City of Glasgow
Parks & Recreation

Glasgow Parks and Recreation Master Plan

September, 2018

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Glasgow, Kentucky

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Need for a Plan

Glasgow, located in western Kentucky, has a population of approximately 15,000 as of 2017. This population has grown gradually since 1990, and this growth is expected to continue at a steady rate into the future (see Chapter 2 for demographics). The growing population and changes to the makeup of the population have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Glasgow.

Recognizing that the needs of the population should be assessed, City Council and Parks and Recreation staff determined that a comprehensive process was needed to determine the future needs of the community, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan. The *Glasgow Parks and Recreation Master Plan* represents the culmination of the master planning process and will provide guidance for parks, recreation, open space, and trails in Glasgow for the next five to ten years and beyond.

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

Parks provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community. Parks can be an effective component of a strategy to address issues such as poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Living closer to a park leads to higher activity levels, and adolescents with access to a variety of recreation facilities are more physically active and less likely to be overweight. Studies also indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health.[1] Finally, parks are important because they can serve as gathering places for the community and can help cultivate community ties, leading to a sense of connectedness that leads to a more livable and desirable community.[2]

Existing Conditions of Parks and Recreation in Glasgow

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

Glasgow offers a Mini Park, a Neighborhood Park, and three (3) Community Parks, including Beaver Creek Park, the city's largest park with over 40 acres of land. The city also offers several Special Use Parks, such as Beula Nunn Park. Elementary schools (Glasgow Independent Schools and Barren County Schools) offer opportunities that supplement these offerings. Barren County also offers two athletic complexes.

Demographic Analysis

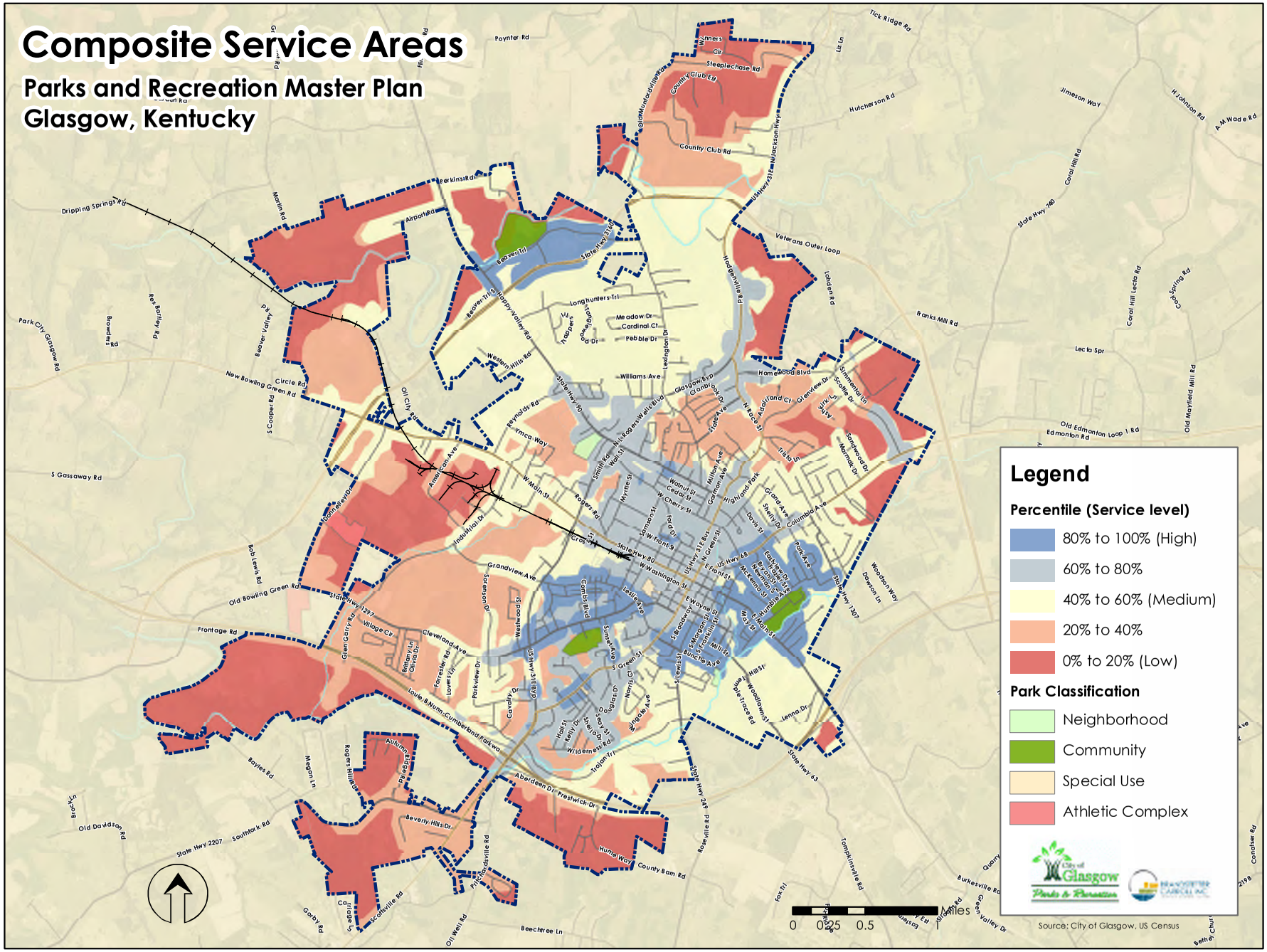
A review of demographic and population trends was important to identify present and anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Trends showed an aging and older population for Glasgow, smaller households, and increasing diversity. This analysis also indicated that the population in Glasgow will likely continue to grow into the future, including more than 500 additional residents (or 3.5%) in the next five years. The direction chosen for parks and recreation will determine the availability of opportunities for these residents and will help to enrich the quality of life in Glasgow.

Service Area Analysis (Gaps)

Service areas for types of parks and for individual facilities were mapped to identify the "Service Gaps" or underserved areas. Maps were produced showing access to two (2) park classifications and seven (7) facilities. A composite service areas map (see next page) was created showing the overall level of service for parks and facilities. Dark shades of blue indicate a high level of service for parks and facilities at that location within Glasgow. Red areas have the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. Approximately 15% of the population lives within "High" service areas.

1 National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (August 24, 2018)

2 National Recreation and Park Association, "Social Equity," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Social-Equity/, (August 24, 2018)


Composite Service Areas
Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Glasgow, Kentucky
Legend
Percentile (Service level)
80% to 100% (High)
60% to 80%
40% to 60% (Medium)
20% to 40%
0% to 20% (Low)
Park Classification
Neighborhood
Community
Special Use
Athletic Complex
0 0.25 0.5 1 Miles
Source: City of Glasgow, US Census

Areas with lower levels of service tend to be located toward the edges of the city, and the northeastern portion of the city has a notable gap in service. The table below shows the percentage of the population by service level.

Service Level (Rank)	Population	Cumulative Population
High (80%-100%)	15%	15%
Medium-High (60%-80%)	18%	33%
Medium (40%-60%)	32%	65%
Medium-Low (20%-40%)	29%	93%
Low (0%-20%)	7%	100%

A Citizen Driven Plan

As the purpose of this plan is to address the needs of the community, a primary focus of the master planning process was to identify those needs. A number of methods were utilized to determine the needs and desires of Glasgow residents for parks and recreation facilities and programs. The summary below indicates the many ways the public was involved throughout this process.

Engagement Summary

- Public Workshop – Open House
- Stakeholder Groups (15)
- Event
- Dollar Voting
- Surveys (2)
- Online Engagement (MindMixer)

1. Open house on February 12, 2018 to introduce the project and solicit feedback from the community
2. Meetings with stakeholder groups representing (February 12, 2018):
   - Mayor
   - Public Works
   - Planning and Zoning
   - Safety
   - Fire Department
   - Police Department
   - Program Staff
   - Maintenance Staff
   - Weldon Tennis Association
   - Glasgow Athletic Program (GAP)
   - Glasgow Independent Schools
   - Tennis Program
   - Glasgow Garden Club
   - Barren County Family YMCA
   - Friends of the Glasgow Dog Park
3. A booth setup at the Hops & Horses Event to allow attendees to provide input (September 28, 2017)
4. "Voting with Dollars" at events and public workshop (113 participants)
5. A statistically valid needs assessment survey conducted by the ETC Institute that was completed by 304 households
6. A handout and web survey that was completed by 475 residents

What Glasgow Residents Said

Information gathered from these public input methods was used to identify the needs of Glasgow residents. A brief summary of the findings is described below.

Community Meetings

Most discussed topics included:

1. Aquatic center
2. Better maintenance
3. Restroom improvements
4. More events and festivals
5. More and longer trails
6. Connectivity
7. More open space
8. Safety

Stakeholder Groups

Most discussed topics included:

1. Improved maintenance
2. Upgrades/updates needed
3. More funding
4. New pool
5. Better promotion
6. Skate park
7. More variety needed at parks

8. More programs needed
9. More tennis/pickleball courts needed
10. More events
11. More/better indoor facilities needed

Dollar Voting

Participants at the Hops and Horses event and the public workshop were asked how they would allocate $1000 among different types of parks and recreation facility improvements in Glasgow. The responses ranked as follows:

Action (Box Title)	Total	
Build new aquatic facilities	$26,200	23%
Upgrade existing parks	$24,500	22%
Buy land for open space or future parks	$16,000	14%
Build new athletic fields	$14,200	12%
New walking and biking trails	$13,100	12%
Build new community/ recreation centers	$11,400	10%
Other	$8,300	7%
Total	**$113,700**	**100%**

Statistically Valid Mail Survey

Eighty-seven percent (87%) of residents visited a park in Glasgow over the past year, and 43% of these residents visited parks more than 10 times. Beaver Creek Park was the most visited park (87% reporting visiting), followed by Weldon Park (61%), and Gorin Park (49%).

The top reasons for not using parks more often included:

- Do not know what is offered (44%)
- Poor condition of facilities (30%)
- Security or safety concerns (30%)

The improvements households would most like to see to existing parks included:

- New or improved restrooms (60%)
- Walking/hiking trails (47%)
- Security cameras and lighting (44%)
- Picnic shelters (41%)
- Playground equipment (41%)

Seventy-six percent (79%) of households are either "very supportive" or "somewhat supportive" of city actions to upgrade older parks & recreation facilities. Other actions with very high levels of support included:

- Build new & connect existing trails (70%)
- Buy land to preserve open space, natural areas, & historic places (68%)
- Host more special events (68%)

The most important parks and recreation facilities for households were:

- Walking and hiking trails (41%)
- Playgrounds (26%)
- Picnic shelters/picnic areas (22%)
- Small neighborhood parks (21%)
- Natural areas/nature parks (21%)

The results of the most important facilities were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine the top 6 priorities for investment:

1. Walking & hiking trails
2. Natural areas/nature parks
3. Picnic shelters/picnic areas
4. Outdoor swimming pools
5. Playgrounds
6. Small neighborhood parks

The most important parks and recreation programs for households were:

- Adult fitness and wellness (35%)
- Summer concerts (30%)
- Programs for persons ages 50+ (24%)

The results of the most important programs were combined with the reported unmet needs to determine the top 3 priorities for investment:

1. Adult fitness & wellness programs
2. Summer concerts
3. Programs for persons ages 50+

Key Findings (all methods)

Results indicate that the community desires:

- An outdoor family aquatic center
- Upgrades and maintenance to existing parks
- More community events and festivals
- The addition of support facilities (restrooms, security lighting, drinking fountains)
- More variety of facilities (pickleball, skate park, etc.)
- A new recreation center
- More and better-connected trails for both walking and biking
- Preservation of natural areas and open space
- Online program registration
- Improvements to athletic fields/complexes – attract tournaments
- Safety and security improvements
- Picnic opportunities
- Better information through website
- More programs, most notably adult fitness & wellness

programs, summer concerts, programs for persons aged 50+, nature programs, water fitness, and pet exercise

- A variety of facilities and programs for everyone

Vision, Mission, and Values for Parks and Recreation in Glasgow

Mission

To offer safe and convenient parks and programs with modern facilities for all

Vision

Inspiring Excitement – Utilizing parks, programs, and events to deliver opportunities for interaction and entertainment while fostering community pride and wellness

Values

Community: We are dedicated to celebrating a sense of community unique to Glasgow. Our parks, programs, and events will inspire gathering and improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Safety: We pledge to provide a safe and clean environment through proactive maintenance of modern facilities. Furthermore, we aspire to provide sufficient supervision to assure the safety of users and security of facilities.

Inclusion: We believe everyone should have convenient access to a broad range of parks, facilities, and programs. We are committed to removing barriers and ensuring everyone in Glasgow is welcomed and able to engage in a variety of experiences.

Collaboration: We are committed to fostering public involvement, teamwork, and mutually beneficial partnerships to improve parks and recreation activities. We understand that collaboration is with regard to promotion, outreach, and engagement necessary to maximize these opportunities.

Leadership: We are not satisfied with the status quo. We envision ourselves as leaders in the community by using parks and recreation to build community and enhance quality of life.

Goals & Objectives

The following goals will guide improvements in parks and recreation in Glasgow over the next five years.

Goal 1: Modern Parks

Provide a variety of parks with modern facilities to serve as destinations for community recreation

Objectives:

Family Friendly Facilities: Develop attractive and fun park features in response to community needs

Sports: Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports

Support: Ensure availability of amenities needed for extended enjoyment of parks

Land Management: Acquire, develop, and conserve parkland to ensure open space for future generations

Goal 2: Enhanced Connectivity

Increase connectivity between parks, nature, and the community

Objectives:

Gathering Spaces: Offer safe and welcoming amenities that promote a sense of community and attract visitors

Nature: Provide connections between the community and the natural environment

Trails: Develop trails for community connectivity, fitness, and recreation

Goal 3: Exciting Programs and Events

Offer a variety of recreational programs and events for users of all ages and abilities

Objectives:

Community Impact: Contribute to health, wellness, and culture through parks and programs

Inclusion: Ensure the availability of convenient, affordable programs and events to meet the evolving needs of the diverse population

Innovation: Provide creative programs and events that reflect trends and community desires

Goal 4: Effective Management and Operations

Utilize efficient and proactive management of staff and finances to promote an informed population and a safe environment at parks

Objectives:

Workforce: Develop an efficient organization of valued staff and volunteers

Finances: Implement operational practices and funding levels to the quality of parks, facilities, and programs

Engagement: Raise awareness of parks and programs and identify needs and barriers to park experiences

Collaboration: Foster partnerships to meet the current and future needs of parks and recreation

Maintenance: Ensure adequate maintenance and equipment replacement policies and procedures to promote safe parks and facilities

Systemwide Recommendations

The Public Input (Chapter 4) and Needs Assessment (Chapter 5) were used to establish the overall priorities for improvements to parks in Glasgow. The following items are the top priorities for park improvements as determined by the master planning process and consultation with the steering committee.

1. Improve maintenance at existing parks
2. Add support features throughout the park system such as shade structures, drinking fountains, security cameras and lighting, and trees/landscaping
3. Implement online registration
4. Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs, including adult fitness and wellness programs, summer concerts/movies, nature programs, and programs for age 50+
5. Schedule more special events to bring the community together
6. Expand marketing of programs and facilities
7. Add or upgrade restrooms
8. Replace outdated and deteriorated playgrounds
9. Increase parks and recreation capital and operating budgets to be more in line with other communities
10. Develop an outdoor family aquatic center at American Legion Park
11. Expand the citywide trail system, including planning efforts (G.A.T.E. Plan)
12. Add new loop trails within existing parks
13. Add outdoor fitness equipment at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health
14. Add picnic shelters at existing and future parks
15. Restore natural areas at existing and future parks
16. Develop a recreation center with a gym, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, an aerobics/group fitness room, and offices
17. Renovate the Parks and Recreation Offices into a senior center for residents age 50+
18. Develop a centrally located sprayground
19. Develop new Neighborhood Parks in underserved areas, starting with land behind the Parks and Recreation Office
20. Seek opportunities for partnerships to improve access to recreation facilities and programs

This master plan provides capital improvement recommendations for each park in Glasgow. These recommendations with cost estimates can be found in Chapter 8.

Action Plan

The Glasgow Parks and Recreation Master Plan includes a detailed Action Plan with 110 strategies. These strategies, which can be found in Chapter 9, represent specific actions for Parks and Recreation and the City of Glasgow to take to implement this plan.

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1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Need for a Plan

Glasgow, located in western Kentucky, has a population of approximately 15,000 as of 2017. This population has grown gradually since 1990, and this growth is expected to continue at a steady rate into the future (see Chapter 2 for demographics).

Glasgow offers a Mini Park, a Neighborhood Park, and three (3) Community Parks, including Beaver Creek Park, the city's largest park with over 40 acres of land. The city also offers several Special Use Parks, such as Beula Nunn Park. Elementary schools (Glasgow Independent Schools and Barren County Schools) offer opportunities that supplement these offerings. Barren County also offers two athletic complexes.

Population growth and changes to its makeup have implications to both the current and future needs for parks and recreation in Glasgow. Recognizing that the needs of the population should be assessed to develop a plan for the future, the City Council and Parks and Recreation staff determined that a comprehensive process should be completed to determine the needs of the community for the future, leading to the authorization of this Master Plan.

The city appointed a steering committee to guide the planning process. The Glasgow Parks and Recreation Master Plan represents the culmination of the master planning process and will provide guidance for parks, recreation, open space, and trails in Glasgow for the next five to ten years and beyond.

1.2 The Importance of Parks

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

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

located elsewhere. In addition, recent surveys of home buyers by the National Association of Home Builders indicated that trails, parks, and playgrounds were three of the top five amenities that home buyers desire when considering a new home purchase. Finally, the preliminary findings of a recent study, *The Economic Significance of Local and Regional Park Systems' Spending on the United States Economy*, conducted by the Center for Regional Analysis at George Mason University (GMU) for the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) found that local and regional parks created $140 billion in economic activity per year and supported nearly one million jobs in the United States.

Parks provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community. Parks can be an effective component of a strategy to address issues such as poor nutrition, hunger, obesity, and physical inactivity. Living closer to a park leads to higher activity levels, and adolescents with access to a variety of recreation facilities are more physically active and less likely to be overweight. Studies also indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improve mental health. Some programs and facilities, such as community gardens, can actually provide healthy food for residents.[1] Finally, parks are important because they can serve as gathering places for the community and can help cultivate community ties, leading to a sense of connectedness that increases livability and desirability.[2]

The residents and the leadership of Glasgow place a high value on parks and recreation services. According to the *City of Glasgow Parks and Recreation Survey*, 79% of residents support upgrading older parks and facilities, 70% support developing new trails, 68% support buying land to preserve open space and natural areas (see Chapter 4 for more information). Through the implementation of this plan, parks will continue to serve as gathering places for the community and improve the quality of life of Glasgow residents.

1.3 Master Planning Process

The master planning process consisted of four phases with frequent meetings between representatives of Glasgow and the Consultant. Glasgow Parks and Recreation staff appointed a steering committee made up of staff, community leaders, and stakeholders to work with the Consultant throughout the process. Each phase concluded with the submittal of documentation and a presentation of findings through that point of the process. The next four sections provide a summary of each phase: Evaluate → Engage → Envision → Plan.

1.4 Evaluate

The planning process launched with meetings with Glasgow representatives, the gathering of information on city demographics, and a review of existing data.

1.4.1 Demographic Analysis

Using information provided by the city and other sources, the Consultant performed an analysis of the demographic and population characteristics of Glasgow. Information included:

- Population trends and five-year population projections
- Demographic characteristics (quantity, ages, race, etc.)
- Household size and composition
- Median household income and educational attainment
- Population diversity

1.4.2 Benchmarking Analysis

Benchmarking comparisons were compiled of 150 park systems in the USA with populations under 60,000 using the NRPA Park Metrics program. Comparisons between these park systems consisted of a number of criteria such as parkland inventory, department functions, staffing, budgets, facilities offered, and other relevant characteristics.

[1] National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (May 30, 2018).

[2] National Recreation and Park Association, "Social Equity," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Social-Equity/, (May 30, 2018).

1.4.3 Inventory of Parks, Facilities, and Programs

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

Park Classification

An update to the classifications for parks in Glasgow was developed to evaluate the overall recreation opportunities that are available to the public. Parks were classified as Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Community Parks, or Special Use Parks.

Parks, Open Space, and Facilities Inventory

This process entailed an inventory of all existing parks and open space properties available in the City of Glasgow. Site visits were made to all parks to identify existing conditions and assess opportunities for improvements. After this analysis was completed, each of the properties was assigned to one of the updated park classifications. A table was produced to provide a summary of the amenities offered at each property. Maps were prepared using GIS software to illustrate the locations of the city-owned parks and recreation facilities.

The facility inventory included trails located throughout Glasgow, and also considered amenities available at local schools (Glasgow Public Schools). Finally, the process identified recreational opportunities offered by county park systems and private organizations.

Programs Inventory

The programs inventory described activities in the following categories:

- Youth Sports
- Youth Classes/Lessons
- Adult Sports
- Summer Camp Programs
- Senior Programs
- Special Events
- Tournaments

1.4.4 Needs Assessment and Identification

Level of Service Guidelines

Level of service guidelines were developed based on public input, benchmarking comparisons, and existing standards and guidelines. Level of service standards were developed for each of the park classifications. Levels of service standards were similarly developed for recreation facilities and for total acreage of parkland and open space.

Geographic Distribution – Service Gap Analysis

Analysis was conducted to determine service gaps by mapping the locations of and access to existing facilities. The mapping included parks by classification and specific recreation facilities, with defined service areas to determine locations within Glasgow lacking access to facilities. A map was prepared showing access to parks, and eight (8) maps were prepared for specific recreation facilities. A Composite Service Levels map was produced to show a combined level of service for parks and facilities for all areas of Glasgow.

1.4.5 Trends

Parks and recreation trends were analyzed to review changes in demand for activities and facilities. The analysis also included a review of participation rates and changes in user service demands.

1.5 Engage

The public input process entailed a wide variety of methods intended to reach both park users and non-users to determine needs and desires for the future or parks and recreation in Glasgow.

1.5.1 Glasgow Parks and Recreation Survey

A statistically valid mail survey (Mail Survey) was conducted by ETC Institute with 304 responses from residents of Glasgow. This portion of the public input was initiated early in the process (winter 2017). The survey was used to identify:

- Current satisfaction levels with programs and facilities
- Participation and satisfaction with current programs and events
- Parks currently used
- Needs for various facilities and programs
- Most needed facilities
- Primary actions that should be taken by Glasgow regarding parks, recreation, open space, trails, programs, and facilities

1.5.2 Public Workshop

A public workshop was held at City Hall on February 12, 2018 to solicit input from citizens and users regarding their concerns and opinions about existing facilities and programs and to determine their desires for future facilities and programs. The meetings allowed participants to visit a series of stations in order to provide their input and learn more about the master plan.

1.5.3 Stakeholder Groups

Meetings with 15 stakeholder groups were conducted in February 2018 to determine the parks and recreation priorities for various interest groups. Glasgow Parks and Recreation provided invitations and meeting space for these meetings. Questions were prepared in advance and were approved by the steering committee.

1.5.4 Web-Based Survey

The planning team also prepared a handout and web-based survey. The survey was completed by 475 individuals and consisted of similar questions to the Mail Survey about the future of parks in Glasgow. Results of the two surveys are presented and compared in Chapter 4.

1.6 Envision

Parks and Recreation Mission and Strategic Plan with Goals and Objectives

After the completion of the Evaluate and Engage phases, the results and findings were presented to the steering committee and park staff. The Consultant led members of the staff and the steering committee through an exercise to produce an updated Strategic Plan for parks and recreation in Glasgow.

The results of these meetings led to the creation of a vision for the future of parks and recreation services in Glasgow. The new Strategic Plan consists of an updated mission, a vision, and a series of goals and objectives for parks and recreation in Glasgow.

1.7 Plan

Using the data collected throughout the master planning process, a series of recommendations were formulated to meet the needs and expectations of Glasgow residents. The recommendations were separated into the following groupings.

1.7.1 Recommendations

Systemwide improvements for facilities, programs, and operations (Chapter 7) were provided to direct parks and recreation over the next five to ten years and beyond. Priorities were provided for improvements that apply to the entire system and Glasgow as a whole, such as operations, programs, budgets, development practices, and priorities for upgrades. Long-term needs for land acquisition were also included in these recommendations. Recommendations for individual parks were also developed and are included in Chapter 8.

1.7.2 Action Plan

This portion of the process consisted of the creation of a detailed Action Plan (Chapter 9) with specific strategies for the implementation of this master plan.

The Action Plan provided specific strategies for:

- Existing Park
- New Parks
- Indoor Facilities
- Trails
- Natural Areas and Open Space
- Programs
- Communications
- Operations and Maintenance

The strategies in this Action Plan were categorized under the goals and objectives of the Strategic Plan developed during this planning process. The action steps for the implementation of the plan were categorized as short-term (0-2 years), mid-term (3-5 years), or long-term (6-10 years) strategies. Additionally, the plan identified the responsible party and potential funding source for each strategy.

Draft Master Plan

A draft of the *Glasgow Parks and Recreation Master Plan* was presented to the Glasgow Parks and Recreation Department in August 2018. Master Plan findings and recommendations will be presented to City Council on September 10, 2018. The City Council voted unanimously to accept the Master Plan as presented by Brandstetter Carroll Inc. on September 24, 2018.

2

PLANNING CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

The Planning Context chapter provides a summary of factors and trends that may influence the delivery of parks and recreation services throughout the City of Glasgow. This chapter begins with a summary of population and demographic trends in Glasgow and concludes with a benchmarking analysis comparing parks and recreation in the City of Glasgow with other cities throughout the United States.

2.2 Population and Demographic Trends

An overall understanding of population trends of Glasgow is necessary to identify the present conditions and to anticipate future needs for parks and recreation services and facilities. Needs vary between demographic groups, and these needs also change over time. Each of the following demographic categories examines specific elements of the population.

2.2.1 Population Growth

Figure 2.1 illustrates the population change in Glasgow from 1970 to 2022. This table uses U.S. Census Bureau data for historic figures and Esri forecasts for 2017 and 2022. These numbers indicate a trend of slow but steady population growth in Glasgow since 1970. The city experienced growth each decade, except for the period between 1980 and 1990. Growth is expected to continue through 2022.

2.2.2 Household Size

Table 2.1 shows the number of households in 2017 and household size from 2000 to 2022 for Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky, and the USA. The table indicates that in Glasgow, the average household size decreased slightly from 2000 to 2010 but is increased by 2017 and is expected to increase slightly through 2022. Despite the increase since 2010, the household size in Glasgow was much lower than that of the USA, the State of Kentucky, and Barren County. The increasing household sizes in Glasgow contrast with the static household size in the other geographies.

Figure 2.1: Glasgow Population Growth

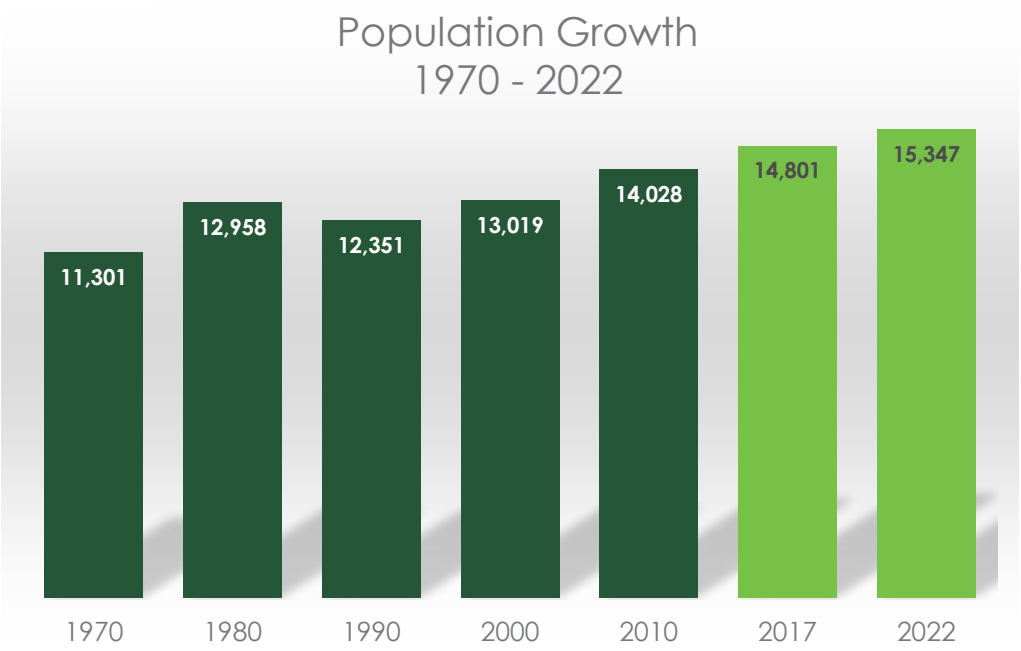


Table 2.1: Average Household Size (2000 to 2022)

	Households	Average Household Size			
	2017	2000	2010	2017	2022
USA	123,158,887	2.59	2.58	2.59	2.60
Kentucky	1,784,186	2.47	2.45	2.46	2.46
Barren County	17,862	2.44	2.44	2.46	2.46
Glasgow	6,281	2.24	2.23	2.28	2.29

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri Forecast

2.2.3 Median Age

Table 2.2 shows the median age for Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky, and the USA from 2000 through 2022. The median age in Glasgow increased slightly between 2000 and 2010 (from 40.2 to 40.7) and is expected to continue to increase through 2022 to nearly 43. The increase is similar to the other geographic levels. However, the state and the USA have significantly lower median ages than Glasgow or Barren County.

The 2017 median age in Glasgow (41.9) was much higher than the State of Kentucky which was higher than the USA. The 2017 median age was 41.6 for Barren County, 39.3 for Kentucky, and 38.2 for the USA. The age of the residents is important because Glasgow needs to plan for the appropriate age groups that it will be serving.

Table 2.2: Median Age (2000-2022)

	2000	2010	2017	2022
USA	35.3	37.1	38.2	38.9
Kentucky	35.9	37.9	39.3	40.4
Barren County	38.0	39.7	41.6	43.0
Glasgow	40.2	40.7	41.9	42.9

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri Forecast

2.2.4 Senior Population

Table 2.3 displays the population age 65 and over from 2000 to 2022 and shows that this age group has increased as a percentage of the population over this time period and is expected to continue to do so through 2022 for all geographic levels. In Glasgow, the proportion of the population over 65 increased only slightly between 2000 and 2017 from 20.5% to 21.3%. The same trend is apparent for the other geographic areas. The proportion of the population age 65 and over is expected to continue to increase. By 2022, Glasgow is projected to have over 23% of the total population in this age cohort. Glasgow's percentage over age 65 is much higher than the comparisons with Barren County as the closest of the other geographic levels. These figures emphasize the importance of facilities and services for seniors in Glasgow.

Table 2.3: Population Age 65 and over (2000-2022)

	2000	2010	2017	2022
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
USA	12.4%	13.0%	15.6%	17.6%
Kentucky	12.5%	13.3%	16.0%	18.5%
Barren County	15.0%	15.4%	18.5%	20.9%
Glasgow	20.5%	19.6%	21.3%	23.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri Forecast

2.2.5 Children

Table 2.4 presents the population under age 18 from 2000 to 2022. The table indicates that the percentage of children decreased from 22% in 2000 to 20.9% in 2017 in Glasgow. The percentage of the population within this age group is expected to drop further to 20.8% by 2022. The trend of a declining percentage of children is apparent at the state, regional, and national levels. Barren County, Kentucky and the USA all had higher percentages of residents in this age group than Glasgow in 2017. Although the percentage of the population under the age of 18 in Glasgow is expected to decline in the future, children will continue to represent a large percentage of the population.

Table 2.4: Population under Age 18 (2000-2022)

	2000	2010	2017	2022
	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage	Percentage
USA	25.7%	24.0%	22.3%	22.0%
Kentucky	25.5%	23.6%	21.9%	21.7%
Barren County	24.2%	24.2%	21.9%	21.7%
Glasgow	22.0%	22.2%	20.9%	20.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri Forecast

2.2.6 Income and Educational Attainment

The 2017 median household income in Glasgow ($31,592) was much lower than the values for Barren County ($39,770), the State of Kentucky ($45,451), and the nation ($56,124). Household income in Glasgow has grown since 2000 but has not kept up with inflation (see Table 2.5). This trend is apparent at all geographic levels.

Per capita income in Glasgow is lower than the figures for the other geographic levels. Per capita income has increased since 2000 and, like median household income, has not kept pace with inflation in Glasgow or Barren County. Per capita income in Kentucky and the USA, in contrast, have just kept pace with inflation.

As can be seen in Table 2.6, educational attainment has increased in Glasgow since 2000. As of 2017, 18% of residents age 25 and older had a Bachelor's Degree or above. This number increased since 2000 from 15%. The percentage of residents age 25 and older with a Master's Degree or above increased from 6% to nearly 7% between 2000 and 2017.

Table 2.5: Household Income (2000-2022)

	2000	2000 Adjusted	2017	2022
Median Household Income				
USA	$41,994	$60,413	$56,124	$62,316
Kentucky	$33,672	$48,441	$45,451	$50,954
Barren County	$31,240	$44,942	$39,770	$44,827
Glasgow	$28,083	$40,400	$31,592	$35,330
Per Capita Income				
USA	$21,587	$31,055	$30,820	$34,828
Kentucky	$18,093	$26,029	$25,502	$28,979
Barren County	$16,816	$24,192	$21,660	$24,792
Glasgow	$18,697	$26,898	$20,685	$23,566

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri Forecast, BLS

The educational attainment numbers for Barren County in 2017 were 17% for Bachelor's Degree or above and 7% for Master's Degree or above. The percentage of residents with a college degree was higher for Kentucky and the United States than either Glasgow or Barren County. The percentage of residents with a Bachelor's Degree or higher was approximately 24% in Kentucky and 31% in the USA.

Table 2.6: Educational Attainment Age 25 and Over (2000-2017)

Educational Attainment (Highest Level)	Glasgow		Barren County		Kentucky		USA	
Year	2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017	2000	2017
No High School Diploma	32.3%	18.8%	30.5%	17.1%	25.9%	14.4%	19.6%	12.6%
High School/GED	35.4%	38.3%	40.4%	41.5%	33.6%	33.4%	28.6%	27.4%
Some College, No Degree	13.2%	18.5%	14.5%	17.2%	18.5%	20.3%	21.1%	20.6%
Associates Degree	4.1%	6.6%	3.5%	7.2%	4.9%	8.0%	6.3%	8.3%
Bachelors Degree	8.9%	11.0%	6.4%	9.8%	10.3%	14.0%	15.5%	19.3%
Graduate/Professional/Doctorate Degree	6.1%	6.8%	4.7%	7.1%	6.9%	9.9%	8.9%	11.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Esri Forecast

2.2.7 Growth of Ethnic Populations

Glasgow has experienced a slight reduction in the proportion of the population consisting of White residents while many other minority populations have increased (Table 2.7). The White population, while still representing the largest population group, declined to 85.8% in 2015, compared to 88.9% in 2000. Additionally, over the same time period, the minority population groups have grown more rapidly. Of the minority populations, the Hispanic community had the largest increase in total numbers (nearly 500). The American Indian population had the highest increase as a percentage (535%).

These growing populations may have different recreation preferences than the population during the time many of the parks were constructed. These populations are projected to continue growing, so engagement of these residents is essential for the city to continue to meet the parks and recreation needs of the population.

Table 2.7: Race and Hispanic Origin (2000-2016)

Year	Total Population	White Alone		Black Alone		American Indian Alone		Asian Alone		Other Race Alone		Two or More Races		Hispanic	
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
2000	13,019	11,576	88.9%	1,074	8.2%	17	0.1%	104	0.8%	114	0.9%	134	1.0%	186	1.4%
2016	14,338	12,307	85.8%	1,303	9.1%	108	0.8%	64	0.4%	143	1.0%	413	2.9%	683	4.8%
# Change	1,319	731		229		91		-40		29		279		497	
% Change	10.1%	6.3%		21.3%		535.3%		-38.5%		25.4%		208.2%		267.2%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

2.2.8 Conclusion

These demographic trends indicate aging of the population, increased educational levels, and diversification of the population of Glasgow. These trends will collectively shape the future of Glasgow. The direction chosen for parks and recreation in Glasgow will determine the availability of opportunities for these residents and will help to enrich the quality of life in the city for years to come.

2.3 Benchmarking Comparisons

One method of evaluating parks and recreation services offered in a community is to use benchmarking comparisons to other communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Park Metrics program provides a variety of data for use in benchmarking. The ensuing analysis uses data from 150 comparable jurisdictions in the USA that participated in the Park Metrics program (populations between 15,000 and 60,000).

Glasgow is not a participant in the NRPA Park Metrics program, so figures were determined based on information provided by the city. Because the data for other park systems was limited to parks and facilities managed by those agencies, only parks and facilities managed by the City of Glasgow were included in this analysis (school and private facilities were not included). The figures used in this analysis for Glasgow were for the 2017 fiscal year, and the figures for the comparison municipalities were those entered for 2017.

The comparisons are organized into the following categories: parkland information, trail information, department functions, staffing, operating budget, capital budget, programs, and facilities. The following text details the findings of the benchmarking analysis. The values presented in these comparisons are based on information reported to Park Metrics by the municipalities and may vary from actual budgets and measurements.

2.3.1 Parkland Information

Table 2.8 indicates that the City of Glasgow provides 7.5 acres of parkland per thousand population. This number is lower than the benchmark median of 11.0. This number indicates that Glasgow provides less parkland and open space than other communities. Glasgow's population per park of 1,645 is higher than the benchmark median of 1,485, indicating a lower level of service.

The acres of parkland per 1,000 population value of 7.5 is lower than the median of 11.0. Similarly, the parkland as a percentage of total jurisdiction land measurement of 1.1% places Glasgow well below the benchmark median (2.4%). These comparisons indicate that the city has a smaller inventory of parkland compared to other jurisdictions.

A look at the percentage of parkland that is developed for parks and recreation purposes shows that Glasgow has a higher percentage of developed parkland (74%) than other benchmark communities (71%).

Table 2.8: Parkland Information

PARKLAND INFORMATION	Glasgow	Benchmark
Acreage of Parkland		
Lower Quartile		100
Median	**111.3**	**191**
Upper Quartile		317.8
Acreage of Parkland per 1,000 Population		
Lower Quartile		5.6
Median	**7.5**	**11.0**
Upper Quartile		18.2
Population per Park		
Lower Quartile		1,020
Median	**1,645**	**1,485**
Upper Quartile		2,447

Table 2.8: Parkland Information (Continued)

PARKLAND INFORMATION	Glasgow	Benchmark
Parkland as a Percentage of Total Jurisdiction Land		
Lower Quartile		1.2%
Median	**1.1%**	**2.4%**
Upper Quartile		5.2%
Percent of Acreage Developed for Parks and Recreation Purposes		
Lower Quartile		43%
Median	**74%**	**71%**
Upper Quartile		90%

2.3.2 Trail Information

The comparison of total miles of trails managed by the City of Glasgow (Table 2.9) shows 1.7 miles of trails, compared to the benchmark median of 5 miles. Total trail miles per jurisdiction square mile is a measurement that controls for differences in the physical size of comparative municipalities. Glasgow has 0.11 miles of trails per square mile of the city, much lower than the benchmark median and lower than the lower quartile value.

The trail miles per ten thousand population measurement, which controls for the population difference between the benchmark communities, shows a value of 1.1 for Glasgow which is lower than the benchmark median (2.8) and lower quartile value (1.4). These numbers indicate that Glasgow is lagging behind other jurisdictions regarding the provision of trails.

Table 2.9: Trail Information

TRAIL INFORMATION	Glasgow	Benchmark
Total Trail Miles Managed or Maintained		
Lower Quartile		3
Median	**1.7**	**5**
Upper Quartile		12
Total Trail Miles per Jurisdiction Sq. Mi.		
Lower Quartile		0.16
Median	**0.11**	**0.46**
Upper Quartile		0.90
Total Trail Miles per 10,000 Population		
Lower Quartile		1.4
Median	**1.1**	**2.8**
Upper Quartile		6.3

2.3.3 Department Functions

The list of department functions in Table 2.10 shows the percentage of benchmark departments that provide these services and whether Glasgow currently performs the function. The city conducts most of the functions at the top of the list to some degree. The most notable functions in this comparison currently not provided by Parks and Recreation are operation and maintenance of non-park sites and inclusion of funding for planning and development functions in operations budgets. Both functions are conducted by over 60% of the benchmark communities but are not currently performed by Parks and Recreation in Glasgow.

Table 2.10: Department Functions

DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS	Glasgow	Benchmark
The agency...		
Operates and maintains park sites	X	94%
Provides recreation programming and services	X	91%
Has budgetary responsibility for its administrative staff	X	89%

Table 2.10: Department Functions (Continued)

DEPARTMENT FUNCTIONS	Glasgow	Benchmark
The agency...		
Operates and maintains indoor facilities	X	79%
Conducts major jurisdiction wide special events	X	73%
Operates, maintains, or manages trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB)	X	71%
Operates and maintains non-park sites		64%
Include in its operating budget funding for planning and development functions		60%
Operates, maintains, or manages special purpose parks and open spaces	X	58%
Operate, maintain, or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	X	53%
Operates, maintains, or contracts Tennis Center Facilities		52%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	X	45%
Administers community gardens		34%
Manages large performance outdoor amphitheaters		24%
Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions		24%
Operate, maintain or contract indoor swim facility		21%
Operates, maintains, or contracts golf courses		18%
Administer or manage farmer's markets		14%
Maintains, manages, or leases indoor performing arts center		13%
Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes		12%
Operates, maintains, or contracts campgrounds		11%
Manage or maintain fairgrounds		5%
Administer or manage professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack		2%

2.3.4 Staffing

The number of staff members employed by Glasgow Parks and Recreation is indicated in Table 2.11. Glasgow Parks and Recreation employs 13 full-time employees, above the benchmark median. The department employs no part-time staff, so Parks and Recreation employs 13 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, similar to the benchmark median. On a per population basis, Glasgow employs a similar amount FTE staff (8.8 per 10,000 population) to the benchmark median.

Glasgow has a lower number of acres of parkland per FTE at 8.6 than the benchmark median of 11.7, indicating that compared to the number of acres offered by Glasgow Parks and Recreation, the city employs a larger number of staff members.

Table 2.11: Staffing

STAFFING	Glasgow	Benchmark
Number of Full-Time Employees		
Lower Quartile		5
Median	**13**	**9**
Upper Quartile		16
Number of Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) Employees		
Lower Quartile		6.9
Median	**13.0**	**13.1**
Upper Quartile		32
FTE per 10,000 Population		
Lower Quartile		4.4
Median	**8.8**	**8.9**
Upper Quartile		15.8
Acres of Parkland per FTE		
Lower Quartile		5.1
Median	**8.6**	**11.7**
Upper Quartile		23.8

2.3.5 Operating Budget

The total operating budget (Table 2.12) for parks and recreation in Glasgow for 2017 is $943,000, which is much lower than the $1.47 million median of the benchmark municipalities. The per capita operating expenditures for the City of Glasgow is $63.74, compared to the benchmark median of $88. The expenditures by the City of Glasgow are much lower both in terms of total budget and on a per capita basis.

Table 2.12: Operating Budget

OPERATING BUDGET	Glasgow	Benchmark
Agency's TOTAL Operating Expenditures for the Fiscal Year		
Lower Quartile		$759,758
Median	**$943,039**	**$1,470,000**
Upper Quartile		$2,307,217
Agency's TOTAL Non-Tax Revenue for the Fiscal Year		
Lower Quartile		$147,476
Median	**$152,202**	**$366,618**
Upper Quartile		$788,750
Revenue as a percentage of Total Operating Expenditures		
Lower Quartile		16.5%
Median	**16.1%**	**29.1%**
Upper Quartile		44.6%
Operating Expenditures per Capita		
Lower Quartile		$52
Median	**$63.71**	**$88**
Upper Quartile		$150
Operating Expenditures per Acre of Land Managed		
Lower Quartile		$4,105
Median	**$8,473**	**$7,987**
Upper Quartile		$17,934
Operating Expenditures per FTE		
Lower Quartile		$65,366
Median	**$72,541**	**$91,173**
Upper Quartile		$128,606
Non-Tax Revenue per Capita		
Lower Quartile		$10
Median	**$10.28**	**$21**
Upper Quartile		$54

The total operating expenditure per acre of parkland is $8,473 for the City of Glasgow. This figure is slightly higher than the benchmark median. This higher value for Glasgow is a result of a lower amount of total parkland compared to the benchmarks. Glasgow's expenditures per FTE are much lower than the comparisons, however. Glasgow spends $72,541 per FTE, compared to $91,173 for both the benchmark median.

The $152,202 in earned revenue is much lower than the benchmark median. Similarly, this revenue represents 16.1% of the Parks and Recreation budget, which is below the benchmark median (29.1%). Finally, Glasgow Parks and Recreation generated $10.28 per capita in 2017, much lower than the benchmark median ($21). Glasgow's lower cost recovery numbers are likely related to the small number of revenue generating facilities and programs. The City Pool at American Legion Park operates at a deficit and overall generates less revenue than typical aquatic facilities in other communities.

2.3.6 Capital Budget

Table 2.13 shows capital budget comparisons for the benchmark communities. These numbers indicate a capital budget of just under $400,000 for Glasgow Parks and Recreation, which is above the benchmark

median; however, most of this budget was allocated to one improvement (energy efficiency). The previous year's capital budget was $0, and the year before that was less than $4,000.

Because this master plan is intended to provide direction for capital improvements, the five-year capital budget has not yet been determined for Glasgow. The median of the benchmark communities is $1.5 million. The capital expenditures per capita in Glasgow ($26.20) are higher than the benchmark but reflect one year's budget rather than a trend.

Table 2.13: Capital Budget

CAPITAL BUDGET	Glasgow	Benchmark
Total Capital Park Budget for Next 5-Years		
Lower Quartile		$500,000
Median	**TBD**	**$1,530,000**
Upper Quartile		$5,150,000
Total Capital Budget this Fiscal Year		
Lower Quartile		$95,224
Median	**$387,762**	**$251,395**
Upper Quartile		$860,164
Total Capital Costs per Capita this Fiscal Year		
Lower Quartile		$4.48
Median	**$26.20**	**$13.48**
Upper Quartile		$41.64

2.3.7 Programs

The list of program categories in Table 2.14 includes the percentage of benchmark departments that offer each type of program. The table also indicates whether Glasgow offers programs of each type. The table is separated into two groups of programs: "Activities" which include programs for all users and "Out-of-School Time Activities" which include programs for specific user groups (children, seniors, etc.).

Glasgow offers many of the activity types to some degree; however, many of the activity categories include program examples not currently offered by the city. The current offerings focus on athletics and camps with minimal offerings in the other categories. Additional events and educational classes could fill many of these categories.

The list of targeted programs shows that Glasgow offers only senior programs and summer camps. The most notable categories not offered are specific teen programs, which are offered by 51% of the benchmark departments, after school programs (48%), and programs for people with disabilities (47%).

Table 2.14: Programs

PROGRAMS	Glasgow	Benchmark
Activities		
Team Sports	X	88%
Social Recreation Events		81%
Fitness Enhancement Classes	X	80%
Themed Special Events	X	80%
Health and Wellness Education		70%
Individual Sports	X	69%
Aquatics	X	68%
Safety Training		62%
Racquet Sports	X	62%
Performing Arts		57%
Trips and Tours		55%
Martial Arts		52%

Table 2.14: Programs (Continued)

PROGRAMS	Glasgow	Benchmark
Activities		
Cultural Crafts		51%
Visual Arts		42%
Natural and Cultural History Activities		38%
Golf		36%
Out-of-School Time (OST) Activities		
Specific senior programs	X	75%
Summer camp	X	73%
Specific teen programs		51%
After school programs		48%
Programs for people with disabilities		47%
Preschool		29%
Before school programs		19%
Full daycare		8%

2.3.8 Facilities

Table 2.15 provides a list of recreational facilities with a mark to indicate whether the facility is offered by Glasgow. This table also shows the percentage of benchmark communities that offer the facility. Glasgow offers all of the outdoor facilities offered by a majority of benchmark departments with the exception of rectangular fields. For indoor facilities, Glasgow offers a community center, which is offered by 54% of benchmark departments. The community center includes gyms and a fitness center. Glasgow does not offer any other indoor facilities. A recreation center is offered by 43% of the benchmark agencies, and senior center is offered by 34%.

Table 2.15: Facilities

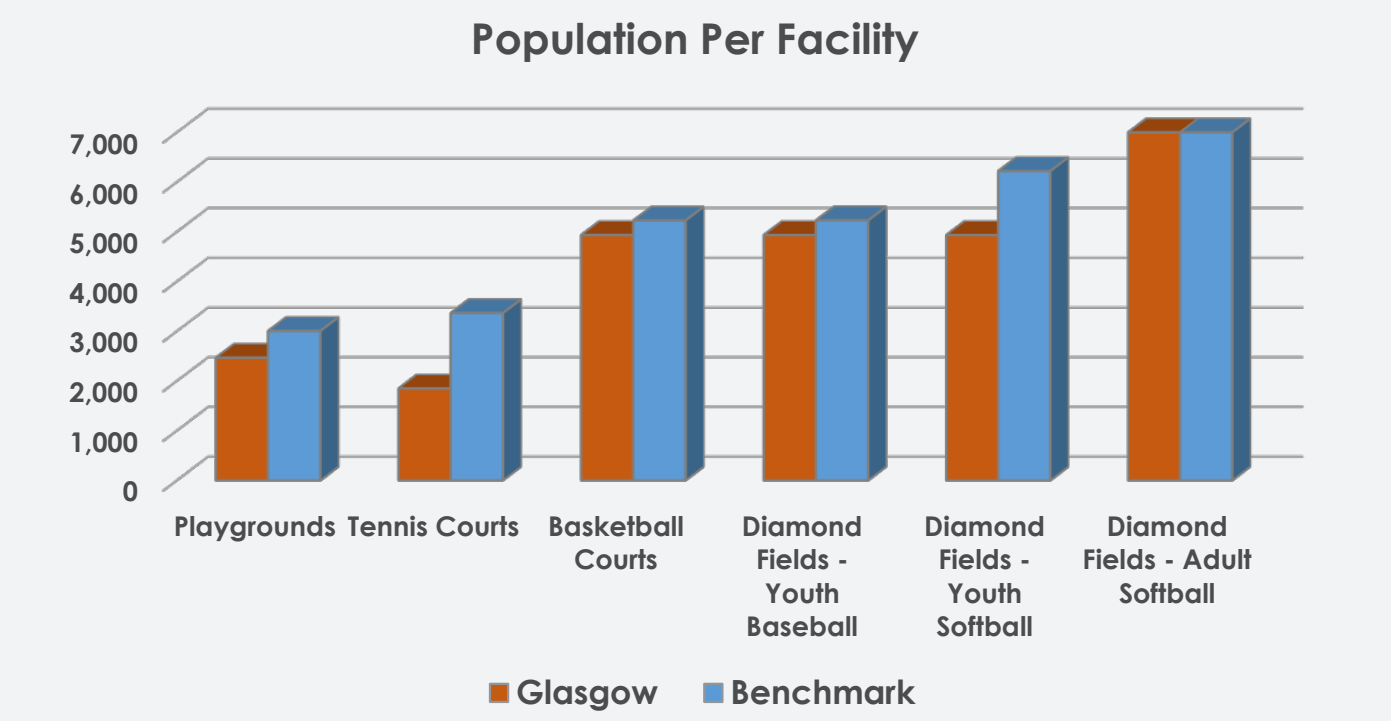
FACILITIES	Glasgow	Benchmark
Outdoor Activity Areas		
Playgrounds	X	90%
Basketball courts	X	83%
Diamond fields: baseball - youth	X	80%
Tennis courts (outdoor only)	X	77%
Rectangular fields: multipurpose		64%
Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	X	58%
Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	X	57%
Diamond fields: tee-ball	X	57%
Diamond fields: baseball - adult	X	53%
Tot lots	X	49%
Dog park	X	43%
Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth		41%
Multiuse courts -basketball, volleyball		41%
Swimming pools (outdoor only)	X	39%
Community gardens		36%
Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult		33%
Rectangular fields: football field		30%
Ice rink (outdoor only)		13%
Multipurpose synthetic field		10%

Table 2.15: Facilities (Continued)

FACILITIES	Glasgow	Benchmark
Indoor Activity Areas		
Community centers	X	54%
Gyms	X	46%
Recreation centers		43%
Senior centers		34%
Fitness center	X	30%
Performance amphitheater		23%
Ice rink		14%
Competitive swimming pool		13%
Stadiums		12%
Indoor track		12%
Nature centers		10%
Teen centers		9%
Arena		5%

A comparison of population per facility provides a way to evaluate the existing quantity of each type of amenity compared to other communities. This comparison can help to identify facilities that the city might want to add in the future. Population per facility values for playgrounds, tennis courts (outdoor), basketball courts (outdoor), and ballfields (youth baseball, youth softball, and adult softball diamonds) are presented in Figure 2.2.[1] Tables 2.16 and 2.17 show the numeric values for these and other facilities plus upper and lower quartile values. A lower value indicates a higher level of service.

Figure 2.2: Median Population Per Facility (Lower Number = Higher Level of Service)



The City of Glasgow has six (6) playgrounds at five (5) parks throughout the city. The resulting population per playground is 2,467, which is a higher level of service than the benchmark median. Glasgow offers eight (8) tennis courts at one park, also a higher level of service (one per 1,850 people) than the benchmark median (3.367). The city has a similar level of service as the benchmark median for basketball courts with three (3) at three parks or 4,934 population per facility, compared to approximately 5,228 for the benchmark median.

[1] The analysis was limited to these facilities due to availability of data for comparison departments

The chart also shows population per facility values for three types of diamond fields. For youth fields, Glasgow provides a higher level of service for both baseball and softball fields than the benchmark comparisons. Glasgow has a similar level of service for adult softball fields to the benchmark medians.

Glasgow provides one (1) swimming pool giving the city a slightly lower level of service (one per 14,801 population) than the benchmark, and the city's one (1) dog park provides a slightly higher level of service than the benchmark (16,817). Glasgow does not offer rectangular fields or community gardens, but they are included for reference in Table 2.16. Based on the numbers in the table, Glasgow's population would accommodate three (3) rectangular fields and one (1) community garden location at a similar level of service to the benchmark communities.

Table 2.16: Population Per Facility (Outdoor)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (OUTDOOR)	Glasgow	Benchmark
Playgrounds		
Lower Quartile		1,819
Median	**2,467**	**3,006**
Upper Quartile		4,520
Tennis Courts		
Lower Quartile		2,071
Median	**1,850**	**3,367**
Upper Quartile		5,328
Basketball Courts		
Lower Quartile		3,347
Median	**4,934**	**5,228**
Upper Quartile		9,298
Diamond Fields - Youth Baseball		
Lower Quartile		2,500
Median	**4,934**	**4,230**
Upper Quartile		7,425
Diamond Fields - Youth Softball		
Lower Quartile		4,050
Median	**4,934**	**6,222**
Upper Quartile		12,000
Diamond Fields - Adult Softball		
Lower Quartile		4,500
Median	**7,401**	**7,400**
Upper Quartile		10,862
Rectangular Fields (multi-purpose)		
Lower Quartile		3,010
Median	**N/A**	**5,297**
Upper Quartile		10,000
Swimming Pools		
Lower Quartile		7,300
Median	**14,801**	**11,500**
Upper Quartile		17,537
Dog Park		
Lower Quartile		11,925
Median	**14,801**	**16,817**
Upper Quartile		23,801
Community Gardens		
Lower Quartile		7,197
Median	**N/A**	**13,686**
Upper Quartile		20,000

Glasgow offers three (3) of the indoor facilities indicated in Table 2.17 and the Parks and Recreation Office. The community center and fitness center provide similar levels of service to the benchmarks. The two (2) gyms provide a better level of service (one per 7,401 population) than the benchmarks. Four facilities are included in the table that are not offered by Glasgow Parks and Recreation. Based on these median benchmarks, the city would need one (1) recreation center, one (1) senior center, one (1) indoor swimming pool, and one (1) nature center to provide a similar or slightly better level of service than the benchmark communities.

Table 2.17: Population Per Facility (Indoor)

POPULATION PER FACILITY (INDOOR)	Glasgow	Benchmark
Recreation Centers		
Lower Quartile		8,873
Median	**N/A**	**15,694**
Upper Quartile		21,946
Community Centers		
Lower Quartile		11,500
Median	**14,801**	**15,903**
Upper Quartile		22,300
Senior Centers		
Lower Quartile		14,408
Median	**N/A**	**18,000**
Upper Quartile		23,750
Gymnasiums		
Lower Quartile		6,079
Median	**7,401**	**12,500**
Upper Quartile		16,952
Fitness Centers		
Lower Quartile		9,479
Median	**14,801**	**15,378**
Upper Quartile		22,225
Competitive Swimming Pools		
Lower Quartile		10,195
Median	**N/A**	**13,815**
Upper Quartile		18,469
Nature Centers		
Lower Quartile		11,694
Median	**N/A**	**18,250**
Upper Quartile		23,922

3

INVENTORY OF PARKS, FACILITIES, AND PROGRAMS

3.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Master Plan identifies existing conditions of parks and recreation facilities in Glasgow. It begins with a description of park classifications to provide an understanding of their functions. An inventory of parks and recreation facilities follows, including park locations, facilities offered, and other observations. An inventory of programs offered by Glasgow Parks and Recreation and other organizations concludes this chapter.

3.2 Parkland and Recreation Area Classification System

The purpose of a parks and recreation classification system is to evaluate the overall recreation opportunities that are available to the public. In some cases, communities "meet the standard" in terms of acreage, but this provision is met through a single park that does not provide for the entire community. A park system should be evaluated as a composite of recreation areas with each meeting a particular public need. Therefore, a system of parks is necessary to provide a combination of smaller Neighborhood Parks, larger Community Parks, and Special Use Parks that meet specific needs.

The parks and recreation facilities inventory in this chapter identifies each park by its park classification and lists the specific facilities provided at each location. Table 3.1 defines each park category by its typical size and service area, population served, typical features and facilities, and desirable characteristics. The categories and descriptions were adapted from Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, published by the National Recreation and Park Association in 1987 and 1995.

3.3 Inventory of Glasgow Parks and Recreation Areas

Residents of Glasgow are offered a variety of parks, recreation facilities, and programs. Table 3.2, Park and Recreation Resources Inventory, provides a summary of parks, recreation areas, and facilities in the City of Glasgow with an indication of the park classification for each property.

The table indicates the location of the property by park type category as defined in Chapter 2. The Existing Parks and Trails map (Figure 3.1) shows the location of each of the parks and recreation areas offered by the City of Glasgow. The following text provides a detailed narrative summary of these facilities. Aerial photos of each park can be found in Appendix B.

Table 3.1: Park Classifications

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Mini Park (MP)	Size: Less than 3 acres of developed parkland; less than 5 total acres 1/2 mile service area 10-minute walk	Combined with Neighborhood Park	Typical facilities may include playgrounds, small multi-use court area, and benches.	Often provided in association with school facilities. Some developed as part of residential developments. May also provide open space as needed to serve high density neighborhoods where households have limited yard space.
Neighborhood Park (NP)	Size: 2-10 acres of developed parkland; 5-15 total acres ½-1.0 mile service area 10-minute walk To serve a population up to 3,000	1.25 Acre/1,000	Suited for intense development Typical facilities include athletic fields, game courts, playgrounds, drinking fountains, picnic areas/shelters, and walking trails.	Easily accessible to neighborhood population (safe walking and bike distance). May be developed as park/school facility or in conjunction with service agency facility. May not be needed in areas served locally by larger parks.
Community Park (CP)	10-30+ acres of developed parkland; 20 or more total acres 1.0-2.0 mile service radius 5-minute drive To serve several neighborhoods with populations up to 20,000	4.5 Acres/1,000	Typical facilities include all those listed for Neighborhood Parks plus; major swimming pool, field or game court complex, major recreation or community center, etc. May include an area of natural quality for picnicking, walking, etc. May have an active or passive recreation focus or a balance of both - parks with passive focus will have a higher percentage of undeveloped land	Capable of providing a range of intensive recreational activities; or, provides one or two activities that attract users from multi-neighborhood areas. Park should ideally be located near schools. May meet Neighborhood Park needs for users within a 10-minute walk.
Special Use (SU)	Serves community-wide area	N/A (but may contribute to total open space requirement)	Area for specialized or single purpose recreational activities such as plazas, major pools, riverfront park areas, golf courses, athletic complexes, indoor facilities, etc.	Area should be located to meet the specific needs of the intended use.

Table 3.1: Park Classifications (Continued)

PARK CLASSIFICATION	TYPICAL SIZE and SERVICE AREA	DEVELOPED ACRES/1,000 POPULATION	TYPICAL FEATURES/ FACILITIES	DESIRABLE CHARACTERISTICS
Open Space (OS)	N/A	N/A (but contributes to total open space requirement)	Special use areas of low or limited development. Includes undeveloped areas, urban greenspaces, and small designated natural areas. May include urban greenspaces (mowed and landscaped areas) of any size. These areas are considered developed but have predominantly passive uses, few structures, and limited impervious areas. Typical facilities include walking/hiking trails, picnic areas, gardens, and open grass areas.	Includes undeveloped properties that may be developed in the future May also function as small Nature Parks Educational opportunities desirable in developed or undeveloped areas

3.4 Neighborhood Parks

A Neighborhood Park is a small but highly developed park located within a short walking (10-minutes) or biking distance of residents with facilities such as athletic fields, game courts, playgrounds, picnic areas/shelters, and walking trails. A Mini Park is a small Neighborhood Park, typically located in more densely populated areas where availability of land is limited.

3.4.1 Twyman Park (3.4 acres) – Mini Park

Twyman Park is a 3.4-acre Mini Park in southeastern Glasgow. It is accessible from the north via Back St. The entrance is somewhat hidden behind a subdivision. Sidewalks along Back St provide a pedestrian entrance to the park along the vehicular entrance. The park, which has no other access points, is bounded by the South Fork Beaver Creek to the east and residential uses to the west and south.

This park offers a playground, a full basketball court, a picnic shelter, and a restroom building. The park also has a large open field and a small gazebo. The basketball court is lighted. A narrow bridge connects two portions of the park over an unnamed stream that leads to South Fork Beaver Creek. Several exposed pipes cross this stream.

Park issues:

- Lack and condition of walkways
- Age and condition of playground
- Limited accessibility (ADA)

- Fence blocks visibility of stream
- Location in floodplain (majority of park – eastern side, 2 acres)

3.4.2 American Legion Park (12.3 acres) – Neighborhood Park

American Legion Park is a Neighborhood Park located northwest of downtown Glasgow. The 12-acre park can be accessed from Happy Valley Rd near the intersection with N L Rogers Wells Blvd/US Hwy 31E Bypass. It is bounded by commercial uses to the south, east, and west. The park has no pedestrian access to the single entrance on Happy Valley Rd (no sidewalks along road or in park).

This park is the home of the Glasgow City Pool which is located at the front portion of the site, closest to the entrance. The pool is L-Shaped with lap lanes and a diving well. The pool area also includes a wading pool and a shelter.

The remainder of the park offers a small playground, a diamond field, a 9-hole disc golf course, a day camp building, a large shelter and two small shelters, and a restroom/concessions building. The diamond field was used only by Glasgow High School for girls' softball, but the schools are relocating the team to a different site, leaving the field unused.

Park issues:

- Outdated swimming pool
- Small playground (tot lot only)
- Lack of walkways between features
- Age and condition of buildings (day camp building and concessions)
- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities and buildings
- Poor condition of walkways and pavement
- Maintenance of athletic fields and seating areas

3.5 Community Parks

Community Parks are larger parks that serve multiple neighborhoods and offer a wider variety of facilities. Community Parks should be conveniently located (approximately a five-minute drive) and easily accessible with facilities intended to occupy visitors for extended periods of time (swimming pool, field or game court complex, community center).

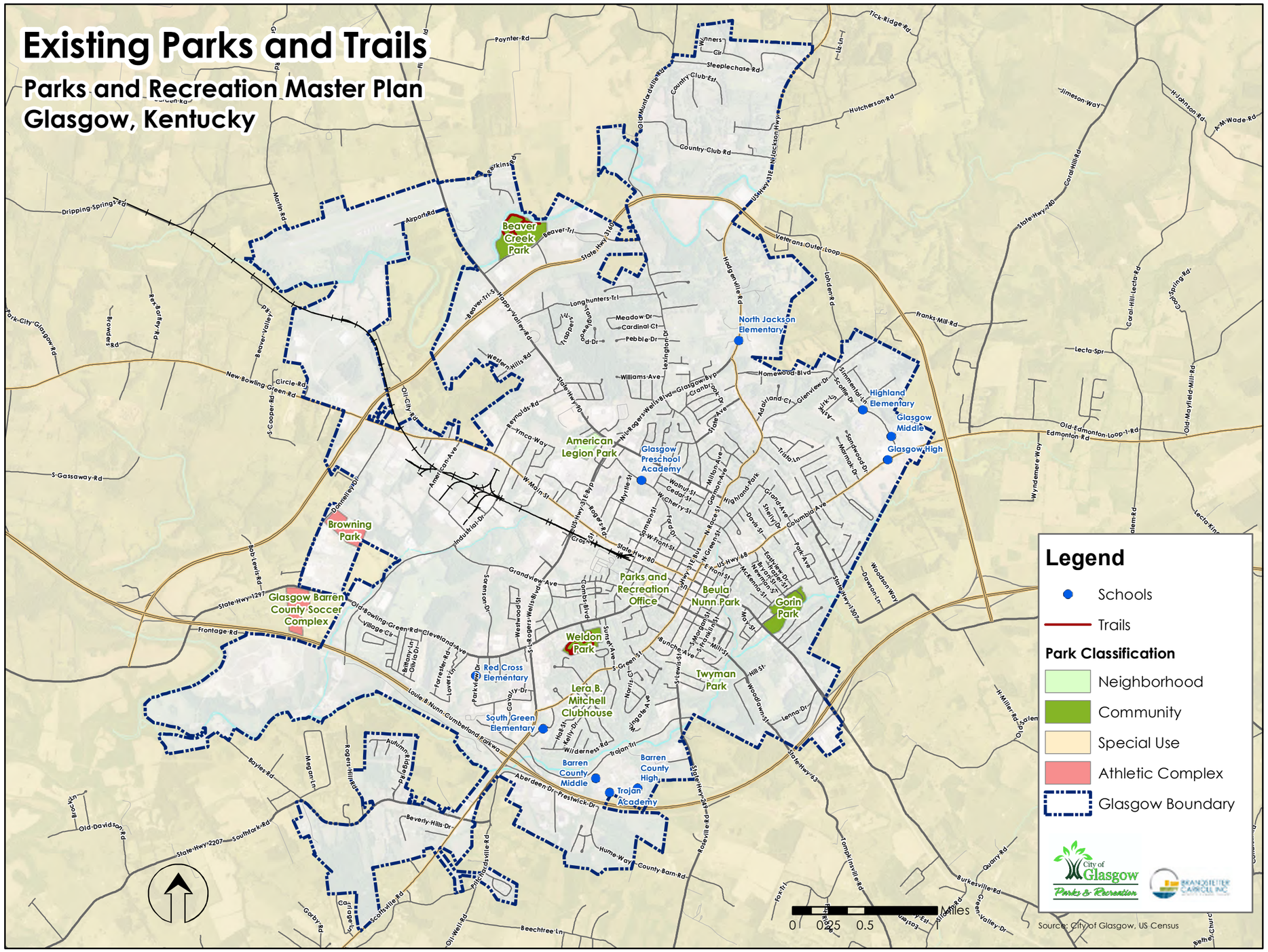
3.5.1 Beaver Creek Park (40.7 acres)

Beaver Creek Park is the largest park in Glasgow with over 40 acres of land, located along the northern edge of the City of Glasgow. The main parking lot for the park can be is accessible from Beaver Trail or Softball Dr near the intersection between Happy Valley Rd and Veterans Outer Loop/US-68. A secondary parking area is located on the east side of the park, accessed via Beaver Trail. Although the park is officially known as Beaver Creek Park, it is commonly referred to as Beaver Trail Park. It is bounded by Beaver Creek to the north and Beaver Trail to the south.

Table 3.2: Parks and Recreation Resource Inventory

PARK NAME	PARK TYPE	Acreage		Athletic Fields					Game Courts		Outdoor Facilities			Trails (Mi)		Passive Recreation			Support			Indoor			Special Feature/Notes
		Total	Developed	Small Baseball	Small Softball	Large Baseball	Large Softball	Rectangular	Basketball Courts	Tennis Courts	Playgrounds	Swimming Pools	Disc Golf	Shared-Use (Paved)	Walking	Dog Parks	Shelters	Gazebos/Small Shelters	Restrooms	Concessions Building	Parking	Gym	Fitness Center	Meeting Room	
Glasgow Parks and Recreation																									
Neighborhood Parks																									
American Legion Park	Neighborhood	12.3	9.5		1						1	1	9				2	3	1	1	74				Day camp
Twyman Park	Mini	4.5	2.6						1		1						1	1	1		10				
Subtotal - Neighborhood Parks		**16.8**	**12.1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**9**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0**	**3**	**4**	**2**	**1**	**84**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
Community Parks																									
Beaver Creek Park	Community	40.7	29.1		2		2				1			0.6			2	1	1	1	433				Horseshoes
Gorin Park	Community	26.7	25.3	2		1			2	8	2							1	2	2	149				
Weldon Park	Community	19.3	7.8	1							1				0.8	1	1		1		78				
Subtotal - Community Parks		**86.7**	**62.1**	**3**	**2**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**2**	**8**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0.6**	**0.8**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**4**	**3**	**660**	**0**	**0**	**0**	
Special Use Parks																									
Beula Nunn Park	Special Use	0.2	0.2																		0				Plaza
Parks and Recreation Office	Special Use	6.2	6.2												0.4			2			180	2	1	1	
Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse	Special Use	1.2	1.2																		61			1	
Unnamed Downtown Park	Special Use	0.3	0.3															1			0				
Subtotal - Special Use Parks		**7.9**	**7.9**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0**	**0**	**3**	**0**	**0**	**241**	**2**	**1**	**2**	
Total - Glasgow Parks and Recreation		**111.3**	**82.1**	**3**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**0**	**3**	**8**	**6**	**1**	**9**	**0.6**	**1.1**	**1**	**6**	**9**	**6**	**4**	**985**	**2**	**1**	**2**	

Figure 3.3: Existing Parks and Trails



The park consists of two separate areas. The first is a four-field complex offering two large and two small softball fields with a restroom/concessions building. The large fields have 300' fences, and the small fields have 200' fences. The smaller fields also have 300' fences. This complex is fenced and kept locked when not in use.

The second part of the park represents the open use part of the park. It offers a shelter with restrooms adjacent to the main parking lot. A trail with a bridge then connects to a ½ mile loop trail that encircles the northwestern portion of the park. Another shelter and a playground are located within the trail loop. Much of the area within the trail is wooded, but it also includes a large open area where the city holds community events.

Park Issues:

- Lacks formal stage for events
- Limited variety of features
- Location in floodplain (all of park)

3.5.2 Gorin Park (26.7 acres)

Gorin Park is located in the eastern portion of Glasgow. A park road, Gorin Park Dr bisects the site and connects to various facilities with separate parking areas. Primary access to the park is from E Main St, but the park can also be accessed from the adjacent neighborhood via Bryan St. The close proximity to this nearby residential area allows for pedestrian access to the park for these residents, but neither the neighborhood nor the park have sidewalks.

The park includes 26.7 acres of land and offers a variety of facilities, including three diamond fields, two basketball courts, eight tennis courts, and two playgrounds. All of the tennis courts and ballfields are lighted. Glasgow High School uses the larger field for baseball. The tennis courts are used for a USTA Tournament, which attracts 15 to 30 participants competing for $10,000 in prizes. The park also has an unused R/C Raceway at the northeastern end of the park.

Park Issues:

- Lack and condition of walkways
- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Drainage issues at and near lower field
- Several layers of asphalt at tennis courts
- Lack of drinking fountains
- Unused former R/C Raceway
- Location in floodplain (majority of park – southeastern side, 18 acres)

3.5.3 Weldon Park (19.3 acres)

Weldon Park is located in the southern portion of Glasgow, southwest of downtown. The park has one entrance that can be accessed from Cleveland Ave, near the intersection of Old Bowling Green Rd and S L Rogers Wells Blvd.

The park offers a large shelter, a playground, a diamond fields, and a dog park. The baseball field has 300' fences that have been reduced to 200' with batting cages between the 200' and 300' fences. The restrooms at the park are across the parking lot from the picnic shelter and playground and up the hill from the ballfield and dog park. A basketball goal is located in the parking lot. The dog park has two areas, one of which has a series of agility obstacles. Finally, the park offers 0.8 miles of walking trails through a dense woodland. These trails make this park a popular destination for visitors of all ages. A native plant garden is located along the trails near the western edge of the park.

Park Issues:

- Lack of walkways and accessibility
- Turf conditions at dog park
- Condition and location of restroom building

3.6 Special Use Parks

Special Use Parks are areas for specialized or single purpose recreational activities, including plazas and community centers.

3.6.1 Beula Nunn Park (0.2 acres)

Beula Nunn Park is a small downtown plaza located on the corner of S Race St and W Washington St. The park includes a veteran's memorial, a monument to Billy Vaughn, benches, a fountain, and five game tables.

Park Issues:

- No picnic area
- Limited shade cover

3.6.2 Parks and Recreation Office (6.2 acres)

The Parks and Recreation Office is located just west of downtown on S Liberty St. The parking is behind and to the side of the building. The building is part of the former Liberty School Campus that also includes two buildings that have been converted to apartments.

The building includes a gym, a fitness center, and a meeting room. A second smaller gym is offered in a second building behind the main building. A 0.4 mile walking trail circumscribes the site.

Park Issues:

- Underutilized parking lot at back of property (northwest)
- Condition of secondary gym (poor ventilation, ceiling insulation falling, etc.)
- Lacks program space

3.6.3 Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse (1.2 acres)

The Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse is located in southern Glasgow on S Green St. The parking lot is located behind the building and is accessed via Seay St. The building is used as the Senior Citizen Center and is available for rental. Due to the limitations of the building, the facility receives limited use. The most frequent rental uses are for wedding showers.

Park Issues:

- Lead based paint and asbestos
- No elevator
- No kitchen access
- Limited use

3.6.4 Unnamed Downtown Park (0.3 acres)

This unnamed park is located in downtown Glasgow on W Main St between N Liberty St and N Race St. The park is adjacent to the South Central Kentucky Cultural Center on W Main St. The park can be accessed from the south via stairs on W Main St or from the north at a shared parking lot.

Park Issues:

- Location below street level
- Accessibility challenges from Main St
- Limited amenities

3.7 Facility Summary

The table (Table 3.3) below provides a summary of the recreation facilities offered by the Glasgow Parks and Recreation Department.

Table 3.3: Recreation Facility Summary

Athletic Fields	#
Small Baseball	3
Small Softball	3
Large Baseball	1
Large Softball	2
Rectangular Field	0
Game Courts	**#**
Basketball Courts	3
Tennis Courts	8
Outdoor Facilities	**#**
Playgrounds	6
Swimming Pools	1
Disc Golf (Holes)	9

Trails (Miles)	#
Shared-Use Trails	0.6
Walking	1.1
Passive Recreation	**#**
Dog Parks	1
Shelters	6
Gazebos/Small Shelters	9
Support Facilities	**#**
Restrooms	6
Concessions Buildings	4
Indoor Facilities	**#**
Gym	2
Fitness Center	1
Meeting Room	2

3.8 Schools

In addition to the sites offered by the City of Glasgow, elementary schools throughout the city offer some recreation areas for residents (Glasgow Independent Schools and Barren County Schools). These areas tend to offer amenities similar to what would be found in a Neighborhood Park; however, the array of features is often more limited, and hours are often restricted. These facilities can help to meet the recreational needs of residents. Table 3.4 provides a summary of these facilities.

1. Glasgow Preschool Academy
2. Highland Elementary
3. North Jackson Elementary
4. Red Cross Elementary
5. South Green Elementary

Table 3.4: School Facilities

Facility Name	Playgrounds	Basketball Courts	Playfields	Multipurpose Fields	Ballfields	Tennis Courts	Trails (Miles)	Small Shelter
School Parks								
Glasgow Preschool Academy	1							
Highland Elementary	1	1						
North Jackson Elementary	1	2		1	4		0.5	
Red Cross Elementary	1				3			
South Green Elementary	1	1						
TOTAL - Schools	**5**	**4**	**0**	**1**	**7**	**0**	**0.5**	**0**

3.9 Other Parks

Two other parks are located in or adjacent to the City of Glasgow. These two parks would be considered Special Use Parks because they offer only athletic fields. Additionally, both parks are only open to the public during events.

3.9.1 Browning Park

Browning Park is a sports complex on Donnelley Drive at the western edge of the City of Glasgow. The park offers three diamond fields and a football field. Two of the diamond fields have 200' fences, one has 275' fences, and one has 300' fences. The park has two concessions/restroom buildings to serve these fields. The fields are used for baseball and softball programs managed by Barren County Parks and Recreation. The park is kept gated and locked when not in use.

3.9.2 Glasgow-Barren County Soccer Complex

The Glasgow-Barren County Soccer Complex is located in Barren County just outside of the Glasgow city boundary, and the entrance to the complex is on Old Bowling Green Rd. It offers four full-sized soccer fields with restrooms and concessions. These fields are used by the soccer league managed by Glasgow Parks and Recreation. The complex is kept gated and locked when not in use.

3.10 Programs Inventory

Quality recreational programming is an important aspect of a healthy community. As citizens of all ages seek to enrich their lives with productive use of leisure time, the availability of a diverse range of recreational

activities becomes increasingly vital. Quality recreational programs also promote societal values such as civic pride and improve a community's attractiveness to parents and business leaders.

The city has been providing programs for several decades and offers a wide variety of programs. Due to funding cuts during the recent recession in the economy, some programming has been reduced, but many have been returned to operation.

3.10.1 Glasgow Parks and Recreation Department Programs

The City of Glasgow provides a variety programs that are listed by category in the ensuing text. Programs are held at a variety of locations in Glasgow.

Youth Sports

- Spring Soccer
- Fall Soccer

Youth Classes/Lessons

- Swim Lessons

Adult Sports/Leagues

- Lady Hoopster Basketball
- Hoopster Basketball
- Bitty Basketball
- Men's League Softball
- Coed League Softball
- Church League Softball
- Coed Volleyball
- Men's Volleyball
- Church Volleyball
- Women's Volleyball
- Cornhole League

Summer Camp Programs

- Day Camp
- Challenger Soccer Camp

Senior Programs

- Senior Citizen's Club
- Senior Exercise and Walking Programs
- Bridge
- Ceramics
- Quilting
- Billiards

Special Events

- Easter Egg Hunt at Beaver Trail
- Senior Health and Fitness Day
- Halloween Festival
- Turkey Trot Races
- Let Loose with Lennie events

Tournaments

- W.A. Weldon Open Tennis Championship
- Jim Moody Doubles Classic
- Winter Freeze Volleyball Tournament
- Spring Slam Volleyball Tournament
- Cornhole Tournaments

3.10.2 Youth Sports Leagues

Several youth sports leagues in Glasgow are managed by other organizations which are outlined below.

Baseball

- Glasgow Athletics Program – Little League
- Barren County Parks & Recreation – Babe Ruth
- Barren County Parks & Recreation – Cal Ripken (teen)

Softball

- Glasgow Athletics Program – Little League
- Barren County Parks & Recreation – Babe Ruth

Basketball

- Glasgow Athletics Program

Football

- Glasgow Athletics Program

4

PUBLIC INPUT

4.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the processes used and the public input gathered throughout the planning process and summarizes of the following elements:

1. Public Meetings (open house, stakeholder groups, and events)
2. Dollar Voting Exercise
3. Statistically Valid Parks and Recreation Survey (by ETC Institute)
4. Web-Based and Handout Survey
5. Online Engagement (powered by MindMixer)

The public engagement process is essential to identify the needs and preferences of Glasgow residents. The findings of the public input process are, therefore, integral to the Needs Assessment and Identification (Chapter 5) and serve as the foundation of the recommendations of this master plan.

4.2 Public Meetings

This section provides a summary of public meetings (public workshop, stakeholder groups, and events) held or attended as part of the master planning process. Approximately 170 community members were engaged in person at these meetings, which were held in February of 2018.

4.2.1 Public Workshop

The city conducted a public workshop (open house meeting) on February 12, 2018 to introduce the project to the public and to solicit feedback from the community regarding the present and future of parks and recreation in Glasgow.

Upon arrival, attendees were asked to sign in and were then given a dot to place on a map to indicate where they live. This map (Figure 4.1) shows the distribution of the meeting attendees. The map indicates that the attendees were generally well-distributed throughout Glasgow with the exception of the western portion of the city.

The meeting allowed participants to visit a series of stations in order to provide their input and learn more about the master plan. The primary input stations were arranged around the room and provided opportunities

for input on three general topics. At each of these stations, participants were asked to share their responses to two questions: "What makes them great now?" and "What would make them better?"

The three input topics were as follows:

- Parks and Facilities
- Trails and Natural Areas
- Programs and Events

A voting for improvements station provided two activities, dollar voting (see Section 4.3) and a feature preference board. A summary of input by station is provided below, and the full text of comments can be found in Appendix C.

Parks and Facilities

This topic represented built amenities and general recommendations for parks. Trails were the subject of the largest number of comments. Attendees indicated a need for a new aquatic center to replace the City Pool at American Legion Park. They would also like to see better maintenance of the parks as well as more and improved restrooms. Residents indicated a need for improved safety and more drinking fountains.

What makes them great now?

- Number of parks
- Staff
- Variety
- Athletic fields

What would make them better?

- Aquatic center
- Better maintenance
- Restroom improvements
- Safety
- Water fountains
- Game courts – tennis, volleyball, basketball
- Skate park

Natural Areas and Trails

This station encouraged discussion of natural areas, conservation/preservation, and trails. The focus of most of the comments was on the need for more trails and natural areas and better connectivity.

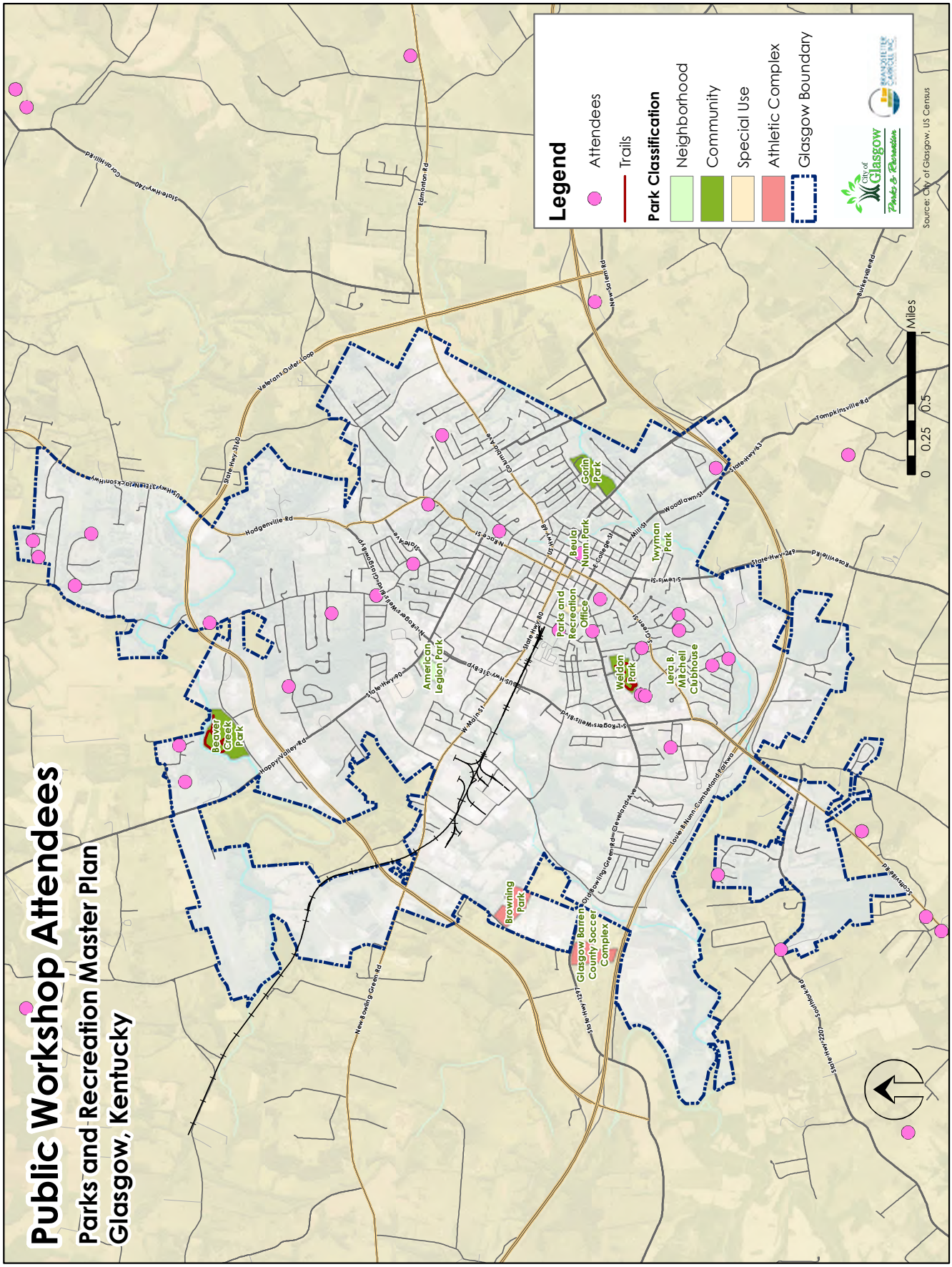
What makes them great now?

- Great locations
- Well-maintained
- Weldon Park

What would make them better?

- More and longer trails
- Connectivity
- Bike trails
- Better maintenance

Figure 4.1: Public Workshop Attendee Distribution



- More open space
- More diversity of natural areas

Programs and Events

This topic provided a location for comments about programs, including sports, camps, nature programs, arts, and events. Community events and festivals were the most discussed topics.

What makes them great now?

- Sports leagues
- Variety
- Accessibility

What would make them better?

- More events and festivals
- More events for all ages
- More youth leagues (by Parks and Recreation)
- More adult leagues
- Youth camps
- Host tournaments
- Better promotion

Feature Preference Board

Attendees of the Open House were given three dots to place on a board that provided a list of 11 park amenities (represented by pictures) plus an option for "Anything Else." This activity requested that participants choose the features most important to them and their households. Children were also invited to participate. Forty-five (45) community members participated in this activity, and a count of the selections is presented to the right in Table 4.1.

Aquatics received the largest number of dots (23), followed by event spaces and trails (14 each). All of the options received some support, indicating that all of these amenities are important to Glasgow residents to varying degrees. The provided features were intended to be general, so features were combined into categories whenever possible. A skate park was the only "Anything Else" selection.

Table 4.1: Feature Preference Results

Feature	Count
Aquatics	23
Event Spaces	14
Trails	14
Natural Areas	12
Recreation Center	11
Multipurpose Fields	11
Ball Diamonds	10
Game Courts	9
Playgrounds	7
Dog Parks	6
Community Gardens	5
Outdoor Fitness Equipment	4
Picnic Shelters	3
Disk Golf	1
Senior Center	2
Other (Skatepark)	3
Total	**135**
Participants	**45**

4.2.2 Stakeholder Groups

A series of stakeholder group meetings were conducted on February 13, 2018 to determine the parks and recreation priorities for various interest groups. A total of 15 stakeholder groups were engaged as part of this master plan. At these meetings, stakeholders were asked a series of questions about Glasgow parks, recreation facilities, and programs, beginning with a discussion of strengths before moving to a discussion of opportunities for the future. Summaries of the meetings with complete comments can be found in Appendix C.

The following stakeholder group meetings were held as part of this master plan:

City Boards and Staff

- Mayor
- Public Works
- Planning and Zoning
- Safety
- Fire Department
- Police Department

Parks Department

- Program Staff
- Maintenance Staff

Sports Groups

- Weldon Tennis Association
- Glasgow Athletic Program(GAP)
- Glasgow Independent Schools
- Tennis Program

Partner Organizations

- Glasgow Garden Club
- Barren County Family YMCA
- Friends of the Glasgow Dog Park

Stakeholder Top Recommendations

- Improved maintenance
- Upgrades/updates needed
- More funding
- New pool
- Better promotion
- Skate park
- More variety needed at parks
- More programs needed
- More tennis/pickleball courts needed
- More events
- More/better indoor facilities needed

4.2.3 Hops & Horses Event

As another part of the effort to reach as many residents as possible, the planning team and Parks and Recreation staff set up a table at the Hops & Horses event at Beaver Creek Park on September 28, 2018 to encourage attendees to provide input on parks and recreation services in Glasgow. Attendees were invited to complete the handout survey

and to participate in the dollar voting exercise. See next section for results of the dollar voting exercise and 4.3 for results of the survey.

4.2.4 Dollar Voting

Participants at the Hops & Horses event, the public workshop, and the stakeholder groups were given $1,000 in play money to place into boxes to indicate how they would like Glasgow to allocate funds for parks and recreation. Table 4.2 shows the total allocations for each of the seven (7) categories (or boxes). Participants could also place money into an "other" box, in order to request specific amenities or improvements not included on one of the six provided categories.

The combined results for the 113 participants at the events are presented below with the allocation for each park improvement category with the percentage of the total allocation. The total allocation is presented in the right-most column of Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Dollar Voting Allocation

Action (Box Title)	Event			Total
	Hops & Horses 9/28/17	Open House 2/12/2018	Stakeholders 2/13/2018	
Build new aquatic facilities	$11,900	$8,400	$5,900	**$26,200**
	26%	*19%*	*24%*	*23%*
Upgrade existing parks	$7,200	$8,500	$8,800	**$24,500**
	16%	*19%*	*35%*	*22%*
Buy land for open space or future parks	$7,300	$5,000	$3,700	**$16,000**
	16%	*11%*	*15%*	*14%*
Build new athletic fields	$8,500	$4,400	$1,300	**$14,200**
	19%	*10%*	*5%*	*12%*
New walking and biking trails	$5,500	$6,400	$1,200	**$13,100**
	12%	*15%*	*5%*	*12%*
Build new community/ recreation centers	$1,900	$6,200	$3,300	**$11,400**
	4%	*14%*	*13%*	*10%*
Other	$2,700	$4,900	$700	**$8,300**
	6%	*11%*	*3%*	*7%*
Total	$45,000	$43,800	$24,900	**$113,700**

The allocations were fairly even between the top two boxes with *build new aquatic facilities* and *upgrade existing parks* both receiving between 22% and 23% of the total allocation. *Buy land for open space or future parks* was third at 14%. The final three options all received between 10% and 12% of the total allocation. "Other" received 7% of funds.

For "Other" improvements, participants wrote their chosen improvements with the allocation on a card and placed it and the money into the "Other" box. "Skate park" received the highest allocation of these specific improvements.

4.3 Public Opinion Surveys

The following pages summarize the findings of the statistically valid survey (Mail Survey) and the web and handout survey (Web Survey). Because the Mail Survey results were collected using a statistically valid random sample, they are intended to represent the residents of Glasgow as a whole, both users and non-users. Web Survey results represent the respondents of the survey but not necessarily Glasgow residents as a whole. Some figures show only the top results; however, the full results

with all response options can be found in Appendices E and F.

4.3.1 Statistically Valid Survey – Overview and Methodology

ETC Institute conducted a Needs Assessment Survey (Mail Survey) in the winter of 2017 to help establish priorities for the future development of parks, trails, programs, and open space in Glasgow. The survey was designed to obtain statistically valid results from households throughout the city and was administered by mail and web.

The Brandstetter Carroll Inc. project team worked with Glasgow Parks and Recreation staff on the development of the survey questionnaire. This collaboration resulted in a survey tailored to issues of strategic local importance, providing a tool for effective planning of the future of the parks, recreation, trails, and open space in Glasgow. The four-page survey was mailed to a random sample of households throughout Glasgow. These households were also provided with a web address to complete the survey online as an alternative to completing it by hand and returning it by mail.

For the purpose of providing statistically valid results, the goal was to obtain a total of at least 300 completed surveys, and ETC Institute met that goal with a total of 304 surveys. Based on this random sample of households, this survey has precision of at least +/-5.6% at the 95% level of confidence.

4.3.2 National Benchmarking

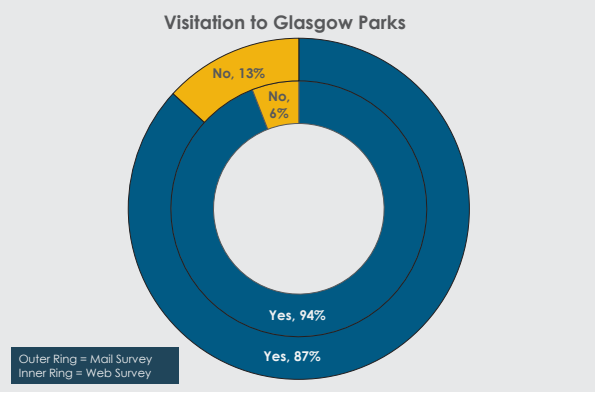
Since 1998, ETC Institute has conducted household surveys for needs assessments, feasibility studies, customer satisfaction, fees and charges comparisons, and other parks and recreation issues in more than 700 communities in over 45 states across the country.

The results of these surveys have provided an unparalleled database of information to compare responses from households in client communities to "National Averages" and, therefore, provide a unique tool to "assist organizations in better decision making." The National Benchmarking summary is included in Appendix E with the full survey report. Select information for this benchmarking is described within this section.

4.3.3 Web Survey – Overview and Methodology

An online and handout survey was administered by BCI and consisted of similar questions to the Mail Survey but with a reduced overall length (2 pages instead of 4). The web version was powered by Survey Monkey, and the handout version was available at the public meetings and the Parks and Recreation Office. The goal of this survey was to engage anyone who wished to share their ideas and 475 community members participated.

Figure 4.2: Visitation to Parks in Glasgow



4.3.4 Visitation of Parks Offered in Glasgow

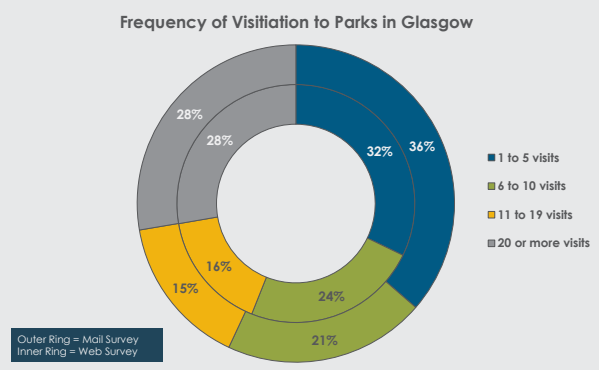
Respondents to the survey were asked about their visitation to parks in Glasgow over the last year. Figure 4.2 shows the proportion of respondents that reported that a member of their household visited a park in the last year. According to the statistically valid Mail Survey (outer ring), **87% of households visited parks** in Glasgow. The national average for park visitation is 81%. Accordingly, residents in Glasgow were slightly more likely than residents of other communities to visit parks. Respondents to the Web Survey (inner ring) were more likely to visit parks at 94%.

4.3.5 Frequency of Visits to Parks & Recreation Facilities in Glasgow

Respondent households that visited parks and recreation facilities in Glasgow during the last year were asked to indicate how often they have visited those facilities over that time. The results are presented in Figure 4.3.

According to the Mail Survey, Glasgow households who visited parks or recreation facilities likely visited numerous times. Twenty-eight percent (28%) reported visiting facilities 20 or more times over the last year. Results for the other visitation rates were: 1-5 times (36%), 6-10 times (21%), and 11-19 times (15%). Looking at the responses cumulatively, 23% of households visited parks 11 or more times, and 64% visited parks six or more times. Usage rates were slightly higher among respondents to the Web Survey.

Figure 4.3: Frequency of Visitation to Parks in Glasgow

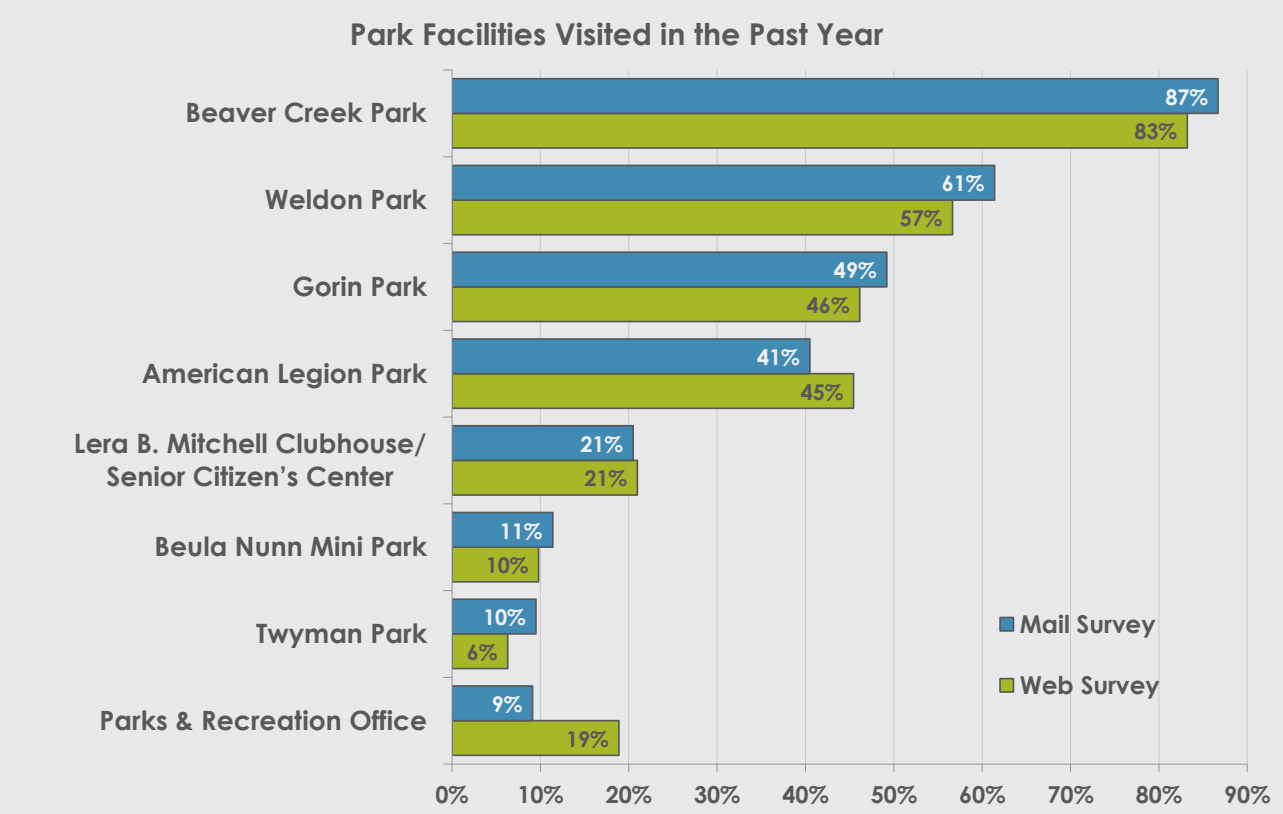


4.3.6 Parks and Recreation Facilities Visited in the Past Year

Survey respondents were asked to indicate each of the parks offered by the City of Glasgow their households visited over the past year. Figure 4.4 shows the percentage of respondents whose households used each facility.

According to the Mail Survey, **87% of Glasgow households visited Beaver Creek Park** over the past year. Weldon Park was second at 61%. The most used facilities were those with the widest variety of amenities, drawing users from all over Glasgow. Web Survey respondents reported similar levels of usage for all parks with the exception of the Parks & Recreation Office.

Figure 4.4: Parks Visited

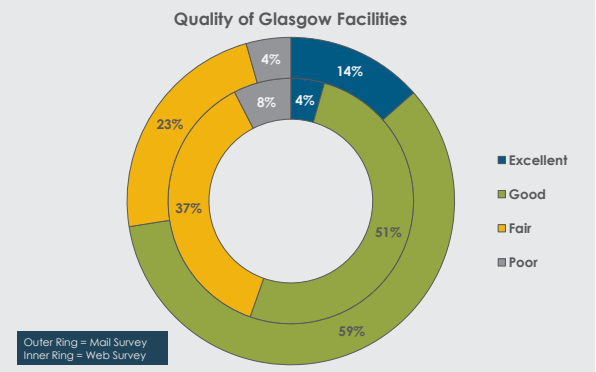


4.3.7 Physical Condition of Facilities Offered by Glasgow

Respondent households were asked to rate the physical condition of facilities they visited. Figure 4.5 shows respondents ratings of the condition of Glasgow facilities.

According to the Mail Survey, 59% of households who visited these facilities over the past year rated the condition of those facilities as *good*, 14% rated the condition of the facilities as *excellent*, and 23% rated the condition as *fair*. Four percent (4%) rated the facilities as *poor*. Web Survey respondents were slightly more likely to rank facilities as *poor* (8%), and less likely to rank them as *excellent* (4%). These numbers contrast significantly with the National Benchmarking by ETC Institute showing 31% for *excellent* and only 1% for *poor*.

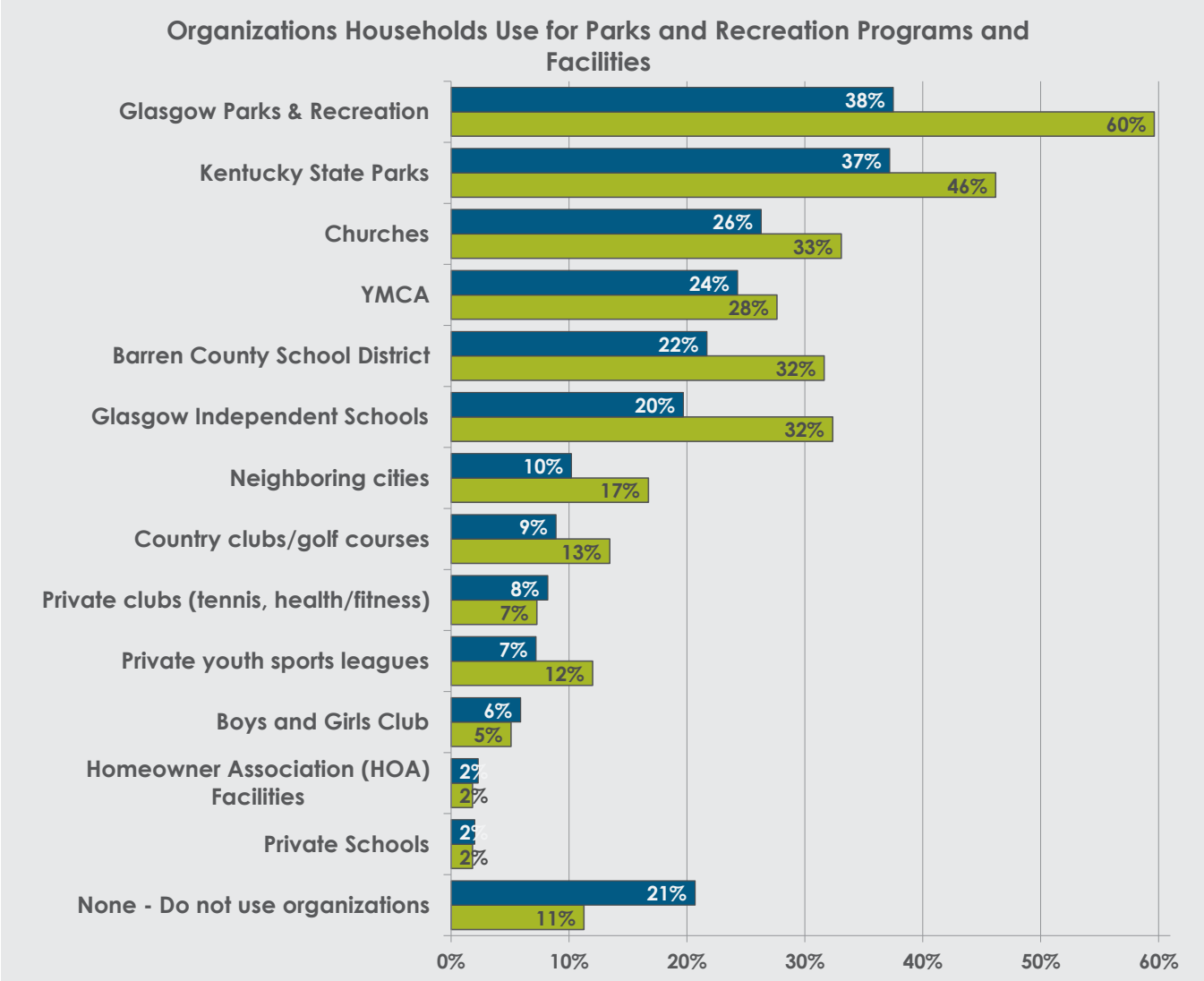
Figure 4.5: Quality of Facilities



4.3.8 Organizations Used for Parks and Recreation

The Mail Survey asked respondents to indicate which organizations they used for parks and recreation (Figure 4.6), and City of Glasgow services ranked first at 38%. Respondents were nearly as likely to use Kentucky State Parks as those offered by Glasgow.

Figure 4.6: Organizations Used for Parks and Recreation



4.3.9 Participation in Programs Offered by Glasgow in the Past Year

Respondents were asked if any members of their household participated in programs offered by Glasgow Parks and Recreation over the past year. These results are shown in Figure 4.7. According to the Mail Survey, approximately one fifth (22%) of Glasgow households participated in programs offered by Glasgow, and 78% did not. The National Benchmark is 34%.

4.3.10 Quality of Programs

Respondents who participated in programs offered by Glasgow were asked to rate the quality of those programs. Figure 4.8 shows the results for household ratings of these programs. Sixty-three percent (63%) of participating households rated programs as *good*, 19% rated programs as *excellent*, and 17% rated programs as *fair*. These results are slightly below the National Benchmarks of 36% for *excellent* and 53% for *good*.

Figure 4.7: Participation in Programs by Glasgow

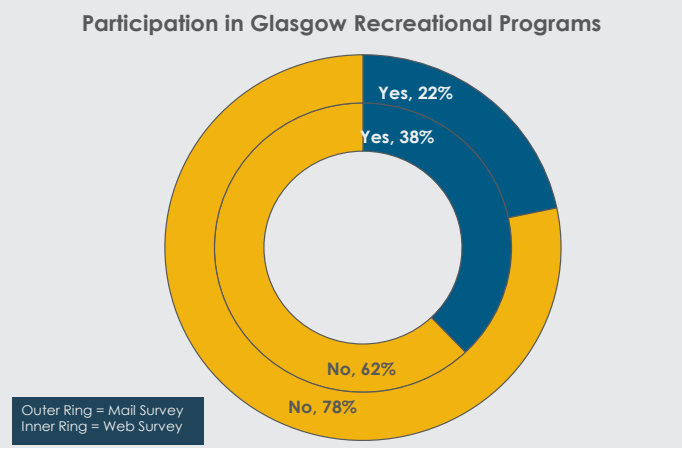
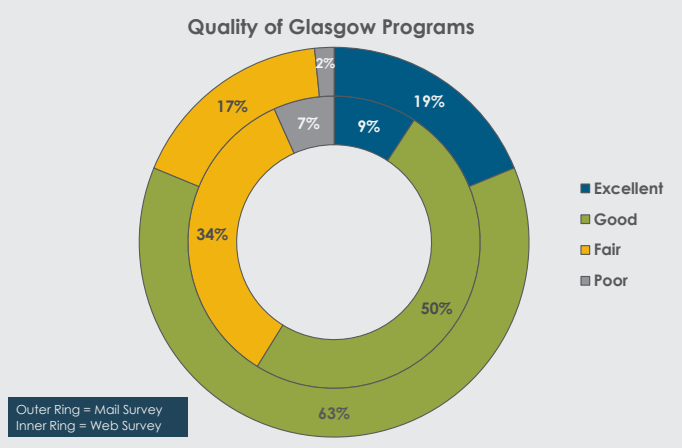


Figure 4.8: Quality of Glasgow Programs



4.3.11 Upgrades to Existing Parks

Respondents were asked to identify upgrades their household would like to see to existing parks, and the responses can be seen in Figure 4.9. Support facilities represented nine of the top ten upgrades (playgrounds were the exception). The **top response for both surveys was *improve or add restrooms* (60% in Mail Survey, 73% in Web Survey)**. *Walking/hiking trails* were second and *security cameras and lighting* were third. These top ranked items represent amenities that improve the overall park experience and can be included at nearly any park.

4.3.12 Need for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Respondents of the Mail Survey were asked to indicate facilities needed by any members of their households from a list of 27 parks and recreation facilities. Figure 4.10 shows the results as well as the national average for each facility.[1] National averages shown in red indicate Glasgow's need at 5% or more below the national average. Black indicates less than 5% above or below the national average or that comparison numbers are not available. No facilities are needed by Glasgow households at 5% or more above the national average (would be indicated in blue).

According to the survey, the **highest percentage of Glasgow households (66%) had a need for *walking & hiking trails***. *Picnic shelters/picnic areas ranked second* at 56%, followed closely by *natural areas/nature parks* (52%) and *small neighborhood parks* (50%). *Playgrounds* ranked fourth at 46%. Overall, Glasgow households indicated a lower level of need than the national average for most of the facilities in the survey (14 of 24, the others had no national averages).

The survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for parks and recreation facilities and then estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less based on these responses, combined with the total number of households in Glasgow. Figure 4.11 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these facilities.

[1] Provided by ETC Institute (see Appendix E)

Figure 4.9: Upgrades to Existing Parks

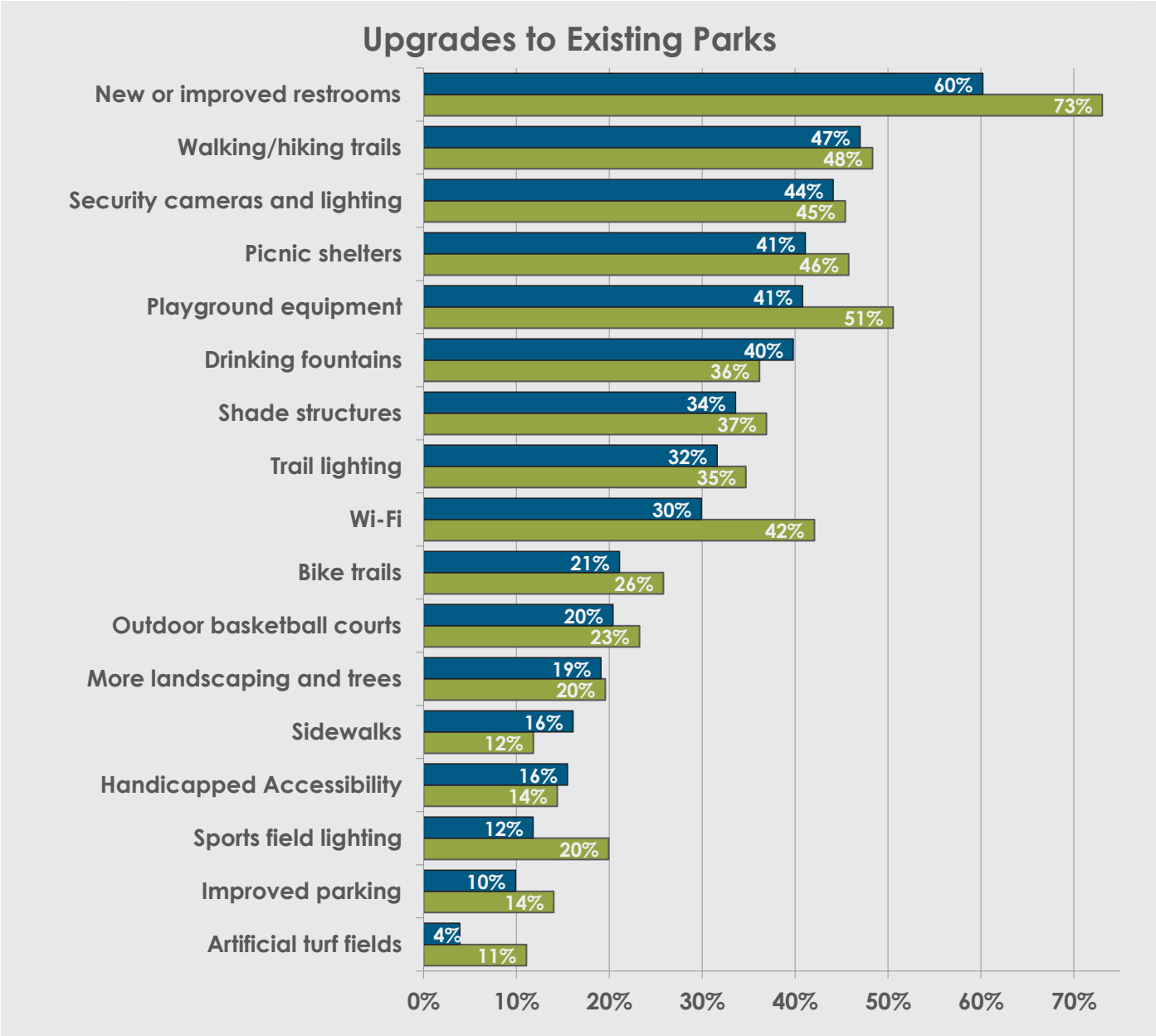
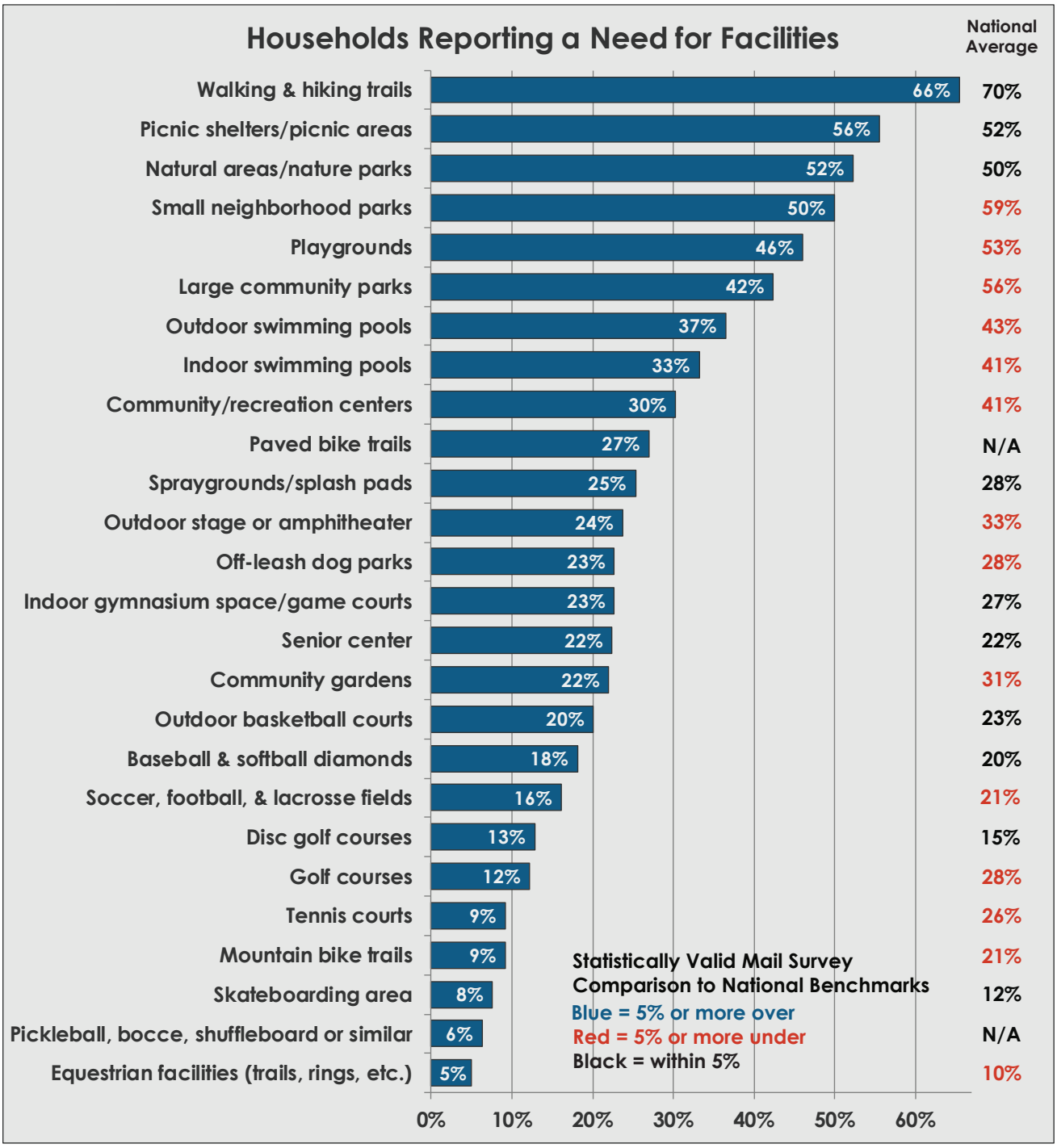


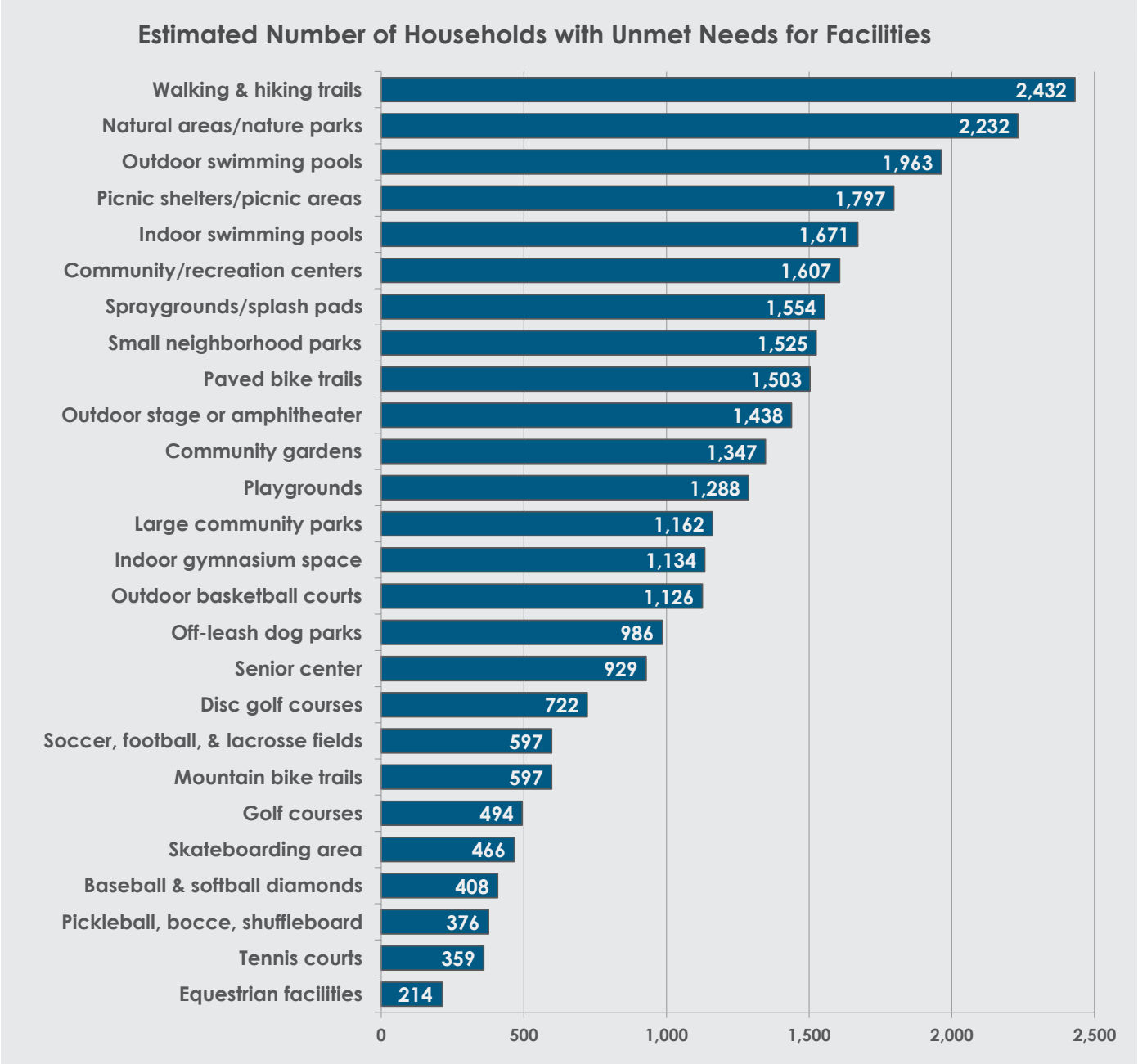
Figure 4.10: Need for Facilities



The order of the items in Figure 4.11 shows some similarities and some differences from the list of needed facilities (Figure 4.9). **The most needed facility, *walking & hiking trails*, also ranked first for unmet needs (over 2,400 households).** *Natural areas/nature parks* ranked second for unmet needs, compared to third for needed facilities. Outdoor swimming pools ranked as the third most unmet need, compared to seventh for needed facilities, indicating that households who have needs for pools are not having them met by existing facilities.

The most important facilities (total of top four choices) are presented in Figure 4.12. Overall, these items are similar to the results indicated by the previous two figures. However, ***walking & hiking trails* ranked as the most important facility to Glasgow households** by far with 41% of households ranking them as one of their four most important facilities. *Playgrounds* ranked second with 26%.

Figure 4.11: Estimated Number of Households with Unmet Facility Needs



The survey results provided by ETC Institute included a Priority Investment Ranking for each of the facilities in this list that combines the unmet need ranking and most important facilities ranking for these facilities (see Appendix E for methodology). The results for the high and medium priority facilities can be seen in Figure 4.13.

Based on these results, the **top six facility priorities** for investment in Glasgow are:

1. **Walking & hiking trails**
2. **Natural areas/nature parks**
3. **Picnic shelters/picnic areas**
4. **Outdoor swimming pools**
5. **Playgrounds**
6. **Small neighborhood parks**

Figure 4.12: Most Important Facilities

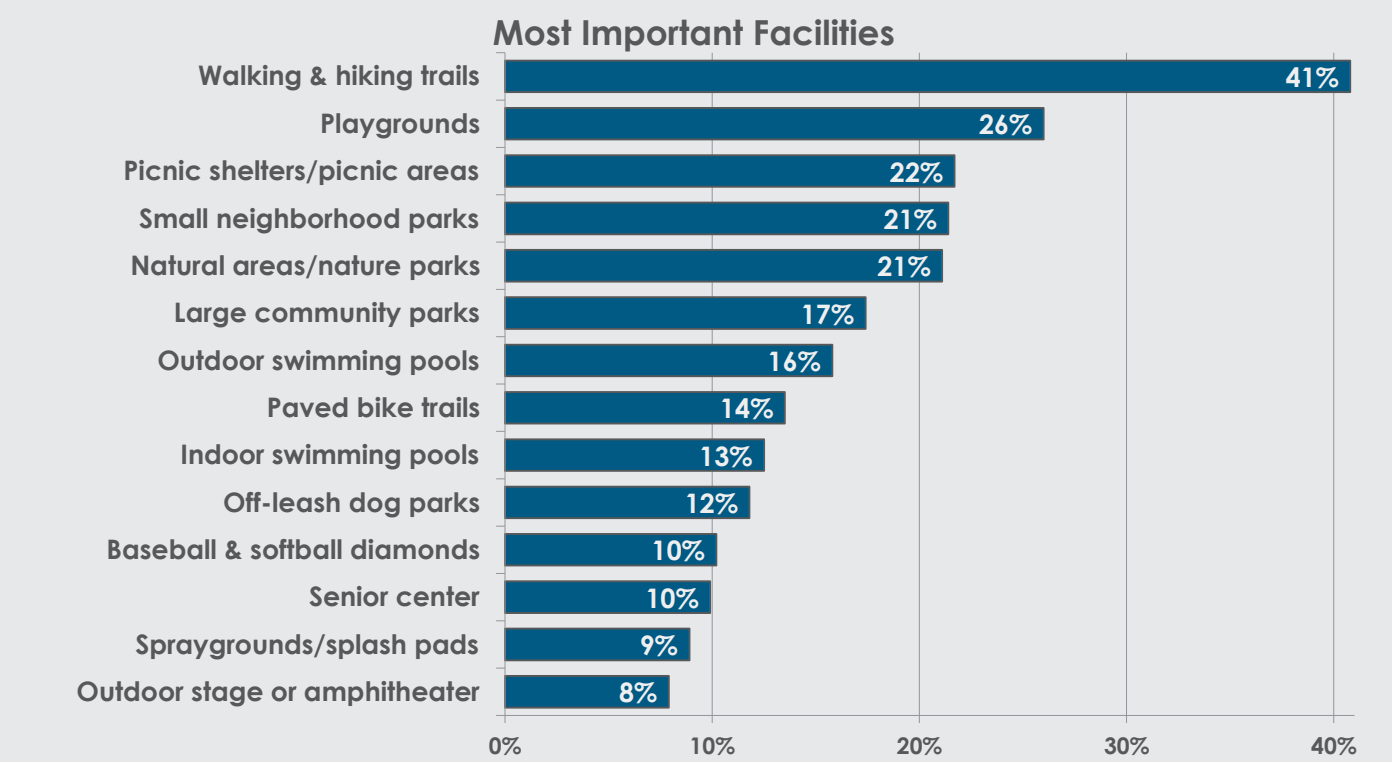
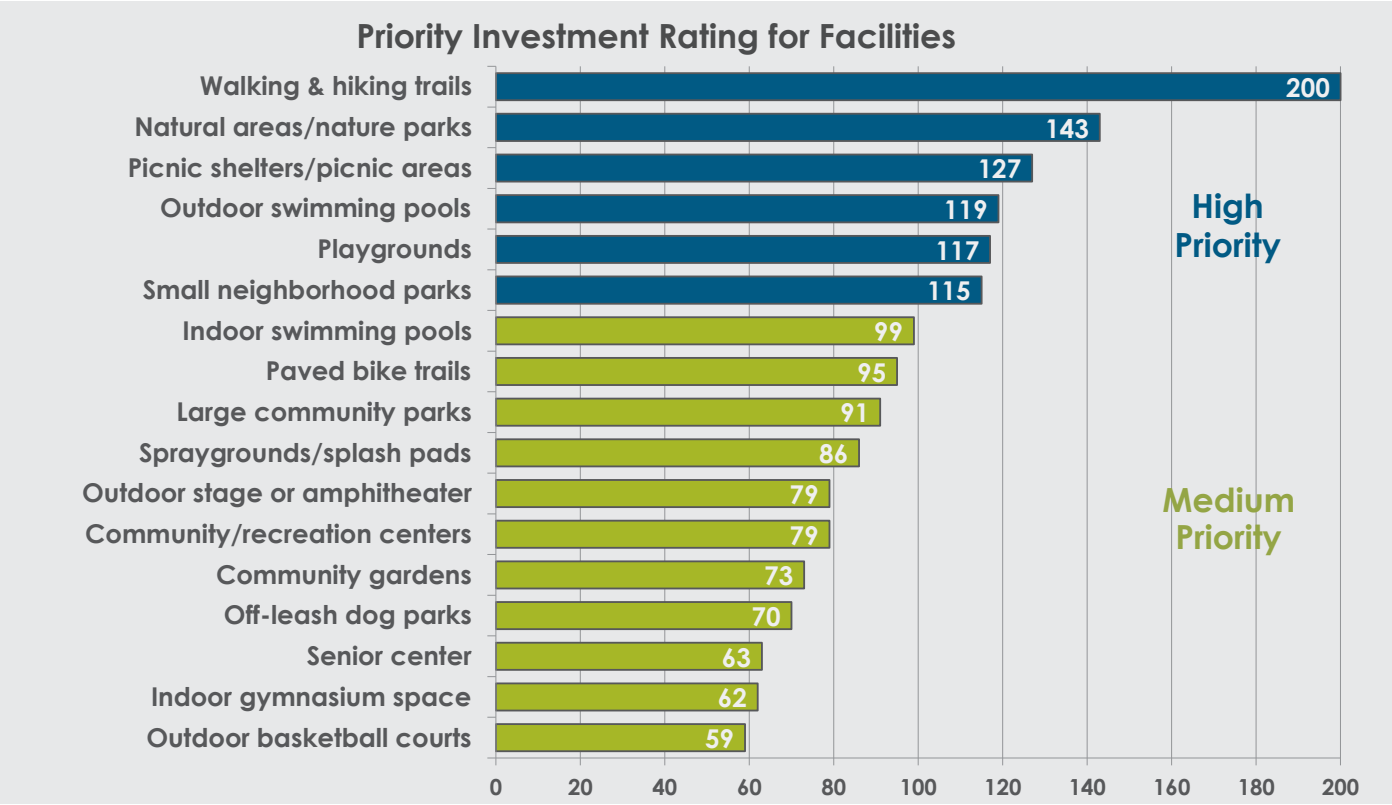


Figure 4.13: Facility Priorities for Investment



4.3.13 Need for Programs

Respondents were asked to identify which programs were needed by their households from a list of 20 recreation program categories. Figure 4.14 shows the results as well as the national average for each program. As indicated previously for facilities, the national averages are shown in red to indicate Glasgow's need at 5% or more under the national average, blue to indicate Glasgow's need at 5% or more above the national average, and black indicates within 5% above or below the national average or that comparison numbers are not available.

According to the survey, ***adult fitness & wellness programs* at 52% were the most needed recreation programs** by Glasgow households with *summer concerts* ranking second at 46% and *programs for persons aged 50+* third at 34%. Like for facilities, Glasgow households showed lower than average needs for many programs, but the need for *adult fitness & wellness programs* ranked above the national average.

The survey also asked respondents how well their needs were met for recreation programs and then estimated the number of households for which needs were met at 50% or less based on these responses and the total number of households in Glasgow. Figure 4.15 shows the estimated number of households with needs met at 50% or less for these programs.

The order of the items in Figure 4.15 was very similar to the list of needed programs in Figure 4.14 with the top items appearing in both figures, indicating a need for expansion of these types of programs. Summer concerts ranked first with at 2,600 households with had unmet needs. *Adult fitness & wellness programs* were second with over 2,500 households indicated unmet needs.

The survey results by ETC Institute also included a Priority Investment Ranking for programs, combining the unmet needs ranking and most important programs ranking (Figure 4.16). The results for the high and medium priority facilities can be seen in Figure 4.17.

Based on these results, the **top three program priorities** for investment in Glasgow are:

1. **Adult fitness & wellness programs**
2. **Summer concerts**
3. **Programs for persons ages 50+**

Figure 4.14: Need for Programs

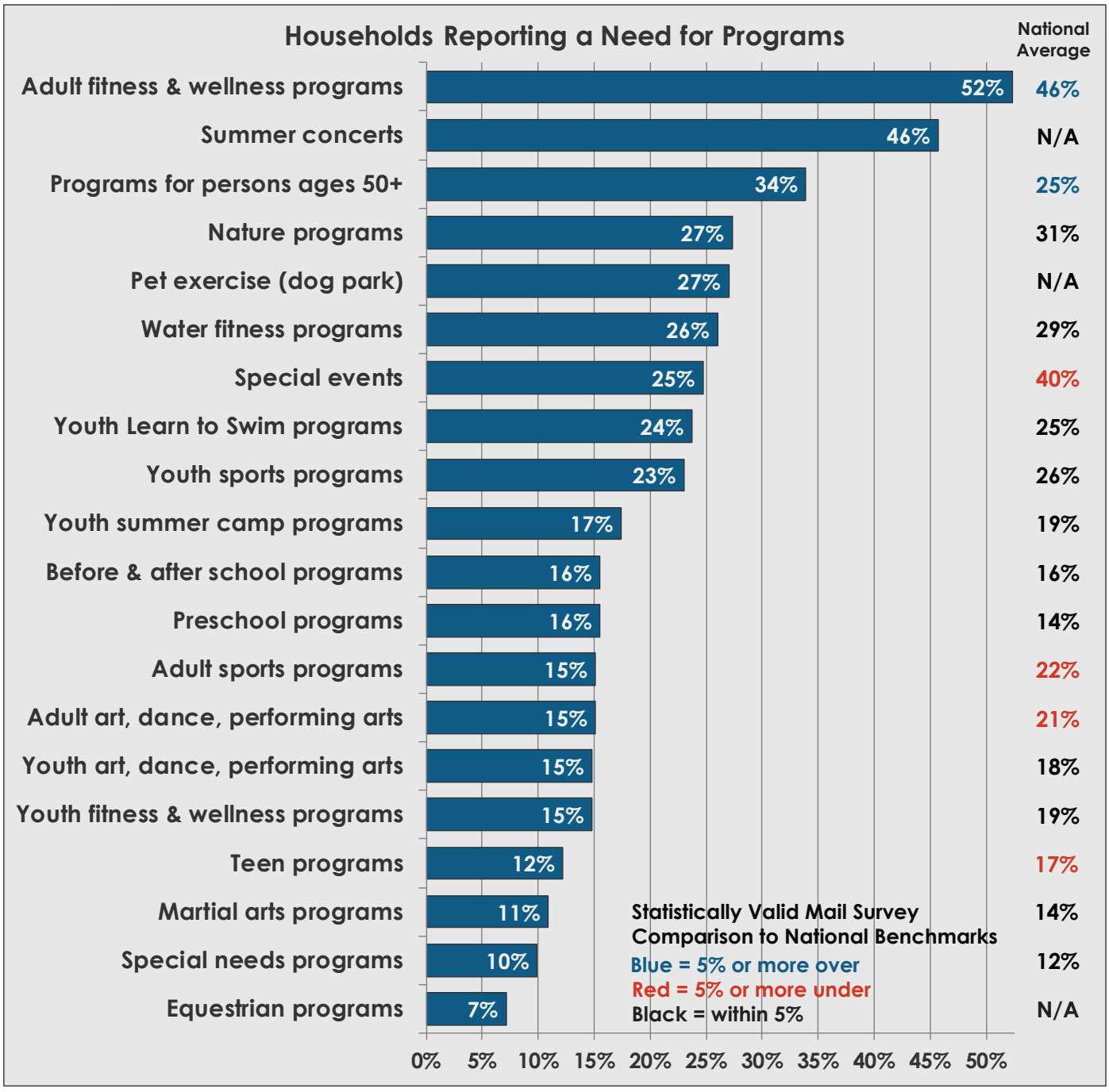


Figure 4.15: Estimated Number of Households with Unmet Program Needs

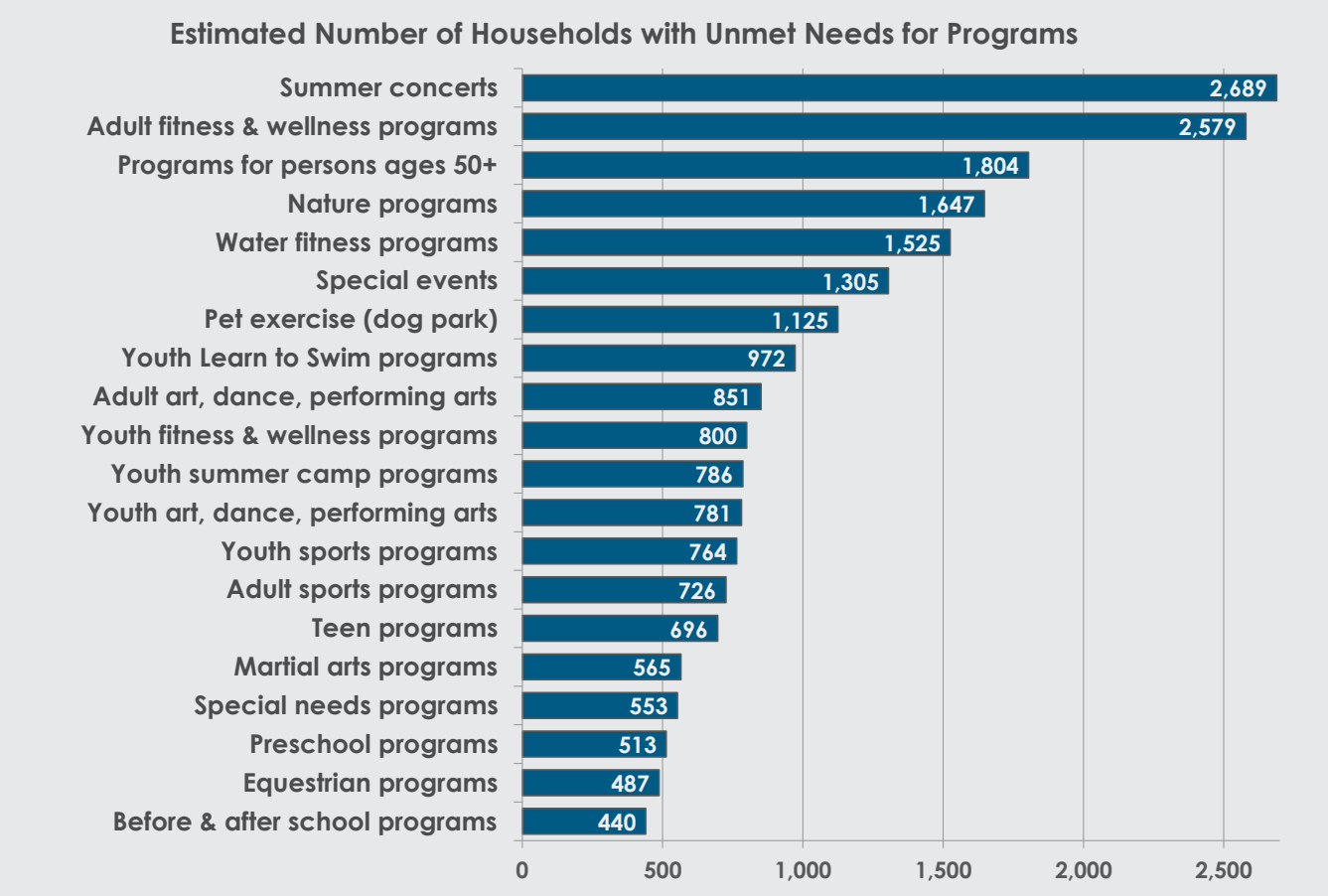


Figure 4.16: Most Important Programs

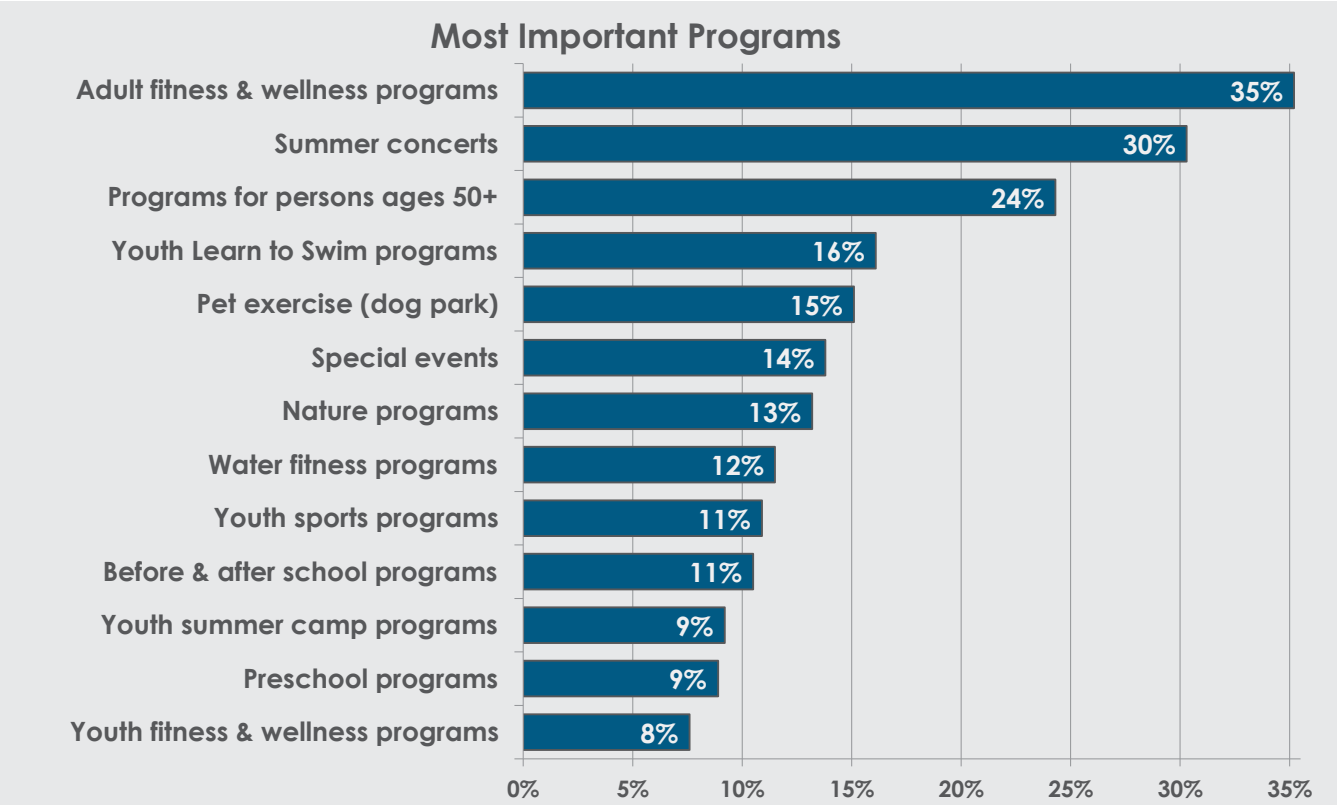
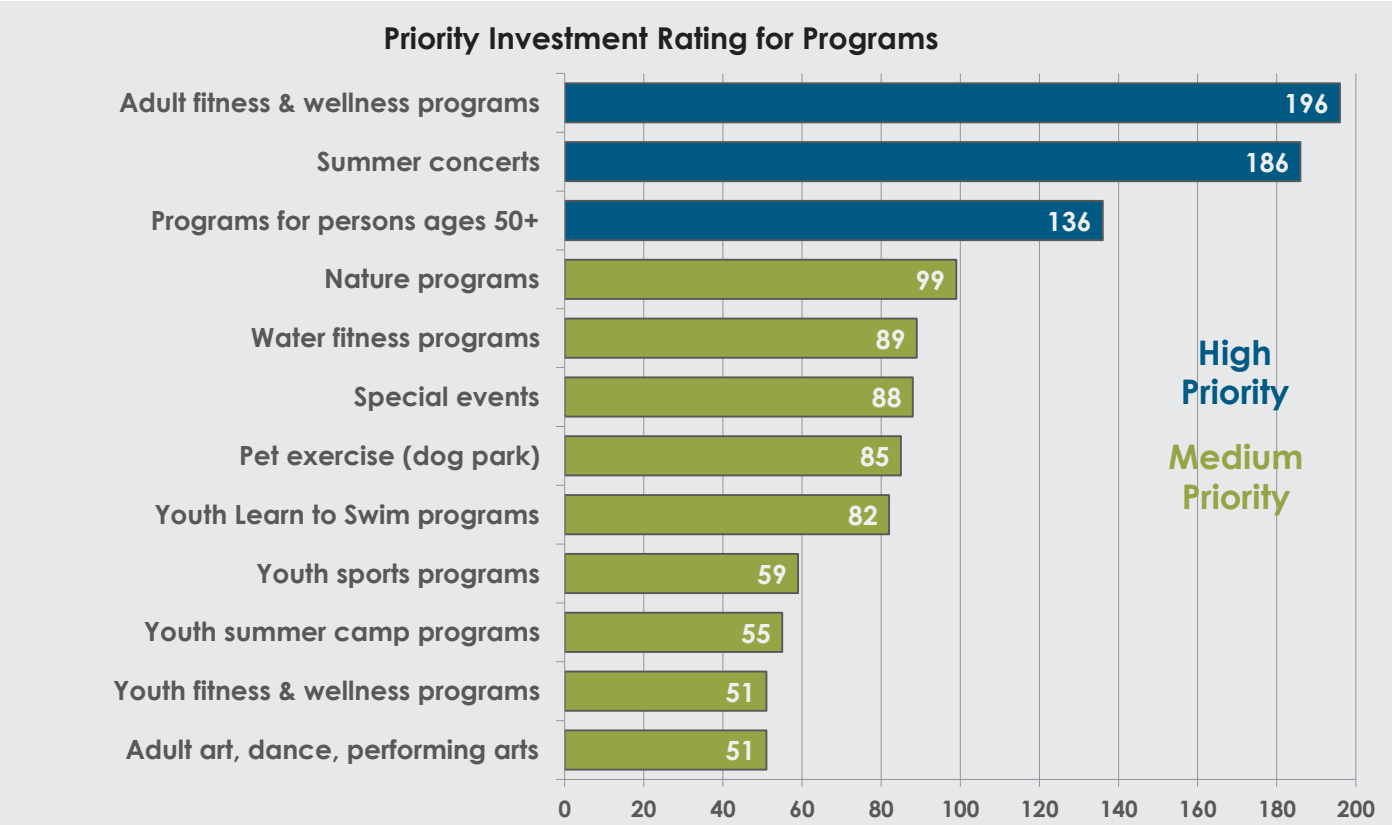


Figure 4.17: Program Priorities for Investment



4.3.14 Support for Park Improvements

Respondents to the Mail Survey were asked to indicate whether they were *very supportive, somewhat supportive, not supportive,* or *not sure* of 10 actions Glasgow could take to improve parks and recreation services. The results, which can be seen in Figure 4.18, show the combined total of *very supportive* and *somewhat supportive* responses.

Upgrade older parks & recreation facilities **received the highest level of support with 79% of respondents** supporting this action (59% *very supportive*). *Build new & connect existing trails* ranked second with 70% of respondents supporting this action (49% *very supportive*). *Buy land to preserve open space, natural areas, & historic places* and *host more special events* ranked third and fourth with 68% of respondents supporting each these actions. A majority of respondents were supportive of all of the 10 actions. These results indicate support for parks and recreation improvements in general by Glasgow residents.

4.3.15 Allocation of $100 Between Parks and Recreation Improvements

Survey respondents were asked how they would allocate $100 between seven different parks and recreation improvements in Glasgow. Of the options provided (Figure 4.18), residents would allocate the largest amounts to ***upgrade existing parks ($18)*** and ***build new aquatic facilities ($17)***. *Other* received the second largest allocation at $19, and a dog park, special events, and indoor facilities were most frequently requested by these respondents.

4.3.16 Learning about Recreation or Activities in Glasgow

Respondents were asked to identify ways from which they learn about Glasgow parks and recreation activities. The results can be seen in Figure 4.20. Respondents indicated *word of mouth* as the most common way they learn of programs and activities with 66% of Mail Survey respondents choosing this option. *Newspaper* ranked second at 43%, and *social networking* ranked third at 42%.

Figure 4.18: Support for Actions to Improve Parks and Recreation Services

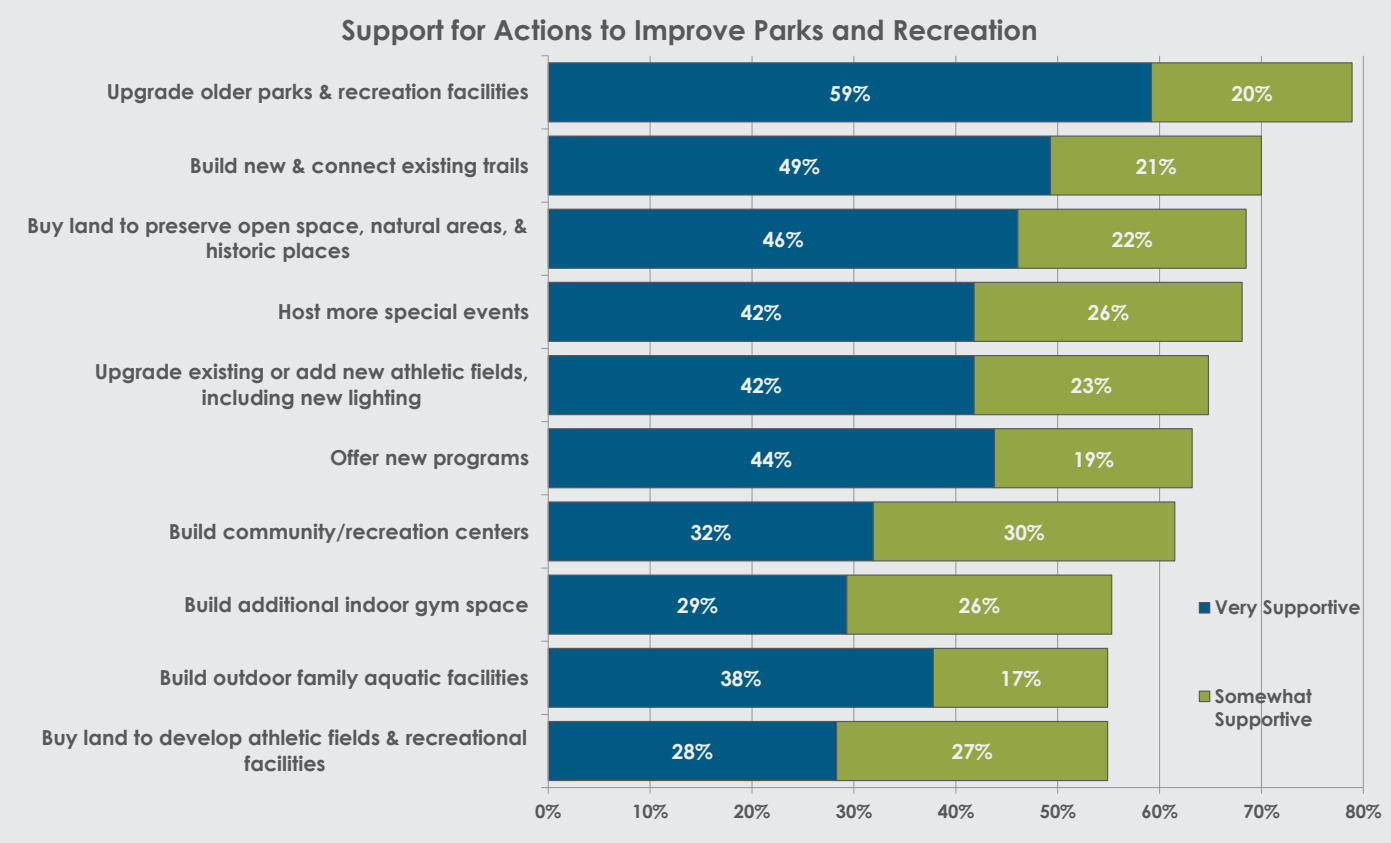


Figure 4.19: $100 Allocation for Park Improvements

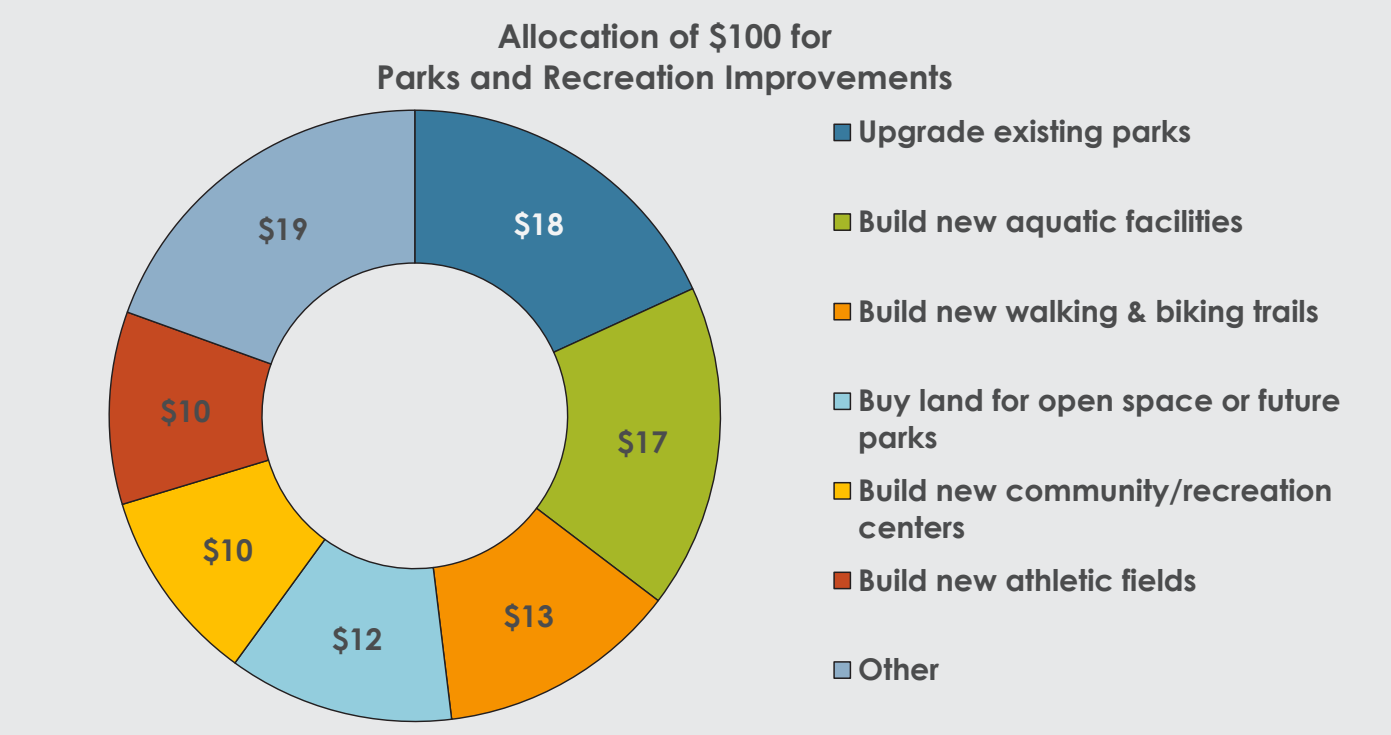
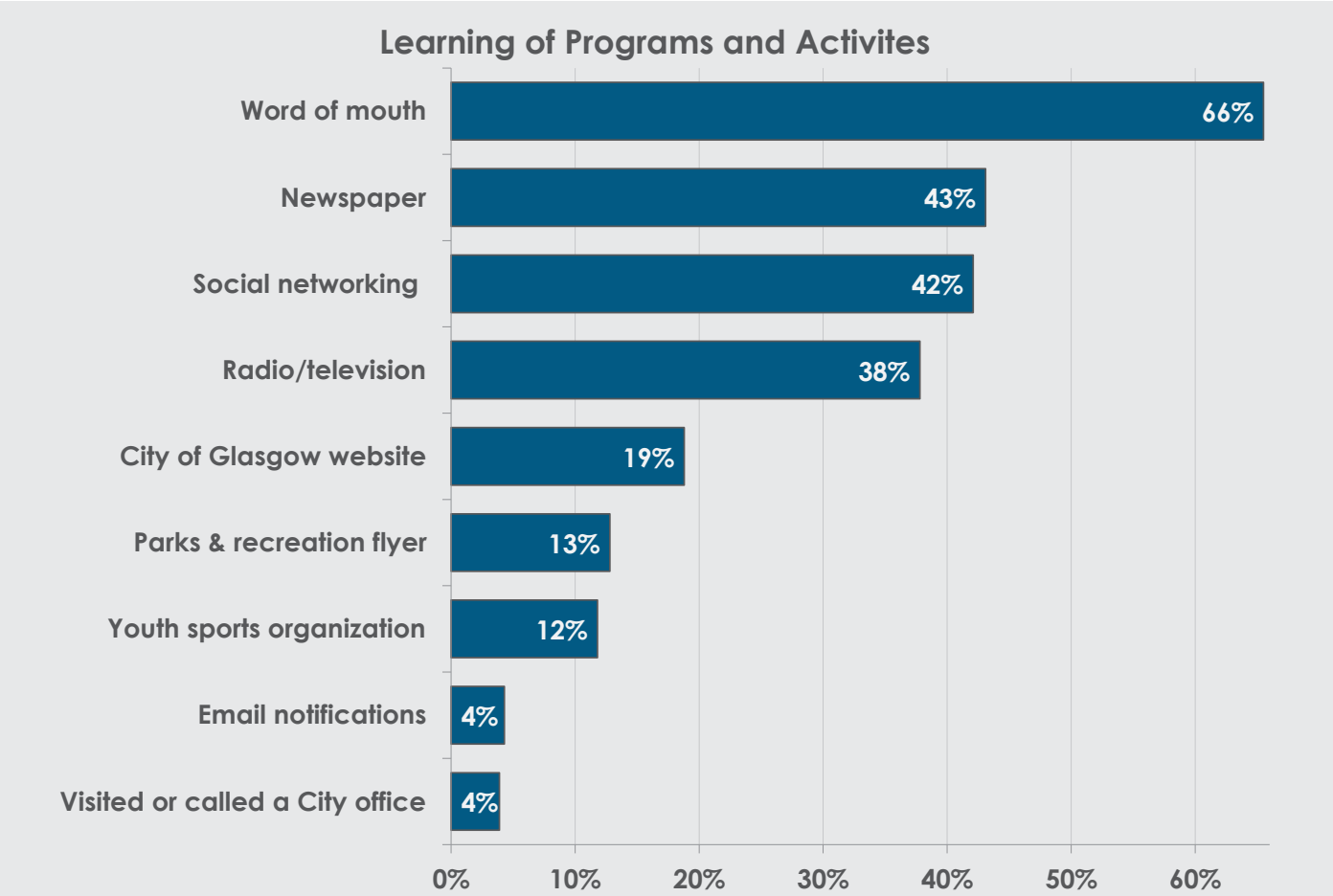


Figure 4.20: Ways Households Learn about Recreation and Activities



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

Respondents to both surveys were asked to select barriers to their households' use of parks, recreation facilities, trails, and programs from a list of 24 options. Figure 4.21 shows the results. According to the Mail Survey, **the number one reason was that households *do not know what is offered* (44%)**. According to the National Benchmarking,[2] this reason is often at the top of the list; however, Glasgow's response rate to this option was higher than the national average of 24%. The second most common reason was the *poor condition of facilities at 30%*. This number is much higher than the national average of 7%, indicating that the condition of facilities is a major barrier to their use. *Security or safety concerns* ranked third with 30% (National Benchmark of 9%). The Web Survey showed similar results.

4.3.18 Survey Household Demographics

In an effort to verify the demographic representation of the survey responses with that of the population of Glasgow, the distribution of age groups of respondent households was compared to the most recent population estimates.[3] Figure 4.22 shows the representation by age of survey respondent household members and the estimated 2016 Glasgow population of each age cohort.

Based on this comparison, the respondents of the Mail Survey much more closely aligned with the age demographics of the Glasgow population. The Mail Survey overrepresented those age 55-74, while the Web Survey overrepresented families with children (age 35-44 combined with ages 0-14).

[2] Provided by ETC Institute (see Appendix E)
[3] 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Figure 4.21: Reasons for Not Using Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Programs

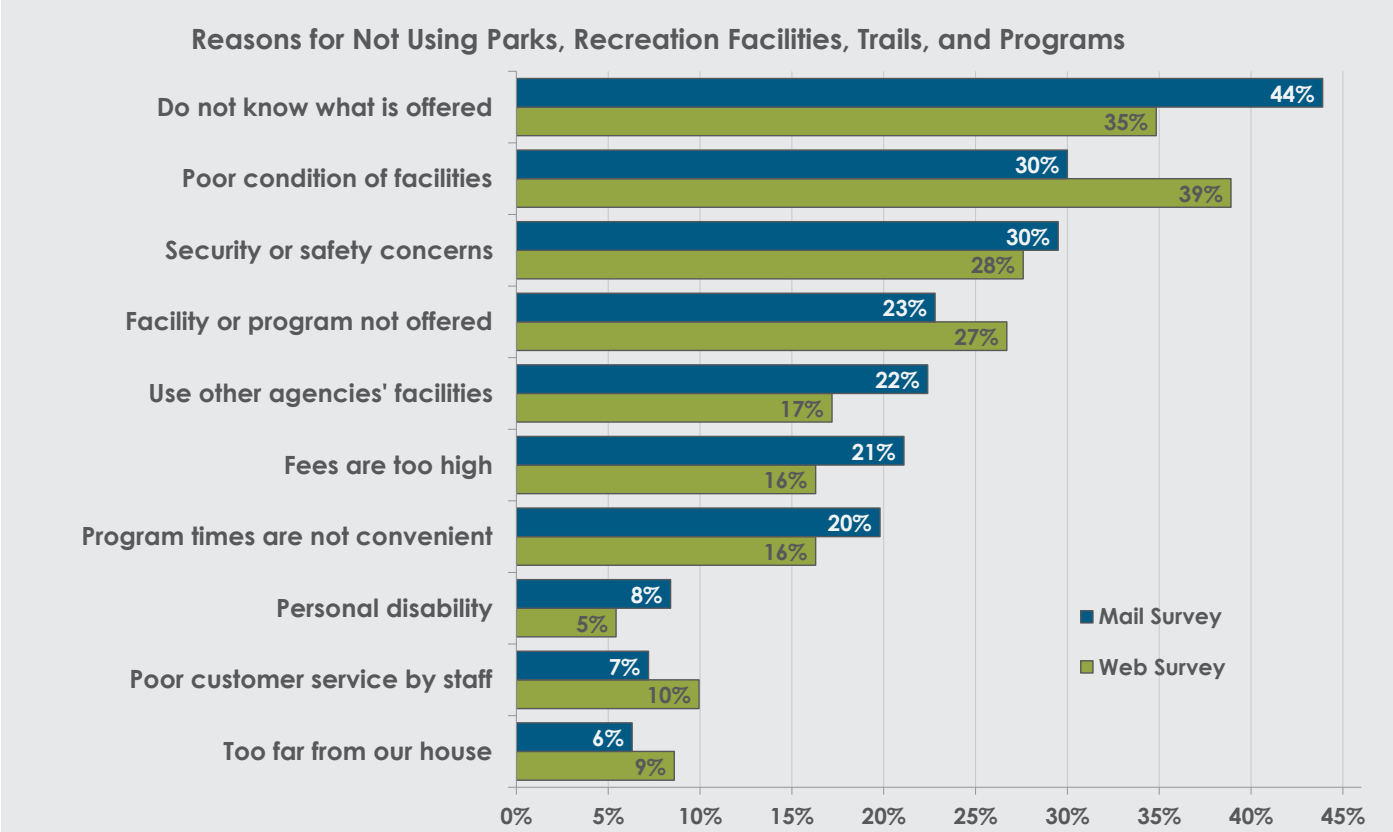
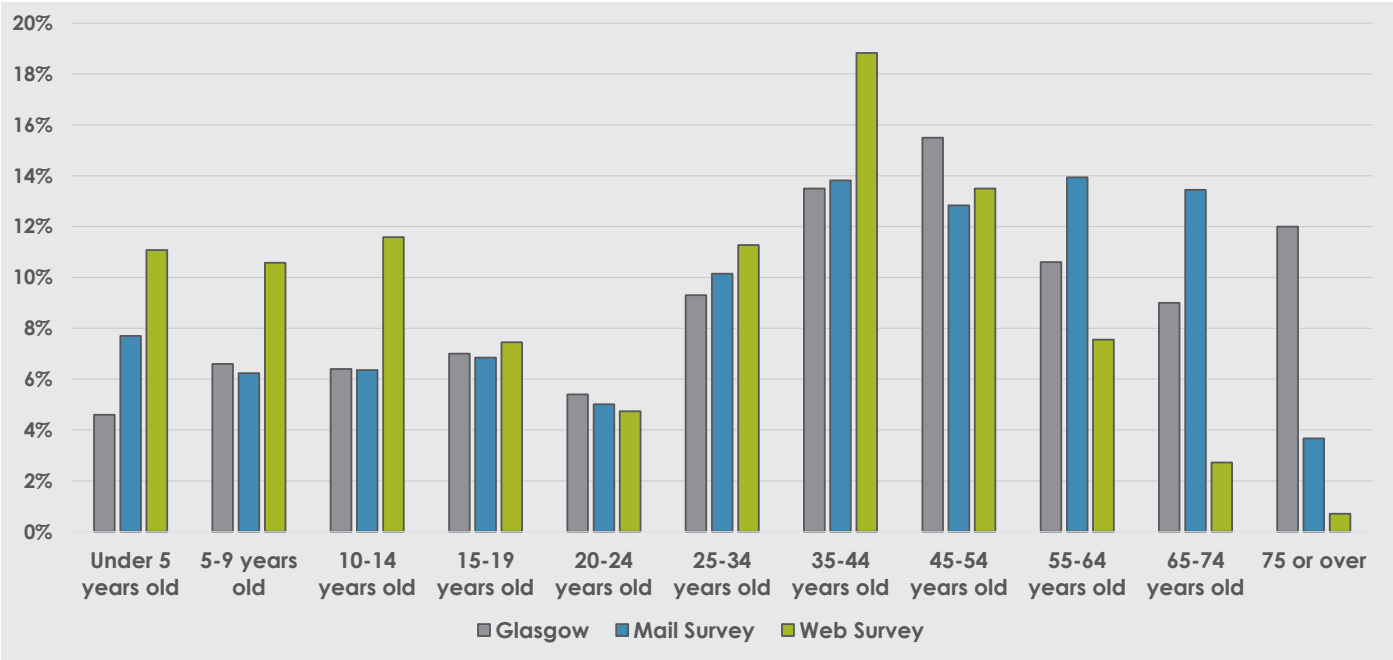


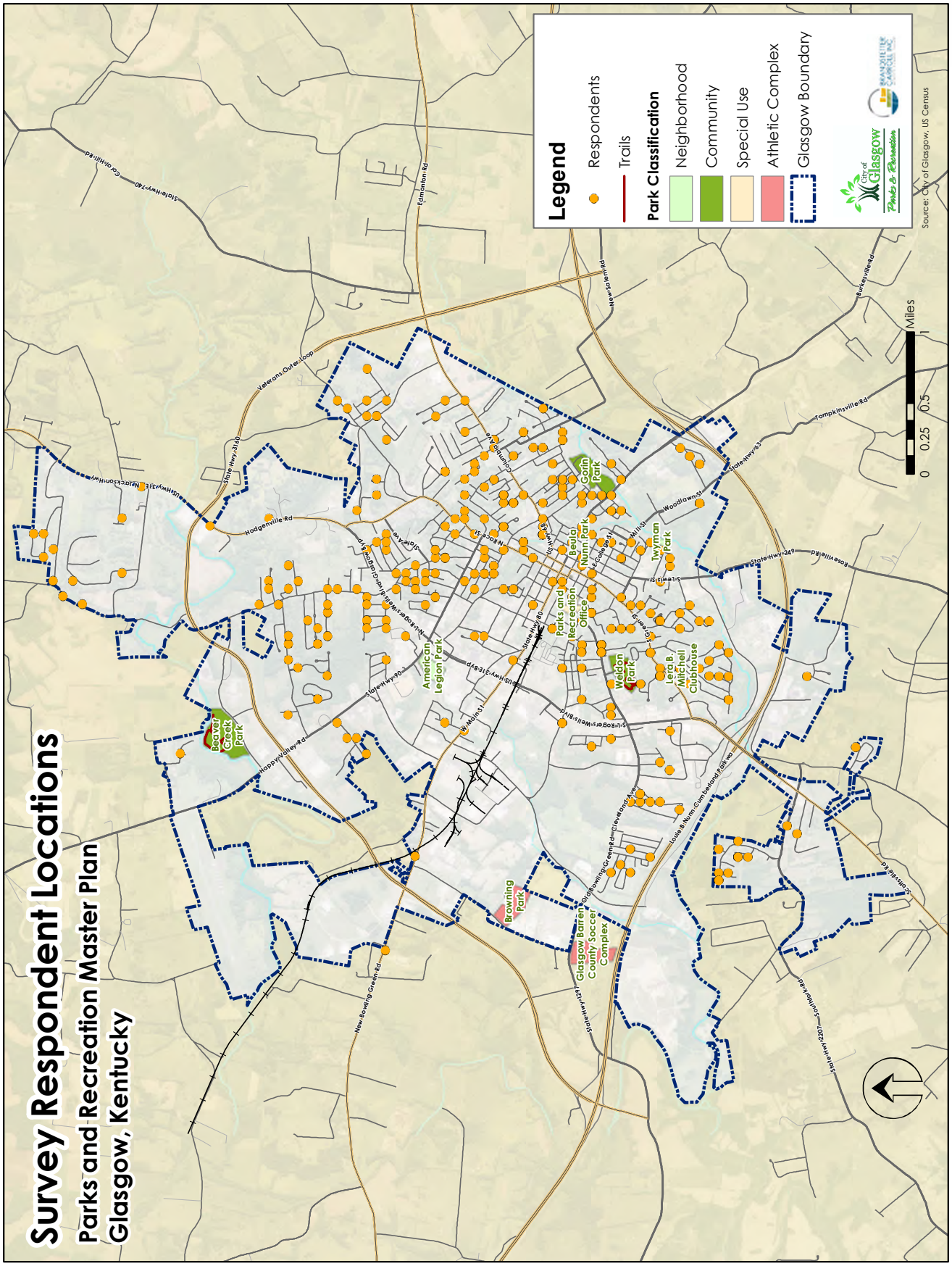
Figure 4.22: Survey Household Demographics



4.3.19 Distribution of Returned Surveys

ETC Institute provided data for the location of returned surveys (to nearest block). The results can be seen in Figure 4.23. This figure indicates a relatively balanced distribution of responses throughout Glasgow.

Figure 4.23: Survey Respondent Locations



4.4 Online Engagement

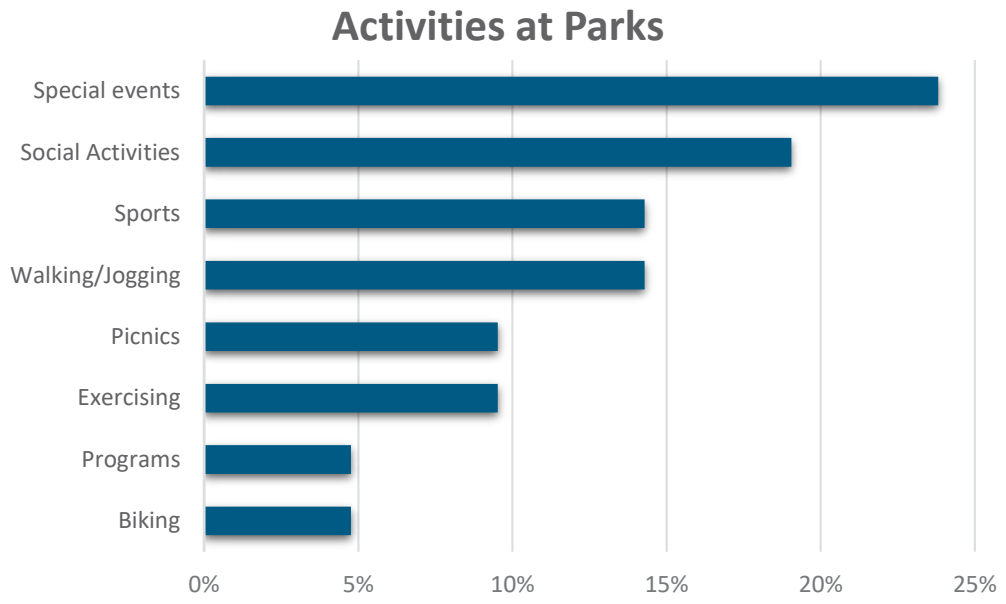
In an effort to engage all residents, the City of Glasgow utilized MindMixer, an online civic engagement tool, that enabled residents to provide input regardless of their location or the time of day. The site was devoted specifically to this Master Plan and provided a forum for residents to submit ideas, provide input on priorities, engage in conversation with the parks and recreation leaders and others, and stay up-to-date on the planning process. The planning consultants managed and updated by the website, which experienced 23 total interactions.

This section summarizes the results of the input gathered from the website. Topics on the website were posted in an effort to follow up on previous public input and to keep the public involved throughout the process. Two different types of topics were posted on this website: polls and open-ended questions. The results for the open-ended questions counted the occurrences of specific suggestions and ratings by other users (zero to five points). Scores are calculated based on five points for each idea or comment, plus the rating from other users.

4.4.1 Activities at Parks, Pools, and Centers

Visitors of the MindMixer website were asked to select their favorite activities at parks from a list (up to 3). The most popular activities can be seen in Figure 4.24, based on seven (7) participants.

Figure 4.24: Preferred Activities at Glasgow's Parks and Recreation Facilities



4.4.2 Improvements to Parks

Two open-ended topics on the MindMixer website prompted visitors to indicate improvements they would like to see at Glasgow parks. One topic asked respondents to indicate what one change they would make to improve parks and recreation opportunities, and the other asked for their vision for the future of parks and recreation in Glasgow. The responses to both of these topics were general and overlapping. As a result, the results were analyzed collectively. A summary of the ideas with points is provided below.

Park improvements with scores:

- Safety (17)
- Affordability (10)
- Outdoor Aquatic Center (10)

- Partnerships (7)
- Athletic Complex (7)
- Trails/Connectivity (5)

4.5 Conclusion

The public input process as a whole provided an abundance of information about the needs and desires of Glasgow residents. Although data was gathered through a variety of methods, some trends were apparent throughout the process.

Results indicate that the community desires:

- An outdoor family aquatic center
- Upgrades and maintenance to existing parks
- More community events and festivals
- The addition of support facilities (restrooms, security lighting, drinking fountains)
- More variety of facilities (pickleball, skate park, etc.)
- A new recreation center
- More and better-connected trails for both walking and biking
- Preservation of natural areas and open space
- Online program registration
- Improvements to athletic fields/complexes – attract tournaments
- Safety and security improvements
- Picnic opportunities
- Better information through website
- More programs, most notably adult fitness & wellness programs, summer concerts, programs for persons aged 50+, nature programs, water fitness, and pet exercise
- A variety of facilities and programs for everyone

A word cloud, which uses font sizes to show the frequency of word appearance, can be seen in Figure 4.25. This concluding image, created using text of public meeting comments and survey responses, provides a visual representation of the voice of the community through this public input process and serves to reinforce the results presented above and throughout this chapter.

Figure 4.25: Public Input Word Cloud

5

NEEDS ASSESSMENT AND IDENTIFICATION

5.1 Introduction

This chapter of the Master Plan comprises the assessment and identification of needs in Glasgow and consists of the following elements:

1. Parkland and recreation area needs and level of service analysis
2. Facilities needs analysis and level of service standards
3. Geographic analysis of the distribution of parks and recreation facilities

This information and the public input (Chapter 4) form the basis of the recommendations for improvements in this plan which are presented in Chapter 7.

5.2 Parkland and Recreation Area Needs, Standards, and Guidelines

The parks and recreation area classifications were described in Chapter 3, followed by an overview of facilities in Glasgow, and the classifications are generally consistent with the National Recreation and Park Association Guidelines with some modifications to match local circumstances. Level of Service Standards (acres per thousand population) for each park classification in Glasgow were established following a thorough analysis of existing conditions and with consideration to public input. These goals were tailored specifically for Glasgow and are intended to represent obtainable standards while still encouraging the city to make improvements to meet the needs of residents.

5.2.1 Citywide Level of Service Standards

Table 5.1, Level of Service Standards by Park Classification, provides a breakdown of the needs (or target acres) for each type of park in Glasgow. This table includes only properties offered by the City of Glasgow or Barren County. These standards consider developed acres only because they represent the improved portions of parks and, therefore, provide a better basis of comparison of the availability of features.

This table identifies the current developed park acreage for Glasgow and estimates the future needs through 2022. Glasgow is expecting modest population growth through 2022 (see Chapter 2), so the increase based on population is limited. The table identifies a current deficit of 10.4 acres of developed parkland in 2017 which will increase to 13.8 acres by 2022.

Table 5.1: Level of Service Standards by for Developed Acreage Park Classification

Park Classification	Existing Developed Acres	Existing Developed Acres per 1000 Population	Target Acres per 1000 Population	2017 Developed Acres Target	2017 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2022 Developed Acres Target	2022 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Neighborhood	12.1	0.8	1.25	18.5	-6.4	19.2	-7.1
Community	62.1	4.2	4.5	66.6	-4.5	69.1	-7.0
Special Use	7.9	0.5	0.5	7.4	0.5	7.7	0.2
Total	82.1	5.5	6.3	92.5	-10.4	95.9	-13.8

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates.
2. Does not include school grounds.
3. Mini Parks included with Neighborhood Park totals.

The City of Glasgow has a developed acreage deficit for Neighborhood Parks for 2017 of about 6.5 acres, and the deficit for Community Park acreage is 4.5 acres. Based on park sizes from the park classification system presented in Chapter 4, the City of Glasgow will need one new Neighborhood Park by 2022 to meet needs as presented in Table 5.1. The Community Park deficit could be met at existing parks. The needs will continue to increase with population growth beyond 2022.

5.2.2 Open Space Guidelines

Open space provides benefits to the environment and human health, including improvements to air and water quality, increased biodiversity, wildlife habitat protection, noise reduction, reduction of erosion, and protection of water resources,[1] although some of these benefits may be reduced in developed portions of parks.

In general, conservation is better accomplished through targeted acquisitions based on the resource rather than using acreage standards, as these resources must be preserved in the locations in which they are observed. Additionally, the amount of land required for preservation depends on the resource. However, acreage targets can be useful metrics to measure progress, and it is also important to provide a somewhat equitable distribution of parks and open space because many of the benefits of land preservation, such as increased quality of life and property values, are more beneficial to those who live in closer proximity to those resources.

Method of Measurement

Two common metrics for measuring the level of service of open space are provided to serve as guidelines evaluating and measuring open space in Glasgow: acres per population and percentage of total area. Table 5.2 identifies total acres of parks and open space, developed and undeveloped, in the City of Glasgow,[2] showing inventory targets based on both 11 acres per 1000 population and 2.4% of the total acreage in the City of Glasgow. These targets are equivalent to the benchmark medians identified in Chapter 2.

Acres per Population

Using the target of 11 acres per 1,000 population, Glasgow currently has an open space deficit of 51.5 acres, which will increase to 57.5 by 2022. These numbers are greatly reduced if County Parks are included; however, these parks are not open to the public for daily use. Additionally, county-owned properties were not included for the benchmark communities. The target could possibly be accomplished in a five-year timeframe but will likely require a longer timeframe and will be dependent on the availability of land.

Percentage of Total City Area

The percentage of total area metric is not tied to population and, therefore, can potentially represent a longer-term objective. Glasgow parks currently represent 1.1% of the land in the city or 1.6% if the two County Parks are included. Glasgow is well below the benchmark median (2.4%) even when including the County Parks. As noted above, Table 5.2 includes targets for the city based on the 2.4% land area goal. This target would require the acquisition of between 84 and 134 acres and represents a long-term goal, likely beyond 10-years.

Table 5.2: Open Space Guidelines

Open Space Category	Existing Acres	Existing Acres Per 1000	11 Acres per 1000 Population				Existing % Preserved	2.4% of Area	
			2017 Target Acres	2017 Surplus/ Deficit	2022 Target Acres	2022 Surplus/ Deficit		Target Acres	Surplus/ Deficit
City Parks	111.3	7.5	162.8	-51.5	168.8	-57.5	1.1%	244.9	-133.6
County Parks	49.3	3.3	N/A	49.3	N/A	49.3	0.5%	N/A	49.3
Total	160.6	10.8	162.8	-2.3	168.8	-8.3	1.6%	244.9	-84.4

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates
2. City Parks include those owned or operated by Parks and Recreation(see Chapter 3)
3. County Parks include Glasgow Barren County Soccer Complex (outside of Glasgow) and Browning Park

5.3 Facilities Needs Analysis and Level of Service Standards

Like the recommendations for parkland described previously, level of service standards for individual park facilities are useful for determining the needed quantity of recreation facilities, now and in the future. These standards are the result of examination of benchmarking from Chapter 2 and the public input findings from Chapter 4 in conjunction with commonly used standards and guidelines. Table 5.3 details the facilities by type with the available supply compared to the supply needed to meet the targets identified in the table.

5.3.1 Facility Level of Service Rationale

The following text provides the basis for the per population targets for each of the facilities in Table 5.3. Each item describes how the per population target compares to the existing per population supply and indicates the justification for any changes. These targets utilize the benchmarking from Chapter 2, combined with the public input from Chapter 4.

Outdoor Recreation Areas

- Playgrounds – Set at slight increase due to demand and current distribution
- Picnic Pavilions/Shelters – Set at slight increase due to demand and current distribution
- Paved Trails (miles) – Set at increase due to demand and trends (trails currently at less than half of benchmark)
- Unpaved Trails (miles) – Set at slight increase due to demand and trends
- Swimming Pools/Aquatic Centers – Set at current, slightly below benchmark
- Outdoor Theaters – Set at increase, none currently
- Dog Park – Set at 1, similar to benchmark

Outdoor Fields & Courts

- Youth Baseball – Set at current, slightly below benchmark
- Youth Softball – Set at current, better than benchmark
- Adult Softball – Set at current, same as benchmark
- Multipurpose Fields – Set at increase, none currently
- Basketball Courts – Set at increase due to demand and current distribution
- Tennis Courts – Set at current, well above benchmark

Indoor Areas

- Recreation Centers – Set at 1, similar to benchmark, none currently
- Gymnasiums – Set at current
- Fitnesss Center – Set at 1, same as current and benchmark

- Senior Centers – Set at 1, similar to benchmark, none currently

Table 5.3: Facility Level of Service Standards

Facility	Per Population Target	Existing Per Population	Existing Total Supply	2017 Target	2017 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)	2022 Target	2022 Surplus (+) Deficit (-)
Outdoor Recreation Areas							
Playgrounds	2,000	2,467	6	7.4	-1.4	7.7	-1.7
Picnic Pavilions/Shelters	2,000	2,467	6	7.4	-1.4	7.7	-1.7
Paved Trails (miles)	7,500	16,446	0.9	2.0	-1.1	2.0	-1.1
Unpaved Trails (miles)	15,000	18,501	0.8	1.0	-0.2	1.0	-0.2
Swimming Pools/Aquatic Centers	15,000	14,801	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Outdoor Theaters	15,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Dog Park	15,000	14,801	1	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Outdoor Fields & Courts							
Youth Baseball Fields	5,000	4,934	3	3.0	0.0	3.1	-0.1
Youth Softball Fields	5,000	4,934	3	3.0	0.0	3.1	-0.1
Adult Softball Fields	7,500	7,401	2	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Multipurpose Fields	7,500	N/A	0	2.0	-2.0	2.0	-2.0
Basketball Courts	3,500	4,934	3	4.2	-1.2	4.4	-1.4
Tennis Courts	2,000	1,850	8	7.4	0.6	7.7	0.3
Indoor Areas							
Recreation Centers	15,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0
Gymnasiums	7,500	7,401	2	2.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
Fitness Center	15,000	N/A	1	1.0	0.0	1.0	0.0
Senior Centers	15,000	N/A	0	1.0	-1.0	1.0	-1.0

1. See Chapter 2 for population estimates and benchmarking

5.3.2 Facility Level of Service Standards

The values in Figure 5.3 indicate a potential need for various facilities. The largest current facility deficits (2017) are for multipurpose fields due to the current inventory of none. The demand for additional trails was clear through the public input and the benchmarking affirms the lower level of service in Glasgow. The city has small deficits for many of the outdoor facilities, which is consistent with public opinion indicating desire for improvements to existing facilities over the need for new ones. For example, the city does not need an additional outdoor swimming pool, but residents would like to see a replacement for the existing City Pool at American Legion Park. The table also includes indoor facilities and indicates that Glasgow has a potential need for a recreation center and a senior center.

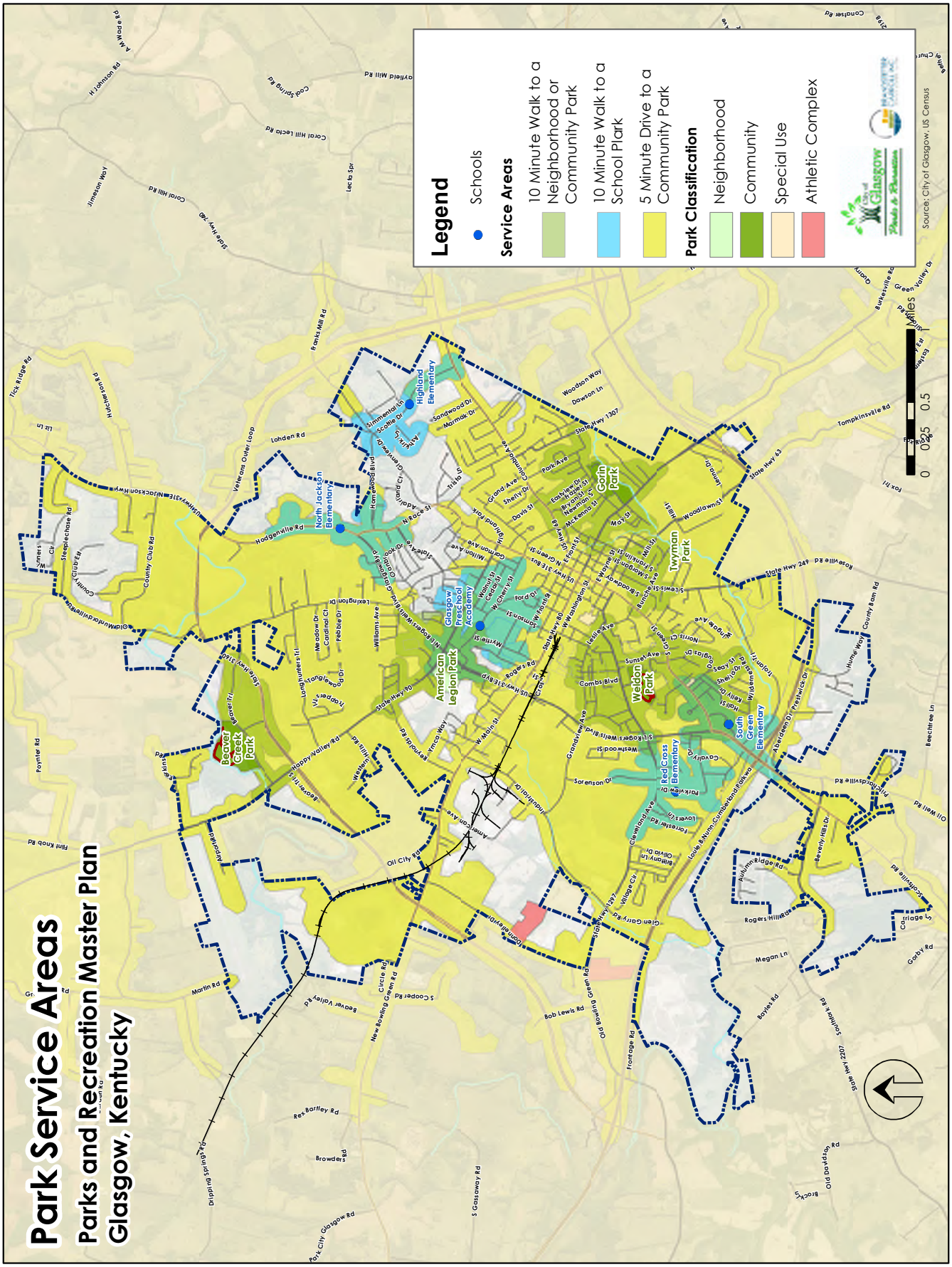
The values in Figure 5.3 indicate the number of additional facilities needed to meet the needs of the population of Glasgow but do not indicate where new facilities should be located. The next section (5.4) will help to identify gaps in service and, therefore, potential locations for new facilities.

5.4 Geographic Distribution of Parks and Recreation Areas

The spatial distribution of parks throughout Glasgow is important because residents are more able and willing to access facilities that are close to their homes. Figure 5.1, Park Service Areas, shows existing parks with service areas for various park classifications. The methodology for this analysis (and those in Sections 5.5 and 5.6) can be found in Appendix A. These service areas do not necessarily represent all users of the parks as some users are willing to travel greater distances than those indicated in the figures; however, the most frequent users likely live within the areas indicated and usage rates tend to decline sharply for residents that require greater travel times.

The green areas represent a 10-minute walk to a Neighborhood Park (or larger). The yellow areas represent a 5-minute drive to a Community Park. This map serves to indicate the gaps where neighborhoods are not served very well by parks.

Figure 5.1: Park Service Areas



Most of the city is well served by Neighborhood Parks, but some portions of the city are located outside of the service areas. A few portions of the city are located outside of the 10-minute walk areas including the following:

- Downtown
- Northeast of downtown (outside of service area for Highland Elementary)
- North inside of State Hwy 3160
- Southwest, near city boundary

Glasgow offers three Community Parks: Beaver Creek, Gorin, and Weldon. These parks are distributed throughout the city providing access within a 5-minute drive to these parks for nearly all residents of Glasgow.

5.5 Geographic Distribution of Facilities

The next portion of the needs analysis consists of a review of the geographic distribution of facilities provided by Glasgow for use by for residents. Service areas for these key facilities are indicated in Figures 5.2 through 5.9. These maps present areas of Glasgow that are located within the service areas of these facilities.

Larger and more unique facilities are intended to serve larger populations, and residents are typically willing to travel greater distances for those amenities. In contrast, smaller, more common facilities serve smaller, more local populations, generally within walking distance. Although the ensuing discussion highlights portions of the city that are located outside of the service areas for each facility, a new facility is not necessarily recommended in these areas as this analysis is only a portion of the overall needs assessment.

5.5.1 Playgrounds

Figure 5.2 shows the service areas (10-minute walk) for playgrounds in Glasgow, shown in green. The map indicates that these facilities are fairly well distributed. The city offers six (6) playgrounds at five (5) different parks. Playgrounds are also available at five (5) elementary schools, which are shown in blue. Much of the residential area in Glasgow is in or near these service areas, but some notable parts of the city are located outside of these areas. The following locations are outside of the service areas for playgrounds:

- Downtown
- Northeast of downtown (outside of service area for Highland Elementary)
- North inside of State Hwy 3160
- Southwest, near city boundary

5.5.2 Outdoor Basketball Courts

Service areas representing a 10-minute walk to an outdoor basketball court are displayed in Figure 5.3. Glasgow offers three (3) outdoor basketball courts at two (2) different parks. Three (3) elementary schools also offer basketball courts. The map shows that the existing basketball courts are located in the eastern and southern portions of the City of Glasgow. As a result, most of the central, north, and western portions of the city are outside of these service areas.

5.5.3 Picnic Shelters

Picnic shelter service areas are depicted in Figure 5.4. The city has picnic shelters at four (4) parks. The locations are distributed throughout the city, but no shelters are located in the eastern or western side of the city. Most of the city is located within a 10-minute drive to a shelter except for the eastern edge.

5.5.4 Diamond Fields

The service areas for ballfields (baseball and softball) in Glasgow are presented in Figure 5.5. The city offers nine (9) fields in total at four (4) parks. Based on these locations, nearly the entire city is within a 5-minute drive of a diamond field, and much of the city is within a 10-minute walk.

5.5.5 Multipurpose (Rectangular) Fields

Figure 5.6 displays the service areas for multipurpose rectangular fields in Glasgow. Since the city offers no fields, service areas for the fields at Glasgow Barren County Soccer Complex and Browning Park are indicated in the map. Because these fields are located along the western edge of the city, the eastern side of the city is beyond a 5-minute drive from these facilities.

5.5.6 Tennis Courts

Glasgow has eight (8) tennis courts at Gorin Park (see Figure 5.7). This location on the southeastern edge of Glasgow leaves most of the city more than a 5-minute drive from a tennis court. Residents in the western and northern edges of the city must drive 10 minutes or more to reach these facilities.

5.5.7 Aquatic Facilities

Glasgow offers one pool at American Legion Park. Figure 5.8 shows 5-minute drive time to this facility. Most residents live within this 5-minute drive area, but nearly all live within a 10-minute drive (blue) of the pool. A 10-minute drive is included because users are typically willing to travel greater distances to access pools because visits tend to be longer than for other facilities.

5.5.8 Trails

Figure 5.9 shows trail service areas in Glasgow. The green areas indicate a 10-minute walking distance to a trail, and the yellow areas indicate a 5-minute drive to a trail. Glasgow offers trails in three parks, but no trails are located in the eastern portion of the city. The city lacks a citywide trail system, but one has been proposed in the G.A.T.E Plan (Chapter 10 of the Barren County 2014 Comprehensive Plan).

5.6 Composite Geographic Park Service Areas

While the preceding text describes the level of access to park by classification and an assortment of recreation facilities in Glasgow, a composite analysis provides a better idea of the overall level of service by location throughout the city.

Service areas for two (2) park classifications and seven (7) facilities were assigned scores based on distance from the amenity (e.g., 5-minute drive vs. 10-minute walk), and GIS software (ArcGIS) was used to produce an overlay map with a combined score for all areas of the City of Glasgow. Figure 5.10 shows the composite service areas for the city based on the level of access to parks and recreation facilities (compared to other parts of the city). A more detailed description of the methodology can be found in Appendix A.

In the figure, dark shades of blue indicate a high level of service for parks and facilities at that location within Glasgow. Red areas have the lowest level of service to parks and facilities. For example, a resident living within one of the dark blue areas would likely be within a walking distance of a park and most of the other facilities described in the previous section.

According to this figure, residents within a walking distance of Beaver Creek, Gorin, Weldon, or Twyman Parks have the highest level of service (High). Most of the residential areas near the center of the city (east of the Glasgow Bypass) are in these areas or those with the next highest level of service (Medium-High). Much of the northern part of the city has "Medium" service levels, while the edges are characterized by "Medium-Low" to "Low" service levels, including residential areas near the northeastern edge of the city.

The percentage of the population living within each of the composite service areas along with the percentage of land area covered can be seen in Table 5.4. Based on this table, 15% of the population lives in the areas with a "high" service level (80% to 100%), and 33% of the population lives within the first or second highest ranking. Two-thirds (65%) of the population lives in middle ranked service areas (40% to 60%) or higher. Only 7% of the population of Glasgow is located in the areas with the lowest level of service, and another 29% live in "Medium-Low" areas.

Figure 5.2: Playground Service Areas

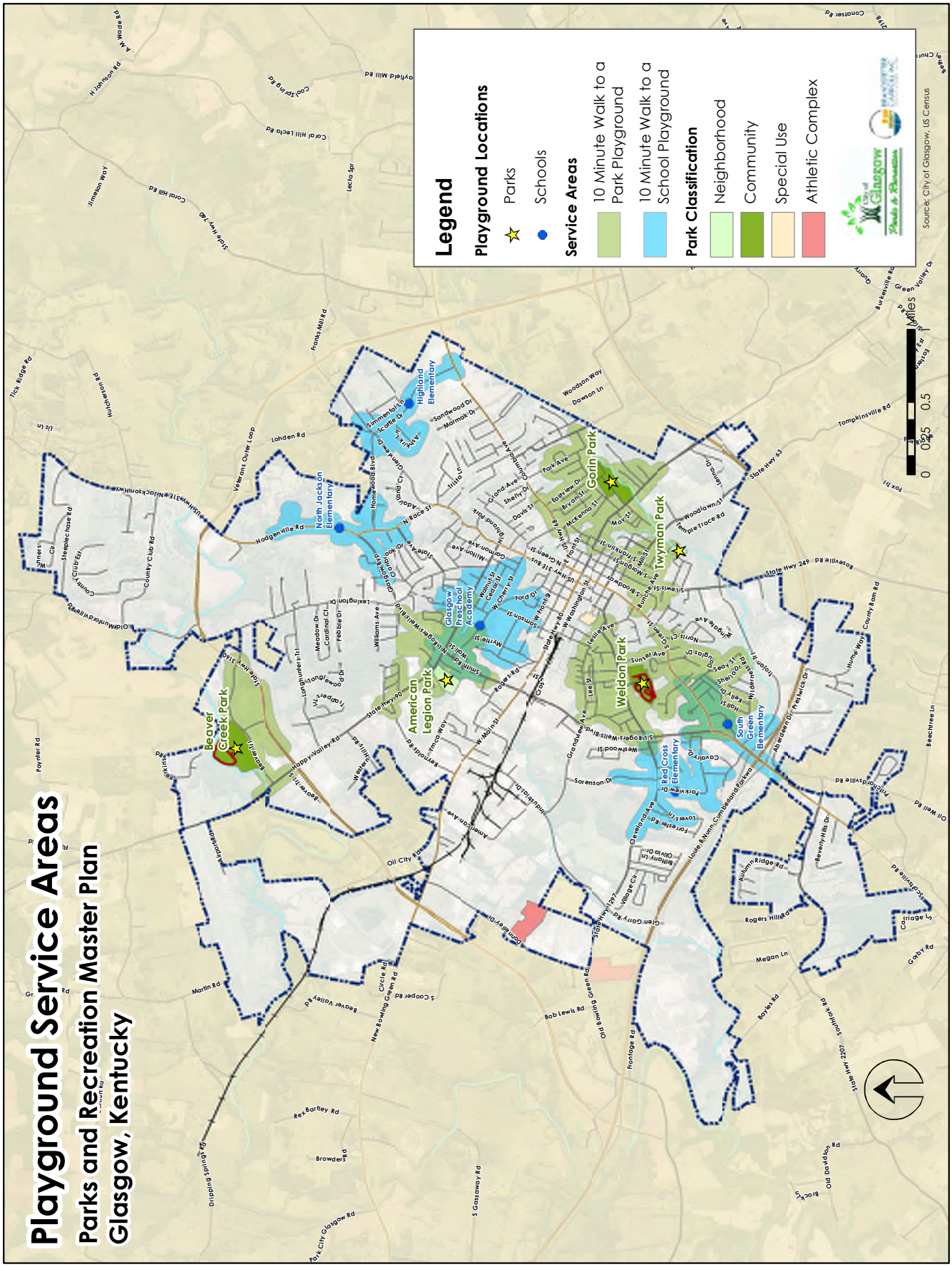


Figure 5.3: Outdoor Basketball Court Service Areas

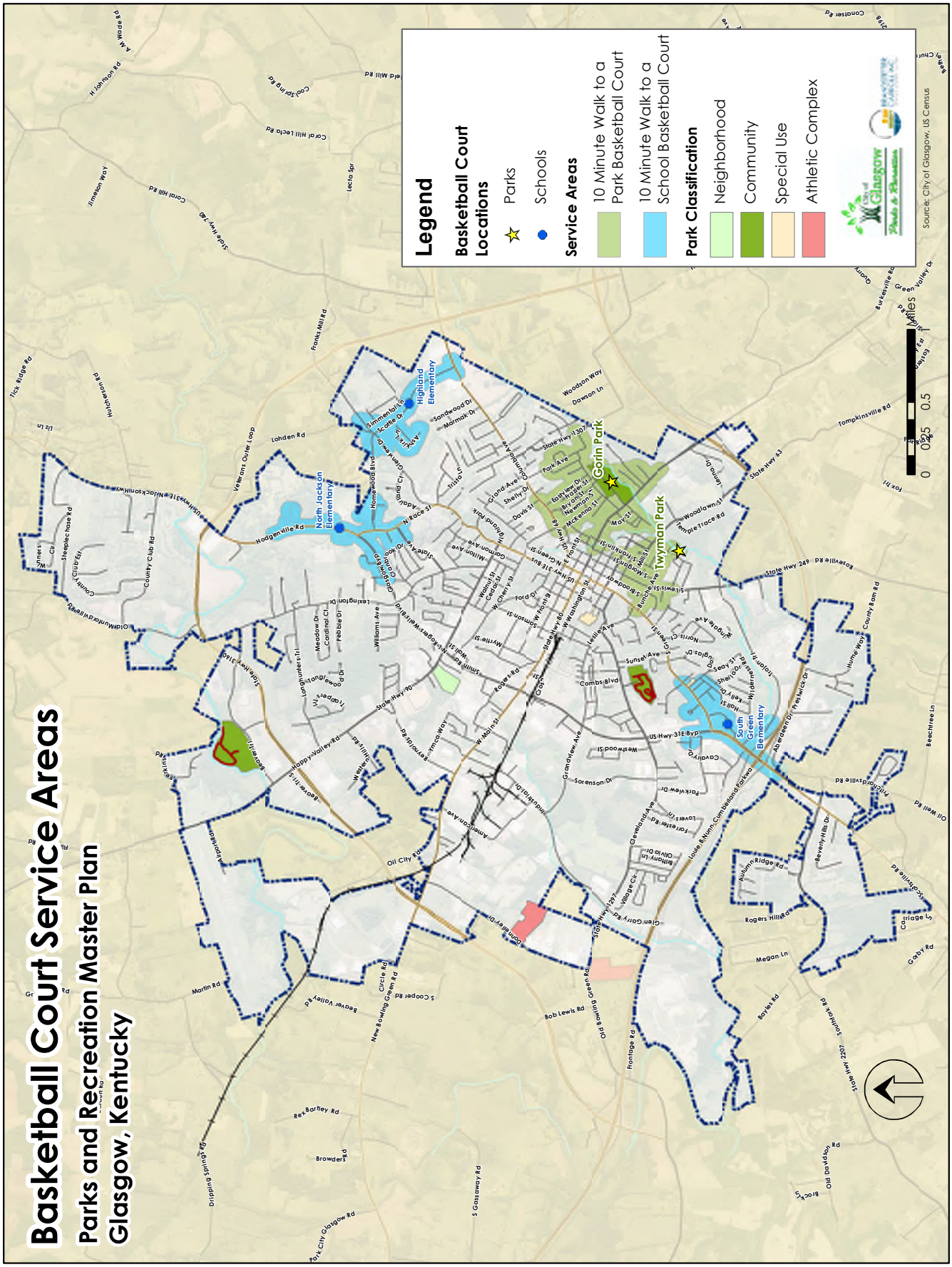


Figure 5.4: Picnic Shelter Service Areas

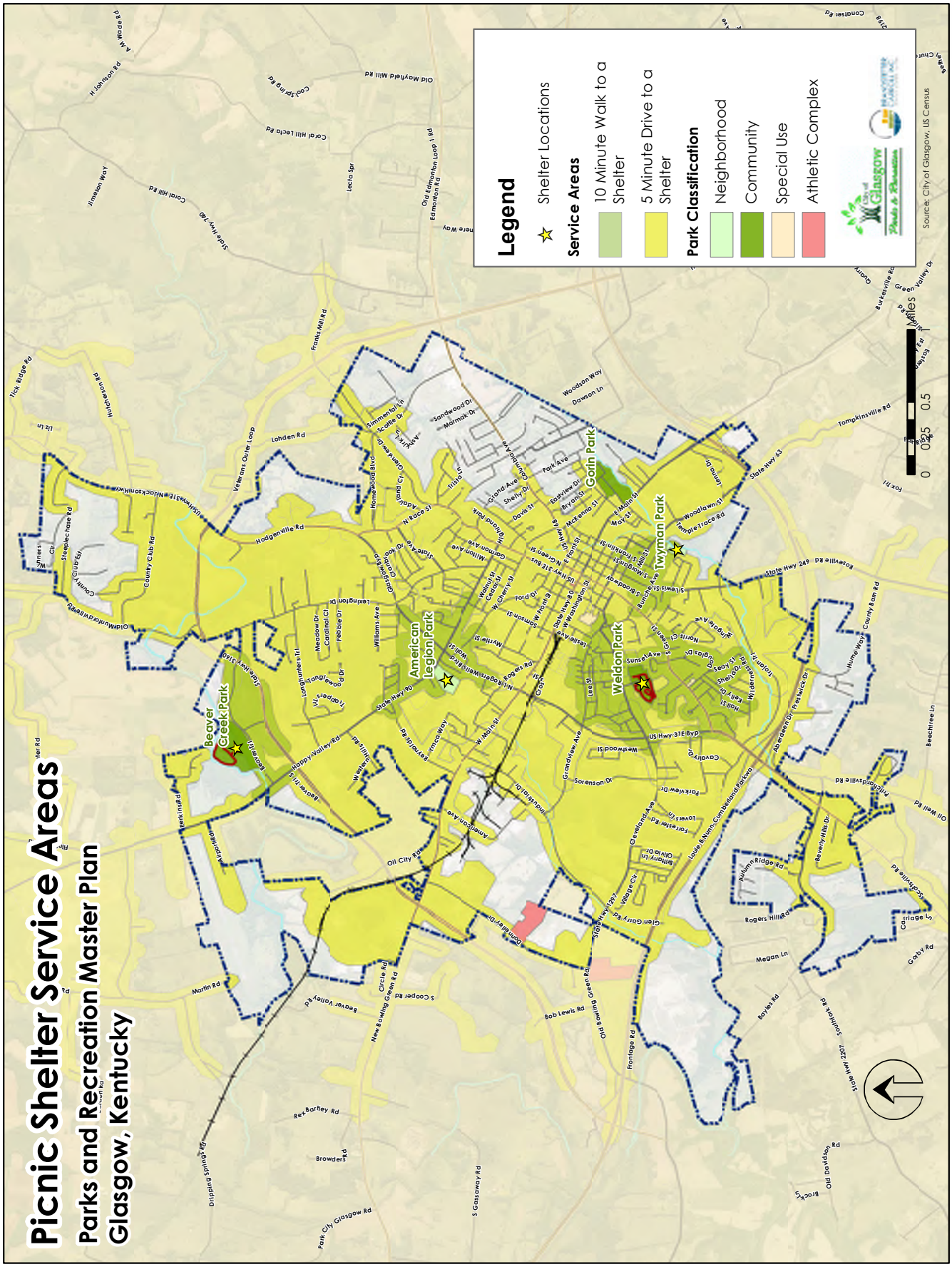


Figure 5.5: Diamond Field Service Areas

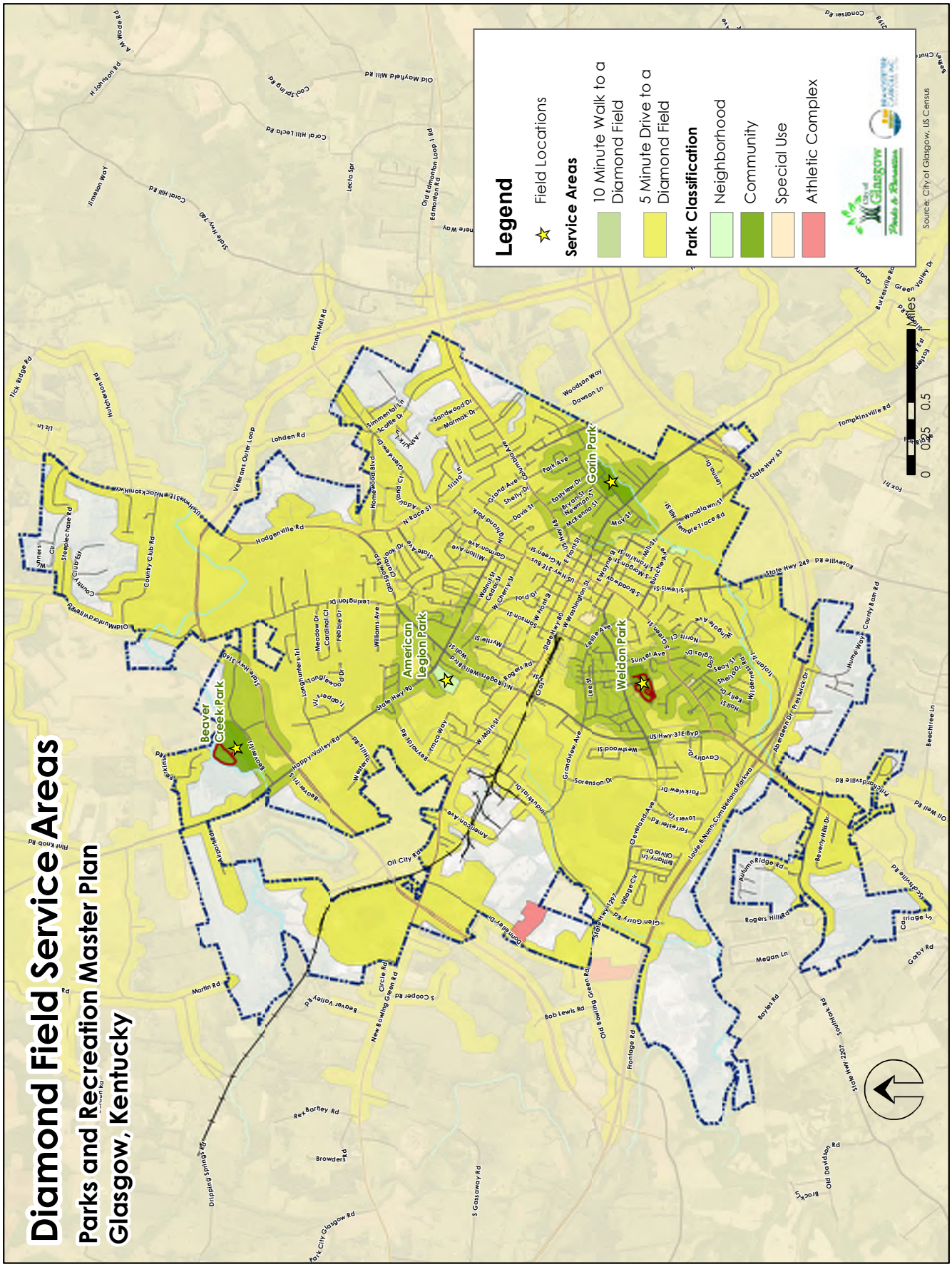


Figure 5.6: Multipurpose Field Service Areas

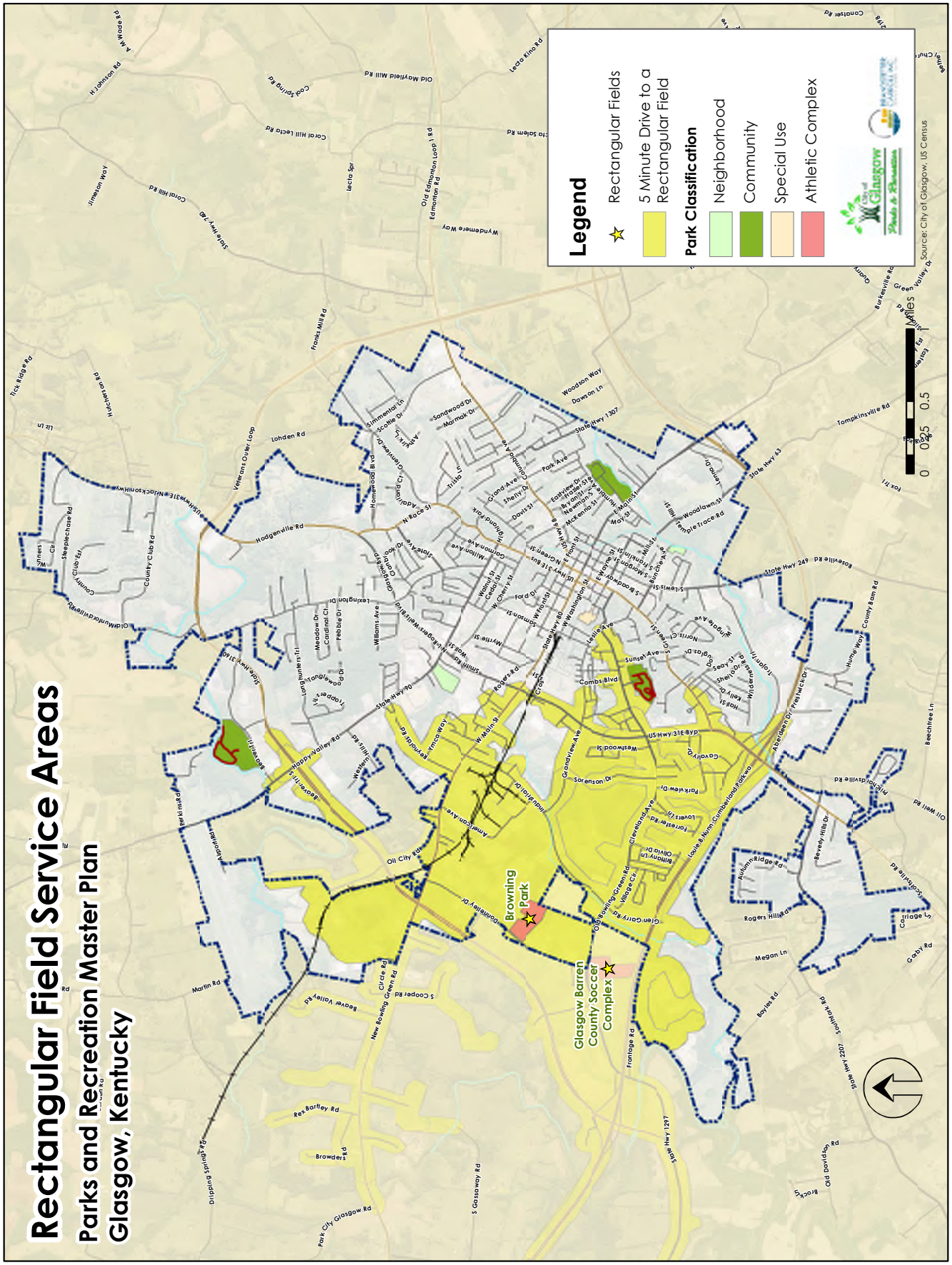


Figure 5.7: Tennis Court Service Areas

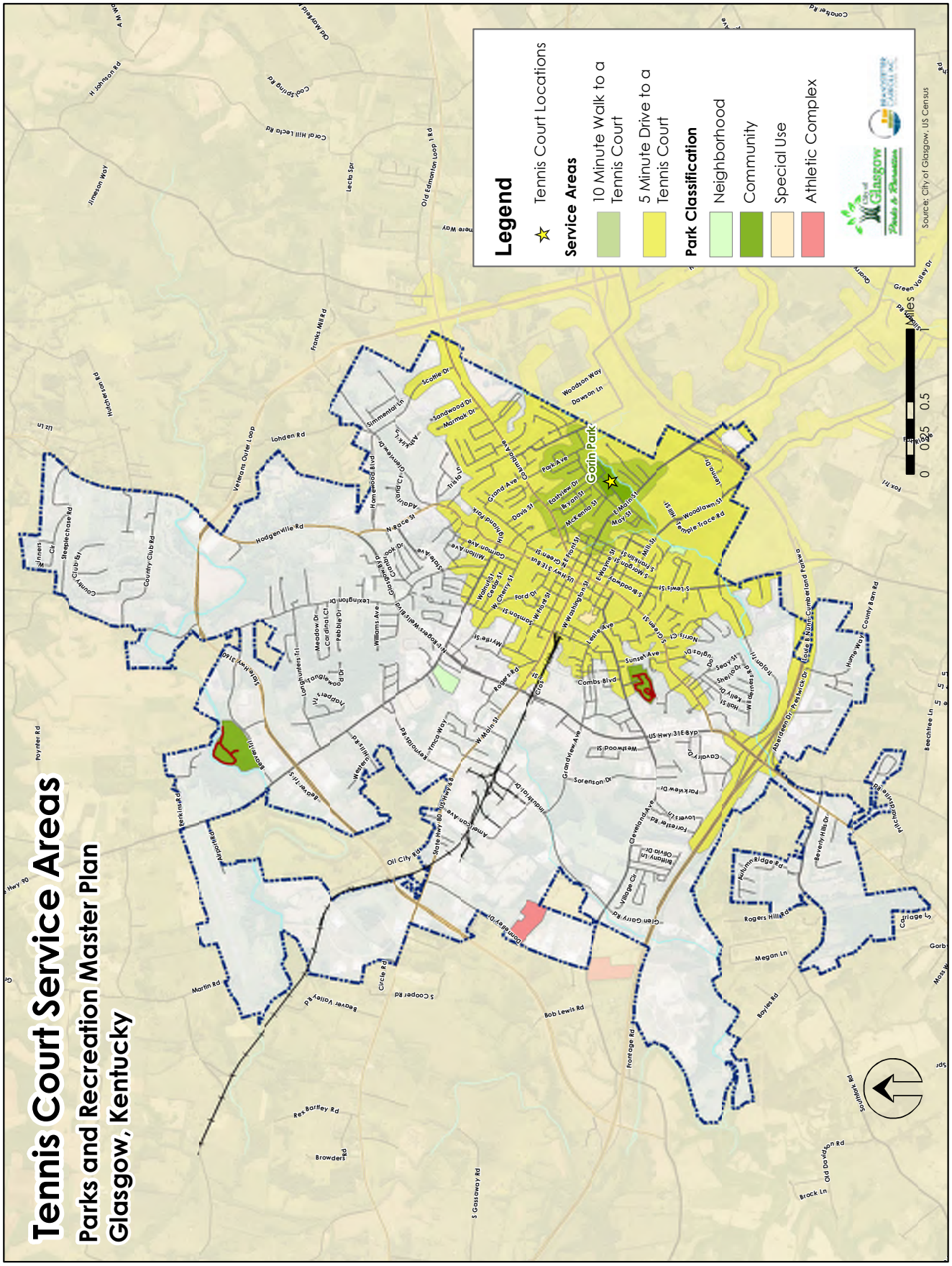


Figure 5.8: Aquatic Service Areas

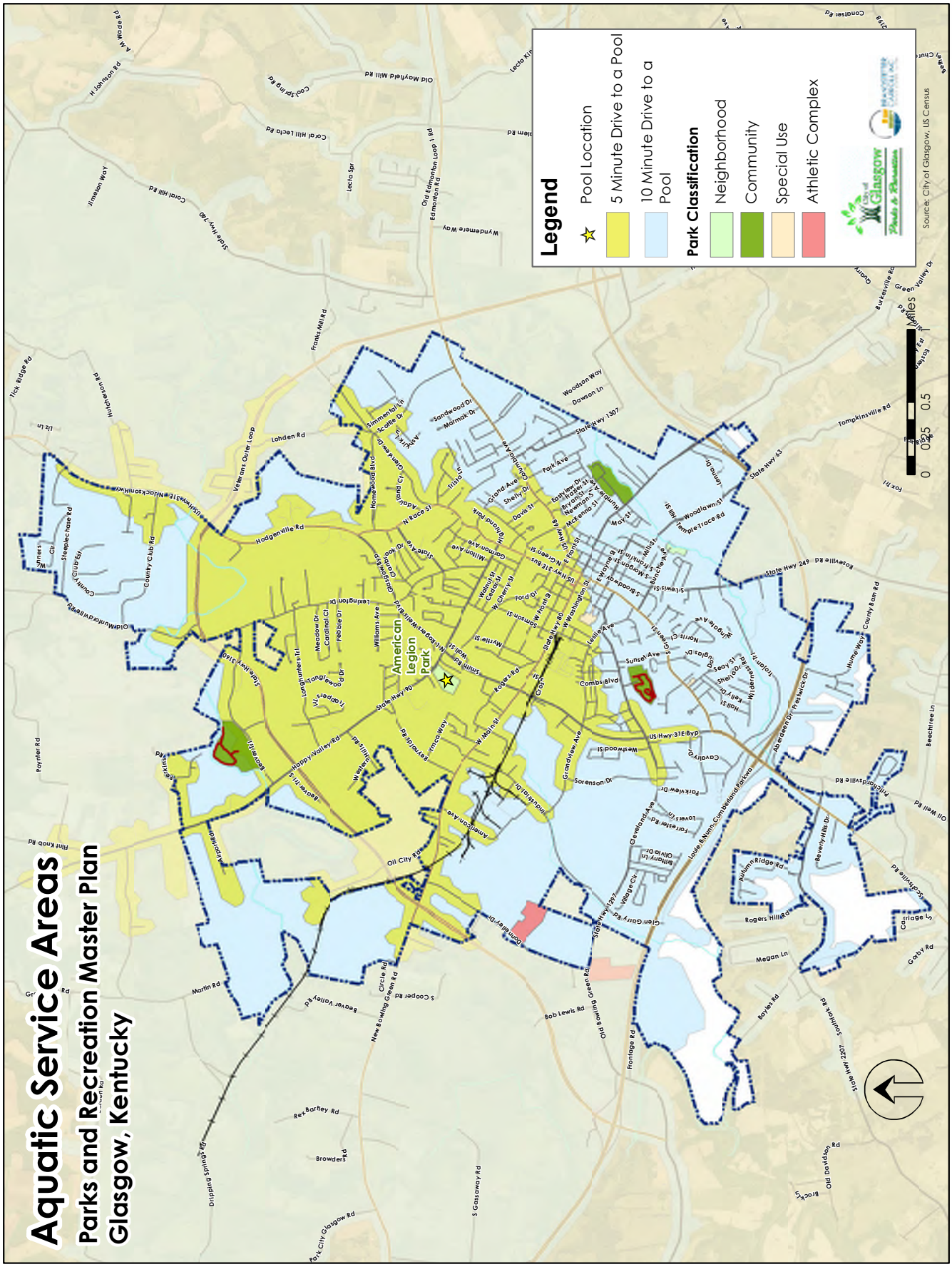
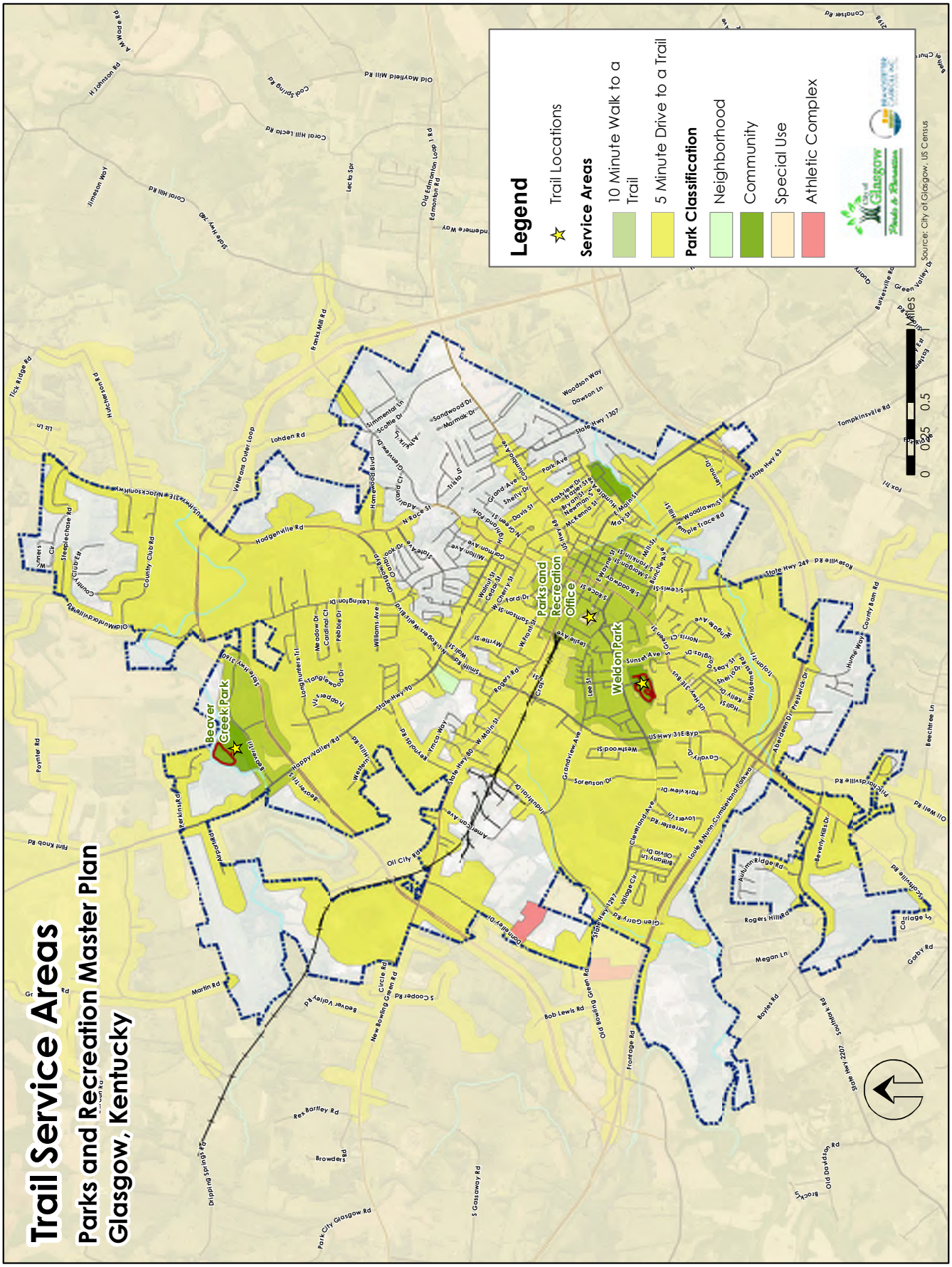


Figure 5.9: Trail Service Areas



The area measurements show a much higher percentage of the city is located within the lower service areas (23% in "Low" areas), indicating that the parks tend to be located near residential areas. Overall, these numbers indicate that Glasgow provides a moderate level of service with regard to the location of facilities. Some of the areas with lower levels of service could be improved with additional features at existing parks, but some would require new parks, most notably in the northeast and southwestern portions of the city.

Table 5.4: Population by Composite Service Area

Service Level (Rank)	Proportion at Composite Service Level			
	Population	Cumulative Population	Area	Cumulative Area
High (80%-100%)	15%	15%	8%	8%
Medium-High (60%-80%)	18%	33%	11%	19%
Medium (40%-60%)	32%	65%	36%	55%
Medium-Low (20%-40%)	29%	93%	22%	77%
Low (0%-20%)	7%	100%	23%	100%

5.7 Trends in Parks and Recreation

The following text provides an analysis of trends in outdoor recreation, including both activities and the associated facilities. The analysis begins with a description of usage rates of various outdoor activities. This discussion is followed by an examination of program and facility trends in parks and recreation related to outdoor recreation.

5.7.1 Trends in Recreation Participation

The Sport and Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) conducts an annual survey of individuals and households throughout the United States to determine participation in a variety of sports and fitness activities. The 2017 sample consisted of 24,134 online interviews (11,453 individuals and 12,681 households) and is intended to serve as representation of US population ages 6 and older. The following discussion uses data from the SFIA report.

Figure 5.11 shows the difference in participation rates between generations for seven types of sports. The youngest generation (Gen Z) had the highest participation rates for Individual Sports, Team Sports, and Outdoor Sports. Participation rates dropped for these three types of sports with each older generation. The youngest generation had the lowest participation in Fitness Sports, while the other three generational groups had the highest participation rates for this type of sport. The remaining three types of sports (Racquet, Winter, and Water Sports) have similar trends with Millennials and Gen Z representing the highest levels of participation.

The high demand for fitness sports programs in the City of Glasgow is consistent with these findings (see Chapter 4). With high percentages of residents in the older two generations, this type of program is likely to increase in demand into the future. Despite decreasing in popularity with age, outdoor sports are still popular with all age groups. Team sports are far more popular with the youngest generation. The availability of these facilities and programs will be an important consideration for families with children when choosing to live in Glasgow.

Table 5.5 displays the 5-year participation rates for 47 different sports and fitness activities. This table also shows the 5-year annual growth rate and highlights activities with significant growth or decline in participation rates. The fastest growing sports are highlighted in blue with Stand Up Paddling, Adventure Racing, Rugby, and Bicycling (BMX) showing the fastest rate of growth over the last five years.

Walking for Fitness, Free Weights (Hand Weights), Running/Jogging, Hiking (Day), and Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface), and Fishing (Freshwater) have the largest number of participants. Walking for fitness has the greatest number of participants by a large margin at well over 100 million participants nationally, and Hiking (Day) is growing at nearly 5% annually despite the high level of participation (over 40 million). With four of the top five activities using trails, it is no surprise these facilities are in such high demand.

Figure 5.10: Composite Park Service Areas

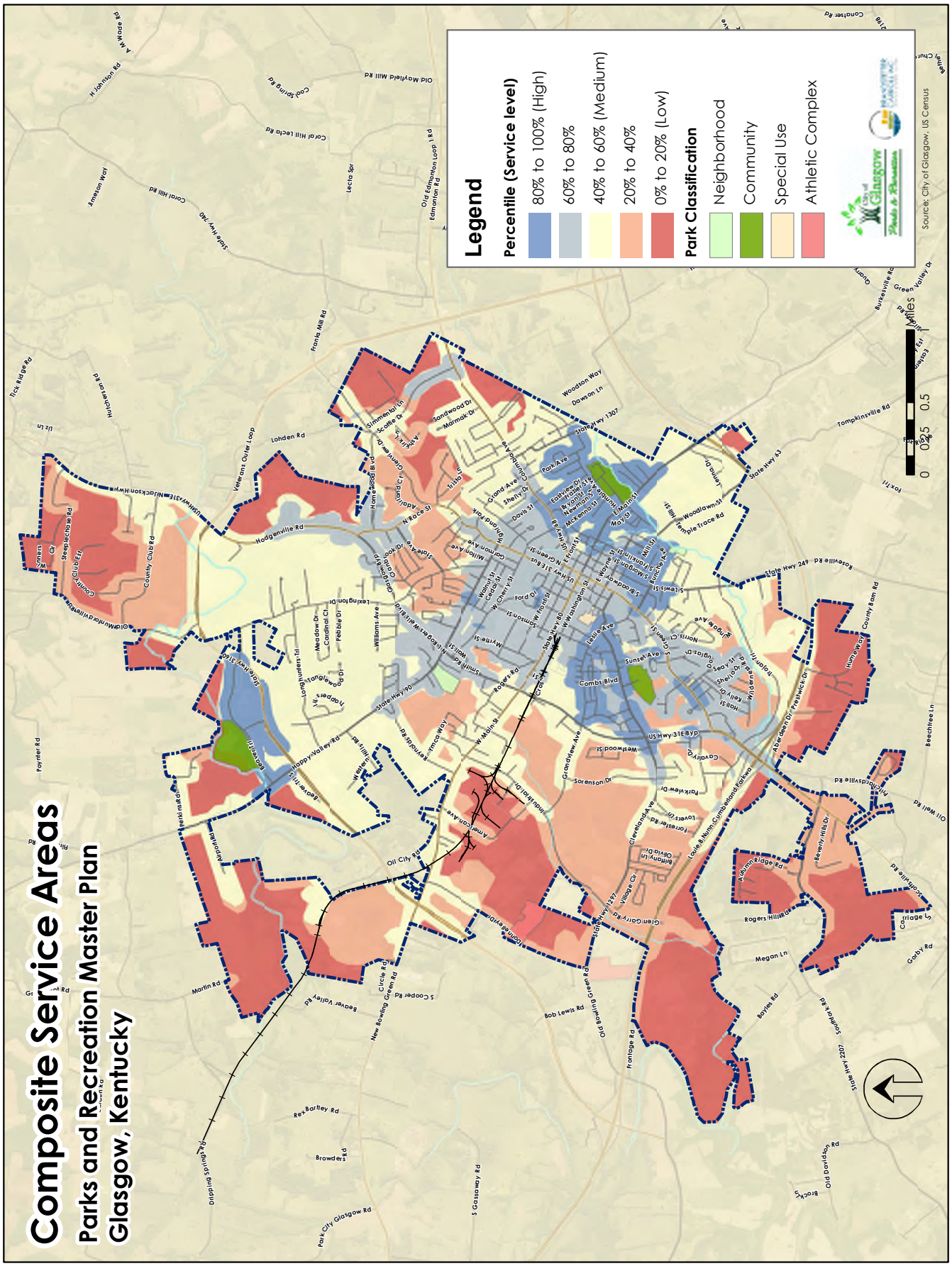
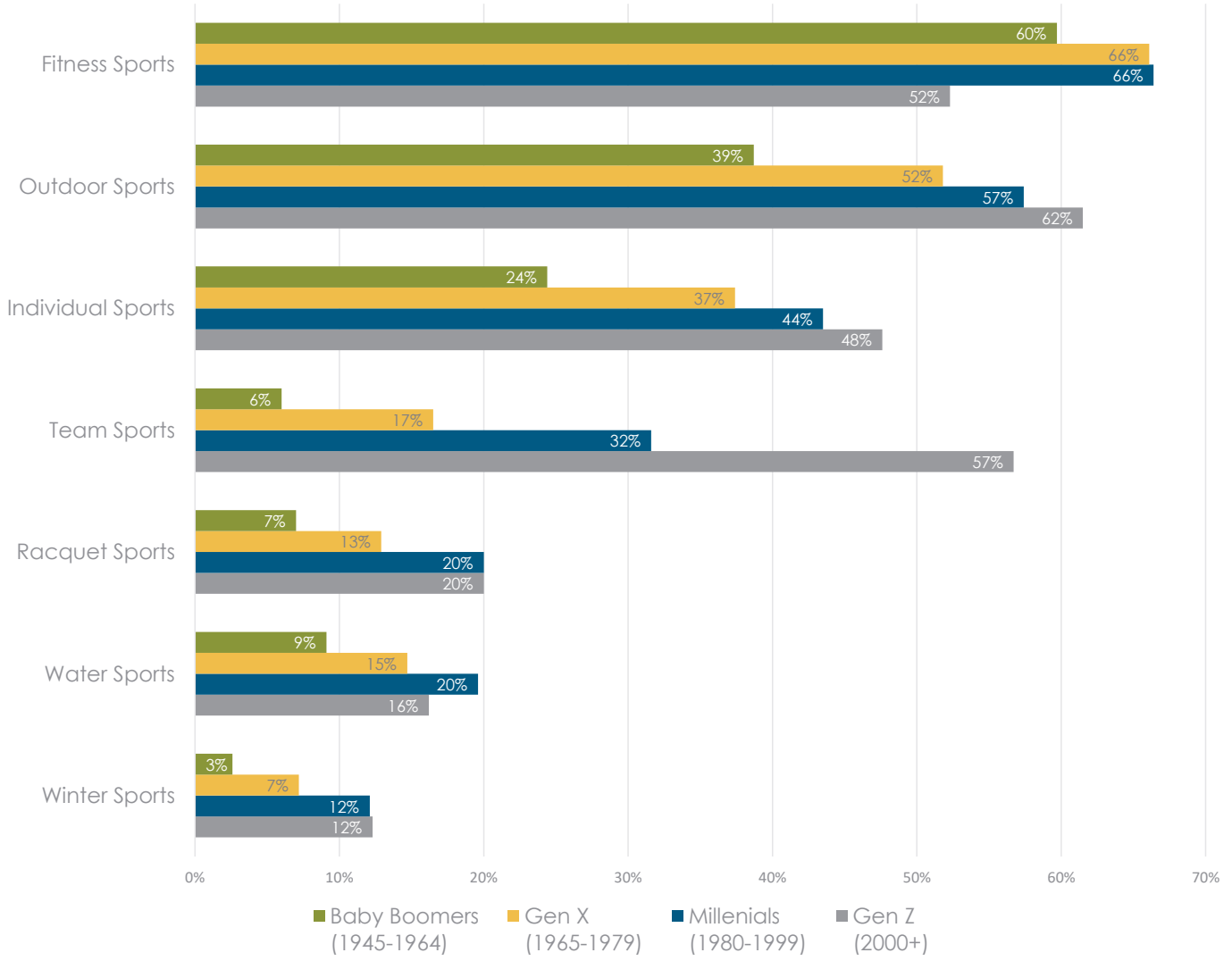


Figure 5.11: Participation Rates by Generation



Residents of Glasgow have similarly expressed a strong interest in trail-based activities, leading to a need for more of these facilities. Also, the city could accommodate the fast-growing field sports, lacrosse and rugby, by ensuring that new multipurpose rectangular fields can accommodate the sport. Investment in trails and related programs in Glasgow would help meet the needs for trail running, hiking, and walking for fitness. Additional fitness and aerobic activities could potentially be met at a recreation center. Pickleball, another fast-growing sport, could be offered at an existing park or potentially at the Parks and Recreation Office.

Table 5.5: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation (2011-2016)

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (In Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2016	
Adventure Racing	Individual Sports	1,202	1,618	2,095	2,368	2,864	2,999	20.6%
Aquatic Exercise	Aerobic Activities	9,042	9,177	8,483	9,122	8,226	10,575	3.4%
Archery	Individual Sports	6,471	7,173	7,647	8,435	8,378	7,903	4.3%
Baseball	Team Sports	13,561	12,976	13,284	13,152	13,711	14,760	1.8%
Basketball	Team Sports	24,790	23,708	23,669	23,067	23,410	22,343	-2.0%
Bicycling (BMX)	Outdoor Activities	1,958	1,861	2,168	2,350	2,690	3,104	10.0%
Bicycling (Mountain/Non Bicycling)	Outdoor Activities	6,989	7,265	8,542	8,044	8,316	8,615	4.5%

Table 5.5: Nationwide Five-Year History of Selected Sports Participation (2011-2016) (Continued)

Sport/Fitness Activity	Category	Participants (In Thousands)						5-Year Average Annual Growth
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2016	2016	
Bicycling (Road/Paved Surface)	Outdoor Activities	39,834	39,790	40,888	39,725	38,280	38,365	-0.7%
Birdwatching (>¼ Mile from Home)	Outdoor Activities	13,067	13,535	14,152	13,179	13,093	11,589	-2.2%
Elliptical Motion Trainer	Aerobic Activities	29,734	28,560	30,410	31,826	32,321	32,218	1.7%
Fishing (Freshwater)	Outdoor Activities	38,864	39,002	37,796	37,821	37,682	38,121	-0.4%
Football (Tackle)	Team Sports	6,448	6,220	6,165	5,978	6,222	5,481	-3.1%
Free Weights (Hand Weights)	Strength	N/A	N/A	58,267	56,124	54,716	51,513	4.0%*
Gymnastics	Team Sports	4,824	5,115	4,972	4,621	4,679	5,381	2.5%
High Impact/Intensity & Training	Aerobic Activities	15,755	16,178	17,323	19,746	20,464	21,390	6.4%
Hiking (Day)	Outdoor Activities	33,494	34,519	34,378	36,222	37,232	42,128	4.8%
Ice Hockey	Team Sports	2,131	2,363	2,393	2,421	2,546	2,697	4.9%
Ice Skating	Individual Sports	11,626	11,214	10,679	10,649	10,485	10,315	-2.4%
Kayaking (Recreational)	Water Sports	7,347	8,187	8,716	8,855	9,499	10,017	6.4%
Lacrosse	Team Sports	1,501	1,607	1,813	2,011	2,094	2,090	7.0%
Kayaking (White Water)	Water Sports	1,694	1,878	2,146	2,351	2,518	2,552	8.6%
Martial Arts	Individual Sports	5,037	5,075	5,314	5,364	5,507	5,745	2.7%
Mixed Martial Arts for Fitness	Individual Sports	1,697	1,977	2,255	2,455	2,612	2,446	7.9%
Pickleball	Racquet Sports	N/A	N/A	N/A	2,462	2,506	2,815	7.1%*
Pilates Training	Conditioning	8,507	8,519	8,069	8,504	8,594	8,893	1.0%
Rugby	Team Sports	850	887	1,183	1,276	1,349	1,550	13.3%
Running/Jogging	Aerobic Activities	50,061	51,450	54,188	51,127	48,496	47,384	-1.0%
Scuba Diving	Water Sports	2,866	2,781	3,174	3,145	3,274	3,111	1.9%
Skateboarding	Individual Sports	6,318	6,227	6,350	6,582	6,436	6,442	0.4%
Soccer (Outdoor)	Team Sports	13,667	12,944	12,726	12,592	12,646	11,932	-2.6%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	Team Sports	2,400	2,624	2,498	2,424	2,460	2,467	0.7%
Softball (Slow-Pitch)	Team Sports	7,809	7,411	6,868	7,077	7,114	7,690	-0.2%
Stand Up Paddling	Water Sports	1,146	1,392	1,993	2,751	3,020	3,220	23.8%
Stationary Cycling	Aerobic Activities	36,341	35,987	35,293	35,693	35,553	36,188	-0.1%
Swimming for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	21,517	23,216	26,354	25,304	26,319	26,601	4.5%
Swimming on a Team	Team Sports	2,363	2,502	2,638	2,710	2,892	3,369	7.4%
Table Tennis	Racquet Sports	18,561	16,823	17,079	16,385	16,565	16,568	-2.2%
Tai Chi	Conditioning	2,975	3,203	3,469	3,446	3,651	3,706	4.6%
Tennis	Racquet Sports	17,772	17,020	17,678	17,904	17,963	18,079	0.4%
Trail Running	Individual Sports	5,373	5,806	6,792	7,531	8,139	8,582	9.9%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	Individual Sports	1,686	1,789	2,262	2,203	2,498	2,374	7.7%
Ultimate Frisbee	Team Sports	4,868	5,131	5,077	4,530	4,409	3,673	-5.2%
Volleyball (Beach/Sand)	Team Sports	4,451	4,505	4,769	4,651	4,785	5,489	4.4%
Volleyball (Court)	Team Sports	6,662	6,384	6,433	6,304	6,423	6,216	-1.3%
Walking for Fitness	Aerobic Activities	112,715	114,029	117,351	112,583	109,829	107,895	-0.8%
Weight/Resistance Machines	Strength	39,548	38,999	36,267	35,841	35,310	35,768	-2.0%
Yoga	Conditioning	22,107	23,253	24,310	25,262	25,289	26,268	3.5%

*Based on reduced time period. SFIA has not yet collected five years of participation for Pickleball or Free Weights.

Legend

	>5% Increase
	2-5% Increase
	1-3% Decrease
	>3% Decrease

5.7.2 The Aging Population

Throughout the United States and in Glasgow, the average age of the population is increasing. The number of persons in the age group 65 and over is growing rapidly. Census data indicates that the percentage of the Glasgow population age 65 and older was 19.6% in 2010 but is expected to increase to reach over 23% by 2022 (see Chapter 2).

The relative health of these individuals is better than ever before, and the activities they desire are more active than in the past. Senior citizens centers offering card games and other sedentary activities have become less desirable to these residents who have indicated desires for more active fitness programs which could include hiking and biking programs as well as other nature programs.

This aging of the population encourages parks and recreation agencies to invest more in activities, programs, and facilities for the older population, increasing demand for walking trails, fishing areas, community gardens, and cultural and nature education programs, all of which are in demand for multiple age groups.

This data points clearly to the growing need to provide quality facilities and programs for this growing population in Glasgow. The surveys and other forms of public engagement (see Chapter 4) indicate support from the community for providing additional programs and facilities for residents age 50 and older.

5.7.3 Demand for Universal Access

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

Textured edging on trails can help to make the facilities more accessible to the visually impaired. Fragrant plants and sensory gardens and interactive displays that allow a hands-on approach to education have also been developed to promote a better experience for special populations. Universal access should extend to interpretive facilities, buildings, and all programs and facilities offered by the community. Providing barrier-free parks can and should be part of the process for any park improvement.

5.7.4 Fitness and Wellness Activities

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

Fitness facilities do not need to be confined to indoor spaces as modern equipment can now be provided in outdoor environments that are like those seen typically in fitness centers. Such facilities can serve as an alternative to the old fitness and par-course trails. Several of the city's parks could be potential locations for these activities. Additionally, many communities partner with health providers to offer fitness facilities and programs. The health benefits that can be provided by parks extend to mental health benefits as studies indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health.[3]

5.7.5 Environmental Education

The success of environmental education centers throughout the country, combined with a strong desire for nature education demonstrated through the public input, including the public meetings, indicates a need for expanded environmental education opportunities. Potential subjects include natural processes, resource management, and nature education activities.

Environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces (including those in Glasgow). Many park departments take an outreach approach by providing environmental curriculum to schools in the form of nature center classes and activities.

[3] National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (June 13, 2018)

This tactic provides a method for promoting more use and appreciation of parks. These programs also provide an opportunity for larger park systems and universities to work closely with local parks and recreation departments to provide a level of programming that the municipalities could not perform on their own.

Beaver Creek Park and Weldon Park provide the best opportunities for nature education through expanded programming and signage. A trail through the woodland area at Beaver Creek Park would offer opportunities for an accessible educational trail with nature and habitat interpretation. Partnerships with the Glasgow Public Schools and Barren County Schools could also utilize these parks for youth programming.

Nature education provides opportunities to engage all ages and abilities. These activities also provide great opportunities for intergenerational programming. Programs can be formatted as guided hikes, camps, community events, field trips, or classes and cover topic such as habitat restoration, wildlife identification (see bird watching below), invasive species removal, and more.

5.7.6 Birdwatching (or Birding)

Photo credit: USFWS

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service nearly 50 million Americans participate in birdwatching (as of 2011) or about 20 percent of the population. The most common form of birding is watching birds near one's home; however, 38 percent of birders, or 18 million people, participate in birding away from the home. Participants in birdwatching tend to be older and more highly educated than the general population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report also includes an analysis of the economic impact of birdwatching activities. Birdwatchers direct substantial amounts of dollars into the economy because of trip-related ($15 million) and equipment expenditures ($26 million). The report finds that the birding industry, including indirect effects resulting from the multiplier effect, generates over $100 billion annually throughout the United States and supports 666,000 jobs. These expenditures lead to an additional $6 million in state tax revenues and $7 million in federal tax revenues.[4]

Glasgow residents likely already use many the parks for birdwatching; however, formal programs could help residents identify bird species and increase interest in natural areas in Glasgow. Any of the neighborhood or community parks could be used for birdwatching programs.

5.7.7 Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Many communities utilize parks as examples of best management practices (BMPs) to serve as models for minimizing environmental impacts and maximizing the sustainability of both park sites and operations. Parks and recreation departments are in great positions to lead in the implementation of these practices because they are typically among the largest land owners (if not the largest) in their jurisdictions. To assist in the implementation of these practices, some park departments establish manuals detailing the BMPs which are generally divided into categories.[5] Some potential categories include (with examples):

- Site Selection (which properties to acquire and protect)
- Design (strategies for management of stormwater, water quality, riparian/wetland buffers; use of vegetation; choice of building materials)
- Construction (controlling of pollutants, soil restoration, recycling of construction materials)
- Operation and Maintenance (practices for water conservation, use of organics, weed control, composting, energy use, etc.)
- Programs and Special Events (consider carrying capacity of facility, provide recycling receptacles)

[4] *Birding in the United States: A Demographic and Economic Analysis.* U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2011.
[5] *Environmental Best Management Practices Manual.* City of Fort Collins Parks and Recreation. 2011.

5.7.8 Trails and Interconnectivity

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

Communities with extensive, connected trail systems are very livable communities where residents report a high quality of life. The need for trails for both recreational use and for transportation was conveyed clearly through the public input process. Trails ranked second for improvements at existing parks and were the top priority for investment in the statistically valid Mail Survey.

5.7.9 Nature Play Areas

Photo credit: OPRD/NWF

Natural Play Structure (Silver Falls State Park – Oregon)

Many parks and recreation agencies are placing increased emphasis on the availability of nature play areas and programming for children. The Natural Learning Initiative (NLI) and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) recently released a document titled *Nature Play & Learning Places*, which provides a series of national guidelines for the creation of places for children to interact with nature. The guidelines are intended to help communities develop opportunities for children to learn about the natural environment and to promote physical activity. Additionally, the guidelines indicate that these areas should be characterized by natural materials, including plants, stones, water, fallen trees, and other natural elements that allow children to interact with the natural environment. The document defines a nature play or learning place as:

"A designated, managed area in an existing or modified outdoor environment where children of all ages and abilities play and learn by engaging with and manipulating diverse natural elements, materials, organisms, and habitats, through sensory, fine motor and gross motor experiences."[6]

Some potential nature play area features are described in the text below.

Natural Play Structures

Permanent play structures can be constructed from natural materials such as logs and rocks. The guidelines encourage the engagement of local children for ideas and the use of indigenous materials in the design.

Multipurpose Lawns

Multipurpose lawns, depending on size, can support a wide variety of activities and events. These lawns can be utilized for programmed and unprogrammed play for both large and small groups.

Meadows and Woodlands

Meadows, or fields of non-woody plants, can be utilized to provide ecosystems that children can explore and observe wildlife, most notably insects. These fields can also provide opportunities for children to see a variety of plants and learn about the diversity of these ecosystems, particularly compared to a carefully managed

[6] Moore, R. (2014). *Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature*. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).

lawn.

Woodlands also offer diverse ecosystems of plants and wildlife and can provide a multitude of educational and play opportunities. Additionally, woodlands can be utilized for learning about seasonal plant cycles.

Vegetable Gardens

Vegetable gardens allow children to participate in the growth of vegetables and can provide opportunities for them to eat fresh vegetables. The children are able to learn more about the source of the food that they eat.

Aquatics

Existing natural streams, ponds, wetlands, and marshes provide educational opportunities, and these features can be constructed if not already available at a park. Aquatic features can provide children with multi-sensory experiences and the opportunity to interact with aquatic wildlife.

Gathering and Performance Structures

Gathering structures provide places for users to gather for social interaction and for programming opportunities and can be in the form of decks, patios, or gazebos. Performance structures include features such as stages, campfire circles, and small amphitheaters which can be utilized to encourage teamwork and group presentations.[7]

Opportunities in Glasgow

Glasgow does not currently offer any of these features, but existing parks represent excellent locations to add some of these amenities. Playgrounds could incorporate natural play features, including climbing structures, when replaced to provide more diversity of play options. Weldon Park represents a great opportunity to incorporate these features when the playground is replaced due to the more passive nature of the property.

5.7.10 Mountain Bike and BMX Facilities

Off-road bicycling activities are growing in popularity, although they still represent a relatively small percentage of all bicycling activities. Modern mountain biking originated in the 1970s in California with a group of enthusiasts who modified existing bikes for off-road use. These cyclists organized first downhill races which they called "Repack." This name referred to the need to "repack" the brakes with fresh grease after each race due to the excessive heat from braking during the descent.[8]

Flow Trail

Pump Track

During the early years of mountain biking, enthusiasts used singletrack trails intended for hiking as bikes were not specifically forbidden from using these trails. However, as the sport gained in popularly, bikes have been banned from most hiking trails, and singletrack trails designed specifically for mountain bikes have been established.[9] More recently, a new style of trail called a "flow trail" has appeared which provides more predictable surfaces, banked turns, and a lack of obstacles. These trails require little peddling and minimal braking that appeal to a wider variety of users, including families. These trails can be designed to allow

[7] Moore, R. (2014). *Nature Play & Learning Places. Creating and managing places where children engage with nature*. Raleigh, NC: Natural Learning Initiative and Reston, VA: National Wildlife Federation. Version 1.6. (pages vii, 5, 7-8, 51, 65, 71-83).
[8] Marin Museum of Bicycling, "Mountain Biking History," http://mmbhof.org/mtn-bike-hall-of-fame/history/, (April 15, 2016).
[9] Singletracks, "Visiting the Birthplace of Mountain Biking: Marin County, California," http://www.singletracks.com/blog/mtb-trails/visiting-the-birthplace-of-mountain-biking-marin-county-california/, (April 15, 2016).

beginners to bypass any more technical trails.[10]

Another trend in off-road bicycle facilities is the pump track. These tracks, which began to appear in the 2000s, are looping tracks that can be ridden continuously without the need to pedal. A user's speed is dependent on "pumping" the terrain transitions of the track. A pump track requires approximately 50' by 50' of space (minimum) and generally feature a series of rollers and steeply bermed corners.[11] Unlike many of the other off-road facilities, pump tracks are usable by both mountain bike and BMX riders.

Glasgow does not currently offer any mountain biking trails but should be considered if a property with the suitable topography becomes available. A pump track could be developed at an existing park and would be an appropriate facility to located adjacent to a skate park.

5.7.11 Outdoor Family Oriented Aquatics

Older rectangle and L-shaped swimming pools have a limited appeal to modern users. The desire for 3½ foot depths for flip turns or competition swimming dictated a deeper water depth and a lack of shallow water. As a result, younger children were relegated to wading pools, which are intended for babies and toddlers. Inadequate amenities for 4- to10-year-olds limit the draw of these pool facilities.

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

Where older pools were a drain on the budget, newer facilities are often able to generate funds for the operations cost, and some even show a surplus, which can be used to pay off some of the debt service for the capital construction. Demand provides an opportunity for charging higher fees which may result in a greater profit margin. Glasgow aquatic needs are currently met by the City Pool at American Legion Park, but many residents indicated leaving the city to access other aquatic facilities, including the Russel Sims Aquatic Center in Bowling Green and the Somersplash in Somerset.

Example - Family Aquatic Center

The surveys indicated the need for a new outdoor pool as a top priority for respondents with nearly a third of all households (approximately 2,000) indicating unmet needs for outdoor swimming pools/aquatic centers, third most of any park feature (after trails and natural areas). The need for a new aquatic center repeatedly appears as the top facility need throughout the public input and was the most requested improvement at the public workshop. The YMCA currently offers lap and competitive swimming; therefore, a new aquatic center in Glasgow should focus on family-oriented features.

Another new concept that is sweeping the country is the development of splash pads or spraygrounds. These facilities have replaced wading pools at many aquatic facilities but can also be developed as standalone wet playgrounds in other park areas. Spraygrounds have several benefits compared to pools. Because there is no standing water, lifeguards are not needed. Therefore, the operation costs for a sprayground are considerably lower than for a swimming facility. In most instances, spraygrounds recirculate water. The City of Glasgow currently offers no spraygrounds, but one could be included as part of a new aquatic center. One

[10] IMBA, "Flow Trails," https://www.imba.com/model-trails/flow-trails, (April 15, 2016).
[11] Adventure Sports Journal, "Pumpin': An Introduction to the World of Pump Tracks," http://adventuresportsjournal.com/pumpin-an-introduction-to-the-world-of-pump-tracks/, (April 15, 2016).

could be also located as a standalone facility in an existing or future park.

Example - Spraygrounds

5.8 Conclusion

The analysis conducted throughout this chapter serves to provide an indication of needs for parks and recreation services in Glasgow. The analysis indicates that a variety of parks and facilities are located throughout the city; however, not all amenities are evenly distributed throughout Glasgow.

The level of service standards in the first part of this chapter, which were developed with consideration to public input from residents of Glasgow, provide guidelines for the number of parks, open space, and recreation facilities needed in Glasgow. These standards indicate a potential need for additional parkland if it can be identified.

The geographic analysis of service areas identifies specific areas to target for investment in additional parks and recreation facilities. The mapping analysis shows an overall high level of service based on the location and quantity of facilities. These findings, combined with public input requesting improvement to existing parks and site assessments noting needed maintenance, indicate that improvements and replacement of existing facilities should be the highest priorities for this Master Plan.

Analysis indicates the need for some new facilities, but many needs could be met by developing additional features at existing parks. Glasgow is also in a good position to confront many of the trends discussed in this chapter that have not yet been addressed. The aging population of Glasgow provides additional incentive for the city to address many of these trends, including fitness programming, universal access, nature education, and expansion of trails. The analyses from this chapter and the preceding chapters provide the foundation for the specific recommendations presented later in this document.

6

STRATEGIC PLAN

6.1 Introduction

This master plan represents the collective vision for parks and recreation in Glasgow. This cohesive vision for continually improving parks and recreation opportunities represents a culmination of the engagement process. The vision, mission, and values outlined below will guide implementation of this master plan and the future of parks, recreation, and trails in Glasgow. A series of goals and objectives will help realize this vision.

6.2 Glasgow Parks and Recreation Mission, Vision, and Values

6.2.1 Mission

To offer safe and convenient parks and programs with modern facilities for all

6.2.2 Vision

Inspiring Excitement – Utilizing parks, programs, and events to deliver opportunities for interaction and entertainment while fostering community pride and wellness

6.2.3 Values

Community

We are dedicated to celebrating a sense of community unique to Glasgow. Our parks, programs, and events will inspire gathering and improve the health and wellbeing of our residents, businesses and visitors.

Safety

We pledge to provide a safe and clean environment through proactive maintenance of modern facilities. Furthermore, we aspire to provide sufficient supervision to assure the safety of users and security of facilities.

Inclusion

We believe everyone should have convenient access to a broad range of parks, facilities, and programs. We are committed to removing barriers and ensuring everyone in Glasgow is welcomed and able to engage in a variety of experiences.

Collaboration

We are committed to fostering public involvement, teamwork, and mutually beneficial partnerships to improve parks and recreation activities. We understand that collaboration is with regard to promotion, outreach, and engagement necessary to maximize these opportunities.

Leadership

We are not satisfied with the status quo. We envision ourselves as leaders in the community by using parks and recreation to build community and enhance quality of life.

6.3 Goals and Objectives

The following goals will guide improvements in parks and recreation in Glasgow over the next five years.

Goal 1: Modern Parks

Provide a variety of parks with modern facilities to serve as destinations for community recreation

Objective 1.1 – Family Friendly Facilities: Develop attractive and fun park features in response to community needs

Objective 1.2 – Sports: Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports

Objective 1.3 – Support: Ensure availability of amenities needed for extended enjoyment of parks

Objective 1.4 – Land Management: Acquire, develop, and conserve parkland to ensure open space for future generations

Goal 2: Enhanced Connectivity

Increase connectivity between parks, nature, and the community

Objective 2.1 – Gathering Spaces: Offer safe and welcoming amenities that promote a sense of community and attract visitors

Objective 2.2 – Nature: Provide connections between the community and the natural environment

Objective 2.3 – Trails: Develop trails for community connectivity, fitness, and recreation

Goal 3: Exciting Programs and Events

Offer a variety of recreational programs and events for users of all ages and abilities

Objective 3.1 – Community Impact: Contribute to health, wellness, and culture through parks and programs

Objective 3.2 – Inclusion: Ensure the availability of convenient, affordable programs and events to meet the evolving needs of the diverse population

Objective 3.3 – Innovation: Provide creative programs and events that reflect trends and community desires

Goal 4: Effective Management and Operations

Utilize efficient and proactive management of staff and finances to promote an informed population and a safe environment at parks

Objective 4.1 – Workforce: Develop an efficient organization of valued staff and volunteers

Objective 4.2 – Finances: Implement operational practices and funding levels to the quality of parks, facilities, and programs

Objective 4.3 – Engagement: Raise awareness of parks and programs and identify needs and barriers to park experiences

Objective 4.4 – Collaboration: Foster partnerships to meet the current and future needs of parks and recreation

Objective 4.5 – Maintenance: Ensure adequate maintenance and equipment replacement policies and procedures to promote safe parks and facilities

6.4 Previous Philosophy, Vision, and Values

6.4.1 Our Philosophy

Our Philosophy is to offer a system of conveniently located neighborhood and community parks, attractive modern facilities, and family-oriented activities, which are affordable and accessible to all users.

6.4.2 Our Vision

Our Vision is to develop a nationally recognized parks and recreation system that serves our community while promoting tourism.

6.4.3 Our Values

Our organization values excellent service to our customers and coworkers, innovative recreational programming, professional behavior and development, maintaining attractive parks, and program evaluations to ensure continuous improvements.

7

SYSTEM-WIDE RECOMMENDATIONS

7.1 Introduction

This chapter provides a series of observations and findings gained through the first three phases of this master plan. Specific recommendations are provided to address these findings. The recommendations are divided into the following categories:

- Existing Parks
- Trails
- New Parks and Facilities
- Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education
- Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts
- Indoor Recreation
- Outdoor Aquatics
- Programming
- Operations and Maintenance
- Partnerships and Sponsorships
- Communications

Recommendations by park are provided in Chapter 8, which also includes detailed cost estimates for improvements.

7.2 Existing Park Improvements

7.2.1 Observations and Analysis

Through the public input process, Glasgow residents voiced a strong desire for improvements to existing parks. The option to upgrade existing parks received the second highest allocation in the dollar voting exercise (22%) at public meetings, and the highest level of support in the Mail Survey was given to upgrading older parks & recreation facilities with 79% of households indicating that Glasgow should pursue this action to improve parks and recreation services. According to the Mail Survey, residents would allocate the largest amount of funds to upgrade existing parks.

Fifty-nine percent (59%) of households who visited parks over the past year rated them as good, 14% rated them as excellent, and 23% rated them as fair. Four percent (4%) rated the facilities as poor. These numbers contrast significantly with the National Benchmarking by ETC Institute showing 31% for excellent and only 1% for poor. Public workshop attendees also indicated they would like to see better maintenance of the parks.

At the public workshop, residents indicated a need for more and improved restrooms, improved safety, and more drinking fountains. For preferred upgrades to existing parks in the Mail Survey, the top response for both surveys was improve or add restrooms (60% in Mail Survey, 73% in Web Survey) and security cameras and lighting were third. Additionally, security or safety concerns was the third ranking reason for not using parks and facilities at 30% (National Benchmark of 9%). Safety concerns were also the most requested improvements on the MindMixer online engagement.

Playgrounds ranked fifth in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC, and the survey indicated that nearly 1,300 households have unmet playground needs. Playground access is limited downtown, northeast of downtown, and along the western edge of town (north of Cumberland Pkwy).

One third of the population lives in areas with "High" or "Medium-High" service levels, and 36% live in areas with "Low" or "Medium-Low" service levels (see Composite Service Areas map). Improvements at existing parks could increase the number living in areas with higher service levels. Some of the gaps in service can be filled through improvements at existing parks, although new parks would be needed in select locations (see Section 7.4).

7.2.2 Recommendations

1. Improve maintenance at existing parks
2. Add support features throughout the park system such as shade structures, drinking fountains, security cameras and lighting, and trees/landscaping
3. Add or upgrade restrooms at all Neighborhood and Community Parks
4. Replace outdated and deteriorated playgrounds in the city, including unique or themed features at each park
5. Add Wi-Fi at all buildings, athletic complexes, event spaces, and other high traffic areas
6. Incorporate nature play structures as part of playground development and replacement
7. Develop and implement a consistent signage program for all city parks
8. Improve ADA access throughout the park system, including walkways to all facilities and seating areas
9. Prepare Park Master Plans for American Legion, Beaver Creek, Gorin, and Wellon Parks
10. Acquire land contiguous to existing parks if it becomes available to allow for additional features and to increase the total amount of parkland available to residents

7.3 Trails

7.3.1 Observations and Analyses

According to the benchmarking in Chapter 2, Glasgow has 0.11 miles of trails per square mile of the city, much lower than other benchmarked communities. Glasgow has fewer trails miles per ten thousand population (1.1) than the benchmark median (2.8) or lower quartile value (1.4).

Glasgow residents requested more trails, better connectivity, and better trail maintenance at the public workshop. Trails received the second largest number (tie) of dots on the feature preference board at the public workshop.

Trails are consistently a top request for improvements throughout the country, including in jurisdictions with the most extensive networks of trails. Similarly, the need for trails continues to grow in Glasgow. The highest percentage of Glasgow households (66%) had a need for walking & hiking trails, and walking & hiking trails also ranked first for unmet needs (over 2,400 households).

Walking/hiking trails ranked second for improvements households would like to see at existing parks. Walking & hiking trails ranked as the most important facility to Glasgow households by far (41% of households ranked as one of four most important facilities; next most received 26%). Build new & connect existing trails received the second highest level of support with 70% of respondents indicating that the city should pursue this action to improve parks and recreation services. Finally, walking & hiking trails ranked first in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC.

Glasgow lacks a citywide trail system, and trails are located in only three parks. The beginning of a trail system was proposed in the Glasgow Alternative Transportation Endeavour (G.A.T.E. Plan) as part of the *Barren County 2014 Comprehensive Plan*. The G.A.T.E. Plan proposed two trail corridors, one in each of the major floodplains in Glasgow (Beaver Creek and South Fork Creek). The plan also proposes use of the Veterans Outer Loop ROW for trail development. The plan discusses potential linkages to these trails, but specific alignments for these trails have not been identified. Smaller connecting spurs, sidewalk improvements, and on-road elements still need to be determined. Trail development has begun in the South Fork corridor within and adjacent to Gorin Park.

7.3.2 Recommendations

1. Expand the G.A.T.E. Plan to further define the alignment and feasibility of major corridors and to determine smaller connecting spurs, sidewalk improvements, and on-road elements; develop design guidelines and estimates of probable cost as part of this planning process

2. Add new loop trails within existing parks that lack this facility (American Legion, Gorin, Twyman) and in any new parks

3. Improve connectivity between parks and adjacent neighborhoods

4. Extend Beaver Creek Park trail around ballfield the complex and into the undeveloped area

7.4 New Park and Facilities Development

7.4.1 Observations and Analyses

Trends indicate slow but steady population growth in Glasgow since 1970, but the city has not continually monitored the parks and recreation needs of new residents. Additionally, the median age in Glasgow (41.9) has increased since 2000 and is much higher than the State of Kentucky which is higher than the USA. Glasgow currently has more seniors than children. The population age 65 and over has increased as a percentage since 2000 and is expected to reach 23% by 2022. At the same time, the percentage of children decreased slightly to 21% of the population. Educational attainment (although not income) has also increased in Glasgow since 2000.

These demographic changes have led to changing recreation needs, which the city has only begun to address. Facilities for active adults are a trend for parks and recreation agencies throughout the country. These facilities include outdoor fitness equipment, pickleball courts (see Section 7.6), and trails (see Section 7.3). Attendees of the public workshop requested outdoor fitness equipment, which have become popular additions to parks for users of all ages (in addition to active adults/seniors). Nature play structures represent another current trend in parks and recreation and were requested at the public workshop.

Glasgow provides fewer (7.5) acres of parkland per thousand population than the benchmark median (11.0), and population per park (1,645) is higher than the benchmark median (1,485). These numbers indicate that Glasgow has fewer parks than other communities. Parkland represents 1.1% the land in Glasgow, well below the benchmark median of 2.4%.

Buying land for open space or future parks received the third highest allocation in the dollar voting exercise (14%). The most notable portion of the city lacking access to parks and facilities is northeast of downtown (see Park Service Areas and Composite Service Areas maps in Chapter 5). New parks would increase access in lower service level areas in Glasgow.

A skate park was requested by public workshop attendees, including on the feature board and the dollar voting exercise. Stakeholder groups reiterated the need for this facility. Picnic shelters/picnic areas ranked second as the most needed facility at 54% of households and ranked third for unmet facility needs. They ranked second in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC. Picnic shelters are well distributed throughout most of the city, except the northeastern and southwestern edges.

7.4.2 Recommendations

1. Develop new Neighborhood Parks in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the city
2. Develop land behind the Parks and Recreation Office into a Neighborhood Park to fill service gaps for park facilities in this area near downtown Glasgow
3. Add outdoor fitness equipment at select parks to expand opportunities for improved community health
4. Add picnic shelters at existing and future parks to expand access to these facilities and to promote opportunities for community gatherings
5. Develop a skate park at Gorin Park to replace the unused former R/C Raceway
6. Add picnic shelters at Gorin Park, the Parks and Recreation Office, and future parks
7. Expand the dog park at Weldon Park to provide more room for dogs to run and to reduce wear on the turf
8. Develop an amphitheater at Beaver Creek Park to accommodate concerts and special events which have been requested by the people of Glasgow
9. Add disc golf at Beaver Creek Park in locations that minimize conflict with trail users

7.5 Natural Areas, Open Space, and Nature Education

7.5.1 Observations and Analyses

Park and recreation agencies are increasingly focusing on preservation and restoration of natural resources. Natural areas provide numerous benefits to the health and wellness of a community, including opportunities for all residents. Studies indicate that a connection to nature can relieve stress, improve interpersonal relationships, and improves mental health.[1] Because they are typically among the largest land owners in their jurisdictions, park and recreation departments have the opportunity to lead in the implementation of sustainability or best management practices (BMPs), which also provide potential educational opportunities for residents.

As noted in the trends section of Chapter 5, environmental education cultivates understanding of the benefits of natural habitats and open spaces. Nature education provides opportunities to engage all ages and abilities and provide great opportunities for intergenerational programming. Environmental programs represent a potential partnership with the schools in the form of nature classes and activities (see Section 7.11). Potential programs include community events, field trips, or classes covering habitat restoration, wildlife identification (e.g., bird watching), invasive species removal, and more.

Attendees of the public workshop indicated a need for access to more natural areas in Glasgow. Natural areas received the fourth largest number of dots on the feature preference board at the public workshop. More than a fourth of households (27%) indicated a need for nature programs (Mail Survey), and most survey respondents indicated these needs were unmet (representing over 1,600 households).

[1] National Recreation and Park Association, "Health and Wellness," http://www.nrpa.org/About-NRPA/Impacting-Communities/Health-and-Wellness/, (August 29, 2018)

Fifty-two percent (52%) of households indicated a need for natural areas, and they ranked second for unmet needs (over 2,200 households). Buying land to preserve open space, natural areas, & historic places ranked third with 68% of households supporting this action. Finally, natural areas ranked second in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC.

7.5.2 Recommendations

1. Add nature programming at Beaver Creek Park and potentially Weldon and Twyman Parks
2. Restore natural areas at existing and future parks to provide educational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and to reduce maintenance requirements (e.g., Gorin, Beaver Creek, Twyman floodplains)
3. Seek opportunities for additional natural areas

7.6 Outdoor Athletic Fields and Courts

7.6.1 Observations and Analyses

Glasgow provides a higher level of service for both youth baseball and softball fields than the benchmark comparisons. Glasgow has a similar level of service for adult softball fields to the benchmark medians. Glasgow offers eight (8) tennis courts at one park, also a higher level of service (one per 1,850 people) than the benchmark median (3.367). The city has a similar level of service as the benchmark median for basketball courts with three (3) at three parks or 4,934 population per facility, compared to approximately 5,228 for the benchmark median.

The diamond field at Weldon Park is underutilized and subject to vandalism. The current uses could be relocated to other fields, allowing for other uses of the space. The reduction in size and conversion to a practice field would allow for the expansion of the dog park and emphasize the passive nature of the park.

Glasgow does not offer rectangular fields. Soccer programs use the Glasgow-Barren County Soccer Complex, which is located at the western edge of the city. No rectangular fields are located in the eastern portion of Glasgow. Football uses a field at Browning Park. Glasgow's population would accommodate three (3) rectangular fields at a similar level of service to the benchmark communities.

Attendees of the public workshop indicated a need for more tennis, volleyball, and basketball courts. All of Glasgow's basketball courts are located in the eastern and southern portions of the city. Tennis courts are located only in Gorin Park, which provides good access to residents in the southeastern part of the city but lower levels of service for those in north and west Glasgow.

As noted in Section 7.4, pickleball courts are a current trend in parks and recreation due to their popularity with older residents, and Glasgow does not currently offer any of these facilities. It makes sense to locate these facilities either adjacent to tennis courts or near other facilities for active adults.

7.6.2 Recommendations

1. Add basketball courts in unserved parts of the city, including Beaver Creek Park, the Parks and Recreation Office, and future parks
2. Convert diamond field from Weldon Park to a practice field to free up space in the park for other uses, to reduce vandalism, and to accommodate rectangular field sports
3. Develop rectangular fields in other parts of the city to balance the existing location at the Glasgow-Barren County Soccer Complex, to provide practice locations, and to accommodate other fields sports (lacrosse, rugby, etc.)
4. Add pickleball courts at the land behind the Parks and Recreation Office to meet the growing need for this facility

7.7 Indoor Recreation

7.7.1 Observations and Analyses

The Parks and Recreation Office offers two gyms and a fitness area. The facility is centrally located and easily accessible. Two of the buildings on the campus have been converted to apartments. One offers apartments for ages 55+, and the other offers apartments for low-income households.

Indoor swimming pools, community/recreation centers, a senior center, and gym space were all medium priorities in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC. Stakeholder groups requested more and better indoor facilities, and many of the programs described in Section 7.9 would require additional indoor program space.

The Barren County Family YMCA offers an indoor swimming pool with programs such as aqua aerobics, aqua Zumba, arthritis programs, swim lessons, lifeguard training, and a swim team.

One (1) recreation center, one (1) senior center, one (1) indoor swimming pool, and one (1) nature center would provide a similar (or slightly better) level of service as the benchmark communities that offer these facilities.

7.7.2 Recommendations

1. Develop feasibility studies for a recreation center (American Legion) and a new senior center (Parks and Recreation Office) with development programs and pro forma

   Development programs will identify facility needs, and operating pro forma will ensure that the city is aware of budget and staffing requirements prior to the authorization and development of these facilities

2. Develop a recreation center with a gym, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, an aerobics/group fitness room, and offices (possibly at American Legion Park)

3. Renovate the Parks and Recreation Offices into a senior center with an emphasis on fitness and social opportunities for residents age 50+

   The facility should include a fitness center, indoor game courts (pickleball, shuffleboard, etc.), an aerobics/group fitness room, meeting rooms, and potentially rental space

4. Consider other uses for the Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse which needs renovation and does not meet recreation needs of residents

7.8 Outdoor Aquatics

7.8.1 Observations and Analyses

Older rectangular and L-shaped swimming pools like the City Pool at American Legion Park have a limited appeal to modern users. This shape with an emphasis on competition swimming (and the resulting lack of shallow water) provides inadequate amenities for 4- to 10-year-olds. In contrast, newer family aquatic centers are geared toward all family members with zero depth access, shallow water, and interactive water spray activities. These elements, along with adequate shade, beach areas, and quality concessions, often result in a facility that recovers its operating costs instead of operating at a significant deficit.

Attendees of the public workshop indicated a need for a new aquatic center to replace the City Pool at American Legion Park. Building new aquatic facilities received the highest allocation in the dollar voting exercise (23%). Aquatics received the largest number of dots on the feature preference board at the public workshop. Outdoor swimming pools ranked as the third most unmet need and seventh most needed, indicating that households' needs for pools are not being met by existing facilities. According to the Mail Survey, residents would allocate the second largest amount of funds to build new aquatic facilities. Finally, outdoor swimming pools ranked fourth in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC.

Spraygrounds are another recent trend in aquatics that have replaced wading pools at many aquatic facilities but can be developed as standalone features in other park areas. Spraygrounds do not require lifeguards and have much lower operating costs than swimming pools.

7.8.2 Recommendations

1. Develop a feasibility study with a development program and pro forma for an outdoor family aquatic center (expand analysis in Subsection 7.8.3)
2. Develop an outdoor family aquatic center at American Legion Park to replace the City Pool
3. Develop a centrally located sprayground to better serve the central and southern portions of the city and to provide a secondary aquatics option for Glasgow residents

7.8.3 Potential Family Aquatic Center Attendance and Size Requirements

The existing City Pool is centrally located with over half of Glasgow's population living within a 5-minute drive and the whole population within a 10-minute drive. Over 30,000 live within a 15-minute drive, including residents outside of Glasgow. Due to this location, its makes sense to develop a family aquatic center at the same park, although likely a different location within the park. Having identified an outdoor family aquatic center as a top priority for the City of Glasgow, the next step is to project the attendance and size requirements of the facility. These estimates are based on American Legion Park as the location of the facility.

Average Daily Attendance

Average daily attendance estimates are typically calculated using the population of the surrounding area of the facility separated into ranges based on distance from the facility. For the purposes of this study, participation is calculated using a service area separated into three drive time ranges from the site: 0-5 minutes, 5-10 minutes, and 10-15 minutes.

Using empirical data collected through the Consultant's experience with similar projects, a 3% participation rate is projected within a 5-minute drive range with significant reductions to the participation rate as the distance increases from the site of the facility. The projected attendance per day is as presented in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1: Projected Daily Attendance

Service Area	2018 Population	Percent Participation		Users
5 minute drive	7,366	3%	=	221
5-10 minute drive	11,304	1.00%	=	113
10-15 minute drive	11,875	0.30%	=	36
Total Users Per Day			=	**370**

Peak Hour Attendance

Peak Hour Attendance projections are important to determine facility needs. This forecast uses two methodologies to predict peak hour attendance at a proposed outdoor family aquatic center. Methodology #1 calculates the peak hour attendance using projected attendance from Table 7.1, while Methodology #2 calculates peak hour attendance using proportions of the service area populations (the same numbers used in Table 7.1). Methodology #1 is based on NRPA Standards and is supported by the Consultant's experience and observations with similar facilities currently operating. Methodology #2 uses a model formulated by the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance. Adjustments are made to both methods to account for the location as well as demographics and preferences of the local population.

The first method, Table 7.2, starts with the total annual attendance determined by multiplying the projected users per day for Table 7.1 (370) by the number of days the in the swim season (estimated at 80). Attendance for the peak month is then calculated as 30% for the total attendance. The average weekly attendance for the peak month is one fourth (25%) of that monthly total, and the peak day attendance of the average week is one fourth (25%) of this attendance. Finally, the peak hour is calculated at 60% of the peak day

attendance. This peak hour figure of 333 users indicates the largest number of people expected to attend the facility at one time in a typical swim season.

Table 7.2: Peak Hour Attendance Methodology #1 (NRPA Standards)

Timeframe	Days or %		
Total Annual Attendance (Days)	80	=	29,572
Peak Month attendance	30%	=	8,871
Average Weekly During Peak Month	25%	=	2,218
Peak Day in Peak Week	25%		554
Daily Peak Hour	60%	=	**333**

The second method, Table 7.3, uses the population of the service area ranges to estimate the total number of residents from each of these service areas that will use the facility during the swim season. As noted previously, the percentage of total users decreases as the distance from the facility increases. The total number of users is then multiplied by a factor (11.2%) to represent the largest number of users projected to be present at the peak hour for the facility.

The average of these two methodologies is located at the bottom of Table 7.3. This number of users represents the best estimate of the peak hour forecast by combining the results of both methods. Based on these figures, an outdoor family aquatic center in Glasgow can be expected to experience a peak usage of 343 users during the busiest hour of the swim season.

Table 7.3: Peak Hour Attendance Methodology #2

Service Area	2018 Population	Factor		Users	Factor (11.2%)
5 minute drive	7,366	33%	=	2431	272
5-10 minute drive	11,304	6%	=	678	76
10-15 minute drive	11,875	0.40%	=	48	5
Peak Hour					**354**
Average of Methodologies #1 and #2					**343**

Outdoor Aquatic Facility

Average daily attendance for a proposed outdoor family aquatic center was calculated at 370 people per day with a peak hour attendance of 343 people. The peak hour attendance was then used to calculate the size requirements of the facility, including recommended sizes for water surface area, deck area, buildings, and parking. These figures can be seen in Table 7.4. Note that this table recommends the minimum size for facilities to meet the community needs. Larger facilities may be developed, depending on the specific facilities desired by the community.

Table 7.4: Facility Size Requirements

Facility Size			S.F. / person	Square Feet
Peak Hour Attendance	343			
Pool Size at 20 S.F. per person			20	6,862
Deck at 3 x surface			60	20,586
Shade Structures			10	3,431
Parking at ¼ people at peak hour	86	x	400	34,411
Pool House and Filter Building				5,000

Table 7.4: Facility Size Requirements (Continued)

Facility Size			S.F. / person	Square Feet
Sprayground				1,500
Subtotal				71,790
Access and Open Space	50%			35,895
Total Square Feet				107,685
Total Acres				**2.5**

7.9 Programming

7.9.1 Observations and Analyses

Glasgow residents indicated a desire for more programs from Parks and Recreation. The most notable categories not offered are specific teen programs, which are offered by 51% of the benchmark departments, after school programs (48%), and programs for people with disabilities (47%). Accordingly, these represent potential program areas to consider in the future.

The Hops & Horses event at Beaver Creek Park was tremendously successful, and residents indicated a need for more community events like it. Glasgow residents want more events in general, including festivals, concerts, and movies. Sixty-eight percent (68%) of households want the city to *host more special events*.

Adult fitness & wellness programs were the most needed recreation programs in Glasgow (52% of households) according to the Mail Survey with summer concerts ranking second (46%) and programs for persons aged 50+ third (34%). These same three programs ranked as the top unmet needs. These three programs ranked as the top three in the Priority Investment Rankings by ETC. Summer concerts were the top unmet need with nearly 2,700 households indicating an unmet need, while adult fitness & wellness programs were the only programs needed in Glasgow at above the national average in the survey.

At the public workshop, residents requested more adult and youth leagues operated by Parks and Recreation. Finally, Glasgow Parks and Recreation currently offers limited visual and cultural arts programming, but these programs are growing in popularity and are available through many agencies in Kentucky and throughout the USA.

7.9.2 Recommendations

1. Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs, including adult fitness and wellness programs, summer concerts/movies (utilize new amphitheater at Beaver Creek Park), and programs for age 50+
2. Schedule more special events to bring the community together
3. Utilize new facilities, including a recreation center, senior center, or an outdoor aquatic center, for expanded program opportunities that result from the availability of these facilities
4. Expand the availability of programs for seniors, particularly healthy seniors (e.g., a Silver Sneakers program could offer a series of fitness programs for seniors in the city)
5. Continuously monitor trends in recreation, particularly amongst growing population groups, to ensure program offerings meet the needs of the community
6. Determine the need for visual and cultural arts programs for both youth and adults and develop programs to meet those needs
7. Utilize the Core Program Guidelines in Appendix D as a source for potential program offerings
8. Investigate the need for additional athletic leagues, both youth and adult, including sports not currently offered (lacrosse, rugby, etc.)

7.10 Operations and Maintenance

7.10.1 Observations and Analyses

The 2017 median household income in Glasgow ($31,592) was much lower than the values for Barren County ($39,770), the State of Kentucky ($45,451), and the nation ($56,124). Household income in Glasgow has grown since 2000 but has not kept up with inflation. As can be seen in Table 2.6, educational attainment has increased in Glasgow since 2000. As of 2017, 18% of residents age 25 and older had a Bachelor's Degree or above.

On a per population basis, Glasgow employs a similar amount of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff (8.8 per 10,000 population) to the benchmark median. Glasgow has a lower number of acres of parkland per FTE at 8.6 than the benchmark median of 11.7 due to the smaller amount of parkland. Glasgow's expenditures per FTE are much lower than the comparisons, however. Glasgow spends $72,541 per FTE, compared to $91,173 for the benchmark median.

The total operating budget (see Table 2.12) for parks and recreation in Glasgow for 2017 is $943,000, which is much lower than the $1.47 million median of the benchmark municipalities. The per capita operating expenditures for the City of Glasgow is $64, compared to the benchmark median of $88.

Generated revenue represents 16.1% of the Parks and Recreation budget, which is below the benchmark median (29.1%). New programs will generate revenue as will any additional rental opportunities. New facilities such as an outdoor facility aquatic center, a recreation center, and a senior center will generate revenue, although only the aquatic center is likely to generate enough revenue to cover its operating costs. Sponsorships (see Section 7.11) can also be utilized to increase cost recovery.

According to the Mail Survey, the second most common reason for not using facilities and programs was the poor condition of facilities. The 30% of respondents that indicated this reason is much higher than the national average of 7%, indicating that the condition of facilities is a major barrier to their use.

The number one reason for not using parks and programs was that households do not know what is offered (44%). Attendees of the public workshop indicated a desire for better promotion of facilities, programs, and events, which would improve access to information about Parks and Recreation offerings.

7.10.2 Recommendations

1. Increase parks and recreation capital budget to be more in line with other communities and to support a capital maintenance and replacement program
2. Implement online registration
3. Improve the Parks and Recreation website and expand social media presence
4. Expand marketing of programs and facilities to improve awareness of existing and future opportunities
5. Increase operating budget to accommodate new facilities and programs
6. Increase cost recovery from the current level (16.1%) to 30% (benchmark)
7. Develop a new maintenance center at Beaver Creek Park and/or American Legion Park to increase efficiency of operations and minimize travel and transportation of equipment
8. Seek partnerships with health providers for the operation and programming of proposed recreation and senior centers

7.11 Partnerships and Sponsorships

7.11.1 Observations and Analyses

Partnerships and sponsorships can help reduce costs or provide revenues to help expand parks and recreation opportunities for residents. Stakeholder groups indicated a need for more partnerships. One potential opportunity is sports tourism, and residents requested the city host tournaments. Opportunities may also exist to utilize facilities at elementary schools by Glasgow Independent Schools and Barren County Schools.

7.11.2 Recommendations

1. Seek partnerships for nature programming at Glasgow parks (potential partners include Glasgow Independent Schools and Barren County Schools)
2. Partner with Barren County Schools for access to their tennis courts
3. Seek opportunities to expand partnerships with local organizations to improve access to recreation facilities and programs
4. Establish policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights
5. Partner with other organizations, including the Glasgow-Barren County Tourist Commission, to bring tournaments to Glasgow, including the development of needed facilities
6. Investigate partnerships with the schools for use of athletic fields, many of which are currently underused
7. Continue existing partnerships for program opportunities and use of facilities

8 INDIVIDUAL PARK RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Introduction

This chapter details recommendations for improvements to the existing parks and proposed new facilities. These recommendations should be used as a starting point for further discussions with the community, users, and neighbors in the design of the parks. Further investigation of these parks is required to determine their capability to support and the precise arrangement of facilities.

Concept plans with potential arrangements of facilities are provided for American Legion Park, Beaver Creek Park, Gorin Park, Twyman Park, Weldon Park, and the Parks and Recreation Office property. Cost estimates for each park are located at end of this chapter and provide timeframes for each of the improvements based on public engagement and steering committee input.

8.2 American Legion Park

8.2.1 Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

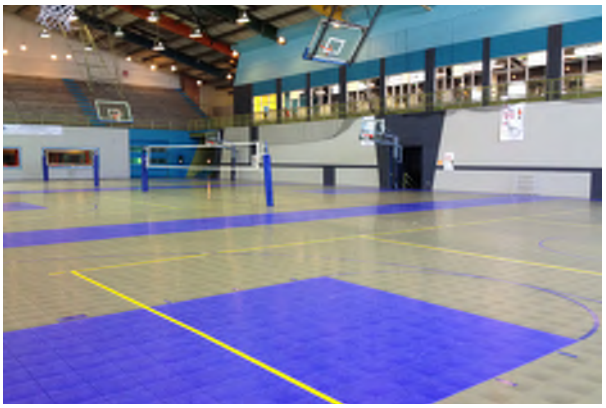
- Outdated swimming pool
- Small playground (tot lot only)
- Lack of walkways between features
- Age and condition of buildings (day camp building and concessions)
- Limited accessibility (ADA) of facilities and buildings
- Poor condition of walkways and pavement
- Maintenance of athletic fields and seating areas

Example - Family Aquatic Center

8.2.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a master plan for the park
2. Develop an outdoor family aquatic center

3. Develop a recreation center
4. Remove day camp building/utilize new recreation center
5. Replace restroom building in the west side of the park
6. Remove ballfield
7. Add perimeter trail
8. Replace playground
9. Add walkways/ADA access
10. Remove small shelters
11. Add large shelter
12. Renovate/replace existing large shelter
13. Relocate disc golf as needed when developing new facilities



Example Recreation Center

8.2.3 Concept Plan

The concept plan for American Legion Park can be seen in Figure 8.1 (end of chapter). This figure shows a recreation center near the entrance to the site from Happy Valley Rd. This facility would be located on the site of the current City Pool and would include a gym, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, an aerobics/group fitness room, and offices.

The concept indicates a new outdoor family aquatic center on the site of the existing softball field. The aquatic center would have a large family pool with a play feature, a small deep-water pool with a diving board and a climbing wall, and a sprayground. The facility would also include a concessions space and a lawn area. The orientation of the sprayground would allow for extended use beyond the swim season. It would be conveniently accessible from a nearby picnic shelter.

A new playground is indicated near the southwestern edge of the park adjacent to the existing large shelter which would be renovated or replaced. The large parking lot near the playground and shelter contains 110 parking spaces to serve the shelter, playground, and aquatic center. The smaller parking lot near the north end of the site has 60 parking spaces to serve the recreation center. Parking is limited at the proposed recreation center due to limitations of the site. As a result, another location may be preferable for this facility.

8.3 Beaver Creek Park

8.3.1 Background

Beaver Creek Park is by far the most used park with 87% of households visiting in the past year. It is used for citywide events but lacks a formal stage. It also has a limited variety of features considering its high level of use. Its location in the floodplain (all of park) presents a challenge for development.

8.3.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop an amphitheater to support community concerts and other events
2. Add event infrastructure
3. Add basketball court
4. Expand trail around ballfield complex and into wooded area
5. Add disc golf
6. Expand park acreage
7. Add trees/landscaping
8. Expand playground and add shade
9. Add outdoor fitness equipment

Example - Amphitheater

8.3.3 Concept Plan

The concept plan for Beaver Creek Park can be seen in Figure 8.2 (end of chapter). This figure shows potential locations for the proposed trail loops around the ballfields (0.5 mile loop) and through the woodland area (0.3 mile loop). Utilizing a natural portion of the site, the trail through the woodland area would provide nature education opportunities, including interpretive signage. Much of the area retains water, providing challenges to development but also opportunities for education about wetland areas. The development of this trail will entail careful planning and may require wetland delineation in this area.

An amphitheater is shown at the north end of the site within the existing trail loop. The concept also shows an expanded playground with a new structure for ages 2-5 and shade cover for both new and existing play features. An area with outdoor fitness equipment is indicated adjacent to the playground and existing shelter. Finally, two basketball courts are located near the site entrance in a large flat area that is currently underutilized.

8.4 Gorin Park

8.4.1 Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack and condition of walkways
- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Drainage issues at and near lower field
- Several layers of asphalt at tennis courts
- Lack of drinking fountains and restrooms near the tennis courts
- Unused former R/C Raceway
- Location in floodplain (majority of park – southeastern side, 18 acres)
- Richardson Field used by Glasgow High School

Example - Picnic Shelter

Example - Skate Park

8.4.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Replace tennis courts, including removal of all asphalt
2. Replace/relocate restrooms closer to tennis courts
3. Develop a skate park to replace R/C Raceway
4. Add picnic shelters (2)
5. Add perimeter trail (utilize grand funder trail as part)
6. Improve ballfields
7. Develop sprayground near playground
8. Partner with Glasgow Independent Schools for maintenance of Richardson Field

8.4.3 Concept Plan

The concept plan for Gorin Park is presented in Figure 8.3. The concept shows a perimeter trail that connect to the proposed trail through the park that is currently under development (grant funded). A new restroom is located adjacent to the playground and near the tennis courts. The restrooms are just outside of the floodplain and provide easy access for visitors using the proposed sprayground and picnic shelters in addition to the existing playground and tennis courts.

A nature trail would be located in the restored floodplain (woodland or prairie) along the South Fork Beaver Creek. A skate park is indicated on the site of the former R/C Raceway in the northern portion of the park. Finally, new walkways provide ADA access to park facilities.

8.5 Twyman Park

8.5.1 Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack and condition of walkways
- Age and condition of playground
- Limited accessibility (ADA)
- Fence blocks visibility of stream
- Location in floodplain (majority of park – eastern side, 2 acres)

City-owned property north of Back St is part of park but fenced off and underutilized. Much of this land is outside of the floodplain.

8.5.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Replace playground
2. Add walkways/ADA access, including bridge
3. Add perimeter trail
4. Replace restroom building
5. Improve connections to adjacent neighborhoods
6. Remove fences along perimeter and between portions of the park
7. Incorporate northern portion into park with picnic shelter

Example - Playground

8.5.3 Concept Plan

The concept plan for Twyman Park is presented in Figure 8.4. The concept shows a new playground to replace the existing playground in the same location near the parking lot. A new restroom is located adjacent to the playground. The new location for the restroom is outside of the floodplain and provides easy access for playground visitors and is centrally located between other amenities at the park.

A new trail with two separate loops (approximately a third of a mile total) connects features and provides an attraction for users of all ages. This trail also provides ADA access to the park facilities and includes a new bridge over the stream that runs through the site. This trail connects to a new picnic shelter on the north end of the site (right side of concept) which is currently underutilized. The concept also indicates the removal of some of the fencing for better connectivity to neighboring residents.

8.6 Weldon Park

8.6.1 Background

Weldon Park is the second most used park in Glasgow with 61% of households visiting in the past year (Mail Survey). The passive nature of the park makes it appealing to all ages of users and should be maintained and fostered as part of any future development. The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lack of walkways and accessibility
- Poor turf conditions at dog park
- Condition and location of restroom building

8.6.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Develop a Master Plan
2. Convert ballfield to practice field
3. Expand dog park
4. Replace playground with nature play structures
5. Improve neighborhood connections
6. Add basketball court (separate from parking lot)
7. Replace/relocate restroom building closer to picnic shelter and playground
8. Renovate/replace picnic shelter
9. Improve nature trail
10. Add outdoor fitness equipment

Example - Nature Themed Playground

8.6.3 Concept Plan

The concept plan for Weldon Park (Figure 8.5) shows a new nature themed playground with adjacent restrooms which would also serve the nearby renovated or replaced large shelter, outdoor fitness equipment, and new basketball court. Reconfiguration of the parking lot and allows for the development of the basketball court while losing only about five (5) parking spaces.

In the lower portion of the site (eastern side) the removal of the ballfield fencing and conversion to a practice fields would allow for the fields to be used for rectangular field sports (e.g., soccer) and for the expansion of the dog park. Finally, a paved walking trail in this part of the site would provide and alternative to the unpaved nature trail and access to the field and dog park.

8.7 Beula Nunn Park

8.7.1 Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- No picnic area
- Limited shade cover

8.7.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

Redevelop center part of park to include open gathering and program space.

8.8 Parks and Recreation Office

8.8.1 Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Underutilized parking lot at back of property (northwest)

Example - Outdoor Fitness Equipment

- Condition of secondary gym (poor ventilation, ceiling insulation falling, etc.)
- Lacks program space

8.8.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

1. Redevelop back parking lot as a Neighborhood Park
2. Include a playground, basketball court, picnic shelter, pickleball, open field space
3. Renovate building as a senior center
4. Add outdoor fitness equipment

8.8.3 Concept Plan

The concept plan for a potential park behind the Parks and Recreation Office is presented in Figure 8.6 (end of chapter). The concept shows a playground, two pickleball courts, a half basketball court, outdoor fitness equipment, and a picnic shelter, all easily accessible for a nearby parking lot.

A perimeter trail is shown around the new park area, which will utilize part of the existing trail and connect to the residents and offices at the front part of the site. The existing parking lot pavement must be removed prior to the development of a park in this area, so some of the existing path within the new park will likely need to be replaced. The park includes 30 parking spaces that will also serve the adjacent auxiliary gym.

Photo Credit: Community News

Example - Pickleball Court

Photo Credit: Bend Parks and Recreation District

Example - Senior Center

8.9 Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse

8.9.1 Background

The following park issues were identified through site assessments and public input:

- Lead based paint and asbestos
- No elevator
- Limited use

8.9.2 Park Improvement Recommendations

Consider alternative uses for the building.

Example - Sprayground

8.10 Other City-Owned Properties

The City of Glasgow owns properties throughout Glasgow, and some of these properties may have potential for recreational uses. One notable property is a triangular parcel between Brown St, Leslie Ave, and Cleveland Ave. This property could function as a small gathering space with a small shelter and potentially a community garden. The green space adjacent to the South Central Kentucky Cultural Center currently offers a small shelter but could

be developed to offer more amenities such as an interactive fountain or sprayground. The city should also consider utilizing other city-owned properties to meet park needs in Glasgow.

Recommendations:

1. Develop a small shelter and potentially a community garden at the triangle property at Brown St, Leslie Ave, and Cleveland Ave
2. Consider the development of a sprayground at the green space adjacent to the South Central Kentucky Cultural Center (Downtown Park) or at another downtown location

8.11 New Neighborhood Parks (2)

The text below provides the features that should be included in the development of the new parks identified in Chapter 7. Optimally, each of the Neighborhood Parks should be minimum of 8 to 10 acres in size. The development of any new park should be preceded by the preparation of a detailed master plan for the property that utilizes community input.

Typical Elements include:

- Small playground
- ½ basketball court
- Gathering area/small picnic shelter with seating
- Small walking trail
- Good circulation – walkways/ADA access
- Landscaping/trees for shade
- Security/lighting
- Athletic field – open play/practice
- Neighborhood requested feature (if applicable)

8.12 Park Improvement Costs

The cost estimates for park improvements are presented in Table 8.1. These cost estimates include new park development and follow-up planning studies. The total cost for all improvements will depend on which of the recommendations are ultimately implemented. However, the total cost for the projects described in this chapter comes to approximately $15.5 million. Land acquisition for new parks is not included in these estimates, and several items are indicated at to be determined (TBD).

Construction items include a 10% contingency and 12% for design, survey, and bidding. Grant opportunities exist and should be explored for many of these improvements, particularly trail system development, helping to reduce the required contributions by the City of Glasgow. Additionally, partnerships, including fundraising, should be considered as part of any improvement, particularly those with substantial capital costs.

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates

	Park Name	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
Neighborhood Parks					
American Legion Park					
1	Master Plan	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
2	Aquatic Center Feasibility Study	$15,000	$0	$0	$15,000
3	Recreation Center Feasibility Study	$20,000	$0	$0	$20,000
4	Outdoor family aquatic center	$4,920,000	$0	$0	$4,920,000
5	Upper parking lot	$271,000	$0	$0	$271,000
6	Security lighting	$62,000	$31,000	$0	$93,000
7	Ballfield demolition	$12,000	$0	$0	$12,000
8	Trees/landscaping	$9,000	$9,000	$0	$18,000

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates (Continued)

	Park Name	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
9	Drinking fountain	$6,000	$6,000	$0	$12,000
10	Day camp and maintanance building demolition	$6,000	$0	$0	$6,000
11	ADA walkways	$5,000	$5,000	$0	$10,000
12	Restroom building replacement	$0	$215,000	$0	$215,000
13	Perimeter trail	$0	$185,000	$0	$185,000
14	Playground replacement	$0	$123,000	$0	$123,000
15	Existing large shelter renovation/replacement	$0	$123,000	$0	$123,000
16	Large shelter	$0	$98,000	$0	$98,000
17	Wi-Fi hotspots	$0	$25,000	$0	$25,000
18	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$6,000	$0	$6,000
19	Small shelters demolition	$0	$2,000	$0	$2,000
20	Maintenance building	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
21	Recreation center (including parking)	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
22	Relocation of disc golf	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
	Project Total	**$5,351,000**	**$828,000**	**$0**	**$6,179,000**
Twyman Park					
1	Playground replacement	$100,000	$0	$0	$100,000
2	ADA walkways (including bridge)	$5,000	$5,000	$0	$10,000
3	Security lighting	$12,000	$12,000	$0	$24,000
4	Trees/landscaping	$6,000	$6,000	$0	$12,000
5	Drinking fountain	$6,000	$6,000	$0	$12,000
6	Fence removal	$6,000	$0	$0	$6,000
7	Signage	$6,000	$0	$0	$6,000
8	Perimeter trail loop	$0	$111,000	$0	$111,000
9	Small picnic shelter (north portion)	$0	$74,000	$0	$74,000
10	Pedestrian access to adjacent neighborhoods (2 locations)	$0	$15,000	$0	$15,000
11	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$6,000	$0	$6,000
12	Restroom building replacement/relocation	$0	$0	$215,000	$215,000
13	Existing shelter renovation/replacement	$0	$0	$74,000	$74,000
	Project Total	**$141,000**	**$235,000**	**$289,000**	**$665,000**
Community Parks					
Beaver Creek Park					
1	Park Master Plan	$50,000	$0	$0	$50,000
2	Additional park acreage	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
3	Maintenance building	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
4	Amphitheater/bandshell	$492,000	$0	$0	$492,000
5	Event infrastructure	$62,000	$0	$0	$62,000
6	Security cameras	$37,000	$0	$0	$37,000
7	Wi-Fi hotspots	$37,000	$0	$0	$37,000
8	Security lighting	$25,000	$25,000	$0	$50,000
9	Trees/landscaping	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
10	ADA walkways	$68,000	$0	$0	$68,000
11	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$12,000	$0	$0	$12,000
12	Drinking fountains	$6,000	$6,000	$0	$12,000
13	Restroom building (near playground)	$0	$246,000	$0	$246,000
14	Restrooms renovation	$0	$185,000	$0	$185,000
15	Trail expansion - Ballfield loop	$0	$174,000	$0	$174,000
16	Playground expansion and shade	$0	$125,000	$0	$125,000
17	Outdoor fitness equipment	$0	$62,000	$0	$62,000
18	Basketball courts (2)	$0	$50,000	$50,000	$100,000
19	Resurface main parking lot	$0	$0	$212,000	$212,000
20	Trail expansion - Educational woodland loop	$0	$0	$145,000	$145,000
21	Disc golf (18 holes)	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
	Project Total	**$814,000**	**$873,000**	**$457,000**	**$2,144,000**
Gorin Park					
1	Park Master Plan	$50,000	$0	$0	$50,000
2	Ballfield improvements	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates (Continued)

	Park Name	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
3	Linear Trail (Grant Funded)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
4	ADA walkways	$42,000	$42,000	$0	$84,000
5	Security lighting	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
6	Drinking fountains	$6,000	$6,000	$0	$12,000
7	Signage	$6,000	$0	$0	$6,000
8	Restrooms replacement/relocation (closer to tennis courts)	$0	$246,000	$0	$246,000
9	Natural area restoration	$0	$30,000	$0	$30,000
10	Wi-Fi hotspots	$0	$25,000	$0	$25,000
11	Trees/landscaping	$0	$25,000	$0	$25,000
12	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$12,000	$0	$12,000
13	Tennis court replacement (removal of all asphalt) with new LED lighting	$0	$0	$787,000	$787,000
14	Sprayground	$0	$0	$492,000	$492,000
15	Perimeter Trail (Utilizes Proposed Linear Trail)	$0	$0	$202,000	$202,000
16	Picnic shelters (2)	$0	$0	$148,000	$148,000
17	Skate park (at R/C Raceway)	$0	$0	$123,000	$123,000
18	Nature Trail	$0	$0	$53,000	$53,000
	Project Total	**$129,000**	**$386,000**	**$1,805,000**	**$2,320,000**
Weldon Park					
1	Park Master Plan	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
2	Improve nature trail	$49,000	$0	$0	$49,000
3	ADA walkways	$36,000	$0	$0	$36,000
4	Security lighting	$12,000	$25,000	$0	$37,000
5	Trees/landscaping	$12,000	$12,000	$0	$24,000
6	Security cameras	$12,000	$12,000	$0	$24,000
7	Drinking fountains	$6,000	$0	$0	$6,000
8	Existing large shelter renovation/replacement	$0	$123,000	$0	$123,000
9	Nature playground	$0	$123,000	$0	$123,000
10	Resurface/reconfigure parking lot	$0	$74,000	$0	$74,000
11	Outdoor fitness equipment	$0	$62,000	$0	$62,000
12	Basketball court (separate from parking lot)	$0	$49,000	$0	$49,000
13	Pedestrian access to adjacent neighborhoods	$0	$18,000	$0	$18,000
14	Wi-Fi hotspots	$0	$12,000	$0	$12,000
15	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$12,000	$0	$12,000
16	Restroom building replacement	$0	$0	$246,000	$246,000
17	Paved walking trail	$0	$0	$105,000	$105,000
18	Dog park expansion	$0	$0	$62,000	$62,000
19	Conversion of ballfield to practice field	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
	Project Total	**$152,000**	**$522,000**	**$419,000**	**$1,093,000**
Special Use Parks					
Beula Nunn Park					
1	Open gathering and program space	$0	$0	$185,000	$185,000
	Project Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$185,000**	**$185,000**
Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse					
1	Consider alternative uses	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Project Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**	**$0**
Brown/Leslie/Cleveland Triangle					
1	Picnic shelter	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
2	Community gardens	$0	$0	$31,000	$31,000
3	Trees/landscaping	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
4	Signage	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
5	Drinking fountains/garden spigot	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
6	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
7	ADA walkways	$0	$0	$1,000	$1,000
	Project Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$112,000**	**$112,000**
Unnamed Downtown Park					
1	Sprayground	$0	$0	$400,000	$400,000
2	Restrooms	$0	$0	$246,000	$246,000

Table 8.1: Capital Improvement Projects Cost Estimates (Continued)

	Park Name	0-2 Years	3-5 Years	6-10 Years	Total
3	Seating, including tables with chairs and umbrellas	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
4	Wi-Fi hotspot	$0	$12,000	$12,000	$24,000
5	ADA walkways	$0	$0	$7,000	$7,000
	Project Total	**$0**	**$12,000**	**$677,000**	**$689,000**
New Parks					
Parks and Recreation Office					
1	Master Plan	$25,000	$0	$0	$25,000
2	Restrooms	$0	$215,000	$0	$215,000
3	Playground	$0	$100,000	$0	$100,000
4	Pickleball courts (2)	$0	$86,000	$0	$86,000
5	Picnic shelter	$0	$74,000	$0	$74,000
6	Outdoor fitness equipment	$0	$62,000	$0	$62,000
7	Parking	$0	$55,000	$0	$55,000
8	Asphalt Demolition (existing parking lot)	$0	$52,000	$0	$52,000
9	ADA walkways	$0	$50,000	$0	$50,000
10	Trail - Park Loop Completion Resurface	$0	$47,000	$0	$47,000
11	Trail - Park Loop Completion	$0	$44,000	$0	$44,000
12	½ Basketball court	$0	$25,000	$0	$25,000
13	Security lighting	$0	$12,000	$0	$12,000
14	Trees/landscaping	$0	$12,000	$0	$12,000
15	Signage	$0	$6,000	$0	$6,000
16	Drinking fountains	$0	$6,000	$0	$6,000
17	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$6,000	$0	$6,000
	Project Total	**$25,000**	**$852,000**	**$0**	**$877,000**
Northeast Neighborhood Park					
1	Master Plan	$0	$0	$25,000	$25,000
2	Trails	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000
3	Playground	$0	$0	$100,000	$100,000
4	Playfields - practice diamond/field	$0	$0	$92,000	$92,000
5	Picnic shelter	$0	$0	$74,000	$74,000
6	ADA walkways	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
7	½ Basketball court	$0	$0	$25,000	$25,000
8	Parking	$0	$0	$18,000	$18,000
9	Security lighting	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
10	Trees/landscaping	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
11	Signage	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
12	Drinking fountains	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
13	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
	Project Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$626,000**	**$626,000**
Southwest Neighborhood Park					
1	Master Plan	$0	$0	$25,000	$25,000
2	Trails	$0	$0	$200,000	$200,000
3	Playground	$0	$0	$100,000	$100,000
4	Playfields - practice diamond/field	$0	$0	$92,000	$92,000
5	Picnic shelter	$0	$0	$74,000	$74,000
6	ADA walkways	$0	$0	$50,000	$50,000
7	½ Basketball court	$0	$0	$25,000	$25,000
8	Parking	$0	$0	$18,000	$18,000
9	Security lighting	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
10	Trees/landscaping	$0	$0	$12,000	$12,000
11	Signage	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
12	Drinking fountains	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
13	Site furnishings (benches/trash receptacles/bike racks)	$0	$0	$6,000	$6,000
	Project Total	**$0**	**$0**	**$626,000**	**$626,000**
System					
1	ADA Accessibility Assessment	$30,000	$0	$0	$30,000
	Project Total	**$30,000**	**$0**	**$0**	**$30,000**
TOTAL PARKS		**$6,371,000**	**$3,979,000**	**$5,196,000**	**$15,546,000**

* Non-construction items such as master plans and studies do not include 10% contingency and 12% for design, survey, and bidding

Figure 8.1: American Legion Park Concept Plan

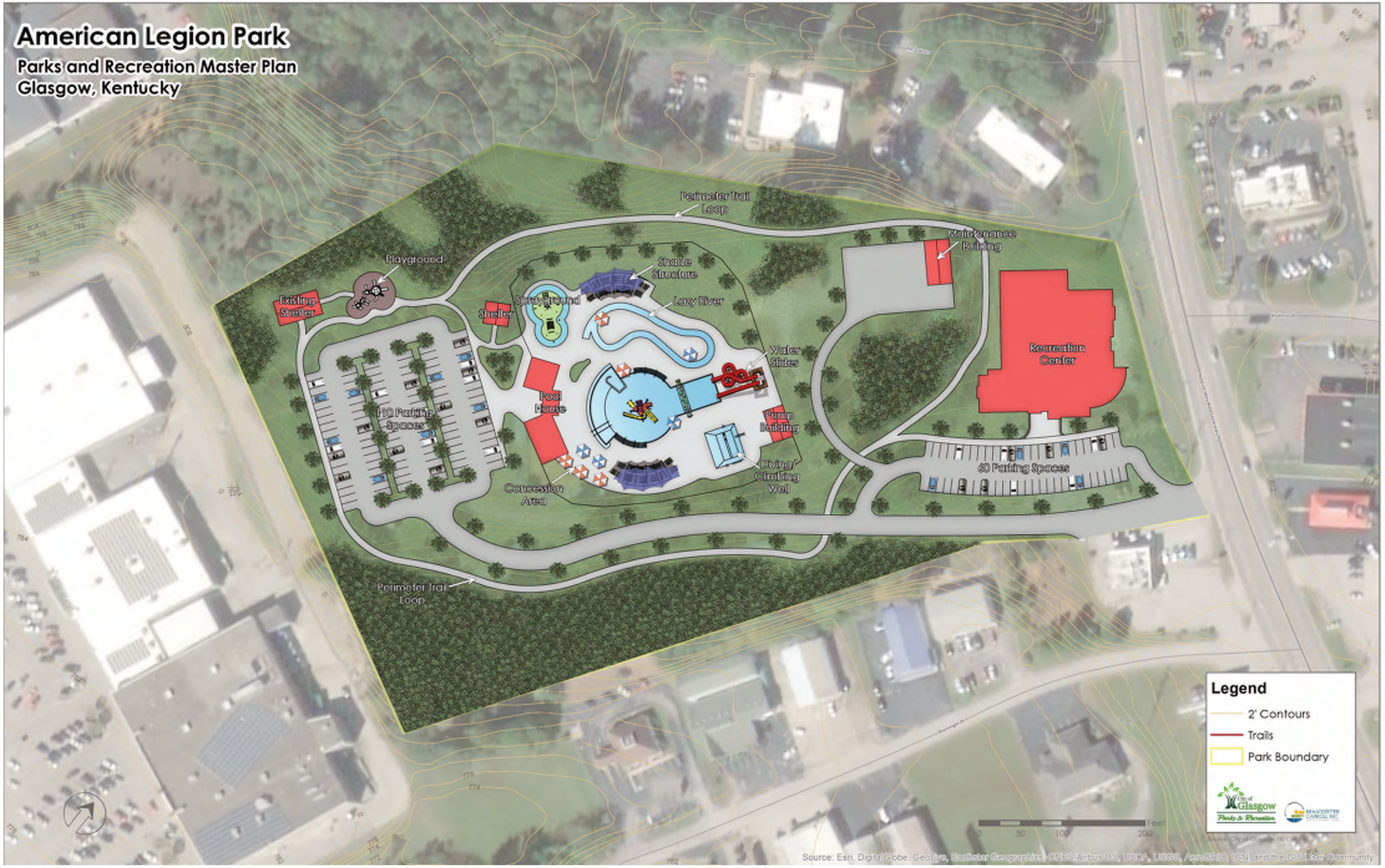


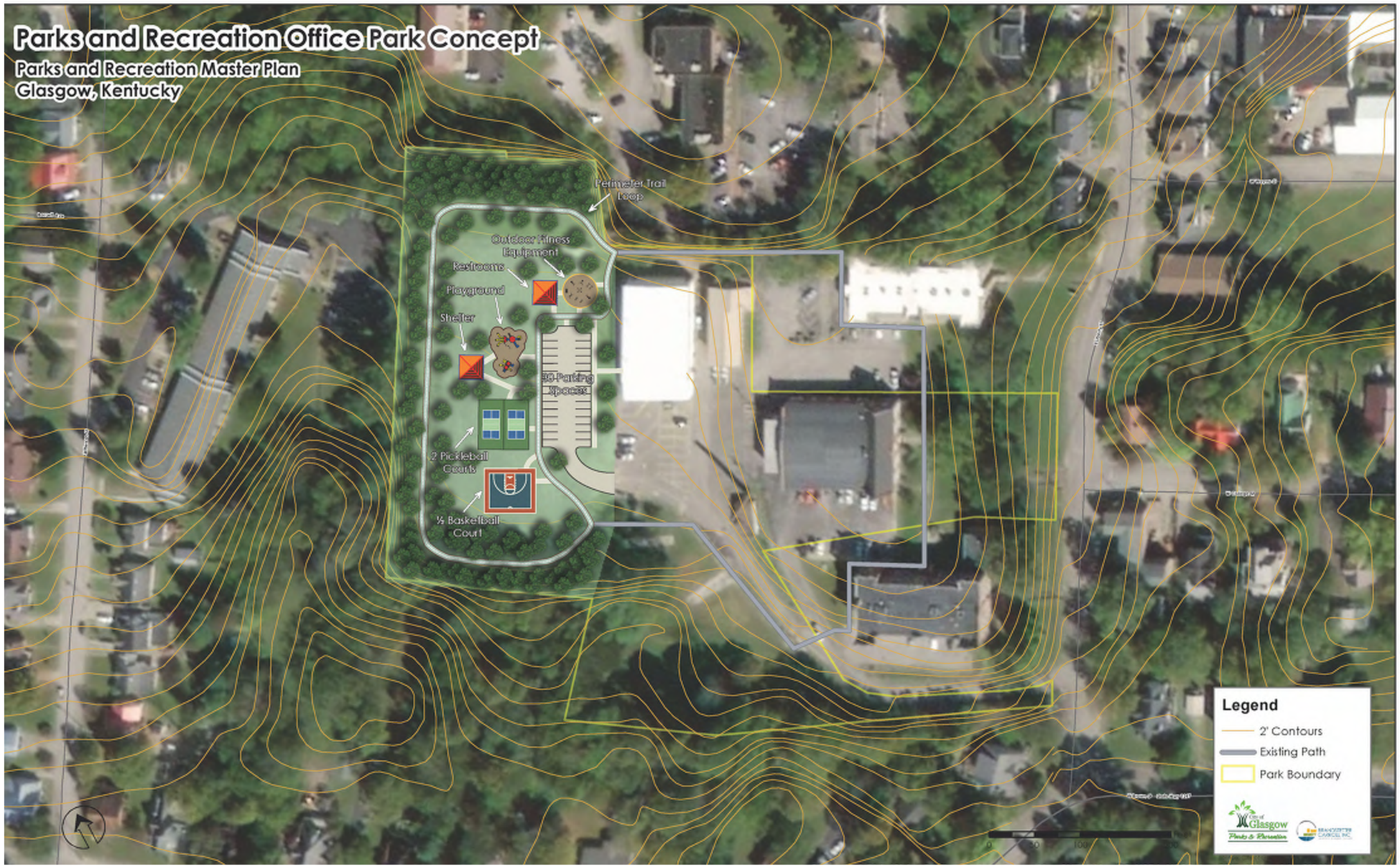
Figure 8.2: Beaver Creek Park Concept Plan

Figure 8.3: Gorin Park Concept Plan

Figure 8.4: Twyman Park Concept Plan

Figure 8.5: Weldon Park Concept Plan

Figure 8.6: Parks and Recreation Park Concept Plan



9

ACTION PLAN

9.1 Introduction

The Action Plan table on the following pages (Table 9.1) provides a detailed list of recommendations for the Glasgow Parks and Recreation Master Plan. These strategies represent specific actions for parks and recreation in the City of Glasgow to implement this master plan.

9.2 Action Plan Strategies

These strategies in Figure 9.1 are listed under the four (4) goals and 15 objectives from the Strategic Plan (Chapter 6). The legend at the top of the table identifies the abbreviations used throughout the table. Checkmarks indicate the timeframe for the completion of each strategy 0-2 years, 3-5 years, or 6-10 years. Some strategies are indicated as "Ongoing" as they apply to all timeframes or represent more general actions that should always be considered. A total count of strategies by timeframe are located at the end of the table in the corresponding columns.

The other columns provide information regarding the implementation of each strategy. "Category" describes the type of action within the following four options: capital (capital improvements); policy (guidelines for City Council and the parks department, possibly including legislation); planning (long-term parks outlook, which includes conduction of studies); or operations. The column for "Agency" indicates who is expected to implement the strategy, usually Glasgow Parks and Recreation or another city department. "Funding Source" indicates how the strategy should be funded or the type of funds used (operating or capital funds).

9.3 Capital Improvement Ranking

The steering committee reviewed potential solutions and recommendations and participated in an exercise to help establish capital priorities for the Action Plan. Committee members were asked to rank each of the potential improvement projects with a High Priority (3), Medium Priority (2), Low Priority (1), or Not Needed (0).

The priority ranking was used to help rank the importance of improvements but not necessarily the order in which they should be developed. Table 9.2, located after the Action Plan, identifies the capital improvement ranking based on the average of the ranking for each item. These rankings were used as part of the process for recommending priorities along with public input and analyses completed throughout this master planning process.

ACTION PLAN - *GLASGOW PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN*

Legend of Abbreviations/Organizations

Parks = Glasgow Parks and Recreation	OP = Parks Operating Budget
City = City Council, Other City Departments	CIP = Capital Improvement Budget
Partners = Other Organizations (foundations, businesses, schools, civic associations, state/federal grants, etc.)	Revenue = Items that Generate Additional Revenue

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Goal 1: Modern Parks						
Targeted Outcome: Provide a variety of parks with modern facilities to serve as destinations for community recreation						
Objective 1.1 – Family Friendly Facilities: Develop attractive and fun park features in response to community needs						
Strategy 1.1.1: Assure that all playgrounds meet current guidelines, especially as they pertain to safety issues such as fall zones and surfacing	✓			Operations	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 1.1.2: Direct initial focus toward improvements to existing, key facilities such as needed improvements at the existing parks, trails, playgrounds, game courts, picnic shelters, restrooms, and athletic fields	✓			Operations, Capital	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 1.1.3: Install outdoor fitness equipment with a shade cover at select parks (Beaver Creek, Weldon, Parks and Recreation Office) to provide opportunities for improved fitness for residents, including seniors		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.4: Replace outdated and deteriorated playgrounds in the city, including unique or themed features at each park	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.5: Incorporate nature play structures as part of playground development and replacement	*Ongoing*			Policy, Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.6: Expand Beaver Creek Park playground and add shade structures and seating areas		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.7: Replace Weldon Park playground with nature play structures consistemt with the passive nature of the park		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.8: Develop a feasibility study with a development program and pro forma for an outdoor family aquatic center at American Legion Park	✓			Planning	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.9: Develop an outdoor family aquatic center at American Legion Park to replace the City Pool (relocate to existing ballfield location)	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.10: Expand the dog park at Weldon Park to provide more room for dogs to run and to reduce wear on the turf		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.11: Develop a centrally located sprayground to better serve the central and southern portions of the city and to provide a secondary aquatics option for Glasgow residents		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.12: Develop feasibility studies for a recreation center (American Legion) and a new senior center (Parks and Recreation Office) with development programs and pro forma	✓	✓		Planning	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.13: Develop a recreation center with two gyms, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, an aerobics/group fitness room, and offices (possibly at American Legion Park) to accommodate expanded program opportunities for all ages		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.14: Renovate the Parks and Recreation Offices into a senior center with an emphasis on fitness and social opportunities for residents age 50+			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.1.15: Develop a skate park at Gorin Park to replace the unused former R/C Raceway			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Objective 1.2 – Sports: Provide up-to-date venues for team and individual sports						
Strategy 1.2.1: Ensure the availability and fair distribution of open fields for practices and unstructured play	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks	OP
Strategy 1.2.2: Add pickleball courts at the land behind the Parks and Recreation Office to meet the growing need for this facility		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Strategy 1.2.3: Add basketball courts in unserved parts of the city, including Beaver Creek Park, the Parks and Recreation Office, Weldon (separate from parking lot), and future parks		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.4: Convert diamond field at Weldon Park to a practice field to free up space in the park for other uses, to reduce vandalism, and to accommodate rectangular field sports		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.5: Replace tennis courts at Gorin Park, including removal of all asphalt and replacement of lighting with LED fixtures			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.6: Develop rectangular fields in other parts of the city to balance the existing location at the Glasgow-Barren County Soccer Complex, to provide practice locations, and to accommodate other fields sports (lacrosse, rugby, etc.)			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.2.7: Add disc golf at Beaver Creek Park in locations that minimize conflict with trail users			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Objective 1.3 – Support: Ensure availability of amenities needed for extended enjoyment of parks						
Strategy 1.3.1: Add support features throughout the park system such as shade structures, drinking fountains, security cameras and lighting, and trees/landscaping	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.2: Develop and implement a consistent signage program for all city parks	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.3: Add or upgrade restrooms at all Neighborhood and Community Parks	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.4: Add, expand, and resurface parking throughout the park system according to locations and improvements in Table 8.1	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.5: Increase the availability of bicycle parking at all parks		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.6: Add Wi-Fi at all buildings, athletic complexes, event spaces, and other high traffic areas		✓	✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.7: Perform an ADA Accessibility Assessment of all facilities, programs, and communications (by trained staff or an outside consultant)	✓			Planning	Parks, City	OP, CIP
Strategy 1.3.8: Improve ADA access throughout the park system, including walkways to all facilities and seating areas		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.3.9: Install security cameras (and additional lighting as needed) to all Community and Neighborhood Parks to encourage a safe atmosphere and to prevent damage to park property		✓		Capital	Parks, City	CIP
Objective 1.4 – Land Management: Acquire, develop, and conserve parkland to ensure open space for future generations						
Strategy 1.4.1: Develop land behind the Parks and Recreation Office into a Neighborhood Park to fill service gaps for park facilities in this area near downtown Glasgow		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.4.2: Prepare Park Master Plans for American Legion, Beaver Creek, Gorin, and Weldon Parks	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.4.3: Acquire land contiguous to existing parks if it becomes available to allow for additional features and to increase the total amount of parkland available to residents	*Ongoing*			Policy, Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.4.4: Prepare a detailed master plan utilizing community input prior to the development of any new park, including the new park behind the Parks and Recreation Office	*Ongoing*			Planning	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.4.5: Develop new Neighborhood Parks in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the city			✓	Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 1.4.6: Utilize typical elements outlined in Chapter 8, Section 8.11 as a guideline for any future Neighborhood Park	*Ongoing*			Policy, Capital	Parks	CIP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Goal 2: Improved Connectivity						
Targeted Outcome: Increase connectivity between parks, nature, and the community						
Objective 2.1 – Gathering Spaces: Offer safe and welcoming amenities that promote a sense of community and attract visitors						
Strategy 2.1.1: Renovate/replace existing large shelters at American Legion and Weldon Parks	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.1.2: Add picnic shelters at American Legion, Gorin Park, the Parks and Recreation Office, and future parks to expand access to these facilities and to promote opportunities for community gatherings	✓	✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.1.3: Develop an amphitheater at Beaver Creek Park to accommodate concerts and special events which have been requested by the people of Glasgow	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.1.4: Redevelop center part of Beula Nunn Park to include open gathering and program space		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.1.5: Develop a small shelter and potentially a community garden at the triangle property at Brown St, Leslie Ave, and Cleveland Ave		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Objective 2.2 – Nature: Provide connections between the community and the natural environment						
Strategy 2.2.1: Restore natural areas at existing and future parks to provide educational opportunities, wildlife habitat, and to reduce maintenance requirements (e.g., Gorin, Beaver Creek, Twyman floodplains)	*Ongoing*			Capital, Operations	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 2.2.2: Seek opportunities for additional natural areas	*Ongoing*			Capital, Planning	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 2.2.3: Implement conservation policies and sustainable practices for development and management of park properties	✓			Policy	Parks	OP
Strategy 2.2.4: Utilize parks as examples of Best Management Practices (BMP) for stormwater detention, recycling, etc.	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 2.2.5: Promote conservation and sustainability efforts as they are implemented to encourage reduced levels of consumption and waste generation at the household and community levels	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Objective 2.3 – Trails: Develop trails for community connectivity, fitness, and recreation						
Strategy 2.3.1: Improve connectivity within parks through added walkways and connecting paths	✓			Capital	Parks, City	CIP
Strategy 2.3.2: Improve connections between parks and surrounding neighborhoods, most notably Twyman Park	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.3.3: Improve nature trail surface at Weldon Park	✓			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.3.4: Include trails as part of the development of all new parks, including both paved and unpaved trails	✓			Capital, Planning	Parks, City	CIP
Strategy 2.3.5: Add perimter trail loops within existing parks that lack this facility (American Legion, Gorin, Twyman) and in any new parks	*Ongoing*			Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 2.3.6: Extend Beaver Creek Park trail around ballfield complex and into the undeveloped area		✓		Capital	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 2.3.7: Expand the G.A.T.E. Plan to further define the alignment and feasibility of major corridors and to determine smaller connecting spurs, sidewalk improvements, and on-road elements planning process	✓			Planning	City	OP, CIP
Strategy 2.3.8: Develop design guidelines and estimates of probable cost as part of the G.A.T.E. Plan expansion	✓			Policy	City	OP, CIP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Goal 3: Exciting Programs and Events						
Targeted Outcome: Offer a variety of recreational programs and events for users of all ages and abilities						
Objective 3.1 – Community Impact: Contribute to health, wellness, and culture through parks and programs						
Strategy 3.1.1: Expand program offerings to meet unmet community needs, including adult fitness and wellness programs, summer concerts/movies (utilize new amphitheater at Beaver Creek Park), and programs for age 50+	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.2: Schedule more special events to bring the community together	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.3: Establish more adult oriented sports activities		✓		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.4: Encourage youth to experience the outdoors in healthy and educational pursuits by expanding nature education programs and recreational opportunities	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.5: Increase opportunities for adult fitness and wellness through additional facilities and programs, including programs in parks (i.e., yoga, etc.) and programs at fitness stations	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.6: Add nature programming at Beaver Creek Park and potentially Weldon and Twyman Parks	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.7: Utilize new facilities, including a recreation center, senior center, or an outdoor aquatic center, for expanded program opportunities that result from the availability of these facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.8: Determine the need for visual and cultural arts programs for both youth and adults and develop programs to meet those needs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.9: Investigate the need for additional athletic leagues, both youth and adult, including sports not currently offered (lacrosse, rugby, etc.)	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.1.10: Utilize the Core Program Guidelines in Appendix D as a source for potential program offerings	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Objective 3.2 – Inclusion: Ensure the availability of convenient, affordable programs and events to meet the evolving needs of the diverse population						
Strategy 3.2.1: Consider opportunities for multigenerational and intergenerational programming to provide opportunities for all ages (e.g., nature-based activities outdoors and arts and crafts activities indoors)	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.2.2: Establich a scholarship program for program and facility fees for those that cannot afford to pay	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 3.2.3: Expand facilities and programs to serve users with special needs and consider the needs of those users as part of any development	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 3.2.4: Expand the availability of programs for seniors, particularly healthy seniors (e.g., a Silver Sneakers program could offer a series of fitness programs for seniors in the city)	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP
Objective 3.3 – Innovation: Provide creative programs and events that reflect trends and community desires						
Strategy 3.3.1: Develop programs to maximize utilization of existing and future facilities	✓			Policy	Parks, Partners	OP
Strategy 3.3.2: Continuously monitor trends in recreation, particularly among growing population groups, to ensure facility and program offerings remain on the cutting edge while meeting the needs of a diverse community	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Goal 4: Effective Management and Operations						
Targeted Outcome: Utilize efficient and proactive management of staff and finances to promote an informed population and a safe environment at parks						
Objective 4.1 – Workforce: Develop an efficient organization of valued staff and volunteers						
Strategy 4.1.1: Provide training to ensure highly proficient and passionate staff, coaches, and volunteers	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.2: Employ dedicated staff for marketing and promotion of programs, events, and tournaments	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.3: Establish a Volunteer and Sponsor Coordinator and promote the use of volunteers	✓	✓		Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.1.4: Formally recognize this Master Plan as the guiding document for park development, improvement, and operations	✓			Policy	City	N/A
Strategy 4.1.5: Establish an implementation committee to monitor timelines, measure progress, update priorities, and ensure continued enthusiasm for Master Plan goals and recommendations	✓			Policy	Parks, City	N/A
Strategy 4.1.6: Review and update this master plan at intervals not to exceed five years to evaluate progress and to reassess priorities		✓	✓	Policy	Parks, City	CIP
Objective 4.2 – Finances: Implement operational practices and funding levels to the quality of parks, facilities, and programs						
Strategy 4.2.1: Prioritize short-term maintenance of existing parks and facilities over long term capital improvements	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks, City	CIP
Strategy 4.2.2: Increase parks and recreation capital budget to be more in line with other communities and to provide proactive maintenance and additional programs and events	✓			Operations, Capital	Parks	OP, CIP
Strategy 4.2.3: Establish policies for accepting sponsorships and selling naming rights	✓			Policy	City	OP
Strategy 4.2.4: Begin with selling naming rights to trail segments to fund maintenance	✓			Policy	Parks	Revenue
Strategy 4.2.5: Increase cost recovery from the current level (16.1%) to 30% (benchmark) after operating budgets are increased and new facilities are developed through the use of program and usage fees and sponsorships	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks, Partners	N/A
Strategy 4.2.6: Increase operating budget to accommodate new facilities and programs	✓			Policy	City	OP
Objective 4.3 – Engagement: Raise awareness of parks and programs and identify needs and barriers to park experiences						
Strategy 4.3.1: Implement online registration	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.2: Increase staff time and resources for marketing efforts	✓			Operations	Parks, City	OP
Strategy 4.3.3: Perform a more active role in events/festivals including organization and active presence at these events to promote the department	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.4: Improve website and expand social media presence	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.5: Expand marketing of programs and facilities to improve awareness of existing and future opportunities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.6: Actively promote park improvements and new program offerings as they become available	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.3.7: Develop, promote, and regularly update a mobile application (smart phone/tablet app) to communicate program offerings and improve park experiences (event information, park/trail maps)		✓	✓	Operations	Parks, Partners	OP, CIP
Strategy 4.3.8: Utilize this app to encourage fitness in the community, connect park users interested in gathering for exercise, and connect to a master schedule for events		✓	✓	Operations	Parks, Partners	OP

Table 9.1: Action Plan (Continued)

Goals, Objectives, and Strategies	Timeframe (Years)			Category	Agency	Funding Source
	0-2	3-5	6-10			
Strategy 4.3.9: Cooperate with other agencies and organizations toward the creation and promotion of a common calendar for activities and events in Glasgow	✓			Operations	Parks, Partners	OP
Strategy 4.3.10: Utilize this calendar for the cross promotion of events, including opportunities for recreation, education, and tourism	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks, Partners	OP
Objective 4.4 – Collaboration: Foster partnerships to meet the current and future needs of parks and recreation						
Strategy 4.4.1: Ensure staff are aware of upcoming events in Glasgow and Barren County	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.4.2: Seek partnerships for nature programming at Glasgow parks (potential partners include Glasgow Independent Schools and Barren County Schools)	✓			Operations	Parks, Partners	OP
Strategy 4.4.3: Seek opportunities to expand partnerships with local organizations to improve access to recreation facilities and programs	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks, Partners	OP
Strategy 4.4.4: Collaborate with law enforcement to increase presence in the parks and an improved perception of safety for park users	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks, City	OP
Strategy 4.4.5: Continue existing partnerships for program opportunities and use of facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.4.6: Investigate partnerships with the schools for use of athletic fields, many of which are currently underused	✓			Operations	Parks, Partners	N/A
Strategy 4.4.7: Partner with Glasgow Independent Schools for maintenance of Richardson Field at Gorin Park	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks, Partners	N/A
Strategy 4.4.8: Partner with Barren County Schools for access to their tennis courts	✓			Operations	Parks, Partners	N/A
Strategy 4.4.9: Seek partnerships with health providers for the operation and programming of proposed recreation and senior centers	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks, Partners	OP
Strategy 4.4.10: Coordinate with neighboring communities as part of long-term trail planning	*Ongoing*			Planning	City, Partners	N/A
Strategy 4.4.11: Partner with other organizations, including the Glasgow-Barren County Tourist Commission, to bring tournaments to Glasgow, including the development of needed facilities	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks, Partners	OP
Strategy 4.4.12: Consider tournament and event needs during the development of facilities to maximize the ability to attract these events	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks	N/A
Strategy 4.4.13: Consider other uses for the Lera B. Mitchell Clubhouse which needs renovation and does not meet recreation needs of residents	*Ongoing*			Policy	Parks, Partners	OP
Objective 4.5 – Maintenance: Ensure adequate maintenance and equipment replacement policies and procedures to promote safe parks and facilities						
Strategy 4.5.1: Improve maintenance at existing parks	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.5.2: Expand maintenance staff to provide adequate maintenance of all park sites, facilities, and trails	✓			Operations	Parks	OP
Strategy 4.5.3: Develop a new maintenance center at Beaver Creek Park and/or American Legion Park to increase efficiency of operations and minimize travel and transportation of equipment		✓		Capital	Parks	CIP
Strategy 4.5.4: Improve athletic field surfaces to provide for optimal playing experiences and to maintain safety for users	*Ongoing*			Operations	Parks	OP
Totals by Timeframe **Ongoing = 37**	**45**	**34**	**13**			
Total Number of Strategies = 110						

Table 9.2: Capital Priority Ranking

Capital Projects Rank - High (3), Medium (2), Low (1), or Not Needed (0).		
Rank	***Capital Improvement***	**Average**
1	American Legion Park - Develop an outdoor family aquatic center at American Legion Park to replace the City Pool	3.00
2	Beaver Creek Park - Amphitheater	2.71
2	System - Add or upgrade restrooms at all Neighborhood and Community parks	2.71
2	System - Add support features (shade structures, drinking fountains, security cameras and lighting, and trees/landscaping)	2.71
5	System - Replacement of outdated and deteriorated playgrounds	2.57
6	Beaver Creek Park - Event Infrustructure	2.29
6	System - Recreation center with two gyms, a fitness center, meeting rooms, classrooms, a kitchen, an aerobics/group fitness room, and offices	2.29
6	System - Acquisition of land contiguous to existing parks	2.29
9	System - Consistent signage program for all parks	2.14
10	Select Parks - New picnic shelters (American Legion, Gorin, Parks and Recreation Office)	2.00
10	System - Wi-Fi at all buildings, athletic complexes, event spaces, and other high traffic areas	2.00
12	Beaver Creek Park - Trail extension around ballfield complex and into the undeveloped area	1.86
12	Gorin Park - Sprayground	1.86
12	Select Parks - Basketball courts (American Legion, Beaver Creek, Weldon, Parks and Recreation Office)	1.86
15	Parks and Recreation Office - Neighborhood Park behind buildings	1.71
15	Select Parks - New perimeter loop trails (American Legion, Gorin, Twyman)	1.71
15	Select Parks - Rectangular fields	1.71
15	System - Citywide trail system	1.71
15	System - Improved ADA access	1.71
20	Parks and Recreation Offices - Renovate into a senior center	1.57
20	Select Parks - Outdoor fitness equipment	1.57
20	System - Neighborhood connections to parks	1.57
23	New Parks - Neighborhood Parks in the northeastern and southwestern portions of the city	1.29
24	Beaver Creek Park - Disc golf	1.14
24	Select Parks - Pickleball courts (Gorin, Parks and Recreation Office)	1.14
26	Gorin Park - Skate park	1.00
26	Weldon Park - Dog park expansion	1.00
28	American Legion Park - Tennis courts	0.71