of Greenways and their benefits. The Vision establishes the following Guiding Principles for the future of Greenways:

- Promote active lifestyle by creating pedestrian and bicycle connections between places where we live, work, and play.
- Collaborate with appropriate public, private, and non-profit agencies to accomplish common goals.
- Encourage public participation to help identify, prioritize, and support projects.
- Assess current greenway conditions and identify connectivity gaps.
- Protect ecologically significant “green” and “blue” corridors.
- Design new trails that are appropriate for the location and surrounding environment.
- Actively seek funding to create additional greenway connections.

Existing Conditions

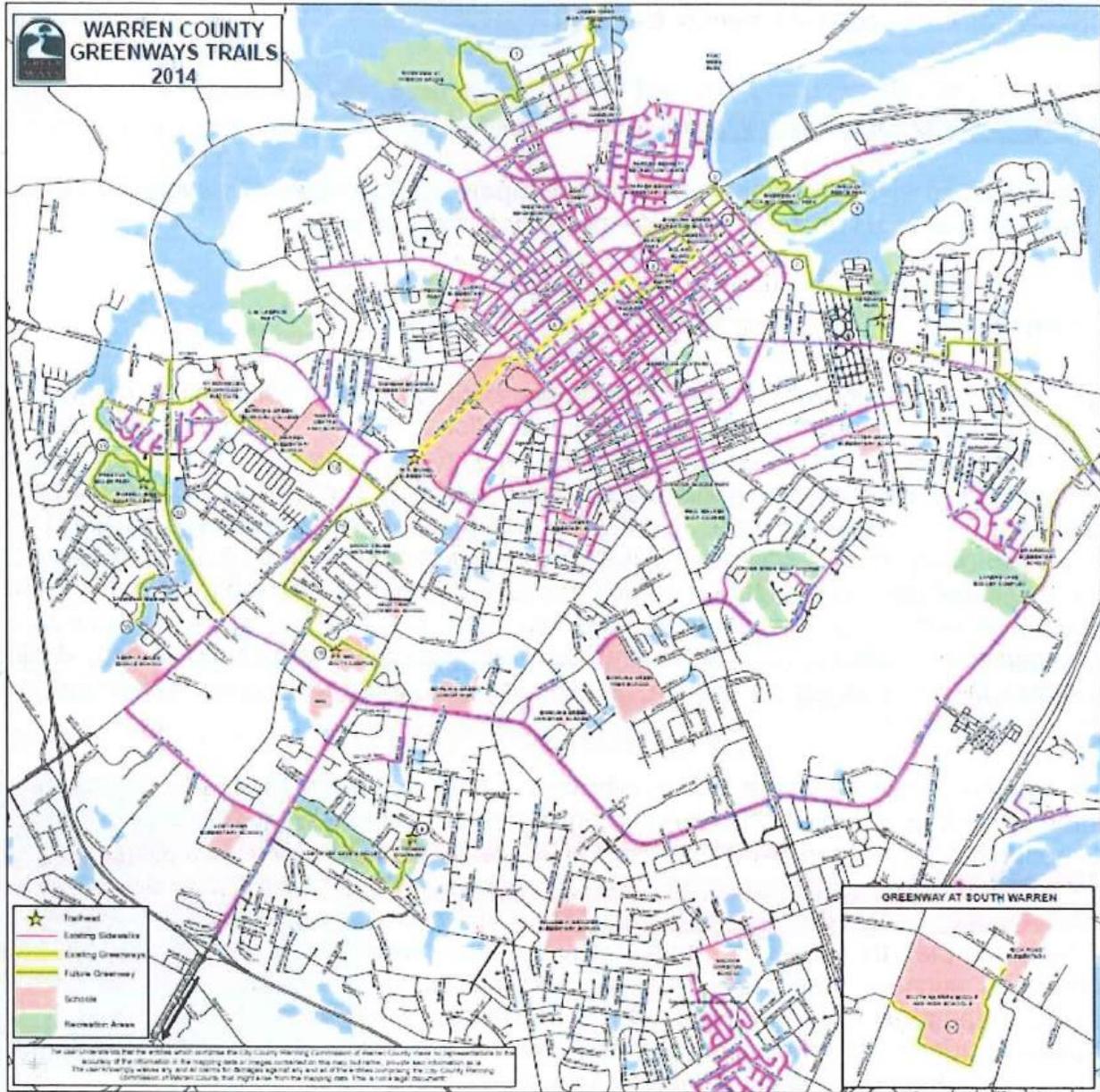
The Plan provides a summary of the current conditions related to greenways in Warren County. Recent efforts have been made by the Barren River Community Health Planning Council to improve the health of the community, and an increased availability of walking and biking trails is recommended as part of this effort. Bowling Green is also making efforts to improve the walkability of the community. The City of Bowling Green has a sidewalk program to address the lack of sidewalks in many areas and to connect those sidewalks to the Greenways.

Connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks, historical landmarks, blueways, and transit has been a goal of the Greenways Commission. So far, several schools are connected to Greenways, including four elementary schools, and Warren Central in Bowling Green. Western Kentucky University and Kentucky Advanced Technical Institute also have connections to Greenways. Seven parks in Bowling Green currently have Greenway connections, and 23 historic sites are

located along Greenways. The Greenways Commission is also expected to coordinate with Warren County Blueways, a system of streams, trails, and access points.

The Plan describes the 15 segments that have been built as of 2014 including what destinations are connected by each segment. Figure A-3 shows the current status of Greenways in Warren County.

Figure A- 3: Warren County Greenways as of 2014



Goals and Objectives

The proposed Greenways network is intended to focus on community, connectivity, and collaboration. Plan provides recommendations to assure that the Greenways continue to encourage a healthy community that is walkable and bike friendly. The recommendations also are intended to improve connectivity throughout Bowling Green and Warren County by placing a priority on trails that schools, recreations areas, neighborhoods, destinations, and other

Greenways. Finally, the Plan encourages collaboration between the City of Bowling Green, Warren County, the State Departments, and other public and private organizations to realize the vision of the Plan.

Short Term Priorities

The Plan identifies the completion of the Inner Loop (as identified in the 1998 Greenbelt Master Plan) and three other links as Short Term Priorities. The Plan identifies the following segments as needed connections:

- A shared-use trail along Jennings Creek or a bicycle/pedestrian facility along Veteran's Memorial Lane to complete the Inner Loop
- A trail between the WKU/downtown area and Smallhouse Road
- A connection between WKU South Campus and Lost River Park
- A connection between Moss Middle School and the Creekwood Trail

Long Term Priorities

The Plan identifies the need for pedestrians and cyclists to safely use the existing street network to access the Greenways before the system can be fully connected to the community. The Plan indicates that the adoption of a Complete Streets ordinance as a long term goal to assure that streets have a place for all modes of travel.

GREENBELT SYSTEM MASTER PLAN

Warren County and Bowling Green, Kentucky, Prepared by Lose & Associates, Inc., Adopted in 1999

Introduction

The Greenbelt System Master Plan, a 30-year plan, was completed in 1999 after a series of public meetings and other public input, including surveys, comment sheets, and stakeholder groups. The Plan outlines a series of proposed trails for the Greenbelt System and includes a five level hierarchical system.

These trail types include:

Pedestrian Walks – These routes improve existing sidewalks to provide links between neighborhoods, schools, parks, and activity centers.

Vehicular/Pedestrian/Bicycle – This type of route consists of an on-street marked bicycle lane and a sidewalk. These routes can include a physical barrier between automobiles and bicycles.

Multi-Use – These trails accommodate many types of users including walkers, runners, and bicyclists. Such trails are 12 feet wide, separated from the roadway, and allow travel in both directions

Bicycle Routes – This type of route is designated using signage and instructs cyclists to ride in the paved shoulder of a road.

Scenic Drives – This type of route provides aesthetically pleasing drives where natural constraints make bicycles and pedestrian use impracticable.

Recommendations

The Plan provided details about each of the primary routes of the trails system. Figure A-4 shows the routes of the proposed Greenbelt System. The main features of the Greenbelt System are the Inner Loop, the Outer Loop, and the Barren River Greenway. The proposed Inner Loop will encircle downtown and adjacent neighborhoods. This Loop will be a Vehicular/Pedestrian/Bicycle Route that will connect to various other trails throughout the City of Bowling Green. This route will have

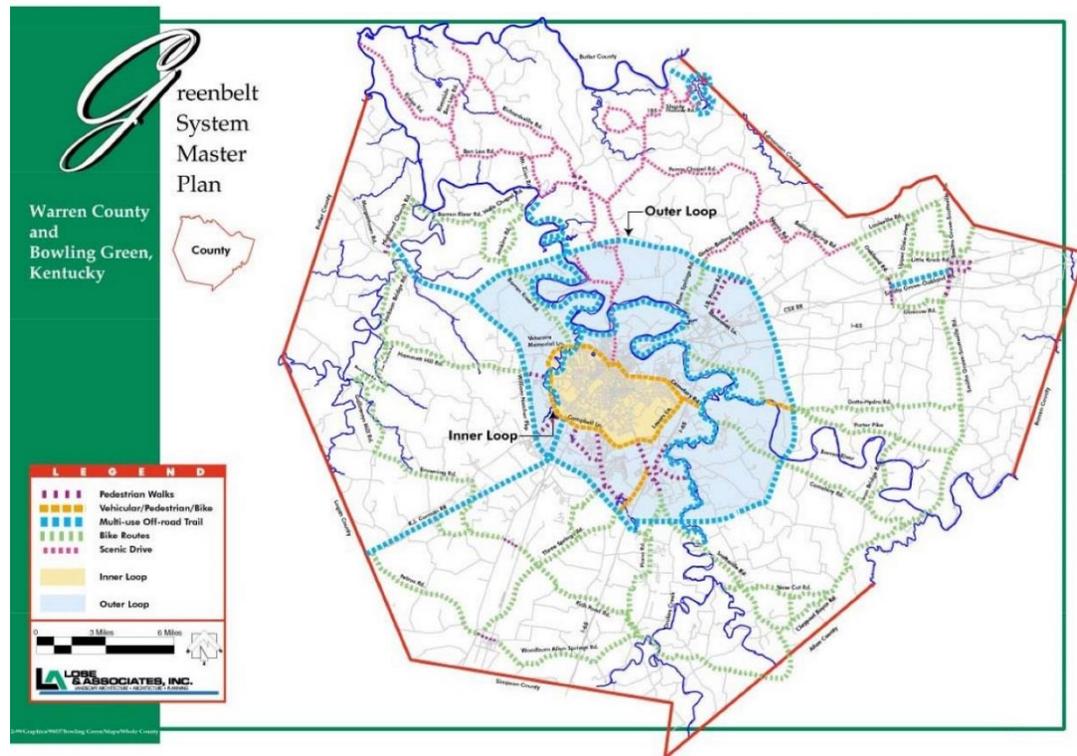
trailheads at Hobson Grove Park, Lampkin Park, Western Kentucky University campus, Lovers Lane Park, and other locations.

The proposed Outer Loop will be a multi-use trail following the William Natcher Parkway to the west of the City of Bowling Green. The trail will extend to the east outside of the Barren River Greenway which will run south through the middle of Warren County along the Barren River and Drakes Creek. The Plan also outlines several other smaller trails throughout Warren County.

Implementation

The Greenbelt System Master Plan discusses the need for an agency to oversee the implementation of the Plan. The Plan provides a description of the types of agencies that could handle this administration. (The ultimate choice for administration was the formation of the Greenways Commission of Bowling Green and Warren County.) The Plan also provide a list of potential funding sources. The final chapter provided an opinion of probable cost of the implementation of the Plan broken down into six phases.

Figure A- 4: Greenbelt System Routes



PARK TREE URBAN FORESTRY MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY

Natural Path Forestry Consultants, Inc., March 20, 1998

Introduction

The Urban Forestry Management Plan was funded by a 1997 grant through the Kentucky Department of Natural Resources. The study inventoried all trees in City parks and cemeteries. The total count was 6,242 trees in managed turf areas plus an additional 2,578 trees in wooded areas. Ninety-eight species were represented in the inventory, and the total value of all of these trees was estimated at \$13 million. The report also provided descriptions and tables sizes, conditions, and species of trees in the parks.

Recommendations

The recommendations consisted of four goals, each made up of a series of objectives.

Goal 1 – Formalize the Forestry Programs Practices and Procedures.

Objectives

- Pass a comprehensive Shade Tree Ordinance by Fall, 1998.
- Complete a comprehensive Arboricultural Standards Manual by Spring, 1999.

Goal 2 – Refine the Park Department's Arboricultural Programs.

Objectives

- Maintain an annual planting of 100 park trees.
- Develop a seven-year pruning cycle.
- Develop a risk reduction management program by Summer, 1998.

Goal 3 – Seek alternative financial support mechanisms.

Objectives

- Promote donated tree plantings.
- Continue to seek special project funding through grants.

Goal 4 – Increase community outreach.

Objectives

- Develop a community education brochure.

The Plan also contains a planting program with five objectives:

- Plant 100 B and B trees annually in the parks.
- Guarantee that, of the 100 trees planted, a tree will be planted to replace every tree removed.
- Maintain mandatory plantings in new subdivisions.
- Apply for state and federal tree planting grants to complement these objectives.
- Make plantings a mandatory component of park capital improvement programs.

The Plan also describes how to care for trees and species to avoid.