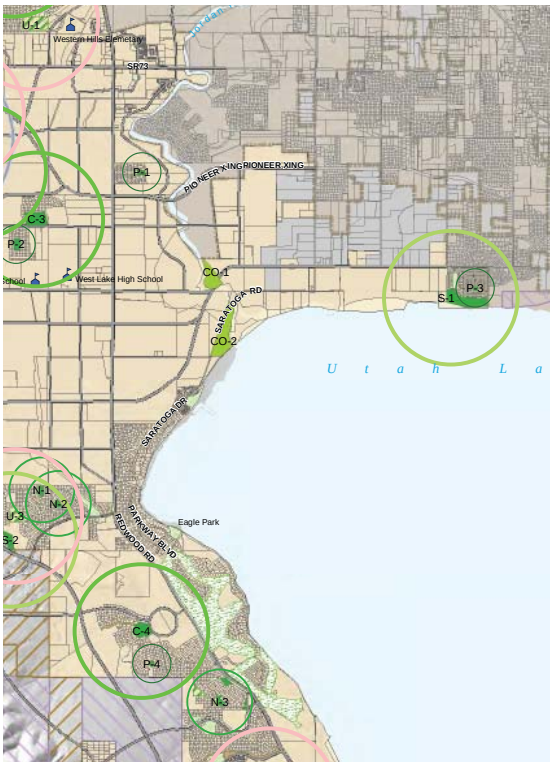
Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

Saratoga Springs, Utah



Prepared by:
Landmark Design Inc.

Adopted November 15, 2011

Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

Saratoga Springs, Utah

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mayor

Mia B. Love

City Council

Brent Call
Michael D. S. McOmber
Bud Poduska
Cecil Tuley
Jim Miller

Planning Commission

Earl Halvas
Chris Strickland
Hannah Thiel
Kristen Hood
Joe Hudson
Eric Reese
Jeff Cochran

Master Plan Management Committee

Mia Love, Mayor
Mark Christensen, City Manager
Cecil Tuley, City Council
Chris Strickland, Planning Commission
Cassie Gross, Former Planning Commissioner and Resident
Jim McNulty, Planning Director
Mark Edwards, Capital Facilities Manager
Sarah Carroll, Senior Planner
Shane Bennett, Senior Engineering Inspector
Jennifer Lindley, Recreation Director
Brian Gallegos, GIS Specialist

Consultant

Jan Striefel, Landmark Design Inc.
Mark Vlasic, Landmark Design Inc.
Robert Barnhill, Landmark Design Inc.
Susan Becker, Lewis Young Roberts & Burningham
Cami Slade, Lewis Young Roberts & Burningham

Residents of Saratoga Springs

Thank you for your great participation in the process and your good ideas.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Executive Summary	v
Chapter 1 – Introduction	
Public Involvement	1-1
Demographics	1-3
Organization of the Document	1-4
Chapter 2 – Parks and Open Space	
Public Comment Regarding Parks and Park Facilities	2-1
Existing City Parks	2-5
Existing Open Spaces	2-6
Other Parks and Recreation Facilities	2-6
Public City Park Definitions	2-7
Current Level of Service Analysis	2-9
Park Distribution	2-10
Future Parks and Open Spaces	2-11
Improvements to Existing Parks	2-14
Saratoga Springs as a Destination Recreation Area	2-15
Goals and Policies	2-15
Chapter 3 – Recreation	
Public Comment Regarding Recreation Programs and Facilities	3-1
Existing Recreation Programs and Participation	3-7
Future Recreation Programs and Facilities	3-8
Goals and Policies	3-9
Chapter 4 – Trails	
Public Comment Regarding Trails	4-1
Existing City Trails	4-4
Other Trails	4-5
Existing Trails Level of Service	4-6
Future Trails and Trail Facilities	4-8
Goals and Policies	4-9
Chapter 5 – Implementation and Cost	
Funding Needed for Parks, Recreation Facilities	5-1
Maintaining City Park and Recreation Facilities	5-5
Goals and Policies	5-8

Page

Chapter 6 – Funding Options and Opportunities

Introduction 6-1
Funding Options and Opportunities for Large Projects 6-2
Funding Options and Opportunities for Smaller Projects 6-6

List of Figures and Tables

Chapter 2 – Parks and Open Space

Figure 2-1 First, Second, and Third Choices for Meeting Household Leisure and Recreational Needs 2-1
Figure 2-2 Most-Used Parks 2-2
Figure 2-3 Why Residents Do Not Use City Parks 2-3
Figure 2-4 Most-Needed Park Types 2-4
Table 2-1 Existing City Parks 2-5
Table 2-2 2011 Level of Service for All Parks 2-9
Table 2-3 2011 Level of Service for Open Spaces 2-9
Table 2-4 Park Level of Service Comparisons 2-10
Table 2-5 Unconstructed Parks 2-11
Table 2-6 Project Park Land Need 2-12
Table 2-7 Projected Open Space Land Need 2-12
Figure 2-5 Improvements Desired in Existing Parks 2-14

Chapter 3 – Recreation

Figure 3-1 Participation in Currently-Offered Programs 3-1
Figure 3-2 Why Residents Do Not Participate in Programs 3-2
Figure 3-3 Facilities Most-Desired by Residents 3-3
Figure 3-4 Spending Priorities for Recreation Facilities 3-4
Figure 3-5 When Programs and Facilities Should Be Developed 3-5
Figure 3-6 Relative Importance of Facilities vs. How Well Facilities Are Provided 3-6
Table 3-1 Existing Recreation Programs Participation Rates 3-7
Table 3-2 Comparison of NRPA Standards and Actual Facilities 3-8
Table 3-3 Saratoga Springs Existing Community Park Facilities 3-9

Chapter 4 – Trails

Figure 4-1 Frequency of Trail Use 4-1
Figure 4-2 How Residents Use Trails 4-1
Figure 4-3 Most-Used Trails 4-2
Figure 4-4 Needed Improvements to Trails 4-2
Table 4-1 Types of Trails to Increase 4-3
Table 4-2 Existing City Trails 4-4
Table 4-3 Existing Level of Service for Trails 4-6

Page

Figure 4-5 Proposed Wilderness Trail Design 4-8
Table 4-4 Projected Trail Needs 4-8

Chapter 5 – Implementation Costs and Priorities

Table 5-1 Park and Recreation Facility Unit Costs 5-1
Table 5-2 Improvements Desired Per Each Five Acres of Developed Park 5-2
Table 5-3 Costs to Upgrade Existing Parks and Develop Unconstructed Parks 5-2
Table 5-4 Costs to Construct New Parks 5-3
Table 5-5 Costs to Construct Proposed Trails 5-4
Table 5-6 Average Annual Maintenance Cost per Acre of Park Land in Local Communities 5-6
Table 5-7 Average Annual Maintenance Cost per Acre of Park Land in Western communities 5-7
Table 5-8 Average Annual Maintenance Cost per Mile of Trail 5-8

Chapter 6 – Funding Options and Opportunities

Figure 6-1 Allocation of Resources toward Facilities and Programs

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Early in 2011, Saratoga Springs initiated preparation of a Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan intended to become a part of the City's General Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to evaluate existing facilities and programs, and make recommendations for future parks, recreation programs and facilities, trails, and open spaces, as well as set a defensible base for updating the City's impact fees. In order to accomplish this task, a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions was conducted and future needs projected, levels of service were analyzed, and priorities were identified to assure that the City moves into the future with the information needed to keep pace with growth and changes in the community.

Public Involvement

Several means of engaging the public in the planning process were incorporated, including:

- Project Management Team which met regularly and reviewed progress on the plan,
- Public Scoping Meeting where issues and concerns were identified,
- Community-wide Mail-back Survey sent to all residents – 4,654 surveys mailed; 1,037 returned, resulting in a 22.3 percent response rate and a margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the 95 percent confidence level,
- Project Web Page,
- Internet Survey,
- Draft Plan Open House, and
- Public hearings before the Planning Commission and the City Council.

Demographics

Characteristics of the survey respondents include:

- 2010 population is 17,781 based on the 2010 Census.
- 46 percent have lived in Saratoga Springs less than 3 years.
- 58 percent have children in the household less than 5 years of age.
- Average household size is 4.05 persons.
- Saratoga Springs is expected to grow at a rate of seven percent between 2010 and 2020 – from 17,781 in 2010 to 38,325 in 2020, and 70,386 in 2030.[1]
- 67 percent of survey respondents are female.
- Survey respondents were primarily 25-34 year-olds (36 percent) and 35-44 year-olds (29 percent).
- 95 percent of respondents own their home in Saratoga Springs.
- Most survey respondents live in developments with active Home Owners Associations (HOAs) that maintain some park space, in either Saratoga Hills (33 percent) or Harvest Hills (29 percent).

[1] GOPB 2005 Baseline City Population projections (2000-2050)

Parks and Open Space

Survey Responses Regarding Parks and Open Space

- Leisure and recreation needs are primarly met by church facilites and programs, followed by City parks and trails, and public lands.
- 67 percent use the parks ten times a year or more.
- 92 percent want parks close to home.
- The most-used parks are Harvest Hills City Park, HOA facilities, and Sunrise Meadows City Park.
- The most-needed type of parks are large community parks.
- People do not use City parks because they do not have the facilities they are intersted in, are not close to home, or they do not know where they are.

Existing City Parks

Saratoga Springs currently owns 105.42 acres of park land and 34.95 acres of open space.

5.65 ac.	Pocket Parks – generally less than one-acre in size, serve small residential neighborhoods with limited recreational opportunities.
79.31 ac.	Community Parks – ranging in size from just over one acre to over 15 acres, serves the broader community and offers multiple recreational opportunities.
20.46 ac.	City owned, but undeveloped park land.
105.42 ac.	Total

Additionally, there are approximately 52 acres of park land within HOAs, as well as playing fields on school grounds and the Talons Cove Golf Course.

Current Level of Service

The current population of Saratoga Springs is 17,781 (2010 Census). Based on the current amount of public park acreage of 105.42 acres, the current level of service (LOS) is 5.93 acres per 1,000 population. In the future, Saratoga Springs will develop only Community Parks; therefore the LOS for the calculation of impact fees is 5.61 acres per 1,000 population. However, for master planning purposes the LOS, will be 5.93 acres per 1,000.

2011 Level of Service for All Parks

2011 LEVEL OF SERVICE - ALL PARKS			
	2010		PARK ACRES PER
YEAR	POPULATION	PARK ACRES	1000 POPULATION
2011 Pocket Parks	17,781	5.65	0.32
2011 Community Parks	17,781	79.31	4.46
2011 Unconstructed Parks	17,781	20.46	1.15
TOTAL ALL PARKS		105.42	5.93

The current level of service for open space is 1.97 acres per 1000 population.

2011 Level of Service for Open Spaces

2011 LEVEL OF SERVICE - CITY OPEN SPACES			
			ACRES PER
YEAR	POPULATION	ACRES	1000 POPULATION
2011 All Open Space	17,781	34.95	1.97
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE - OPEN SPACES			1.97

Future Parks and Open Spaces

Population projections for Saratoga Springs indicate that in the year 2030 the Community will grow to 70,386 and by 2040, to 94,200 people. In the year 2030, Saratoga Springs will need a total of about 312 new acres of park land to serve the need and maintain the current master plan level of service, and by 2040 the additional park land needed grows to about 453 acres.

Projected Park Land Need

PARK LAND NEEDS ANALYSIS					
		EXIST.	PARK ACRES PER	NEEDED TO	ACRES
YEAR	POPULATION	ACRES	1000 POPULATION	MAINTAIN 5.93/1000	NEEDED
2010	17,781	105.42	5.93	0.00	0
2030	70,386	105.42	1.50	417.30	311.88
2040	94,200	105.42	1.12	558.49	453.07

Source: GOPB Revised Baseline Projections, 2008

A similar analysis reveals that in 2030 an additional 103 acres will be needed to maintain the current open space level of service at 1.97 acres per 1000 population. In 2040, that number grows to about 150 acres.

Projected Open Space Land Need

OPEN SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS					
		EXIST.	PARK ACRES PER	NEEDED TO	ACRES
YEAR	POPULATION	ACRES	1000 POPULATION	MAINTAIN 1.97/1000	NEEDED
2010	17,781	34.95	1.97	0.00	0
2030	70,386	34.95	0.50	138.35	103.40
2040	94,200	34.95	0.37	185.16	150.21

Source: GOPB Revised Baseline Projections, 2008

In order to serve residents at the current level into the future, when new parks are planned and developed they should be Community Parks that are generally of a larger size -- at least 20 acres or more to accommodate the desired sports fields and other intensive activities.

Proposed Future Parks and Recreation Facilities

Fourteen new Community Parks are identified and shown on the map in Chapter 2 of this document, each a minimum of 20 acres in size.

Town Center Commons	An urban park in conjunction with a recreation center/aquatic center, and large community gathering area for events.
Jordan River Park	A Community Park and parkway with a trail along the west edge of the river and bridges connecting to the east side Jordan River Trail; access for watercraft – launches and take-outs; wetland park.
Developed Recreational Parks	Large community parks of over 20 acres that include developed sports fields, informal fields and large open areas, courts, and a broad range of recreational opportunities. Each park should be unique. May be adjacent to schools for shared use with an agreement between the City and the School District. Any of these parks is also an appropriate location for a recreation center/aquatic center.
Developed Natural Parks	Large community parks of over 20 acres that incorporate substantial natural landscape areas with trails that link to mountain trails. Each should include a trailhead, as well as other recreational facilites.
Lake Shore Park	Water-related facilities and beaches as well as community park development. An additional marina will need to be studied further to assure the appropriate location.
Beach Park	Community Park with access to public beaches.

Saratoga Springs as a Destination Recreation Area

Saratoga Springs recognizes that it is situated in a unique landscape with Utah Lake on its eastern border, rolling hills with access to Federal lands on the west, and the Jordan River on the north. It would like to grow into a destination, taking advantage of all of these natural resources for its residents as well as others in the region. Several ideas were identified that need to be explored further.

- A mountain bike park
- A gun club
- Additional trails heads that access regional trails
- A kayak park on the river
- Put-in and take-outs for water craft on the river and the lake

- Water ski course on the lake
- Water events and festivals on the lake
- More lake access with a variety of uses
- More marinas and beaches
- An alpine slide or similar attraction on BLM or SITLA land, and other opportunities where the City partners with agencies and special interests
- Water parks
- Regional sports complexes and specific sporting venues
- Sport fishing events

Goals and Policies for Parks and Open Spaces

Each of the goals identified below includes stated policies and implementation measures.

Goal 1.0	Assure that residents of Saratoga Springs have access to parks and park facilities.
Goal 2.0	Provide for a recreation/aquatic center.
Goal 3.0	Provide adequate park acreage in new development areas.
Goal 4.0	Pursue the development of parks and facilities that take advantage of the unique opportunities in Saratoga Springs to create a mountain/lake/river destination recreation area.
Goal 5.0	Increase the amount of water-based recreational opportunities in the City and particularly public beaches.
Goal 6.0	Improve maintenance and operation in parks.
Goal 7.0	Identify, preserve, and develop open spaces and natural features to provide for a diversity of uses, locations, and focal points for the City.

Recreation

Survey Responses Regarding Recreation Programs and Facilities

- 82 percent have children enrolled in the existing programs.
- Families do not participate because the activities that interest them are not offered, children are too young to participate, or they have no children.
- The 5 most desired programs not currently offered by the City are swimming, aerobics, dance, gymnastics, and biking.
- The 5 most desired facilities not currently offered in the City are recreation center, pool/water park, trails, library, and sports fields.

Existing Programs and Participation

Saratoga Springs City Recreation Department currently offers sports programs for children and youth, including soccer, T-ball, girls and boys basketball, and flag football. The City also partners with the Fire Department to provide babysitting classes and CPR classes. Participation

in the sports programs has grown dramatically since the initiation of each program. All of the field sport programs have grown between 39 and 66 percent.

Existing Recreation Programs Participation Rates

	Year and Participation Levels						Increase/	Percent
Recreation Program	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**Decrease**	**Change**
Soccer - Spring	505	584	579	889	794	964	459	48%
Soccer - Fall	189	248	444	383	304	560	371	66%
Fishing Club	0	64	53	58	52		-12	-19%
T-Ball				109	179	269	160	59%
Basketball - Boys/Co-Ed.		141	199	306	328	353	212	60%
Basketball - Girls				119	148	196	77	39%
Flag Football	83	106	112	125	122	162	79	49%

Note: 2006 and 2007 numbers for Boys/Co-Ed Basketball were Co-Ed.
Source: Saratoga Springs Recreation Department

Future Recreation Programs and Facilities

The general themes indicate that there is a need for more programs for youth and adults, especially sports programs which mean more playing fields, basketball courts, and other facilities where the programs can be staged. A recreation center/aquatic center and other water-related facilities are desired by more residents than any other facility.

Goals and Policies for Recreation

The goal identified below includes stated policies and implementation measures.

Goal 1.0 Assure that residents of Saratoga Springs have access to desired recreational facilities and programs.

Trails

Survey Responses Regarding Recreation Programs and Facilities

- 71 percent use the City's trail system.
- 78 percent would use trails more often if they were more complete and connected.
- 90 percent use trails for walking, jogging, and hiking.
- The most-used trails are Redwood Road, Harvest Hills HOA private trails, lake front trails, and mountain trails.
- Needed improvements to trails include linking neighborhood and important destinations with trails, connecting the gaps in existing trails, and more trails development generally.
- Most desired types of trails are asphalt and natural surface.

Public Comments from the Scoping Meeting and Draft Plan Open House

- Completion of the Utah Lake Shoreline Trail.
- The need for one authority to maintain trails.
- Maintaining wildlife habitats along the shore and in other natural areas.

- Control of phragmites along the shoreline.
- Maintain natural drainages and incorporating trails.
- More mountain bike and hiking trails, specifically a single track trail on the mountainside.
- More access to the shoreline, more beaches, and more marinas.
- Construction of more fish habitats.
- More trails along canals and trails to connect schools to neighborhoods.
- Trails need to be connected throughout the City so residents are able to cross Redwood Road and SR73, and other high traffic roadways.
- Complete the Redwood Road trail.
- A completed trail through the Harvest Hills Native Park for recreational use and for a safer route to school.
- The trail at Jordan River needs canoe/kayak access.
- Crossing Redwood Road on foot is not safe, especially for children crossing to school.
- Put the trail map on-line so it is accessible.

Existing City Trails

There are approximately 11 miles of existing trails and about 60 miles of proposed trails. Trails are classified as Urban, Rural, Multipurpose, and Wilderness. Additionally there are many trails within existing residential neighborhoods maintained by HOAs, as well as trails on nearby Federal lands.

Current Level of Service

Based on the 2010 Census population of 17,781, the current level of service for City-owned trails is 0.62 mile per 1,000 population.

Existing Level of Service for Trails

2011 LEVEL OF SERVICE - CITY TRAILS			
			TRAIL MILES PER
YEAR	POPULATION	MILES	1000 POPULATION
2011 All developed trails	17,781	11.1	0.62
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE - CITY TRAILS			0.62

Recommended Trail Classifications

- Urban Trails — 12’ meandering concrete trails, along arterial roadways and canal parkways, ADA accessible and provide maintenance access.
- Rural Trails — 12' concrete for lakeside and riverside access, 8’ concrete in riparian areas and 12' asphalt in upland areas, ADA accessible and provide maintenance access.
- Multipurpose Trails — 12’ wide soft-surface material for power line corridors, mountain trails, ATV trails, and equestrian use.

- Wilderness Trails 12' asphalt trail in developed area and 8-10' soft-surface trail in undeveloped areas, recreational use.

Future Trails and Trail Facilities

Based on the current LOS for trails in Saratoga Springs, the City should provide about 33 miles of trails by 2030; and 15 additional miles will be needed by 2040.

Projected Trail Needs

TRAILS NEEDS ANALYSIS					
		EXIST.			
YEAR	POPULATION	MILES	TRAIL MILES PER	NEEDED TO	MILES
			1000 POPULATION	MAINTAIN .62/1000	NEEDED
2010	17,781	11.1	0.62	0.0	0.00
2030	70,386	11.1	0.16	43.6	32.54
2040	94,200	11.1	0.12	58.4	47.30

Goals and Policies for Trails

Each of the goals identified below includes stated policies and implementation measures.

Goal 1.0 Assure that residents of Saratoga Springs have access to trails that provide links between neighborhoods and important destinations and attractions.

Goal 2.0 Assure that trails are safe.

Goal 3.0 Get residents involved in trail planning.

Goal 4.0 Provide a recreation trail system with trail heads in strategic locations for access to the mountains and existing parks.

Implementation and Costs

Funding Needed for Parks, Recreation, and Trails Facilities

Following is a summary of all costs for improvements to 2030. In order to accomplish the upgrades, develop the unconstructed park land, complete new park development, and construct new trails and trail heads, the City will need to budget approximately $1.5 million annually for the next 18 years, excluding the cost of the Recreation/Aquatic Center.

Upgrade Existing Parks	$ 421,600
Develop Unconstructed Parks	$ 2,933,800
Construct New Parks for 2030	$17,194,802
Construct New Trail for 2030	$ 6,260,727
Construct Four Trailheads	$ 140,000
Construct One Trailhead/River Access	$ 50,000
Recreation/Aquatic Center	$35,000,000
TOTAL	$62,000,929

Budgeting for Parks Maintenance

Maintaining large parks is more cost effective than maintaining small parks, thus the plan does not recommend building and maintaining future Pocket Parks. Anticipated costs to maintain parks are approximately $6,000 - 8,000 per acre per year for routine maintenance. With about 105 acres of City-owned and maintained park land, the City should expect to budget between $630,000 and $840,000 per year for routine maintenance of parks at the level that it currently provides.

Budgeting for Trails Maintenance

For budgeting purposes, the City should anticipate a cost of approximately $5,000 to $7,500 per mile of paved trails or between $55,000 and $82,500 per year to maintain the existing eleven miles of trails, and should anticipate those approximate costs as new trails are developed.

Goals and Policies for Implementation

The goal identified below includes stated policies and implementation measures.

Goal 1.0 Provide adequate budgets for development of park and recreation facilities and for their on-going maintenance.

1 INTRODUCTION

Early in 2011, Saratoga Springs initiated preparation of a Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan intended to become a part of the City's General Plan. The purpose of the Master Plan is to evaluate existing facilities and programs, and make recommendations for future parks, recreation programs and facilities, trails, and open spaces. In order to accomplish this task, a comprehensive analysis of existing conditions was conducted and future needs projected, levels of service were analyzed, and priorities were identified to assure that the City moves into the future with the information needed to keep pace with growth and changes in the community.

Relationship to Impact Fees

Another goal of this plan is to set a defensible base for impact fees. In each of the chapters, the Master Plan will be determining a current level of service (LOS). The LOS will be expressed as a ratio between the number of park and open space acres, miles of trails, and the number of specific facility types per each 1,000 residents in the community.

There may be master plan levels of service and impact fee levels of service as a result of this analysis and plan. Because communities can only charge new development its proportionate share of the cost of providing services, the impact fee LOS needs to be based on what is existing currently, not what is desired as a future condition. As an example, if there are three sports fields for every 1,000 persons living in Saratoga Springs at the current time, new development cannot be charged to provide six sports fields for every 1,000 persons. The community as a whole can raise its level of service to six sports fields for every 1,000 persons ("master plan LOS"), but it cannot charge impact fees for the *increased* level of service. Utah law clearly states that, "A local political subdivision or private entity may not: impose an impact fee to: raise the established level of service of a public facility serving existing development." UC 11-36-202(1)(a)(ii).

Throughout the document, it will distinguish between a master plan level of service and an impact fee level of service. With that in mind, it is important to stress that a community has the right to develop a level of service higher than what currently exists (the six fields per 1,000 persons); it just cannot charge new development for this higher level of service.

Public Involvement

Several means of engaging the public in the planning process were incorporated. These included formation of a Project Management Team which met regularly and reviewed progress on the plan, a public scoping meeting where issues and concerns were identified, a community-wide mail-back survey sent to all residents, a project web page providing up-to-date information readily available to the public, an internet survey providing

another opportunity to gather input, and a draft plan open house meeting where the community had an opportunity to provide additional input into the development of the plan. During the approval process public hearings were also held with the Planning Commission and the City Council – providing another opportunity for community-wide involvement.

Project Management Team

The Project Management Team (PMT) met four times and included representatives from the City administration, elected officials, community representatives and staff. Additionally, the consultants met and communicated regularly with key City staff. The PMT provided valuable background information, and critical analysis as the plan was being developed.

Public Scoping Meeting

Though only four members of the public attended this meeting, they were an engaged group and provided good insight and understanding, but their input was particularly valuable specifically regarding the trails portion of the plan. Their comments were recorded and are provided in the Appendix. The meeting took place on February 17, 2011.

Mail-back and Internet Survey

In order to gather the most accurate information on residents' current usage of park facilities, recreation programs and trails, and determine the demand for future facilities and services, Saratoga Springs mailed 4,654 surveys to City residents (households). Approximately 1,037 surveys were returned with an additional 33 surveys completed online. This equates to a 22.3 percent response rate and a margin of error of plus or minus three percent at the 95 percent confidence level.[1] This is a good response rate; most cities get a response rate of 15 percent to 20 percent. A copy of the survey document is contained in the Appendix, and a full report of the findings is available for review at the City.

Each chapter includes a discussion of the results of the mail-back survey because this is the most pertinent information available regarding the demand for services. Results from the 33 surveys completed online match closely those responses from surveys mailed in. However, the online respondents were younger than the mail-in respondents, with 93 percent of all online respondents between the ages of 25 and 44. Additionally, a greater number of online respondents have children between the ages of 6 and 11. This younger demographic has a great desire for sports courts and sports programs. They tend to use the existing sports courts more frequently than other "mail-in" respondents and also desire additional improvements to sports courts and more sports programs for adults and youth. Apart from this small variation, most of the trends found from the mail-in surveys

[1]An additional 50+ surveys were returned after the response deadline, thus reaching an overall response rate of approximately 23 percent.

also apply to those who completed the survey online, including a desire for additional and connecting trails and a fitness/recreation center with an aquatic facility.

Project Webpage

A project webpage was developed to keep resident informed and engaged in the planning process. Meeting announcements were posted; comments from the Public Scoping Meeting were added, and the draft plan was available for review and comment.

Draft Plan Open House

A Draft Plan Open House public meeting was held on July 13, 2011 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at the Saratoga Hills City Hall. Twenty-nine individuals signed-in at the meeting; written comments were received from 8 attendees. A copy of the summarized comments is provided in the Appendix.

Public Hearings

A public hearing was held before the Planning Commission on November 10, 2011 at which time the Planning Commission unanimously voted to recommend adoption of the Plan. The Planning Commission recommended that an additional implementation item be added to adopt the fifty-foot (50') buffer along the lake edge shown in the Utah Lake Shoreline Protection Overlay Zone Model Ordinance. On November 15, 2011, the City Council conducted a Public Hearing and adopted the Plan by a unanimous vote.

Demographics

According to the 2010 Census, Saratoga Springs' 2010 population was 17,781 persons, and the community is growing rapidly. Nearly half of all survey respondents -- 46 percent -- have lived in Saratoga Springs three years or less. This "new community" is made up of a young demographic; 58 percent of respondents have children five years old or younger. The young demographic shown by survey respondents is supported by 2010 Census data on median age where Saratoga Springs median age was reported to be 22.6 years, the State of Utah's median age was 28.7, and the national median age was 35.8 years. The City of Saratoga Springs also has significantly larger household sizes than State and National averages: Nation, 2.58; Utah State, 3.10; and Saratoga Springs, 4.05 persons per household. This is consistent with survey results of 41 percent of respondents who replied that five or more people live in their home.

A few additional characteristics of the community and its residents are listed below:

- Saratoga Springs is expected to grow at a rate of seven percent between 2010 and 2020 – from 17,781 in 2010 to 38,325 in 2020, and 70,386 in 2030.[2]
- Sixty-seven percent of survey respondents are female.
- Survey respondents were primarily 25-34 year-olds (36 percent) and 35-44 year-olds (29 percent).
- Ninety-five percent of respondents own their home in Saratoga Springs.

[2] GOPB 2005 Baseline City Population projections (2000-2050)

- Most survey respondents live in developments with active HOAs that maintain some park space, in either Saratoga Hills (33 percent) or Harvest Hills (29 percent).

According to both the Census and the community survey, Saratoga Springs is mostly made up of new residents with large families and young children. While this demographic makes up a large part of the City, City officials should nevertheless attempt to provide parks and recreation programs and facilities that are flexible to meet the needs of residents of all ages and demographics, anticipating that the community will age and change over time and with new in-migration.

Organization of the Document

The document addresses each of the three principal components – parks and open space, recreation programs and facilities, and trails; discusses implementation and priorities; and concludes with a chapter that identifies options and opportunities for funding and implementation.

2 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

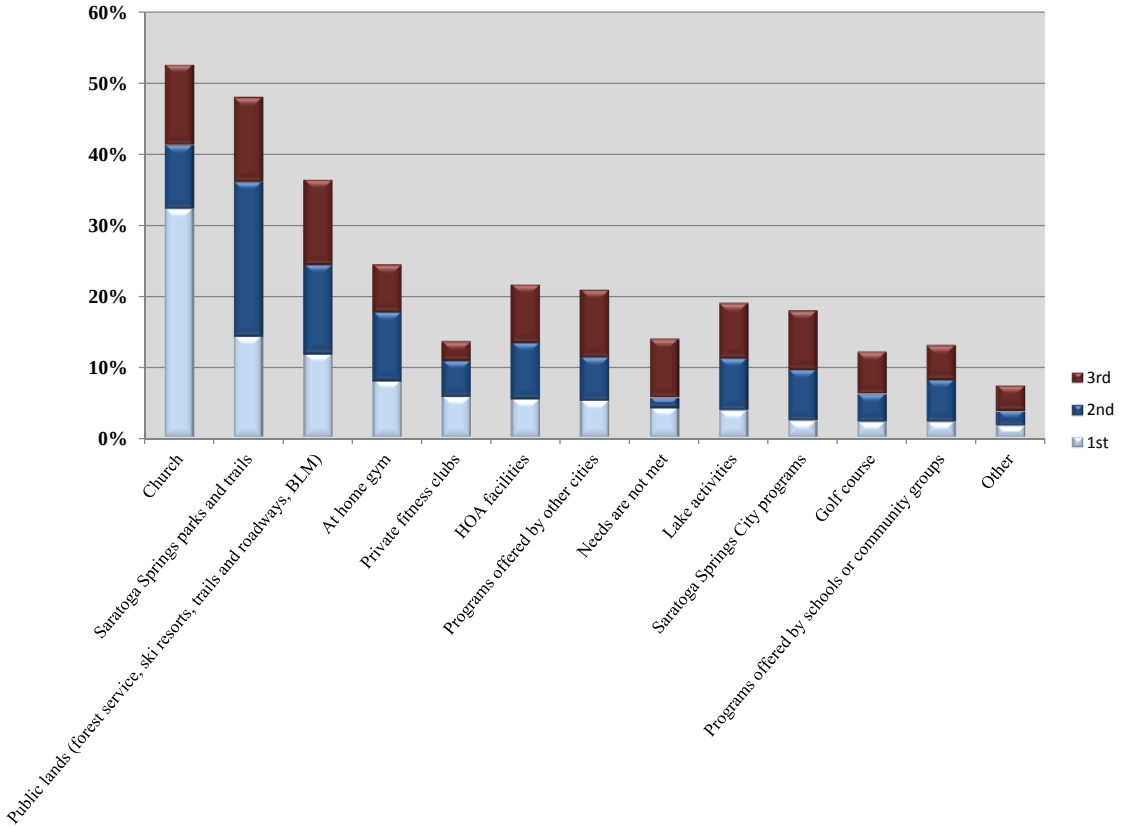
This chapter addresses parks in Saratoga Springs. It presents the public comment received during the process, presents and defines various park classifications, conducts an analysis of need for additional park land and facilities, completes a park distribution analysis, recommends future park development, and recommends priorities and improvements. It concludes with goals and implementation policies.

Public Comment Regarding Parks and Park Facilities

How Household Leisure and Recreational Needs Are Met

Residents who participated in the survey were asked to identify how their leisure and recreational needs are met and identify their first, second, and third choice. Currently residents' leisure and recreational needs are met primarily by Church facilities and programs, City parks and trails, and public lands. Figure 2-1 below illustrates their choices by differences in color.

Figure 2-1: First, Second, and Third Choices for Meeting Household Leisure and Recreational Needs

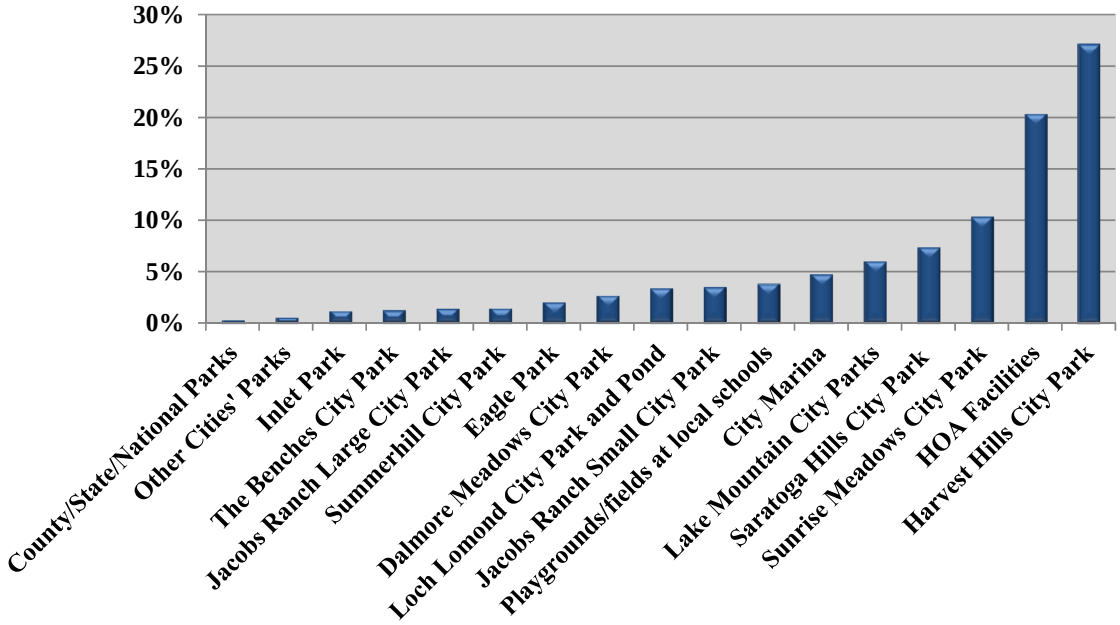


Parks Used by Households and Most-Used Parks

Saratoga Springs City parks are frequently used by local residents – 67 percent of respondents indicate they use the parks ten times or more each year, and they want them close to home – 92 percent of respondents wish to have parks within walking distance (10 minutes or one-half mile) from their neighborhood.

Parks that are used by City residents include Harvest Hills City Park, HOA facilities, and Sunrise Meadows City Park. Of these parks that are used by households, Harvest Hills Park and facilities managed by a homeowner's association (HOA), were both identified as parks they use most often (see Figure 2-2 below.) Playgrounds and fields at local schools, the City Marina and Sunrise Meadows City Park are also frequently used.

Figure 2-2: Most-Used Parks



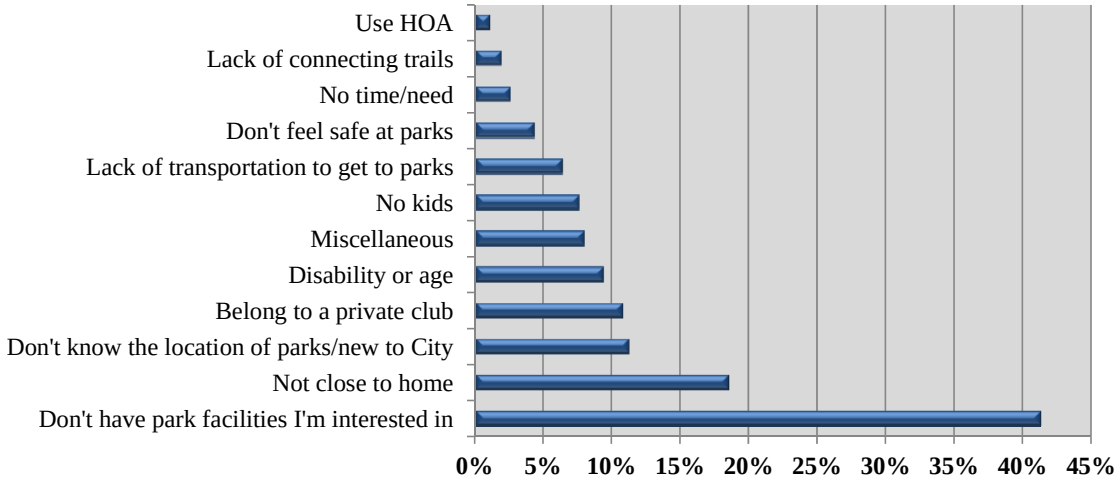
Similarly, Harvest Hills Park facilities managed by an HOA, and Sunrise Meadows Park are used most often primarily because they are close to home (90 percent), and because they have playground equipment (39 percent), picnic facilities (21 percent), and feel safe (18 percent).

Those parks that are used most frequently are identified as needing some improvements including trees (28 percent), sports fields/courts (23 percent), playground equipment and restrooms (22 percent each), and measured walking paths (21 percent). Added lighting and safety features (17 percent), improved maintenance and cleanliness, and picnic facilities are also desired (both at 13 percent).

Why Residents Do Not Use City Parks

Approximately 41 percent (200 individuals) responded that they do not use City parks because they currently do not have facilities in which they are interested; 18 percent do not use them because they are not close to home. Others (11 percent each) do not use City parks because they belong to a private club or because they do not know the location of nearby parks; and 9 percent cite disability or age as a reason for not using City parks.

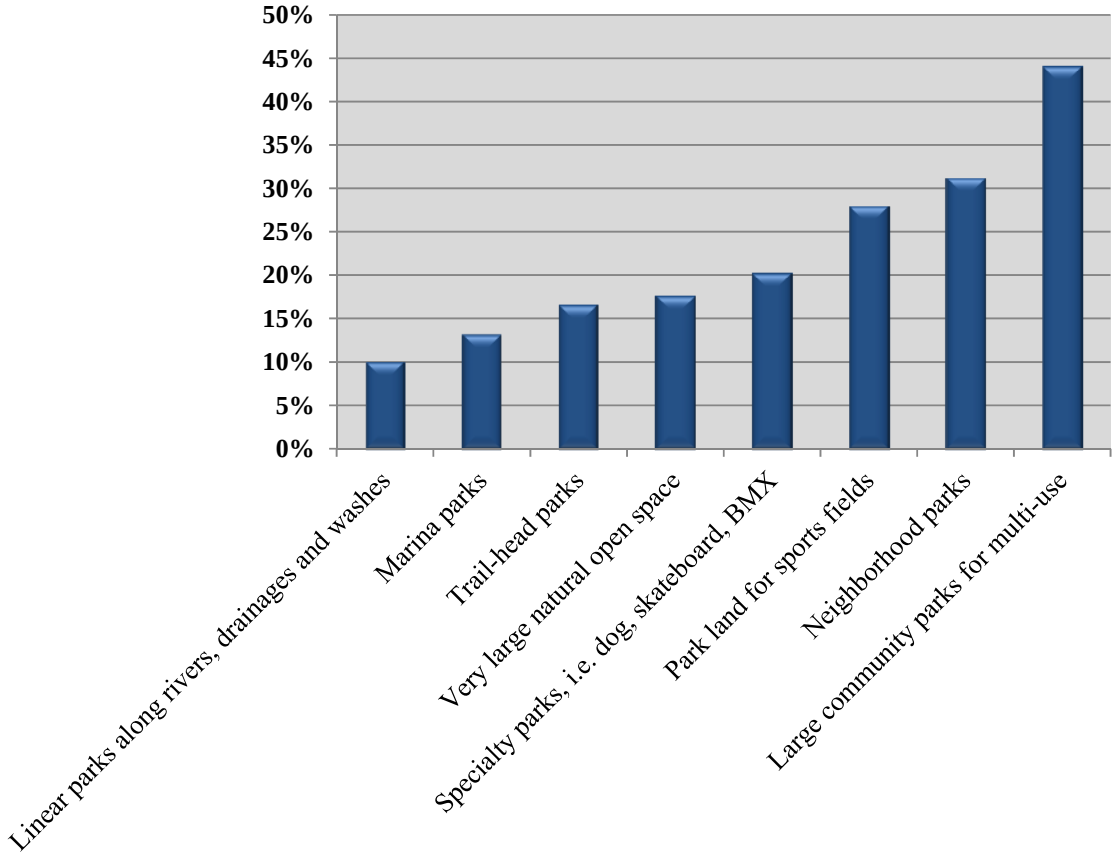
Figure 2-3: Why Residents Do Not Use City Parks



Types of Parks Needed

When asked what type of parks are most needed in Saratoga Springs, approximately 44 percent of respondents believe that large community parks for multi-use are needed, followed by neighborhood parks (31 percent) and sports fields (28 percent). Specialty parks such as dog parks, skateboard parks, and BMX parks were identified by 20 percent of respondents. Linear parks along rivers, drainages and washes were picked by about 10 percent of respondents.

Figure 2-4: Most-Needed Park Types



Park Priorities

The highest priority for parks is additional parks in general, and sports fields in particular. Sixty-seven percent of respondents would like additional parks developed within the next one to five years, and 70 percent would like to see sports fields developed in that time frame. They were less supportive of dog parks – 31 percent prefer they are never developed, while 30 percent would like to see them developed within one to five years. Similar results are presented with skate parks where 26 percent prefer they are never developed, while 29 percent would like to see them develop in 1-5 years, and 29 percent in 6-10 years.

The acquisition of open space in general – presumably which is not developed – also ranks quite high. Forty-nine percent support acquiring more in 1-5 years and 29 percent support acquisition in 6-10 years.

Existing City Parks

Saratoga Springs currently owns 84.96 acres of developed public parks ranging in size from less than one acre (Pocket Parks) to just over 15 acres (Community Parks), and varying in level of development from simply lawn to highly developed parks including playgrounds, pavilions, restrooms, sports facilities, and other park amenities and specialty features such as marinas and aquatic parks.

Existing City parks are identified in Table 2-1 below along with the current amenities provided. They are also identified on Map 1: Existing and Planned City Parks and Service Areas. Typically, land for public parks is deeded to the City by the developer of the subdivision as part of an open space or development agreement and the City installs the improvements. In Table 2-1 below, parks are organized into the two classifications and are described and discussed later in this document.

Table 2-1 – Existing City Parks

EXISTING CITY PARKS	SIZE (AC)	Landscaped Detention Basin	Parking Lot (spaces)	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Benches	BBQ Grills	Fire Pits	Open Turf Areas (AC)	Walking Paths	Playground/swings	Lighting	Playing Fields	Sleding Slope	Drinking Fountain	Restroom	Basketball Court	Volley Ball Court	Fishing Facilities	Boat ramps/docks/beaches	Outside Showers	Other
Pocket Parks																						
Dalmore Meadows Park	1.38	X		1	4	1	1		1.3		1				1							
Jacob's Ranch Park	1.00			1	6	2	2		0.9		1				1							accessible playstructure (ADA)
Lake Vista Park (Lake Mountain)	0.92			1	2	2	1		0.6		1				1			1				
Loch Lomond Park	0.87	X		1	2	2	1		0.8		1						1					
Mountain Moon Park	0.81			2	2	2	2		0.7		1		1									
Panarama Park	0.67				2	2	1		0.6		1				1							
Total Pocket Parks	5.65																					
Community Parks																						
Harvest Hills Park	13.34		31	2	13	11	2		11.7	X	2	X	4		1	1						Phase 1 - 2 bridges
Jacobs Ranch Trailhead Park	11.50		35			3			3.8	X			2									Phase 1
Loch Lomond Pond/Wetlands	15.57					2			0.1	X									1			
Marina Park	11.46		105	7	13		6	6	0.4	X	1	X		2	1	1			1	3	2	fish cleaning station, 28 space boat docks(2), beach, 3 wide boat ramp
Neptune Park	10.90	2	92	2	24	14	6		8.9	X	2	X	2		2	1	1					Phase 1 Completion Summer 2011
Pondside Park (Benches)	2.42	X							2.4	X				X								
Saratoga Hills "3" Park (Lucas Lane)	1.90		10	1	4	3	1		2.0	X	1				1							
Summerhill Park	2.53	X							2.5	X												
Sunrise Meadows Park	5.16	2	71	2	8	4	2		4.9		1	X	4	X	1	1						Diagonal on street parking
Sunset Haven	3.33	X							3.3													Phase 1 Completion Summer 2011
Reid and Ursula Wayman Park	1.20		10	1	12	2	3		0.5	X		X			1		1					2 Horseshoe Pits
Total Community Parks	79.31																					

Unconstructed City Parks	
A Shay Park	7.60
B Sunrise Meadows (943 W. 1200 N.)	7.42
C Benches (Allison Way)	5.44
Total Unconstructed City Parks	20.46

TOTAL ALL PARKS	105.42		354	21	92	50	28	6	45.6		13		13	2	11	4	3	1	2	3	2	

Note: Park names are for discussion only. Official park names are in process.

In addition to the developed parks, Saratoga Springs also owns several parcels of undeveloped park land representing another 20.46 acres. These are identified in Table 2-1 and also shown on Map 1: Existing and Planned City Parks and Service Areas. These parks will be developed by the City as Community Parks. Together, the City owns approximately 105.42 acres of developed and undeveloped public park land that is intended to serve residents throughout the community.

Existing Open Spaces

City-owned open spaces are generally parcels that are not suitable for development but are visual open spaces where trails can connect and link through them to adjacent neighborhoods. The City currently owns 34.95 acres of open space.

Other Parks and Recreation Facilities

In addition to the publicly-owned parks, approximately 52 acres (51.92) of park land are owned and/or maintained by a Home Owner's Association (HOA). These facilities were required by the City as part of its development review process and are owned and maintained by HOA's. The intent of these private facilities is to serve only those residents within the subdivision.

Saratoga Springs HOA Park

The City is within the Alpine School District. School fields are a resource to the community and are currently used by the various City-sponsored recreation programs such as flag football, soccer, and basketball for league play as well as practices. These resources are important to the community and provide a service, but they are not considered public parks for the analysis of level of service. Access to school fields has been provided in the past, but their use is subject to some limitations in terms of when and how they are used.

The same is true of Talons Cove Golf Course (179 acres) which is a privately owned and managed public course, and the many acres of public land accessible to residents of Saratoga Springs. Inlet Park at the mouth of the Jordan River and RC Airplane Park are public, and owned and maintained by Utah County; Eagle Park is owned by the Saratoga Springs HOA but is open to the public for lake access as mandated by the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. Saratoga Hills Park is HOA-owned and available for public use.

Eagle Park (Saratoga Springs HOA)

Residents of Saratoga Springs also have access to nearby public parks located in Lehi and Eagle Mountain (see Map 1) though except for the Sports Park in Lehi and the Bike Park

in Eagle Mountain, it is unlikely that they serve much of the need of Saratoga Springs residents.

Public City Park Definitions

All public City parks are owned and maintained by Saratoga Springs City.

Lake Vista Pocket Park

Pocket Parks

Pocket Parks generally serve residential neighborhoods with passive recreation that ensures walkable green space access for everyone. They may contain specialized facilities that serve a concentrated or limited population or group such as young children, pets, or senior citizens. They are generally less than one acre (1 acre) in size though the size may vary depending on conditions, and provide a service area of one-quarter mile (1/4 mile) or approximately a 5-minute walk.

Pocket parks generally serve small residential areas and not the community at-large because of their small size and limited range of recreation opportunities. In the future, the City will discourage the development of additional Pocket Parks; rather they will focus on larger Community Parks which provide a much broader range of opportunities and can accommodate larger events.

Typical Improvements: Limited development including some of the following: open turf areas, playgrounds, pavilion, picnic tables, seating, trash receptacles, or landscaping and trees, and an identification sign. All improvements may not fit, thus there is flexibility in the kind of facilities in Pocket Parks. Restrooms or parking are not provided.

Community Parks

Community Parks focus on community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces, and creating opportunities for special uses. They allow for group activities and sporting events, and offer recreational opportunities for active and passive uses. They are generally larger than Pocket Parks but may vary in size depending on land availability, configuration, and uses. Community Parks that are less than five acres in size have a service area of one-half mile (1/2 mile), and Community Parks larger than five acres have a service area of one mile, or approximately a 10-minute walk or 20-minute walk respectively. Individuals may also be likely to drive or bike to Community Parks as well, thus parking is generally provided. Community Parks are the backbone of the public park system and should continue to be so, requiring more Community Park development as the community grows.

Typical Improvements: Open turf areas, playgrounds, pavilions, picnic tables, trash receptacles, landscaping and trees, seating, drinking fountain, walking paths, and other facilities such as a basketball court or volleyball court, sports fields, trail heads, lighting, tennis courts, splash pad with water features, or other community-desired recreation facilities. Restrooms and adequate parking are generally provided. A recreation center and/or sports complex is also a complement to the Community Park.

Left: Saratoga Hills '3' Community Park

Right: Reid and Ursula Wayman Community Park

Left: Harvest Hills Community Park

Right: Sunrise Meadows Community Park

Community Parks may also provide for special uses such as marinas, mountain bike parks, gun clubs, water ski courses, amphitheaters, ornamental gardens and arboreta, or other alpine and water-related activities such as marinas, beaches, and kayaking that take advantage of the unique and varied mountain and water-oriented recreational opportunities within the City. It may also involve environmental mitigation for sensitive lands such as the lake shore, wetland areas, and steep slopes.

Left: Marina Park

Right: Loch Lomond Pond and Wetlands

Current Level of Service Analysis

The current population of Saratoga Springs is estimated at 17,781 (2010 Census). Based on the current amount of developed public park acreage of 84.96 acres (Pocket Parks and Community Parks combined), the current level of service (LOS) is 4.78 acres of park land per 1,000 population (see Table 2-2). If the 20.46 acres of City-owned park land that are not constructed at present are added, the LOS rises to 5.93 acres per 1,000 population and includes just over 105 acres total.

As discussed in Chapter 1, there can be a difference in LOS for master planning purposes and those used to determine impact fees. The community may continue to strive for a park LOS of 5.93 per 1,000 persons to assure that its residents have opportunities for a broad range of recreational opportunities that are close to residential neighborhoods. However, when determining impact fees, the LOS number to be used must be 5.61 acres (Community Parks and Unconstructed Parks) per 1,000 residents because only Community Parks will be developed in the future, and new residents cannot be expected to pay for a higher LOS for that park classification than currently exists. For master planning purposes, it is assumed that the current higher level of service is maintained into the future.

Table 2-2 – 2011 Level of Service for All Parks

2011 LEVEL OF SERVICE - ALL PARKS			
	2010		PARK ACRES PER
YEAR	POPULATION	PARK ACRES	1000 POPULATION
2011 Pocket Parks	17,781	5.65	0.32
2011 Community Parks	17,781	79.31	4.46
2011 Unconstructed Parks	17,781	20.46	1.15
TOTAL ALL PARKS		105.42	5.93

Additionally, the current level of service for open space (undeveloped natural land) is 1.97 acres per 1000 population. This LOS may be used for the determination of impact fees; however, the community may strive for higher amounts of open space as a community goal. For master planning purposes, an LOS 1.97 acres per 1,000 persons is assumed.

Table 2-3 – 2011 Level of Service for Open Spaces

2011 LEVEL OF SERVICE - CITY OPEN SPACES			
			ACRES PER
YEAR	POPULATION	ACRES	1000 POPULATION
2011 All Open Space	17,781	34.95	1.97
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE - OPEN SPACES			1.97

Comparison with Other Communities

Communities vary dramatically in the level of service provided for City residents, and they should. All communities are not alike. Saratoga Springs has a young population, with a high number of children in the home, which is different demographically from all other Utah communities. Differences also occur when resources are available to residents outside of the City, when the particular preferences of residents require specific resources, whether or not there are special populations that need to be accommodated, or for many other reasons. Table 2-4 illustrates a comparison of levels of service with other Utah communities and is provided for general information. The level of service desired for Saratoga Springs should be a combination of current service levels, as well as the needs and desires expressed by its residents.

Table 2-4 – Park Level of Service Comparisons

	Level of Service – Acres per 1000 Residents	Year
Draper, Utah	3.5	2008
Herriman, Utah	3.2[1]	2009
Highland, Utah	4.87	2008
Lehi, Utah	5.0[2]	2010
Provo, Utah	10.0	2004
Saint George, Utah	10.0	2006
Sandy City, Utah	6.5	2005
Spanish Fork, Utah	5.9	2008

Park Distribution

The quantity of park acres is an important factor in park planning, but just as important is access to parks. Pocket and Community Parks are usually considered to be within a walkable/bikable distance depending on their size and the quantity and diversity of facilities and activities they provide. Smaller Community Parks serve an area of approximately one-half mile radius and larger Community Parks serve residents within a mile, to as much as two miles or regionally. The current distribution of parks is shown on Map 1: Existing and Planned City Parks and Service Areas. Service areas are not shown for private parks but obviously they fill some of the gaps where public parks do not appear adequate. Most neighborhoods have good access to existing or future parks when private parks are taken into consideration. The need is to assure that future residents have similarly good access to public parks in particular, and that those parks provide for a broad range of recreation opportunities and activities.

[1] Calculated from information contained in "Herriman 2020" dated March 5, 2009 which states there are 320 acres of park land in the City and a projected population of 100,000. Contained in "Moderate Income Housing Study", Lewis Young Roberts and Burningham, 2009.
[2] Calculated from 2010 information on the City's website: acres of parks – 240, population 47,401.

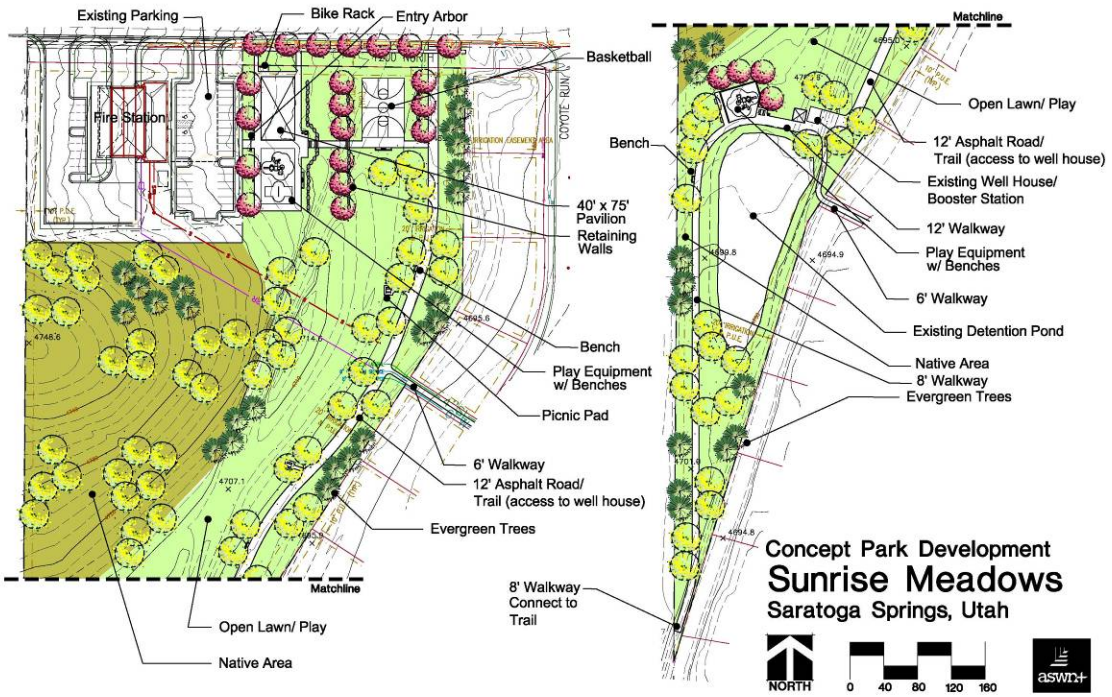
Future Parks and Open Spaces

As stated previously, the City currently owns approximately 20.46 acres of unconstructed park land which could serve an additional 3,500 residents at the current level of service of 5.93 acres per 1,000 population. Many of the planned parks have been master planned and will be constructed as funds are available.

Table 2-5 – Unconstructed Parks

Unconstructed City Parks	
A Shay Park	7.60
B Sunrise Meadows (943 W. 1200 N.)	7.42
C Benches (Allison Way)	5.44
Total Unconstructed City Parks	20.46

Unconstructed Sunrise Meadows Park Master Plan



The 2010 Census population for the City is 17,781 persons. Population projections for Saratoga Springs indicate that in the year 2030 the Community will grow to 70,386 and by 2040, to 94,200 people. Table 2-6 shows that in the year 2030, Saratoga Springs will need a total of about 312 new acres of park land to serve the need and maintain the current master plan level of service, and by 2040 the additional park land needed grows to about 453 acres.

Table 2-6 - Projected Park Land Need

PARK LAND NEEDS ANALYSIS					
		EXIST.	PARK ACRES PER	NEEDED TO	ACRES
YEAR	POPULATION	ACRES	1000 POPULATION	MAINTAIN 5.93/1000	NEEDED
2010	17,781	105.42	5.93	0.00	0
2030	70,386	105.42	1.50	417.30	311.88
2040	94,200	105.42	1.12	558.49	453.07

Source: GOPB Revised Baseline Projections, 2008

A similar analysis reveals that in 2030 an additional 103 acres will be needed to maintain the current open space level of service at 1.97 acres per 1000 population. In 2040, that number grows to about 150 acres. (See Table 2-7 below.)

Table 2-7 - Projected Open Space Land Need

OPEN SPACE NEEDS ANALYSIS					
		EXIST.	PARK ACRES PER	NEEDED TO	ACRES
YEAR	POPULATION	ACRES	1000 POPULATION	MAINTAIN 1.97/1000	NEEDED
2010	17,781	34.95	1.97	0.00	0
2030	70,386	34.95	0.50	138.35	103.40
2040	94,200	34.95	0.37	185.16	150.21

Source: GOPB Revised Baseline Projections, 2008

As the community grows, more parks and open spaces are needed to provide the diversity and quantity of facilities desired by residents. In order to serve residents at the current level into the future, when new parks are planned and developed they should be Community Parks that are generally of a larger size -- at least 20 acres or more to accommodate the desired sports fields and other intensive activities, and other Community Parks that may be smaller, but that together provide for a minimum of 5.93 acres per 1000 population. The required acres can be obtained by using impact fees (calculated at LOS 5.61) and other City funds to obtain the desired LOS 5.93. The difference between these two LOS numbers is that impact fees may not be used for pocket parks.

The City should continue to allow open space dedications that are useable and which include sensitive lands such as wetlands, riparian areas, steep slopes and rock outcrops, and other lands which have value visually or which can be accessed by trails.

Proposed Future Parks and Recreation Facilites

Future Parks are shown on Map 2: Future Parks and Recreation Facilities, and are conceptually located in the areas where residential development is planned. At least one large park (20 acres or more) is shown in each approximate one-mile radius area, but other smaller parks may also be required in order to maintain the current level of service.

Fourteen new Community Parks are shown on the map and identified here.

Community Park A:	Town Center Commons – an urban park in conjunction with a recreation center/aquatic center, and large community gathering area for events.
Community Park B:	Jordan River Park and parkway with trail along the west edge of the river and bridges connecting to the east side Jordan River Trail; access for watercraft – launches and take-outs; wetland park.
Community Parks C, D, E, F, and L:	Large community parks of over 20 acres that include developed sports fields, informal fields and large open areas, courts, and a broad range of recreational opportunities. Each park should be unique. May be adjacent to schools for shared use with an agreement between the City and the School District. Any of these parks is also an appropriate location for a recreation center/aquatic center.
Community Parks G, H, I, and J:	Large community parks of over 20 acres that incorporate substantial natural landscape areas with trails that link to mountain trails. Each should include a trailhead, as well as other recreational facilites.
Community Park K, N:	Lake shore park with water-related facilities and beaches as well as community park development. An additional marina will need to be studied further to assure the appropriate location.
Community Park M:	Community Park with access to public beaches.

As stated before, Pocket Parks do not serve the needs of City residents generally and are difficult and costly for the City to maintain. In the future, pocket parks may be provided as a neighborhood amenity by a subdivision development if owned and maintained by an HOA. However, they do not serve the needs of the community at-large and are not considered in analyzing the desired level of service for public parks in Saratoga Springs.

Parks in the Annexation Area

The Utah State School and Institutional Lands Trust Administration (SITLA) owns approximately 1,758 acres within the current annexation boundary for Saratoga Springs which is slated for residential development. The land includes a clay pit that is no longer utilized and which is not suitable for development. The land is preliminarily planned as a

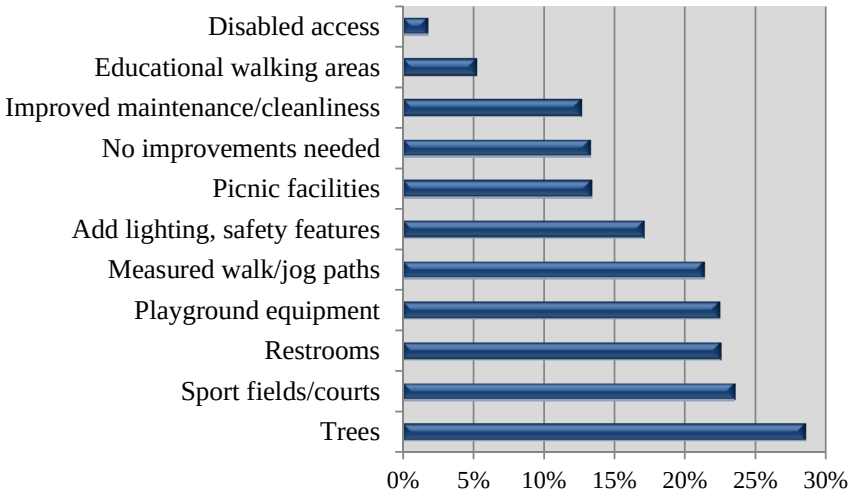
regional park (large community park). Additional parks will be planned when the project develops.[3] As other areas are annexed into the City, parks and recreation facilities should be planned and documented.

Improvements to Existing Parks

Several existing Community Parks do not have as many amenities as desired. Residents who participated in the community-wide survey identify trees, playing/sports fields, playgrounds, walking paths, and restrooms as facilities that some of the most-used parks do not have (see Figure 2-5). Harvest Hills Park and Sunrise Meadows include most of the desired facilities, however Harvest Hills Park was master planned with many additional amenities that are not yet included, i.e. water play, water sculpture/art, zip line, botanical garden, amphitheater, pond, Frisbee golf course, and an allee/seating area. Trees should be added to all parks to provide for more shade and improve the attractiveness of parks, the following improvements are suggested for existing parks including those master planned for Harvest Hills. The recommended improvements are derived from an analysis of facilities in existing parks that represent an average; these are found in Table 3-3 on page 3-8 in Chapter 3 – Recreation.

Playgrounds:	Sunset Haven
Walking Paths:	Sunset Haven
Restrooms:	Neptune and Sunset Haven
Pavilions:	Jacobs Ranch Trailhead, Loch Lomond Ponds/Wetlands, Pondside, Summerhill, and Sunset Haven
Picnic Tables:	Jacobs Ranch Trailhead, Pondside, and Summerhill
Benches:	Pondside and Summerhill
BBQ's:	Pondside and Summerhill

Figure 2-5 – Improvements Desired in Existing Parks



[3] Elise L. Euler, Planning and Development, State of Utah School and Institutional Lands Trust Administration, personal conversation, April 26, 2011.

Saratoga Springs as a Destination Recreation Area

Saratoga Springs recognizes that it is situated in a unique landscape with Utah Lake on its eastern border, rolling hills with access to Federal lands on the west, and the Jordan River on the north. It would like to grow into a destination, taking advantage of all of these natural resources for its residents as well as others in the region.

This broader aspect of the master plan needs much more visioning and planning, but to conceptually describe it here gives it a start. Several ideas have been put forward as concepts for creating a place unlike any other in the region that can be explored further and perhaps implemented over time. Those ideas include:

- A mountain bike park
- A gun club
- Additional trails heads that access regional trails
- A kayak park on the river
- Put-in and take-outs for water craft on the river and the lake
- Water ski course on the lake
- Water events and festivals on the lake
- More lake access with a variety of uses
- More marinas and beaches
- An alpine slide or similar attraction on BLM or SITLA land, and other opportunities where the City partners with agencies and special interests
- Water parks
- Regional sports complexes and specific sporting venues
- Sport fishing events

Goals and Policies for Parks and Opens Spaces

Goal 1.0: **Assure that residents of Saratoga Springs have access to parks and park facilities.**

Policy 1.1: Maintain the current level of service for parks in Saratoga Springs at 5.93 acres of land per 1,000 population. When new parks are planned and developed they should be Community Parks that are generally of a larger size -- at least 20 acres or more to accommodate the desired sports fields and other intensive activities, and other Community Parks that may be smaller, but that together provide for a minimum of 5.93 acres per 1000 population.

a. Implementation Measure: Complete an Impact Fee Study. The LOS calculated for use in the impact fee study is 5.61 acres per 1,000 population, which is a combination of existing community park acres and unconstructed community park acres.

b. Implementation Measure: Upgrade those existing Community Parks that have been identified for additional facilities or improvements, specifically by adding trees, sports fields/courts, playground equipment, measured walking paths and restrooms, adding lighting and safety features, and picnic facilities as identified by the survey respondents and as space and funds allows.

c. Implementation Measure: Develop the remaining City-owned and controlled dedicated park land (approximately 20 acres) as soon as funds are available and residential development occurs in those areas.

d. Implementation Measure: Upgrade any park which does not have universally accessible facilities.

e. Implementation Measure: Develop new parks in areas where new residential development occurs.

f. Implementation Measure: Accept no new Pocket Parks into the City public park system.

Goal 2.0: Provide for a recreation/aquatic center.

Policy 2.1: Develop a recreation/aquatic center in the Town Center or in conjunction with a large community park.

a. Implementation Measure: Conduct a feasibility study to determine at what point it can be supported and to determine the financial impact to the community.

b. Implementation Measure: Investigate options for partnering with other communities (Eagle Mountain and Lehi), developers, and special interest groups in the design and development of a recreation center/aquatic facility.

c. Implementation Measure: Development of a recreation/aquatic center is a high priority with residents. It should be a priority with the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Goal 3.0: Provide adequate park acreage in new development areas.

Policy 3.1: Require new development projects of large size to be fully master planned to include the location of community parks to be dedicated to the City and other facilities provided by the developer.

a. Implementation Measure: Require as a condition of development approval, the location of park land in the site development master plan.

b. Implementation Measure: Require dedications for Community Parks that are a minimum of 20 acres in size, and assure that the projected population of the development is served with 5.93 acres per 1,000 population that are funded with both impact fees and other City funds. A LOS of 5.61 acres per 1,000 population can be funded with impact fees.

c. Implementation Measure: Accept no new Pocket Parks into the City public park system. Pocket Parks may be allowed if they are developer-owned and maintained.

Goal 4.0: Pursue the development of parks and facilities that take advantage of the unique opportunities in Saratoga Springs to create a mountain/lake/river destination recreation area.

Policy 4.1: Identify recreation opportunities and facilities that serve a regional need and work with the development community.

a. Implementation Measure: Conduct a feasibility study for some of the key mountain, river, and lake-oriented recreation opportunities including additional marinas, water-related festivals and events, kayak park, water ski course, alpine slide, competitive mountain biking courses, outdoor vendor shows, and others events and facilities that specifically target the natural resources adjacent to the City.

b. Implementation Measure: Partner with local developers to develop unique and attractive facilities that serve the residents of Saratoga Springs and the broader recreational community.

c. Implementation Measure: The City will develop trails and parks that will require environmental analysis and mitigation. As future impact fees studies are prepared, they should take into consideration the costs of environmental analysis and mitigation measures and include those appropriate costs in future impact fees.

d. Implementation Measure: The City should continue to allow the dedication of useable open space that includes sensitive lands such as wetlands, steep slopes, rock outcrops, riparian areas, and others.

Goal 5.0: Increase the amount of water-based recreational opportunities in the City and particularly public beaches.

Policy 5.1: As new development occurs adjacent to the lake, encourage the development of public beaches, marinas, and other water-related recreational opportunities.

a. *Implementation Measure:* Modify ordinances to require public access to the lake shore.

b. *Implementation Measure:* Adopt the fifty (50) foot buffer recommended in the Utah Lake Shoreline Protection Overlay Zone Model Ordinance, Section 6.2 Lake Buffer, dated January 27, 2011.

Goal 6.0: Improve maintenance and operations in parks.

Policy 6.1: Provide an annual budget allocation for park improvements and upgrades.

a. Implementation Measure: Inventory all parks and park facilities and document needed improvements and upgrades.

b. Implementation Measure: Work with local neighborhoods and interest groups to establish an "Adopt-A-Park" program.

c. Implementation Measure: Maintain design standards that reduce maintenance requirements and cost and assure the long-term usefulness of facilities.

d. Implementation Measure: Install adequate facilities for residents to "self-maintain" parks and park facilities, i.e. trash receptacles, animal waste containers, hose bibs.

Goal 7.0: Identify, preserve, and develop open spaces and natural features to provide for a diversity of uses, locations, and focal points for the City.

Policy 7.1: Maintain and preserve as much undeveloped land with unique natural features as possible, but at a minimum the current LOS of 1.97 acres per 1,000 residents.

a. Implementation Measure: Conduct a visual analysis of the key natural features that characterize the community including mountain sides, views and vistas, lake shores, and other important open spaces.

b. Implementation Measure: Develop ordinances, development requirements, and other techniques that acknowledge the importance of these elements to the community and preserve them.

Policy 7.2: Link public open spaces with parks and other recreational facilities and attractions.

Goal 8.0: Continue to promote water conservation in parks and recreation facilities.

Policy 8.1: As new parks are developed, utilize the most up-to-date technologies to conserve water resources in public parks and facilities.

a. Implementation Measure: Utilize water conserving technologies such as drip irrigation, moisture sensors, central control systems, and select plant materials appropriate to the soil and water conditions at Saratoga Springs.

Camp Williams
Lehi
Eagle Mountain
Utah Lake
Jordan River
Olympic Park
Wildlife Park (County)
Willow Park (County)
Jordan Willows Park
Summerset Park
Stagecoach Crossing Park
Sports Park
Harvest Elementary
Riverview Elementary
Thunder Ridge Elementary/Horizon School
Vista Heights Middle School
West Lake High School
Silver Lake Amphitheater
Nolan Park
Mountain Ranch Bike Park
Lehi North Lake Park
Sage Hills Elementary
SR73
PIONEER XING
PONY EXPRESS PKWY
SARATOGA RD
SARATOGA DR
REDWOOD RD
PARKWAY BLVD
VILLAGE PKWY
WILDLIFE BLVD
Annexation Boundary
C-1
U-1
U-2
C-2
C-3
C-5
P-1
CO-1
CO-2
C-10
P-3
C-6
C-7
U-3
C-12
C-4
P-4
C-8
P-5
P-6
C-9
P-2
C-11

Legend

Service Areas

- Unconstructed Community Parks (1 mile)
- Community Parks
  1/2 mile for 2-5 acre parks
  1 mile for 5+ acre parks
- Pocket Parks (1/4 mile)
- Schools
- Annexation Boundary

- County Park
- Golf Course
- Open Space
- Private Park (HOA)
- Unconstructed City Park
- Public Park
- Parks Outside of City
- Federal Land
- Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
- SITLA

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles

Community Parks

C-1	Harvest Hills Park
C-2	Sunrise Meadows Park
C-3	Neptune Park
C-4	Jacob's Ranch Trialhead
C-5	Sunset Haven Park
C-6	Pondside Park (Benches)
C-7	Saratoga Hills Park
C-8	Summerhill Park
C-9	Wayman Park
C-10	Loch Lomond Park/Wetlands
C-11	Marina Park
C-12	Benches Nature Park

Pocket Parks

P-1	Dalmore Meadows Park
P-2	Mountain Moon Park
P-3	Loch Lomond Park
P-4	Jacob's Ranch Park
P-5	Lake Vista Park
P-6	Panarama Park

Unconstructed City Parks

U-1	Shay Park
U-2	Sunrise Meadows Park
U-3	Benches

County Parks

CO-1	RC Airplane Park
CO-2	Inlet Park

Note: Park names are for ease of discussion only. Official park names are in process.

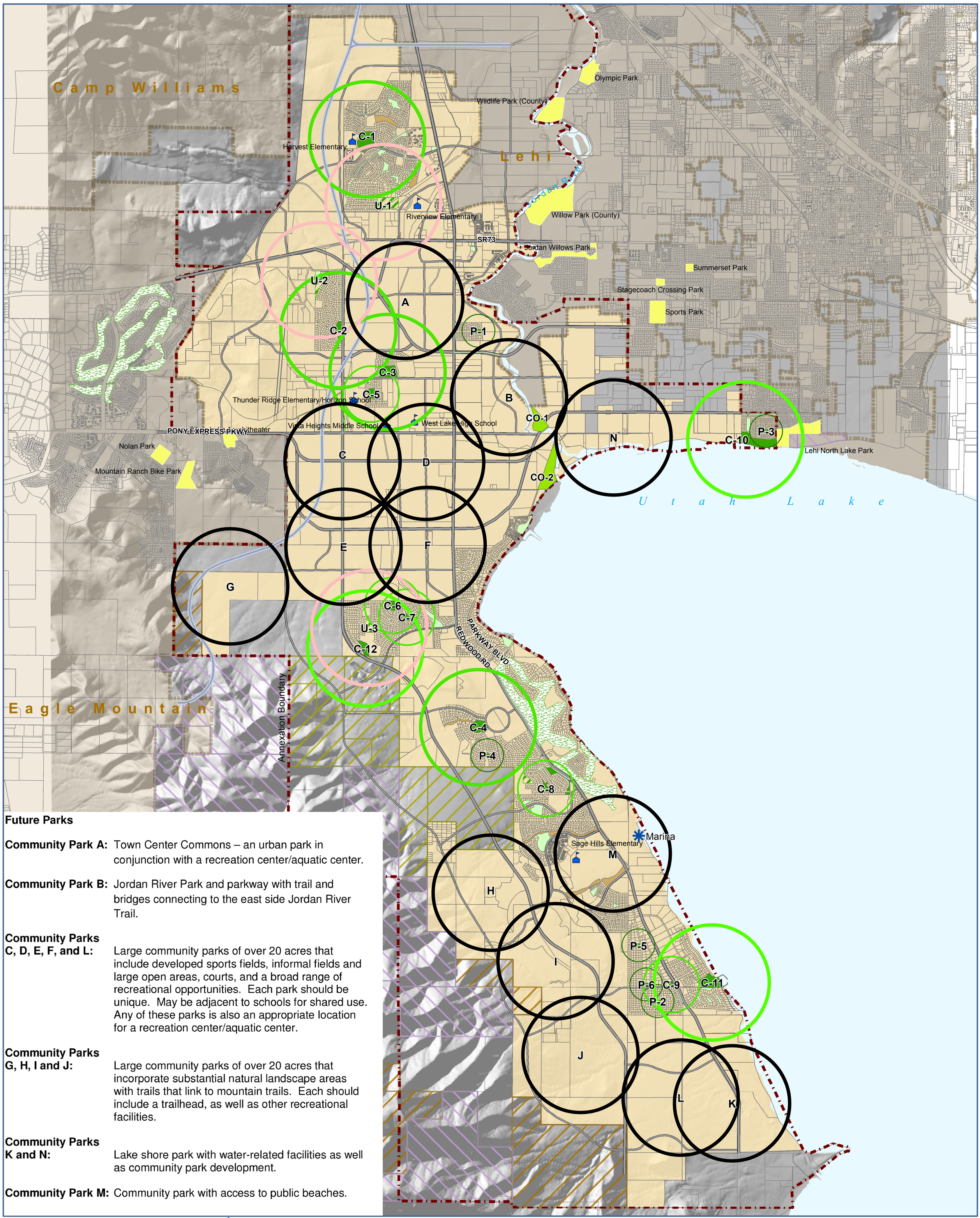
Map 1: Existing and Planned City Parks and Service Areas

Saratoga Springs Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

15 Nov 2011

LANDMARK DESIGN INCORPORATED

N



Future Parks

Community Park A: Town Center Commons – an urban park in conjunction with a recreation center/aquatic center.

Community Park B: Jordan River Park and parkway with trail and bridges connecting to the east side Jordan River Trail.

Community Parks C, D, E, F, and L: Large community parks of over 20 acres that include developed sports fields, informal fields and large open areas, courts, and a broad range of recreational opportunities. Each park should be unique. May be adjacent to schools for shared use. Any of these parks is also an appropriate location for a recreation center/aquatic center.

Community Parks G, H, I and J: Large community parks of over 20 acres that incorporate substantial natural landscape areas with trails that link to mountain trails. Each should include a trailhead, as well as other recreational facilities.

Community Parks K and N: Lake shore park with water-related facilities as well as community park development.

Community Park M: Community park with access to public beaches.

Legend

Service Areas

- Future Community Parks (1 mile)
- Unconstructed Community Parks (1 mile)
- Community Parks
  1/2 mile for 2-5 acre parks
  1 mile for 5+ acre parks
- Pocket Parks (1/4 mile)

- Schools
- County Park
- Golf Course
- Open Space
- Private Park (HOA)
- Unconstructed City Park
- Public Park
- Parks Outside of City
- Federal Land
- Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
- SITLA
- Annexation Boundary

0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles

Community Parks

C-1	Harvest Hills Park
C-2	Sunrise Meadows Park
C-3	Neptune Park
C-4	Jacob's Ranch Trialhead
C-5	Sunset Haven Park
C-6	Pondside Park (Benches)
C-7	Saratoga Hills Park
C-8	Summerhill Park
C-9	Wayman Park
C-10	Loch Lomond Park/Wetlands
C-11	Marina Park
C-12	Benches Nature Park

Pocket Parks

P-1	Dalmore Meadows Park
P-2	Mountain Moon Park
P-3	Loch Lomond Park
P-4	Jacob's Ranch Park
P-5	Lake Vista Park
P-6	Panarama Park

Unconstructed City Parks

U-1	Shay Park
U-2	Sunrise Meadows Park
U-3	Benches

County Parks

CO-1	RC Airplane Park
CO-2	Inlet Park

Note: Park names are for ease of discussion only. Official park names are in process.

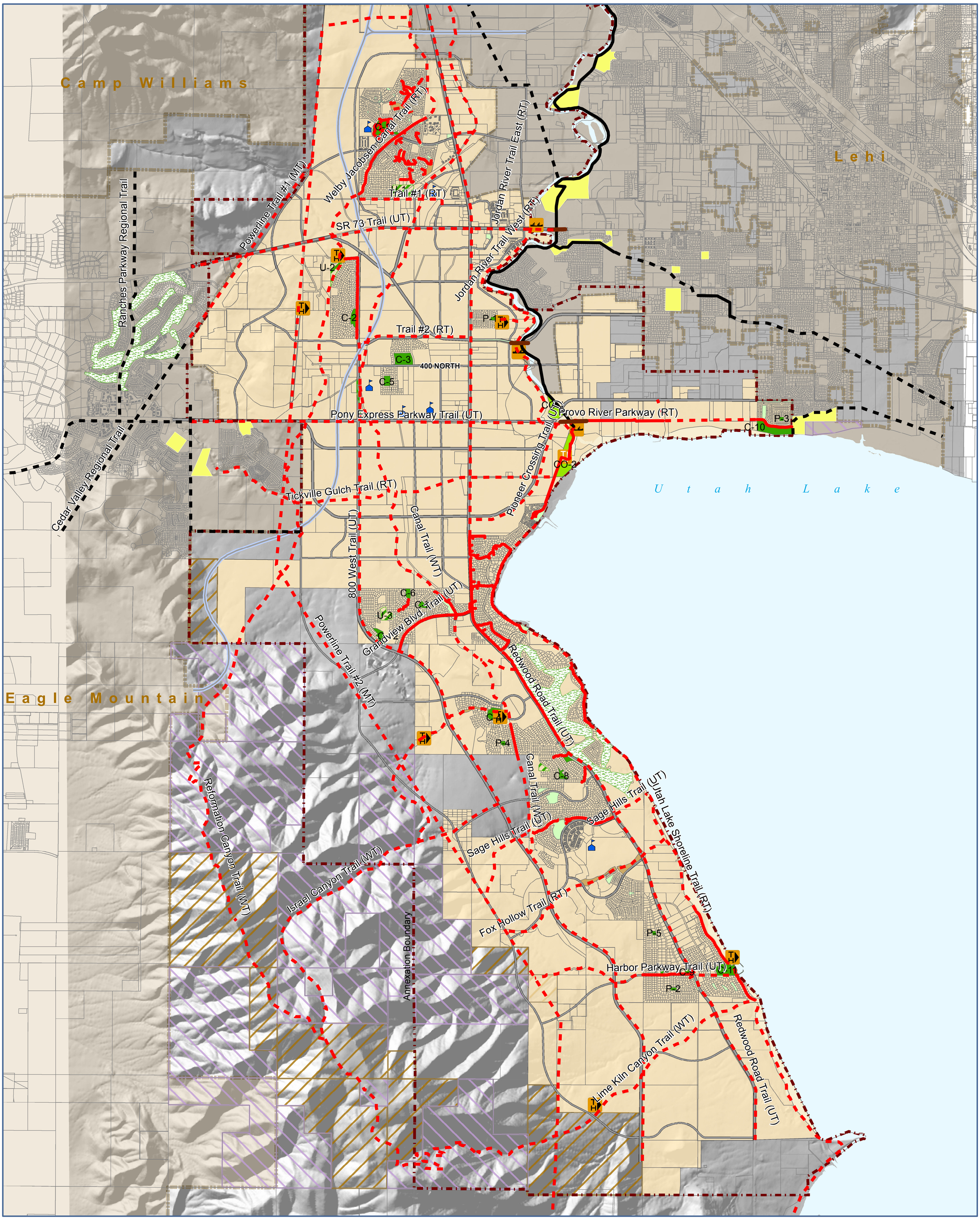
Map 2: Future Park and Recreation Facilities

Saratoga Springs Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

15 Nov 2011

LANDMARK DESIGN

N



Legend

Trails

- Existing Trailhead
- Proposed Trailhead
- Proposed Canoe Put In/Take Out
- Existing
- Proposed
- Existing (Lehi/Eagle Mtn.)
- Proposed (Lehi/Eagle Mtn.)
- Proposed Bridge

Trail Types: MT - Multi-purpose Trail, RT - Rural Trail, UT - Urban Trail, WT - Wilderness Trail

- Schools
- County Park
- Golf Course
- Open Space
- Private Park (HOA)
- Unconstructed City Park
- Public Park
- Parks Outside of City
- Federal Land
- Utah Dept. of Natural Resources
- Annexation Boundary

Community Parks

C-1	Harvest Hills Park
C-2	Sunrise Meadows Park
C-3	Neptune Park
C-4	Jacob's Ranch Trialhead
C-5	Sunset Haven Park
C-6	Pondside Park (Benches)
C-7	Saratoga Hills Park
C-8	Summerhill Park
C-9	Wayman Park
C-10	Loch Lomond Park/Wetlands
C-11	Marina Park
C-12	Benches Nature Park

Pocket Parks

P-1	Dalmore Meadows Park
P-2	Mountain Moon Park
P-3	Loch Lomond Park
P-4	Jacob's Ranch Park
P-5	Lake Vista Park
P-6	Panarama Park

Unconstructed City Parks

U-1	Shay Park
U-2	Sunrise Meadows Park
U-3	Benches

County Parks

CO-1	RC Airplane Park
CO-2	Inlet Park

Note: Park names are for ease of discussion only. Official park names are in process.

Map 3: Existing and Planned City Trails

Saratoga Springs Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

15 Nov 2011

LANDMARK DESIGN INCORPORATED

N

3 RECREATION

Currently, Saratoga Springs offers a few recreation programs primarily for children and youth, but has few facilities to utilize for the recreation programs that are offered. This chapter identifies and evaluates those existing programs, and using the information generated from the public survey mailed to households in the City, makes recommendations for additional recreational programs and facilities. Goals and implementation policies complete the chapter.

Public Comment Regarding Recreation Programs and Facilities

Current Recreation Programs and Participation

Eighty-two (82) percent of survey respondents indicate they have children or youth enrolled in soccer programs offered by the City, followed by basketball (49 percent), T-ball (33 percent), and flag football (24 percent). This is further indicated in Table 3-1 shown later in this chapter where actual numbers of children and youth who participate in the programs are shown. Soccer is also ranked by respondents as being the most important program that is currently offered.

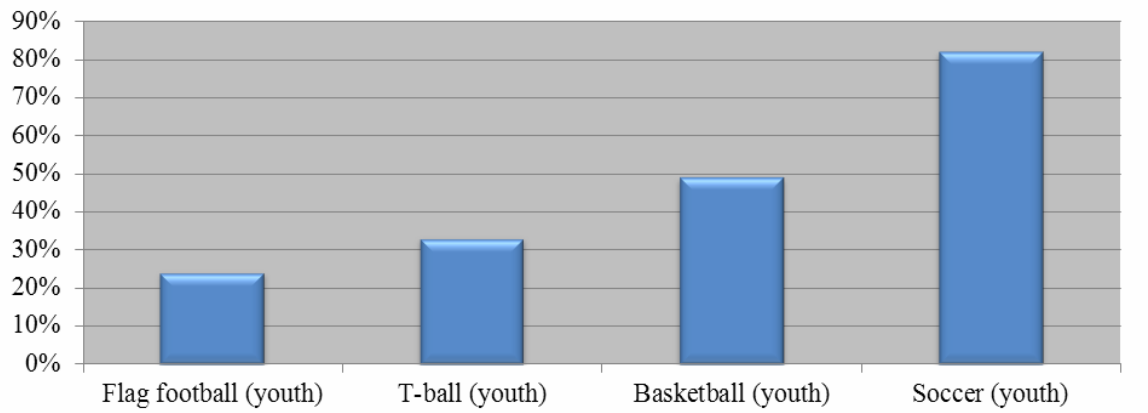


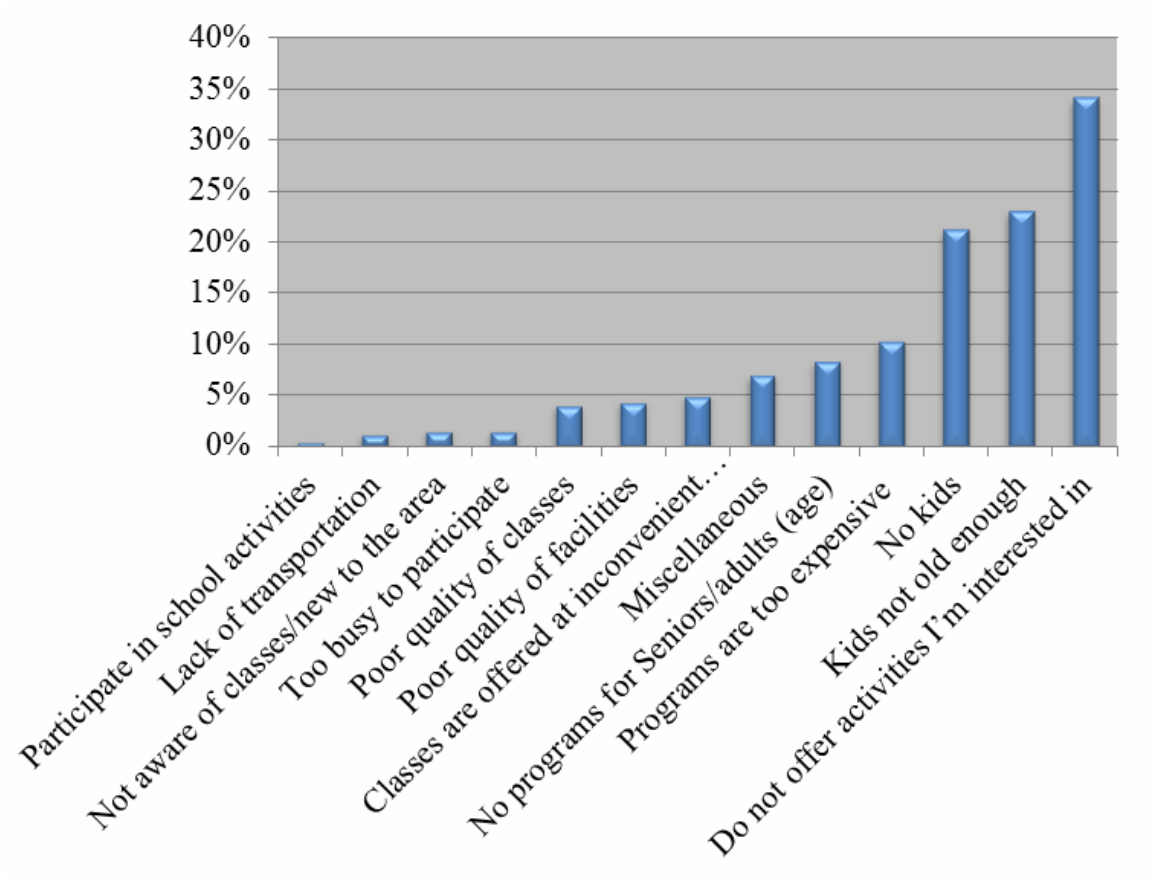
Figure 3-1 – Participation in Currently-offered Programs

Overall, respondents seem to agree that the City does a good job of meeting the recreation demands of the community today, while acknowledging that there are current existing needs and there will be more in the future.

Non-Participation in City-offered Programs

Families that do not participate in City-offered programs cite that the activities they are interested in are not offered (34 percent), or there are either no children in the household (21 percent), or they are not yet old enough to participate (23 percent). Others indicate that there are no programs offered for seniors and adults (8 percent). Ten percent of respondents indicate that programs are too expensive, and most of these are aged 18 to 44. Other reasons for non-participation include the lack of programs for seniors/adults, inconvenient locations for classes, and poor quality of facilities among others. See Figure 3-2.

Figure 3-2 – Why Resident Do Not Participate in Programs



How Residents Learn About Recreation Programs

City residents learn about recreation programs primarily through City flyers (57 percent), word of mouth (49 percent), the City website (37 percent), the local newspaper (33 percent), and school flyers (29 percent). Less than five percent are concerned about classes offered at inconvenient times, and even fewer are concerned about the quality of facilities or classes.

Desirability of Programs Not Currently Offered by the City

The top programs desired, including the percentage of respondents who desire these programs, are as follows:

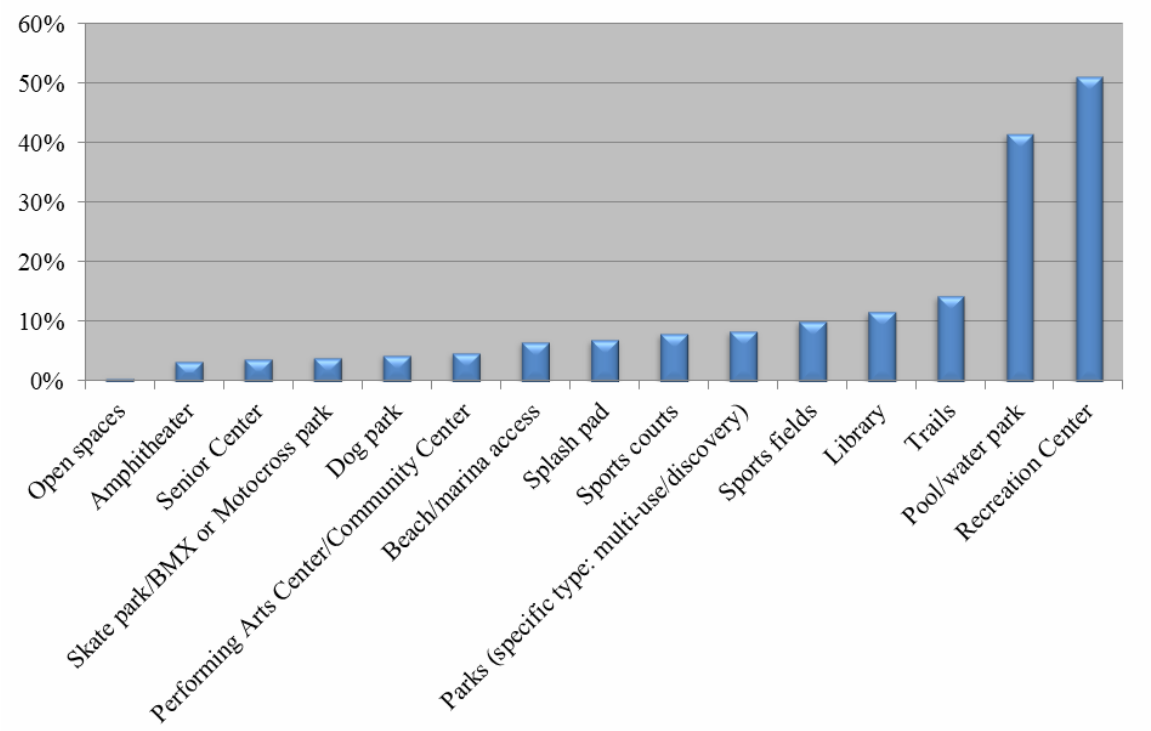
- Swimming (57%)
- Aerobics (37%)
- Dance (32%)
- Gymnastics (28%)
- Biking (24%)
- First Aid (24%)
- Hunter Safety (23%)
- Youth Baseball (22%)
- Performing Arts (22%)
- Racquetball (20%)
- Adult Basketball (19%)

Programs which received less than ten percent of interest include: adult flag football (8 percent), fly tying (7 percent), wrestling (5 percent), and lacrosse (6 percent). Residents ages 18-24 have a greater desire for adult sports such as soccer, baseball and softball than residents ages 25-44 who have a greater desire for youth sports. The top three youth sports suggested (not including swimming) are baseball/softball, gymnastics, and dance/cheer. The top three adult sports suggested are fitness/aerobics classes, lake-front water activities (kayaking, canoeing, wakeboarding, etc.) and basketball.

Desirability of Facilities Not Currently Available in the City

The top four facilities desired by respondents are a Recreation Center, pool/water park, additional trails, and a library. While the library is not technically considered a recreational facility, the City may still want to take it into consideration as they go forward with future plans for the community.

Figure 3-3 – Facilities Most-Desired by Residents



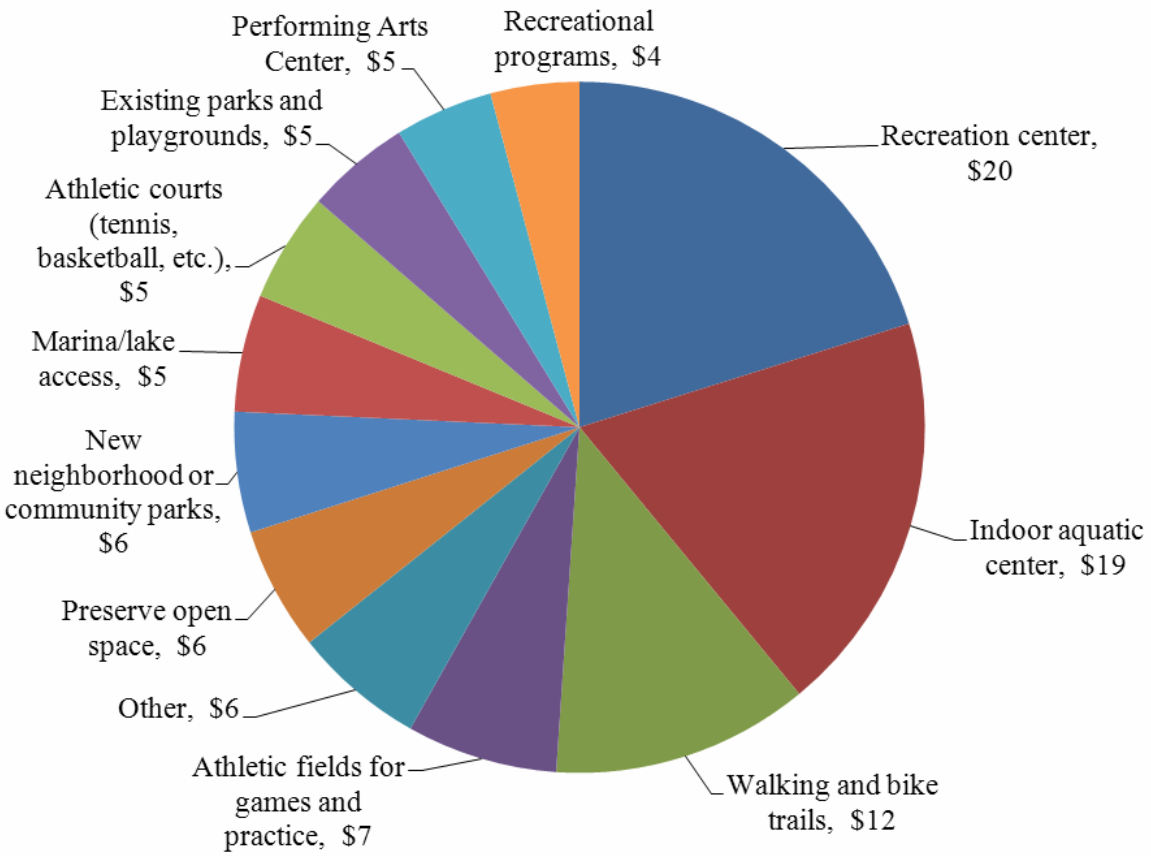
Recreation Program and Facility Priorities

Several other questions addressed recreation program and facility priorities, and there is general agreement among them.

When asked to write-in four activities or programs most-needed now, 26 percent chose swimming for adults and children, with baseball/softball programs at 13 percent. The next priority was fitness classes/weight loss/aerobics at nine percent, while all other programs were ranked between zero and eight percent.
A similar question regarding recreation facilities yielded results where the recreation center and pool/water park ranked the highest at 51 and 42 percent respectively. The other two highest-ranked facilities were a library and trails.

Throughout the survey many residents responded that a swimming pool (indoor and outdoor), aquatic center, splash pad, and a recreation center with an aquatic component are important to have in the community and are facilities that the community is currently lacking. When asked to hypothetically allocate $100 to the facilities of their choice, an average of nearly $40 was allocated to a recreation center and indoor aquatic center. Walking and biking trails averaged $12, and athletic fields for games and practice were the next highest at $7. (See Figure 3-4.)

Figure 3-4 – Spending Priorities for Recreation Facilities



Not only is there agreement on what kinds of facilities and programs are needed, but strong support that those recreation programs and facilities be developed within 1-5 years (see Figures 3-5 below). These include a recreation center (74 percent) and a swimming pool (73 percent), recreation programs for youth (82 percent), sports fields (70 percent), waterfront activities (55 percent), and recreation programs for adults (52 percent). A larger percentage of respondents can wait between six and ten years before development of a senior center (32 percent), a performing arts center (36 percent), or a City amphitheater (37 percent). However, it is important to note that a performing arts center, amphitheater, and the acquisition of open space are desired more by older age groups, while a recreation center is desired more by younger age groups.

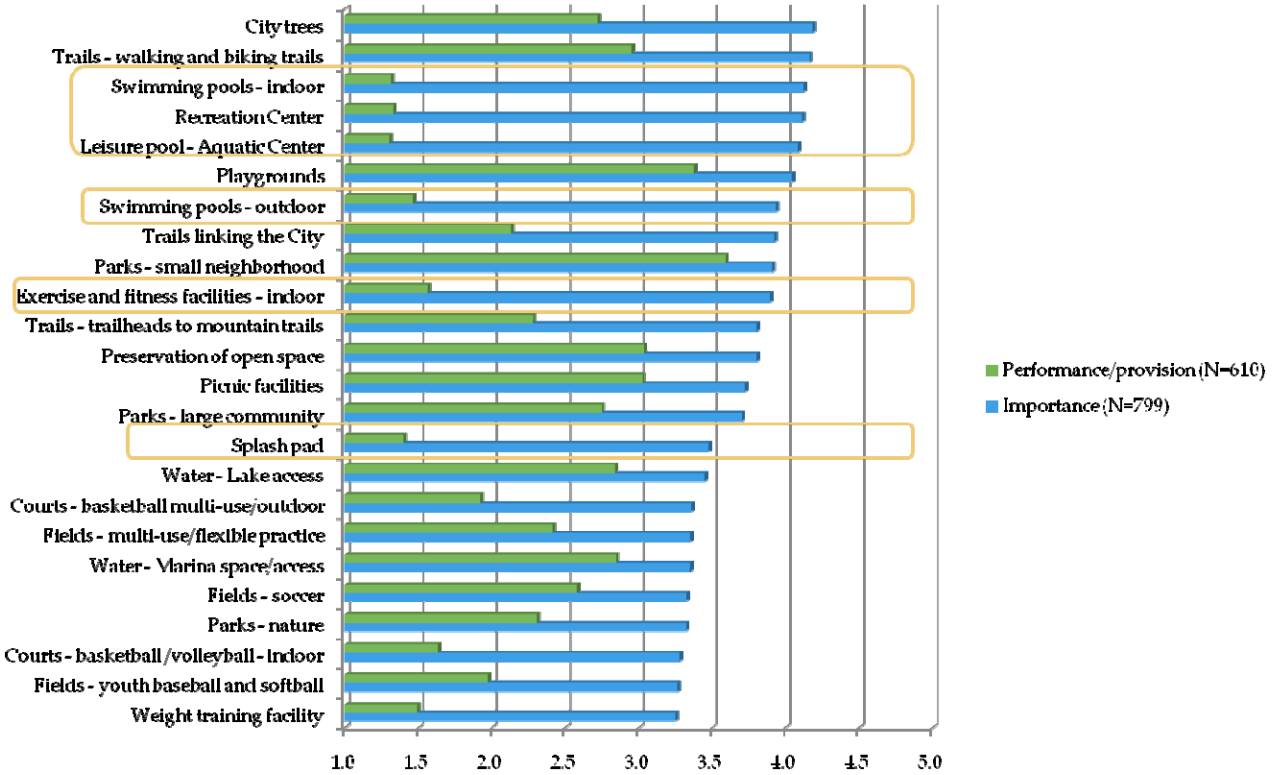
Again, when asked how the City could better meet the community's needs and expectations, the most often cited answer was the development of a recreation/aquatic center (24 percent). All other suggestions received were mentioned by less than eight percent of respondents.

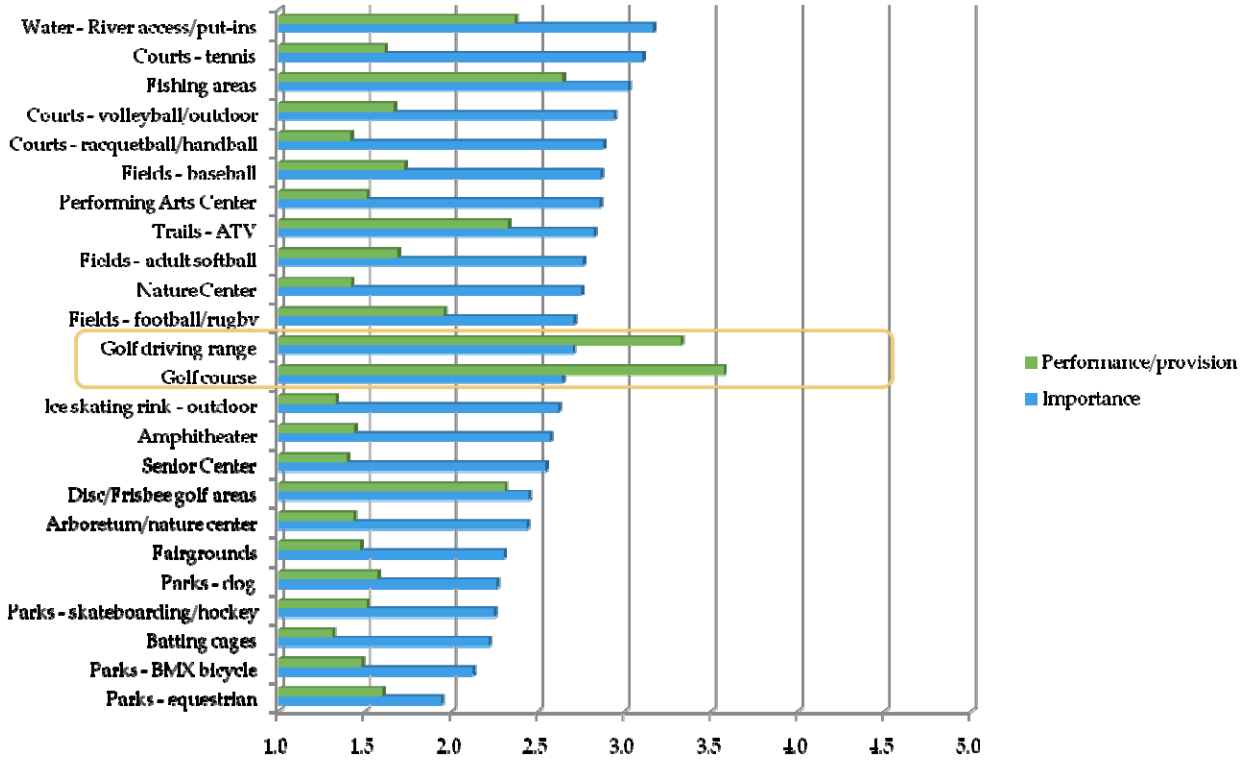
Figure 3-5 – When Programs and Facilities Should Be Developed

	N=	WITHIN 1-5 YEARS	6-10 YEARS	11-15 YEARS	16-20 YEARS	NEVER
Recreation programs for youth	737	82%	13%	1%	1%	3%
Trails	762	76%	19%	3%	0%	2%
Recreation center(s)	816	74%	17%	5%	1%	4%
Swimming pools(s)	840	73%	18%	5%	1%	4%
Sport fields	767	70%	23%	3%	2%	3%
Additional parks	752	67%	25%	4%	1%	3%
Water front activities (boating, canoes)	747	55%	30%	6%	2%	7%
Recreation programs for adults	725	52%	31%	9%	3%	5%
Acquisition of open space	646	49%	29%	11%	3%	8%
City Amphitheater	729	31%	37%	18%	6%	8%
Dog parks	700	30%	23%	9%	7%	31%
Skate parks	685	29%	29%	11%	5%	26%
Performing Arts Center	715	26%	38%	19%	8%	8%
Senior Center	708	23%	32%	20%	18%	7%

In Figure 3-6 on the following page, respondents were asked to rate the relative importance of facilities and services and how well Saratoga Springs is currently providing those facilities/services.

Figure 3-6 – Relative Importance of Facilities vs. How Well Facilities Are Provided





Existing Recreation Programs and Participation

Saratoga Springs City Recreation Department currently offers sports programs for children and youth, including soccer, T-ball, girls and boys basketball, and flag football. The City also partners with the Fire Department to provide babysitting classes and CPR classes (approximately twenty participants in each class). Participation in the sports programs has grown dramatically since the initiation of each program. Table 3-1 below indicates the programs offered between 2005 and 2010, the levels of participation each year, the increase or decrease in participation and the percent change. All of the field sport programs have grown between 39 and 66 percent. Only participation in the fishing club generally declined between 2006 and 2009; thus the program was not offered in 2010.

Table 3-1 – Existing Recreation Programs Participation Rates

	Year and Participation Levels						Increase/	Percent
Recreation Program	**2005**	**2006**	**2007**	**2008**	**2009**	**2010**	**Decrease**	**Change**
Soccer - Spring	505	584	579	889	794	964	459	48%
Soccer - Fall	189	248	444	383	304	560	371	66%
Fishing Club	0	64	53	58	52		-12	-19%
T-Ball				109	179	269	160	59%
Basketball - Boys/Co-Ed.		141	199	306	328	353	212	60%
Basketball - Girls				119	148	196	77	39%
Flag Football	83	106	112	125	122	162	79	49%

Note: 2006 and 2007 numbers for Boys/Co-Ed Basketball were Co-Ed.
Source: Saratoga Springs Recreation Department

Soccer is offered for children aged 4-years through 6th grade in the spring (April - June) and fall (August - October). Every child who wishes to participate is allowed to play and the program is available to boys and girls. Participation in soccer programs has grown 48 percent (spring) and 66 percent (fall) since the programs began in 2005.

Boys Basketball is offered for children in the 1st grade through 7th grade. First and second grade boys and girls (co-ed), and 3rd and 4th grade boys play at Saratoga Shores Elementary and Harvest Elementary Schools, and 5th, 6th, and 7th grade boys play at either Westlake High School or Vista Heights Middle School. Practices are held at Saratoga Shores, Harvest, or Sage Hill Elementary Schools. Every child who wishes to participate is allowed to play during the October to November season. Boys/Co-Ed basketball has grown 60 percent since 2006.

Girls Basketball is currently available to 1st through 6th grade girls. Every girl who signs-up is allowed to play, and games are held at either Harvest or Saratoga Shores Elementary School during the November to December season. Participation in Girls' Basketball increased 39 percent between 2008 and 2010.

Flag Football is a co-ed program offered to 1st through 6th grade children, and is played September through October. This program began in 2005 and grew to 39 percent in 2010.

Future Recreation Programs and Facilities

The community-wide survey is a valuable source of information for setting a direction for the future. Clearly, additional facilities and programs are desired and needed. The general themes indicate that there is a need for more programs for youth and adults, especially sports programs which means more playing fields, basketball courts, and other facilities where the programs can be staged. In terms of specific facilities, a recreation center/aquatic center and other water-related facilities are desired by more residents than any other facility.

Facility Development Standards

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)[1] developed a set of standards for communities to use in determining when various facilities are needed. It is typically expressed as one facility per 1,000 population. In more recent publications, they do not provide a quantity standard, rather they want communities to evaluate their needs and come up with their own standard. However, many communities still use the standards developed in the 1987 publication as a means of comparison. Table 3-2 makes a comparison between the NRPA standard and what facilities are available in Saratoga Springs.

Table 3-2 – Comparison of NRPA Standards and Actual Facilities

Facility	NRPA Guide 1 per population	NRPA Guide Applied to SS	SS Quant.	SS LOS 1 per population	Overage/ Deficit
Basketball courts	5000	3.6	2	8891	-1.56
Volleyball courts	5000	3.6	1	17781	-2.56
Baseball/softball fields	5000	3.6	0	0	-3.56
Football fields	20000	0.9	0	0	-0.89
Soccer fields	10000	3.6	13	1368	9.44
Swimming Pools	20000	0.9	0	0	-0.89
Marinas	N/A	N/A	1	17781	1.00
Playgrounds	N/A	N/A	12	1616	0.00
Pavillions	N/A	N/A	21	847	0.00
Picnic tables	N/A	N/A	80	224	0.00

The first column lists the type of facility; the second column indicates the population number to be used to determine each facility type; the third column shows how many of each facility Saratoga Springs should have based on NRPA and the current population of 17,781; the fourth column shows how many facilities of each type there are in Saratoga Springs; the fifth column shows what the current level of service (LOS) is for each type of facility in Saratoga Springs, and the final column indicates whether the City has an overage or deficit for each type of facility. To summarize, based on NRPA, Saratoga Springs needs more basketball courts, volleyball courts, baseball/softball fields, football fields, and swimming pools, yet it has ample soccer fields. NRPA did not develop a standard for playgrounds, marinas, pavilions, or picnic tables. Except for the soccer

[1] Lancaster, Roger A. (Ed.), "Recreation, Park, and Open Space Standards and Guidelines," National Recreation and Park Association, 1987.

fields, the comparison of NRPA standards correlates well with the desires of the community expressed in the survey.

Table 3-3 indicates the types of facilities typically found in the eleven existing Community Parks in Saratoga Springs, the total quantity of each facility, the average number of facilities per park based on 11 total parks, and recommends a desired number of each facility type for each five acres of developed parks. As existing parks are upgraded and new parks are developed, this information should be a basic guide to be used and implemented based on the needs, characteristics, and focus of the park. It is to be consulted and modified to meet the specific needs of each park.

Table 3-3 – Saratoga Springs Existing Community Park Facilities

FACILITIES	QUANT	AVERAGE OF 11 COMM. PARKS	DESIRED PER FIVE ACRES
Trees	varies	varies	varies
Pavilions	21	1.9	1
Picnic tables	92	8.4	8
Benches	50	4.5	4
BBQs	28	2.5	2
Open turf areas	45.6	4.1	4 ac
Walking paths	10	0.9	1
Playgrounds	12	1.1	1
Playing fields	13	1.2	2
Drinking fountains	11	1.0	1
Restroom	4	0.4	1
BB/VB Courts	4	0.4	1
Parking	354	32.2	20
Boat ramp/marina/beach	1	0.1	N/A

Goals and Policies for Recreation

Goal 1.0: **Assure that residents of Saratoga Springs have access to desired recreational facilities and programs.**

Policy 1.1: Establish a standard for Community Park development that requires each community park to include those elements shown in Table 3-3 as a minimum standard.

a. Implementation Measure: Upgrade existing community parks to conform to the standard for Community Parks to the extent that it is possible.

b. Implementation Measure: As new community parks are developed assure that they conform to the standard for Community Parks at a minimum.

c. Implementation Measure: To assure there is adequate space for field sports games and practices, devote ample space to the development of fields over and above the standard in some parks.

d. Implementation Measure: As recreation programs and facilities grow, hire a full time Recreation Coordinator.

e. Implementation Measure: As soon as facilities are developed, provide for adult recreation programs and activities.

Policy 1.2: Develop a recreation center/aquatic center in the Town Center or in conjunction with a large community park as soon as possible.

a. Implementation Measure: Conduct a feasibility study to determine at what point it can be supported and to determine the financial impact to the community. The feasibility study should address potential partners, i.e. Eagle Mountain, Lehi, Utah County, interest groups and commercial developers.

b. Implementation Measure: Survey residents to determine what kinds of programs and facilities they would like to see in the recreation center.

c. Implementation Measure: If the recreation center/aquatic center is not feasible as one phase, pursue a first phase that includes a swimming pool to serve an immediate need.

Policy 1.3: Provide for more public marinas, beaches and other water-related access to the lake, and facilities.

a. Implementation Measure: Conduct a feasibility study related to the location and operations of additional public marinas. The study should address appropriate locations, funding and financing, concessions vs. city management, etc.

b. Implementation Measure: Continue to work with Utah County in the control of phragmites along the lake shore, and work with the Utah Department of Fish and Game to improve fish habitat.

c. Implementation Measure: Adopt the fifty (50) foot buffer recommended in the Utah Lake Shoreline Protection Overlay Zone Model Ordinance, Section 6.2 Lake Buffer, dated January 27, 2011.

4 TRAILS

Trails serve many purposes from recreational uses to commuting to and from work and home and other destinations, and they serve many kinds of users – children, bicyclists, walkers/joggers, and others with varying skill levels and interests. This chapter discusses trails throughout the community with the intent to link neighborhoods with other destinations. It will discuss public comment collected during the survey and the public scoping meeting, identify existing trails, determine the current level of service for trails in the community, and discuss future trails, trailheads, and other issues related to trails.

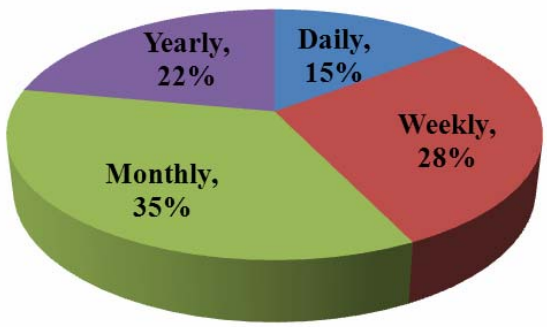
Public Comment Regarding Trails

Use of Trails

Approximately 71 percent of all respondents use the City's trail system, and trails are rated above 4 on a scale of 1-5 in importance to the community. A higher percentage of residents in the middle age groups use the trail system. Those ages 18-24 and over 65 use them less.

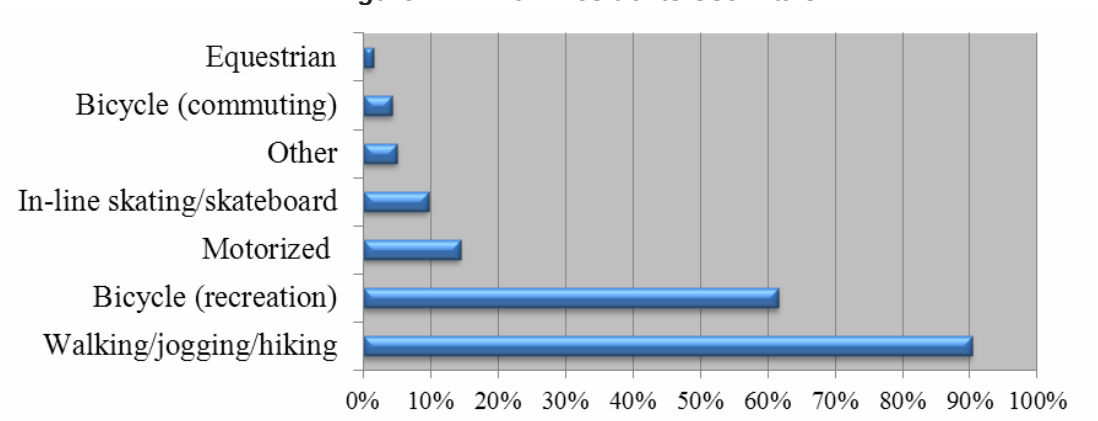
The graph to the right illustrates how often these residents use the trail system – 35 percent use it at least monthly; eight percent use it weekly and 15 percent use it daily.

Figure 4-1 – Frequency of Trail Use



A majority of respondents (78 percent) state that they would use trails more often if they were more complete or connected. An estimated 90 percent of those who use the trails do so for the purpose of walking, jogging, or hiking. The next highest reason is bicycle use at 62 percent.

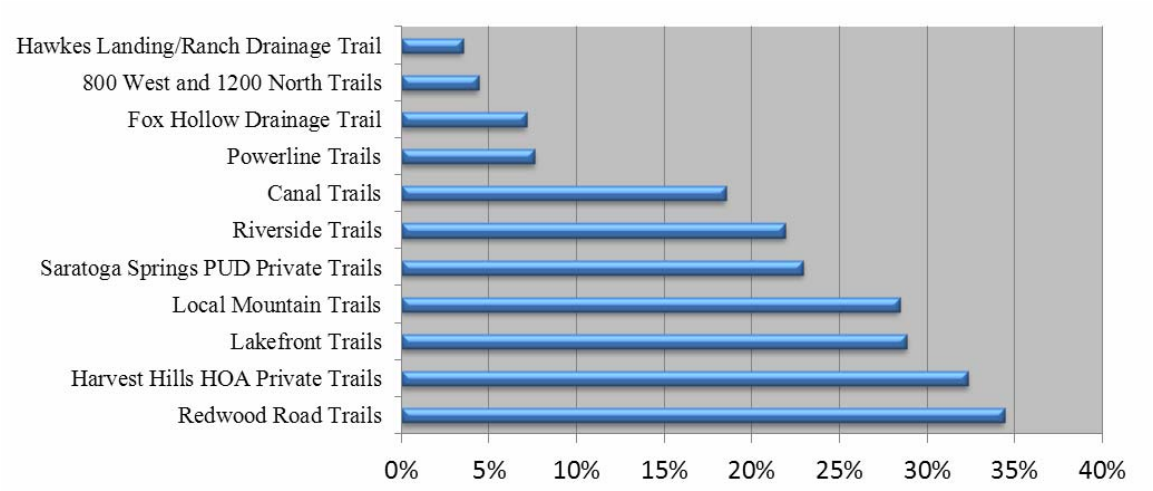
Figure 4-2 – How Residents Use Trails



Most-Used Trails

The trails that are used most often include: Redwood Road trails, Harvest Hills public and Home Owner's Association (HOA) private trails, lakefront trails, and local mountain trails. Most users of the Saratoga Springs HOA trails are over the age of 65 years.

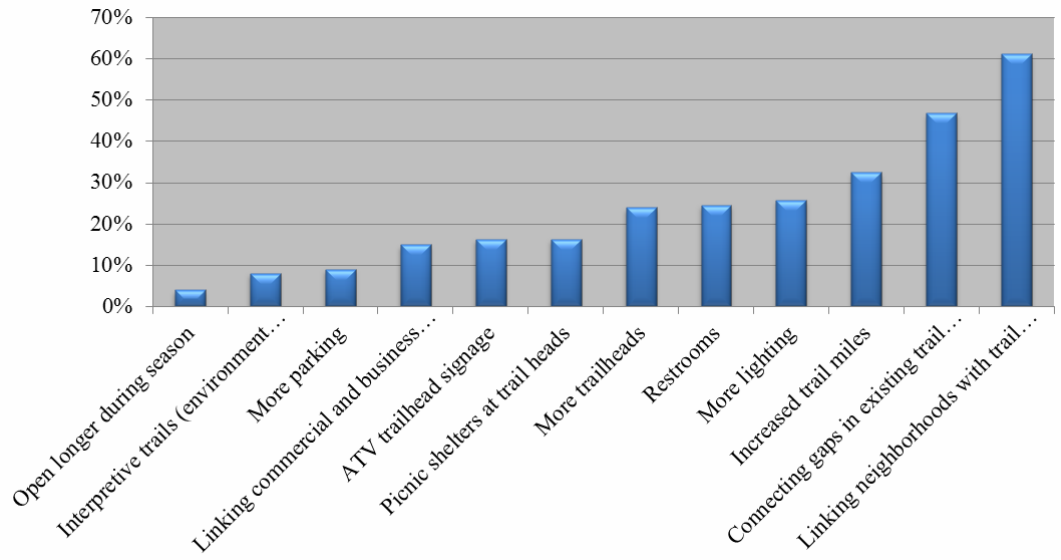
Figure 4-3 – Most-Used Trails



Improvements to Trails

Top improvements recommended for the current trail system are to link neighborhoods with the trail system and to connect gaps in the existing trails. Additional improvements in order of demand include: increased trail miles, more lighting, restrooms, more trailheads, picnic shelters at trail heads, ATV trailhead signage, linking commercial and business areas to improve commuting, more parking, interpretive trails (environment education), and open longer during season.

Figure 4-4 – Needed Improvements to Trails



Most-Desired Types of Trails

As Saratoga Springs makes plans to increase trail miles in the future, the following table will be of assistance in the decision-making process. According to survey responses, the trails most desired by residents include asphalt trails and natural surface trails for hiking, biking, etc. The numbers presented in green represent the highest percentage of responses for that trail type. "N" represents the number of responses received for that question.

Table 4-1 – Types of Trails to Increase

	N=	Increase	Same Amount	Don't Know
Asphalt	799	**56%**	24%	20%
Concrete	696	31%	**36%**	33%
Natural surface - hiking, biking, etc.	743	**54%**	21%	25%
Natural surface – motorized	651	29%	28%	**43%**

Trail Improvements Are a Priority

Trail improvements are a high priority for survey respondents – 74 percent of respondents would like to see improvements take place within the next one to five years. As stated previously, the greatest desire for trails in the community is that there are more of them and that they are connected.

Public Comment Received at the Public Scoping Meeting and Draft Plan Open House

A public scoping meeting was held on February 17, 2011. While it was not well attended, those who did attend were primarily interested in trails. Among their concerns is the lack of trail maintenance resulting in trails being in disrepair and difficult to use. Their other concerns are:

- Completion of the Utah Lake Shoreline Trail.
- The need for one authority to maintain trails.
- Maintaining wildlife habitats along the shore and in other natural areas.
- Control of phragmites along the shoreline.
- Maintain natural drainages and incorporating trails.
- More mountain bike and hiking trails, specifically a single track trail on the mountainside.
- More access to the shoreline, more beaches, and more marinas.
- Construction of more fish habitats.
- More trails along canals and trails to connect schools to neighborhoods.

Additional comment was received during the Draft Plan Open House on July 13, 2011. While nearly 30 individuals attended the meeting, eight provided written comments. Additional comments were received verbally and recorded. Their comments include:

- Trails need to be connected throughout the City so residents are able to cross Redwood Road and SR73, and other high traffic roadways.
- Complete the Redwood Road trail.
- A completed trail through the Harvest Hills Native Park for recreational use and for a safer route to school.
- The trail at Jordan River needs canoe/kayak access.
- Crossing Redwood Road on foot is not safe, especially for children crossing to school.
- Put the trail map on-line so it is accessible.
- The need for one authority to maintain trails.

Existing City Trails

The trails shown in Table 4-2 occur within the boundary of Saratoga Springs City. Many of the more regional trails extend beyond the boundary, but the length of those extensions is not included in the table. Existing trails are shown on Map 3 – Existing and Proposed Trails and include approximately 11 miles of existing trails and about 60 miles of proposed trails. Trails are classified as Urban, Rural, Multipurpose, and Wilderness. Trails classifications are defined below along with recommendation for changes to the existing details and cross sections.

- Urban Trails — 8’ meandering concrete trails, along arterial roadways and canal parkways, ADA accessible and provide maintenance access.
- Rural Trails — 8’-10’ asphalt for lakeside and riverside access, 8’ in riparian areas and 10’ in upland areas, ADA accessible and provide maintenance access.
- Multipurpose Trails — 12’ wide gravel or road base for power line corridors, mountain trails, and equestrian use.
- Wilderness Trails — 10’ asphalt trail in developed area and 10’ gravel trail in undeveloped areas, recreational use.

Table 4-2 - Existing City Trails

Trail Identification	Completed Miles	Proposed Miles	Total Miles	Trail Type
Utah Lake Shoreline Trail	3.3	4.0	7.3	TR-4 Rural Trail
Redwood Road Trail	2.2	8.2	10.4	TR-1 Urban Trail
800 West Trail	0.8	7.3	8.1	TR-1 Urban Trail
Jordan River Trail East	0.4		0.4	TR-4 Rural Trail
Jordan River Trail West		2.1	2.1	TR-4 Rural Trail
Welby Jacobsen Canal Trail	0.9	3.4	4.3	TR-4 Rural Trail
SR 73 Trail		2.6	2.6	TR-1 Urban Trail
Powerline Trail #1		1.4	1.4	TR-3 Multipurpose Trail
Powerline Trail #2		6.1	6.1	TR-3 Multipurpose Trail
Lime Kiln Canyon Trail		1.8	1.8	TR-5 Wilderness Trail
Harbor Parkway Trail	0.4	1.4	1.8	TR-1 Urban Trail
Sage Hills Trail	0.5	1.2	1.7	TR-1 Urban Trail
Fox Hollow Trail		1.8	1.8	TR-4 Rural Trail
Israel Canyon Trail		0.3	0.3	TR-5 Wilderness Trail
Reformation Canyon Trail		0.5	0.5	TR-5 Wilderness Trail
Canal Trail	0.6	7.0	7.6	TR-5 Wilderness Trail
Grand View Blvd. Trail	0.7		0.7	TR-1 Urban Trail
Pony Express Parkway Trail		2.8	2.8	TR-1 Urban Trail
Pioneer Crossing Trail		1.3	1.3	TR-1 Urban Trail
Tickville Gulch Trail		2.3	2.3	TR-4 Rural Trail
Trail #1		0.8	0.8	TR-4 Rural Trail
Trail #2		1.0	1.0	TR-4 Rural Trail
Provo River Parkway	1.1	0.8	1.9	TR-4 Rural Trail
Other	0.2	2.4	2.6	
TOTAL	11.1	60.5	71.6	

Left: Harvest Hills Canal Trail

Right: Lakeside Trail

Other Trails

HOA Trails

The existing residential subdivisions in Saratoga Springs include trails that are owned and maintained by the HOA's. These include sidewalks within the communities as well as trails along the lake shore, and connecting to other open spaces within the developments. HOA trails are also intended to connect with community-wide trails that are owned and maintained by Saratoga Springs.

Trails in Adjacent Communities and on Federal Land

Map 3 also shows existing or proposed trails in Lehi and Eagle Mountain that either already connect to Saratoga Springs trails or could when they are completed. The Jordan River Trail on the Lehi side of the river is complete; however, there is limited access from Saratoga Springs. As the State of Utah School and Institutional Trusts Lands Administration (SITLA) land is annexed and developed, and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) confirms their trail planning, these trails should also be connected.

The BLM completed a Pony Express Area Resource Management Plan in 1990 which identifies the lands adjacent to Saratoga Springs for limited trail use that makes use of the existing trails and roads in the area. Since 1990 additional trails have developed due to unauthorized off-road vehicle use and other uses. The BLM would like to work with the City to facilitate trail development that connects, and which utilizes existing trails and roads that were in place in 1990. It would also like to cooperate in finding ways to limit unauthorized use.[1]

Existing Trails Level of Service

Based on the 2010 Census, the current population in Saratoga Springs is 17,781; thus the current level of service for City-owned trails is 0.62 mile per 1,000 population. (See Table 4-3)

Table 4-3 – Existing Level of Service for Trails

2011 LEVEL OF SERVICE - CITY TRAILS			
			TRAIL MILES PER
YEAR	POPULATION	MILES	1000 POPULATION
2011 All developed trails	17,781	11.1	0.62
CURRENT LEVEL OF SERVICE - CITY TRAILS			0.62

There is not a standard for trail development that is generally in use; each community must determine the adequacy of its trail system. The best approach to assuring that trails are included in community development is to require them to be master planned and developed as projects are initiated and completed. Just as with Parks, there can be a different LOS for master planning than that used for developing impact fees. The City may wish to improve more miles of trails over the next years than the current LOS, however, it may only charge new development impact fees equivalent to the current LOS of .62 miles per 1,000 population. As the City invests in infrastructure, the current LOS will increase which will be reflected in future impact fees.

Impact fees can be used to develop trails that are considered “system improvements” to the current LOS; however, that may not be enough to adequately serve the community’s recreational and commuting needs. System improvements are defined by Utah Code to not mean “project improvements” and to include facilities that are “intended to provide

[1] Mike Nelson, BLM Field Manager, personal conversation May 11, 2011.

services to service areas within the community at large." Utah Code 11-36a-101(20)(a). Project improvements, which cannot be used in the calculation of impact fees, are defined as site improvements or facilities "planned or designed for development resulting from a development activity" and "necessary for the use and convenience of the occupants or users of development resulting from a development activity." Utah Code 11-36a-101(13)(a).

Trail Priorities and Recommendations

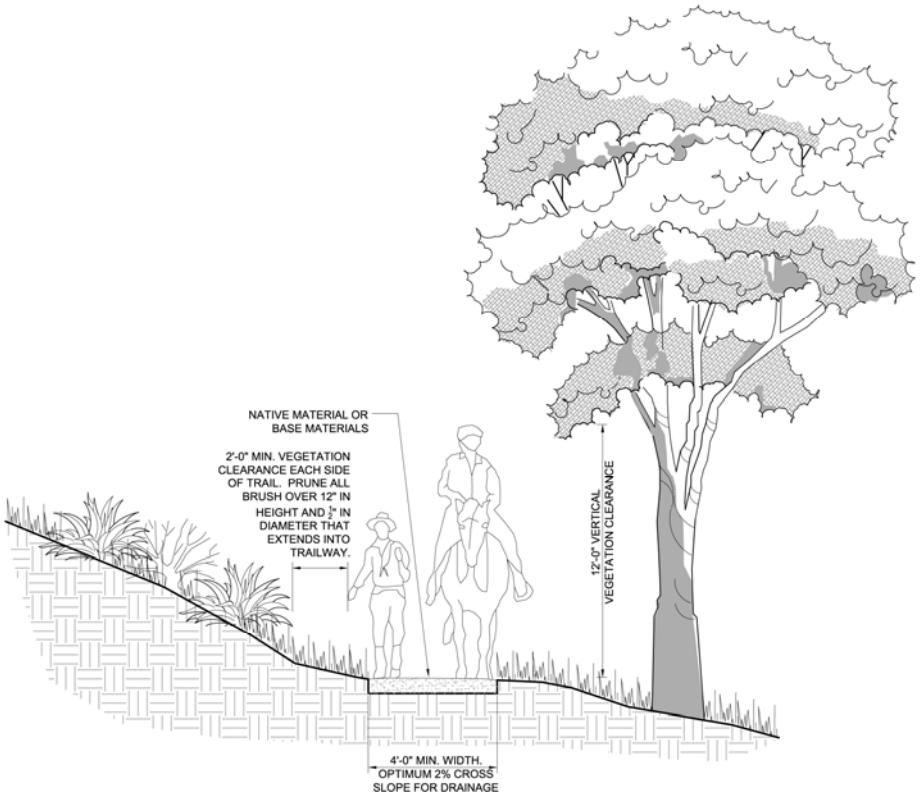
Based on the information received during the community survey, trails are a very high priority for residents. Specifically, the community desires more trails throughout the City and to see the existing gaps in trails filled and connected. They desire trails that are better maintained, and that are hard surface trails connecting neighborhoods with important destinations in the City, especially safe routes to schools.

In order to get trails developed as soon as possible, the City should acquire the easement or right-of-way at the earliest stages of development and require the developer to grade a soft-surface trail that can be paved in a later phase as the project is implemented. Trail development should be a part of any development agreement.

The Jordan River Trail is developed on the east side of the river in Lehi. As future development occurs, develop a similar trail on the west side.
The existing trail cross sections developed by the City should be modified to allow for more space. The Urban and Rural Trails (paved trails) should be widened to 12' to allow for safer travel in both directions and to reduce potential conflicts between users. Trails that are used for mountain biking/hiking and equestrian uses should be a soft-surface material such as natural soils or shredded bark. Recommended revisions to the existing trail classifications and details are shown in **bold** below.

- Urban Trails — **12**' meandering concrete trails, along arterial roadways and canal parkways, ADA accessible and provide maintenance access.
- Rural Trails — **12'** concrete for lakeside and riverside access, 8' concrete in riparian areas and **12'** asphalt in upland areas, ADA accessible and provide maintenance access.
- Multipurpose Trails — 12' wide **soft-surface material** for power line corridors, mountain trails, ATV trails, and equestrian use.
- Wilderness Trails — **12'** asphalt trail in developed area and 8-10' soft-surface trail in undeveloped areas, recreational use. See Figure 4-5.

Figure 4-5: Proposed Wilderness Trail Design



Source: Designing Shared-Use Trails to Include Equestrians, by Anne M. O'Dell

Future Trails and Trail Facilities

Based on the current LOS for trails in Saratoga Springs, the City should provide about 33 miles of trails by 2030; and 15 additional miles will be needed by 2040 (see Table 4-4). As mentioned previously, this LOS is appropriate for developing impact fees for trails; however, it is entirely appropriate for the community to adopt a higher LOS for master planning purposes. Based on the priorities defined by the community through the survey, trails are a high priority.

Table 4-4 – Projected Trail Needs

TRAILS NEEDS ANALYSIS					
		EXIST.			
YEAR	POPULATION	MILES	TRAIL MILES PER	NEEDED TO	MILES
			1000 POPULATION	MAINTAIN .62/1000	NEEDED
2010	17,781	11.1	0.62	0.0	0.00
2030	70,386	11.1	0.16	43.6	32.54
2040	94,200	11.1	0.12	58.4	47.30

Goals and Policies for Trails

Goal 1.0: **Assure that residents of Saratoga Springs have access to trails that provide links between neighborhoods and important destinations and attractions.**

Policy 1.1: Maintain the current minimum level of service for trails at 0.62 miles per 1,000 population at a minimum.

a. Implementation Measure: Continue to require trail master planning as part of the City's development review process.

b. Implementation Measure: Include system-wide trails development in any future planning initiatives, focusing on closing gaps in trails and connecting existing and future neighborhoods to downtown, parks and recreation facilities, public transit, and community destinations.

c. Implementation Measure: Acquire the right-of-way or easement and require the developer to grub a soft-surface trail throughout the entire project. The trail can be paved at a later time as subsequent phases are developed, but in the meantime useable trails will be provided.

d. Implementation Measure: As property adjacent to the Jordan River is developed, require the construction of the Jordan River Trail on the west side of the river with bridges connecting to the east side trail. A minimum of two public trailheads should also be developed.

d. Implementation Measure: Maintain trails in a safe and useable condition.

e. Implementation Measure: Initiate an "Adopt a Trail" program to encourage users as care-takers of the trail system. Encourage participants to become involved in all aspects of trails planning, development, maintenance, and improvement.

f. Implementation Measure: Work with the BLM to coordinate trails planning and development so that existing BLM trails connect to Saratoga Springs trails.

g. Implementation Measure: Address the need for ATV trail access to BLM trails. Certain multipurpose trails may be appropriate for this use, and should provide trailhead space for trailers and support vehicles for both equestrian and ATV users.

Goal 2.0 **Assure that trails are safe.**

Policy 2.1: Safe routes to schools is the highest priority for trails.

a. Implementation Measure: Work with the school district, local developers, canal companies, and local neighborhoods to identify and clearly mark appropriate routes.

b. Implementation Measure: Increase the width of Urban and Rural trails to 12' to accommodate travel in two directions and reduce conflicts between pedestrian and bicycles.

c. Implementation Measure: Develop a trail signing program that provides consistent information about trail use and appropriate behavior, particularly on trails that are intended for multipurpose.

Policy 2.2: Modify existing trails descriptions and cross-sections as recommended.

a. Implementation Measure: City staff will review the recommendations and modify the trail specifications as needed.

Goal 3.0 Get residents involved in trail planning.

Policy 3.1: Establish a Saratoga Springs Trails Committee.

a. Implementation Measure: The Committee will be charged with reviewing the existing trail system, identifying priorities, identifying funding sources, and assuring that trail development meets the community's needs.

Policy 3.2: Encourage walking and bicycling to reduce automobile dependence and improve the overall health of the community and its residents.

a. Implementation Measure: Provide a complete trail system that is usable by commuters in travel to and from work and home, and provide good trail access to recreational walkers/joggers/cyclists.

Goal 4.0: Provide a recreational trail system with trail heads in strategic locations for access to the mountains and existing parks.

Policy 4.1: Coordinate with adjacent communities, the Bureau of Land Management, and Division of Wildlife Resources to plan for a connected mountain trail system.

a. Implementation Measure: Modify the Wilderness trail classification to require a natural soil surface which is appropriate for mountain biking, mountain hiking, and equestrian use.

b. Implementation Measure: The City has trails and parks development that will require wetland mitigation. In future impact fee studies, the costs of environmental work and mitigation measures should be evaluated and included where appropriate.

Insert Map 3 here.

5 IMPLEMENTATION AND COSTS

Implementing the Plan takes resources that are usually in somewhat short supply. Therefore, it is important to establish priorities and allocate the funds accordingly. In this chapter, the amount of money needed to fund projects is determined in 2011 dollars, which will need to be adjusted for inflation as time goes by. Also, some discussion about what is actually needed to maintain existing facilities as well as those that are planned is included. The City will need to establish priorities and annual budgets understanding that there will always be opportunities and constraints that occur as the Plan is implemented, so some flexibility is inherently needed.

Funding Needed For Parks, Recreation, and Trails Facilities

In order to understand the actual funding needs for Saratoga Springs as it moves to implement the facilities identified in this Master Plan, capital costs for park and trail development have been estimated. A cost for a Recreation Center/Aquatic Center, should the City choose to construct one, is about $35 million in 2011 dollars. However, it is also possible that development of the facility/center could be shared with neighboring communities, Utah County, and others.

Park and Recreation Facility Unit Costs

In developing the costs two important assumptions were used:

- Costs for land are not included, it is assumed that the property is already owned by the City, or the required land will be dedicated as a condition of development approval; and
- In the case of trails, land may be either dedicated or an easement may be provided allowing public access into perpetuity.

In allocating costs, the unit costs shown in Table 5-1 were used.

Table 5-1 – Park and Recreation Facility Unit Costs

Improvement	Cost	Unit
Park Lot (spaces)	$2,500	each
Pavilion	$60,000	each
Picnic Tables	$1,200	each
Trees	$300	each
Benches	$1,000	each
BBQ Grills	$1,000	each
Open Turf Areas	$70,000	acre
Walking Paths	$172,000	mile
Playground/swings	$80,000	each
Playing Fields (equipment)	$15,000	each
Drinking Fountain	$4,000	each
Restroom (24' x 24')	$250,000	each
Basketball Court	$40,000	each
Sand Pit	$5,000	each
Volleyball Court	$40,000	each
Marina	$1,000,000	each
Lighting (security)	$15,000	per 5 acre
Fire Pits	$1,200	each
Fishing dock	$5,000	each
Boat ramps,/docks/launches	$10,000	each
Recreation/Aquatic Center	$35,000,000	each

Level of Development for Community Parks

A desired level of development for each five acres of park land was discussed in Chapter 3 based on the average number of various improvements in the eleven (11) existing community parks. A small park of five acres would need these facilities. If the park is larger in size – 20 acres—the quantity shown in the table would need to be multiplied by four. Table 5-2 summarizes the quantity of facilities desired in each developed five acres of park land, keeping in mind that there may be situations where more or less are desired or feasible.

Table 5-2 – Improvements Desired Per Each Five Acres of Developed Park Land

FACILITIES	IMPROVEMENTS DESIRED PER FIVE ACRES
Trees	varies
Pavilions	1
Picnic tables	8
Benches	4
BBQs	2
Open turf areas	4 ac
Walking paths	1
Playgrounds	1
Playing fields	2
Drinking fountains	1
Restroom	1
BB/VB Courts	1
Parking	20
Boat ramp/marina/beach	depends on location

Costs to Upgrade Existing Community Parks and Develop Unconstructed Parks

Several existing community parks do not contain some of the desired facilities. Some are too small or have constraints and cannot accommodate all of the desired improvements, but others have adequate space and can be upgraded. Parks that can accommodate new facilities should be upgraded. Additionally, the 20.46 acres of unconstructed park land will need to be developed. Table 5-3 shows those costs.

Table 5-3 – Costs to Upgrade Existing Parks and Develop Unconstructed Parks

EXISTING CITY PARKS	SIZE (AC)	Landscaped Detention Basin	Parking Lot (spaces)	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Benches	BBQ Grills	Open Turf Areas (acres)	Walking Paths	Playground/swings	Playing Fields	Drinking Fountain	Restroom	Basketball Court	Sand Pit	Volley Ball Court	Sleding Slope	Lighting	Fire Pits	Fishing	Boat ramps/docks	Outside Showers
		EXISTING IMPROVEMENTS																				
Pocket Parks																						
Dalmore Meadows Park	1.38	X		1	4	1	1	1.3		1		1										
Jacob's Ranch Park	1			1	6	2	2	0.9		1		1										
Lake Vista Park (Lake Mountain)	0.92			1	2	2	1	0.6		1		1				1						
Loch Lomond Park	0.87	X		1	2	2	1	0.8		1				1								
Mountain Moon Park	0.81			2	2	2	2	0.7		1	1											
Panarama Park	0.67				2	2	1	0.6		1		1										
Total Pocket Parks	***5.65***																					
Community Parks																						
Harvest Hills Park	13.34		31	2	13	11	2	11.7	X	2	4	1	1									
Jacobs Ranch Trailhead Park	11.5		35			3		3.8	X		2											
Loch Lomond Pond/Wetlands	15.57					2		0.1	X											1		
Marina Park	11.46		105	7	13		6	0.4	X	1		1	1		2			X	6	1	3	2
Neptune Park	10.9	X	92	2	24	14	6	8.9	X	2	2	1		1				X				
Pondside Park (Benches)	2.42	X						2.4	X								1					
Saratoga Hills "3" Park (Lucas Lane)	1.9		10	1	4	3	1	2.0	X	1		1										
#NAME?	2.53	X						2.5	X													
Sunrise Meadows Park	5.16	X	71	2	8	4	2	4.9		1	4	1	1				X	X				
Sunset Haven	3.33	X						3.3														
Wayman Park	1.2		10	1	12	2	3	0.5	X			1		1				X				
Total Community Parks	***79.31***																					
Unconstructed City Parks																						
A Shay Park	7.6																					
B Sunrise Meadows (943 W. 1200 N.)	7.42																					
C Benches (Allison Way)	5.44																					
Total Unconstructed City Parks	***20.46***																					
TOTAL ALL EXISTING PARKS	**105.42**																					

	st.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ac.	mi.	ea.	ac.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	
	$2,500	$60,000	$1,200	$1,000	$1,000	$70,000	172000.00	$80,000	$15,000	$4,000	$250,000	$40,000	$5,000	$40,000	$1,000,000	$15,000	$1,200	$5,000	$5,000		
	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS																				
Pocket Parks																					
Dalmore Meadows Park																					
Jacob's Ranch Park																					
Lake Vista Park (Lake Mountain)																					
Loch Lomond Park																					
Mountain Moon Park																					
Panarama Park																					
Total Pocket Parks																					
	PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS																				
Community Parks																					
Harvest Hills Park		1										1									$345,000
Jacobs Ranch Trailhead Park		1	8																		$0
Loch Lomond Pond/Wetlands		1																			$60,000
Marina Park																					$0
Neptune Park																					$0
Pondside Park (Benches)		1	4	2	1																$67,800
Saratoga Hills "3" Park (Lucas Lane)																					$0
#NAME?		1	4	2	1																$67,800
Sunrise Meadows Park							0.50														$86,000
Sunset Haven		1					0.50	1													$226,000
Wayman Park																					$0
Total Community Parks																					***$852,600***
Unconstructed City Parks																					
A Shay Park	20	1	8	4	2	6	0.50	1	1	2	1	1									$1,024,600
B Sunrise Meadows (943 W. 1200 N.)	20	1	8	4	2	6	0.50	1	1	2	1	1									$1,024,600
C Benches (Allison Way)	20	1	8	4	2	4	0.50	1	1	2	1			1							$884,600
Total Unconstructed City Parks																					***$2,933,800***
TOTAL ALL EXISTING PARKS																					**$3,786,400**

See description below:
Harvest Hills: water play area, art/water sculpture, zip line, botanical garden, ampitheater, pond, frisbee golf course, allee/seating area.

Costs to Construct New Parks

Fourteen new Community Parks will be needed to serve the existing land within the City's boundary. The locations of these parks are shown on Map 2 – Future Park and Recreation Facilities contained in Chapter 2. By year 2030, the City will need to add an additional 105 acres of park land; by 2040 the additional 47 acres (approximately) will be needed.
The Parks shown on the map and identified here will not all be needed within this planning horizon. However, the City should plan on developing over 100 acres (three new Community Parks) within the next twenty years, and two more before 2040. Parks should be developed first in areas where there is growing residential development. A recreation/aquatic center is highly desired by the community and should be constructed as soon as feasible. Costs to construct new parks in 2030 and 2040 are shown in orange in Table 5-4.

Table 5-4 Costs to Construct New Parks

		Hard Surfacing/Plaza	Parking Lot (spaces)	Pavilion	Picnic Tables	Benches	BBQ Grills	Open Turf Areas	Walking Paths	Playground/swings	Playing Fields (equipment)	Drinking Fountain	Restroom (24' x 24')	Basketball Court	Sand Pit	Volley Ball Court	Marina	Lighting (security)	Fire Pits	Fishing dock	Boat ramps/docks/lauches	
		ac.	st.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ac.	mi.	ea.	ac.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	ea.	
		$1,633,500	$2,500	$60,000	$1,200	$1,000	$1,000	$70,000	$172,000	$80,000	$15,000	$4,000	$250,000	$40,000	$5,000	$40,000	$1,000,000	$15,000	$1,200	$5,000	$5,000	
FUTURE COMMUNITY PARKS	SIZE (AC)																					COST
Community Park A - Town Center	20+	2	80	4	32	20	8	10	1.00	4	4	4	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	$5,726,400
Community Park B - Jordan River	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	15	1.00	4	8	4	2	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	$3,641,150
Community Park C - Standard	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	15	1.00	4	8	4	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	$3,686,150
Community Park D - Standard	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	15	1.00	4	8	4	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	$3,686,150
Community Park E - Standard	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	15	1.00	4	8	4	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	$3,686,150
Community Park F- Standard	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	15	1.00	4	8	4	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	$3,686,150
Community Park G - Natural	20+	0	80	4	32	20	8	5	2.00	4	2	4	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	$2,221,400
Community Park H - Natural	20+	0	80	4	32	20	8	5	2.00	4	2	4	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	$2,221,400
Community Park I - Natural	20+	0	80	4	32	20	8	5	2.00	4	2	4	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	$2,221,400
Community Park J - Natural	20+	0	80	4	32	20	8	5	2.00	4	2	4	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	$2,221,400
Community Park K - Lake Shore	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	5	1.00	4	0	4	2	0	2	2	1	2	0	0	0	$3,801,150
Community Park L - Standard	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	15	1.00	4	8	4	2	2	1	1	0	4	0	0	0	$3,686,150
Community Park M - Beaches	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	5	1.00	2	0	1	2	0	2	2	0	2	2	1	1	$2,641,550
Community Park N - Marina/Beaches	20+	0.5	80	4	32	20	8	5	1.00	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	1	1	2	1	1	$3,616,550
Subtotal New Community Parks	280																					$46,743,150
Average per acre cost																						$166,940
Additional acres needed by 2030	103																					$17,194,802
Additional acres needed by 2040	47																					$7,846,172
ADDITIONAL COSTS																						
Recreation Center/Aquatic Center																						$35,000,000

Costs to Construct Trails

The Master Plan proposes approximately 60 miles of new trails to be constructed. Trails are a high priority among residents particularly trails that connect neighborhoods to schools, shopping, parks and other destinations. Table 5-5 below calculates the cost to develop the various classifications of trails shown on Map 3 – Existing and Proposed Trails. The cost shown for Wilderness Trails assumes they will be a soft-surface material such as natural soil or chipped/shredded wood.

It will not be necessary to construct all of the proposed trails in order to meet the need in 2030. In 2030 there is a need for 33 additional miles of trails to maintain the current LOS of .62 miles per 1,000 population; an additional 15 miles will be needed before 2040. These costs are shown in orange in Table 5-5 below.

Table 5-5 – Costs to Construct Proposed Trails

Trail Identification	Completed Miles	Proposed Miles	Total Miles	Trail Type	Cost Per Mile	Cost by Trail
Utah Lake Shoreline Trail	3.3	4.0	7.3	TR-4 Rural Trail	$200,000	$800,000
Redwood Road Trail	2.2	8.2	10.4	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$2,050,000
800 West Trail	0.8	7.3	8.1	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$1,825,000
Jordan River Trail East	0.4		0.4	TR-4 Rural Trail	$200,000	$0
Jordan River Trail West		2.1	2.1	TR-4 Rural Trail	$200,000	$420,000
Welby Jacobsen Canal Trail	0.9	3.4	4.8	TR-4 Rural Trail	$200,000	$680,000
SR 73 Trail		2.6	2.6	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$650,000
Powerline Trail #1		1.4	1.4	TR-3 Multipurpose Trail	$150,000	$210,000
Powerline Trail #2		6.1	6.1	TR-3 Multipurpose Trail	$150,000	$915,000
Lime Kiln Canyon Trail		1.8	1.8	TR-5 Wilderness Trail	$30,000	$54,000
Harbor Parkway Trail	0.4	1.4	1.8	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$350,000
Sage Hills Trail	0.5	1.2	1.7	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$300,000
Fox Hollow Trail		1.8	1.8	TR-4 Rural Trail	$200,000	$360,000
Israel Canyon Trail		0.3	0.3	TR-5 Wilderness Trail	$30,000	$9,000
Reformation Canyon Trail		0.5		TR-5 Wilderness Trail	$30,000	$15,000
Canal Trail	0.6	7.0	7.6	TR-5 Wilderness Trail	$30,000	$210,000
Grand View Blvd. Trail	0.7		0.7	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$0
Pony Express Parkway Trail		2.8	2.8	TR-1 Urban Trail	$250,000	$700,000
Pioneer Crossing Trail		1.3	1.3	TR-1 Urban Trail	$200,000	$260,000
Tickville Gulch Trail		2.3	2.3	TR-4 Rural Trail	$250,000	$575,000
Trail #1		0.8	0.8	TR-4 Rural Trail	$250,000	$200,000
Trail #2		1.0	1.0	TR-4 Rural Trail	$250,000	$250,000
Provo River Parkway	1.1	0.8	1.9	TR-4 Rural Trail	$250,000	$200,000
Other	0.2	2.4	2.6		$150,000	$360,000
TOTAL	11.1	60.5	71.6			$11,393,000
Average Cost Per Mile						$188,314
Additional Miles Needed in 2030	33					$6,214,364
Additional Miles Needed in 2040	15					$2,824,711
Additional Trail Costs						
Trailhead		8	each	Parking, signing	$35,000	$280,000
Trailheads/River Access		2	each	Parking, signing, ramps	$50,000	$100,000
Bridges over the Jordan River		2	each		$1,500,000	$3,000,000
TOTAL						$3,380,000

Source: "Northern Bonneville Shoreline Trail Master Plan", Weber Pathways and Weber County, May 2010 and Landmark Design Inc.

Summary of All Costs

Following is a summary of all costs for improvements to 2030.

Upgrade Existing Parks	$ 421,600
Develop Unconstructed Parks	$ 2,933,800
Construct New Parks for 2030	$17,194,802
Construct New Trail for 2030	$ 6,260,727
Construct Four Trailheads	$ 140,000
Construct One Trailhead/River Access	$ 50,000
Recreation/Aquatic Center	$35,000,000
TOTAL	$62,000,929

In order to accomplish the upgrades, develop the unconstructed park land, complete new park development, and construct new trails and trail heads, the City will need to budget approximately $1.5 million annually for the next 18 years, excluding the cost of the Recreation/Aquatic Center.

The funding required to implement the proposed Master Plan improvements are daunting indeed. Decisions about what kind of funds to use for improvements depend on how long the community wishes to wait for available funds. Grants and many of the funding mechanisms identified in Chapter 6 are likely to be small and require several phases before projects are completed. Some of the options and opportunities are appropriate only for small projects like adding equipment to existing parks slated for upgrading or making trail improvements section by section. These kinds of funds are not appropriate for large projects like a recreation center/aquatic center, or if the community wishes to accomplish a great deal in a very short period of time. In these cases, more aggressive funding options are needed such as bonding, special taxes, special assessment areas, or perhaps a combination. At every opportunity, partners should be sought to help fund projects.

Maintaining City Parks and Trails

Nearly every community faces resource challenges when it comes to maintaining parks and recreation facilities. While the majority of park maintenance funds come from the community's general fund, some maintenance costs are supplemented with fees charged to use facilities, and/or volunteers who donate time. Other communities, in an effort to fund on-going maintenance, are turning to special assessments and additional taxes. Maintaining City parks is critical to protecting the public's investment, while ensuring that parks are used and appreciated, and protecting the public's health, safety, and welfare.

Saratoga Springs City currently spends about $8,000 per acre for maintenance of small developed parks including water and sewer costs, mowing, fertilizing, litter and weed

control, snow plowing of sidewalks and trails to assure residents have year-round access, and recreation equipment maintenance and repairs. This is based on a detailed analysis of Saratoga Hills Park (1.9 acres). Larger parks such as Neptune Park (10.9 acres) require approximately $6,000 per acre for a similar level of development and maintenance. Sunset Haven Park (3.3 acres) consists solely of irrigated sod with no other development; it averages about $4,000 per year for maintenance.[1]

Budgeting for Parks Maintenance

As a general rule, maintaining large parks is more cost effective than maintaining small parks. The analysis above bears this out in Saratoga Springs, where level of development is also a factor. Parks departments are often responsible for maintaining linear spaces along roadways for trails and beautification; these too are very expensive to maintain. In an effort to provide some guidance to the City in evaluating its maintenance budgets and preparing for the future, a small survey of surrounding communities combined with information available on the internet has been assembled. Table 5-6 illustrates average annual maintenance costs for four communities in Utah; Table 5-7 illustrates average annual maintenance costs for four other western communities/counties.

Based on these findings, it seems reasonable to anticipate a cost of approximately $6,000 - 8,000 per acre per year for routine maintenance. With about 105 acres of City-owned and maintained park land (about 20 acres not yet developed), the City should expect to budget between $630,000 and $840,000 per year for routine maintenance of parks at the level that it currently provides.

Table 5-6 – Average Annual Maintenance Costs per Acre of Park Land in Local Communities

Local Source	Avg. Cost Per Acre Per Year	Maintenance Items Included
Logan, UT[2]	$2,109	Mainly turf maintenance.
Sandy City, UT[3]	$9,515	Fertilizer, sprinkler repair, water, restroom supplies, sewer, cleaning, etc. and labor.
Salt Lake City, UT[4]	$8,500	Primarily mowing, watering, etc.
South Jordan, UT[5]	$2,264	Acknowledged as the lowest cost per acre compared to other Salt Lake Valley communities.

The cost of replacing equipment, building restrooms, and other larger expenses are not included in a maintenance budget. However, the City currently maintains more land

[1] Shane Bennett, City of Saratoga Springs Inspector and Rick Kennington, City of Saratoga Springs Parks Superintendent.
[2] Russ Akina, Director Logan City Parks, May 2011.
[3] Dan Medina, Sandy City Parks and Recreation, May 2008.
[4] Val Pope, Salt Lake City Parks and Recreation, May 2008.
[5] "South Jordan Parks, Recreation, and Trails Master Plan, January 2007 Draft, pg. 75

including open spaces, park strips, and trails which will require an additional budget allocation.

Table 5-7 – Average Annual Maintenance Cost per Acre of Park Land in Western Communities

National Source	Avg. Cost Per Acre Per Year	Maintenance Items Included
Arapaho County, CO[6]	$6,710	5 acre park, turf and water
Brentwood, CA[7]	$6,972	Parks 10 ac. plus, landscape only.
	$6,905	Parks 4-8 ac., landscape only.
	$7,367	Parks 2-3 ac., landscape only.
	$10,098	Parks 1-2 ac., landscape only.
Chico, CA[8]	$7,273	Neighborhood Park
	$6,200	Community Park
	$8,333	Linear Park
Ft. Collins, CO[9]	$3,400	100 ac. Park at $340,000 per year.

Based on this information, Saratoga Springs seems to be spending a mid to upper-range cost for parks maintenance, which in some cases includes more than is described in the charts. For the near future, the City should plan on budgeting about that much per acre of developed park, but should anticipate higher costs in the future. Natural parks which provide for a different level of activity and maintenance should be less costly to maintain.

Budgeting for Trails Maintenance

An internet search of trail maintenance costs nationally reveals a broad range, and the information obtained did not specify the level of maintenance, its frequency, trail width (unless shown in Table 5-8) or whether or not the trails were within developed areas or rural areas. The most local of the sources is in Weber County where costs range between $5,000 and $7,500 per mile of paved surface. For budgeting purposes, the City should anticipate a cost of approximately $5,000 to $7,500 per mile of paved trails or between $55,000 and $82,500 per year to maintain the existing eleven miles of trails, and should anticipate those approximate costs as new trails are developed.

[6] Poole, Glen, "Maintenance Cost Development for Arapahoe County Parks, Open spaces, and Trails Division" Master's Thesis, University of Denver, August 2, 2008.
[7] Planning Commission Report, City of Brentwood, California 2007 – internet.
[8] Economic and Planning Systems, “Draft Chico/CARD Park Maintenance Financial Analysis”, 2003 – internet.
[9] Fort Collins Coloradoan, “Tightening Budget Prompts Park Maintenance Pinch”, November 2007 – internet.

Table 5-8 – Average Annual Maintenance Cost per Mile of Trail

Trail Type	Cost Per Mile
Asphalt[10]	$1,458
Asphalt[11]	$8,672
Natural[12]	$2,033
Asphalt[13]	$2,783
Paved[14]	$5,000-$7,500
Paved – 10'[15]	$10,409

Future Costs

In the future, costs are likely to rise so it will be important to invest in equipment and facilities that are vandal-resistant, well constructed, and built to last so that repairs can be kept to a minimum. Additionally, since the largest cost is often the cost of maintaining irrigated lawns, means should be investigated to improve efficiency, use only the water that is needed, and reduce the amount of lawn when possible. Obviously, large fields of lawn are needed to accommodate the many field sports desired by residents; however, there will be parks developed in the future that can be less developed, offer a different set of opportunities, and perhaps be less costly to maintain.

It is important to note that the cost figures contained in this chapter are estimates. As parks are developed, more specific costs will need to be determined as Capital Improvement Plans are developed and priorities are set.

Goals and Policies for Implementation

Goal 1.0: Provide adequate budgets for development of park and recreation facilities and for their on-going maintenance.

Policy 1.1: Fund park and recreation projects based on priorities.

a. Implementation Measure: Working with a group of citizens, staff, and administration, develop criteria for the establishment of priorities in park and recreation facility development

[10] "Rail-Trail Maintenance and Operation", Rails-to-Trails Conservancy, Northeast Regional Office, July 2005
[11] Saitta, Steve, "Concrete, Asphalt, Gravel", Park and Rec Business, March 1, 2011.
[12] Encinatas Trails Master Plan – Maintenance, 1999 – internet.
[13] Strategic Plan, City of Logan Parks and Recreation Plan, May 19, 2009 – internet.
[14] "Weber County Cooperative Pathways Master Plan, May 2010 – internet.
[15] See footnote 6.

b. Implementation Measure: Create annual budgets that identify priorities for park and recreation facility development.

Policy 1.2 Pursue a broad range of funding sources for implementing parks and recreation facilities.

a. Implementation Measure: As priorities are developed, consult the available funding sources regularly.

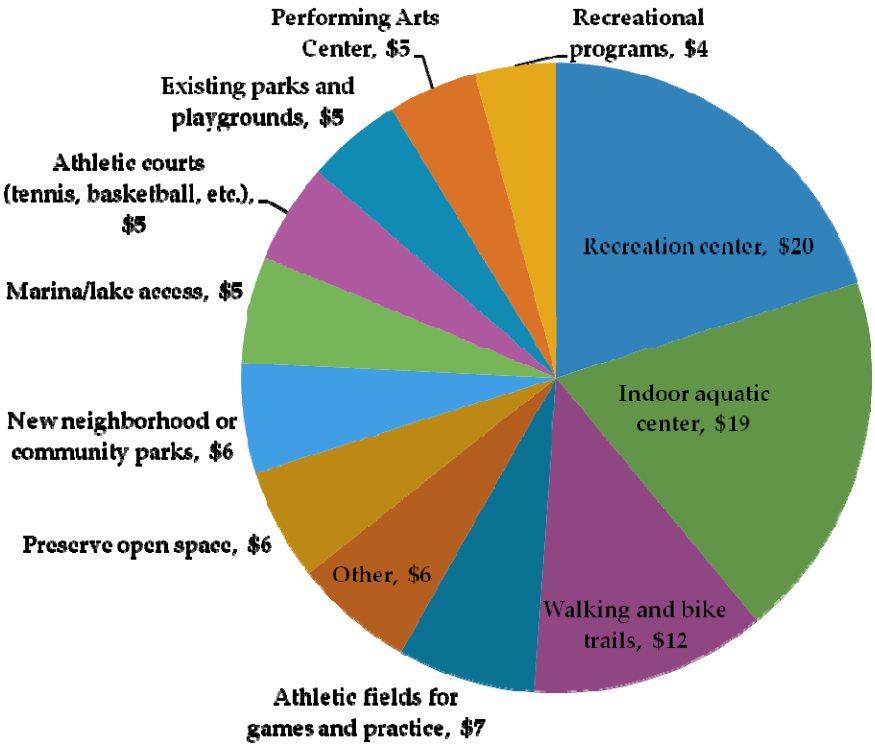
b. Implementation Measure: Seek partners in the development of grants and other funding sources for implementing park, recreation, trails, and open space goals.

6 FUNDING OPTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Introduction

Funding parks, recreation, and trails projects is the most challenging aspect of implementing the plan. In terms of priorities, Saratoga Springs City residents who responded to the survey have indicated their priorities for the allocation of funds. Figure 5-1 illustrates the response to a question asking people to allocate $100 dollars either all in one place or spread over several areas. Respondents place the highest priority on allocating resources for a recreation center, indoor aquatic center, walking and biking trails, and athletic fields for games and practices.

Figure 6-1 – Allocation of Resources toward Facilities and Programs



Aside from raising taxes or implementing some sort of special assessment, there are a range of funding options and opportunities to be explored. Public funding is much more difficult to obtain in 2011, and many programs are either not being funded or have been substantially reduced by either Federal or State agencies. Money from foundations and other philanthropic organizations and groups is also difficult to acquire, in part because available funds are highly sought-after and very competitive. Nevertheless, there are sources and they should be explored to the fullest.

Funding Options and Opportunities for Large Projects

General Obligation Bonds

Overview of General Obligation Bonds

The lowest interest cost financing for any local government is typically through the levying of taxes through the issuance of General Obligation bonds. General Obligation bonds, commonly referred to as "G.O. bonds," are secured by the unlimited pledge of the taxing ability of the District, sometimes called a "full faith and credit" pledge. Because G.O. bonds are secured by and repaid from property taxes , they are generally viewed as the lowest credit risk to bond investors. This low risk usually translates into the lowest interest rates of any municipal bond structure.

Under the Utah State Constitution, any bonded indebtedness secured by property tax levies must be approved by a majority of voters in a bond election called for that purpose. Currently, bond elections may only be held twice each year; either on the third Tuesday following the third Monday in June (the date of any primary elections) or on the November general election date.

If the recreation improvements being considered for funding through the G.O. bond have broad appeal to the public and proponents are willing to assist in the promotional efforts, G.O. bonds for recreation projects can meet with public approval. However, due to the fact that some constituents may not view them as essential-purpose facilities for a local government or may view the government as competing with the private sector, obtaining positive voter approval may be a challenge.

Also, it should be noted that a G.O. bond election, if successful, would only cover the financing of capital expenditures for the facility. Either facility revenues or other City funds would still be needed to pay for the operational and maintenance expenses of the facility.

State law limitations on the amount of General Obligation indebtedness for this type of facility are quite high with the limit being four percent of a City's taxable value. Pursuant to state law the debt must be structured to mature in forty years or less, but practically the City would not want to structure the debt to exceed the useful life of the facility.

Advantages of G.O. bonds:

- Lowest interest rates
- Lowest bond issuance costs
- If approved, a new 'revenue' is identified to pay for the capital cost

Disadvantages of G.O. bonds:

- Timing issues; limited dates to hold required G.O. election
- Risk of a "no" vote while still incurring costs of holding a bond election

- Can only raise taxes to finance bonds through election process to pay for physical facilities, not ongoing or additional operation and maintenance expense. This would have to be done through a separate truth-in-taxation tax increase.

Sales Tax Revenue Bonds

Overview of Sales Tax Revenue Bonds

Several years ago Utah state law was amended to allow municipalities to issue debt secured by a pledge of their sales tax receipts. Sales tax revenue bonds have been well received in the markets and may be used for a wide variety of municipal capital projects, including recreation facilities. State law limits the amount of sales tax revenue bonds that may be issued by a community. Under current law, the total annual debt service on all sales tax revenue bonds issued by a City may not exceed 80 percent of the sales tax revenues received by the City in the preceding fiscal year. Also, due to the facts that (i) most cities rely heavily on their sales tax revenues for their operations; and (ii) local governments have very little control over the sales tax revenue source; the financial markets will typically only allow an issuer to utilize approximately one-half of the revenues available as a pledge toward debt service as they require minimum debt service coverage covenants of two times revenues to debt costs.

Additionally, due to most Cities' reliance on sales tax revenues for general operations, unless the City has additional revenue sources that can be devoted to repayment of the bonds, or is anticipating a spike in sales tax revenues due to new large retail businesses locating in the City, existing sales tax revenues would have to be diverted to repay the bonds.

Utah local government sales tax revenue bonds are very well regarded in the bond market and will generally trade within five to fifteen basis points of where the City's General Obligation Bond debt would price.

Advantages of Sales Tax Revenue Bonds:

- Relatively low interest rates
- No vote required

Disadvantages of Sales Tax Revenue Bonds:

- Utilizes existing City funds with no new revenue source identified
- Somewhat higher financing costs than G.O. Bonds

Special Assessment Areas

Overview of Special Assessment Areas (SAA)

Formerly known as Special Improvement Districts or (SIDs), a Special Assessment Area (SAA) provides a means for a local government to designate an area as benefited by an

improvement and levy an assessment to pay for the improvements. The assessment levy is then pledged to retire the debt incurred in constructing the project.

While not subject to a bond election as General Obligation bonds require, SAAs may not, as a matter of law, be created if 50 percent or more of the property owners subject to the assessment, weighted by method of assessment, within the proposed SAA, protest its creation. Politically, most City Councils would find it difficult to create an SAA if even 20-30 percent of property owners oppose the SAA. If created, the City's ability to levy an assessment within the SAA provides a sound method of financing although it will be at interest rates higher than other types of debt that the City could consider issuing.

The underlying rationale of an SAA is that those who benefit from the improvements will be assessed for the costs. For a project such as a recreation facility, which by definition is intended to serve all residents of the community, and in this case possibly serve multiple communities, it would be difficult to make a case for excluding any residential properties from being assessed, although commercial property would have to be evaluated with bond counsel. The ongoing annual administrative obligations related to an SAA would be formidable even though state law allows the City to assess a fee to cover such administrative costs. Special Assessment notices are mailed out by the entity creating the assessment area and are not included as part of the annual tax notice and collection process conducted by the County.

If an SAA is used, the City would have to decide on a method of assessment (i.e. per residence, per acre, by front-footage, etc.) which is fair and equitable to both residential and commercial property owners.

This ability to utilize this mechanism by cities joined together under an inter-local cooperative would need to be explored with legal counsel. There are a number of issues that would need to be considered such as ownership of the facility and a local government can only assess property owners within its proper legal boundaries.

Advantages of SAA Bonds:

- Assessments provide a 'new' revenue source to pay for the capital expense
- No general vote required (but those assessed can challenge the creation)

Disadvantages of SAA Bonds:

- Higher financing costs
- Significant administration costs for a City-Wide Assessment area

Note – Due to the costs of administering a City-Wide SAA and given that special assessments cannot be deducted from income taxes, but property taxes can, it seems more rational to seek for G.O. election approval rather than form a City-Wide SAA.

Lease Revenue Bonds

Overview of Lease Revenue Bonds

One financing option which, until the advent of sales tax revenue bonds, was frequently used to finance recreation facilities is a Lease Revenue Bond issued by the Local Building Authority (formerly Municipal Building Authority) of the City. This type of bond would be secured by the recreation center property and facility itself, not unlike real property serving as the security for a home mortgage. Lease revenue bonds are repaid by an annual appropriation of the lease payment by the City Council. Generally this financing method works best when used for an essential public facility such as city halls, police stations and fire stations. Interest rates on a lease revenue bond would likely be 15 to 30 basis points higher than on sales tax revenue bonds depending on the market's assessment of the "essentiality" of the facility.

Financial markets generally limit the final maturity on this type of issue to the useful life of the facility and state law limits the term of the debt to a maximum of forty years. As the City is responsible to make the lease payments, the financial markets determine the perceived willingness and ability of the City to make those payments by a thorough review of the City's General Fund monies.

As this type of bond financing does not generate any new revenue source, the City Council will still need to identify revenue sources sufficient to make the lease payments to cover the debt service.

Creative use of this option could be made with multiple local governments, each of which could finance their portion through different means – one could use sales tax, another could issue G.O. bonds, etc.

Advantages of Lease Revenue Bonds:

- No general vote required
- No specific revenue pledge required

Disadvantages of Lease Revenue Bonds:

- Higher financing costs than some other alternatives
- No 'new' revenue source identified to make up the use of general fund monies that will be utilized to make the debt service payment

Creation of a Special Service District

Recreation Special Service District

A city, or several cities via inter-local agreement, can create a Recreation District charged with providing certain services to residents of the area covered by the District. A Special District has the ability to levy a property tax assessment on residents of the District to pay

for both the bond debt service and O&M. It should be noted that the City already has the ability to levy, subject to a bond election and/or the truth-in-taxation process, property taxes. The creation of a Recreation Special Service District serves to separate its designated functions from those of the City by creating a separate entity with its own governing body. However, an additional layer of government may not be the most cost effective.

"Creative Financings"

Non-traditional sources of funding may be used in order to minimize the amount that needs to be financed via the issuance of debt. The City's approach should be to utilize community support for fund-raising efforts, innovative sources of grants, utilization of naming rights/donations, partnership opportunities involving other communities and the private sector, together with cost-sharing arrangements with school districts. To the extent debt must be incurred to complete the financing package, alternative bonding structures, as discussed above, should be evaluated in order to find the optimal structure based on the financial resources of the City.

Funding Options and Opportunities for Smaller Projects

Private Funds

Private and Public Partnerships

The Parks and Recreation Department or a group of communities acting cooperatively, and a private developer or other government or quasi-government agency may often cooperate on a facility that services the public, yet is also attractive to an entrepreneur or another partner. These partnerships can be effective funding opportunities for special use sports facilities like baseball complexes or soccer complexes; however, they generally are not feasible when the objective is to develop community parks that provide facilities such as playgrounds, informal playing fields, and other recreational opportunities that are generally available to the public free of charge. A recreation center, community center, or swimming/water park is also potentially attractive as a private or public partnership.

Private Fundraising

While not addressed as a specific strategy for individual recreation facilities, it is not uncommon for public monies to be leveraged with private donations. Private funds will most likely be attracted to high-profile facilities such as a swimming complex or sports complex, and generally require aggressive promotion and management on behalf of the park and recreation department or city administration.

Service Organization Partners

Many service organizations and corporations have funds available for park and recreation facilities. Local Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, and other service organizations often combine resources to develop park and recreation facilities. Other for-profit organizations such as Home Depot and Lowes are often willing to partner with local communities in the

development of playground and other park and recreation equipment and facilities. Again, the key is a motivated individual or group who can garner the support and funding desired.

Joint Development Partnerships

Joint development opportunities may also occur between municipalities and among agencies or departments within a municipality. Cooperative relationships between cities and counties are not uncommon, nor are partnerships between cities and school districts. Often, small cities in a region are able to cooperate and pool resources for recreation projects. There may be other opportunities as well which should be explored whenever possible in order to maximize recreation opportunities and minimize costs. In order to make these kinds of opportunities happen, there must be on-going and constant communication between residents, governments, business interests, and others.

Local Funding Sources

ZAP or RAP Taxes

Many communities or counties have initiated and voted-in **Z**oo, **A**rts, and **P**arks or **R**ecreation, **A**rts, and **P**arks taxes which have been very effective in raising funds to complete parks, recreation, trails, and arts projects. They are generally administered by a municipality or county.

Park and Recreation Impact Fees

Saratoga Springs has an impact fee program for park and recreation projects which will be reevaluated in 2011. Impact fees can be used by communities to offset the cost of public parks and facilities needed to serve future residents and new development.

Impact fees are especially useful in areas of rapid growth. They help the community to maintain a current level of service as new development puts strain on existing facilities. It assures that new development pays its proportionate share to maintain quality of life expectations for its residents.

Dedications and Development Agreements

The dedication of land for parks, and park development agreements has long been an accepted development requirement and is another valuable tool for implementing parks. The City can require the dedication of park land through review of projects such as Planned Unit Developments (PUDs). Saratoga Springs has received park dedications and trails easements in the past and should continue the practice.

Special Taxes

Tax revenue collected for special purposes may be earmarked for park development. For instance, the room tax applied to hotel and motel rooms in the City could be earmarked for parks, recreation, and trails development but is generally earmarked for tourism-related projects.

Community Development Block Grants

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can be used for park development in areas of the City that qualify as low and moderate income areas. CDBG funds may be used to upgrade parks, purchase new park equipment, and improve accessibility (Americans With Disabilities Act). Additionally, CDBG funds may be used for projects that remove barriers to access for the elderly and for persons with severe disabilities.

User Fees

User fees may be charged for reserved rentals on park pavilions and for recreation programs. These fees should be evaluated to determine whether or not they are appropriate. A feasibility study may be needed to acquire the appropriate information before making decisions and changes.

Redevelopment Agency Funds

Generally, Redevelopment Agency (RDA) Funds are available for use in redevelopment areas. As new RDA areas are identified and developed, tax increment funds generated can, at the discretion of the City, be used to fund park acquisition and development.

State and Federal Programs

The availability of these funds may change annually depending on budget allocations at the state or federal level. It is important to check with local representatives and administering agencies to find out the current status of funding. Many of these programs are funded by the Federal government and administered by local State agencies.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

This Federal money is made available to States, and in Utah is administered by the Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation. Funds are matched with local funds for acquisition of park and recreation lands, redevelopment of older recreation facilities, trails, improvements to accessibility, and other recreation programs and facilities that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for youth, adults, senior citizens, and persons with physical and mental disabilities.

SAFETEA-LU

As of March 7, 2011 both the House and Senate passed the Surface Transportation Extension Act of 2011 to extend federal transportation programs to September 30, 2011. H.R. 662 was introduced in the House by the Republican and Democrat leaders of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. The legislation freezes funding at fiscal year 2010 levels for highway, transit and highways safety programs.
Source: http://www.americantrails.org/reauth.html

The Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) establishes federal transportation policy and funding – the original five-year program ended in 2009 and has been receiving periodic interim funding since then. The extension mentioned above is another of those attempts to keep the program going.

Recreation Trails were funded at $85 million in 2009. Eligible activities include bicycle, pedestrian or shared use physical facilities; conversion of abandoned railroad corridors for trails; and safety and education programs for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Federal Recreational Trails Program

The Utah Department of Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division administers these Federal funds. The funds are available for motorized and non-motorized trail development and maintenance projects, educational programs to promote trail safety, and trail related environmental protection projects. The match is 50 percent, and grants may range from $10,000 to $200,000. Projects are awarded in August.

Utah Trails and Pathways / Non-Motorized Trails Program

Funds are available for planning, acquisition, and development of recreational trails. The program is administered by the Board of Utah State Parks and Recreation, which awards grants at its fall meeting based on recommendations of the Recreation Trails Advisory Council and Utah State Parks and Recreation. The match is 50 percent, and grants may range from $5,000 to $100,000.

LeRay McAllister Critical Land Conservation Fund

The fund was administered by the Utah Quality Growth Commission and provided funds each year to preserve or restore critical open or agricultural lands in Utah, and targeted lands deemed important to the community such as agricultural lands, wildlife habitat, watershed protection, and other culturally or historically unique landscapes. In the 2011 session, Utah lawmakers cut off all financing to the fund eliminating the state's only source that qualifies for federal conservation monies. The LeRay McAllister Fund has preserved about 80,000 acres of land, most of it agricultural as well as recreational and archaeological sites. Over the past 10 years, the state pitched in $20 million that was matched by $110 million from the federal government and other sources. Though the program will not be funded this year, it is hoped that it can be reinstated next year.

In-Kind and Donated Services or Funds

Several options for local initiatives are possible to further the implementation of the parks, recreation, and trails plan. These kinds of programs would require the City to implement a proactive recruiting initiative to generate interest and sponsorship, and may include:

- Adopt-a-park or adopt-a-trail, whereby a service organization or group either raises funds or constructs a given facility with in-kind services;
- Corporate sponsorships, whereby businesses or large corporations provide funding for a particular facility, similar to adopt-a–trail or adopt-a-park; or
- Public trail and park facility construction programs, in which local citizens donate their time and effort to planning and implementing trail projects and park improvements.

Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan

Saratoga Springs, Utah

Appendix

APPENDIX

Public Scoping Meeting Notes

Draft Plan Open House Meeting Notes

Survey Form: Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space

Public Scoping Meeting Notes
Saratoga Springs Park, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan
Thursday, February 17th 6:00 PM, Saratoga Hill City Hall

Compiled by Jan Striefel and Lisa Benson, Landmark Design

4 members of the general public attended.

1. There is supposed to be a trail around Utah Lake – who will maintain it? The County maintain their sections; HOAs maintain theirs. In the future maintenance may change. The city will probably make repairs, etc., and trails will be dedicated to the City. A small section hear Harbor Bay has been dedicated to the City and will be maintained by the City.

2. Existing trails are not maintained, such as Pelican Bay. South of the Marina the trails are overgrown.Those at Harbor Bay that are concrete and have walls apear to be designed to survive better, though they are overgrown and spider infested. The Marina is a great facility, and it is nice to use the trails for those who don't have boats. Trails north of the marina are more accessible, and those at Harbor Bay appear are built better, though some of the fence posts are falling over.

3. The Saratoga Springs Development HOA trail is gravel. The Utah Lake Commission is recommending a standard of 10' wide asphalt paths, what will the new standards be for Saratoga Springs? The City should have uniform standards that match the lakeside standards.

4. The County or the City needs to be in charge of trail maintenance. HOAs can't maintain as well because funding is difficult. Need one authority over the trails.

5. Wildlife is abundant along the lake edge and accessible by trails. Its exciting. Need to maintain wildlife habitat.

6. The Utah Lake Commission recommends a 50' buffer around the lake edge. Will this requirement be a part of this plan? It's a great idea. Right now policies seem to be inconsistent. The City's current policy does not permit development below the 100-year flood plain elevation.

7. Upland trails are easier to build that those immediately adjacent to the lake.

8. Need to control phragmites along the shoreline. Saratoga Bay is being worked on right now by the County to control invasive and undesirable species. The County is clearing 400 acres of phragmites now to control phragmites which is considered a fire hazard.

9. What will the land use plan be for south of Pelican Bay? Single family residential between Pelican Bay and the marina park is anticipated. Drainages will be protected and there will be trails. The drainages are critical.

10. Need mountain biking and hiking trails. Mountain biking trails are hard to maintain because of the thorns. A single track trail on the mountainside would be great. May need to work with the public agencies (BLM and State lands) to make connections.

11. When will the improvements to Marina Park be made? When money becomes available; the city council has made it a priority. Park impact fees can be used. Also have wetlands to mitigate. The area is utilized whether or not it is planned; access needs to be controlled. People will take ownership and misuse the area if the City doesn't take control.

12. Beach locations – how much more is possibe? Need additional marina through the city. Partner with the county and state to identify possible additional beach areas where they can be informally accessed. Second to boating, the beach area is the most popular.

13. Bird habitat is great, but so is a beach.

14. Is there a possibilitiy of a state park? Maybe.

15. What about the Utah Lake bridge? It is planned just north of Pelican Point and will connect to 800 North in Orem. The MAG plan shows another option at 2000 S. at Orem/Provo border. It is proposed to be built in phases – one lane each way to begin with, and a second bridge later with two lanes constructed beside the first one. Eventually, it could be two lanes in each direction. What is the possibility of this actually happening? It is way out, probably 10-20 years away. The developers say they have the funds, but will have to bond to assure it is finished. People seem to support it, but it would be a private toll enterprise. There will be a bike lane on the bridge. The Utah Lake Commission is reviewing an option for lighting. It will require a lease from the State Soverign Lands board. It would be a bridge, not an embankment, and tall enough for a boat to sail under.

16. Need to construct more fish habitat.

17. At the new elementary school there appears to be a dead end road. Is this correct? The developer will connect Aspen Hills Blvd to Redwood in the future. Is a Harvest/Aspen Hills access planned? There could be a lot of traffic for one neighborhood. The City is in discussions with the school district and the canal company in an effort to coordinate a trail from Harvest Hills to the school. In January, the canal board denied a request to construct a bridge over the canal citing liability concerns. The City and the developer are still trying to work with them. The canal is not fenced and is open. The school is intended to be a

walkable school – most of the students live within Harvest Hills. There will be a trail behind the properties on Aspen Hills in the future. Near Harvest Hills, the developer and school district would fund the trail and the trail could possibly go through Shay Park. There is a pipeline planned along the trails corridor in Aspen Hills. It is an 18 month project and will be 2 years before the City will likely approve the trail.

18. The canal company pulled the application for a crossing. The developer and school district would fund the trails, and the trail could go through Shay Park.

19. Do private property owners have to worry about condemnation for trails? There will be no takings for trails. New development must accommodate and dedicate land for trails.

20. Avoid the lake edge for trails – levels fluctuate. The lake has no specific boundary, and has not been surveyed. Maybe use a compromise level to establish a lake boundary.

21. The historic canal at the lake edge affects access.

22. Will there be a resort by Vineyard? A new town is planned on the old Geneva Steel site. There seems to be a lot of support for the plan which will be a redevelopment area.

The meeting ended at approximately 7:30 p.m.

Draft Plan Open House Meeting Notes
Saratoga Springs Park, Recreation, Trails & Open Space Master Plan
Wednesday, July 13, 2011 6:00 – 8:00 PM, Saratoga Hill City Hall
Landmark Design Inc.

WRITTEN COMMENTS RECEIVED – 8

1. I have the original map of the Harvest Hills Park. There are many amenities shown that are missing on the "proposed improvements" list. I'm concerned that we have all improvements for all parks listed for prioritizing and planning purposes.

We need to make sure that trails are connected throughout the City so that residents are able to cross Redwood and SR73 etc. Without these crossings subdivisions become isolated from the rest of the City.

Make sure water facilities are sufficient for all parks and residents.

Thanks for the work! Email or call me if you want to see the map. Shellie Baertsch, shelliebaertsch@gmail.com, 766-0663.

2. Three important things to me.
Where Saratoga Springs is located, we have an extremely unique opportunity to take advantage of our GORGEOUS lakefront property, and yet it is a tragedy that it remains almost entirely inaccessible due to swamps, etc. This is a community of families who would absolutely LOVE better lakefront access like beaches, canoeing, etc. Taking my children to the "beach" just down the road from my house would be a dream. Please let's improve lakefront access. Bottom line: PLEASE MORE BEACHES.

Also, our neighborhood (Hawks Landing up Wildlife Blvd.) is virtually cut off from everything. I would love to use the Redwood Road trail that currently exists, but it ends 1 miles before Wildlife Blvd., and I don't dare take my kids in a stroller along Redwood Rd. (with very little shoulder) to access it a mile down the road. So we're cut off from all trails in Saratoga Springs.

We need more trees in our city. Tree makes everyone happier.

3. I want to see a trail system completed through the Harvest Hills Native Park. A completed trail system will allow a safer route for children to walk to school from the north side of Harvest Hills.

- Maintenance will be limited to snow removal.
- Traffic through the park will be controlled and centralized resulting in less impact on the "native" aspect.
- Views are great from within the park.
- More traffic could help prevent another fire – more eyes to police activities of children.
- Join neighborhoods.

- Access points would be completed and finished – currently looks unfinished.
- HOA says they are in favor of the idea.

4. Concerns on finishing phases of Harvest Hills Park. Lots of promises made that have not been delivered. I understand the need for parks in areas with none, however, why are we not progressing on phases of parks when they are built-out so they grow with the kids currently living there instead of investing money into parks with lots of building left to be done.

5. Open Space: Please preserve native plants that already exist. Near Wildlife Boulevard the open space is grass, further up the hill in the not yet completed road there are many native plants. It is very important not to disturb them during construction. Otherwise the weeds will overtake and it would take 10 years for native plants to re-establish.

Trail near Jordan River – need canoe/kayak access.

6. Thank you for this meeting. It was very informative. My opinions are as follows:

I would like to see more parks with better playground equipment. The current equipment doesn't seem to hold any interest for children older than age five. Neptune Park equipment sounds interesting and I have high hopes.

Funding for parks. I would rather see fundraising used than issue bonds. I would like our city to not incur the added debt to get parks sooner than when we can afford them. Again, thanks.

7. Melisa Brown resident. I am very impressed with what is proposed for our city. I would love to see a recreational center for our youth and also our senior population. I am extremely disappointed in the fact that there aren't baseball fields. Baseball is an American past time and we have plenty of soccer fields. We are taking our children to different towns to play baseball, its silly. Saratoga needs to step it up and add these to our community, it will only add to our great community.

8. I would love to see a light or something put in at Redwood Road and the entrance to the Saratoga Hills Development! (Grandview Blvd.)

My children's school is across Redwood Road – even though we can see the school and even hear the announcements on their intercom – there is no way that I could ever let my children walk to school. Crossing Redwood Road on foot is too unsafe. I have done it with them, but it is so scary especially because the speed limit has risen from 45 to 50 mph, and cars fly around the bend traveling northbound from the southern part of Saratoga Springs so quickly!

If we could cross more safely, I would take my children for walks in that neighborhood and I would walk my children to school.

Tania Young, oneprettybutterfly@comcast.net

Also, do you know if we will ever have a trail around the lake? I followed a trail up to the north of the lake and it just died in a farmer's field.

INFORMAL COMMENTS RECEIVED AND RECORDED

- Keep open space natural, undeveloped.
- Put park and trail map on-line so we can access them. Would like to visit other parks, but do not know where they are.
- Harvest Hills – how come all the facilities shown on the master plan drawings are not in the list of things for park improvements?
- Add Wetland Park to the park along the Jordan River.
- Need indoor tennis courts.
- Harvest Hills Native Park needs trails as an alterative route to school and to enjoy the native area.
- Private park directly east of C-8 (Summerhill).
- We need to get some sort of pedestrian access from Lake Mtn./Hawks Landing areas to where the trails start in Fox Hollow area.

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS PARKS AND OPEN SPACE SURVEY

1. Please rank, in order of importance, how your household leisure and recreational needs are currently met *(Please list **ONLY THREE** choices. 1 = 1st choice, 2 = 2nd choice, and 3 = 3rd choice).*

(1)_____ Church
(2)_____ Private fitness clubs
(3)_____ HOA facilities
(4)_____ At home gym
(5)_____ Saratoga Springs parks and trails
(6)_____ Public lands (forest service, ski resorts, trails and roadways, BLM)
(7)_____ Golf course
(8)_____ Lake activities
(9)_____ Saratoga Springs City programs
(10)_____ Programs offered by schools or community groups
(11)_____ Programs offered by other cities
(12)_____ Needs are not met
(13)_____ Other (please explain)_____

2. Which of the following parks are used by your household? *(Please check all that apply.)*

(a)_____ Harvest Hills City Park
(b)____ Sunrise Meadows City Park
(c)_____ Dalmore Meadows City Park
(d)____ Loch Lomond City Park and Pond
(e)_____ Saratoga Hills City Park (off of Lucas Lane)
(f)_____ The Benches City Park (off of Pond Drive)
(g)____ Jacobs Ranch Large City Park
(h)____ Jacobs Ranch Small City Park (off of Western Drive)
(i)_____ Summerhill City Park
(j)_____ Lake Mountain City Parks
(k)____ City Marina (off of Harbor Parkway)
(l)_____ HOA Facilities
(m)____ Playgrounds/fields at local schools
(n)____ None
(o)_____ Other_____

3. Which of the parks listed in question #2 does your household use most often?

_____

4. Why do you use the park listed above most often? *(Please pick up to three (3) choices.)*

(1)_____Closest to home
(2)_____Sports fields/courts
(3)_____Trails
(4)____Picnic facilities
(5)____Feels safe
(6)____Closest to work
(7)____Playground equipment
(8)____Trees, atmosphere
(9)____Other (please explain below):

_____

5. What improvements should be made to the park you use most often? *(Please pick up to three (3) choices.)*

(1)_____ Playground equipment
(2) _____ Sport fields/courts
(3) _____ Improved maintenance/cleanliness
(4) _____ Add lighting, safety features
(5) _____ Measured walk/jog paths
(6) _____ Picnic facilities
(7) _____ Educational walking areas
(8) _____ Disabled access
(9) _____ Restrooms
(10) ____ Trees
(11) ____ No improvements needed
(12) ____ Other (please explain below):

_____
_____

6. If you do NOT use any of the above parks, please tell us why. *(Please pick up to three (3) choices.)*

(1)_____Don't have park features I'm interested in
(2)_____Don't feel safe at parks
(3)_____Disability or age
(4)_____Lack of transportation to get to parks
(5)_____Belong to a private club
(6)_____Other (please explain below):

_____

7. From your perspective, is it important to have public parks within walking distance of your neighborhood (within ½ mile or 10 minutes)?

(1)_____ Yes (2)_____ No (3)_____ Don't know

8. What type of parks are most needed in Saratoga Springs? *(Please pick up to two (2) choices.)*

(1)_____Very large natural open space
(2)_____Large community parks for multi-use
(3)_____Park land for sports fields
(4)_____Neighborhood parks
(5)_____Marina Parks
(6)_____Specialty parks, i.e. dog, skate board, BMX
(7)_____Trail-head parks
(8)_____Linear parks along rivers, drainages and washes

9. If you are a park user, how often do you use city parks?

(1) _____ 1 – 2 times per year
(2) _____ 3 – 4 times per year
(3) _____ 5 – 6 times per year
(4) _____ 7 – 8 times per year
(5) _____ 9 – 10 times per year
(6) _____ 10+ times per year

10. If you use the playgrounds and fields at local schools (excluding organized sporting events) which schools do you use?

_____

11. If you use the private amenities in a Condo or Townhome development please list the development then check which amenities you use. *(Please check all that apply.)*

Development: _____

(a) ____Playground
(b) ____Splash-pad
(c) ____Pool
(d) ____Picnic Areas
(e) ____Other (please explain:)_____

12. Saratoga Springs currently offers the following recreational programs. Please **check the box** next to the programs you and your family participate in and **circle the relative importance** of providing these programs for you and your family. *(Please check all that apply).*

	City Programs Currently Offered	**Importance** *Not Imp.....Very Imp*				
	(a)Basketball (youth)	1	2	3	4	5
	(b)Flag football (youth)	1	2	3	4	5
	(c)Soccer (youth)	1	2	3	4	5
	(d)T-ball (t-ball)	1	2	3	4	5

13. If you or your family **DO NOT** participate in **any** of the above activities, why not? *(Please pick up to three (3) choices.)*

(1) _____Do not offer activities I'm interested in
(2) _____Lack of transportation
(3) _____Classes are offered at inconvenient times
(4) _____Programs are too expensive
(6) _____Poor quality of classes
(7) _____Poor quality of facilities
(8) _____ Other (please explain below):

_____

14. Saratoga Springs **does NOT** currently offer the following programs. Please check the ones that you and your family would participate in if they were offered. (*Please check all that apply.)*

	City Programs Considered
	(a)Adult basketball
	(b)Adult soccer
	(c)Adult flag football
	(d)Adult volleyball
	(e)Adult tennis
	(f)Adult baseball/softball
	(g)Aerobics
	(h)Agility training
	(i)Babysitter certification
	(j)Biking
	(k)Dance (ballet, ballroom, jazz)
	(l)First aid
	(m)Fishing
	(n)Fly tying
	(o)Tackle football
	(p)Golf
	(q)Gymnastics
	(r)Hunter safety
	(s)Indoor soccer
	(t)Lacrosse
	(u)Marathon
	(v)Martial arts
	(w)Performing Arts
	(x)Racquetball
	(y)Sailing/boating
	(z)Self defense
	(aa)Ski/Snowboard instruction
	(ab)Scrapbooking
	(ac)Scouting/merit badge classes
	(ad)Swimming
	(ae)Track & Field
	(af)Triathlon
	(ag)Youth Baseball
	(ah)Youth Softball
	(ai)Youth Tennis
	(aj)Youth Volleyball
	(ak)Youth cheer
	(al)Water-skiing
	(am)Wrestling
	(an)Other _____

15. Do you or your family use the city's trails system? (1)_____ Yes (2) _____No
If yes, how often?
(1) _____Daily (4 or more times per week) (3) _____Monthly
(2) _____Weekly (4) _____Yearly

16. If City trails were more complete or connected would you use them more often?
(1)_____ Yes (2)_____ No (3)_____ Indifferent

17. Please check the reasons why you use the trails *(please check all that apply)*:
(a) _____Bicycle (recreation)
(b) _____Bicycle (commuting)
(c) _____Equestrian
(d) _____Walking/Jogging/Hiking
(e) _____In-Line Skating/Skateboard
(f) _____ Motorized (ATV)
(g) _____Other (please explain below):
_____
_____

18. Please put a check mark by those trails that you use most often.
(a) _____Redwood Road Trails
(b) _____Saratoga Springs PUD private trails
(c) _____Canal Trails
(d) _____Harvest Hills HOA private trails
(e) _____Powerline Trails
(f) _____ Riverside Trails
(g) _____Lakefront Trails
(h) _____800 West and 1200 North Trail
(i) _____Hawks Landing/Ranch Drainage Trail
(j) _____ Fox Hollow Drainage Trail
(k) _____Local Mountain Trails

19. What improvements should be made to the trails system? *(Please pick up to three (3) choices.)*
(1)_____More trailheads
(2)_____More parking
(3)_____More lighting
(4)_____Open longer during season
(5)_____Restrooms
(6)_____Picnic shelters at trail heads
(7)_____Interpretive trails (environment education)
(8) _____Increased trail miles
(9) _____Linking neighborhoods with trail system
(10)_____Linking commercial and business areas to improve commuting
(11)_____Connecting gaps in existing trail system
(12) ____ ATV trailhead signage
(13) ____ Other (please explain below):
_____
_____

20. Should Saratoga Springs increase or keep the same amount of trails of each type?
(Please check the box that best describes your feelings.)

	Increase	Same Amount	Don't Know
(a)Asphalt			
(b)Concrete			
(c)Natural surface – hiking, biking, etc.			
(d)Natural surface - motorized			
(e)Other _____ _____			

21. When is it important for Saratoga Springs to develop the following facilities and programs? *(Please check the box that best describes your feelings.)*

	Never	Within 1-5 yrs	Within 6-10 yrs	Within 11-15 yrs	Within 16-20 yrs
(a)Additional parks					
(b)Sport fields					
(c)Trails					
(d)Dog parks					
(e)Skate parks					
(f)Acquisition of open space					
(g)Recreation center(s)					
(h)Swimming pool(s)					
(i)Senior Center					
(j)Performing Arts Center					
(k)City Amphitheater					
(l)Recreation programs for adults					
(m)Recreation programs for youth					
(n)Water front activities (boating, canoes)					
(o)Other (please specify:)_____ _____					

22. Please suggest *up* to 4 activities/programs and facilities (parks, recreation and trails) **not** currently offered by the City that you feel are most needed by Saratoga Springs.

NEW ACTIVITIES/PROGRAMS NEEDED	NEW FACILITIES NEEDED
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____
4. _____	4. _____

23. Please indicate below how well Saratoga Springs meets the recreational demands of the community for programming and facilities? (*Circle the appropriate number.)*

Not meeting demands……..Meets demands exceptionally well

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

Please explain how the City can better meet your needs and expectations.

_____

_____

_____

24. **FACILITIES.** Question #24 is a 2-part question. In the column on the left, please tell us **the relative importance of providing these facilities for you and your family**. In the column on the right, please tell us **how well we are currently providing services in the same categories.**

Importance						Performance – Provision of Facilities				
Not Imp……Very Imp						*Poor……Excellent*				
1	2	3	4	5	(a)Amphitheater	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(b)Arboretum/nature center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(c)Batting cages	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(d)City trees	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(e)Courts - basketball multi-use/outdoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(f)Courts - basketball/volleyball - indoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(g)Courts – racquetball/handball	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(h)Courts - tennis	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(i)Courts - volleyball/outdoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(j)Disc/Frisbee golf areas	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(k)Exercise and fitness facilities - indoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(l)Fairgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(m)Fields - adult softball	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(n)Fields - baseball	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(o)Fields - football/rugby	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(p)Fields - multi-use/flexible practice	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(q)Fields - soccer	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(r)Fields - youth baseball and softball	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(s)Fishing areas	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(t)Golf course	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(u)Golf driving range	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(v)Ice skating rink - outdoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(w)Leisure pool - Aquatic Center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(x)Nature center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(y)Parks - BMX bicycle	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(z)Parks - dog	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(aa)Parks - equestrian	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ab)Parks - large community	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ac)Parks - nature	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ad)Parks - skateboarding/hockey	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ae)Parks - small neighborhood	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(af)Performing Arts Center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ag)Picnic facilities	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ah)Playgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ai)Preservation of open space	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(aj)Recreation center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ak)Senior center	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(al)Splash pad	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(am)Swimming pools - indoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(an)Swimming pools - outdoor	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ao)Trails - ATV	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ap)Trails - walking and biking trails	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(aq)Trails – trailheads to mountain trails	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(ar)Trails linking the City	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(as)Weight training facility	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(at)Water – River access/put-ins	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(au)Water – Lake access	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(av)Water – Marina space/access	1	2	3	4	5
1	2	3	4	5	(aw)Other _____	1	2	3	4	5

25. If you had $100 to spend on additional facilities, how would you divide the $100?
(You may spend the $100 all in one category, or divide it up as you please, but it must total $100.)

Allocation of $100 among the following:
(a)_____Athletic fields for games and practice
(b)_____Existing parks and playgrounds
(c)_____New neighborhood or community parks
(d)_____Preserve open space
(e)_____Walking and bike trails
(f)_____Marina/lake access
(g)_____Athletic courts (tennis, basketball, etc.)
(h)_____Recreation center
(i)_____Indoor aquatic center
(j)_____Performing Arts Center
(k)_____Recreational programs
(l)_____Other (Describe:_____)
$100 TOTAL

26. How do you learn about recreation programs offered? *(Please pick up to three (3) choices.)*
_____ (1) City website
_____ (2) Social media websites (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
_____ (3) Other websites
_____ (4) City flyers
_____ (5) School flyers
_____ (6) Local newspaper
_____ (7) Word of mouth
_____ (8) Other (describe: _____)

Please tell us about yourself:

27. Please indicate your gender: (1) ☐ Male (2) ☐ Female

28. Please indicate your age:
(1) ☐ 18 – 24 years (4) ☐ 45 – 54 years
(2) ☐ 25 – 34 years (5) ☐ 55 – 64 years
(3) ☐ 35 – 44 years (6) ☐ 65 or over

29. Do you own or rent?
(1) ☐ Own (2) ☐ Rent (3) ☐ Other

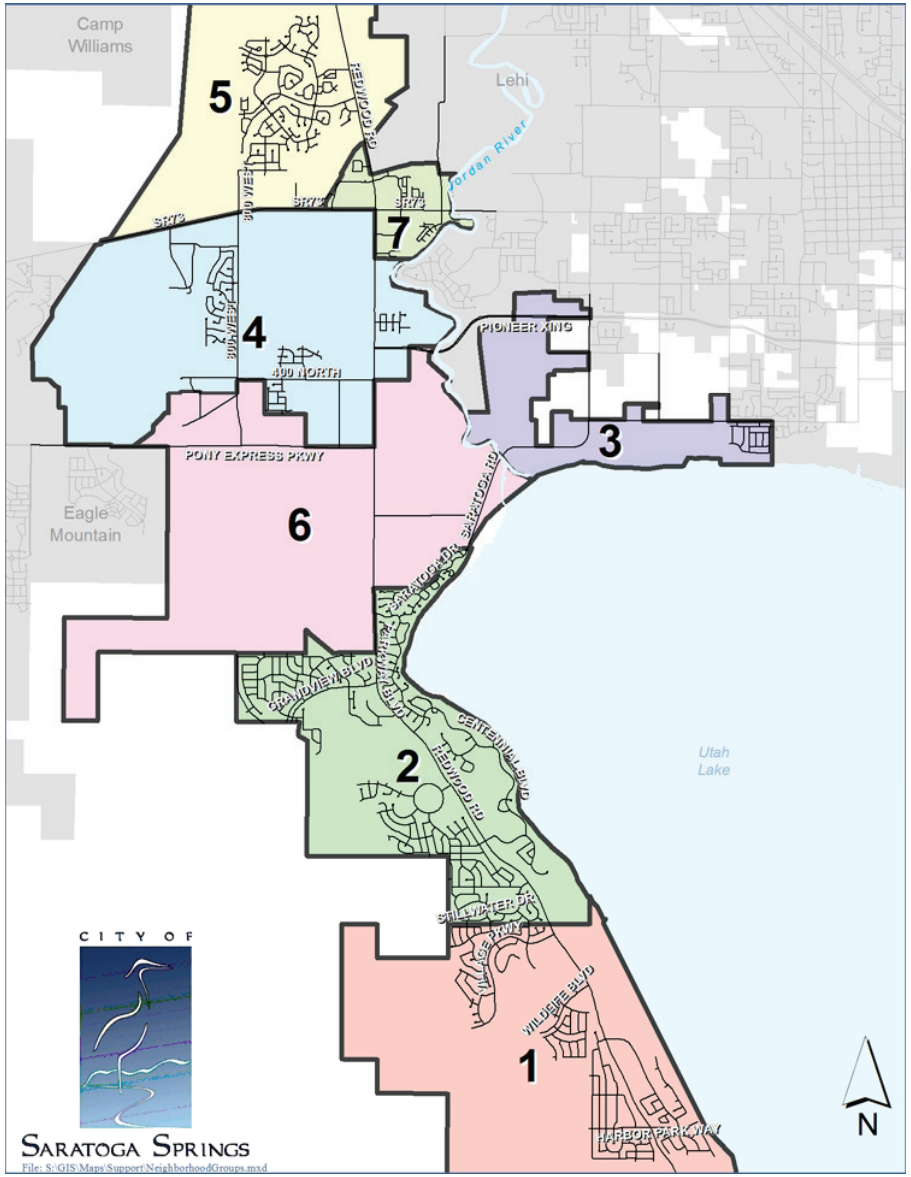
30. How long have you lived in Saratoga Springs? _____ Years

31. Please check the age categories for which you have children at home.
(a) ☐ 0 to 5 years
(b) ☐ 6 – 11 years
(c) ☐ 12 – 17 years
(d) ☐ No children under 18 living at home

32. How many people live in your home? _____ People

33. Any other comments related to parks, recreation, open space, trails, etc.?
_____
_____
_____
_____

34. Please select from the areas shown below, the region in which you reside: _____



Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey!