

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan

Park & Recreation

May 24, 2016



Planning Process

- Originally adopted in 2008 and then revised in 2016, the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan (PROS Plan) is the strategic master plan developed for Wichita's parks.
- Represents a vision of parks, recreation, and open space as central to building community, quality of life, and the local economy in Wichita.
- The PROS Plan integrates recent local and regional planning efforts to focus on the City's central role in the region's success.

Planning Process

- Staff performed a re-evaluation of the 2008 plan
- Determined there was a need for overhaul of the plan
- Solicited feedback from all divisions within the department to see what changes they wanted to effect
- Discussed the plan with other City departments to get a wider scope of internal input
- Met on several Saturdays to discuss the plan and started making revisions

Planning Process

The revised plan draws from the Community Investments Plan, Downtown Master Plan, Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan, Bicycle Master Plan and Pedestrian Master Plan

It incorporates the five plan guiding principles from the Community Investments Plan:

1. Support an Innovative, Vibrant and Diverse Economy;
2. Invest in the Quality of Our Community Life;
3. Take Better Care of What We Already Have;
4. Make Strategic, Value-added Investment Decisions;
5. Provide for Balanced Growth but with Added Focus on Our Established Neighborhoods.

Planning Process

- The PROS Plan improves physical connections by expanding the linear park and trail system, providing connections within Wichita and to the broader region.
- The Plan calls for improved coordination between parks and recreation and the transit system, and builds on planning efforts such as the WAMPO Pathways Plan.

Planning Process

- The revised PROS plan emphasizes the importance of parks and open space as well as the scope of available recreation and leisure opportunities.



Goals

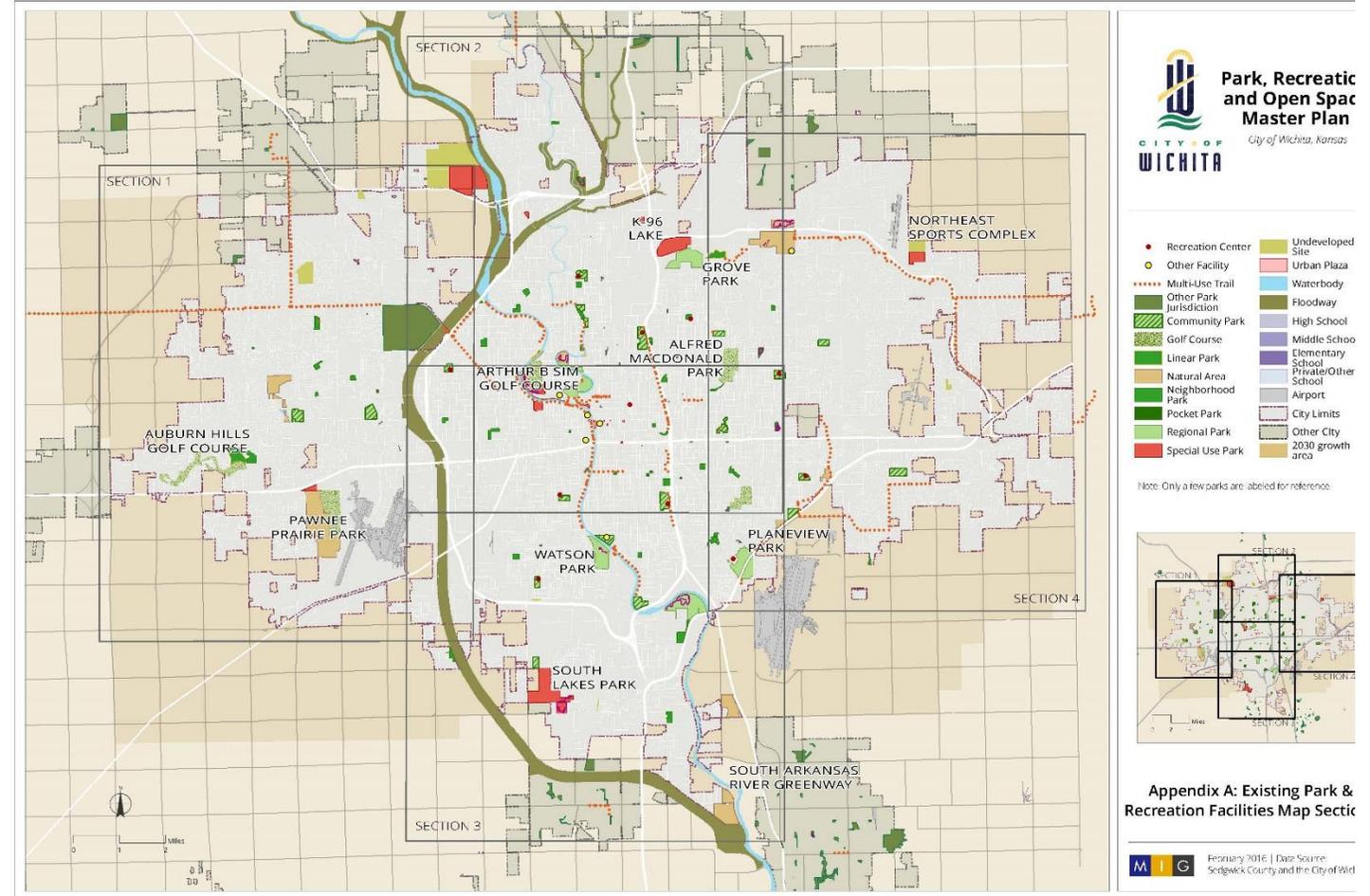
- Goal 1: Provide safe and accessible parks, open spaces, recreation facilities and programs that help create healthy residents and a healthy community.
- Goal 2: Preserve and enhance our unique natural and cultural resources.
- Goal 3: Provide facilities that focus on user needs and desires, offer amenities that are appealing to the site specific community, and the facilities have participant safety as the top priority.
- Goal 4. Provide Community based education and leisure programs that are oriented for all ages, abilities and are not cost prohibitive.
- Goal 5: Preserve resources through sound management and best practices to create a legacy for future generations.

Goals

- Goal 6: Provide trails that connect community destinations, support alternatives to automobile transportation, and encourage active transportation.
- Goal 7: Support life-long human development by providing recreation and learning opportunities.
- Goal 8: Foster community ownership, encourage community participation, and promote volunteerism.
- Goal 9: Build partnerships and sponsorships in order to leverage resources and work cooperatively toward our vision.
- Goal 10: Provide golf facilities that are accessible and meet the needs of all generations, promoting active, healthy residents throughout the community.

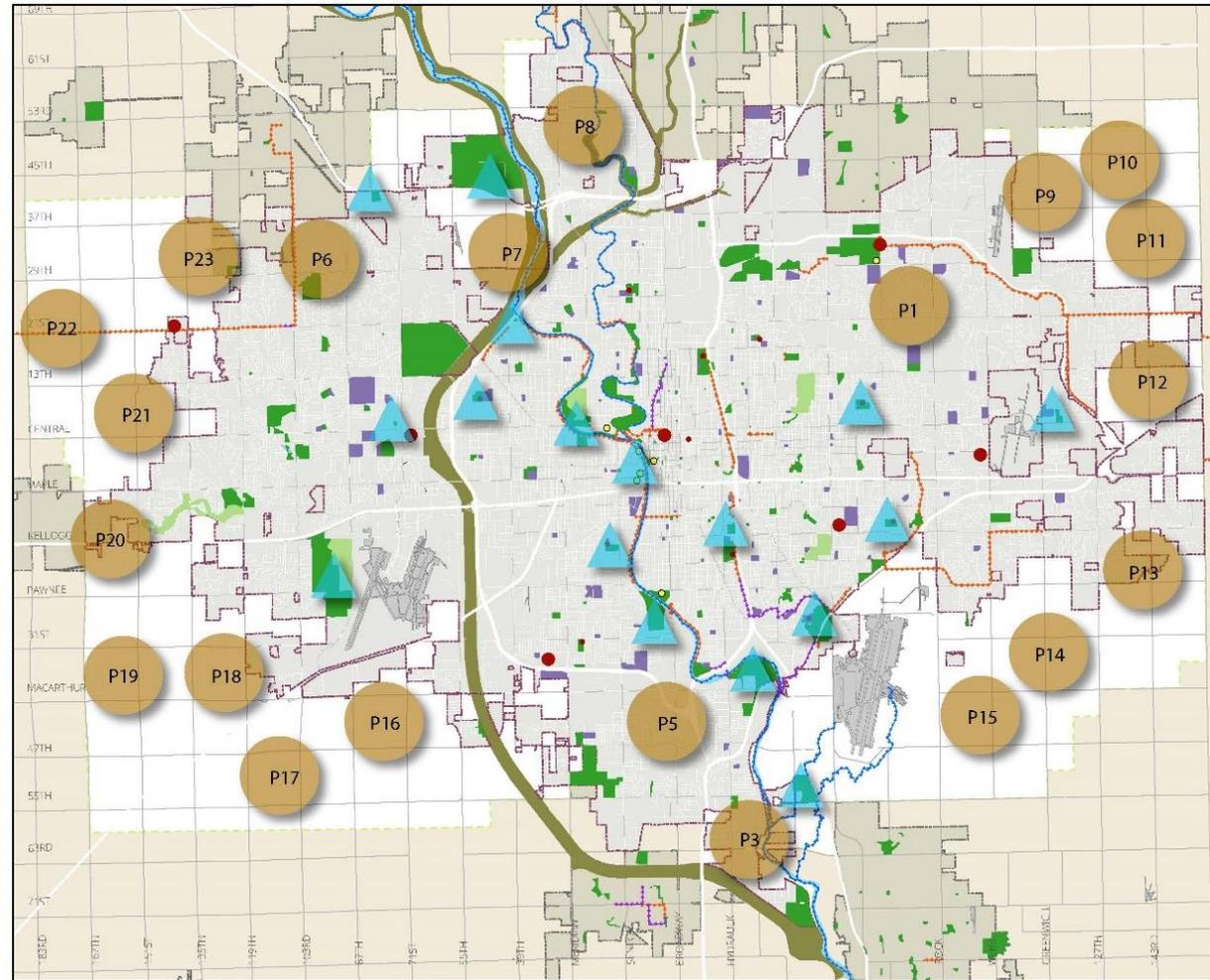
Current Conditions

Existing System Map



Future Growth

Future Expansion



Map 2: Park System of the Future

Services Built on Partnerships

Multi-tiered, multi-sector service delivery that builds on existing resources:

- Mega-Centers
 - Provided by the YMCA
- Recreation Centers
 - Provided by City
- Specialized Centers
 - Provided by City and others



Wichita Parks Foundation

The Foundation is a 501 (c) 3 established in 2011 that helps to support the Park and Recreation Department by providing additional necessary resources. Its mission is to enhance the quality and maintain the heritage of Wichita's park system by assembling necessary resources through developing partnerships and fostering relationships in the community.

This is achieved through:

- Fundraising
- Lobbying
- Soliciting donations
- Advocating on behalf of the Department
- Encouraging sponsorship of programs, events or sites

All of this is for increased financial considerations throughout the community.



Steps to Improving Wichita Parks

- Reinvestment in existing parks
- A public park within a reasonable distance for residents
- Develop parks to meet specific standards
- Coordinate park locations with other public facilities
- Acquire sites in 2035 Growth Area



Steps to Improving Park Maintenance

- Rethink park maintenance priorities
- Invest in sites, fleet, staff
- Allocate more resources to building and park maintenance
- Currently there is \$50,009,390 in the 2015-2024 CIP



Options for Capital Development

- Maintain current sources, but possible new sources could include:
 - Increase park portion of City debt financing (CIP)
 - General or targeted special assessments
 - Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding improvements
 - Dedicated general tax
 - Sales tax
 - Property tax



City Pathway Connections

Priority 1. Delano Neighborhood Pathway. The 0.6 mile pathway extends east and west through the former railroad corridor located just half a block north of the Delano Business District along Douglas Street.

Priority 2. K-96 Pathway to Harry Street Pathway Connection. The 3.0 mile section of pathway starts at the current south terminus of the K-96 Bike Path and travels south along 127th to Harry Street, where it tracks west to connect to the existing off-street multi-use pathway on the south side of Harry Street.

Priority 3. Arkansas to Haysville Pathway Connection. The proposed 5.5 mile corridor connects the City of Wichita and City of Haysville pathways systems.



City Pathway Connections

Priority 4. South Central Neighborhood Pathway. The 2.78 mile pathway would occupy the east bank of the Arkansas River and connect the Arkansas River Corridor to multiple existing pathways. Delano Neighborhood Pathway.

Priority 5. Redbud Trail Segment. - Existing trail to K-96. This 3.0 mile pathway would follow the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) 17th Street railroad corridor and connect the segment from Woodlawn to K-96.



City Pathway Connections

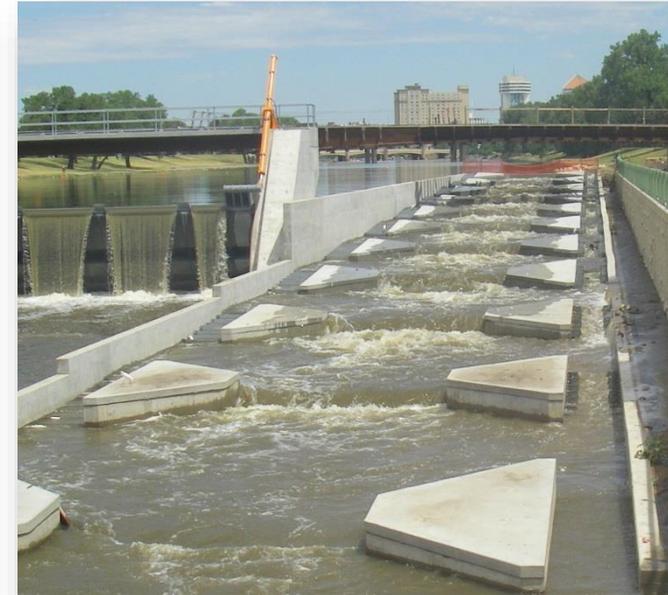
Priority 6. Redbud Trail Segment - K-96 to county line.
This 1.5 mile pathway alignment would follow the former Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) 17th Street railroad corridor and connect the segment from K-96 to the Butler County line.

Priority 7. Prairie Sunset Trail Connection to Goddard.
This 7.5 mile pathway along an abandoned rail-banked corridor would connect the exiting trail improvements just east of Goddard at 167th Street W. with the trail terminus at the Arkansas River.



Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan (ARCAP)

- ARCAP was a multi-jurisdictional plan with partners from a 3-county area
Explored improved access to Arkansas River
- Lincoln Street safe boat passage
- Gander Mountain boat dock
- Other canoe launch areas, such as Garvey Park, South Arkansas Greenway, Cowtown
- Future Derby River Park
- Future safe boat passage- 21st Street Dam



Wichita Dog Parks

- Chapin
- Meridian
- Murfin
- Potential Sites (Edgemoor or Harrison) in partnership with Together Wichita
- Improvements to basic facilities continue with private donations (trees, benches, additional water source, etc.)



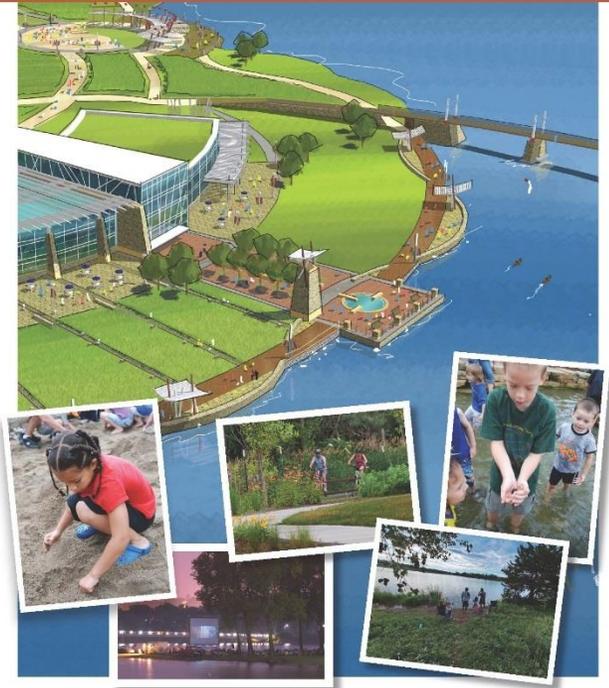
Existing Park Expansion

- **Buffalo Park** – currently under construction with an interactive water feature
- **McAdams Park** – new baseball field constructed in cooperation with League 42
- **Watson Park** – plans to enhance amenities to create regional attraction
- **Pracht Wetlands** – recently acquired and is in the Request for Proposal (RFP) process

Future Park Development

- **Crystal Prairie Lake Park** –is being dredged to create lake features for swimming, fishing, boating and other water recreation activities to create regional attraction

Crystal Prairie Lake Park - Wichita, KS
.....future park site celebrating the effects of wind and water



Where do we go?

- Changing economic needs and increasing importance of maintaining existing infrastructure continues to be an issue
- Quality of Life amenities for younger generations are highlighted and national trends are included
- Continue to be good stewards of park resources
- Redevelopment and revitalization of the Downtown corridor district
- Importance of trails and connectivity
- Special events are becoming a greater area of focus

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