

# Parks and Recreation Element

## NARRATIVE

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Element is to ensure that adequate services and facilities are provided to the community. It functions to protect natural resources, provide for recreation, support economic development, promote public health, shape development, and provide for gathering places. It is important to realize that the value of the parks system is more than recreational, it is also valuable socially, economically, environmentally, culturally, and to the public health.

Parks and recreational facilities have become a measurement of a municipality's quality of life. A planned approach is necessary to provide a consistent, balanced, diverse, connected and equitable system. Guidelines and standards, however, must be flexible in order to take advantage of opportunities and meet the need for a wide range of recreational types among a diverse population.

South Jordan City is committed to providing its residents with quality park and recreational facilities. A 2006 analysis for the Parks and Recreation Master Plan inventoried nearly 400 acres of existing parks and open space, 109 acres of restricted access natural open space along the Jordan River, 66 acres of anticipated parks and open space, and 102,000 square feet of indoor facilities. A partial list of those facilities includes:

- South Jordan City Park
- Riverfront Park



- City Plaza (ice-skating, fountain, library)
- Various Neighborhood Parks
- Jordan River and Bingham Creek Trails
- South Jordan Fitness Center
- Mulligan's Golf and Games
- Community and Senior Center
- Gale Center Museum
- Holt Homestead Historic Home

The City owns a diverse portfolio of quality facilities that is well maintained by the parks and recreation department.

The City's demographics are different than that of the state and nation. South Jordan has a lower average age, a higher household size, and a higher median income. These traits are common among those who typically use park and recreational facilities often. A wider variety of uses is also desired among recreational users compared to the past. The high amount of use and the wide range of desired uses makes it impossible for the City to provide for every need. Other recreational providers are an

essential component in meeting the needs of residents. These providers include schools, the county, HOA's, churches, and private companies. The City supports and seeks for partnerships with many of these providers, as appropriate, in sharing resources and avoiding duplication of services, providing leverage for a higher level of service and quality of life.



The City's greatest challenge is maintaining the existing level of service faced with a high growth rate. As development has proceeded westward, City parks and recreational facilities have not yet been provided in those areas. Well established neighborhoods on the eastern side of the City have been provided for adequately. The Daybreak neighborhood has incorporated adequate facilities within its development. Some of the areas in between are currently underserved. Existing development often creates barriers to providing these facilities.

It is the City's desire to provide recreational facilities within walking

distance of all residents. An acceptable walking distance is generally thought to be between ¼ mile and ½ mile (a 5 to 10 minute walk). The completion of a city-wide trail system will provide a recreational component to these underserved areas. Trails have an inherent recreational value that is enhanced by providing access to other recreational facilities.

The problem of providing adequate facilities in existing development emphasizes the need for ongoing park and recreational planning. Clear and binding development standards will guide new development and redevelopment in providing necessary facilities. As the City continues to reach complete build out, the master plan for parks and recreation becomes increasingly important. Proposed locations of future parks, trails, and other facilities should be identified and incorporated with new development and redevelopment. The plan may also identify sensitive lands and natural resources for protection. Design guidelines are also an essential tool in providing for quality facilities, contributing to the overall level of service, and enhancing the City's character. Guidelines should consider principles of sustainability to establish efficient use of resources while minimizing maintenance needs and costs. The proper implementation of the parks and recreation element will ensure that all residents, existing and future, have access to high quality and diverse parks and recreational facilities.

## GOALS & POLICIES

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**Goal PR-1**     **Develop public park lands and facilities to meet the recreational and open space needs of current and future residents of South Jordan.**

- Policy PR-1.1 Establish Neighborhood Parks at a ratio of 0.75 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.
- Policy PR-1.2 Plan Neighborhood Parks to be of sufficient size and design for efficient operation and maintenance, generally 5 acres in area.
- Policy PR-1.3 Plan Neighborhood Parks to have a general service area of approximately one mile radius and to be located such that patrons may avoid having to cross arterial streets.
- Policy PR-1.4 Plan Neighborhood Parks to be designed to promote a safe and clean environment for recreation.
- Policy PR-1.5 Establish Community Parks at a ratio of 3.0 acres of park land per 1,000 residents.
- Policy PR-1.6 Plan Community Parks to be of sufficient size and design for efficient operation and maintenance, generally between 5 and 50 acres in area.
- Policy PR-1.7 Plan Community Parks to have a general service area of approximately 3 to 6 mile radius and located to provide adequate access from major streets.
- Policy PR-1.8 Complete and implement a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan identifying current and future needs for park land and facilities, methods for acquisition of land and funding for facility construction and maintenance.
- Policy PR-1.9 Preserve quality open space on large parcels through conservation easements or other methods of preservation.

**Goal PR-2**     **Provide a variety of recreation opportunities, both active and passive that meet the needs of South Jordan residents.**

- Policy PR-2.1 As financing allows, expand adult and youth sports and education programs and events.
- Policy PR-2.2 As financing allows, expand Senior Citizen programs and events.
- Policy PR-2.3 Cooperate and coordinate with private and other public recreation program and facility providers to enhance choice, access and convenience for City residents, i.e. the Equestrian Park.
- Policy PR-2.4 Investigate the potential of using school open space or other public space as park land.
- Policy PR-2.5 Monitor and balance the need for active vs. passive parks based upon the changing needs and demo-graphics of the City.
- Policy PR-2.6 Design detention/retention ponds to have dual uses, i.e. parks, rain gardens, or other vegetation.
- Policy PR-2.7 Consider innovative park activities that create com-munity identity and provide meaningful recreational acitivities, i.e. corn maze, frisbee golf.
- Policy PR-2.8 In cooperation with Salt Lake County, investigate methods and policies to ensure the long term viability of current and future Salt Lake County Park and Recreation properties and facilities (i.e. Marv Jensen Recreation Center, Sal Lake County Equestrian Park and Welby Park – areas of interst may include the most effective and efficient use of land, buildings, race track, fields, outbuildings, parking areas and arenas).

**Goal PR-3**     **Design and construct parks and facilities that require less maintenance, conserve natural resources and set examples for the community that are proactive regarding resource conservation.**

- Policy PR-3.1 Assure that the City ordinances and policies support the Parks and Recreation element of the General Plan.
- Policy PR-3.2 Provide for safe and well maintained parks and trails throughout the City.

Policy PR-3.3 Establish resource efficient design standards for City –wide parks and facilities to minimize maintenance problems and costs.

**Goal PR-4**     **Establish a trail system that provides a means of alternate transportation and a recreational resource.**

Policy PR-4.1 Complete and implement a comprehensive trails master plan identifying exact locations, alignments and methods of securing rights of way or easements.

Policy PR-4.2 Support the regional trail system and the Blue Print Jordan River Plan by completing the South Jordan portion of the Jordan River Parkway Trail.

Policy PR-4.3 Conduct a feasibility study and implement a plan incorporating canal corridor trails within the City-wide trail system.

Policy PR-4.4 Provide and locate strategically placed trail heads within the City that promote accessibility, walkability, and physical fitness.

Policy PR-4.5 Include trails, parks, and open space within industrial/commercial developments.

Policy PR-4.6 Collaborate with adjoining communities to properly connect inter-city trail systems.

Policy PR-4.7 Preserve existing trail easements within the City.

Policy PR-4.8 Incorporate the Southwest Aqueduct easement into the City's trail system.

Policy PR-4.9 Consider simple obstacle courses and exercise facilities adjacent to or within trail systems.

Policy PR-4.10 Enhance trail signage (including distances to activity centers) to increase safety and community identity.