

Sky Prairie Park

Master Plan

September 2015





Prepared for the City of Spokane and the Five
Mile Neighborhood Association, September 2015

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The preparation of a Master Plan for Sky Prairie Park was made possible through the support of the following people and organizations:

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“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”

- William Shakespeare

See more famous quotes at https://www.quotefancy.com/article/famous_quotes#etbark-mcBzhi6-dnuf

I.) Introduction:

A park brings life and character into a neighborhood. It provides a safe and healthy way for children and adults alike to play, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors. A park can reach its full potential when it has been thoughtfully planned. Without this planning, it may lose the prospect of building attributes that keeps the park contemporary and more importantly, loved and used.

In conjunction with the Five Mile Neighborhood Association, and the City of Spokane Parks and Recreation, students from Eastern Washington University Urban and Regional Planning Department, under the supervision of Professor Gregg Dohrn (henceforth referred to as Planning Team), have prepared a Master Plan for Sky Prairie Park. This Plan is intended to guide the future use and development of Sky Prairie Park.

This Master Plan is an interpretation of multiple neighborhood meetings and insights given to the Team from neighborhood leaders, City of Spokane employees, and private citizens alike. It addresses current conditions and opportunities that the Team then assembled into a neighborhood approved plan.

In this document the reader will find:

- ✓ An overview of the master planning process.
- ✓ Demographic information about the park service area to support future planning efforts.
- ✓ Relevant City and County goals and policies from their respective approved Parks plans.
- ✓ Goals and policies assembled by the Team, which reflect the Neighborhood's wishes for the future use and development of Sky Prairie Park.
- ✓ An assessment of existing conditions in the park and a list of future opportunities.
- ✓ Three master plan alternatives.
- ✓ The preferred alternative selected by the neighborhood will serve as the foundation of the Master Plan for Sky Prairie Park
- ✓ Strategies to implement the chosen alternative.
- ✓ Maps that will assist the current and future development of Sky Prairie Park by highlighting key areas of opportunity in and around the park.



II.) Overview of the Planning Process

“The nation behaves well
if it treats its natural
resources as assets
which it must turn over
to the next generation
increased, and not
impaired, in value”

-Theodore Roosevelt

The Planning Team met several times with the Five Mile Neighborhood Association President, the Five Mile Parks Committee and representatives from the City of Spokane and Spokane County. The information gathered at these meetings was then formulated into a series of maps that were then presented to the participating groups. Once the appropriate feedback was given, the Planning Team then moved to further polish the Master Plan by building a document that would serve as a guide for the future use and development of Sky Prairie Park. Maps were refined to supplement this document, demographic information was gathered and analyzed, and then a preparatory final presentation was given to ensure the Planning Team maintained the vision of the Five Mile community.



III.) Census Data and Planning Area

Demographic and Census Data:

Sky Prairie Park is located within the City of Spokane and lies within a quarter mile of the boundary with unincorporated Spokane County. Five Mile Neighborhood, as recognized by the City of Spokane, lies within city limits in the southeastern portion of the prairie plateau. This city-resident population of this area is roughly 4,000-5,000 people (2010 U.S. Census). The Neighborhood Association recognizes the entire plateau of city and county residents as being a part of Five Mile Prairie. This includes roughly 9,000-10,000 people (2010 U.S. Census). Approximately half of the prairie population lies within city limits with half lying within Spokane County. Census data was collected from the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Products, which included data from selected attributes from the 2010 census. Population counts were analyzed in census block format. Census blocks are the smallest geographic unit boundaries used by the U.S. Census Bureau for tabulation of 100-percent data. These statistical areas are bounded by visible features such as roads and railroad tracks, and by nonvisible boundaries such as property lines and city or county limits. Census block population data was summarized within the City of Spokane Five Mile Neighborhood boundary to a rough estimate. Census blocks were also summarized within the Five Mile Prairie Plateau boundary. The two Five Mile boundaries do not precisely align with the block boundaries, therefore only an estimated population can be given for those geographic regions. *Please reference Appendix C for map of 2010 Census Population*

IV.) City of Spokane Goals and Policies:

The selected goals and policies from the City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan chapter 12 Parks, Recreation and Open Space listed below, specifically pertain to the development, maintenance, and preservation of Sky Prairie Park. *(For a list of all of the City of Spokane's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Goals and Policies please reference Appendix V).*

Goal 1: Assure the preservation and conservation of unique, fragile, and scenic natural resources, and especially non-renewable resources.

POLICIES

PRS 1.1 Open Space System

Provide an open space system within the urban growth boundary that connects with regional open space and maintains habitat for wildlife corridors.

PRS 1.4 Property Owners and Developers

Work cooperatively with property owners and developers to preserve open space areas within or between developments, especially those that provide visual or physical linkages to the open space network.

PRS 1.5 Green Space Buffers

Preserve and/or establish areas of green space buffer to provide separation between conflicting land uses.

PRS 1.6 Funding to Acquire Critical Lands

Maintain a contingency fund (Park Cumulative Reserve Fund) dedicated to the acquisition of critical area lands, which would be lost if not immediately purchased.

Goal 2: Provide a park system that is an integral and vital part of the open space system and that takes advantage of the opportunities for passive and active recreation that a comprehensive open space system provides.

POLICIES

PRS 2.1 Amenities within Each Neighborhood

Provide open space and park amenities within each neighborhood that are appropriate to the natural and human environment of the neighborhood, as determined by the neighborhood and the Spokane Park Board

PRS 2.2 Proximity to Open Space

Provide open space in each city neighborhood.



City of Spokane Goals and Policies Continued:

City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies:

PRS 2.4 Park Funding

Consider all potential funding sources to maintain the adopted level of service for parks.

PRS 2.6 Cultural and Historic Parks

Preserve and showcase the cultural and historic character of the parks and the park system.

Goal 3: Work with other agencies to provide a convenient and pleasant open space-related network for pedestrian and bicyclist circulation throughout the City of Spokane.

POLICIES

PRS 3.1 Trails and Linkages

Provide trails and linkages to parks that make minimal use of streets, especially arterial streets, in order to maximize the recreation experience and safety of all users.

PRS 3.2 Trail Corridor Development

Include landscaping, re-vegetation, and reforestation in trail corridor development where appropriate and desirable to provide a pleasant trail experience, and visual separation from private adjacent uses.

Goal 4: Recognize and upgrade Spokane's existing park resources by continuing the park preventative maintenance program.

POLICIES

PRS 4.1 Maintenance Management Program

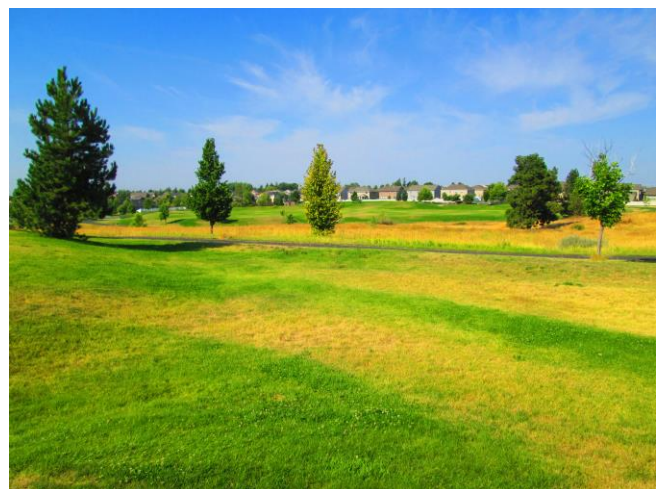
Implement a maintenance management program that will project maintenance, facility, and replacement costs.

PRS 4.2 Park Traffic Patterns

Improve park traffic patterns for motorists, bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians.

PRS 4.3 Park Sign Plan

Implement and maintain a park sign plan throughout the City of Spokane that standardizes all park signs, including entrance, direction, and rules signs.



City of Spokane Goals and Policies Continued:

City of Spokane Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies:

Goal 5: Assure an indoor and outdoor recreation program, which provides well-rounded recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages.

POLICIES

PRS 5.1 Recreation Opportunities

Provide and improve recreational opportunities that are easily accessible to all citizens of Spokane.

PRS 5.2 Private Partnerships

Create public-private partnerships and develop incentives for a community-oriented sports and special interest program, which is responsive to expressed demands and fosters participant support of all ages and abilities.

PRS 5.3 Special Programs

Support special population participants in Spokane Parks and Recreation Department programs.

PRS 5.4 Community Information System

Promote parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities through an effective community information system, including the media, mail, telephone, and on the internet.

PRS 5.6 Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Provide facilities and programs that allow the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of outdoor recreational activities.

Goal 7: Provide a parks and recreation system that is enjoyable, efficient, financially responsible, and a source of civic pride.

POLICIES

PRS 7.1 Quality of Service

Provide high quality of service to the community in all parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities.

PRS 7.2 Modern Management Practices

Employ state-of-the-art techniques in the park and recreation profession by providing staff training, laborsaving equipment, automatic systems, durable materials, effective facility design, and responsive leisure services.

PRS 7.3 Standards and Policies

Maintain open communication and collaborative planning processes that help define service levels based on good management practices while providing quality service to the public.

PRS 7.4 Volunteers

Encourage and recruit volunteers to serve on advisory boards for program and facility design, leadership in program offering, and community service labor.

V.) Spokane County Goals and Policies:

The selected goals and policies from Spokane County Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan, listed below, specifically pertain to the development, maintenance, and preservation of Sky Prairie Park. *(For a list of all of Spokane County's Goals and Policies please reference Appendix H).*

Spokane County Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies:

Goal PO.1 Provide a variety of parks, open space, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to benefit the broadest range of age, social, economic and special group interests and abilities.

POLICIES

PO.1.2 Park and recreation facilities should be developed, renovated and maintained to serve the widest possible cross-section of resident needs and interests, including accessibility for disabled persons.

PO.1.5 Respond to the diversity of public needs by offering a range of recreational experiences from passive to active, to unstructured activity to organized recreation programs.

Goal PO.2 Acquire and develop parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to serve the needs of the public given available resources.

POLICIES

PO.2.1 Coordinate and cooperate with both public and private sector interests to further park and recreation opportunities.

PO.2.2 Coordinate park planning and land acquisition efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and consider existing and planned infrastructure, population served, environmental constraints, and available resources.

PO.2.10 A county-wide level of service of 0.23 softball fields per 1,000 residents, .043 aquatic facilities per 1,000 residents, and 0.32 campsites per 1,000 residents should be monitored and maintained.

Goal PO.3 Strive toward a level of service for developed community parks of 1.4 acres per 1,000 population for the Urban Growth Areas (UGA) and 8.3 acres per 1,000 population for regional parks.

POLICIES

PO.3.2 Allow neighborhoods and communities within the unincorporated County the ability to increase park and recreation opportunities through the formation of self-taxing park service areas. Neighborhoods may include this option within their individual neighborhood plans.

PO.3.3 Work with the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and other departments to study, develop, and implement mitigation fees or other alternative funding mechanisms to help fund future parks, open space areas, trails, other recreation facilities, and the maintenance thereof.

PO.3.4 Whenever possible, work cooperatively with other jurisdictions and agencies to identify, acquire, and develop community parkland that provides a range of benefits (e.g. Parks could work with Utilities to identify property could be acquired and developed to provide recreation and water quality benefits.).

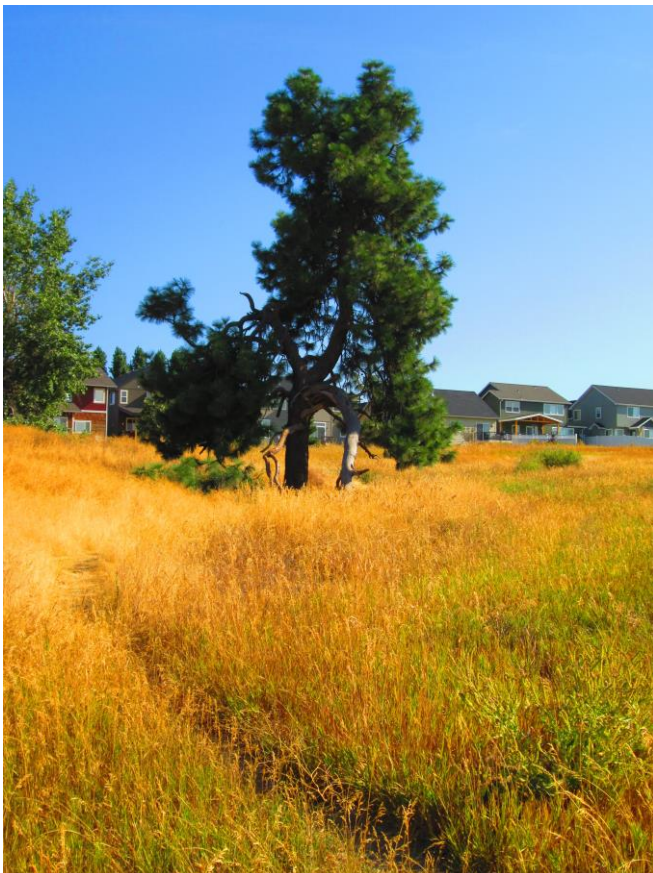
Spokane County Goals and Policies Continued:

Spokane County Comprehensive Plan Goals and Policies:

Goal PO.7 Utilize the Spokane County Regional Trails Plan that envisions a county-wide system of multipurpose non-motorized trails to secure, preserve, and develop a network of trails throughout Spokane County that connect communities and provide easily accessed recreational opportunities.

POLICIES

PO.7.2 Provide for linkages of communities, community facilities, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, recreation areas, open space and cultural/historical areas.



VI.) Recommended Goals, Policies, and Objectives for Sky Prairie Park

In order to preserve and enhance Sky Prairie Park we recommend that the following goals and policies be adopted to guide the implementation of this master plan.

Goal 1. Maintain open spaces that preserves and enhances the significant natural features of the park.

POLICIES

P.1.1 Preserve an open prairie feel that is native to this area.

P.1.2 Enhance and maintain natural drainage systems. This is achieved by preserving and maintaining all natural drainage functions, which flow down the slope to the seasonal main stream.

P.1.3 Maintain and enhance natural plant life throughout the park by using native species when possible. Use plants that are cold hearty and that thrive in environments with high water tables.

Goal 2. Increase accessibility throughout the Park.

POLICIES

P.2.1 Create new entrance access points, additional pathways for walkability, and providing locational signage for way finding. *(See Appendix IV and V for additional information.)*

P.2.2 Promote and support connections to residential developments (existing and new) within Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood.

Goal 3. Ensure there is adequate parkland to meet the future needs of Five Mile Prairie and surrounding area.

POLICIES

P.3.1 Identify and acquire vacant lands surrounding Sky Prairie Park.

P.3.2 Look at properties north of Sky Prairie Park for expansion and connectivity purposes.

P.3.3 Take note of City owned parcels south of Sky Prairie Park for potential park expansion or as a connecting route from Sky Prairie Park to Austin Ravine Conservation Area.

P.3.4 Enhance existing park amenities to match the needs and desires of the Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood.

P.3.5 Add new park features that enhance the utility and functionality of the park as well as increasing walkability, safety, and line of sight throughout the park.

P.3.6 Make enhancements to the park that not only benefit the Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood, but emphasize its unique characteristics and identity.

Goals, Policies, and Objectives Continued:

Objectives:

✓ Objective 1:

Coordinate with the City of Spokane, City of Spokane Parks Department, Spokane County, local schools, and other neighborhood groups in implementing this master plan.

✓ Objective 2:

Go over the City of Spokane and Spokane County Parks plans and to see if any goals and policies have not been met for Sky Prairie Park.

✓ Objective 3:

Investigate innovative and available methods for funding purposes to finance maintenance, operate programs in the park, construct new park features, replace old equipment, reduce costs, retain financial flexibility, and maintain an atmosphere that reflects and benefits the Five Mile community and surrounding areas.



VII.) Existing Conditions

Sky Prairie Park is located at 8501 N Nettleton Court, Spokane WA 99208 and consists of 25 acres of natural and semi-developed landscape. The park currently features two playground equipment areas; the bigger children generally populate the northern play area, which includes swings and a larger play structure, and the southern one, characterized by a smaller structure, is generally populated by toddlers and younger. The park also includes picnic tables located at the southern entrance, tennis courts on the northern entrance, paved trails throughout, and fields graded for softball and soccer at the southern entrance. Recently the picnic benches at the northern entrance were removed due to vandalism. The park also features two restroom facilities, bike racks, two outdoor grills, bench seating, a skate ramp and artistic gates at the entrances. These gates create a sense of character once one enters the park. A one-mile trail loop meanders through the park providing users with a place to exercise at all levels regardless of their skill level. Boulder markers locate each tenth of a mile on this loop. A southern running intermittent stream runs through the natural interior section of Sky Prairie Park. Sky Prairie Park was designed by the Idaho landscape architect Jon Mueller and established in 1998.



A spacious restroom facility coupled with the opportunity to re-install covered picnic tables.

VIII.) Areas of Opportunity:

Natural landscaping is a beautiful way to introduce the area's natural heritage, while providing a seamless move from neighborhood to park.

A combination of way finding signage outside of the park, directional signage inside the park, and interpretive/educational signage in the park will help to facilitate the movement of people to, through and, around the park.

The introduction of a trailhead at the southern portion of Sky Prairie Park will serve as a linkage opportunity to Austin Ravine, thus lengthening the trails system within the Neighborhood.

Increasing the accessibility to Sky Prairie Park will allow more people to enter the park, while at the same time cut parking congestion. There are a few areas of potential future access points.

There is an opportunity to introduce a wide range of recreational opportunities throughout the park to encourage a variety of uses throughout every season.

Providing additional covered picnic areas would also be a benefit for families visiting the park. Shelters provide relief from the elements while allowing for additional event recreation.

The 1-acre parcel 26243.0055, which lies to the north west of Sky Prairie Park, is vacant land that is currently for sale. There is the potential to purchase this property to expand the park.

The 0.39-acre parcel, 26252.0010, is a land locked parcel that is located south of city owned property. This triangular property has the potential to be purchased as an access route to create a trailhead from Sky Prairie Park to Austin Ravine Conservation Area. A deal with surrounding property owners could be made to approve a trail access easement along the back edge of their properties to complete the trail connection.

A 0.25-acre parcel, 26243.2123, is located on the north edge of Sky Prairie Park. It is currently vacant and owned by the Park View Spokane Home Owners Association. This parcel is prime to expand the park and make a better connection from the trails within the park to Walker Ct. and to Strong Road via a sidewalk connection between the two streets.

Reference Access Routes Map in appendix I.d for addition information.

IX. Overview of Recommendations

The planning team has prepared three alternative master plan scenarios that highlight options for the use and development of Sky Prairie Park.



a.) Alternative 1, Relatively Low Cost:

Alternative 1 highlights relatively low cost and relatively easy to implement improvements to the park. No significant changes are proposed and significant new resources would not be required to implement this plan.



b.) Alternative 2, Relatively Moderate Cost:

Alternative 2 highlights a series of improvements and changes in use that would require some significant resources to implement. Key changes would include modifications to the pathways, the addition of portable equipment for the sports fields, replacing the skateboard park with basketball courts, adding a gazebo for quiet reflection, a new grass volleyball court, additional picnic areas, and additional security and lighting.



c.) Alternative 3: Relatively High Cost:

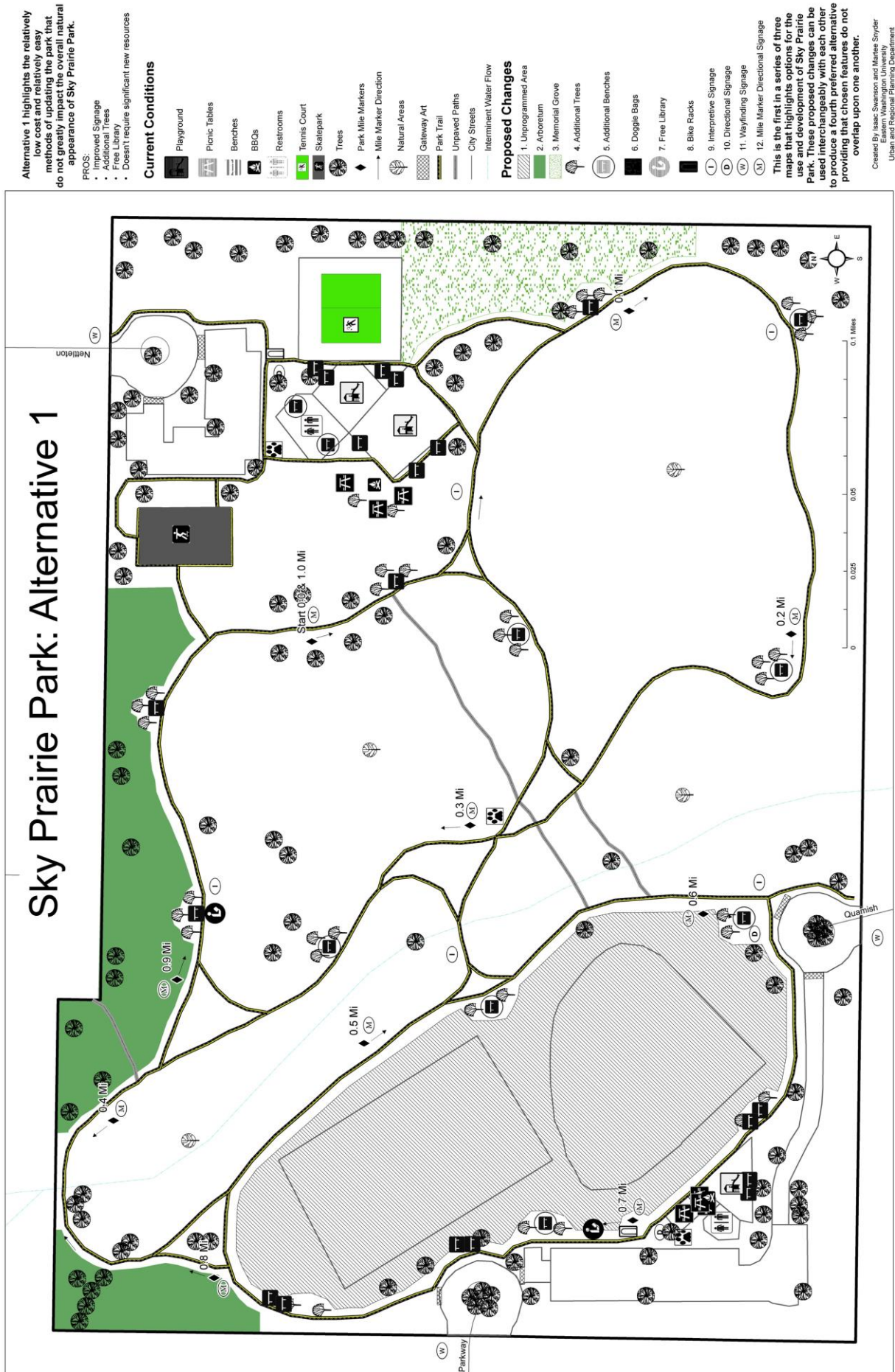
Alternative 3 highlights relatively significant changes and improvements to the park that would definitely require a commitment of resources to implement. This would include construction of an amphitheater, improvements to the soccer and softball field, a new sand volleyball court, an improved skate park, new fitness equipment, a new splash pad, new drinking fountains, additional art works, and a practice disc golf course. In addition, this alternative highlights opportunities to expand the park to include a trail connection to the Austin Ravine Conservation Area.



All of these alternatives contain recommendations that can be mixed and matched. However, some selections may prohibit the inclusion of another based on space, time, funds, or community support.

a.) Alternative 1, Relatively Low Cost

- The addition of wayfinding, directional, and interpretive/educational signage is suggested in this alternative. Currently the Park lacks wayfinding signage along major roads near the Park, making it difficult for those not from the immediate area to find Sky Prairie Park. Introducing signs that help to simplify access to the Park will increase usage. Directional signage within the Park will give users the opportunity to use the Park to its full potential by directing foot and bike traffic along the appropriate paths. Interpretive and educational signage will increase the knowledge of those who use Sky Prairie Park. Properly identifying native plants and species, along with notifying the user exactly why this portion of grass is left un-mowed.
- Along the pathways, there is an opportunity to incorporate doggie bags for our pets. These stations could be attached to either directional, or interpretive signage in order to keep the walking paths less cluttered.
- The large grassy area near the south parking lot, can be used for a variety of activities. It can be an un-programmed soccer field, where people or teams can enjoy the use of the field by bringing their own cones/goals. This area can also be used as an amphitheater, where people bring their lawn chairs and a blanket and enjoy a movie or a band right there on the grass. This location also has the potential to be a temporary farmers market. Farmers and community members can bring set up booths right in the flat grass area and share their produce with neighbors.
- The addition of a mini-free library is another option that could be incorporated within Alternative One. It can be placed in a variety of locations in the Park. There are a few opportune places where it may be fully utilized, as suggested the Alternative One map.
- The preservation of scenic vistas and views is a priority in alternative 1. Safeguarding these areas will allow for future generations to fully enjoy the views that Sky Prairie Park offers.



b.) Alternative 2, Relatively Moderate Cost

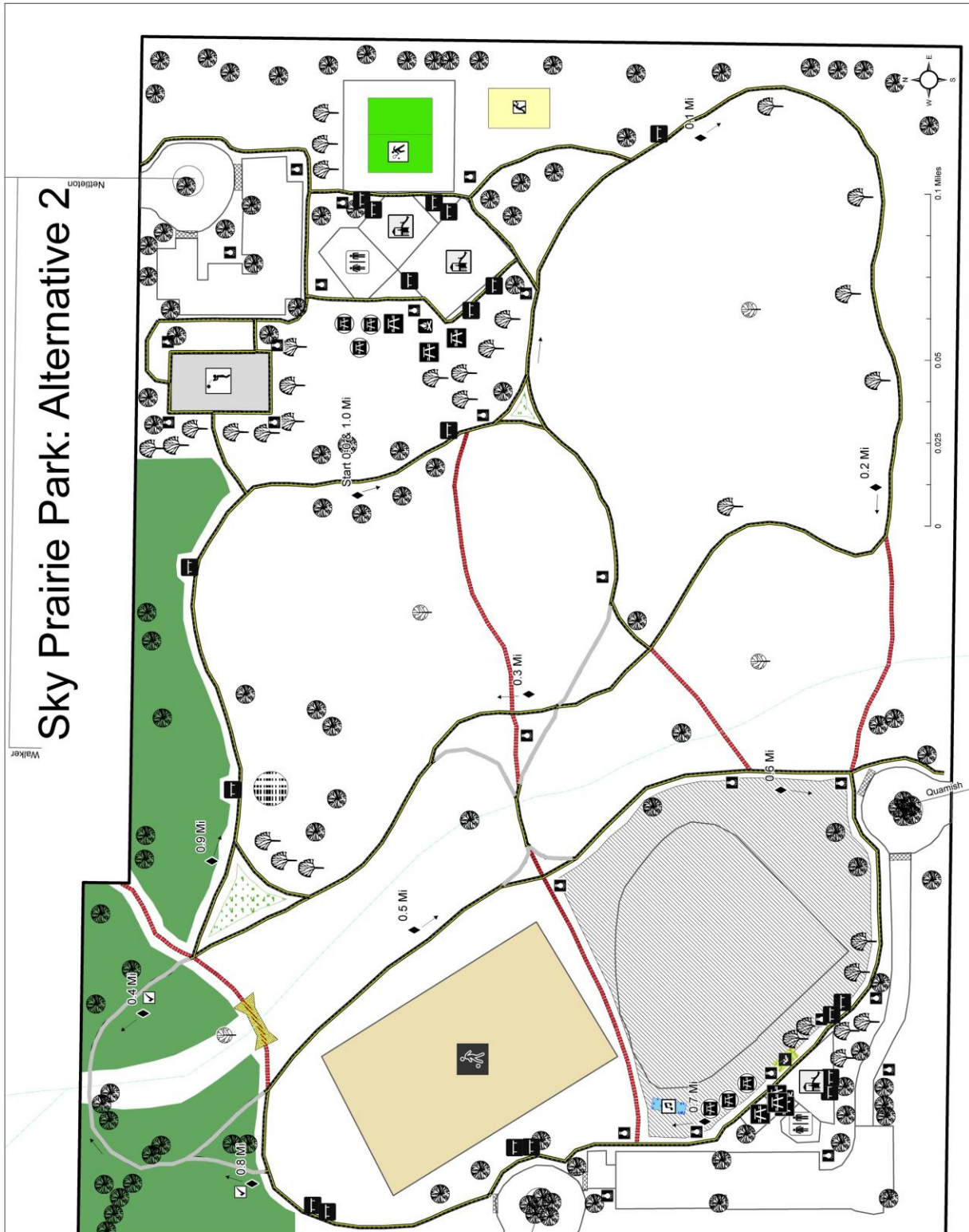
- In this proposal additional paved paths would be constructed and some would be removed or altered to increase walkability through the park. This would also create alternate walking routes for variability as well as ease of access throughout the park.
- Bridges or earth berms with culverts would be used to carry the paved paths over the seasonal stream/ wetland natural area. These bridges have an opportunity to harbor art to commemorate local history.
- The northwest field area would be transformed into a semi-programmed soccer field. It would have movable goals and field markers so the field could be used for alternative uses such as football, rugby, and lacrosse.
- The southwest field would be a semi-programmed area that could be used for various activities. A backstop could be included for baseball/softball games and practices. A stage or platform wired for electrical use could be built for concerts and other performances. The open field could also be used for festivals, farmers markets, or other neighborhood events.
- One or two basketball courts would be added to the park. These would replace the current skate park. A potential partnership with Hoop Fest could bring additional funding for construction and maintenance of the proposed basketball courts.
- In the north central area of the park, a gazebo (reflective area) could be constructed on the small hill. This covered lookout would be a vantage point overlooking the park. This gazebo could be paired with the free-mini library from Alternative One as a covered shelter for reading, relaxation, and contemplation.
- A volleyball area would be built south of the current tennis courts in this proposed alternative. It would be constructed with a net and poles on a grass court. It could be alternately used to play badminton or another similar game. The simple grass construction would allow for relatively less expensive construction and maintenance than a sand volleyball pit.
- Additional picnic tables and shelter picnic areas would be added to expand the areas that already exist in the park. These additions would allow for more family or neighborhood events such as birthdays, potlucks, or neighborhood barbecues. This would also expand seating and table areas for Prairie Day or other future programmed events in Sky Prairie Park.
- Strategically placed lighting is suggested in this alternative. This lighting would be placed around key features for enhanced visibility during low light periods for safety and security measures. It would also be placed along the most direct routes from one side of the park to the other. Not only would the light be for illumination at dusk, but it would also be used to highlight key park features such as the proposed basketball court or gazebo.

Alternative 2 Continued:

- This alternative also suggests strategically placed trees to provide shade to park benches and uncovered picnic areas without taking away from the open prairie feel and the scenic vistas that defines Sky Prairie Park. These trees would be kept pruned higher off the ground to provide line of sight through the park for safety and aesthetic purposes, per CPTED standards (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).
- The current triangular areas between the paths could be converted into micro plazas or small formal garden areas. The plaza could contain bricks with donor or sponsor names as well a central feature. Both areas could include planters with various plants, trees, and sculptures. Tile or stone mosaics are also an alternative option for the triangles as are fountains.
- Alternative 2 proposes the option to remove a portion of trail in the upper northwest corner of the park and turn the area into an arboretum. This arboretum would contain various trees that would thrive in a soil with a high water table as well as being very cold hardy. Planting indigenous trees would be the foremost option. The arboretum would be pruned for easy visibility through the park per CPTED standards.

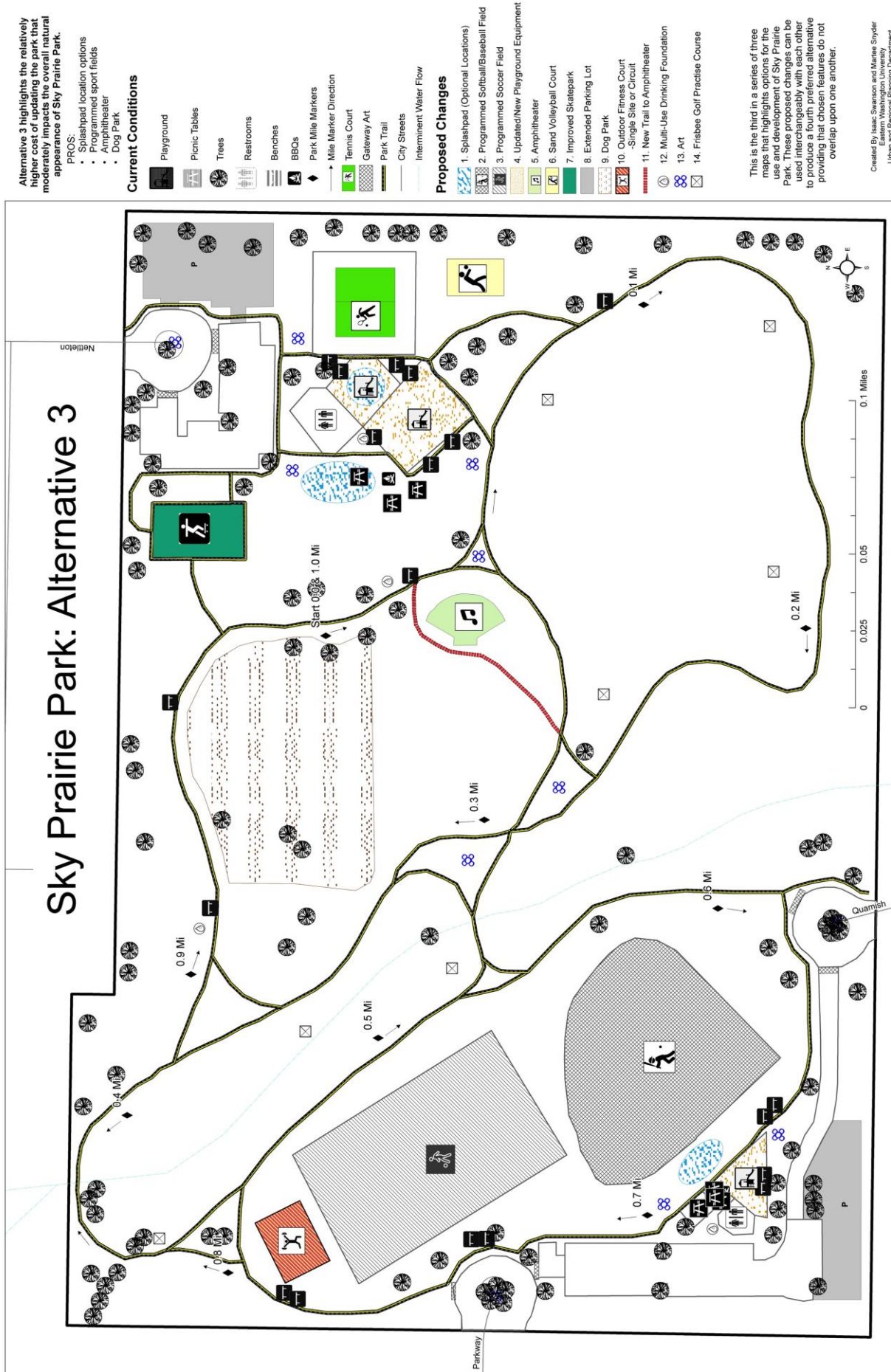


A gazebo offers covered shelter for reading, relaxation, and contemplation.



c.) Alternative 3, Relatively High Cost

- In this proposal, an amphitheater would be constructed for the purpose of community interaction and outdoor events. An additional paved path will be constructed to adhere to the connection needs of the amphitheater.
- Formal programming is suggested for the soccer field and the baseball field.
- A sand volleyball is recommended south of the existing tennis courts.
- Once the current play equipment has reached its life expectancy, new playground equipment should be updated incorporating ADA standards. When installing new equipment, a climbing rock is suggested. (*See Appendix VI*).
- In the northeast section of the central field, there is an option to construct a dog park. This area is required to have a 6-foot high fence as well as a preventative dig underneath.
- Improving and updating the skate park is advised, featuring half pipes, grinding bars and rails, which would be suitable for multiple skaters.
- We recommend an expansion of the parking lot in order to accommodate a higher volume of future users.
- An outdoor fitness court would also be included in the northwestern section of the park and provide the community with opportunity of healthy activity and exercise. An alternative to one section of workout equipment is a circuit court. Equipment would be placed at intervals along a short continuous loop.
- Alternative 3 proposes the construction of a splash pad water feature in the park at a designated location. This would provide the community with means of water recreation during warm summer months.
- Multi-use drinking fountains should also be integrated throughout the park, which will allow adults, children, and dogs to access water from the same post. It would also house a water-bottle filling station. This feature would utilize and consolidate piping for efficiency and cost-effectiveness.
- Art pieces should be placed throughout the park at certain vantage points and/or placed within an existing triangle. These pieces should be constructed by local artists featuring local history and cultural heritage.
- In the central portion of the park there is the option to include a practice disc golf course. It would consist of several disc golf baskets, pads and designated fairways.

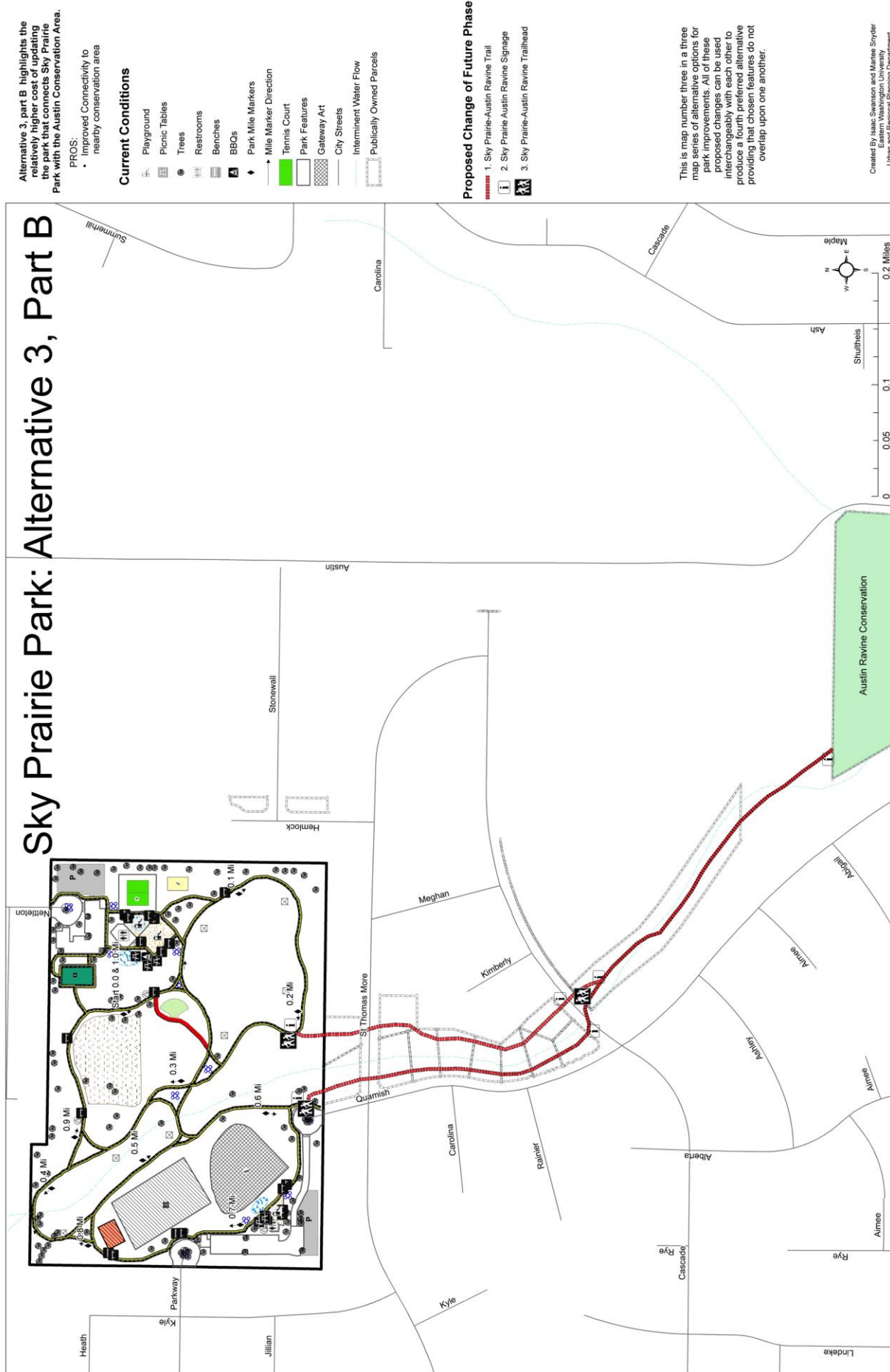


d.) Alternative 3 Extension

- This alternative proposes changes that will feature paved trails connecting Sky Prairie Park-Austin Ravine Conservation Area.
- Under this alternative there will be additional signage constructed at the Sky Prairie Austin Ravine trailhead featuring directional and wayfinding information.
- The trailhead will be clearly marked starting at the northern Sky Prairie Park direction.
- The expansion will ultimately feature a loop connecting Sky Prairie Park to the Austin Ravine Conservation Area Trailhead.



Sky Prairie Park: Alternative 3, Part B



X.) Neighborhood Selected Alternative

The following has been selected by the Five Mile Neighborhood Association with the assistance from a group of Eastern Washington University Urban and Regional Planning students under the supervision of Professor Gregg Dohrn. Several recommendations require additional research and design considerations. Keep in mind current and future operations and maintenance costs to make the most out of current and future features.

1.) Alternative Pathways

Several revisions to the current pathway have been proposed to provide a more direct route throughout the park. These paths will be strategically rerouted so that community members will enjoy a more comfortable stroll through Sky Prairie Park. The rerouting of certain pathways may require additional engineering support to make sure they are compatible with the topography and storm water management. In addition to reworking the pathways, a decorative footbridge may be incorporated in order further distinguish Sky Prairie Park as a destination park.

2.) Amphitheater

The southwest corner of the park is a prime location to place an amphitheater. The stage could be built into the side of the hill for flat, easy access to the parking lot. The stage would be angled toward the middle of the park to help mitigate sound travel. This would aim the sound at the middle of the park into the hillside. Formal seating is an option, as well as providing open space for folding chairs and blankets.

3.) Basketball Court/Painted Schoolyard Games

Two locations seem plausible for the location of a basketball court if desired. The current skate park could be converted to a basketball court, and it could be fenced to control access if necessary, as well as implementation of time-sensitive lighting. The second location is at the south entrance of the park, near mile marker 0.6. This location may be better suited based on the amount of potential noise complaints the north entrance option may create.

An alternative to converting the skate park to a basketball court is the skate ramp could be removed and the repainting of the concrete for games such as four square and hopscotch.

4.) Benches

The inclusion of more benches throughout the park is recommended. In addition to standard bench designs there is an opportunity to bring art into the park by inviting local artists to design new benches. In addition there is the opportunity to have benches dedicated to a family member or friend, a beautiful way to add to your park in the remembrance of another.

5.) Bridge

The option of placing a few bridges across the central draining area through Sky Prairie Park would better connect the east and west sides. The bridges would be placed in locations where people currently cross the ravine area to promote safer access throughout the park. Design styles that tied into the park theme could be voted on at a later date.

6.) Circuit Court

As seen in other parks throughout the Inland Northwest, circuit courts provide an easy and stimulating way for patrons to add a higher level of activity to their walk. The circuit court may include, but is not limited to, pull-up bars, weight station, and step blocks. The circuit court may be placed strategically around the existing pathways to act as a means of increasing an existing walking/running routine, or it may be isolated and clustered in a group to provide for ease of transitioning from one piece of equipment to another.

7.) Community Bulletin Board

It is recommended that 1-2 new bulletin boards be provided to give Five Mile Prairie residents and greater Spokane community appropriate information related to the park or the residential area. There could be a board placed just inside the northern park entrance, on the large bathroom facility.

X.) Neighborhood Selected Alternative

8.) Directional Arrows on Mile Markers

The addition of arrows on the existing mile markers will assist anyone seeking to do the current mile loop.

9.) Directional Park Map

A directional park map should be placed inside the park entrances to give the user a sense of where they are and where they may want to go. They will include an overview map of the park and perhaps a bit of background about the surrounding area. This map could also include a telephone number or email address to report emergencies, damage, or undesirable activities.

10.) Doggy Bags

Should strategically be placed throughout the park to keep the area cleaner for all. Specifically, they should be located at the north and south entrances (near trash cans), and in the centermost part of the park. Leashed pets are more than welcome in the park, however if the park is not maintained appropriately the atmosphere could dramatically change for all park users.

11.) Facility Updates

In addition to installing new facilities in the park, there may be opportunities to make improvements to existing facilities that would reduce operating costs, such as installing a metal roof on the large restroom facility, or upgrading the irrigation system.

12.) Gates

Gates are located at all entrances of the park and all contain some local art. These gates should be closed at night in order to deter malicious activities. The closure of the gates needs to be coordinated with the City of Spokane's Park and Recreation Department. Alternatively, there may be an opportunity for a designated neighbor to close and open the gates.

13.) Gazebo

A new gazebo will offer a quiet place in the shade for quiet contemplation and enjoying the scenery. It is intended to be placed at the center of the northern end of the park, near mile marker 0.9, which will provide a territorial view of the park.

14.) Grass Volleyball Court

Just south of the tennis courts is an area of opportunity for a grass volleyball court. Poles, rigging, and a net is all that would be needed in order to bring yet another activity into the park. Players could potentially bring their own lines, or lines could also be provided.

15.) Landscape Maintenance

Landscaping has been installed in the park, but has not been adequately maintained. Maintaining this landscaping will make the park feel more inviting. There is the possibility for an annual or semiannual community cleanup program, where those who wish to contribute their time and energy can donate to the park in this manner.

16.) Memorial Grove

This feature will give the users of the park a place to experience a tree grove. There is the potential to make it into a memorial tree grove where those who wish to dedicate a specific tree can do so. The grove will be located in the northwest corner of the park, if the existing pathway is allowed to be altered. If this pathway is to stay, the memorial grove can be moved to extend over the northern edge of the park, between mile markers 0.9 and the skate park. Careful consideration will need to be given to the location of the trees, so that scenic views are not obstructed.

17.) Mini Free Library

The addition miniature library is a way to further connect the surrounding community with Sky Prairie Park. Three alternative locations have been

X.) Neighborhood Selected Alternative

proposed: one at the northern entrance, one at the southern entrance, and one by mile marker 0.9 (possibly in connection with the gazebo).

18.) Pickle Ball Lines

Pickle ball lines are a relatively easy and cost effective way to bring another activity into the park. They can be painted right onto the existing tennis courts.

19.) Programmed Soccer Field

The area currently maintained as a sports field would be converted into a formal soccer field complete with movable metal goals and painted lines. The field would be programmed to allow for soccer games and camps to be held in the park.

20.) Splash Pad

Two alternative locations for the splash pad have been identified. One is near the restroom facility in the northern entrance and the other is near the

children's play area in the south entrance. If only one splash pad is to be installed, it may be appropriate to locate it at the northern site, so that the other area can remain primarily focused on small children. If two can be installed, then the one at the northern site can be designed for older children, and the one at the southern site for smaller children.

21.) Unprogrammed Areas

The field at the southern entrance of the park is to stay mostly unprogrammed and not dedicated for a single use. Except for the semi-formal programming of a soccer field. The lawn will be maintained in order to host an array of activities. Anything from pee-wee tee-ball leagues to an

22.) Wayfinding Signage

To be placed outside of the park to better usher potential visitors to Sky Prairie Park.



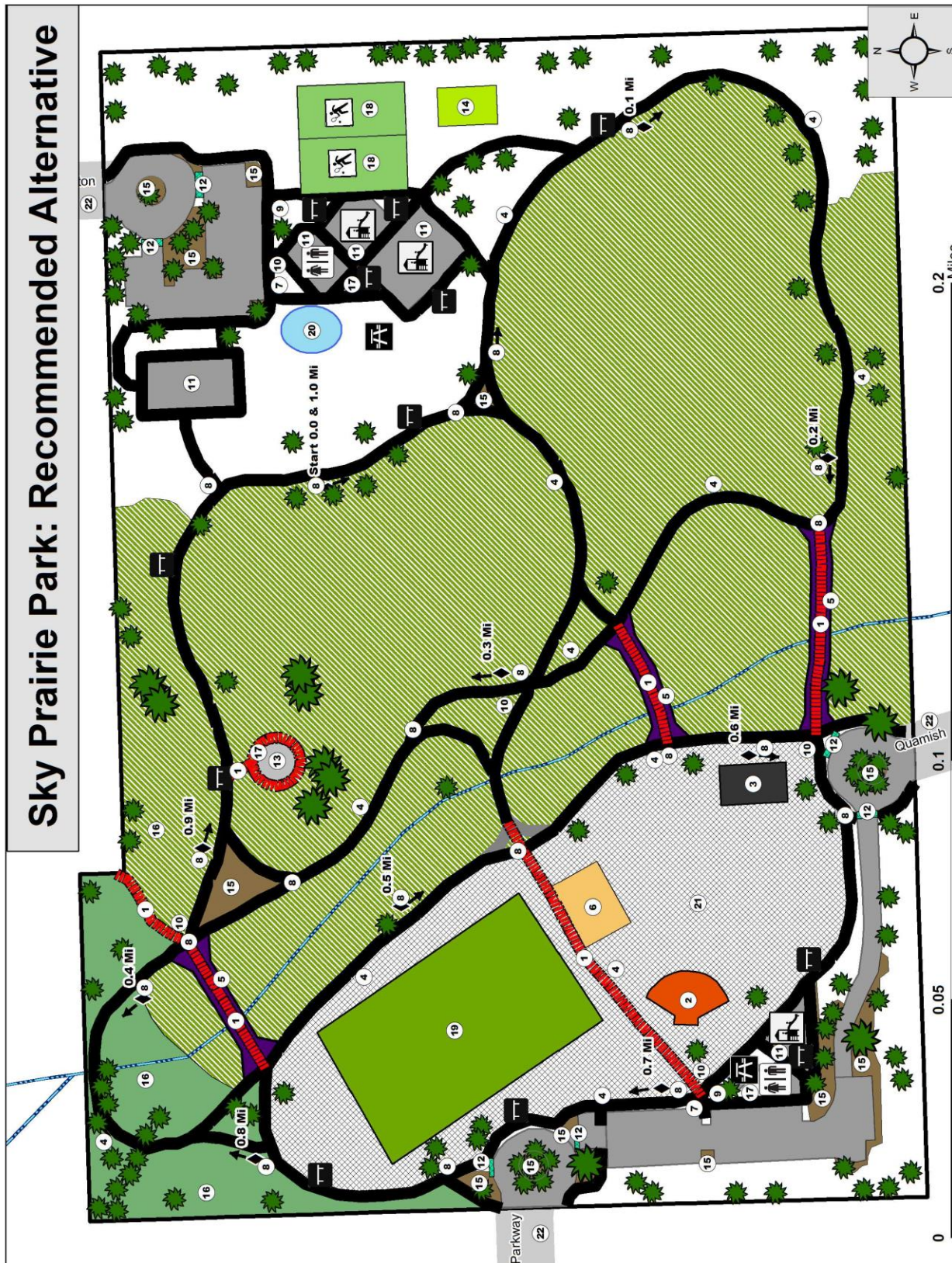
This map is of the final alternative for Sky Prairie Park which is based on the preference of the Five Mile Neighborhood. This proposed map shows the specified changes and preserves the overall natural appearance of the park.

Proposed Changes	
1	Alternate Pathways
2	Amphitheater
3	Basketball Court
4	Benches: Additional
5	Bridge: Optional
6	Circuit Training Court
7	Community Bulletin Board
8	Directional Marker Arrows
9	Directional Park Map
10	Doggy Bag Stations
11	Facility Updates
12	Gates
13	Gazebo
14	Grass Volleyball Court
15	Landscape Maintenance
16	Memorial Grove
17	Mini Free Library
18	Pickleball Lines
19	Programmed Soccer Field
20	Splashpad
21	Unprogrammed Area
22	Wayfinding Signage

Graphical Icons	
	Trees
	Park Mile Markers
	Park Trail
	New Paved Trail
	Existing Trail Removed
	Bridge
	Picnic Area
	Current Benches
	Intermittent Stream
	Memorial Grove Area
	Natural Areas
	Unprogrammed Area

This final map highlights the recommended options for the use and development of Sky Prairie Park based on the results of meetings and surveys.

Urban and Regional Planning Department
 Eastern Washington University
 Map created by: Isaac Thompson
 Layout Date by: Marlene Springer
 Date: November 11, 2015
 Map revised on: 11/05/2015 © 2015 E.W.U.



XI. Implementation Strategy

As the preferred alternative is finalized, a implementation strategy should be created. The following is a preliminary list:

- 1.) Finalize the master plan.
- 2.) Present to the City of Spokane Parks department for presentation to City Parks Board.
- 3.) Post master plan online.
- 4.) Present to Spokane County Parks Recreation and Golf for presentation to Board of County Commissioners.
- 5.) Establish a gifting guide specific to Sky Prairie Park.
- 6.) Establish facilities standards for the park.
- 7.) Establish and maintain an internet presence for Sky Prairie Park to promote sharing of information regarding events, activities, volunteer opportunities, ideas for future improvements, etc.
 - a.) Once every five years check back in with the community to reexamine priorities and see how the park is functioning.
 - b.) Maintain and expand the park's Facebook.
 - c.) Update Five Mile Neighborhood page in the city's parks website to include the approved master plan.
- 8.) Work with Spokane Parks Department to create signage to dictate how to report information, situations, or problems around the park (my location is, my location is X etc.)
- 9.) Organize a spring or fall clean up party to remove debris around Austin Ravine and the park.
- 10.) Research and prepare a more detailed plan for completing the Austin Ravine Trail.
 - a.) Continue to investigate opportunities to acquire property or easements to fill in the gaps in the Austin Ravine trail loop.
- 11.) In consultation with Spokane City Parks Department staff, prepare a prioritized list of improvements with cost estimates.
 - a.) Current maintenance cost estimates.
 - b.) Future maintenance and installation costs in accordance with the master plan.
- 12.) Establish a Friends of Sky Prairie Park in order to create fundraising opportunities.
- 13.) Establish a county impact fee for the five mile area.
 - a.) In consultation with the Spokane City Planning Department make sure that the city's hearing examiner includes a park impact fee as a condition of subdivision approval in the Five Mile Neighborhood.
- 14.) Continue to participate in discussions to establish a regulated system of signage to public places such as parks and install signs to direct the public to Sky Prairie Park.

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I.) Maps

I.) Maps

a.) Bicycle Routes

The Bicycle Map was created from the Five Mile Prairie Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Only a small portion of lower 5 Mile Rd currently has bike lanes on the sides. The Five Mile Prairie Plan calls for additional bicycle lanes to be constructed on main roads for safety purposes as well as potential alternate bike routes with sharrows on less busy streets. This bike plan is mainly for safety purposes, since bicyclists must follow the same rules of the road that automobiles do.

b.) Pedestrian Routes

The Pedestrian Map was created from the Five Mile Prairie Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan as well as drawing existing sidewalks from Google Earth. Future and current crosswalks were added from existing conditions and future plans. Future sidewalks were hand drawn in linking existing sidewalks along routes shown in the Five Mile Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

c.) Potential Connections

This map depicts potential future expansion points to and from Sky Prairie Park by highlighting three possible connection routes. The southern portion of the map displays a future trail connection from the neighborhood to Austin Ravine Conservation Area. The northern connection points access the park from Strong Road in two separate areas. The overall purpose of using this map in the document is to point to future potential points of access into Sky Prairie Park in addition to the current entrances.

d.) Access Routes

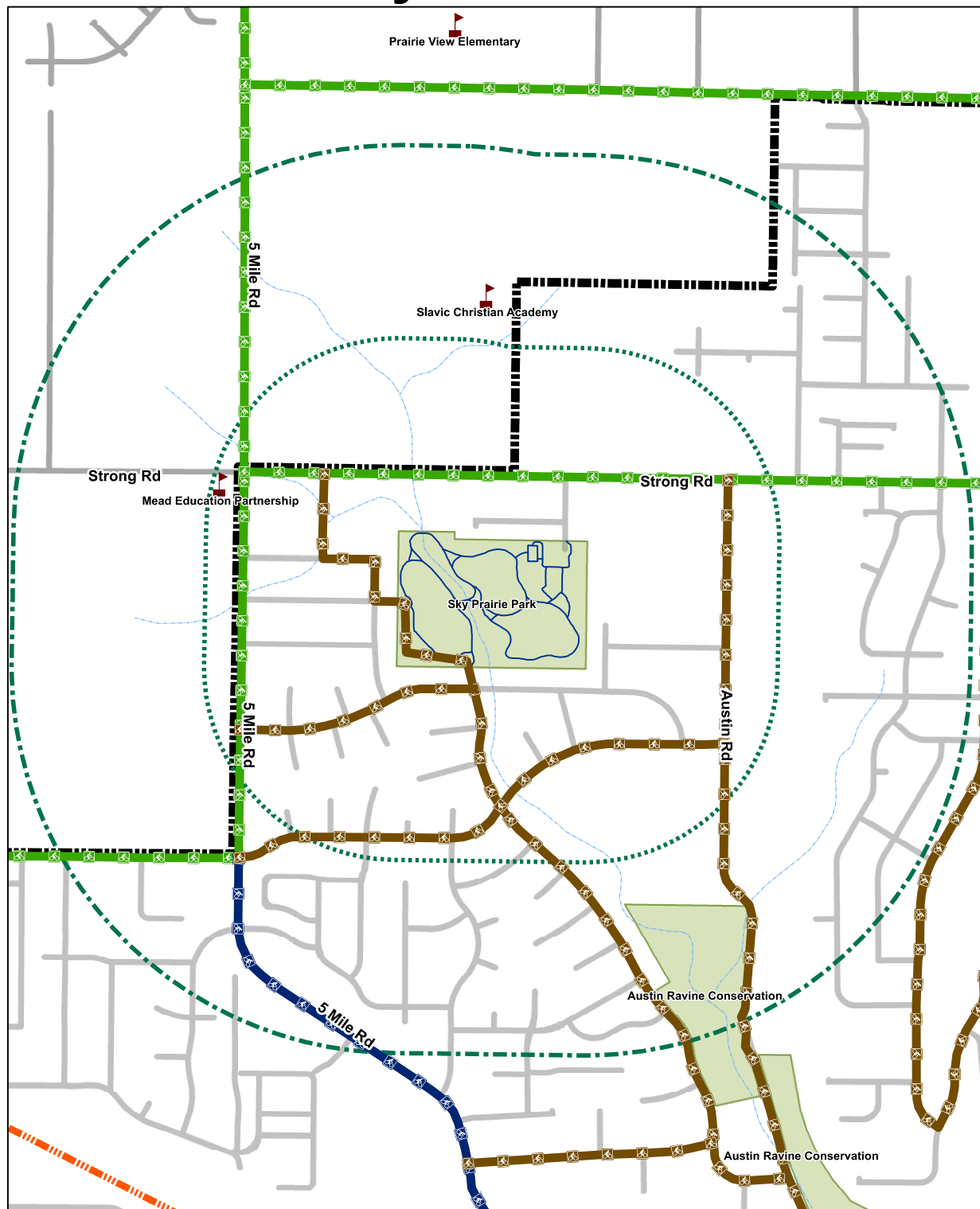
The addition of this map into the document was formatted from scratch and data connected throughout this project. The overall map illustrates all paths up to and down from the Five Mile Prairie Area, this data would be extremely useful in emergency cases when immediate access is required. This map also includes trails around the Five Mile Prairie schools showing the safety concerns surrounding travelling children, eventually this map could be used to adjust traffic safety concerns and points of safety around the Prairie.

e.) Census Data

The purpose of including census population data into this document is to inform the readers of the demographic details surrounding the Five Mile Prairie Area. This map essentially illustrates how many people have access to Sky Prairie Park and how property lines affect city and county boundary lines. The importance of city and county boundary lines can determine the amount of funding that goes into Sky Prairie Park and also into other things such as road conditions. Census population data is an important resource to have within a document for points of reference and for future resources.

a.)

Bicycle Routes

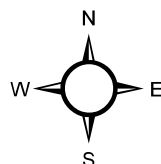


Bicycle Routes Around Sky Prairie Park

Eastern Washington University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
Created By Isaac Swanson

Data Sources: City of Spokane, Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan, USGS National Map Viewer, and Spokane County.

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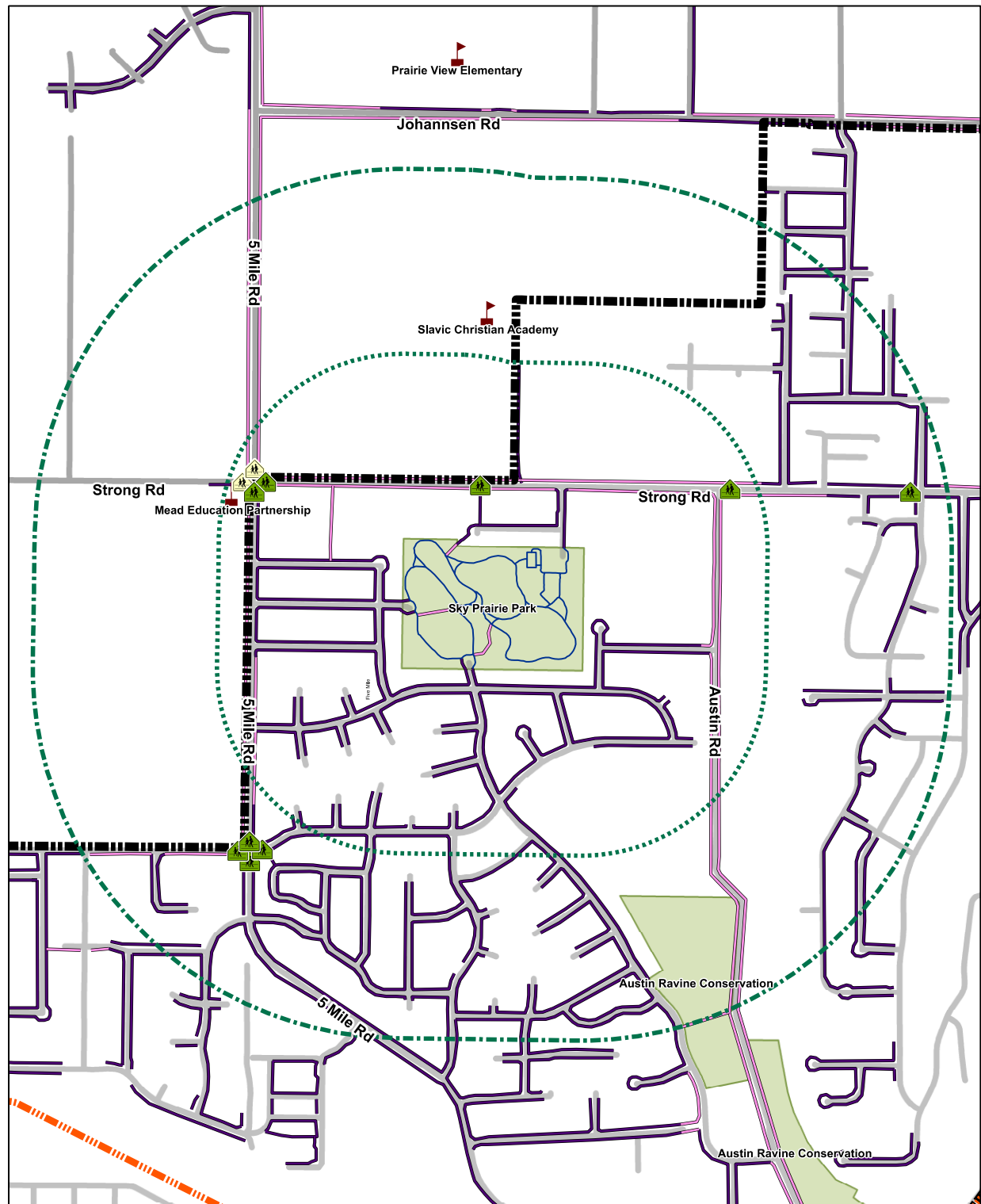


Legend

- City Streets
- County Roads
- Interment Stream
- Park Trail
- Proposed Bike Trails
- Shared Roadway
- Bike Trails
- Schools
- 1/4 Mi. Buffer
- 1/2 Mi. Buffer
- 5 Mile Boundary
- Municipal Boundary

b.)

Pedestrian Routes

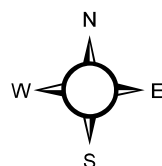


Pedestrian Routes to Sky Prairie Park

Eastern Washington University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
Created By Martee Snyder and Isaac Swanson

Data Sources: City of Spokane, Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan, USGS National Map Viewer, and Spokane County.

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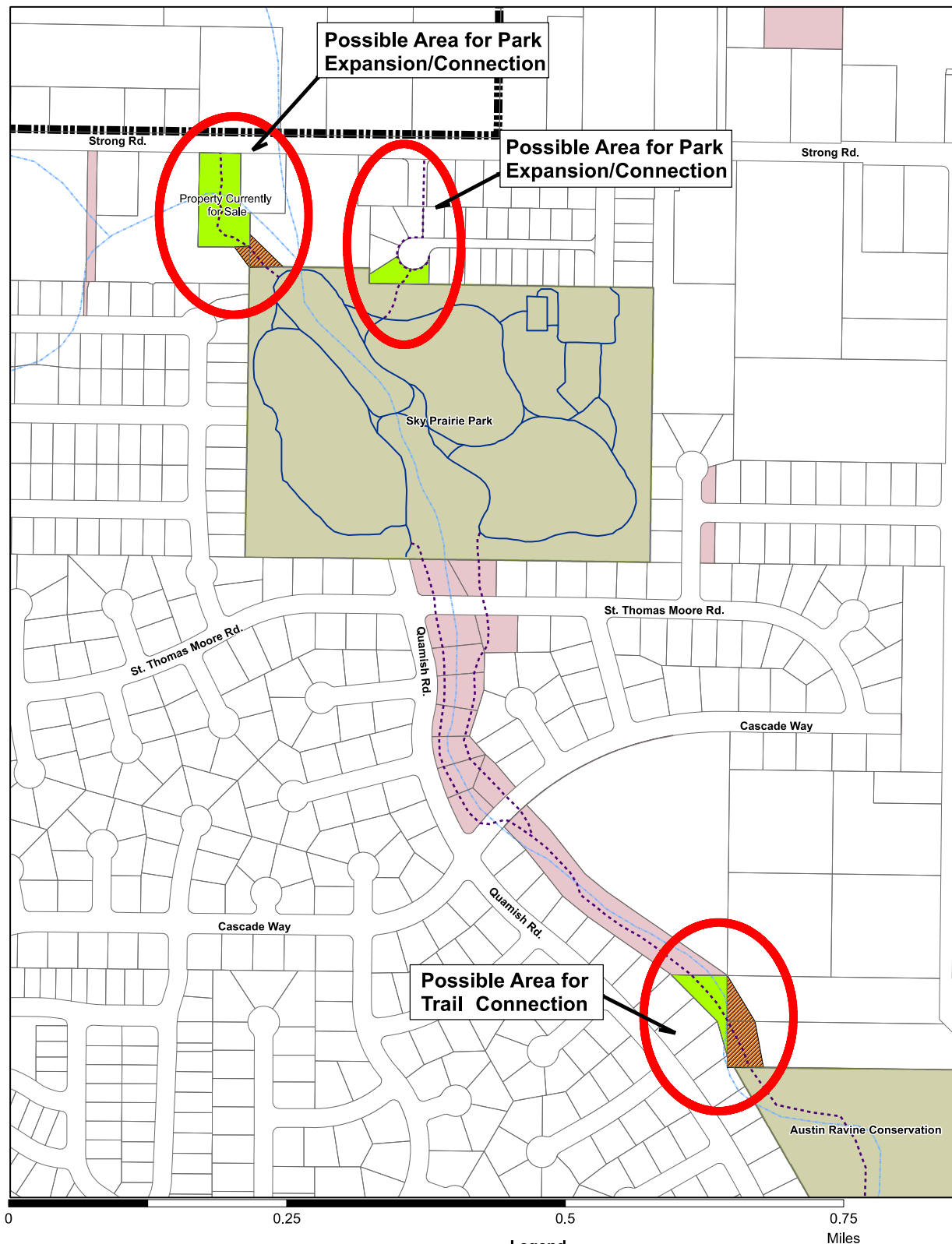


Legend

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| City Streets | City Parks |
| County Roads | Crosswalks |
| Proposed Sidewalks | Proposed Crosswalks |
| Sidewalks | Schools |
| 1/4 Mi. Buffer | 5 Mile Boundary |
| 1/2 Mi. Buffer | Municipal Boundary |

c.)

Potential Connections

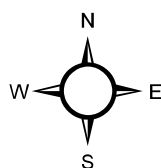


Potential Connections to Sky Prairie Park

Eastern Washington University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
Created By Isaac Swanson & Martee Snyder

Data Sources: City of Spokane, Spokane County, and Washington State Department of Ecology.

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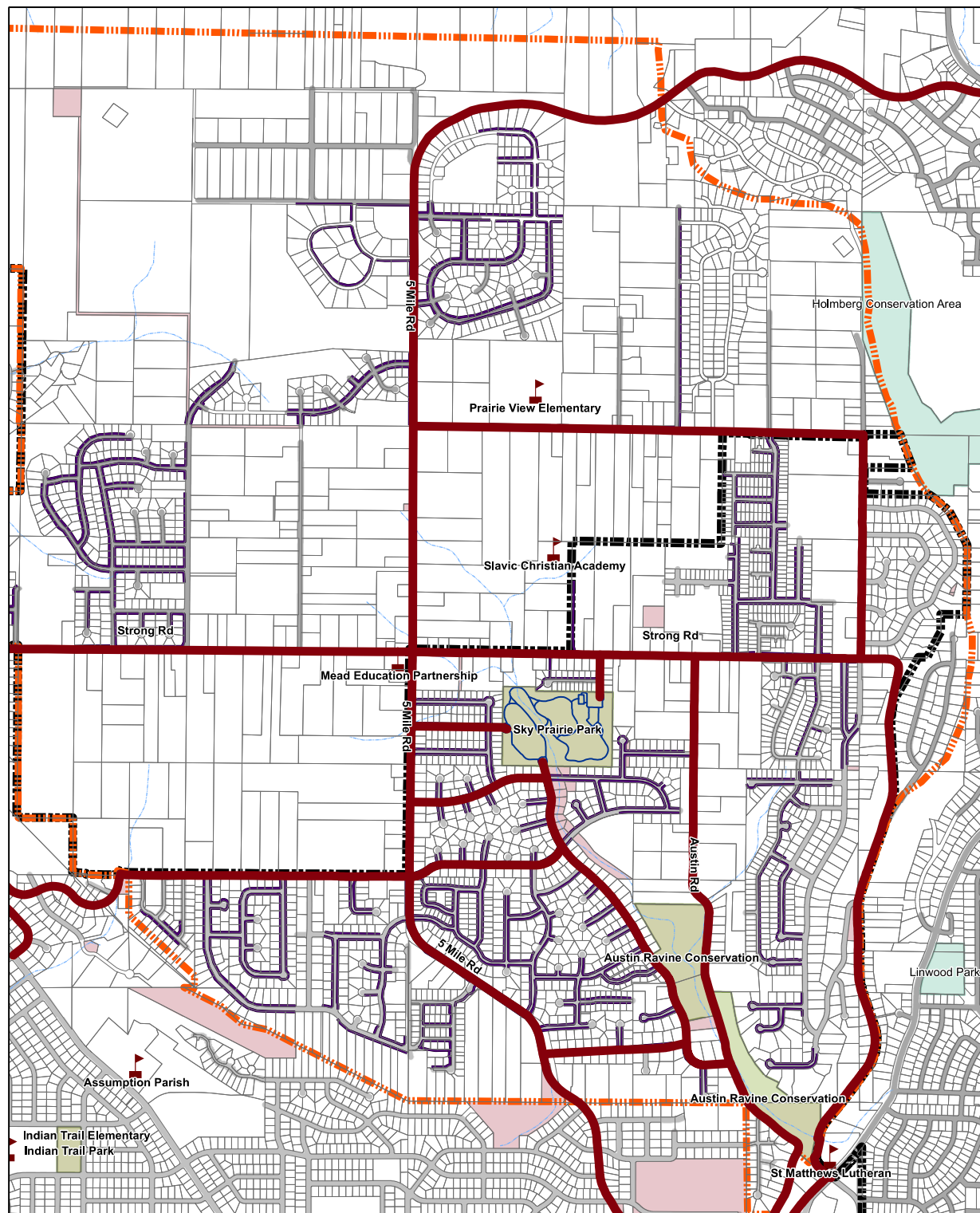


Legend

	County Parcels		City Parks
	Interment Stream		City Owned
	Park Trail		Municipal Boundary
	Proposed Trail		Vacant Parcels
	Roads		Trail Easement

d.)

5 Mile Prairie Access Routes

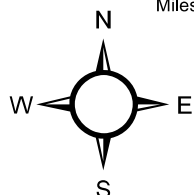


Access Routes to Sky Prairie Park

Eastern Washington University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
Created By Martee Snyder and Isaac Swanson

Data Sources: City of Spokane, Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Plan, USGS National Map Viewer, and Spokane County.

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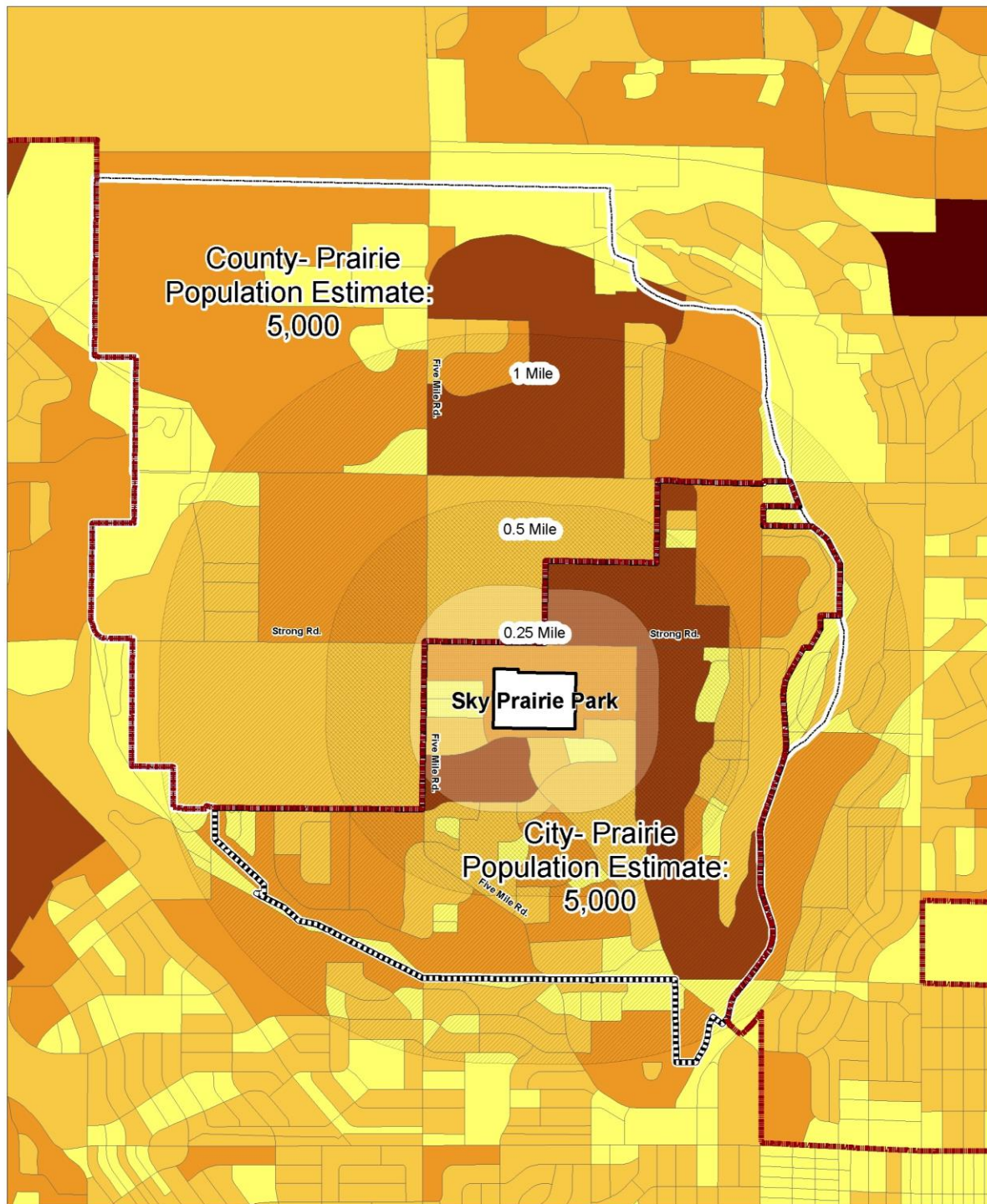


Legend

- City Streets
- County Roads
- Interminant Stream
- Main Routes
- Park Trail
- Sidewalks
- City of Spokane Owned
- City Parks
- County Parks
- Schools
- 5 Mile Boundary
- Municipal Boundary

e.)

2010 Census Population



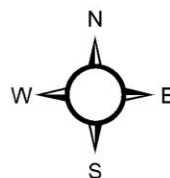
0 0.25 0.5 1 1.5 2 Miles

2010 Census Population of Sky Prairie Park

Eastern Washington University
Urban and Regional Planning Department
Created by Martee Snyder and Isaac Swanson

Data Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, City of Spokane

Date: 08/24/15 - 2:32 P.M.



Legend

- Sky Prairie Park
- Municipal Boundary
- 5 Mile Neighborhood Boundary
- 5 Mile Prairie Boundary
- 0.25 Mile Buffer
- 0.5 Mile Buffer
- 1 Mile Buffer

2010 Population

- 0 - 31
- 32 - 112
- 113 - 280
- 281 - 764
- 765 - 2321

Appendix II: Sky Prairie Meeting Notes

Sky Prairie Meeting 6-28-2015

On June 28th, 2015 Professor Gregg Dohrn and Students from Eastern Washington University met with Councilwoman Candance Mumm, Five Mile Neighborhood Association President Kathy Miotke, City of Spokane Parks Planner Garrett Jones, and Five Mile Prairie resident Sara Dexter and found the following:

Discussion Summary:

1. The history of the area was discussed in length, it was obvious that it was very important to understand the history in order to plan for the area.
 - a. The area was used for farming because of its designation as a prime agriculture soil.
 - b. Sky Prairie Park is part of the Five Mile Watershed.
 - c. The land that now houses Sky Prairie Park was gifted to the City by a developer for the purpose of maintaining open space/ building a park.
 - d. A vocal group of citizens helped to pass a bond to build a park.
 - e. It is a Community Level Park.
2. The planning area differs from the actual neighborhood boundaries.
 - a. The planning area extends to approximately 2.5 miles around the Park.
 - b. This includes everything following the cliffs to County Holms Blvd. (these people come to the meetings)
 - c. It Does NOT include the area around the Five Mile shopping center or the Holmberg area.
3. The following were taken into consideration when creating the design for the park:
 - a. Maintaining/protecting the natural area.
 - b. CPTED-Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design tactics were used.
 - c. A large community-gathering place was built (North end by the tennis courts) to encourage reunions, community events, etc.
4. Design concepts to keep in mind while creating the Master Plan:
 - a. The skate park not necessary, it was built when skate boarding was very popular, but did not get the necessary attention to keep expanding it.
 - b. Include more native history via interpretive signage.
 - c. Incorporate more art. Art-bronze sculptures at main entrances were mentioned. "Great Art, Great Park."
 - d. Improve on the walking path by installing a few maps and the entrances so one could navigate the paths more easily.
 - e. Some sort of water (splash pad) should be included into the final design. Especially when the smaller children play.
 - f. Low impact design was desired in order to keep the natural areas safe.

Appendix II: Sky Prairie Meeting Notes Continued:

5. Linkages with the surrounding natural areas/parks seemed to be desired. A few nearby areas include:
 - a. Gully-Austin Ravine. This property was purchased with Conservation Future funds. Five-Mile neighborhood has a ped/bike plan that includes a future connection to this natural area.
6. Access:
 - a. Current entrances are in the North, South, and East.
 - b. There are a few more opportunities for access points via Walker St. and Heath St.
 - c. The development of crosswalks and safer ways to travel to/from school-to/from the park were discussed. Currently Strong Rd which runs along the North side of the Park has no sidewalks. Plenty of children cross this busy road via schools/houses on the North side of Strong Rd.)
 - d. Is there a way to apply for the "Safe Pathways to School" grant?
7. Operations:
 - a. Vandalism seemed to be an issue.
 - b. The Parks Dept. maintains the Park.
 - c. Neighbors snow plow the trails in the winter.
 - d. Neighbors have asked that the Parks Dept. close the gates every night--can a neighbor volunteer to do this instead?
 - e. Look into new play equipment--think outside the box (there is more than just monkey bars and slides) think about a wide range of age groups.
8. What was expressly communicated as a 'want':
 - a. A guide map of the Park (mile markers.)
 - b. Community education (interpretive signage.)
 - c. More programming of the amenities.
 - d. Mini-free library in the park.
 - e. Landscaping Palette.
 - f. More art.
9. Upcoming CIPs:
 - a. A connection between Five Mile and Indian Trail neighborhoods (which is expected to increase the amount of uses of the Park by 7000.)
 - b. A new round about in the intersection of Strong and (?)
 - c. Possibly a new School (Mead School District, located in the County.)
 - d. North Five Mile Rd. improvements. (2017)

Appendix III: Five Mile Neighborhood Survey:

Five Mile Neighborhood Survey:

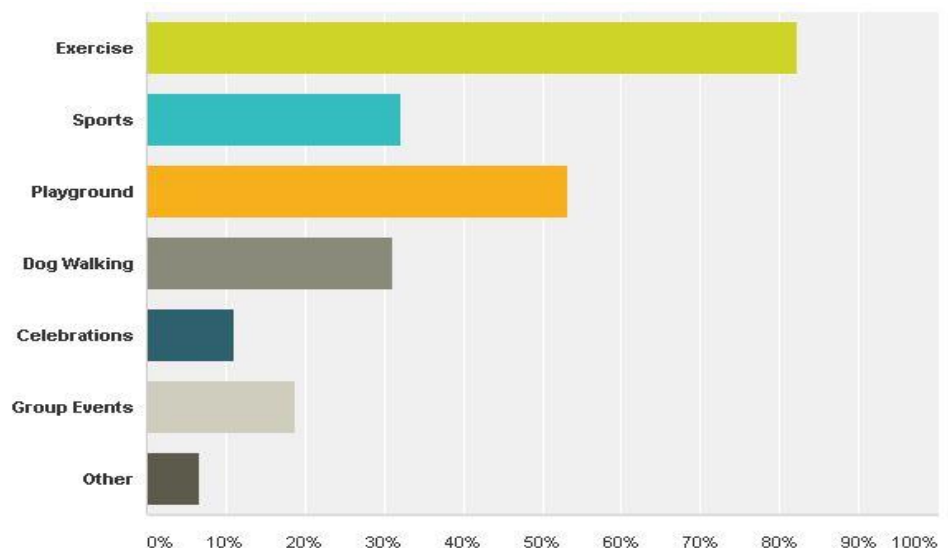
A survey was completed by residents of Five Mile Prairie on December 12, 2014. It was managed by SurveyMonkey® at surveymonkey.com. A link to the survey was sent out to nearly 400 residents via email from the Five Mile Prairie Neighborhood Association. Two schools were also involved in the survey process which included Prairie View Elementary and Five Mile Prairie Schoolhouse. It was conducted from November 13, 2014 to December 12, 2014 from the homes of the selected respondents. A total of 100 community members responded to 8 questions. Some main highlights of the survey on Sky Prairie Park is that it is most utilized for its exercise opportunities and playground equipment. The most sought after feature that is missing from the park is a water feature, followed by a sports facility and landscaping. The following are the eight questions included in the survey with their percentage of responses.

Question 1: How often in the last year have you or someone in your household used Sky Prairie Park near the center of Five Mile Prairie?

1. Did not use- 10.1%
2. Once- 3.0%
3. 2-5 times- 12.1%
4. 5-10 times- 14.1%
5. More than 10 times- 60.6%

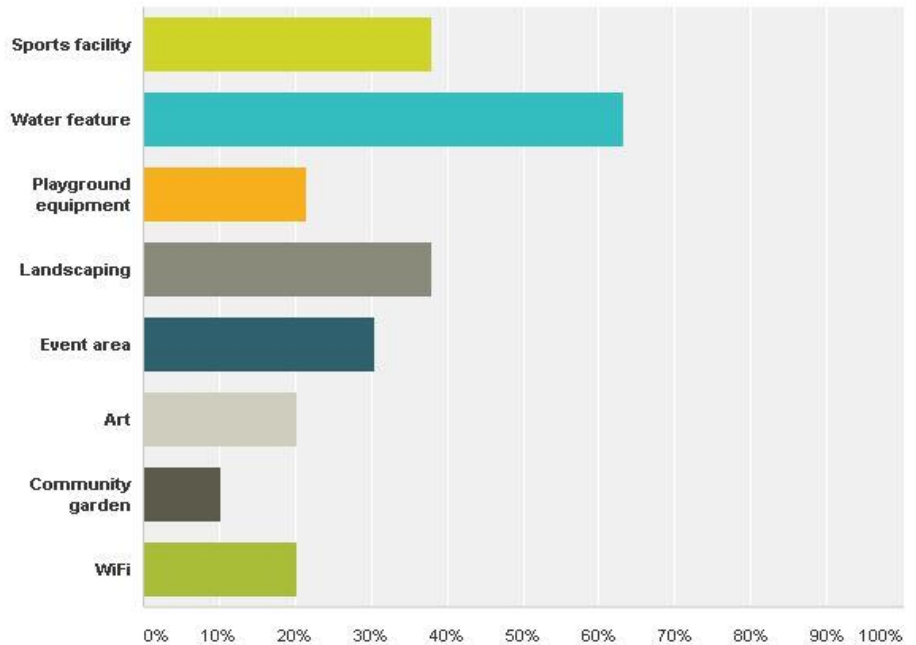
Question 2: What did you use the park for? (check all that apply)

1. Exercise- 82.2%
2. Sports- 32.2%
3. Playground- 53.3%
4. Dog Walking- 31.1%
5. Celebrations- 11.1%
6. Group Events- 18.9%
7. Other- 6.7%



Question 3: What features would you like to see added to the park? (check all that apply)

1. Sports facility-37.97%
2. Water feature- 63.29%
3. Playground equipment- 21.52%
4. Landscaping- 37.97%
5. Event area- 30.38%
6. Art- 20.25%
7. Community garden- 10.13%
8. Wifi- 20.25%



Question 4: Are there features in the park that you feel are underutilized or not needed?

1. Yes- 19.1%
2. No- 80.9%

Question 5: Do you have any safety/security concerns within the park?

1. Yes- 23.4%
2. No- 76.6%

Question 6: Do you live on Five Mile Prairie?

1. Yes- 98.0%
2. No- 2.0%

Question 7: What is your gender?

1. Male- 34.0%
2. Female- 66.0%

Question 8: What is your age group?

1. Under 18- 0.0%
2. 18-30- 1.8%
3. 31-40- 17.2%
4. 41-50- 43.4%
5. 51-60- 18.2%
6. 61-70- 11.1%
7. Over 70- 9.1%

Appendix IV: Spokane County Parks Recreation, and Open Space Plan Goals and Policies

Approved by the Spokane County Board of Commissioners, 2014

The Goals and Policies of Spokane County's Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan were developed through public input to reflect which direction County Parks should move in for future development and acquisition of community parks, open space, trails, and other recreational facilities.

VISION AND OVERALL GOAL

The vision for Parks, Recreation, and Open Space is as follows:

To preserve and create viable natural habitat and trail corridors integrated with and whenever possible, connected to, a well-distributed system of well-maintained community and regional parks designed to enhance the quality of life by providing recreational opportunity, preserving open spaces and protecting important elements of Spokane's great natural heritage for future generations.

This vision was developed through the citizen participation process and provides guidance to the goals and objectives that are outlined in this section. The vision has a single overall goal for the Parks and Recreation Program, which is:

To enhance the quality of life for the residents of Spokane County by providing the highest quality and quantity of parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities.

This vision is accomplished through the preservation, acquisition, enhancement, and maintenance of a well-sited network of parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational facilities to be available to Spokane County residents.

GOALS & POLICIES

PO.1 Provide a variety of parks, open space, recreation facilities, and recreation programs to benefit the broadest range of age, social, economic and special group interests and abilities.

PO.1.1 Development of new parks and recreation facilities shall be consistent with the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan and the Spokane County Park Plan.

PO.1.2 Park and recreation facilities should be developed, renovated and maintained to serve the widest possible cross-section of resident needs and interests, including accessibility for disabled persons.

PO.1.3 Locate parks to provide for a variety of outdoor activities and to preserve and protect important habitat areas, corridors and linkages, natural amenities (e.g., wetlands and shorelines), unique landscape features (e.g., cliffs and bluffs) or other outstanding natural features.

PO.1.6 Involve the public and other agencies with expertise in the decision-making process regarding parks, recreation facilities and programs.

PO.1.7 Target waterfront areas (lakes, streams and rivers) to provide public access within the carrying-capacity limits of water resources and adjacent natural systems.

PO.1.8 Design future aquatic facilities for maximum programming opportunities to serve the greatest number of residents.

PO.2 Acquire and develop parks, recreational facilities, and open space areas to serve the needs of the public given available resources.

PO.2.1 Coordinate and cooperate with both public and private sector interests to further park and recreation opportunities.

PO.2.2 Coordinate park planning and land acquisition efforts across jurisdictional boundaries and consider existing and planned infrastructure, population served, environmental constraints, and available resources.

PO.2.3 Work with nonprofit and for-profit recreation providers to enhance the quality and quantity of available recreation facilities at the lowest possible expense to the taxpayer.

PO.2.4 Acquire waterfront property that will provide public access to the County's numerous water bodies. Such acquisitions should provide for non-motorized or motorized water craft access.

PO.2.5 Acquire and develop regional parks outside of the UGA that support numerous recreational activities and natural resource protection benefits. Such parks shall be sited and designed to attract regional visitors.

PO.2.6 Acquire and develop parkland for community parks within the Urban Growth Area, sited where LOS analysis has identified service gaps.

PO.2.7 Acquire and preserve open space areas proximate to the UGA that preserve viewsheds, provide easy access to the core of Spokane County's residents, and provide numerous natural resource conservation benefits.

PO.2.8 Include youth in the planning and development of community parks. Surveys will be sent to schools that are within three miles of the park being developed requesting input on the elements to be included in the park design.

PO.2.9 Develop new and improve existing campground facilities to meet the community's need for affordable, close-by outdoor recreational opportunities.

PO.2.10 A county-wide level of service of 0.23 softball fields per 1,000 residents, .043 aquatic facilities per 1,000 residents, and 0.32 campsites per 1,000 residents should be monitored and maintained.

PO.3 Strive toward a level of service for developed community parks of 1.4 acres per 1,000 population for the Urban Growth Areas (UGA) and 8.3 acres per 1,000 population for regional parks.

PO.3.1 Utilize the Level of Service (LOS) Analysis to identify current and future residential areas within the UGA that may be underserved by community parks and strive to acquire and develop new community park land in those areas. When possible, collaborate with other jurisdictions to locate and develop new community parks that will move UGAs towards the LOS goals.

PO.3.2 Allow neighborhoods and communities within the unincorporated County the ability to increase park and recreation opportunities through the formation of self-taxing park service areas. Neighborhoods may include this option within their individual neighborhood plans.

PO.3.3 Work with the Spokane County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) and other departments to study, develop, and implement mitigation fees or other alternative funding mechanisms to help fund future parks, open space areas, trails, other recreation facilities, and the maintenance thereof.

PO.3.4 Whenever possible, work cooperatively with other jurisdictions and agencies to identify, acquire, and develop community parkland that provides a range of benefits (e.g. Parks could work with Utilities to identify property could be acquired and developed to provide recreation and water quality benefits.).

PO.3.5 Future community parks should be greater than 10 acres in size to adequately serve current and projected population and provide a diverse range of recreational opportunities unless opportunities arise (i.e. through donation, etc.) to obtain smaller sites at little to no cost to County Parks or current land use patterns prevent a larger property from being acquired in an area of need.

PO.3.6 Monitor the availability of state, federal, and other sources to fund the acquisition and development of community and regional parks. Work with other departments, jurisdictions, non-profit organizations, and private individuals to secure local match.

PO.3.7 Where current level of service within an Urban Growth Area is zero or deficient, staff should analyze that UGA to determine if current population is either deficient to warrant a new community park and/or is being served sufficiently by adjacent jurisdiction(s).

PO.4 Provide a parks system that is well maintained, effectively managed, and efficient to serve both current and future needs.

PO.4.1 When budgets are limited, maintenance of existing park and recreation facilities should take precedence over acquisition and development of new facilities.

PO.4.2 Budgets for facility maintenance should be prepared and considered as plans are made for acquisition.

PO.4.3 Design standards for parks should ensure safety, security, cleanliness, accessibility, and ease of maintenance.

PO.4.4 Sustainable design principles should be considered in the design of County parks and recreation facilities to promote resource conservation and reduce long-term costs of managing such facilities.

PO.4.5 Parks should be designed and located to provide ease of access for pedestrians, persons with disabilities, bicycles, autos and public transit.

PO.4.6 When determined appropriate, retain the natural features of proposed parks and recreation areas and whenever feasible, designs should incorporate the use of native vegetation to reduce overall maintenance costs.

PO.4.7 Parks shall not be sold or reverted to other non-public, non-recreational uses as a cost-saving measure.

PO.5 Preserve open space corridors that ensure long-term viability for wildlife & passive recreation in Spokane County.

PO 5.1 Continue to work with citizens, agencies, jurisdictions, and non-profit groups to identify priorities for open space preservation within Spokane County.

PO.5.2 Utilize the Conservation Futures Tax (CFT) to purchase, preserve, and protect critical habitat and open space corridors throughout the County.

PO.5.3 Continue to acquire and preserve land around Tower Mountain/Krell Ridge to connect Dishman Hills Natural Area with Dishman Hills Conservation Area and provide access to the public through a system of developed trailheads designed to serve multiple communities.

PO.5.4 Continue to acquire and preserve land along the Lower Little Spokane River to expand the Little Spokane River Natural Area and the current water trail system therein.

PO.5.5 Acquire and preserve land around Mica Peak to expand existing Liberty Lake Regional Park and preserve existing trails utilized by the public that currently traverse private property.

PO.5.6 Work with other jurisdictions to meet shared goals for preserving open space lands and corridors throughout Spokane County.

PO.5.7 Whenever possible, identify and apply for grant opportunities using CFT as match to facilitate acquisition of properties on the Conservation Futures Prioritized Acquisition List.

PO.5.8 Develop additional and continue current revenue sources for the funding of open space preservation. Funding sources may include, but are not limited to, bond issues, additional levies, Conservation Futures Tax, land dedication, and the use of impact fees.

PO.5.9 Utilize the Spokane County Critical Areas Ordinance, the Spokane County Comprehensive Plan (and Zoning Code), the Spokane Regional Trails Plan, and other agency plans or data sets to help prioritize areas for open space acquisition/preservation.

PO.5.10 Consider additional means for funding and preserving open space within Spokane County such as the transfer of development rights (TDR), donations (land and monetary), development impact (mitigation) fees, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Trust Land Transfer Program, formation of a park district, acquisition by other jurisdiction/organization.

PO.5.11 The Conservation Futures Program should be flexible enough to take advantage of unforeseen opportunities as they become available. Such unforeseen opportunities may be of local, regional, or of state significance and/or provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to preserve and provide connectivity, high quality wildlife habitat and passive recreational opportunities.

PO.5.12 Encourage the preservation and enhancement of open space by nonprofit organizations and private individuals.

PO.5.13 Encourage the retention of all publicly owned open space areas.

PO.5.14 Encourage the inclusion of functional open space within planned unit developments for residential, commercial and industrial development.

PO.5.15 Level of service for open space should be maintained at 115 acres per 1,000 residents and increased when feasible.

PO.5.16 Work with other agencies to acquire, preserve, enhance, and connect geologic sites identified on the Ice Age Floods National Recreational Trail.

PO.6 Manage open space area lands to balance wildlife and recreational needs.

PO.6.1 Ensure that recreational uses are consistent with the protection and preservation of environmentally sensitive open spaces and wildlife corridors.

PO.6.2 Manage all open space areas to maintain a balance of recreational uses that maintain a positive user experience for all public users.

PO.6.3 Close, rehabilitate, or relocate trails that are determined to be unsustainable, promote erosion, and/or bisect critical sections of wildlife habitat within open space areas.

PO.6.4 Provide when feasible trail heads that allow safe parking for visitors that helps promote legal, passive recreational uses within open space areas.

PO.6.5 Review development (subdivision) proposals to evaluate potential impacts on Levels of Service and to identify opportunities for multiple use of proposed open space set aside through development regulations.

PO.6.6 Utilize the Conservation Futures Best Management Practices (*See: Appendix D*) to help guide future stewardship of open space areas.

PO.7 Utilize the Spokane County Regional Trails Plan that envisions a county-wide system of multipurpose non-motorized trails to secure, preserve, and develop a network of trails throughout Spokane County that connect communities and provide easily accessed recreational opportunities.

PO.7.1 Provide trails for pedestrians (including, where feasible, access for persons with disabilities), bicyclists, equestrians, cross-country skiers and other non-motorized vehicle users.

PO.7.2 Provide for linkages of communities, community facilities, workplaces, neighborhoods, schools, recreation areas, open space and cultural/historical areas.

PO.7.3 Separate recreational trails from motorized vehicle traffic where feasible. Where separated trails are not feasible, then priority should be given to pedestrian safety.

PO.7.4 Inventory, analyze, and preserve when possible existing rights-of-way (including abandoned rail and utility easements) for possible use as multipurpose non-motorized trails.

Appendix V: City of Spokane Parks and Recreation, and Open Space Plan, Goals and Policies:

Approved by the Spokane City Council June, 2015

PRS 1 PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Goal: Assure the preservation and conservation of unique, fragile, and scenic natural resources, and especially non-renewable resources.

PRS 1.1 Open Space System

Provide an open space system within the urban growth boundary that connects with regional open space and maintains habitat for wildlife corridors.

Discussion: The city should work with other open space planners and providers to create a regional open space and green belt system. This may include coordination with local utilities for joint use of utility corridors for passive recreational uses.

PRS 1.2 River Corridors

Protect river and stream corridors as crucial natural resources that need to be preserved for the health and enjoyment of the community.

PRS 1.3 Funding for Open Space and Shoreline Land Acquisition

Purchase open space and shoreline land when they become available using funding sources available.

Discussion: The city shall attempt to access funding from local (annual park budget, city general fund, gifts, Conservation Futures funds, local improvement districts, bonds, dedications, and impact fees), state (IAC grants), and federal sources (Community Development Funds). A more equitable distribution of conservation futures funding between the city and the county should be pursued. The Parks and recreation department should develop an evaluative process to identify parcels of land for potential purchase.

PRS 1.4 Property Owners and Developers

Work cooperatively with property owners and developers to preserve open space areas within or between developments, especially those that provide visual or physical linkages to the open space network.

Discussion: This should be a consideration during the approval process for subdivisions, planned contracts, and shoreline permits. The city should explore the use of regionally consistent incentives to protect open space. Incentives may include bonus densities, transfer of development rights, and tax abatement or deferment.

PRS 1.5 Green Space Buffers

Preserve and/or establish areas of green space buffer to provide separation between conflicting land uses.

PRS 1.6 Funding to Acquire Critical Lands

Maintain a contingency fund (Park Cumulative Reserve Fund) dedicated to the acquisition of critical area lands, which would be lost if not immediately purchased.

PRS 2 PARK AND OPEN SPACE SYSTEM

Goal: Provide a park system that is an integral and vital part of the open space system and that takes advantage of the opportunities for passive and active recreation that a comprehensive open space system provides.

PRS 2.1 Amenities within Each Neighborhood

Provide open space and park amenities within each neighborhood that are appropriate to the natural and human environment of the neighborhood, as determined by the neighborhood and the Spokane Park Board.

Discussion: Amenities such as center plazas, playground equipment, restrooms, shelters, backstops, trails, trees, and plant materials.

PRS 2.2 Proximity to Open Space

Provide open space in each city neighborhood.

Discussion: To maintain the viability and health of the city, residents should have equitable proximity to open space.

PRS 2.3 Urban Open Space Amenities

Continue to develop urban open space amenities that enhance the local economy.

Discussion: Urban open space amenities include trails, interpretive areas, plant materials, public squares, view points and interpretive signage, and provide benefits to both residents and visitors.

PRS 2.4 Park Funding

Consider all potential funding sources to maintain the adopted level of service for parks.

Discussion: Potential funding sources include: impact fees, Park budget, General Fund, gifts, dedications, LIDs, bonds, Community Development funds, Conservation Futures funds, and grants.

PRS 2.5 Capital Improvement Program

Prepare and update annually a six-year capital improvement program for implementation of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan.

PRS 2.6 Cultural and Historic Parks

Preserve and showcase the cultural and historic character of the parks and the park system.

Discussion: Many of Spokane's parks have great cultural and historic character that should be identified, preserved, and showcased during park development.

PRS 3 BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Goal: Work with other agencies to provide a convenient and pleasant open space-related network for pedestrian and bicyclist circulation throughout the City of Spokane.

Policies

PRS 3.1 Trails and Linkages

Provide trails and linkages to parks that make minimal use of streets, especially arterial streets, in order to maximize the recreation experience and safety of all users.

PRS 3.2 Trail Corridor Development

Include landscaping, revegetation, and reforestation in trail corridor development where appropriate and desirable to provide a pleasant trail experience, and visual separation from private adjacent uses.

PRS 3.3 People Movement through Riverfront Park

Develop a pedestrian-friendly, attractive mode of moving people through Riverfront Park using the Howard Street Corridor from North Central High School to Lewis and Clark High School.

Discussion: The Spokane Park Board, the Downtown Spokane Partnership, and various partners along the route have begun informal discussions of a yet-to-be defined "people mover." The people mover should have stops to service new and existing facilities and activities.

PRS 4 PARK PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

Goal: Recognize and upgrade Spokane's existing park resources by continuing the park preventative maintenance program.

PRS 4.1 Maintenance Management Program

Implement a maintenance management program that will project maintenance, facility, and replacement costs.

Discussion: The current Park Operations budget is part of the Park Fund budget within the City of Spokane's two-year budget. The maintenance management program should include six-year projections of maintenance and capital needs in addition to facility and equipment replacement costs. Typical elements include playground equipment, community buildings, pavilions, shelters, restrooms, park furniture, irrigation systems, turf/tree/shrub areas, wading pools, spray pools, swimming pools, and sports facilities.

PRS 4.2 Park Traffic Patterns

Improve park traffic patterns for motorists, bicyclists, equestrians, and pedestrians.

PRS 4.3 Park Sign Plan

Implement and maintain a park sign plan throughout the City of Spokane that standardizes all park signs, including entrance, direction, and rules signs.

Discussion: This policy does not affect historic signs.

PRS 5 RECREATION PROGRAM

Goal: Assure an indoor and outdoor recreation program, which provides well-rounded recreational opportunities for citizens of all ages.

PRS 5.1 Recreation Opportunities

Provide and improve recreational opportunities that are easily accessible to all citizens of Spokane.

Discussion: Continue to support community-oriented special interest programs that are responsive to expressed demands, and that foster community support, and improve the health of the community.

PRS 5.2 Private Partnerships

Create public-private partnerships and develop incentives for a community-oriented sports and special interest program, which is responsive to expressed demands and fosters participant support of all ages and abilities.

Discussion: A potential partnership could include a sixteen-court indoor sports complex that is developed through public-private partnerships with Hoopfest and the Greater Spokane Sports Association.

PRS 5.3 Special Programs

Support special population participants in Spokane Parks and Recreation Department programs.

PRS 5.4 Community Information System

Promote parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities through an effective community information system, including the media, mail, telephone, and on the internet.

PRS 5.5 Indoor Recreational Facilities and Programs

Provide facilities and programs that afford the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of indoor recreational activities, such as fine arts, historical appreciation, performing arts, arts and crafts, fitness, swimming, and indoor athletics.

Discussion: This includes one or more additional indoor swimming pools, which are conveniently located and provide swimming for all age groups and abilities.

PRS 5.6 Outdoor Recreational Facilities

Provide facilities and programs that allow the public the opportunity to participate in a broad range of outdoor recreational activities.

Discussion: Having an abundance of outdoor recreation opportunities enhances the quality of life for existing residents as well as a draw for those who are considering moving to Spokane.

PRS 5.7 City Golf Courses

Continue to provide for and maintain the public golf courses in Spokane.

PRS 5.8 Recreation for Youth

Provide a diversity of recreation opportunities, in a safe, healthy manner that meet the interests of the community's youth.

Discussion: Support recreation and leisure alternatives for young people by involving youth in parks and open space planning and decision-making.

PRS 6 AGENCY COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

Goal: Encourage and pursue a climate of cooperation between government agencies, non-profit organizations, and private business in providing open space, parks facilities, and recreational services that are beneficial for the public.

PRS 6.1 Duplication of Recreational Opportunities

Facilitate cooperation and communication among government agencies, non-profit organizations, school districts, and private businesses to avoid duplication in providing recreational opportunities within the community.

PRS 6.2 Cooperative Planning and Use of Recreational Facilities

Conduct cooperative planning and use of recreational facilities with public and private groups in the community.

PRS 6.3 Joint Park and Open Space Planning

Ensure that parks, open space, and greenbelts are planned and funded in coordination with Spokane County prior to allowing urban development within the city's UGA, yet outside city limits.

PRS 7 PARKS SERVICE QUALITY

Goal: Provide a parks and recreation system that is enjoyable, efficient, financially responsible, and a source of civic pride.

PRS 7.1 Quality of Service

Provide high quality of service to the community in all parks and recreation programs, services, and facilities.

PRS 7.2 Modern Management Practices

Employ state-of-the-art techniques in the park and recreation profession by providing staff training, labor-saving equipment, automatic systems, durable materials, effective facility design, and responsive leisure services.

PRS 7.3 Standards and Policies

Maintain open communication and collaborative planning processes that help define service levels based on good management practices while providing quality service to the public.

Discussion: Open communication with all citizens is important to the Spokane Park Board. Open monthly committee and board meetings are held for this purpose. Service levels are defined through this process that may also include neighborhood, community, and special interest group meetings.

PRS 7.4 Volunteers

Encourage and recruit volunteers to serve on advisory boards for program and facility design, leadership in program offering, and community service labor.

PRS 7.5 Evaluations

Conduct continuous monitoring of the Spokane Parks and Recreation Department services, facilities, and programs through staff, participant, and public evaluations.

PRS 7.6 Strategic Plan

Develop a strategic plan to ensure elements of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces Plan are implemented.

Discussion: The Strategic Plan should include the top priority projects and dedicated funding sources of the Spokane Park Board in a six-year action plan format.


PRS 7.7 Public Participation

Ensure that decisions regarding the city's park and open space system encourage the full participation of Spokane's citizenry.

Discussion: The citizens of Spokane are passionate about their park system. When changes or additions are proposed for the park system, citizens should be given every opportunity to comment and participate. This policy is intended to apply to all councils, boards, commissions, and committees.

Appendix VI:

Incorporating a climbing boulder once current play equipment is in need of renewal raises questions about the liability of such a play structure. The following will address these concerns:



RCW 4.24.210

Liability of owners or others in possession of land and water areas for injuries to recreation users — Known dangerous artificial latent conditions — Other limitations.

(1) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, any public or private landowners, hydroelectric project owners, or others in lawful possession and control of any lands whether designated resource, rural, or urban, or water areas or channels and lands adjacent to such areas or channels, who allow members of the public to use them for the purposes of outdoor recreation, which term includes, but is not limited to, the cutting, gathering, and removing of firewood by private persons for their personal use without purchasing the firewood from the landowner, hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, swimming, hiking, bicycling, skateboarding or other non-motorized wheel-based activities, aviation activities including, but not limited to, the operation of airplanes, ultra-light airplanes, hang gliders, parachutes, and paragliders, rock climbing, the riding of horses or other animals, clam digging, pleasure driving of off-road vehicles, snowmobiles, and other vehicles, boating, kayaking, canoeing, rafting, nature study, winter or water sports, viewing or enjoying historical, archaeological, scenic, or scientific sites, without charging a fee of any kind therefor, shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to such users.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (3) or (4) of this section, any public or private landowner or others in lawful possession and control of any lands whether rural or urban, or water areas or channels and lands adjacent to such areas or channels, who offer or allow such land to be used for purposes of a fish or wildlife cooperative project, or allow access to such land for cleanup of litter or other solid waste, shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to any volunteer group or to any other users.

(3) Any public or private landowner, or others in lawful possession and control of the land, may charge an administrative fee of up to twenty-five dollars for the cutting, gathering, and removing of firewood from the land.

(4)(a) Nothing in this section shall prevent the liability of a landowner or others in lawful possession and control for injuries sustained to users by reason of a known dangerous artificial latent condition for which warning signs have not been conspicuously posted.

(i) A fixed anchor used in rock climbing and put in place by someone other than a landowner is not a known dangerous artificial latent condition and a landowner under subsection (1) of this section shall not be liable for unintentional injuries resulting from the condition or use of such an anchor.

(ii) Releasing water or flows and making waterways or channels available for kayaking, canoeing, or rafting purposes pursuant to and in substantial compliance with a hydroelectric license issued by the federal energy regulatory commission, and making adjacent lands available for purposes of allowing viewing of such activities, does not create a known dangerous artificial latent condition and hydroelectric project owners under subsection (1) of this section shall not be liable for unintentional injuries to the recreational users and observers resulting from such releases and activities.

(b) Nothing in RCW 4.24.200 and this section limits or expands in any way the doctrine of attractive nuisance.

(c) Usage by members of the public, volunteer groups, or other users is permissive and does not support any claim of adverse possession.

(5) For purposes of this section, the following are not fees:

(a) A license or permit issued for statewide use under authority of chapter 79A.05 RCW or Title 77 RCW;


(b) A pass or permit issued under RCW 79A.80.020, 79A.80.030, or 79A.80.040; and

(c) A daily charge not to exceed twenty dollars per person, per day, for access to a publicly owned ORV sports park, as defined in RCW 46.09.310, or other public facility accessed by a highway, street, or non-highway road for the purposes of off-road vehicle use.



Appendix VII: Data Sources

The following data sources were used when compiling this master plan:



U.S. Census Bureau

USGS National Map Viewer

Washington State Department of Ecology

City of Spokane

Spokane County

Google Earth

Martee Snyder (Maps)

Isaac Swanson (Maps, Photos)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov> (climbing bolder RCW)



Sky Prairie Park

Master Plan

September 2015