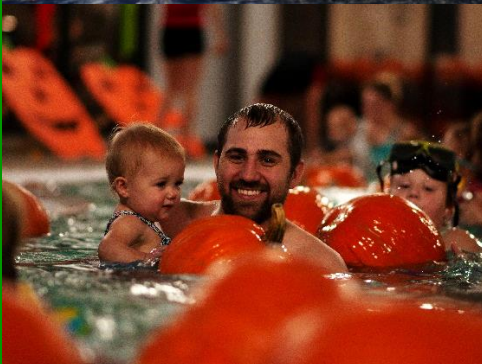




# Airway Heights Parks & Recreation

# MASTER PLAN



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## SECTION I

### PURPOSE & INTENT

The City of Airway Heights Parks and Recreation Plan is intended to lay the groundwork for the future of the City Park & Recreation System. The Park and Recreation Plan is designed to supplement the Parks and Recreation element of the City's Comprehensive Plan. It expands on the information contained in the Comprehensive Plan by providing significantly greater detail regarding the City, the department and the inventory of the Park and Recreation facilities. This plan inventories existing parks and identifies future park and recreation needs, outlines parks and recreation management and operations, discusses recreation program and services issues, and identifies parks and recreation, goals and objectives. This plan also contains an action plan which describes existing and potential funding sources that will be needed to meet level of service standards and maintain park facilities and recreation services.

This plan contains a detailed inventory of City parks, recreation facilities and related sites. The inventory is supplemented by a description of other facilities available to City residents; specifically, sites and facilities owned by Cheney School District and the Off Road Vehicle Park located outside the City that is owned and controlled by Spokane County. The analysis of this inventory involves an assessment of the size, location of each facility.

In all communities, Parks and Recreation facilities and programs provide an important personal, as well as social, outlet. Parks and Recreation facilities are common areas enjoyed by those people living within the City, those living adjacent to the City in the unincorporated county, as well as by visitors to the City. They provide places for exercise, sporting events, children's playgrounds, relaxation, and community gatherings. Parks and recreation areas also enhance the aesthetic quality of the City and the overall quality of life for its residents. They promote health and wellness, safety and security and economic development for the community. They serve as important community centers and are among the most enjoyed places within the community.

As with other facilities and services the City of Airway Heights provides, Parks and Recreation must be planned to meet the changing demands occurring with growth. As the population within the City limits and the West Plains increases, so too does the demand upon existing facilities and services. As such, Parks and Recreational opportunities must be expanded in order to meet these growing needs. Adequate land must be set-aside for these purposes and capital funds need to be available for development of the facilities. This Parks and Recreation Master Plan makes certain provisions to prepare for future needs so the citizens of Airway Heights will continue to enjoy a high level of Parks and Recreational opportunities in the years to come. This plan was developed pursuant to a public involvement process that sought to actively engage citizens from the Airway Heights Community.

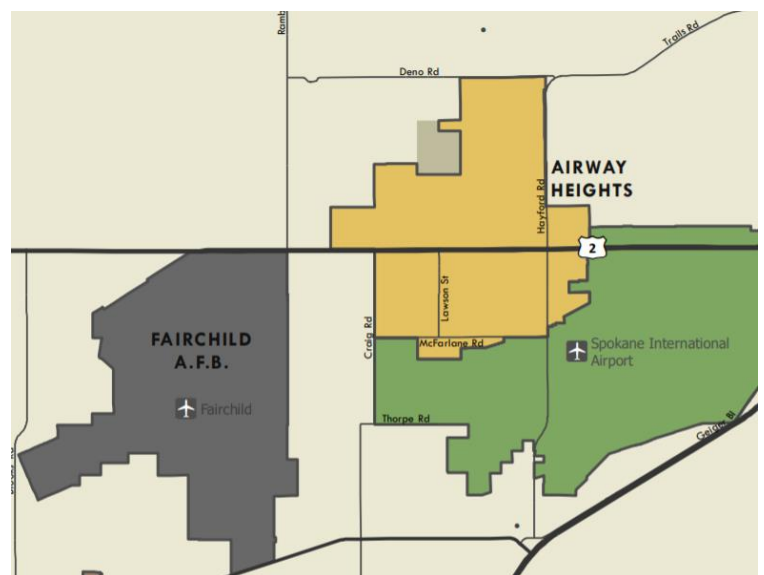
### GEOGRAPHICAL SETTING

One of the City's most important features is its proximity to Spokane, and its inclusion in the Spokane Metropolitan Statistical Area. Airway Heights is centrally located between Fairchild Air Force Base to the west, and Spokane International Airport to the southeast. Both facilities have an influence on the economic climate of Airway Heights and also play a major part in the overall community population.

The City is also bisected by U.S. Highway 2 and is located just north of Interstate 90. U.S. Highway 2 plays a major role in shaping the future development of the City. In addition to traversing the City, U.S. Highway 2 also has an extensive right-of-way which further divides the City into its "south" and "north" districts.

The south district is comprised primarily of industrial and commercial activities with scattered residential development while the North district consists of mostly residential and commercial uses.

As for the actual physical lay of the land, the City is relatively flat with some low, rolling hills. Changes in elevation do not exceed 100ft. The soils are primarily silt loam, with the average depth to the subsurface water table ranging from six to eight feet.



## HISTORY



In 1940, Carl and Flora Lundstrom purchased a section of land (640 acres), on the south side of the Sunset Highway (U.S. Highway 2). Recognizing the need for housing and businesses in the area, officials from the air depot approved the sale. In 1953, Carl Lundstrom announced plans to incorporate one square mile of the West Plains into the City of Airway Heights and on April 15, 1955 the City was incorporated by a 50 to 8 vote. The first City Council meeting was held on May 3, 1955 with Carl Lundstrom presiding as Mayor.

The City of Airway Heights is still a young and evolving community. Within the past decade, the City has experienced significant growth, placing increased demands on the City's ability to provide services and infrastructure. Due to limitations in available funding to meet these needs, the City must rely on fair and equitable project prioritization to meet the character and personality of the community, as well as look for creative and innovative ways to implement projects to meet demands. The City has a mix of temporary and long-term permanent residents, making planning for the City's future a challenging task. This results in a community of constant formation and continuous transition.

## POPULATION

Population tends to drive development. The demand for City park and recreation services tends to grow as population increases. Demand also increases for living areas, work areas, shopping areas, social and cultural areas, and the many other areas necessary for daily life. The data on the following tables are compiled from the U.S. Census Bureau and data from Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM).

Table 1.4 forecasts the likely population change over the next 20 years. The methodology for determining this forecast was based on the number provided by the State of Washington's Office of Financial Management (OFM) and the numbers assigned to the city by Spokane County Board of County Commissioners. The numbers in table 1.1 below do not reflect the population incarcerated at the Airway Heights Corrections Center as they do not pose an impact on the City's Park & Recreation infrastructure.

**Table 1.1** Population Forecast for Airway Heights, 2021 – 2041

Year	Population	Year	Population	Year	Population
2021	7,858	2028	9,688	2035	11,517
2022	8,120	2029	9,949	2036	11,779
2023	8,381	2030	10,211	2037	12,040
2024	8,642	2031	10,472	2038	12,301
2025	8,904	2032	10,733	2039	12,562
2026	9,165	2033	10,995	2040	12,823
2027	9,427	2034	11,256	2041	13,084

The 2020 population of Airway Heights places it as the 86<sup>th</sup> largest city in Washington. Airway Heights is currently growing at a rate of 3.65% annually and its population has increased by 66.88% since the most recent census in 2010. Airway Heights reached its highest population in 2021. Spanning over 6 miles, Airway Heights has a population density of 1,697 people per square mile.



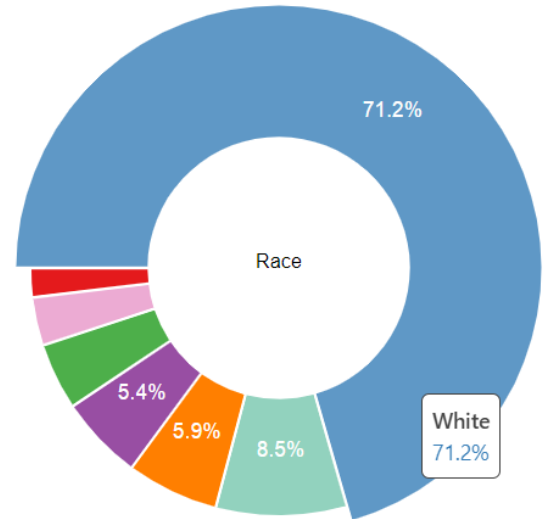
**Airway Heights Demographics**

Source: <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/airway-heights-wa-population>

Persons of color population Washington State = 31%, Airway Heights = 30%

The most recent racial composition of Airway Heights is:

- White: 71.19%
- Two or more races: 8.47%
- Asian: 5.91%
- Native American: 5.40%
- Black or African American: 4.25%
- Other race: 3.01%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 1.76%



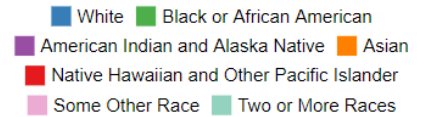
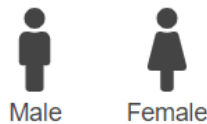
**Airway Heights Median Age**

33.1      34.3      30.4



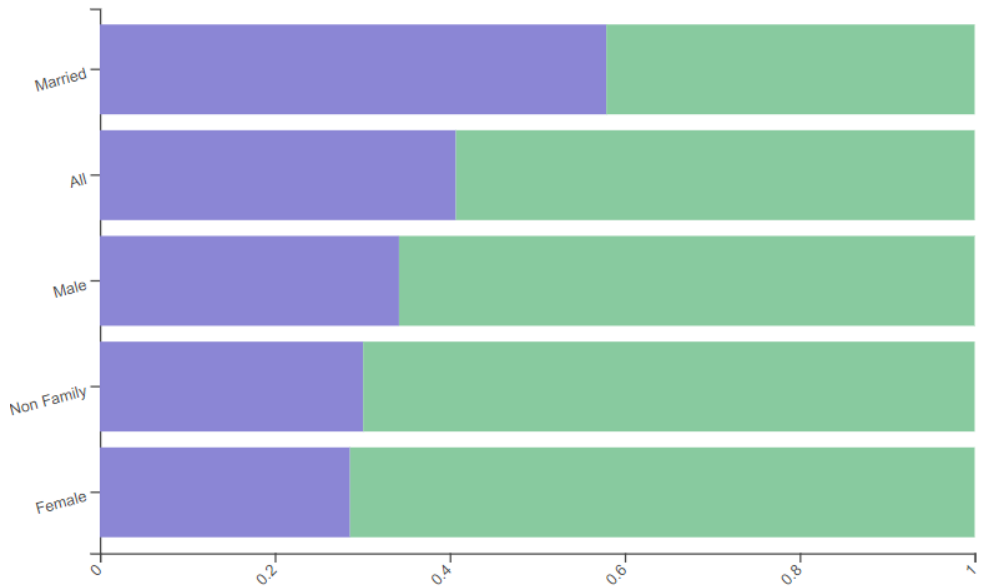
**Airway Heights Sex Ratio**

69.01%      30.99%



**Airway Heights Household Types**

Type	Owner	Renter
Married	57.9%	42.1%
All	40.7%	59.3%
Male	34.2%	65.8%
Non Family	30.1%	69.9%
Female	28.6%	71.4%



**Airway Heights**

**40.7% RATE OF HOME OWNERSHIP**

**Spokane**

**55.2% RATE OF HOME OWNERSHIP**

**Washington State**

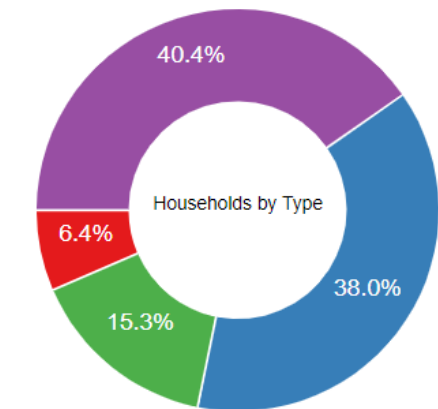
**63.3% RATE OF HOME OWNERSHIP**

**Airway Heights Households by Type**

Type	Count	Average Size	Owned
All	2,293	2.43	40.7
Non Family	926	1.48	30.1
Married	871	3.03	57.9
Female	350	3.2	28.6
Male	146	3.02	34.2

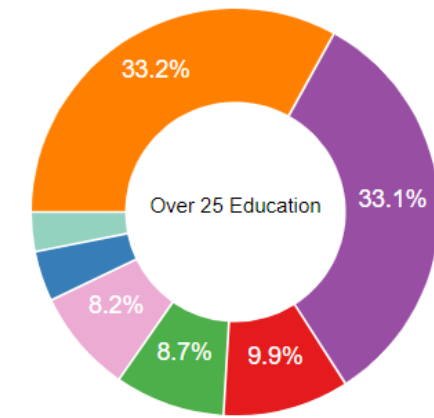
Average Family Size 2.95

Average Household Size 2.43



### Airway Heights Educational Attainment

Education Attained	Count	Percentage
Less Than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	242	3.88%
9 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	541	8.67%
High School Graduate	2,067	33.11%
Some College	2,075	33.11%
Associates Degree	621	9.95%
Bachelor's Degree	509	8.15%
Graduate Degree	187	3.00%



■ Less Than 9th Grade    ■ 9th To 12th Grade  
■ High School Grad    ■ Some College  
■ Associates Degree    ■ Bachelors Degree  
■ Graduate Degree

### Public Need

The following information is included to emphasize the need for new or improved facilities for underserved populations. The Recreation Conservation Office (RCO) which is the main funding source for Parks & Recreation in Washington State uses the Demographic Measures here for measuring the need in Underserved Populations. RCO utilizes census tract information and how a community compares to the State average to help establish Public Need for a specific project.

- The median household income level in the census tract where the project is located is below the median statewide household income level.
- Based on percentage, there are more people of color in the census tract where the project is located than the statewide percentage. (Listed in AH General Demographics Section)
- Based on percentage, there are more people with a disability in the census tract where the project is located than the statewide percentage.

### Opportunities for Health Improvements

- The body mass index for in the census tract where the project is located is higher than the state body mass index.

### Airway Heights Income Levels

Airway Heights Median Household Income = \$52,579, Washington State Median Household Income = \$73,775

In a perfect world Park & Recreation amenities are available to all community members regardless of their socioeconomic status. Parks & Recreation professionals strive to make facilities and programs accessible to people with low-incomes. The truth is that we struggle to meet the leisure needs of residents who are economically challenged. Problems of service delivery are exacerbated by the fact that economic inequality among residents is on the rise. The impact of fees and charges continue to limit access to recreation and park programs among people with low income. Fees and charges negatively impact lower income resident's access to leisure services. Even a modest fee to a program or recreation center may be enough to deter low-income earners from using these facilities.

In these fiscally challenging times, it is understandable that there is resistance to reduce fees and charges to make programs and services affordable to people with low income. These trends have been criticized as they undermine social equity but now that our recreation services are being called on to



generate revenues via fees and charges in order to make programs sustainable, fees and charges are likely to be a permanent fixture of how public park and recreation agencies do business.

### Airway Heights Percentage of Disabled Residents

Washington State Average = 13%, Airway Heights Average = 20%



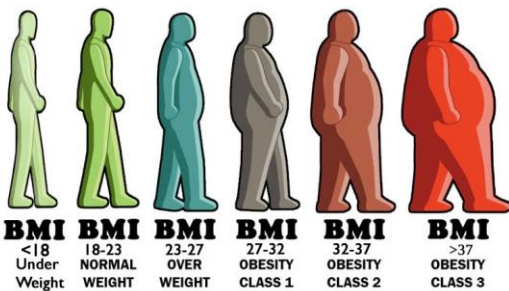
The philosophy of public parks and recreation is that all people regardless of race, ethnicity, age, income level, physical ability, sexual orientation, gender or religion are able to take advantage of quality programs, facilities, places and spaces that make their lives and communities great. Park and recreation agencies strive for greater inclusion. We face significant challenges in delivering on this promise. Limited financial and staffing resources make it difficult to serve those who may benefit the most from quality park and recreation services. The challenge we face is to continue developing a vibrant community, and supporting programs and policies that protect our most vulnerable residents from environmental and health hazards and remove barriers, both physical and theoretical, so that all people have an equal opportunity to enjoy the benefits of parks and recreation.



### Airway Heights Body Mass Index

Washington State Average BMI = 23, Airway Heights Average BMI = 24.26

BMI is a calculation of your size that takes into account your height and weight. A normal BMI is between 18.5 and 25; a person with a BMI between 25 and 30 is considered overweight; and a person with a BMI over 30 is considered obese. A person is considered underweight if the BMI is less than 18.5. As with most measures of health, BMI is not a perfect test. For example, results can be thrown off by pregnancy or high muscle mass, and it may not be a good measure of health for children or the elderly. In general, the higher your BMI, the higher the risk of developing a range of conditions linked with excess weight, including:



- Diabetes
- Arthritis
- Liver disease
- Several types of cancer (breast, colon, and prostate)
- High blood pressure (hypertension)
- High cholesterol
- Sleep apnea



## Airway Heights Mortality Rate

Airway Heights = 719.19, Washington State = 691.7

The importance of mortality statistics derives both from the significance of death in an individual's life as well as their potential to improve the public's health when used to systematically assess and monitor the health status of a whole community. The ability to visit and use parks and recreation areas influences health outcomes. This linkage demonstrates the importance of government funded parks and recreation services. As communities spend more per capita on parks and recreation, mortality decreases. The inverse of this relationship, wherein decreases in spending lead to an increase in overall mortality is cause for concern for the public health community. Park and recreation funding is often decreased in times of economic hardship in a manner more severe than other community services. Models suggest that these decreases have significant impacts on public health. Unsurprisingly—increases in funding for parks and recreation are associated with decreases in overall mortality over the past 30 years. In a time where people are searching for solutions to public health challenges, funding local parks and recreation services appears to be a valid approach.



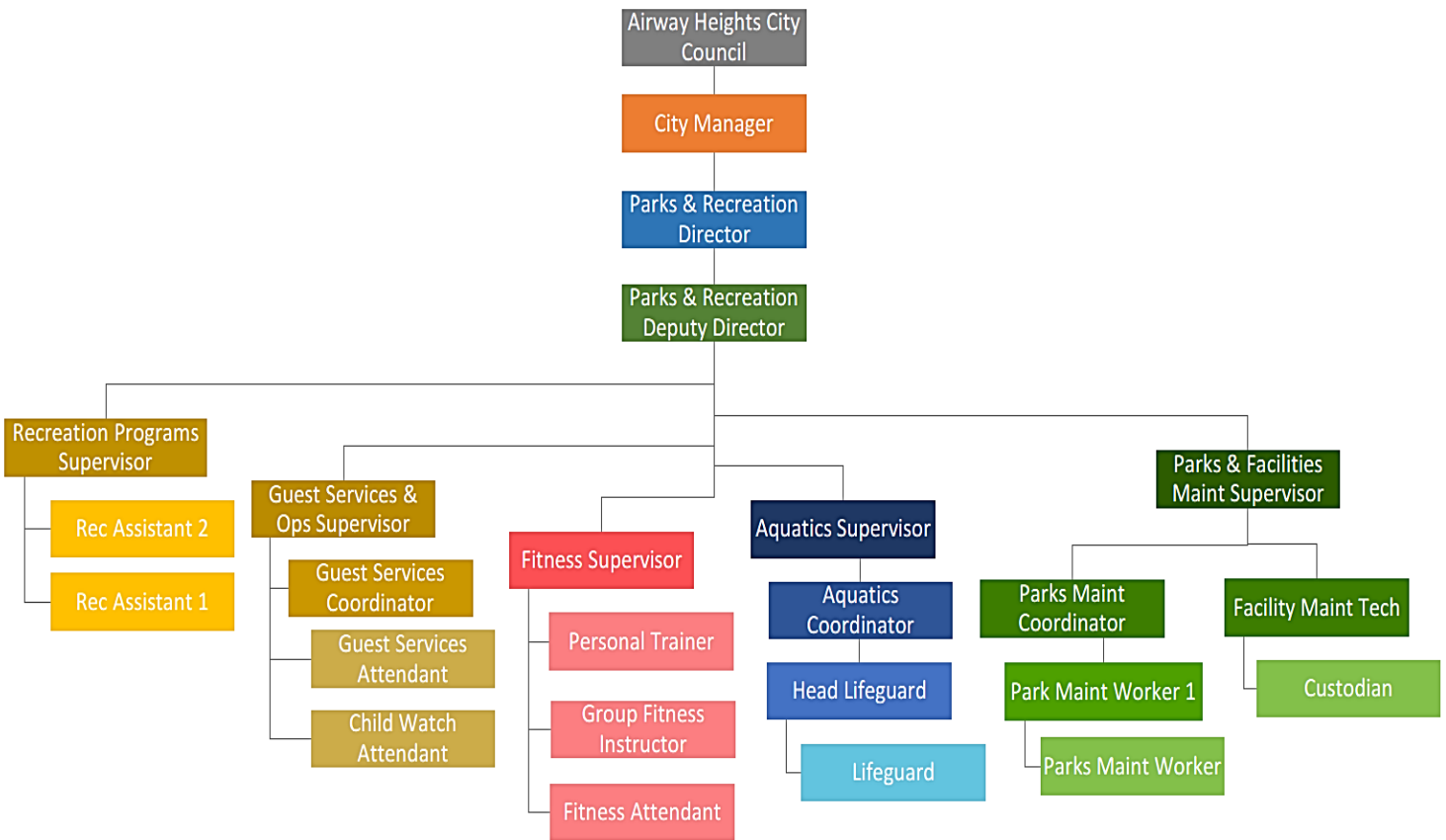
## SECTION II

### CITY ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The City of Airway Heights operates as a Code City with a Council/Manager form of government. Under this form of Government, the Mayor presides at meetings of the City Council. In addition to the Powers conferred upon him as Mayor, he has the rights, privileges and immunities of a member of City Council. The Mayor is recognized as the head of the City for ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of military law and has no regular administrative duties. The City Manager oversees City operations and specifically the maintenance and operations of City owned facilities.

The Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department has the responsibility for maintenance and operation of the City parks and recreation programs.

**Table 2.1** below outlines the organizational structure for the department.



## **PARK ADVISORY BOARD**

The board consists five individuals who are citizens of recognized confirmed fitness for such positions who have an interest in the City. Following the appointment by the Mayor, the members are confirmed by the City Council. The terms of the members are three years. The members elect a president, a secretary and such other officers as they deem necessary, these appointments are for a one year period. Election of officers occurs yearly at the first meeting following January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. It is the duty of the president to reside at all the meetings of the Board and of the secretary to keep notes at all proceedings of the Board. A majority of the board constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business and a majority vote of those present is necessary to carry any proposition. Meetings of the board are held the first Thursday following the first Monday of each month. The board advises city staff regarding the direction of the parks in the planning and development of facilities and programs. The board serves on a volunteer basis and receives no compensation for their service.

<b>Position</b>	<b>Park Advisory Board Appointee</b>	<b>Term Ends</b>
#1	Ms. Mary Beth Ochoa	1/31/2023
#2	Mr. Davin Perry	1/31/2024
#3	Mr. Jacob Powers	1/31/2023
#4	Mrs. Shannon Lacambra	1/31/2022
#5	Mr. Steven Titus	1/31/2022

### **Our Mission**

We Create Community & Quality of Life through People, Parks & Programs

### **Our Vision**

We strengthen our community's fabric, health and well-being, economic base and security. Our resident's value neighborhood and community parks as special natural places where they can relax, walk, enjoy family time, and seek spiritual renewal. As our quality of life has been threatened by crime, family disintegration, and other modern pressures, the Parks and Recreation Department – in partnership with our School District, the Airway Heights Kiwanis Club and other community-based organizations and businesses continues to provide diverse and innovate programming to increase community health and stability. Today, the Parks and Recreation Department provides much more than recreation experiences.

### **We Strengthen Community Image and Sense of Place**

Parks, recreation facilities, programs and community events are key factors in strengthening community image and creating a sense of place.

### **We support Economic Development**

Recreation programs and facilities attract and retain businesses and residents, as well as tourists. Parks and recreation provides jobs and generates income for the community and for local businesses.

### **We Strengthen Safety and Security**

Park and recreation professionals provide safe environments for recreation activities and design programs and services specifically to reduce criminal activity.

### **We Promote Health and Wellness**

Participation in recreation activities improves physical, social and emotional health that positively impacts community health and wellness.

### **We Foster Human Development**

Parks and recreation services foster social, intellectual, physical and emotional development.

### **We Increase Cultural Unity**

Parks and recreation increases cultural unity through experiences that promote cultural understanding and celebrate diversity.

### **We Protect Environmental Resources**

By acquiring and protecting valuable resources as open space, greenways, areas, and natural resources are protected and habitat required for the survival of diverse species is preserved.



## **We Provide Recreational Experiences**

Through programmed and self-facilitated recreation, a variety of benefits to individuals, families, neighborhoods, and communities are achieved. Recreational experiences are important as an end in themselves for personal enjoyment.

## **We Facilitate Community Problem Solving**

Park and recreation professionals possess facilitation and leadership skills that can be applied to resolve community problems and issues.

*Parks and Recreation in Airway Heights provides the Space to Learn & Play to be Safe & Secure to Create & Imagine. We provide the Place, Space and Experiences that Build High Self-Esteem and the feeling of Living a Full Life.*

## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

There are several overarching principles that guide all aspects of the Airway Heights Parks & Recreation Department's services. These principles form the basis for implementing this Master Plan.

### **Health as Our Fundamental Purpose**

Physical activity and leisure contribute to our individual health, and the presence of park and recreation services enhance the quality of health in our community. AHPR's fundamental purpose is to provide an excellent infrastructure of parks, facilities and programs that makes healthy lifestyles for all members of the community possible. We support good health for people of all abilities, ages, socio-economic backgrounds, and ethnicities.

- Reduced feelings of depression, anxiety and improved emotional wellbeing - helps people feel more confident, happy and relaxed, with improved self-esteem and self-concept.
- Reduced risk of developing diabetes and prevention and treatment of non-insulin dependent diabetes - it has been estimated that 30 to 50 percent of new cases of type 2 diabetes could be prevented by appropriate physical levels of activity.
- Reduced risk of heart disease and stroke.
- Reduced risk of developing high blood pressure and reduced blood pressure in people who already have high blood pressure.
- Prevention of some cancers.
- Reduced risk of becoming overweight.

### **Partnerships**

Providing a high-quality parks and recreation system for the Airway Heights community requires constant collaboration with stakeholders and other service providers. We could not do what we do at AHPR without the active support of our partners. AHPR will actively foster and maintain partnerships within the community to provide the most effective and efficient facilities and services possible. Our partners offer a wide range of reduced-cost programs, volunteer service events, scholarships, and more to community members, especially those belonging to underrepresented groups. The partnerships may be formed around a single activity or event, or they may be long-term and multi-faceted.

### **The Common Good**

AHPR provides programs and facilities that strengthen the community through physical wellness, environmental health, economic vitality and social equity. Ensuring that park and recreation services promote the public good and are accessible to all community members is not always easy but is critical to the welfare of the entire community. Parks and recreation services provide a space and a reason to partake in enjoying quality time, relaxation, and fun among family members and friends, thus strengthening the social and familial bonds that provide balance and satisfaction in life. Communities are safer as a result of a wholesome atmosphere created by well-managed parks and recreation services. We are agents of the Common Good in our community through the provision of healthy activities and programming for all people.

## **Service Excellence**

Providing high-quality programs and facilities yields high-quality experiences and outcomes. Founded on a passion for offering excellent services and carrying out the departments Mission and Vision, AHPR staff are committed to providing outstanding experiences for all users.

- Service is about sharing information with each other so we can continuously learn.
- Service is about yearning to be the best and being proud of being a part of AHPR team.
- Service is about a passion for improving the quality of life in our community that drives us to be the best of what our community has to offer and defines our culture and how we conduct business.

## **Continuous Improvement**

Identifying and applying emerging best practices makes programs and services more effective and helps maintain relevance and legitimacy as our community and work evolves. AHPR emphasizes the continuous improvement of parks, facilities and programs through ongoing evaluation and enhancement. We will continually strive to provide higher levels of:

- **Accountability:** Foster an environment where every team member owns their role and feels fully responsible for success or failure in it.
- **Collaboration:** Our team members work together so that Airway Heights Parks and Recreation assets operate efficiently.
- **Aligned vision:** Everyone understands the overall vision of the department. We are all moving in the same direction.
- **Performance:** Our team members continually strive to perform their roles at the highest level.

## **Sustainable Practices**

Ensuring an environmentally, economically and socially sustainable future is an overarching priority for the Airway Heights community. AHPR will serve as a leader in using and promoting sustainable practices in providing parks, facilities and programs. Parks are key community stakeholders when it comes to addressing the effects of climate change. From protecting water resources via green infrastructure practices, to reducing urban heat island effect through city tree canopy development - parks play a critical role in ensuring that our community successfully adapts and thrives.

- Offer transportation alternatives that reduce carbon footprints
- Improve air quality by increasing tree canopy
- Reduce storm-water runoff through green infrastructure

## SECTION III

### PARK CLASSIFICATION & DESIGN

The following guidelines are taken from **Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines**, a publication of the National Recreation & Park Association by James D. Mertes, Ph.D., CLP and James R. Hall, CLP. The following classifications are intended to be used as guidelines at the local level. The revised classifications for parks, recreation areas, and opens spaces expand upon past classifications to take into consideration local community needs.

Park facilities can generally be classed into various categories, such as Mini Parks, Neighborhood Parks, School Parks and Community Parks, each designed to meet the needs of a different type of user group. This section describes each type of park and certain design considerations that influence the placement and design of these parks.

#### Mini Park

Mini Park is the smallest park classification and is used to address limited or isolate recreational needs. Examples include:

- Concentrated or limited populations.
- Isolated development areas.
- Unique recreational opportunities.

In a residential setting, vest-pocket parks serve the same general purpose as mini-parks and tot-lots of the past. They are also intended to address unique recreational needs, such as:

- Landscaped public use area in an industrial/commercial area.
- Scenic overlooks.
- A play area adjacent to the downtown shopping district.

Although in the past the classification mini-park was often oriented toward active recreation, the new classification has a broader application that includes both active and passive uses. Examples of passive uses include picnic areas, arbors, and sitting areas.

**Location & Criteria:** Although demographics and population density play a role in location, the justification for a Mini Park lies more in servicing a specific recreational need or taking advantage of a unique opportunity. Given the potential variety of Mini Park activities and locations the service area will vary. In a residential setting, however, the service area is usually less than a ¼ mile in radius. Accessibility by way of interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume residential streets increases use opportunities and therefore is an important consideration.

**Size Criteria:** Typically mini parks are between 2,500 square feet and one acre in size, however, park areas less than 5 acres would technically be considered a mini park. Anything larger would be considered a neighborhood park.

**Site Selection Criteria / Guidelines:** Servicing a specific recreation need, ease of access from the surrounding area, and linkage to the community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a site. The site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for its intended uses. It should have well-drained and suitable soils with positive drainage. The desirable amount of topographical change and vegetation is dependent upon intended uses. Usually, these sites are fairly level. Vegetation (natural or planted) should be used to enhance its aesthetic qualities rather than impede development. Ideally, it should also have adjacency to other park system components, most notably greenways and the trail system.

**Development Parameters / Recreation Activity Menus:** Customer input should be the primary determinant of the development program for a mini park. Although these parks often include elements similar to that of a neighborhood park, there are no specific criteria to guide development of facilities. Given their size, they are typically not intended to be used for programmed activities. Parking is typically not required. Site lighting should be used for security and safety.

#### Neighborhood Park

Neighborhood Parks remain the basic unit of the park system and serve as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. They should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities geared specifically for those living within the service area. Accommodating a wide variety of age and user groups, including children, adults, the elderly, and special populations, is important. Creating a sense of place by bringing together the unique character of the site with that of the neighborhood is vital to successful design.

**Location & Criteria:** A neighborhood park should be centrally located within its service area, which encompasses a ¼ to ½ mile distance uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers. These distances might vary depending on development diversity. The site should be accessible from throughout its service area by way of interconnecting trails, sidewalks, or low-volume residential streets. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park. A person's propensity to use a neighborhood park is greatly reduced if they perceive it to be difficult to access or not within a reasonable walking distance. Frequently neighborhood parks are developed adjacent to elementary schools.



**Size Criteria:** Demographic profiles and population density within the park's service area are the primary determinants of a neighborhood park's size. Generally 5 acres is accepted as the minimum size necessary to provide space for a menu of recreation activities, 7 to 10 acres is considered optimal.

**Site Selection Criteria / Guidelines:** Ease of access from the surrounding neighborhood, central location, and linkage to greenways are the key concerns when selecting a site. The site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for both active and passive recreational uses. Since one of the primary reasons people go to a park is to experience a pleasant outdoor environment, the site should exhibit some innate aesthetic qualities. "Left-over" parcels of land that are undesirable for development are generally undesirable for neighborhood parks as well and should be avoided. Additionally, it is more cost effective to select a site with inherent aesthetic qualities, rather than trying to create them through extensive site development. Given the importance of location, neighborhood parks should be selected before a subdivision is platted and acquired as part of the development process.

The site should have well-drained and suitable soils and level topography. Ideally, it should be connected to other park system components such as natural resource areas, lakes, ponds, and greenways. Land within a flood plain should only be considered if the facilities are constructed above the 100 year flood elevation. Although a minimum park size of 5 acres is recommended, the actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses.

**Development Parameters / Recreation Activity Menus:** Since each neighborhood in a community is unique, neighborhood input should be used to determine the development program for the park. The guidelines presented here should be used as a framework to guide program development and ensure consistency with other park system components. They should not be used as an impediment to creative design outcomes.

Development of a neighborhood park should seek to achieve a balance between active and passive park uses. Active recreational facilities are intended to be used in an informal and unstructured manner. With the exception of limited use by youth teams, neighborhood parks are not intended to be used for programmed activities that result in overuse, noise, parking problems, and congestion.

A menu of potential active recreation facilities includes play structures, court games, "informal" playfield or open space, tennis courts, volleyball courts, shuffleboard courts, horseshoe area, ice skating area, wading pool, and activity room. Facilities for passive activities include internal trails, picnic/sitting areas, general open space, and "people watching" areas. As a general rule, active recreational facilities should consume roughly 50% of the park's acreage. The remaining 50% should be used for passive activities, reserve, ornamentation, and conservation as appropriate. Developing an appealing park atmosphere should be considered an important design element.

The site should accommodate 7 to 10 off street parking spaces, for use by those who choose or need to drive to the park. Park lighting should be used for security and safety, with very limited lighting on facilities, preferably lighted tennis courts only.

### **School Park**

By combining the resources of two public agencies, the School-Park classification allows for expanding the recreation, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost effective manner.

Depending on the circumstances, school-park sites often complement other community open lands. As an example, an elementary/middle school site could serve as a neighborhood park. Likewise, a middle or high school could serve as a community park or as youth athletic fields. Depending on its size, one school-park site may serve in a number of capacities, such as a neighborhood park, youth athletic fields, and a school. Given the inherent variability of type, size, and location, determining how a school-park site is integrated into the park system will depend on the particular circumstances of the community. The important outcome in the joint-use relationship is that both the school district and the park system benefit for shared use of facilities and land area.

**Location Criteria:** for the most part, the location of a school-park site will be determined by the school district based on local policy for the distribution of schools. Given this, the location of a school will often dictate how it is best integrated into the park and recreation system. Where planning efforts coincide, attempts should be made to coordinate the needs of the school district with that of the park and recreation system. This allows for siting, acquisition, and facility development to be responsive to community needs in a most effective and efficient manner. Service areas for school-park depend on the type of use. They should be surrounded by neighborhood streets.

**Size Criteria:** The optimum size of a school-park site is dependent upon its intended use. The size criteria established for Neighborhood Park and Community Park classifications should be used as appropriate. The school lands, including the building or special use facilities, should not be considered in the LOS.

**Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines:** The criteria established for Neighborhood Park and Community Park classifications should be used to determine how a school-park site should function. The key factor is to ensure that the site exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for intended uses.

**Development Parameters/Recreation Activity Menus:** The criteria established for Neighborhood Park and Community Park should be used to determine how a school-park site is developed. Where feasible, if athletic fields are developed at a school-park site, they should be oriented toward youth rather than adult programs.

Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school-park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facilities issues. Different populations in a larger service area challenge planners to fashion the proper recreation activity menu to meet local needs.

### **Community Park**

Community parks are larger in size and serve a broader purpose than neighborhood parks. Their focus is on meeting the recreation needs of several neighborhoods, large sections of the community, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. They allow for group activities and offer other recreational opportunities not feasible, nor perhaps desirable, at the neighborhood level. As with neighborhood parks, they should be developed for both active and passive recreation activities.

**Location Criteria:** A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods. Although its service area should be ½ mile to 3 miles in radius, the quality of the natural resource base should play a significant role in site selection. The site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets. Community parks should be strategically sited throughout the community, their locations can be significantly impacted by other types of parks. Most notable among these are school parks, natural resource areas, and regional parks, each of which may provide some of the same recreational opportunities provided in community parks. The level of service these other parks provide should be used, in part, as justification for or against a community park in a specific area.

**Size Criteria:** Demographic profiles, population density, resource availability, and recreation demand within its service area are the primary determinants of a community park's size. Although an optimal size for a community park is between 20 and 50 acres, its actual size should be based on the land area needed to accommodate desired uses.

**Site Selection Criteria / Guidelines:** The site's natural character should play a very significant role in site selection, with emphasis on sites that preserve unique landscapes within the community and/or provide recreational opportunities not otherwise available. Ease of access from throughout the service area, geographically centered, and relationship to other park areas are also key concerns in site selection.

The site should exhibit physical characteristics appropriate for both active and passive recreation use. It should have suitable soils, positive drainage, varying topography, and a variety of vegetation. Where feasible, it should be adjacent to natural resource areas and greenways. These linkages tend to expand the recreational opportunities within the community and enhance one's perception of surrounding open space.

**Development Parameters Recreation Activities Menu:** Neighborhood and community input should be the primary determinant of development for a community park. As with a neighborhood park, community parks are typically developed for both active and passive uses. Although active recreation facilities are intended to be used in an informal and unstructured manner, reserved and programmed use is compatible and acceptable. However, community parks are not intended to be used extensively for programmed adult athletic use and tournaments.

A menu of potential active recreation facilities includes large play structures and/or creative play attractions, game courts, informal ball fields for youth play, tennis courts, volleyball courts, horseshoe areas, ice skating areas and swimming pools. Passive activity facilities include extensive internal trails (that connect to the community trail system), individual and group picnic/sitting areas, general open space and unique landscapes/features, nature study areas, and ornamental gardens. Facilities for cultural activities, such as plays and concerts in the park, are also appropriate. The distribution of land area between active and passive recreation, reserve, ornamentation, conservation, and cultural areas is determined on a site by site basis.

Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate user access. Park Lighting should be used for security, safety, and lighting facilities as appropriate.

### **Sports Complex**

The Sports Complex classification consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. This allows for:

- Economies of scale and higher quality facilities.
- Improved management / scheduling.
- Improved control of the facility use.

- Greater control of negative impacts to neighborhood and community parks, such as overuse, noise, traffic congestion, parking, and domination of facilities by those outside the neighborhood.

Sports complexes should be developed to accommodate the specific needs of user groups and athletic associations based on demands and program offerings. Where possible, school-park sites should be used for youth athletics such as Tee-ball, soccer, and flag football, to minimize duplication of facilities; athletic fields are a good example of the multiple use concept in park facility grouping. The fields can be used for a variety of sports so as to accommodate more participants. Also, the facility can be scheduled more heavily than a single use facility. Sports Complexes include fields and courts for softball, soccer, tennis, basketball, volleyball, and racket ball.

**Location Criteria:** Sport complexes should be viewed as strategically located community-wide facilities rather than serving well-defined neighborhoods or areas. They should be located within reasonable and equal driving distance from populations served. Locating them adjacent to non-residential land uses is preferred. Buffering (topographic breaks, vegetation, etc.) should be used where facilities are located adjacent to residential areas. Identifying athletic field sites prior to residential development is critical to avoiding long term conflicts. Sites should be accessible from major thoroughfares. Direct access through residential areas should be avoided. Given that athletic facilities will likely be used for league play and tournaments, access routes from outside the community should also be considered. The site should be easily accessible by way of interconnecting trails, as well.

Projected facility needs based on demographic profiles, age-group population forecasts, and participation rates should be used to determine the facilities menu for a sports complex. The space requirements should be facility driven to meet projected need. Space for adequate spectator seating should be provided. Consideration should be given to acquiring an additional 20% to 25% of the total acreage for reserve against unforeseen space needs. To minimize the number of sites required, each site should be a minimum of 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal.

**Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines:** The site should exhibit physical characteristics appropriate for developing athletic facilities. Topography and soils are of the utmost concern in this instance. Although extreme topographical change should be avoided, some elevation change is desirable to allow for drainage and to give the site some character. Well drained and suitable soils are also important. Natural vegetation along the perimeter of the site and in non-field areas is desirable in that it adds to the overall visual appeal of the site. Locating sports complexes adjacent to other park system components, especially natural resource areas and greenways, is also desirable to buffer their impact on surrounding land uses. Access to public utilities must also be considered.

**Development Parameters:** Projected demand for specific types of facilities should be the primary determinant of a sports complexes development program.

Sports complexes are intended for programmed athletic use, such as adult organized softball, etc. and tournaments. Sports complexes increase tourism, drawing both tournament participants and spectators. A menu of potential facilities includes ball-fields, soccer fields, football fields, outdoor and indoor skating rinks, tennis courts, play structures, hard-courts, and volleyball courts. Internal trails should provide access to all facilities as well as connection to the pathway system. Group picnic areas and shelters should also be considered. Support facilities include multipurpose buildings, restrooms, and common space.

Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate participants and spectators. Lights should be used for security, safety, and lighting facilities as appropriate. Field lighting should not be located so as to create a nuisance to nearby residents. Also, note that each sport's governing body provides specific facility development standards.

### Special Use Park

The special; use classification covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use. Special uses generally fall into three categories:

- Historic/Cultural/Social Sites-unique local resources offering historical, educational, and cultural opportunities. Examples include historic downtown areas, performing arts parks, arboretums, ornamental gardens, performing arts facilities, indoor theaters, churches, public buildings, and amphitheaters.
- Recreation Facilities – specialized or single purpose facilities. Examples include community centers, senior centers, community theaters, hockey arenas, marinas, golf courses, and aquatic parks. Frequently community buildings are located in neighborhood and community parks.
- Outdoor Recreation Facilities – examples include tennis centers, softball complexes, and sports stadiums.

**Location Criteria:** Recreation need, community interests, the type of facility, and land availability are the primary factors influencing location. Special use facilities should be viewed as strategically located community-wide facilities rather than as serving well-defined neighborhoods or areas. The site should be easily accessible from arterial and collector streets, where feasible. It should also be accessible from the light traffic system.



**Size Criteria:** Facility space requirements are the primary determinants of site size. As an example, a golf course may require 150 acres, whereas a community center with parking may fit on 10 or 15 acres.

**Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines:** Where feasible, a geographically central site is optimal. Given the variety of potential special uses, no specific standards are defined for site selection. As with all park types, the site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for its use.

**Development Parameters/Recreation Activities Menu:** Since each special use facility is unique, community input through surveys and focus meetings should be the primary determinant of its development program. There are numerous technical books, manuals, and planning guidelines in the literature addressing the preservation, restoration, operation, maintenance, and interpretation of historic and cultural sites, buildings and artifacts.

## SECTION IV

### PARKS & RECREATION INVENTORY

The existing park and recreation facilities and services provide the basis upon which to build a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. An inventory and assessment of the location, quantity, and quality of such facilities and services provides the basis for comparing existing supply against the current and the future park and recreation demand. An understanding of the existing system's facilities and capabilities will help determine the extent of improvements necessary to meet future demand.

The City of Airway Heights parks system is currently comprised of 6 parks encompassing 33.11 acres and has acquired two additional properties for future development. The Airway Heights Recreation Complex was acquired in 2010 from Spokane County. The City also operates a Recreation Center at the Complex and has a partnership in place with Sunset Elementary School (operated by Cheney School District) allowing additional recreational opportunities to take place. Figure 4.1 below shows the current park land inventory and the Park & Recreation Facility locator map is on the following page.

**Figure 4.1** *Park Land Inventory*

Park Name	Developed Acres	Undeveloped Acres
Sunset Park	9.6 Acres	*
Shorty Combs Park	2 Acres	*
Cleveland Park	2.04 Acres	*
Landreth Park	8.5	*
Traditions Park	0.97 Acres	*
Recreation Complex	10 Acres	50 Acres

The following is a list and description of the parks and recreational opportunities within the City of Airway Heights.

**Sunset Park:** Approximately 9.6 acres, this park is located in a residential neighborhood in the northwest area of the City at 924 South Lawson St. It serves both young and old, providing a baseball/softball field, a skate park, volleyball court, a basketball court and age-appropriate playgrounds for pre-kindergarten and grade school age children. There are also picnic facilities, including covered picnic shelters. Paved parking is available at the perimeters of the park, along with jogging/walking trails. There is a Splash Pad adjacent to the location of the handicap accessible Restroom facilities. The Parks & Recreation Department maintenance facilities are also found within the park boundaries.





## Summary of Existing Conditions Sunset Park

For this analysis only the items within the Park that are of concern are included.

**Trail System:** The trail system in Sunset Park is approximately 1/3 of a mile in length, with smaller cross sections added that connect interior aspects of the park. This pathway system is heavily used by community residents. The section of pathway that runs along the outfield fence line of Martella Field is heaving from tree roots that have grown and pushed up the asphalt. The section of pathway that runs north/south along King Street has similar issues where tree roots are heaving the asphalt. The heaving in these areas creates cracks that continue to worsen with the annual freeze and thaw cycle in winter months.





**Skate Park:** Installed in 2001 over the old tennis courts the equipment is 10 years beyond the manufacturer’s warranty. The equipment is showing significant signs of wear but is still structurally solid. Graffiti has been an issue since the equipment was installed. The cracks in the surface area continue to worsen with annual freeze and thaw cycles.



**Basketball Court:** In 2016 the basketball court was updated with new backboards and rims installed in partnership with Hoopfest organization, the court cracks were filled with sealer and the entire court was seal coated, and the basketball court lines were repainted. A new bench and garbage can were also installed. The cracks in the surface of the court continue to worsen with annual freeze and thaw cycles. Heavy equipment placed on the court when the Phone Communications were updated on the water tower also caused damage to the edge of the court. Annual or semi-annual seal coating of the court and painting of the lines would be a great improvement and extend the life of the surface.



**Picnic Shelter #1:** Located adjacent to the Park Maintenance Building this shelter has three structures with a barbecue pit in the center. The posts of the roof structures are showing severe signs of rot. The roof structure is missing singles in several areas.





**Picnic Shelter #2:** Located off of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue next to the basketball court. This shelter's roof system is showing signs of severe weathering with support beams showing signs of rotting and it is starting to buckle in places.



**Picnic Shelter #3:** Located in the northwest corner of the park at King and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue this shelter is showing signs of severe wear similar to Shelter #2 with the roof supports showing signs of buckling and rotting.

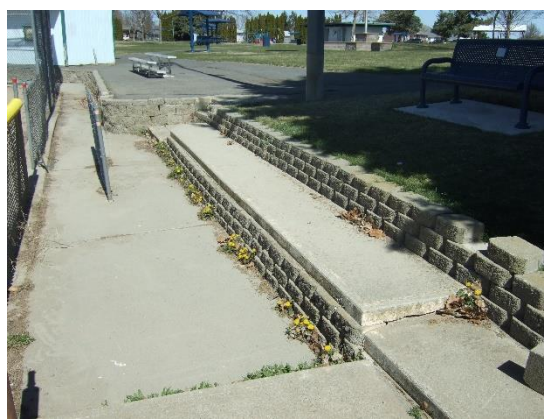


**Old Restrooms:** These restrooms have been out of service since 2014 when we installed the new restroom as a part of the installation of the Rotary Splash Pad project. The installation of the new restroom was part of a Spokane Regional Health District requirement. The goal was to demolish the old restroom and splash pad and reclaim that area of the park to gain additional open space replacing the space that the new splash pad and restrooms took away along Lawson St. The demolition was held for two reasons. Spokane County was housing 911 communications equipment in a portion of the old restrooms. In 2016 the County switched to a new communications system and abandoned the space in the old restroom. This left the relocation of the Public Works Department's water tower telemetry system as the only hold up on the demolition of the old restroom structure. When we remove the restroom power to the Martella Field storage will need to be re-routed with a new conduit run from either the Park Maintenance Building or the installation of a new conduit from King Street. We will also need a new panel added in the storage shed.





**Martella Field:** The outfield fence is lacking a protective fencing cap. Installing a screen along the length of the outfield fence line would also be a welcome improvement. The field lacks dugouts and should have the foul fence line extended at a greater height for safety.



**Home Plate Ballfield Storage:** The siding around the base of the building is rotting. The trim pieces are rotting and pulling away from the building.



**Park Perimeter Planting Areas:** These areas would benefit from routine applications of bark mulch in the beds. Wind storms have caused damage to trees leading to the removal. Stumps still need removal.





**Water Tower Equipment:** The addition of a fence screen similar to what would be installed on Martella Field outfield fence would greatly improve the appearance of this area.



**Big Eyes, Big Ears:** A 1993 Washington State Arts Commission Project. Artists – Bill & Mary Buchen. Interactive sculpture that consists of a periscope that overlooks the adjacent park, two sound reflecting parabolic dishes and a metal drum, all located on a man-made hill. This piece was installed before the surrounding neighborhoods were developed. The periscope had to be partially removed due to complaints from neighbor's complaints about it having the ability to look straight into their homes. The rotation was restricted and the binoculars were removed. The piece has been vandalized by patrons filling the pieces that run underground with debris. The underground pipes connect the pieces, having them filled disables the intended function of the piece. We have made requests to the Arts Commission to remove this project.



**Irrigation System:** This system was updated in 2016 when the new restrooms were installed. One section that still needs attention is the southern section adjacent to Sunset Elementary property. The school recently completed a renovation that inadvertently impacted our system. They made modifications to their irrigation system leaving a portion of this area without irrigation. The solution would be to add a main line from the irrigation main to this area and new lines and valves down the back side of Martella Field between the outfield fence line/tree line and school property.

**Shorty Combs Park:** Approximately 2 acres in size, this park is located in the southern section of the City at 12500 18th Avenue. This park offers a basketball court, a playground, field space, a tee-ball field, restroom facilities and a small maintenance shed.





## Summary of Existing Conditions Shorty Combs Park

**Tee Ball Field:** The baselines have overgrown and a portion of the fencing has been torn down by vandals.



**Park Trees:** Vandalism to the irrigation system left the plantings at this park without irrigation throughout the 2020 season causing most of the trees to die off.



**Restroom:** Vandalism has been a serious concern with this restroom location. The doors have been beaten in to the point that it is difficult to lock them. Drug use has been a concern with needles left inside and outside this location and homeless have used it for shelter at night. Due to these issues this facility has been out of commission.



**Playground:** Portions of the playground border are rotting and/or have been removed by vandals. Fall protective material has been kicked out from under equipment and needs additional material installed.



**Benches & Tables:** Vandals have torn bench seats off of table sets, tables have been moved throughout the park from their pads and benches are missing entirely.





**Irrigation System:** Over the years the amount of vandalism that the irrigation system has received in addition to the wear and tear of having an older system has taken a toll. Many of the irrigation heads have been buried under turf and will need to be completely dug out and reset to the proper height. The system is reaching a point where the best solution would be to completely upgrade it. This would involve digging the valves and lines up, installing an updated two wire system with decoders to the valves like what is installed at the Recreation Complex, Landreth Park and Sunset parks. This would be a large project.

**Cleveland Park:** Approximately 2.04 acres in size. This park is located in the Sunset Crossing subdivision at 335 South Campbell St., park elements age-appropriate playgrounds for pre-kindergarten and grade school age children; benches; paved pathways; additions of low berms for play; large open play areas for football, Frisbee, etc.; deciduous shade trees, flowering trees, and evergreen trees to break up the park space.



### Summary of Existing Conditions Cleveland Park

**Adjacent Properties:** Cleveland Park shares a fence line on the South and North sides of the park with adjacent properties. This area of the community has heavy clay deposits in the soils which have caused drainage issues along the fence line and throughout the park site. The City has installed a drainage system on the northwest corner of park along the fence line to alleviate drainage from the park site to the adjacent property. Any significant rain event can leave standing water on the site. High winds can also cause the irrigation to blow into the adjacent properties.

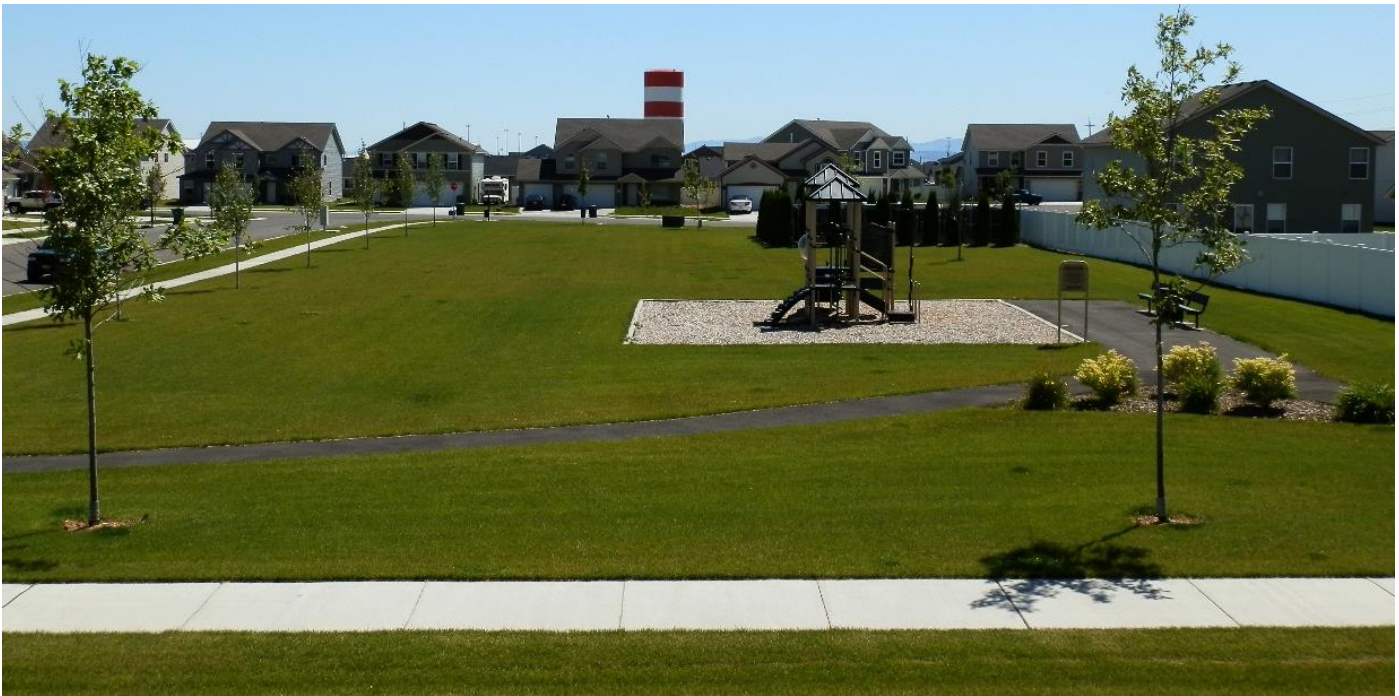


**Playground Protective Surface:** The play equipment is in good condition. Our biggest concern for the playgrounds at this site is for staff to routinely monitor the fall protective material to assure adequate levels are maintained for site safety.





**Traditions Park:** Approximately one acre in size, located in the Traditions subdivision at 508 South Lawson St.; park elements include a playground, an open play area, deciduous shade trees, flowering trees and evergreen trees to break up the park space.



### Summary of Existing Conditions Traditions Park

**Irrigation System:** Sharing a property line with the adjacent homes has proven to be problematic at this site. The fence line that separates the park from the adjacent properties is easily saturated with water. This is a continuing issue, we have made adjustments to our system but we have no control of what happens on the private property. We have also had minor issues with fence damage at this site.



**Planting Beds and Tree Rings:** The planting beds and tree ring mow areas would benefit from routine annual maintenance of the mulch material to keep an appropriate level of material at these sites. The mulch is beneficial for the trees and prevents the growth of weeds. The addition of landscape edging would benefit these areas and keep material in place to a greater extent.





**Landreth Park:** Located at 807 S. Ketchum Drive and approximately eight and a half acres in size, this park was developed in the summer of 2013. This park includes a pathway system lined with trees and an open turf area and is utilized heavily by community residents who enjoy walking the pathway for exercise. The summer of 2021 the department installed fitness trail equipment & benches around the pathway system.

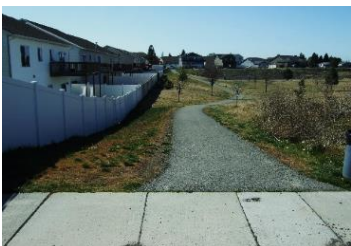


### Summary of Existing Conditions Landreth Park

**Turf Condition:** When Landreth Park was developed the turf specifications called for dryland grasses to be planted. Over the years the City Council has requested a higher level of mowing. The summer of 2021 the Department initiated improvements that will bring the turf up to a higher quality of grass.

**Tree Condition:** The soils in this area have heavy deposits of clay materials that have caused drainage issues. We have installed several dry wells where the flooding issue was particularly bad that have alleviated standing water issues. Establishing trees here has proven difficult in various areas, the trees either get too much or not enough water. We have also had issues with vandalism on the trees in this park.

**Land Locked:** When the lots surrounding the park are fully developed the park will be 85 percent land locked. The access will be from a pathway that provides entrance points on the eastern side of the park both on the north and south sides. When Ketchum Drive is developed a small section of the north-west corner of the park will have open access. The eastern edge of the park has homes that share a fence line with the park. We have had issues with vandalism and with maintenance practices that have damaged the property owner's fences that required us to initiate repairs. High winds have also caused complaints from blowing our irrigation spray into the adjacent yards. Homes are now also being developed on north side of the park on 8<sup>th</sup> Court. The fence line is currently made up of 5 different fencing types, as more homes are built this trend will likely continue.





**Airway Heights Recreation Complex & Recreation Center:** This is the largest park property in the City. It will be a multi-phase development that will occur over time. The 70 acre parcel is adjacent to Spokane Raceway Park at 11405 W. Deno Road on the northern boundary of the City. Phase 1 of the project that includes the development of the indoor Recreation Center that takes up approximately 10 acres of the site and an additional 10 acres of sport fields is complete. Development was primarily funded by the passage of a voter approved bond initiative on August 2, 2016. After extensive design work the City broke ground on the project on November 8, 2018. The grand opening of the 45,400 SF Recreation Center was held on May 4, 2019. The Recreation Center includes: lobby, administrative offices, lounge, conference room, gymnasium, locker rooms, fitness and weight training areas, multipurpose space, natatorium, with lap pool, therapy pool, water playground/splash feature, hot tub, lazy river, sauna and support spaces. The first phase of the park space includes a picnic pavilion, basketball court, baseball/softball field, multi-purpose fields and restrooms. The remaining 50 acres will be developed into a higher-activity level, with a mix of passive and active park elements. Development will be driven by community need and funding opportunities.



**Summary of Existing Conditions Airway Heights Recreation Complex**

**Ballfield:** Lacks foul line fencing and outfield fencing. Also lacks dug outs.

**Parking Lot:** Seal coating and restriping the lots on a semi-annual basis is recommended to extend the life of the asphalt.

**Parking & Landscape Islands:** Annual addition of mulch to assist with the elimination of weed growth will be beneficial.

**Complex Entrance:** First impression when you enter the site the west side of the entrance between the pavement and the fence line with the Water Tank can benefit from the addition of additional shrubs, bark mulch. Adding a fence screen and painting the Water Tank would greatly enhance first impressions of the Complex.

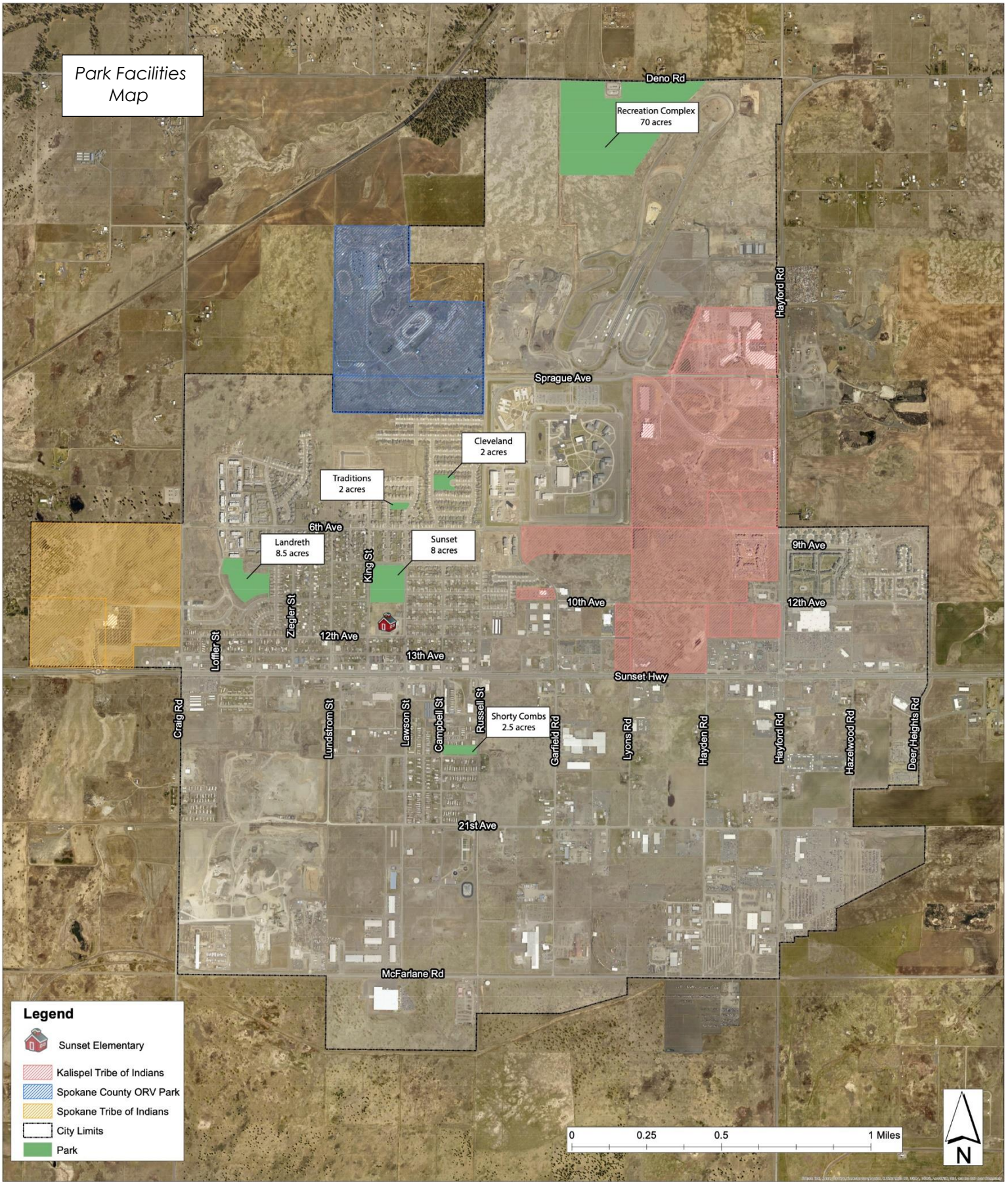




**Sunset Elementary School:** Located adjacent to Sunset Park and owned by the Cheney School District, its outdoor facilities encompass approximately seven and a half acres. It provides opportunities such as a playground facility, play courts, and a large open playfield. The indoor gymnasium is utilized to offer an after school program and for other activities including meeting space for large groups. The Recreation Department enjoys use of the school grounds and gymnasium through an intergovernmental agreement and relies heavily on the use of these facilities to provide the various youth and adult sports leagues that are offered to the community through cooperative agreements with the City of Medical Lake, the City of Cheney and Fairchild Air Force Base.







# City of Airway Heights

## 2021 Park Facilities Map

Map Produced: April 2021, City of Airway Heights Planning Department

*This map was published by the City of Airway Heights Planning Department as a general planning tool. Due to the differing quality of source documents, the Department is not responsible for errors or omissions, with no warranties accompanying use of this material. Please contact the Planning Department for further information.*



## SECTION V

### PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE INFRASTRUCTURE

#### Background

Providing alternative modes of transportation is an important element of the Airway Heights Comprehensive Plan, Chapter 4 Transportation Element, and Parks & Recreation Master Plan. The Growth Management Act (GMA) requires that communities try and develop alternative transportation systems. Such transportation systems help to create a health conscious community and interconnectivity between neighbors. Well-developed pedestrian and bicycle routes also provide excellent recreation opportunities for individuals and families. They expand the accessibility to parks for residents and visitors, provide increased opportunities to observe local flora and fauna, and provide increased fitness activities. With the negative health impacts brought about by the lack of exercise opportunities in our communities, providing a safe, clearly defined, non-motorized transportation system is more important than ever.

A non-motorized transportation system should provide connectivity between three key elements of a community. Those elements are employment centers, recreation areas, and residential areas. Residents should be able to utilize non-motorized transportation modes to access recreational areas and to commute to work. Therefore, when developing bicycle facilities, emphasis should be placed on ensuring bicyclists can access any combination of these options, on a continuous route.

Local non-motorized transportation routes should also be developed to connect to a greater regional system. This prevents the development of a bicycle “island” – a non-motorized trail system that is completely self-contained with no connectivity to external routes. Without adequate connectivity to a regional trail network, commuters from other jurisdictions cannot access different jurisdictions using non-motorized transportation alternatives. This would effectively prevent one of the primary purposes intended under the GMA for these routes – to reduce motorized commuter trips.

One of the major concerns preventing more individuals from using non-motorized transportation alternatives is safety. This is a key element in determining the likelihood that any transportation route will be utilized.

Specifically defined routes, built to appropriate standards, help to increase the actual safety for non-motorized commuters. On shared roads, painted lanes and signage increase the awareness of drivers that non-motorized vehicles are sharing the road with them. As more bicycles use the roads, drivers also become more comfortable with sharing these routes with non-motorized forms of transit.

#### **Pedestrian Infrastructure**

Many areas in Airway Heights – particularly in older sections of the City – lack adequate sidewalks, marked crossings or other pedestrian infrastructure. Other, more recently-developed areas include these features but the arterials they abut do not, effectively isolating them from neighboring attractions.

US 2 is recognized as a barrier for pedestrian activity between the north and south halves of the City. Regardless, striped crossings are currently located at the signalized Lawson Street, Garfield Road, and Hayford Road intersections. Mid-block crossings are aligned east of Ziegler Street, King Street, and Campbell Street, respectively.

There are about 33 striped crosswalks in Airway Heights along City streets. There are also several crosswalks located along local streets, especially near Sunset Elementary and newer residential developments in the northern areas of the City.

One pedestrian-bike facility of note is a shared use path aligned along portions of US Route 2. Constructed from Garfield Road to nearly Deer Heights Road, it is the intention of the City and the City of Spokane to extend the route to connect both cities, greatly improving east-west pedestrian and bike mobility.

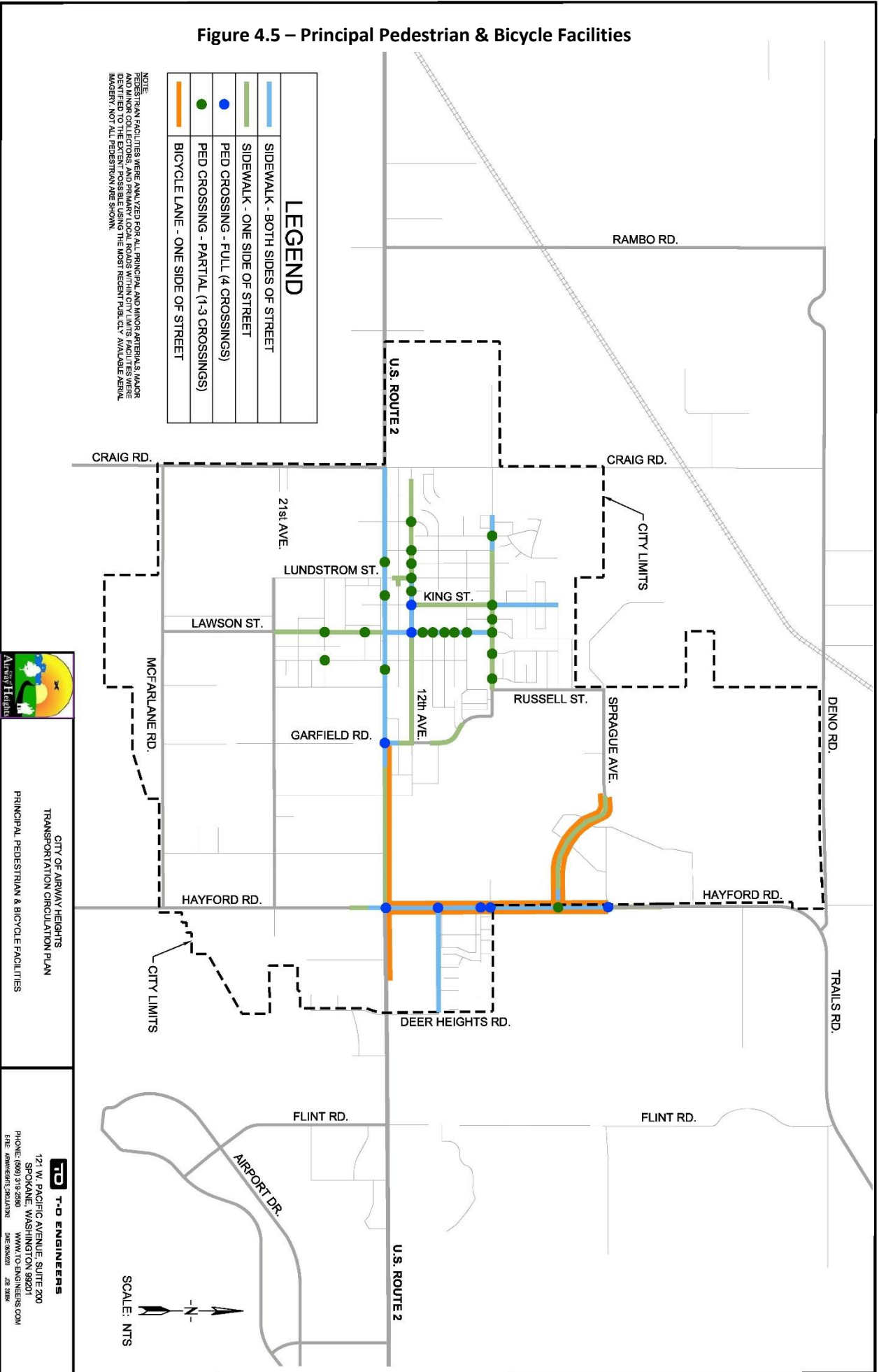
#### **Bicycle Facilities**

At present, Airway Heights has a limited number of bicycle-specific features or facilities. Some newly-developed areas, such as along Hayford Road and Sprague Avenue, and along an adjacent portion of US 2 enjoy designated bike lanes, but most roadways require shared bicycle and motorized travel. Despite this, residents support policies to improve bicycle infrastructure throughout the City, helping make cycling a safe, enjoyable means of transportation and recreation.

The Airway Heights Comprehensive Plan Chapter 4 Transportation Element policy response directs the City to address this, and the 2017 Transportation Circulation Plan identifies a range of future improvements based on AASHTO guidelines. Figure 4.5 included here from the Comprehensive Plan Transportation Element maps Airway Heights’ existing (primary) pedestrian and bicycle facilities.



Figure 4.5 – Principal Pedestrian & Bicycle Facilities



**LEGEND**

	SIDEWALK - BOTH SIDES OF STREET
	SIDEWALK - ONE SIDE OF STREET
	PED CROSSING - FULL (4 CROSSINGS)
	PED CROSSING - PARTIAL (1-3 CROSSINGS)
	BICYCLE LANE - ONE SIDE OF STREET

NOTE: STRAN FACILITIES WERE ANALYZED FOR ALL PRINCIPAL AND MAJOR ARTERIALS, MAJOR AND MINOR COLLECTORS, AND PRIMARY LOCAL ROADS WITHIN CITY LIMITS. FACILITIES WERE IDENTIFIED TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE USING THE MOST RECENT PUBLICLY AVAILABLE AERIAL IMAGERY. NOT ALL PEDESTRIAN ARE SHOWN.



CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS  
TRANSPORTATION CIRCULATION PLAN  
PRINCIPAL PEDESTRIAN & BICYCLE FACILITIES

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DATE: 3/26/2014



### **Pedestrian Infrastructure**

As part of its 2017 Transportation Circulation Plan, Airway Heights mapped existing principal pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the City, followed by an analysis and set of recommendations guided by AASHTO's 2004 A Guide for the Planning, Design, and Operation of Pedestrian Facilities.

Beginning with a map of essential community facilities and services in Airway Heights, ¼-mile radius circles were inscribed around each. The adequacy of facilities within these areas were then examined, looking for missing features such as sidewalks or paved paths, safe crossing elements or other features leading to each essential facility for service. For this effort, "essential community facilities" included schools, parks, City Hall, community center, primary shopping areas, and transit hubs. In addition, marked pedestrian crossings of minor arterials and major collectors were mapped. Crossings were then recommended between primary land uses along these roadways on a ¼-mile basis.

### **Bicycle Facilities**

Regarding bicycle facilities, the Transportation Circulation Plan includes a number of recommendations developed in coordination with City engineering staff and using the 2012 AASHTO A Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities, which suggests types of bicycle facilities that can be developed given data such as street width and traffic volume measurements. Further, the City's 2017 US 2 Corridor plan identifies and promotes the completion of a contiguous pedestrian and bike shared-use path along the southern side of the corridor, with similar and complementary elements to the north. See Figure 4.7 for a copy of the Transportation Circulation Plan's map of pedestrian improvements, and Figure 4.8 for recommended bicycle network projects.

Figure 4.7 – Pedestrian Improvement Recommendations

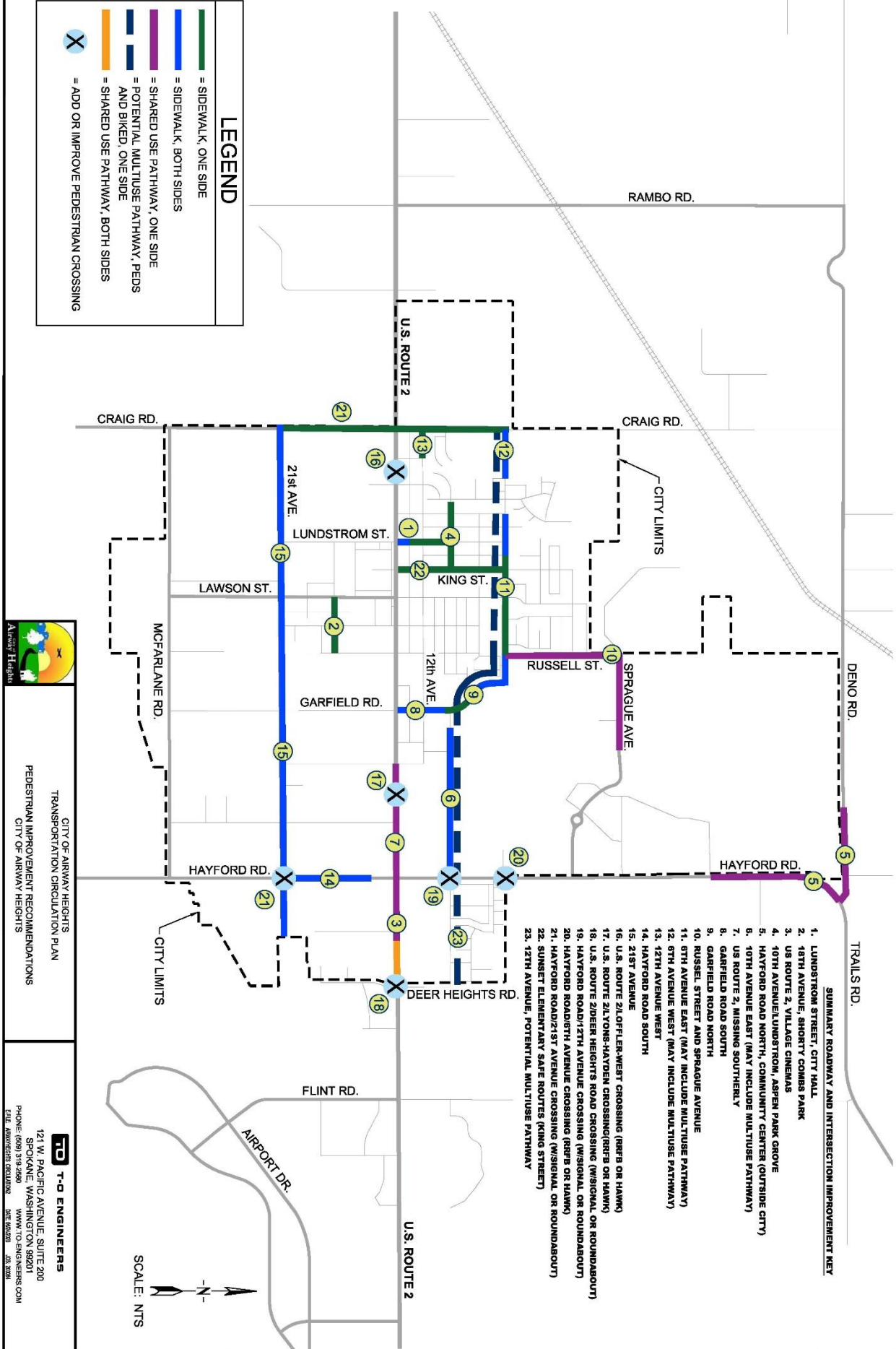
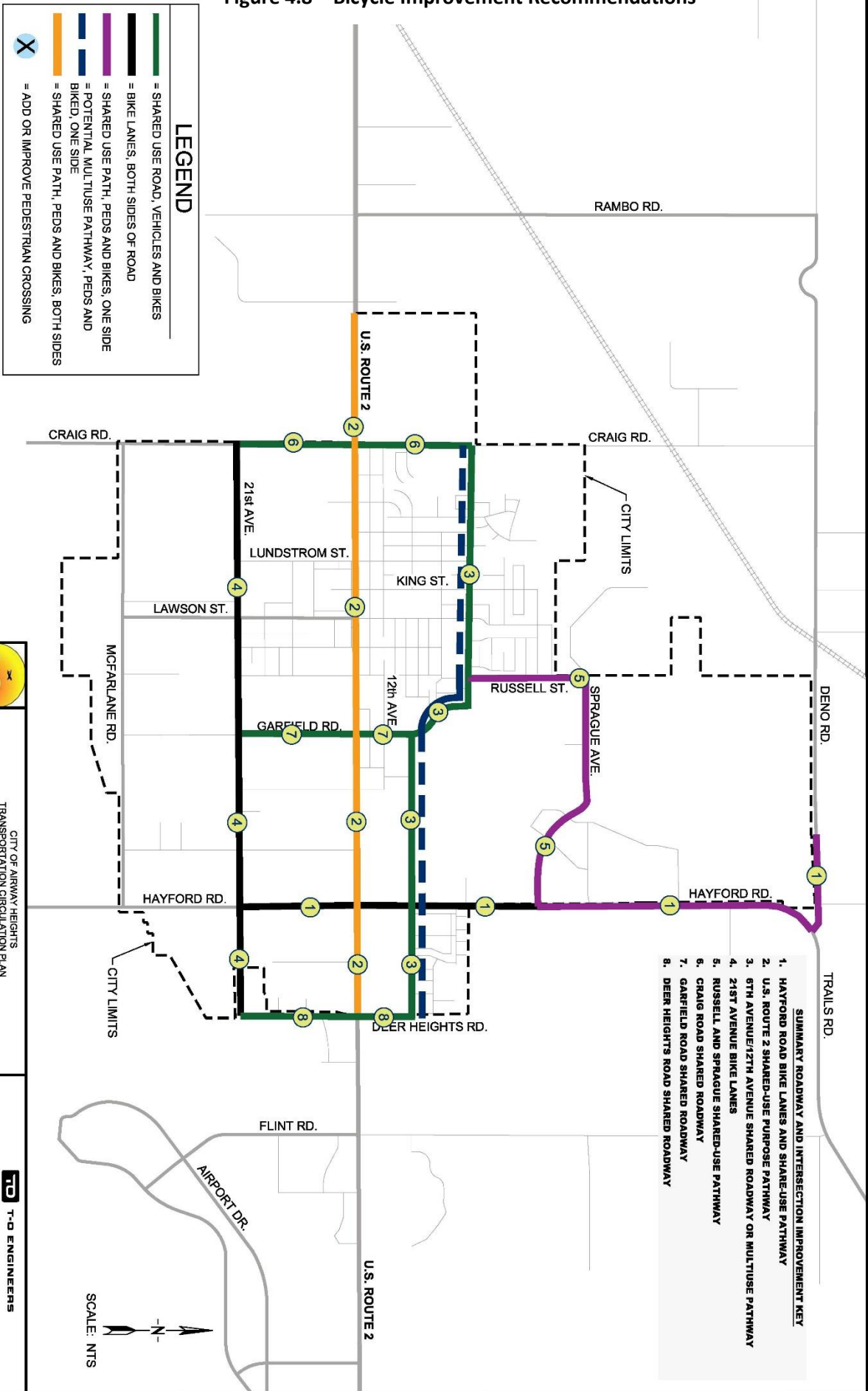
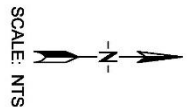


Figure 4.8 – Bicycle Improvement Recommendations



CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS  
TRANSPORTATION CIRCULATION PLAN  
FUTURE BICYCLE ROUTES  
CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS

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## SECTION VI

### PARKS & RECREATION ISSUES & GOALS

A survey to determine the needs and wishes of the community was initiated in 2019 and completed in 2021 with a series of follow-up workshops completed in July and August of 2021. The outcomes will be discussed in more detail later in this Plan. *It is the intent of this Plan to enhance and strengthen the City's park system by addressing those issues identified by Airway Heights residents into a plan of action.* This Plan also helps ensure the potential for additional funding for those projects identified in the Parks and Recreation Improvement Program of this Plan.

Maintaining and developing high quality parks, recreation facilities, and open spaces as the City of Airway Heights continues to grow will help preserve the quality of life afforded to its residents. The goals of the City are based on the premise of providing parks for both active and passive recreational activities, suited to meet the needs of compact development patterns. Emphasis will be placed on the importance of ensuring that open space is preserved and in close enough proximity to be enjoyed by all residents. Emphasis will also be placed on the maintenance and continued enhancement of existing park and recreation facilities. The City of Airway Heights has therefore established a series of goals (Table 6.1) in support of its overall parks and recreation goal, to help address those current issues facing the City. These goals are consistent with the demonstrated needs and desires of the community. These goals are also entirely consistent with the goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA), specifically Goal #9; *“encourage the retention of open space and development of recreational opportunities, conserve fish and wildlife habitat, increase access to resource lands and water, and develop parks” [RCW 36.70A.020(2)].*

**Table 6.1 Issues & Goals of Parks & Recreation**

<b><i>Overriding Community Goal for Parks &amp; Recreation</i></b>	<i>Develop and maintain an attractive, safe, and functional parks and recreation system available to all people within the community that meets the needs and demands of the community.</i>
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation Issue</b>	<b>Goal</b>
The City recognizes the increasing demand on the west plains for quality parks, recreational facilities & programs that create opportunities for living, learning, & leading full, productive, healthy lives.	Ensure that every home in the City lies within the service area of a park. Continue Development of the Community Recreational Complex, with sport fields & expansion for other recreational pursuits.
The City recognizes the importance of establishing areas that create opportunities to live & interact with families, work groups, & neighbors.	Improve the overall community image by creating areas that enhance the sense of civic pride within the City.
The City recognizes it should seek creative ways to address the need & demand for recreational opportunities of its citizens.	Creatively optimize recreational opportunities for the City's residents.
The City understands that parks, recreation, & open spaces are an investment in the future well-being of individuals & groups as well as the continued vitality of the community.	Ensure park & recreation facilities within the community are of a safe & healthy nature.
The City recognizes it has a diverse population of old & young alike.	Provide both active & passive recreational opportunities for the community.
The City recognizes the community as ever-changing & expanding.	Provide parklands & recreational opportunities that enhance the livability & meet the needs of the City's residents.
The City recognizes the need for better access & linkage opportunities to the park & recreation facilities it provides.	Provide a network of trails & pathways throughout the community to maximize access to the City's parks & recreation system. Provide landscape improvements on existing as well as new trails being planned and developed in the community.
The City recognizes that trees enhance the aesthetic value of the community.	Maintain status as a Tree City USA.



**PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

As part of this Plan’s preparation, the City of Airway Heights conducted a Needs Assessment Survey, which was posted on the City website January 28, 2020 through June 29, 2021. Staff from the parks and recreation department canvassed the community with door to door distribution of the survey. Public workshops involving the Park Board, City Council, and citizens were also conducted.

The survey assisted in determining the community’s existing needs and future demands for parks and recreational opportunities. In addition, Park Board workshops helped frame the policies to support the City’s public investments and day-to-day activities in meeting those future needs.

The City distributed the survey through multiple outreach efforts described above and estimates that all households in Airway Heights were provided an opportunity to complete the survey. Of these, 112 were completed. The results of the survey are compiled in Table 6.2.

Question 1 was verification of resident status and requested address confirmation. If left blank other responses were not included in this analysis.

**Table 6.2 Quick Trend Results of the Community Park & Recreation Needs Assessment Survey**

Question	Question
<p><b>2. Has your household visited any Airway Heights Parks during the past year?</b>                      No = 8.93%                      Yes = 91.07%</p> <p><b>3. If yes what parks have you visited?</b>                      Sunset Park = 79.41%                      Landreth Park = 4.90%                      Traditions Park = 11.76%                      Cleveland Park = 32.35%                      Shorty Combs Park = 6.86%                      Airway Heights Recreation Center = 76.47%</p>	<p><b>4. How would you rate the physical condition of all of the City of Airway Heights Parks that you have visited?</b>                       Excellent = 35.19%                      Good = 49.07%                      Fair = 13.89%                      Poor = 1.85%</p>
<p><b>5. Has your family participated in any recreation, athletic or special event offered by the Airway Heights Parks &amp; Recreation Department in the past 12 months?</b>                      Yes = 53.57%                      No = 46.43%</p> <p><b>6. How would you rate the overall quality of the activity in which your household has participated?</b>                      Excellent = 42.05%                      Good = 46.59%                      Fair = 6.82%                      Poor = 4.55%</p>	<p><b>7. Do you feel that there are sufficient Parks and green spaces within walking distance of your residence?</b>                       Yes = 54.05%                      No = 36.94%                      Not Sure = 9.01%</p>

<p><b>8. Parks &amp; Recreation Facilities that your household has a need for?</b></p> <p>Outdoor Tennis Courts = 23.42%  <b>Park Shelters/Picnic Areas = 43.24%</b>  <b>Playground Equipment &amp; Play Areas = 50.45%</b>  Dog Park = 45.05%  Outdoor Basketball Courts = 26.13%  Youth Center = 33.33%  Skateboard Park = 13.51%  Soccer/Football Multi-Purpose Fields = 32.43%  Baseball/Softball Fields = 24.32%  <b>Paved Walking &amp; Biking Trails = 63.96%</b>  BMX Track = 15.32%  Passive Open Green Space = 27.03%  Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts = 23.42%  Outdoor Fitness Stations = 34.23%  Spray Grounds = 24.32%  Outdoor Stage = 22.52%  <b>Landscape Improvements on Trails = 40.54%</b></p>	<p><b>9. Parks &amp; Recreation Facilities that are MOST IMPORTANT that your household needs?</b></p> <p>Please rate by level of important your top 4 choices. 1=Most Important, 2=2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important, 3=3<sup>rd</sup> Most Important &amp; 4=4<sup>th</sup> Most Important</p> <p>Most Important = Paved Walking &amp; Biking Trails</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important = Playground Equipment &amp; Play Areas</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Most Important = Dog Park</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Most Important Park Shelters/Picnic Areas</p>
<p><b>10. Recreation Programs that your Household has a need for?</b></p> <p>Education/Life Skills Programs = 32.08%  Adult Art/Dance = 33.02%  Martial Arts = 26.42%  Day Care Programs = 32.08%  Water Fitness Programs = 36.79%  Programs for People with Disabilities = 11.32%  <b>Youth Sports Programs/Camps = 42.45%</b>  Adult Sports = 32.08%  Youth Art/Dance = 21.70%  Adult Learn to Swim = 16.04%  <b>Youth Learn to Swim = 38.68%</b>  Youth/Teen Fitness &amp; Wellness = 31.13%  <b>Special Events/Festivals = 42.45%</b>  <b>Adult Fitness/Wellness = 50.94%</b>  Mommy &amp; Me Programs = 23.58%  Before/After School Programs = 33.96%  Senior Programs = 9.43%  Summer Camps = 33.02%</p>	<p><b>11. Recreation Programs that are MOST IMPORTANT to households?</b></p> <p>Please rate by level of important your top 4 choices. 1=Most Important, 2=2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important, 3=3<sup>rd</sup> Most Important &amp; 4=4<sup>th</sup> Most Important</p> <p>Most Important = Youth Sports Programs/Camps</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important = Education/Life Skills Programs</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Most Important = Adult Art/Dance</p> <p>3 way tie for 4<sup>th</sup> Most Important  *Martial Arts  *Day Care Programs  *Water Fitness Programs</p>

<p><b>12. Recreation Programs that Households participate in most often?</b> Please rate by level of important your top 4 choices. 1=Most Often, 2=2<sup>nd</sup> Most Often, 3=3<sup>rd</sup> Most Often &amp; 4=4<sup>th</sup> Most Often</p> <p>Most Often = Education/Life Skills Programs</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Most = Youth Sports &amp; Camps</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Most = 3 Way Tie *Adult Art/Dance *Martial Arts *Water Fitness Programs</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Most = Day Care Programs</p>	<p><b>13. How does your Household learn about Airway Heights Parks &amp; Recreation Department Programs and Activities?</b></p> <p>Friends &amp; Neighbors = 37.74% Web Site = 45.28% Flyers/Posters = 47.17% Parks &amp; Recreation Activity Guide = 51.89% Direct Mail = 18.87% Social Media = 40.57% Flyers Distributed at Schools = 11.32% Parks &amp; Recreation Email Bulletins = 18.87% Cable Access TV = 1.89% Conversations with Parks &amp; Rec Staff = 18.87% Parks &amp; Recreation Facebook = 31.13% Newspaper Adds/Articles = 4.72%</p>
<p><b>14. What Organizations has your household used for indoor and outdoor Recreation &amp; Sports Activities?</b></p> <p>Airway Heights Parks &amp; Recreation = 77.78% YMCA = 32.41% Churches = 8.33% Spokane County Parks &amp; Recreation = 29.63% Private Clubs = 11.11% School District Facilities = 21.30% Home Owners Associations/Apartment Complex Facilities = 3.70% Private Youth Sports Leagues = 12.96% Skate Parks = 33.33% City of Spokane Parks &amp; Recreation = 35.19% Other =11.11% None, Do Not use any Organizations = 6.48%</p>	<p><b>15. What do you feel are the most important benefits of Parks &amp; Recreation Facilities, Programs or Activities?</b> Please indicate your TOP 3 Choices, 1=Most Important, 2=2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important, 3=3<sup>rd</sup> Most Important</p> <p>Most Important = Improving Quality of Life in Community</p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> Most Important = Improves Physical Health &amp; Fitness</p> <p>3<sup>rd</sup> Most Important = Contributes to a Sense of Community</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> Most Important = Helps Reduce Crime</p>

**16. What actions would your Household be most willing to fund with their EXISTING tax dollars?**

1= 1<sup>st</sup> Choice, 2=2<sup>nd</sup> Choice, 3=3<sup>rd</sup> Choice 4=4<sup>th</sup> Choice

Top Choice = Develop New & Connect Existing Walking/Biking Trails

2<sup>nd</sup> Choice = 2 Way Tie

\*Improve Landscaping on Existing Walking/Biking Trails

\*Develop Phase 2 of Recreation Center adding Childcare & Dedicated Youth Center Space

3<sup>rd</sup> Choice = Upgrade, Fix Up/Repair Existing Neighborhood Parks

4<sup>th</sup> Choice = Purchase Land to Preserve Open/Green Space

**17. Demographics: Number of People Living in your Household?**

One = 16 Responses

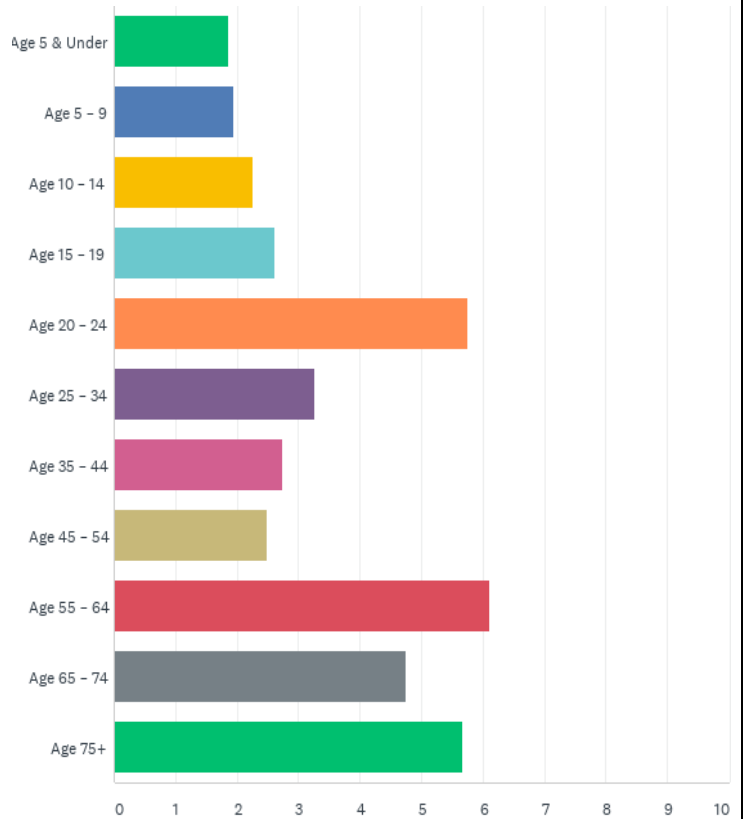
Two = 26 Responses

Three = 32 Responses

Four = 29 Responses

Five + = 20 Responses

**18. Ages of People Living in Household?**



**19. Demographics: Age of Respondent?**

Under Age 35 = 33.02%

Age 35 – 44 = 34.91%

Age 45 – 54 = 16.98%

Age 55 – 64 = 10.38%

Age 65+ = 4.72%

**20. Demographics: Household Income?**

Under \$25,000 = 7.55%

\$25,000 to \$49,999 = 13.21%

\$50,000 to \$74,999 = 32.08%

\$75,000 to \$99,000 = 20.75%

\$100,000 + = 26.42%

<p><b>21. Demographics: Race/Ethnicity?</b>  White Caucasian = 87.74%</p> <p>African American/Black = 1.89%</p> <p>Asian/Indian = 4.72%</p> <p>Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander = 1.89%</p> <p>Native American/Alaska Native = 5.66%</p> <p>Hispanic/Latino = 9.43%</p> <p>Other = 1.89%</p> <p><b>22. Demographics: Which of the Following best describes your Home?</b></p> <p>Single Family = 85.19%</p> <p>Apartment/Condominium = 10.19%</p> <p>Other = 4.63%</p>	<p><b>23. Demographics: Years Lived in AH?</b>  5 or less than 5 years = 54.29%</p> <p>6 to 10 years = 20%</p> <p>11 to 15 years = 8.57%</p> <p>16 to 20 years = 2.86%</p> <p>21 to 30 years = 4.76%</p> <p>Over 31 years = 9.52%</p> <p><b>24. Demographics: Gender</b></p> <p>Female = 66.98%</p> <p>Male = 33.02%</p>
------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

**Notable Trends**

- Residents rate paved pathways and trails as the highest priority for the community and also placed a high value on making landscape improvements to existing pathways and trails.
- Residents feel that Playgrounds and Picnic areas are a high priority.
- Residents support more Adult Fitness/Wellness, Youth Sports & Camps and Special Events and would like to see a balance between establishing new recreation programs & enhancing existing programming.
- Residents would like to see more linkages between park & recreational facilities, as well as amenity improvements to existing facilities.
- Residents support the creation of a Dog Park.

A draft version of the plan was sent out for Public Comment on July 15, 2021 with comments due August 13, 2021. Copies of the draft and comment sheets were sent to the following public agencies for their review and comment:

- The Washington State Recreation Conservation Office (RCO)
- Spokane County Department of Parks, Recreation & Golf
- The City of Cheney Parks & Recreation Department
- The City of Medical Lake Parks & Recreation Department
- Cheney School District
- Washington State Department of Transportation
- Spokane County Division of Engineering & Roads
- The Kalispel Tribe of Indians
- The Spokane Tribe of Indians
- Spokane Regional Transportation Council
- Friends of the Centennial Trail
- Fairchild Air Force Base
- Spokane Parks Foundation
- City of Spokane Parks & Recreation Department
- Washington State Department of Natural Resources
- Washington State Community Trade and Economic Development - Growth Management Services

## PARK & RECREATION DEMAND & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It is those people who live here, who live in the surrounding areas, who work here and who visit the City of Airway Heights that drive the demand for parks and recreation opportunities in the community. Surrounding land uses also influence demand for parks and recreational facilities. As demonstrated by the surveys and in interactions with the public, there is a need to enhance existing facilities; provide new facilities, activities, and events; and provide more linkages, including sidewalks and trails, within the overall community.

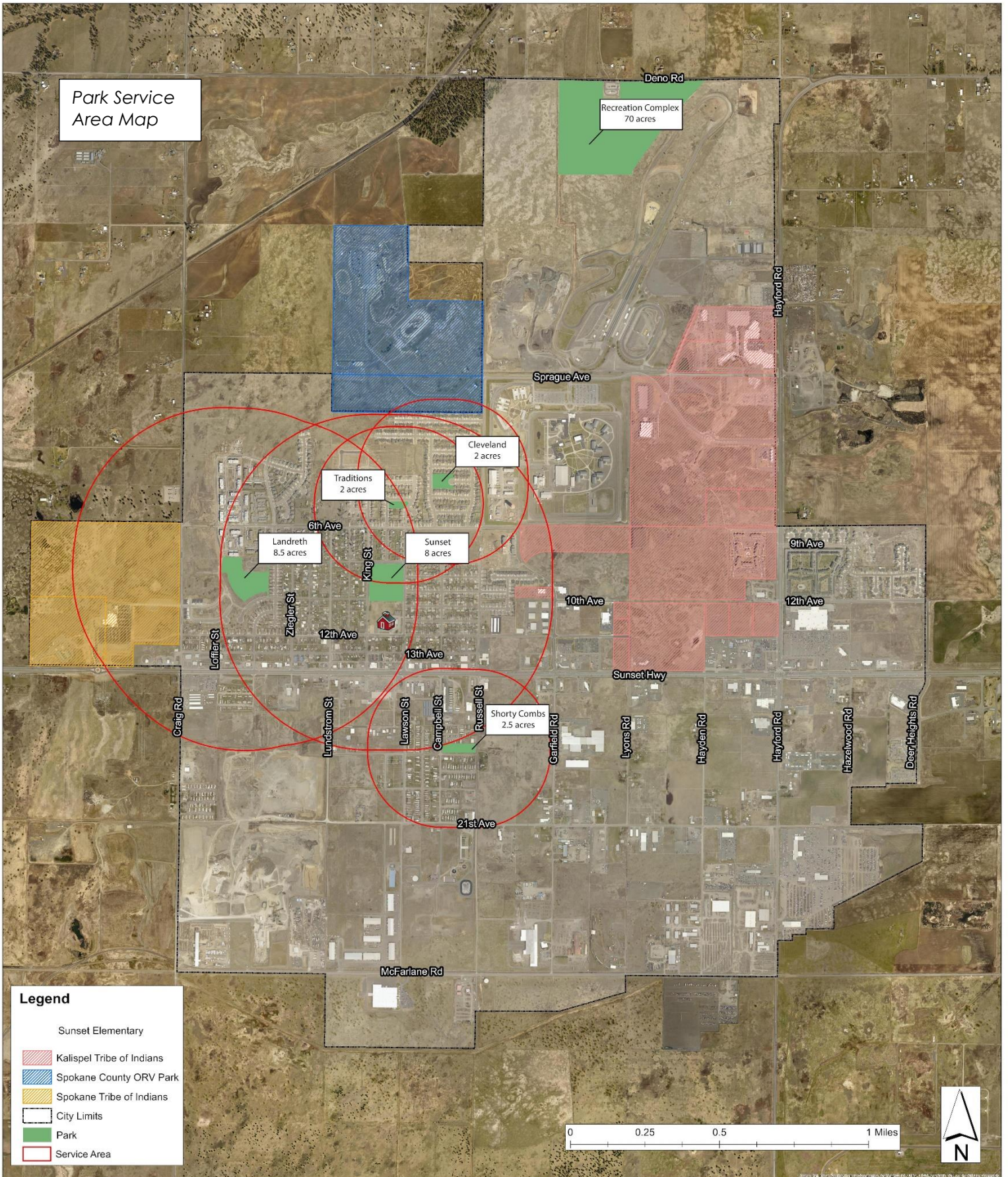
A park demand assessment was also completed comparing the population of Airway Heights to the park and recreation standards established by the City. Table 6.3 shows this comparison of what the City now has, using 2021 population projections from the Washington State Office of Financial Management (OFM), and what the City is expected to need in the future, using a 2041 population projection from OFM.

**Table 6.3 Existing & Future Park Facility Demand**

Activity/Facility	City Adopted Standard (per unit of population)	Current Available	2021 Demand (7,858 pop.)	2041 Demand (13,084 pop.)
Parks	10ac/1,000 pop.	33.11 acres	78.58 acres	130.08

The City has chosen to plan for a level-of-service (LOS) standard of ten acres per one thousand non-institutional population. The future demand for additional park facilities necessary to maintain this LOS is presented in Table 9.5 above (2041 Demand). In the analysis of future demand, population numbers reflect only the residential population of Airway Heights and do not include the expanding residential population in the unincorporated areas adjacent to the City boundaries and the institutional population of the Washington State Department of Corrections facility. However, it is important to note that the expanding residential areas adjacent to the City as well as visitors to the correctional facility do have an impact on the City's park and recreation infrastructure. The analysis shows the City is not currently meeting its LOS standard of ten acres per one thousand population. The demand in 2021 is 78.58 acres the City currently has 33.11 acres of developed park land. The City has approved plans for an additional 50 acres of park land that is undeveloped; this is the Airway Heights Recreation Complex park area. When the Recreation Complex is developed the City will have a total of 88.11 acres of park land. Depending on the timing of when the Recreation Complex is eventually developed the City could possibly have a surplus in park property according to our adopted level of service; however as new neighborhoods continue to develop a park within close proximity will still be a goal for the City to achieve. In conjunction with this park land demand analysis park service area issues were also analyzed. The findings are intended to serve as a guide for future site locations and facilities, keeping in mind issues of physical boundaries (such as SR2) as barriers to site accessibility. (See Map on next Page)





# City of Airway Heights

## Park Service Areas

Map Produced: April 2021, City of Airway Heights Planning Department

*This map was published by the City of Airway Heights Planning Department as a general planning tool. Due to the differing quality of source documents, the Department is not responsible for errors or omissions, with no warranties accompanying use of this material. Please contact the Planning Department for further information.*



The GMA requires public facilities and services are available with proposed development to insure locally adopted LOS standards are not jeopardized. A Capital Facilities Program (CFP) determines whether existing or future public facilities and services will support the projected growth, utilizing the revenue generated by the City. The goals and policies of this Parks and Recreation Master Plan are consistent with future planned improvements of the existing park and recreation system, which are listed in the City’s CFP, found in Chapter 6, Capital Facilities, of the City’s Comprehensive Plan.

The priorities outlined in this section will guide development of projects slated for funding in the CFP and/or the City’s Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The CFP/CIP provides direction for the Parks and Recreation Department in identifying specific projects, project phasing, associated costs, funding sources, and implementation dates. The CFP generally covers twenty years, whereas the CIP spans a six-year window, but both closely mirror the project priorities outlined in this Plan.

This Plan outlines implementation policies and programs in response to the issues and goals presented earlier. The City has given high priority and consideration for the future by addressing this implementation policy in a Parks and Recreation Improvement Program, which prioritizes identified needs, addresses the tactics necessary, the timing, and the cost to address those needs. The foundation for this improvement program are policies involving improvements to both existing park and recreation facilities, as well as development of new facilities and opportunities for city and surrounding local residents. Table 6.4 illustrates the policies as they relate to the goals.

**Table 6.4 Goals & Guiding Policies of Parks & Recreation**

Goal	Policy
A. Ensure that every home in the City lies within the service area of a park.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pursue partnerships with developers.</li> <li>2. Pursue funding opportunities from the RCO and Spokane County, Spokane Parks Foundation.</li> </ol>
B. Develop the remaining 50 acres at the Recreation Complex including phase 2 of the Recreation Center Expansion improving year round recreational opportunities for the region.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pursue avenues of funding.</li> <li>2. Pursue partnerships with other government agencies.</li> <li>3. Pursue partnerships with private &amp; non-profit organizations.</li> </ol>
C. Improve the overall community image by creating areas that enhance the sense of civic pride within the City by enhancing the aesthetic qualities of the City through the attractive and memorable design of park and recreation features.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identify &amp; encourage areas appropriate for civic areas, town/neighborhood squares, &amp; other public open spaces.</li> <li>2. Encourage the establishment community civic groups dedicated to improving the community’s appearance.</li> <li>3. Identify areas in the community to install examples of public art.</li> </ol>
D. Provide year-round park and recreation features, facilities and programs, in sufficient quantity and diversity, to provide opportunities for individuals of all age groups and abilities in order to meet the present and future needs of walker residents.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Coordinate with the City of Spokane, Spokane County &amp; surrounding communities to develop &amp; enhance linkages &amp; partnerships to maximize the recreational opportunities for all residents.</li> <li>2. Coordinate with Cheney School District to maximize recreational opportunities at school facilities.</li> <li>3. Establish partnerships with private &amp; non-profit enterprises offering recreational opportunities to the community.</li> <li>4. Broaden the variety of and accessibility to recreation, wellness and open space opportunities available to city residents of all ages and abilities.</li> </ol>
E. Ensure park & recreation facilities within the community are of a safe & healthy nature.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Designate &amp; locate park facilities in a manner ensuring compatibility with surrounding uses, especially as new development occurs.</li> <li>2. Provide landscaping, serving to buffer neighboring land uses &amp; also provide shade &amp; aesthetic amenity for park users.</li> <li>3. Ensure that park sites that are developed in residential neighborhoods are fronted on at least 50% of their perimeter by a public road to allow adequate public access to the site. Ensure visibility into park facilities is maintained from street &amp; other public access areas.</li> </ol>

F. Provide both active & passive recreational opportunities for the community.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promote active areas of activity, such as playgrounds &amp; play courts, in city parks.</li> <li>2. Provide passive areas of activity, such as benches &amp; trails, in city parks &amp; throughout the community.</li> <li>3. Maintain a balance of active &amp; passive recreational opportunities throughout the community.</li> </ol>
G. Provide parklands & recreational opportunities that enhance the livability & meet the needs of the City's residents.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve &amp; enhance those areas of scenic value within the community.</li> <li>2. Provide a network of open spaces within the community ensuring a high quality of life &amp; a pleasant living environment for its residents.</li> </ol>
H. Expand and maintain non-motorized transportation by providing a network of trails & pathways throughout the community to maximize access to the City's parks & recreation system as well as other areas of significance in the community including shopping and employment centers.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide pedestrians easy &amp; safe access to all park facilities of the City.</li> <li>2. Visually &amp; physically link all park facilities whenever possible to assure greater accessibility and continuity.</li> <li>3. Implement the non-motorized transportation system via the contextual application of the Cities "Complete Streets" methods and features.</li> <li>4. Acquire additional land for future trail system connections via easements, donations or purchases.</li> <li>5. Initiate landscape improvements on existing trail/pathway system.</li> </ol>
I. Expand the Cities urban forest and maintain Tree City USA Status.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encourage the planting of new trees throughout the community's public places.</li> <li>2. Encourage the maintenance of the community's older trees.</li> <li>3. Encourage residents to maintain existing street trees and pursue funding to assist with street tree replacement.</li> </ol>

The following table, Table 6.5, outlines the proposed capital projects to be undertaken by the City of Airway Heights to fulfill this Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Indicated are specific projects to be undertaken by the City and their associated project schedule, project cost, and the likely funding source. In determining project costs, services such as planning, engineering, land acquisition, and construction are considered. Often times, these are large amounts that are scheduled over several years or paid through the use of local and private funds, as well as local, state, and federal grants.

**Table 6.5** *Proposed Parks & Recreational Capital Improvement Projects*

<b>Project</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Funding</b>
Landreth Park Turf Reconstruction	2021	\$130,000	Local
Landreth Park Benches & Fitness Trail Equipment Installation	2021	\$70,000	Local
Sunset Park Old Restroom/Splash Pad Removal	2022	\$20,000	Local
Shorty Combs Park Turf Reconstruction	2022	\$65,000	Local
Shorty Combs Site Furnishings	2022	\$100,000	Local In Kind
Shorty Combs Restroom Removal	2022	\$10,000	Local
Passenger Van / Mini Bus	2022	\$60,000	Local

Sunset Park Maintenance Building Storage Yard Addition	2022	\$25,000	Local
Highland Village Park Development	2022	\$140,000	Developer
Sunset Park Old Restroom & Splash Pad Structure Removal	2023	\$30,000	Local
Recreation Complex Shelter Site Furnishings	2023	\$65,000	Local In kind
Recreation Complex Playground Development	2024	\$400,000	Local RCO
Shorty Combs Park Playground Replacement	2024	\$150,000	Local
Sunset Park Gazebos	2025	\$150,000	Local RCO
Recreation Complex Phase 2 Field Development	2025	\$500,000	RCO Local
Martella Field Fencing & Dugout Improvements	2025	\$40,000	Local In Kind
Landreth Park Playground Installation	2025	\$150,000	Local
Sunset Park Basketball Court/Skate Park Reconstruction	2026	\$500,000	Local RCO
Sunset Park Pathway Reconstruction	2028	\$350,000	Local RCO
Recreation Center Phase 2 – Child Watch, Youth Space, Child Care Expansion	2031	\$10,000,000	Local State In-kind
Recreation Complex Water Tower Painting Fence Screen	2032	\$250,000	Local
Recreation Center Phase 3 Indoor Court Expansion	2032	\$5,500,000	Local State In-kind



Recreation Complex Maintenance Shop/Shed	TBD	\$200,000	Local
Pathway & Trail Landscape Improvements	Ongoing	Project Specific	Local RCO WSDOT SRTC DNR In kind
Bicycle Route Linkages	Ongoing	Project Specific	DOT City SRTC RCO
Recreation Staff Vehicle	Immediate	\$25,000	Local
Parks Capital Equipment Mowers	Immediate	\$150,000	Local
Parks Capital Equipment Truck	Immediate	\$30,000	Local
Parks Capital Equipment Gator w/plow	Immediate	\$25,000	Local

**Capital Facility Elements for Bike Routes**

The development of the Airway Heights Bicycle Route system will require capital facility planning. The amount of capital involved in developing each element of the bicycle route plan is dependent on the specific location of each project, the existing infrastructure in place, the existing width and level of development, for example whether the road is paved or not, and the proposed classification of the route. Most projects will be developer driven, but the City will seek grants and other funding sources independent of development in order to supplement the development of this system.

The capital costs are the highest with Class I routes. These require total infrastructure development from the ground-up. Some of the capital costs associated with a Class I bicycle facilities are right-of-way purchases, building materials such as gravel and asphalt, paint for lane markings, labor and signage.

The capital costs associated with Class II and Class III routes are less expensive than Class I facilities. This is because these route classifications are generally developed along pre-existing routes. The primary costs associated with these classifications are paint for lane markings, labor, and signage. Class III routes will only require signage. Added maintenance costs for these facilities should be minimal, as the current roads already require similar maintenance, such as sweeping and plowing.

Those Class II and Class III routes that utilize non-paved roads will have higher installation costs, as will those that are on future extensions of roads. However, most of these routes will be development driven. As properties along these routes are developed, the developers will be required to install road frontage improvements, such as paving portions of the road and installing sidewalks. Any needed widening of roads to accommodate Class II bike facilities will only be required on those routes specifically designated by the plan as Class II routes.

**MONITORING & EVALUATION**

Monitoring and evaluation are essential steps within the planning process for many reasons. First, it assures the goals and programs will be maintained and monitored during implementation to ensure they do not change form unintentionally. Next, it helps determine if the intended outcome is occurring and measures those outcomes. Finally, it helps decide whether or not the implemented strategy should be continued, modified, or extinguished. Therefore, the Parks and Recreation Improvement Program must remain flexible to accommodate changes and preferences within the community to take advantage of special opportunities as they arise. Therefore, this Parks and Recreation Master Plan is subject to regular review and update by the Parks Board in partnership with the Planning Commission.