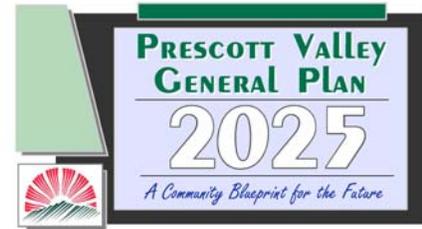


Chapter 8

Recreation and Open Space Element



8.1 Introduction

The Recreation and Open Space Element addresses recreation and open space resources in the Town of Prescott Valley. It includes an inventory of open space areas, recreational resources, and designations of access points to open space areas and resources, an analysis of forecasted open space needs, and implementation strategies to promote a regional system of integrated open space. Prescott Valley's open space and recreation resources include parks, school recreation facilities, trails, natural land features, and community and privately owned recreation facilities.

8.2 At This Point In Time

The majority of Prescott Valley has not been developed and visually appears as open space but is not necessarily designated on the Prescott Valley General Plan 2025 Land Use Plan as Open Space (Chapter 4, Exhibit LU-5). Of the approximately 24,363 acres comprising the Prescott Valley Town Limits, approximately 1,639 acres are designated as Open Space. The Open Space (OS) designation is intended to provide for land within the Town that meets the passive and active recreational needs of the citizens and includes both public and private areas of permanent open space for uses such as parks, golf courses, recreational facilities, natural open space, recreation trails, greenbelts, lakes, and developable portions of floodplains along waterways. Only accessory buildings or those structures related to parks and recreation facilities are intended for open space lands. Zoning districts compatible with the OS designation include PL (Public Lands) and AG (Agricultural). The Town's Zoning Map includes a Public Lands category, which permits uses such as parks, open space, public recreation facilities, and public schools and playgrounds. However, the Public Lands zoning category also allows uses not related to open space and recreation, such as sewage treatment facilities, animal shelters, libraries, and government office buildings. As shown on Exhibit OS-1, *Public Land Zoning*, which corresponds to the Town's zoning map, public lands comprise approximately 1,091 acres of the 24,363 total acres within the Town's boundaries. Furthermore, as noted above, this land includes several uses not directly related to the provision of parks, open space, and recreational facilities.

Prescott Valley's inventory of open space and recreation opportunities includes a diversity of facilities, ranging from highly developed, active recreation sites to passive open space. The Town features over 263 acres of developed parklands, 9 1/2 acres of undeveloped parkland, 24 park sites, an outdoor public swimming pool, 27 multi-purpose athletic fields, trails, two amphitheaters, and two community/activity centers.

Details about the Town's recreation and open space resources are provided in the following sections of this Element. The existing and proposed network of public land/open space and recreation facilities is shown on Exhibit OS-1, *Recreation and Open Space Plan*. This exhibit shows existing and future parks, school locations and the

Open Space Element

1. An open space element that includes:

- (a) A comprehensive inventory of open space areas, recreational resources and designations of access points to open space areas and resources.
- (b) An analysis of forecasted needs, policies for managing and protecting open space areas and resources and implementation strategies to acquire additional open space areas and further establish recreational resources.
- (c) Policies and implementation strategies designed to promote a regional system of integrated open space and recreational resources and a consideration of any existing regional open space plans.

(Arizona Revised Statutes, Section 9-461.05 D.1)

general connectivity of the proposed trail system. Details and the status of developed and proposed trails are discussed in Section 8.2.3.

8.2.1 Parks

The Town's Parks and Recreation Department maintains 24 park sites that total over 263 acres. The Department follows the National Parks and Recreation Association's classification system as its standard of development for parks, opens space, and greenways. Table OS-1, *Existing, Undeveloped and Proposed Recreational Facilities*, identifies the size of each park site and provides an inventory of the types of recreation facilities that are provided.

Mountain Valley Park, a Community Park, is a 68-acre multiuse site that is centrally located on Robert Rd and Nace Lane. Mountain Valley Park offers a wide variety of facilities, including soccer fields, baseball fields, softball fields, walking trails, playground equipment, covered picnic areas, an outdoor swimming pool and splash pad (Mountain Valley Splash Aquatic Center), over 3,000 lineal feet of paved walking path with exercise stations, a dog park, and the Prescott Valley Amphitheater. Prescott Valley's other community park is a 34 acre proposed site located in the southwest region of the StoneRidge development identified as the StoneRidge Regional Park.

Fain Park, classified as a Natural Resource Area, is located in the southwestern portion of the Town at 2200 N. 5th Street, and offers approximately 100 acres of historical, cultural and passive recreational activities. The park includes a four (4) acre fishing lake, hiking trails, picnic areas, and a still-developing historical site that includes the Barlow-Massicks house and Fitzmaurice archeological ruins. The proposed StoneRidge Unit 7 Park (7 acres) will also offer visitors a unique geological inventory of natural resources.

Prescott Valley offers twelve (12) Neighborhood Parks. Seven (7) of these park sites intending to serve their surrounding neighborhood do so under the recommended minimum five (5) acre parcel. Neighborhood Parks include American Legion, Antelope, Community Center, George Andersen, Granville, Pronghorn, Quailwood, Sunflower, Tonto North, Tonto South, Trailhead, and Viewpoint.

Special Use Parks as the name implies offers the community variable special use with a specific designed function. Special Use parks include the Urban Forest and Civic Center Grounds. The Urban Forest, located adjacent to Mountain Valley Park, serves as a water reclamation site and the originating catalyst to the town's urban forestry program. Civic Center Grounds is the unifying feature to the civic campus site and provides the community's second outdoor amphitheater site for varied special events and activities.

Mini parks (1 acre or less) are used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs. Eight (8) Mini Parks are located in the towns park system with six found within the Stoneridge Master Planned Development. Old Town Park, a mini park, located at 3030 Tani Road was developed as the mechanism to rally support in the revitalization of the historical area within Prescott Valley. Funds for the development of this park were received from the Arizona Office of Tourism. The park offers 2 covered ramadas and a small performance stage ideal for live performances and arts & craft street fairs. Additionally the approximate one-tenth of an acre Lions Park serves as a memorial site.

Yet to be developed parkland is found in the form of a neighborhood park located at the intersection of Glassford Hill Road and Long Look Drive. This 9.5 acre site has been named Bob Edwards Park in memorial to the park and recreational efforts of the past councilman. Start date for development of this park has not been set.

Proposed park development includes the 214 acre Arizona State Land Trust owned Agua Fria Park site (Large Urban/Sports Complex) located at the intersection of Glassford Hill Rd and Santa Fe Loop. Agua Fria conceptual plans illustrate a site inclusive of both passive and active recreational pursuits. Amenities include two softball field hubs, nine tennis courts, and multiple soccer/football overlay fields, and a 40 acre detention lake. Other proposed parks include the combination StoneRidge Unit 8A (2 acre) and 8B (1 acre) sites intended to serve as a neighborhood

park; the StoneRidge Unit 7 (7 acres) natural resource park; and the StoneRidge Regional Park (34.6 acres) serving as a possible sports complex.

Along the Highway 69 Corridor, between the roadway and the frontage streets, the Town has developed a series of continuous, linear parks. These landscaped strips/entries provide areas of open space and serve as a buffer zone between the Highway 69 Corridor and commercial/industrial uses.

8.2.2 School Recreational Facilities

College/School sites in Prescott Valley can be made available for public recreational use during non-school hours and on weekends through intergovernmental joint use facility agreements as approved by Town Council and the partnering agency. Cooperation between the community college, school district, charter school and the Town will provide critical recreation facilities while providing an efficient use of public resources. Examples of such partnering give the Town the ability to operate gymnasium based services while schools can conduct athletic field and aquatic team sports. These facilities offer additional recreation resources for Prescott Valley residents, and are shown on Exhibit OS-1: Future School Facilities, that may provide recreation resources also appear on the exhibit.

8.2.3 Trails and Natural Land Features

Multi-Use Path / Trail System

Prescott Valley has not historically had a dedicated pedestrian and bicycle system. Subdivision standards were not required when the majority of Prescott's twenty units were platted around 1972, including requirements for sidewalks or bike lanes. All subdivisions since 2000 have required sidewalks on local streets and Multi-Use Paths (MUPs) on Collectors and Minor Arterials to meet the stated Goals of the *General Plan 2020*. The 2002 Streets and Infrastructure Committee among other things recommended that Town improved streets should also include multi-modal (pedestrian/bicycle) uses where possible and that a high priority be placed upon funding of safety enhancements and access to schools and parks using sources other than those designated for priority street improvements. Most recent Town street improvements prioritized by the Streets and Infrastructure Committee have included pedestrian access as MUPs, sidewalks and bike lanes where possible. On October 16, 2001, the Parks & Recreation Commission adopted a Town of Prescott Valley Pedestrian/Bicycle Master Plan designating the proposed locations for the various types of alternative transportation facilities. This plan has been updated from time to time by the Parks and Recreation Commission; it serves as an advisory document for planning purposes and was the main reference in identifying the Multi-use Path / Trail System on Exhibit OS-1.

Goal *CIR-A2* in Chapter 6, Circulation Element states: *Increase connectivity between local parks and public facilities through a comprehensive trails system.* Within Chapter 8, Recreation and Open Space Element Goal *OS-A5: Provide access to open space and parks, and linkages between open space, parks, and user- specific destinations.* Goal *OS-A5* includes ten implementation Policies, the first three specifically related to Trails:

- OS-A5.1 Provide access to public open space areas and parks.
- OS-A5.2 Provide a trail system that connects the Town's open space, parks, and select activity centers, such as community and regional commercial development, in a cohesive manner and, where appropriate, includes multi-use facilities (pedestrian and bikes).
- OS-A5.3 Support the Trails and Open Space Plan prepared by the Town's Parks and Recreation Department.

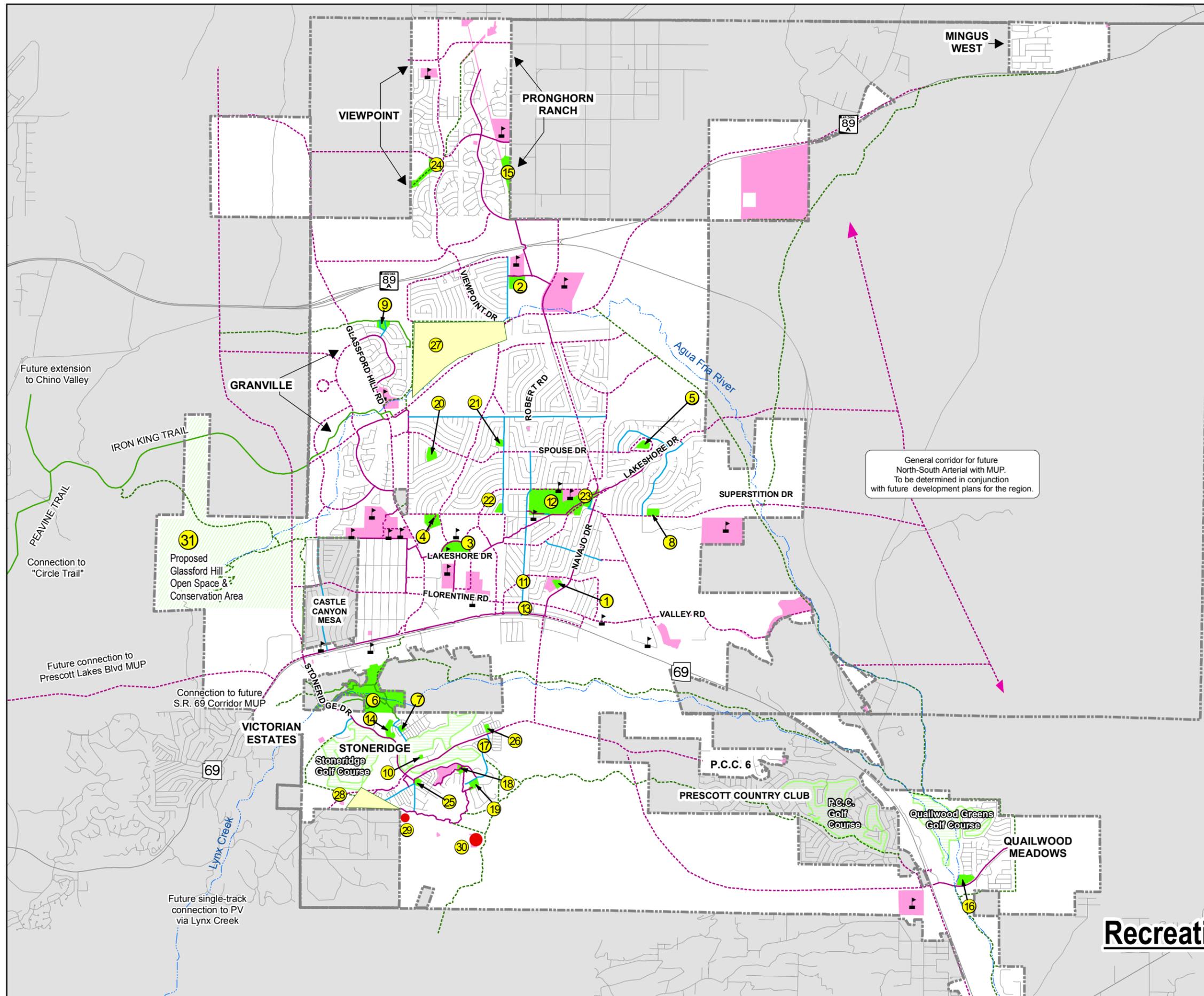
The Town prepared its first Parks and Recreation Master Plan which was ratified October 7, 2002. One of the top perceived needs according to the stakeholders was: *Trails, including bicycle trails, and connectors within parks that coordinate with County and State Trails.*

Implementation

The stated goals for connectivity are generally accomplished with developing facilities for pedestrian and bicycles as Multi-Use Paths (MUPs) or Trails. A MUP is any two-way path or trail designated for multiple, non-motorized uses such as bicycles, pedestrians. Such paths are 8 to 10 feet wide and are constructed of concrete or asphalt. MUPs may be designed according to AASHTO standards and be wheelchair accessible where possible. MUPs are generally intended to correspond to the Minor Arterial and Collector Roadway System identified in exhibit CIR-11 in Chapter 6, Circulation Element. A MUP may be developed adjacent to the roadway or, as a "Greenbelt" path set back or independent from an adjacent roadway. A Trail as identified serves the same purpose of connection and linkage between public and quasi-public facilities in the Town, but also connects existing or planned regional trails in the County and other area Towns and Cities. Trails would be a similar 10 foot width but typically not be hard surfaced or designed for AASHTO or ADA compliance in that they would be in natural existing terrains. Other local streets are identified on Exhibit OS-1 that provide opportunity to link to existing or planned MUPs. These streets typically would be original Town streets without sidewalks or widened shoulders. Some local connector streets may be recently improved with pedestrian oriented sidewalks and other portions may include sidewalks or MUPs in the future.

Most MUPs developed since 2002 have been built in conjunction with residential developments as identified on current Exhibit GA-1, including MUPs on StoneRidge Drive which provide access between Highway 69 and the Stoneridge residential development. From the eastern portion of Town, the multi-use Trail known as the "Iron King Trail" connects to the City of Prescott Peavine Trail and provides access to the northern portion of Glassford Hill, which is also planned for a separate multi-use Trail from Prescott Valley access locations. As stated in Policy OS-A5.4 the Town will continue to require all new development to build the appropriate segment of the Prescott Valley MUP System that is adjacent to their development, or to contribute to a fund to build and adjacent MUP in the future.

The Yavapai Trails Association (www.yavapai-trails.org) plans and coordinates non-motorized regional trail development and connectivity and is recognized by the City of Prescott, Prescott Valley, and Chino Valley, as well as Yavapai County, the Prescott National Forest, the Bureau of Land Management, and the state of Arizona. Exhibit OS-1 references existing and future locations for connectivity to such regional facilities and include: "Black Canyon Trail", single-track bike trail via Lynx Creek, State Route 69 MUP expansion, MUP connection to Prescott Lakes Blvd, "Circle Trail" and Peavine extension to Chino Valley.



LEGEND

- Town Limits
 - Town Parks (PL Zoning)
 - Proposed Town Parks
 - Other Non-Park PL Zoning
 - Current & Proposed School Sites
 - Proposed Glassford Hill Conservation Area
- Multi-Use Path / Trail System**
- Built Multi-Use Path
 - Future Multi-Use Path
 - Built Trail
 - Future Trail
 - Local Connector Street

Streets

0 0.5 1 Miles

TOWN PARKS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 American Legion Park | 18 Stoneridge Trailhead Park |
| 2 Antelope Park | 19 Stoneridge Unit 7 Park (Undeveloped) |
| 3 Civic Center Grounds | 20 Sunflower Park |
| 4 Bob Edwards Park (Undeveloped) | 21 Tonto Park North |
| 5 Community Center Park | 22 Tonto Park South |
| 6 Fain Park | 23 Urban Forest |
| 7 Fence Line Park | 24 Viewpoint Park |
| 8 George Anderson Park | 25 Village Square Park |
| 9 Granville Park | 26 Wander Way Park |
| 10 Home Fire Park | |
| 11 Lions Park | |
| 12 Mountain Valley Park | |
| 13 Old Town Park | |
| 14 Overlook Park | |
| 15 Pronghorn Park | |
| 16 Quailwood Park | |
| 17 Settlers Park | |

PROPOSED PARKS

- 27 Agua Fria Regional Park
- 28 StoneRidge Community Park
- 29 StoneRidge Park 8A
- 30 Future StoneRidge Park

OTHER OPEN SPACE

- 31 Proposed-Glassford Hill Open Space and Conservation Area

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Table OS-1

Existing Park and Recreational Facilities

Park No. on Exhibit OS-1	Park Name	Acreage	Facilities																					
			Amphitheater	Aquatic Center (Outdoor)	Basketball Court	Baseball/ Softball	Bridge	Concession Stand	Dog Park	Fishing	Flower Garden	Horseshoe Pits	Lake/Stream	Multi-Use Fields	Open Turf	Picnic Tables	Playground	Public Art	Ramadas	Restrooms	Skate/Bike Park	Soccer Field	Trails	Volleyball Court
Community Parks																								
12	Mountain Valley	68	•	•	•	•		•	•				•		•	•		•	•	•	•			•
28	StoneRidge Regional	34.6	PROPOSED																					
	Sub-Total Existing (Community)	68																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Community)	34.6																						
Large Urban Parks																								
27	Agua Fria	214	PROPOSED																					
	Sub-Total Existing (Large)	0																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Large)	214																						
Mini Parks																								
7	Fence Line	1.5												•	•	•								
10	Home Fire	0.5												•										•
11	Lions Park	0.1													•									
13	Old Town	0.3													•			•						•
14	Overlook	1.4													•									
17	Settlers	0.5													•									•
25	Village Square	1.5													•		•							•
26	Wander Way	1.3									•				•				•				•	•
	Sub-Total Existing (Mini)	7.1																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Mini)	0																						
Neighborhood Parks																								
1	American Legion	11.6									•				•	•		•	•					•
2	Antelope	10				•	•								•	•		•	•		•			
4	Bob Edwards (Undeveloped)	9.5	UNDEVELOPED																					
3	Civic Center Grounds	15	•												•	•	•	•	•	•				•
8	George Andersen	3.8			•	•									•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
9	Granville	4													•	•	•		•	•				•
15	Pronghorn	5.8			•	•									•	•	•	•	•	•			•	•
16	Quailwood	5.9				•									•	•	•		•	•			•	•
29	StoneRidge Unit 8A	3	PROPOSED																					
30	StoneRidge Future	7	PROPOSED																					
21	Sunflower	4.6				•									•	•	•	•	•	•				•
22	Tonto North	2.1													•	•			•	•				•
23	Tonto South	2.2										•			•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
19	Trailhead	2														•			•					•
25	Viewpoint	12.5				•									•	•	•	•	•	•		•		•
	Sub-Total Existing (Neighborhood)	99																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Neighborhood)	10																						
Special Use Parks																								
5	Community Center	3.2													•	•	•		•	•		•		•
24	Urban Forest	7.5					•					•			•			•	•					•
	Sub-Total Existing (Special Use)	10.7																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Special Use)	0																						
Natural Resource/Cultural Parks																								
6	Fain	100					•			•		•		•	•			•	•			•		•
20	StoneRidge Unit 7	7	PROPOSED																					
	Sub-Total Existing (Natural)	100																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Natural)	7																						
Conservation Areas																								
31	Glassford Hill - Open Space	940	PROPOSED - OPEN SPACE / CONSERVATION AREA (IN TOWN LIMITS) - NON MUNICIPAL																					
	Sub-Total (Conservation)	0																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Conservation)	940																						
	TOTAL EXISTING PARK ACRES	274.1																						
	TOTAL PROPOSED PARK ACRES	1205.6																						
	TOTAL COMBINED ACRES	1479.7																						
Trails																								
	Miles	Miles																						
	Fain	3.2	Refer to Exhibit OS-1																					
	Iron King	4	Refer to Exhibit OS-2, Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan for Locations																					
	StoneRidge	2.68																						
	Highway 69 MUP	4																						
	Glassford Hill	1.75																						
	Sub-Total Existing (Trails)	13.68																						
	Sub-Total Proposed (Trails)	1.75																						

GLASSFORD HILL

Located between Highway 69 and Highway 89A, Glassford Hill is a well-known Prescott Valley landmark. In the 1880s, this now extinct volcano was used by the United States government as a heliograph station for transmission of sun-reflected messages for Fort Whipple. It was operated by Colonel William A. Glassford, the mountain's namesake. Glassford Hill, a property of the Arizona State Land Trust, currently is a grazing area for cattle and refuge for native species.

The Glassford Hill Coordination Plan (January 2001), prepared by a Citizens Advisory Committee, designated an 1,800-acre area between Watson Lake and Prescott Valley to be Glassford Hill Preserve. The Plan would allow public access and uses in the Preserve that are compatible with the existing grazing and conservation activities, and also protect Glassford Hill as a gateway attraction of natural beauty.

WATERWAYS

Two primary waterways flow through the Town of Prescott Valley, the Agua Fria River and Lynx Creek.

- ▶ **Agua Fria River.** The Agua Fria River crosses the northern and eastern portions of Prescott Valley. The river's flood plain is largely undeveloped. Vegetation is dominated by short grasses with scattered forbs, shrubs and cacti. Overgrazing has altered the natural landscape, but many of the native grassland species remain.
- ▶ **Lynx Creek.** Lynx Creek runs through the southern area of Prescott Valley and empties into the Agua Fria River at a point southeast of Town. The Creek passes through Fain Park, where a dam has created a small lake with fishing opportunities.

PRESCOTT NATIONAL FOREST

The Prescott National Forest is one of six national forests in Arizona. It covers approximately 1.2 million acres in Yavapai and Coconino Counties. The Prescott NF consists of two geographically separate land areas (eastern and western) that are administered as three ranger districts: the Chino Valley Ranger District, which covers the areas east and west of Chino Valley; the Bradshaw Ranger District, which covers the area near Prescott and south into the Bradshaw Mountains; and the Verde Ranger District, which covers the area just north of Jerome and Clarkdale and along the southern side of the Verde Valley.

The mild climate of the Prescott NF encourages year-round recreation activity. Trail and day use are primary activity types and include: off-highway vehicle riding, horseback riding, hiking, biking, hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Most visitors to the forest live in Yavapai County. Maricopa County residents comprise the next largest group, with portions of the Prescott NF located less than 90 miles from the Phoenix metropolitan area.

There are 36 developed sites on the Prescott NF. Those with highest use include: Thumb Butte, Lynx Lake Recreation Area, and Granite Basin Recreation Area. The area surrounding the city of Prescott has the highest concentration of recreation activity on the Prescott NF and limits primitive camping to designated sites.

8.2.4 Recreation Programs

Recreational services are facilitated through the recommendations of two Council-appointed Commissions (Parks and Recreation and Arts and Culture) and the efforts of a professional staff segmented into seven (7) divisions of operation (Community and Outdoor Education, Adaptive Recreation, Aquatics, Ice Skating, Arts and Culture, Athletics, and Special Events) to create a diverse portfolio with specialized programs. These innovative and high valued programs strive to promote and engage a healthy community. Recreational services include, but are not limited to: adult softball and volleyball, dance, music, yoga, martial arts, swim lessons, ice skating, art classes, tennis lessons, instructional basketball, aerobics, and kick boxing.

Through partnerships the Parks and Recreation Department supports the area's youth sports leagues, including the Prescott Valley Little League, Prescott Valley Youth Football and Cheer Association, Yavapai Soccer League, VARDAR Soccer League, along with other civic and non-profit groups like the Central Arizona Senior Association (CASA), Boys and Girls Club of Central Yavapai, and the Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts of America. The Parks and Recreation Department also teams up each year with the Chamber of Commerce to offer various community events, including Prescott Valley Days, Battle of the Bands, and a holiday lighting program.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

The following Town facilities house and/or involve community activities.

- ▶ **Youth & Family Services Center.** The 3,500 square foot multi-purpose building is owned by the Town and leased by the Boys & Girls Club of Central Yavapai which hosts a variety of youth activities. During off hours of Boys & Girls Club programming, the Town offers 50+ Aerobics classes beginning September through May.
- ▶ **Community Center.** The 6,000 square-foot facility is owned by the Town of Prescott Valley and leased by the Central Arizona Senior Association (CASA). It houses a variety of senior citizen activities and programs, including CASA, Meals on Wheels and Prescott Valley Food Bank programs.
- ▶ **Prescott Valley Amphitheater.** Located inside MountainValleyPark, the outdoor multi-purpose facility offers 2 softball fields and a full size soccer field. The facility was designed to also host concert events with open seating on the main grass area as well at the surrounding grass slopes. The Amphitheater has lighting for nighttime events.
- ▶ **Civic Center Amphitheater.** Located at the Civic Center, the outdoor facility hosts local events. The amphitheater offers a concrete stage and a large grass area for open seating but does not provide lighting for evening based events.

8.2.5 Special Use Facilities

In addition to public facilities, several private recreational facilities in Prescott Valley and the surrounding area contribute to the recreational and open space resources of the community.

- ▶ **The Entertainment District.** Located in the heart of downtown Prescott Valley, its boundaries house Harkins 14 movie theatre, Freedom Station (games and mini golf for the entire family), restaurants, and a variety of other retail establishments. The Fain Signature Group schedules arts & craft exhibits and outdoor concerts throughout the year.
- ▶ **Prescott Golf & Country Club.** Located in Dewey, east of Prescott Valley, the Prescott Golf & Country Club was established in 1971 and is nestled in the golden panoramic valley between the Mingus and Bradshaw Mountain ranges. The Club not only offers breathtaking views, but also fast bent grass and lush tree lined fairways. Prescott Golf & Country Club is a semi-private regulation 18-hole par 72 golf course designed for all skill levels allowing play from 5,700 yards to 6,800 yards. The Club also offers a double-sided practice facility with driving tees, chipping and putting greens. The Club offers economical green fee rates and memberships; it also offers an outside Pavilion, Cocktail Lounge, Dining and Banquet facilities.

- ▶ **Prescott Trap & Skeet Club.** This facility is located immediately east of Prescott Valley on Highway 69 in Dewey. The club was established in 1974 and offers gun safety and marksmanship instruction on a 25 yard pistol range, five trap and two skeet fields, along with a FITASC/5-stand course.
- ▶ **Stoneridge Golf Course & Clubhouse.** With sweeping, panoramic Prescott Valley golf course views and surrounding mountains, the 14,586 square foot clubhouse offers a full-service golf shop, large conference room, cozy grille, and large outdoor patio. The staff and facilities can comfortably accommodate almost any size group from large corporate tournaments to small intimate gatherings.
- ▶ **Tim's Toyota Center (TTC).** This multipurpose facility located in Prescott Valley at 3201 N. Main Street, seats approximately 5,100 for hockey, soccer and football and up to 6,200 for concerts. The facility can also host boxing, basketball, rodeo, ice shows and theatrical productions. Tim's Toyota Center has 2,365 parking spaces, 22 private luxury suites and 2 party suites. It was designed and built to meet all ADA specifications to accommodate guests with disabilities. Tim's Toyota Center is managed by Encore Facility Management, a wholly owned subsidiary of Global Entertainment Corporation. Tim's Toyota Center is home to the Arizona Sundog's Hockey Club, Central Hockey League and the Arizona Adrenaline Indoor Football Team, AIFA.

8.3 Looking Toward 2025

Additional parks and recreational facilities will be needed as Prescott Valley grows and these facilities need to be carefully sized and distributed. The proposed Agua Fria Park will provide a large urban park in a currently underserved area. However, neighborhood parks are also needed in close proximity, i.e., within ½-mile, of where people live. New development will provide the neighborhood parks and trail system linkages that will be needed by new residents. In accordance with adopted standards for parks, recreational facilities, trails, and open space, all Planned Area Developments (PADs) will need to provide an appropriate level of park and recreational facilities on contiguous and fully developable sites.

Prescott Valley's natural land forms and its views toward the mountains will be preserved through policies that address view corridors and adherence to the Glassford Hill Coordination Plan. The trail and open space linkages provided by undeveloped flood plains will help retain the "feeling of openness" valued by residents. Furthermore, the Land Use Plan's relatively low density designations on the edges of town and the growth tiers that discourage "leapfrog" development into currently undeveloped open space will also help to maintain the "country character" and expansiveness of Prescott Valley.

The Land Use Plan provides many opportunities for natural open space and recreation facilities. However, the Town's residents and decision makers will need to identify and secure funding to acquire, construct, operate, and maintain both natural open space and recreational space and facilities. The funding may come from a number of sources, including those listed in the Cost of Development Element (Sections 8.2.1 and 8.3) or voter approved dedicated funding.

8.3.1 Parks Needs Analysis

STANDARDS FOR ANALYSIS

Standards for the provision of parks, open space, and recreation facilities vary from community to community. To provide general guidance on the types and amounts of parks and recreation facilities that could be required to meet community needs, the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has established a standard set of criteria, which are frequently used as parks and recreation benchmarks. As seen in Table OS-2, *National Recreation and Parks Association Suggested Standards*, these benchmarks suggest a minimum size, service area, and service area population range for parks and recreation facilities. Prescott Valley has adopted the NRPA suggested standards for recreation resources for the purpose of the *General Plan 2025* to determine a general needs analysis for the Town.

Table OS-2
National Recreation Parks Association Minimum Standards

Park Type	Size	Geographic Service Area	Service Area Population
Large Urban Park	75 or more acres	Community-wide	Variable
Community Park ¹	30 – 50 acres	0.5 – 3 miles	3.4 acres / 1000 people
Neighborhood Park ¹	5 – 10 acres	0.25 – 0.5 miles	3.4 acres / 1000 people
Special Use Park	Variable	Variable	Variable
Natural Resource Park	Variable	Community-wide	Variable
Mini Park	2500 sq ft – 1 acre	Less than 0.25 mile	Variable

¹ Based on NRPA standard of 6.8 acres of parks per 1,000 residents and acreage for trails and open space equal to a maximum 10 acres per 1,000

NEEDS ANALYSIS FINDINGS

Existing Needs. The Needs Analysis done for the existing Prescott Valley population of 38,822 persons is shown in Table OS-3, *Existing Parks and Recreational Needs*. While large parks such as Fain Park and Mountain Valley Park serve an important role in the overall community, neighborhood parks are crucial park elements because they provide an equitable allocation of recreation opportunities in very near proximity to residents. Children in particular need to safely and quickly access these facilities. The Town is committed to providing quality development that is walkable and provides community level services in all neighborhoods, existing and new. As seen in Exhibit OS-1, *Recreation and Open Space Plan*, the distribution of neighborhood parks is very uneven in Prescott Valley and due to their size their service radius, which represents the ability to adequately meet citizens’ needs and expectations through special allocation, is greatly reduced. The majority of intended neighborhood parks do not meet the minimum required acreage and thus, most residential areas are not located within a ¼-mile or ½-mile of a neighborhood park.

PARKS SERVICE AREA RADIUS

Service Area is a measure of the level of public accessibility to parks, the quantity of parkland per person, or number of the recreational facilities per person. Service Area Radius is measured by the distance to a developed park. For example, a 1/2-mile walking distance from a home to a Neighborhood Park (7 to 10 minutes) is a common goal. Service Area for quantity of parkland per person is calculated as acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population as indicated in Table OS-2. The service area for Mini Parks is assigned a ¼ mile radius. Neighborhood Parks are assigned a ½ mile radius. Community Parks are assigned up to a 3 mile radius but can be considered to function as neighborhood parkland for the adjacent residences. Exhibit OS-2 shows locations of Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks and Community Parks and the Parks Service Area Radius. Identified are both the Service Area Radius of parks meeting the adopted size and service standards and also the Service Radius Area of parks that do not meet standards and the radius is shown in a ratio to the actual park acreage.

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SERVICE RADIUS & PARK TYPE

MEET SERVICE STANDARDS		DO NOT MEET SERVICE STANDARDS (radius shown in proportion to park acreage)	
	1/4 MILE / MINI PARK		1/4 MILE / MINI PARK
	1/2 MILE / NEIGHBORHOOD PARK		1/2 MILE / NEIGHBORHOOD PARK
	3 MILE / COMMUNITY PARK		3/8 MILE SERVICE AREA

NOTE: MINI (1-acre or less), NEIGHBORHOOD (5-10acres), COMMUNITY (30-50 acres)

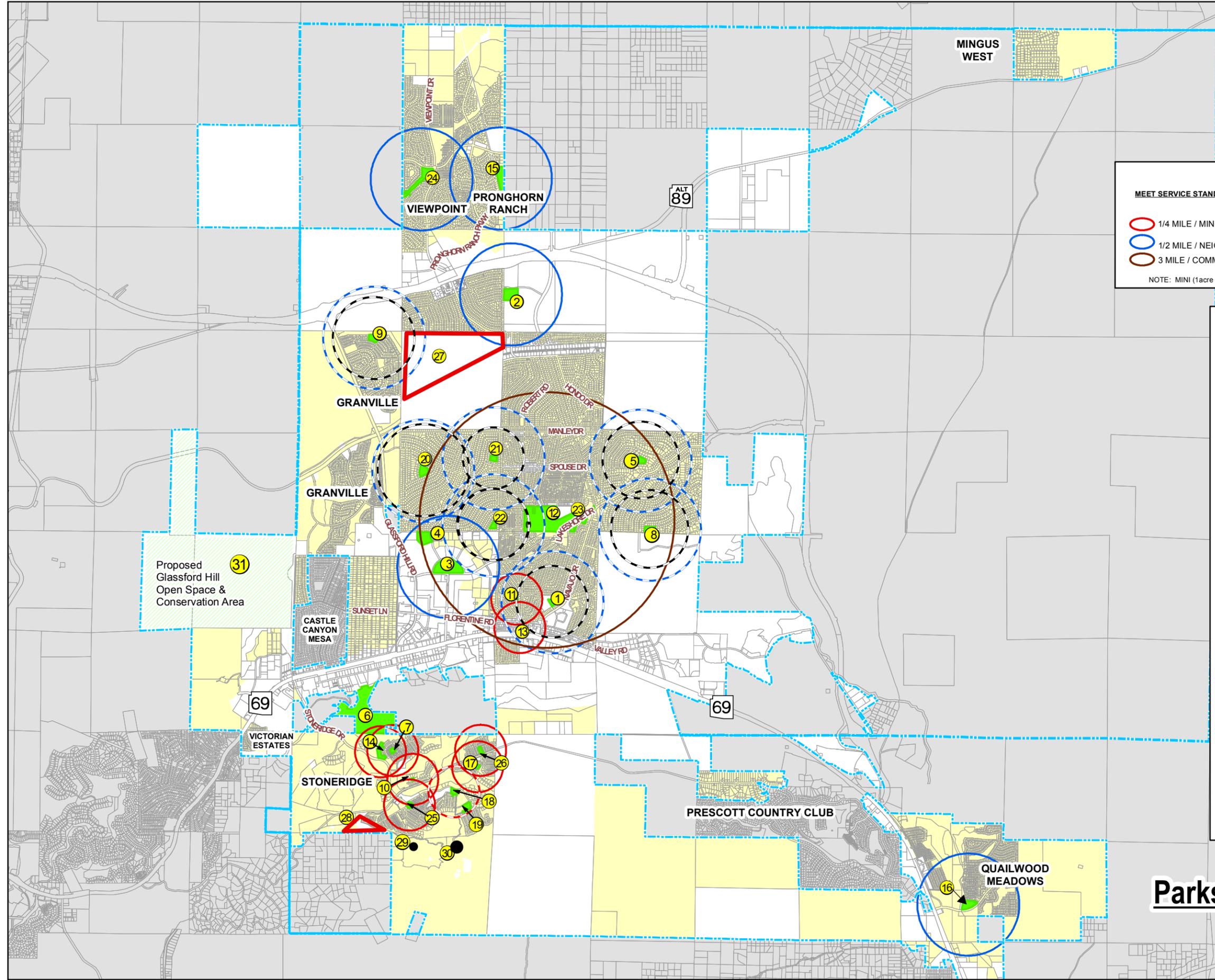
LEGEND

- Proposed Glassford Hill Conservation Area
- Town Limits
- Proposed Town Parks
- Town Parks (PL Zoning)
- Residential Zoning
- Parcels

0 0.5 1 Miles

TOWN PARKS

1 American Legion Park	18 Stoneridge Trailhead Park
2 Antelope Park	19 Stoneridge Unit 7 Park (Undeveloped)
3 Civic Center Grounds	21 Sunflower Park
4 Bob Edwards Park (Undeveloped)	21 Tonto Park North
5 Community Center Park	22 Tonto Park South
6 Fain Park	23 Urban Forest
7 Fence Line Park	24 Viewpoint Park
8 George Anderson Park	25 Village Square Park
9 Granville Park	26 Wander Way Park
10 Home Fire Park	
11 Lions Park	PROPOSED PARKS
12 Mountain Valley Park	27 Agua Fria Regional Park
13 Old Town Park	28 StoneRidge Community Park
14 Overlook Park	29 StoneRidge Park 8A
15 Pronghorn Park	30 Future StoneRidge Park
16 Quailwood Park	
17 Settlers Park	OTHER OPEN SPACE
	31 Proposed-Glassford Hill Open Space and Conservation Area



Parks Service Area Raduis
Exhibit OS-2

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Table OS-3
Existing Parks and Recreational Needs

Facility Type	Planning Standard	2011 Conditions (acres)	2025 Needs* (38,822 population)
Parks			
Community Park	30 or more acres	103.0	132.0
Neighborhood Park	5 – 10 acres	99.4	132.0
Mini-Park / Tot Lot	Less than 5 acres	7.1	11.8
Special Use Parks	Variable		
Total		209.52	264
*Based on the standards in Table OS-2.			

2025 Needs. The Needs Analysis done for the 2025 timeframe includes the three different population scenarios for Prescott Valley – Trends, Moderate Growth, and Accelerated Growth. As seen in Table OS-4, *2025 Parks and Recreational Needs*, there will be a future need for parks ranging from 28 to 144 acres, depending on which population scenario occurs. Already approved but not yet completed residential subdivisions will add an additional 49 acres of Neighborhood parks and recreational facilities. The proposed Agua Fria Park, located in the northeast area of Town, will add approximately 320 acres of park and/or open space; however it will not serve as Neighborhood Park space for residents living more than a ½-mile away. Acreage for *Planned and Proposed Parks and Recreational Facilities* is listed in Table OS-5.

Prescott Valley has relied on new development to build the needed parks as well as contribute to the need for trails and open space. Standards for park size, area served, location, and type of facilities to be included for new subdivisions will be required to comply with the Town’s policy of 6.8 acres of park/land per 1,000 residents, with a minimum that five contiguous acres be developed. As seen in Exhibit OS-1, *Recreation and Open Space Plan*, the distribution of neighborhood parks is very uneven in Prescott Valley. The future park and recreational facilities in Town need to be carefully sized, designed, and located to consider the needs of future and surrounding residents.

Table OS-4
2025 Parks and Recreational Needs

Facility Type	Planning Standard	Existing Conditions (acres)	2025 Needs (Acres)*		
			Trends Scenario (58,233 population)	More Aggressive Scenario (67,938 population)	Most Aggressive Scenario (77,644 population)
Parks					
Community Park	30 or more acres	103.0	198.0	230.0	264.0
Neighborhood Park	5 – 10 acres	99.4	198.0	230.0	264.0
Total		202.4	396	462.0	528.0
*Based on the standards in Table OS-3.					

Table OS-5
Planned and Proposed Parks and Recreational Facilities

Description	Acreage
Future Facilities to be Built in Approved Subdivisions	
StoneRidge	49.6
Granville	7.0
Viewpoint	9.9 ¹
Pronghorn Ranch	2.4 ²
Subtotal	43.0
Proposed Parks	
Agua Fria	214.0
GRAND TOTAL	278.1

¹Proposed site must meet neighborhood park development criteria as it currently resides in Floodplain.

² Site must meet neighborhood park development criteria.

8.4 Guiding Principles, Goals and Policies

GUIDING PRINCIPLE OS-A: PRESERVE AND ENHANCE ITS KEY NATURAL FEATURES, INCLUDING NATURAL OPEN SPACE AND VISTAS.

GOAL: *OS-A1 Create and maintain a high quality of life through the provision of adequate natural open space.*

POLICIES: OS-A1.1 Establish criteria for defining “natural open space” using topographic elevation differentials, density of natural vegetation, natural drainage ways, areas that sustain on-going populations of bird and animal species, or other appropriate criteria.

OS-A1.2 Establish standards for the appropriate quantity of natural open space and trails needed for the Town as a whole and of individual development projects.

OS-A1.3 Identify and formally recognize natural open space and cultural resources that may be preserved, protected and enhanced; and which may include floodplains, wildlife corridors, recreation areas, historical sites, regional parks, and donated private land.

OS-A1.4 Encourage the donation of natural open space to the Town from private property owners.

OS-A1.5 Encourage the appropriate use of natural open space for a variety of activities and organizations.

OS-A1.6 Increase public awareness about the importance of protecting and maintaining natural open space areas.

GOAL: *OS-A2 Maintain the sense of environmental openness through the encouragement of vista protection and open space corridors.*

POLICIES: OS-A2.1 Identify views, vistas, and open space corridors that should be preserved.

- OS-A2.2 Encourage the protection of view corridors along major streets and in neighborhoods.
- OS-A2.3 Encourage interjurisdictional dialogue designed to protect valued natural open space outside of the Town boundaries.
- GOAL: OS-A3** *Encourage the protection of major land forms in the area to prevent development or other encroachment on these natural features.*
- POLICIES:** OS-A3.1 Preserve the areas surrounding and atop Glassford Hill as natural open space.
- OS-A3.2 Support the recommendations and strategies of the Glassford Hill Coordination Plan.
- OS-A3.3 Identify other land forms or features in the area that should be considered for protection or allowed only limited development.
- GOAL: OS-A4** *Encourage the preservation of natural open space throughout the Town and region that has environmental value and can also be used for educational purposes.*
- POLICIES:** OS-A4.1 Pursue agreements with other agencies that are mutually beneficial in sharing natural open space and educational facilities and programs.
- OS-A4.2 Integrate educational/interpretative facilities into open space areas that are used for water recharge facilities.
- OS-A4.3 Support urban fishing in appropriate areas.
- GOAL: OS-A5** *Provide access to open space and parks, and linkages between open space, parks, and user-specific destinations.*
- POLICIES:** OS-A5.1 Provide access to public open space areas and parks.
- OS-A5.2 Provide a trail system that connects the Town's open space, parks, and select activity centers, such as community and regional commercial development, in a cohesive manner and, where appropriate, includes multi-use facilities (pedestrian and bikes).
- OS-A5.3 Support the Trails and Open Space Plan prepared by the Town's Public Works Department.
- OS-A5.4 Require all new development to build the appropriate segment of the Prescott Valley Trails System that is adjacent to their development, if no trail exists, or to contribute to a fund to build the trail in the future.
- OS-A5.5 Support use of the Town's floodplains and appropriate buffer zones as primary linkages in the parks and open space system.
- OS-A5.6 Obtain public easements, as needed, to connect components of public open space and the proposed Prescott Valley Trails System.
- OS-A5.7 Where appropriate opportunities exist, work with homeowners associations to open selected existing private paths and trails to the public.

- OS-A5.8 Coordinate regional access points and linkages with other appropriate jurisdictional entities within the region.
- OS-A5.9 Pursue agreements with appropriate agencies to secure easements and rights-of-way for trails and paths.
- OS-A5.10 Ensure that the Town's trail system is integrated into the design of all capital improvement project plans, including those for parks, drainage channels, roadways, etc.

GUIDING PRINCIPLE OS-B: PROVIDE ACTIVE AND PASSIVE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES, INCLUDING RECREATIONAL OPEN SPACE, PARKS, AND TRAILS.

GOAL: *OS-B1 Continue to provide and expand recreational services and park facilities to serve Prescott Valley residents and visitors.*

- POLICIES:**
- OS-B1.1 Continue to improve the existing undeveloped park properties to complete planned facilities and amenities.
 - OS-B1.2 Develop parks, trails, and recreational open space standards for size, population served, type of facility, and location that is appropriate for Prescott Valley.
 - OS-B1.3 Evaluate existing and future parks by adopted standards and the intended primary user groups.
 - OS-B1.4 Establish typical amenities that should be included for each park type or recreational facility according to their classification.
 - OS-B1.5 Parks should have a mix of passive and active recreation amenities and recreational programs that address the various interests of children, teens, adults, and seniors.
 - OS-B1.6 Encourage the public and private development of public plazas and parks, which provide public gathering space, in the Town Center and in the community area of the Village PADs.
 - OS-B1.6 Establish a cultural and historical plan exploring the potential uses of these resources, outlining priorities, identifying methods of guiding work efforts, and explore development, operation, maintenance and funding strategies.

GOAL: *OS-B2 New development shall participate in the Town's recreation and open space system.*

- POLICIES:**
- OS-B2.1 Identify properties and connections to create opportunities for development of vistas, public plazas, and public art features to encourage activity for future land uses.
 - OS-B2.2 Require new development at the conceptual stage, with assistance of the Parks and Recreation Director, to provide open space and Neighborhood Parks to serve their new neighborhoods, in accordance with adopted standards for size, location, and the needs of the primary users.
 - OS-B2.3 Encourage new development to co-locate Neighborhood Parks with school facilities and any existing open space and parks, and to discourage the location of Neighborhood Parks adjacent to arterial streets.

- OS-B2.4 Through the development process, require dedication of public access easements and rights-of-way to create connected public trails, paths, and bicycle routes.
- OS-B2.5 Require all new development to build linkages from their parks and open space areas to the appropriate nearest segment of the Prescott Valley Trails System.
- OS-B2.6 New development should address the linking of their open space, parks, and trails, as appropriate and feasible, to adjacent developments.
- GOAL: OS-B3** *Establish joint-use agreements between Humboldt Unified School District and the Town for recreational and educational opportunities.*
- POLICIES:** OS-B3.1 Negotiate joint use agreements with the Humboldt Unified School District to share recreational, cultural and educational opportunities and to ensure public access to recreation facilities in any neighborhoods currently lacking park facilities.
- OS-B3.2 Work with the Humboldt Unified School District to not fence or lock gates between Town parks and HUSD outdoor facilities.
- OS-B3.3 Maximize joint use and development opportunities to augment park and recreational facilities, but do not rely exclusively on joint partnerships to provide the park and recreational needs for the community.
- GOAL: OS-B4** *Provide sufficient resources to acquire, develop, and upgrade parks, trails, and open space recreational facilities, and assure their long-term maintenance and operation.*
- POLICIES:** OS-B4.1 Provide adequate funding for acquisition and construction of new parks, trails, trailheads, recreation facilities and open space in existing and new neighborhoods through sales tax, bonds, system development fees, grants, and other means.
- OS-B4.2 Encourage community, public, and private organizations to support the maintenance and operation of existing and new recreational facilities.
- OS-B4.3 Develop a subsidy cost recovery philosophy, which provides the framework for creating a pricing strategy and policy.
- OS-B4.4 Implement Park Facilities Needs Assessment, and translate into a five-year capital improvement plan. Determine facility life cycles, and identify long-term capital spending requirements.
- OS-B4.5 Develop a formal maintenance management system with specific objectives, work order system, resource inventory, planning and scheduling system, preventive maintenance program, and performance standards.
- GOAL: OS-B5** *Establish public and private partnerships to provide public and private park and recreation investments for a more effective use of public funds.*
- POLICIES:** OS-B5.1 Incorporate private parks, special purpose facilities, trails and open space with existing and future public facilities, where feasible.
- OS-B5.2 Encourage employers to provide public open space, gathering spaces, and recreational facilities for their employees, when appropriate.

- OS-B5.3 Promote volunteer participation in all aspects of recreation programs.
- OS-B5.4 Coordinate with neighboring jurisdictions and agencies to provide regional systems.
- OS-B5.6 Use compatible recreation uses, such as golf courses, as buffer areas for wastewater treatment facilities and appropriate riparian habitats.
- OS-B5.7 Explore opportunities to locate trails along existing utility transmission corridors.
- OS-B5.8 Continue to work with the Yavapai County Flood Control District for co-location of parks and usable open space.
- OS-B5.9 Pursue funding from state, federal, and other appropriate funding sources to construct park, trail, and open space recreational facilities in the Prescott Valley Trails System.

GOAL: *OS-B6 Design and operate safe parks, recreational open space, trails, and recreational facilities.*

- POLICIES:**
- OS-B6.1 Develop public trails, paths, open spaces, and parks that are attractive, safe, and easy to maintain.
 - OS-B6.2 Promote the use of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) techniques when designing and building parks and trails.
 - OS-B6.3 Design and install appropriate lighting in all Town parks.
 - OS-B6.4 Form volunteer citizen patrols to help keep parks safe and secure.

GOAL: *OS-B6 Develop short and long-term plan for programming opportunities and increase customer service efficiencies.*

- POLICIES:**
- OS-B6.1 Implement the use of basic management tools such as parks and recreation management software to provide rapid and accurate customer service data for the development of a systematic long-term planning process.
 - OS-B6.2 Utilize parks and recreation management software in a proactive mode to query overall community needs rather than offering those activities that are status quo with existing participants.
 - OS-B6.3 Implement the use of automated systems allowing people the opportunity to register for services at their convenience from their choice of location rather than the established office hours at the Civic Center.