



## SYRACUSE CITY

### Syracuse City Council/Redevelopment Agency (RDA) Joint Work Session Notice

**February 12, 2019 – immediately following the City Council business  
meeting, which begins at 6:00 p.m.**

City Council Conference Room  
Municipal Building, 1979 W. 1900 S.

- a. Antelope Business Park. (20 min.)
- b. Review and discussion of draft Parks Master Plan. (45 min.)
- c. Discussion regarding proposed legislation – 2019 State of Utah Legislative Session. (15 min.)

~~~~~

In compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for this meeting should contact the City  
Offices at 801-825-1477 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

The undersigned, duly appointed City Recorder, does hereby certify that the above notice and agenda was posted within the Syracuse City limits on this  
7<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2019 at Syracuse City Hall on the City Hall Notice Board and at <http://www.syracuseut.com/>. A copy was also provided to the Standard-  
Examiner on February 7, 2019.

CASSIE Z. BROWN, MMC  
SYRACUSE CITY RECORDER



# COUNCIL AGENDA

February 12, 2019

**Agenda Item # x**

**RDA Board Meeting**

## ***Factual Summation***

The Antelope Business Park is located on the north half of the Syracuse SR-193 project area. The business park has built 2 out of 4 planned buildings. They are experiencing difficulty in leasing their existing tenant spaces in the two completed buildings. A discussion is desired to discuss if the RDA board is interested in offering incentives for the project and or future tenants of the project. No specific incentive package is up for consideration at this time, but if there is support from the board, it is anticipated that there will be requests submitted in the near future.

## ***Background Information***

The Syracuse SR-193 EDA is 73.5 acre property tax collection area created to 'facilitate economic development and create jobs in a premium quality business park that has excellent roadway access and rail access.' The time frame for tax increment collection is 15 years. It was activated in 2014 and will expire in 2028. The 2017 taxable value of the area was 34 million. The project has not generated the anticipated incremental tax revenues as to date. The Agency is authorized to receive 80% of the generated property taxes with the taxing entities receiving 20% until the project expires. At that point, the taxing entities will resume receiving the full 100% property tax. The city also has three other project areas, Town Center RDA, Syracuse 750 West RDA, and Antelope Drive CDA.

**G. MAP OF PROJECT AREA**





W 200 S

W 050 W

193

S 1000 W

W 700 S

© 2018 Google

Imagery Date: 9/10/2018

41°06'27.27" N 112°02'56"





FOR LEASE

## Antelope Business Park Syracuse Phase I & II

1100 West 350 South / Syracuse, Utah

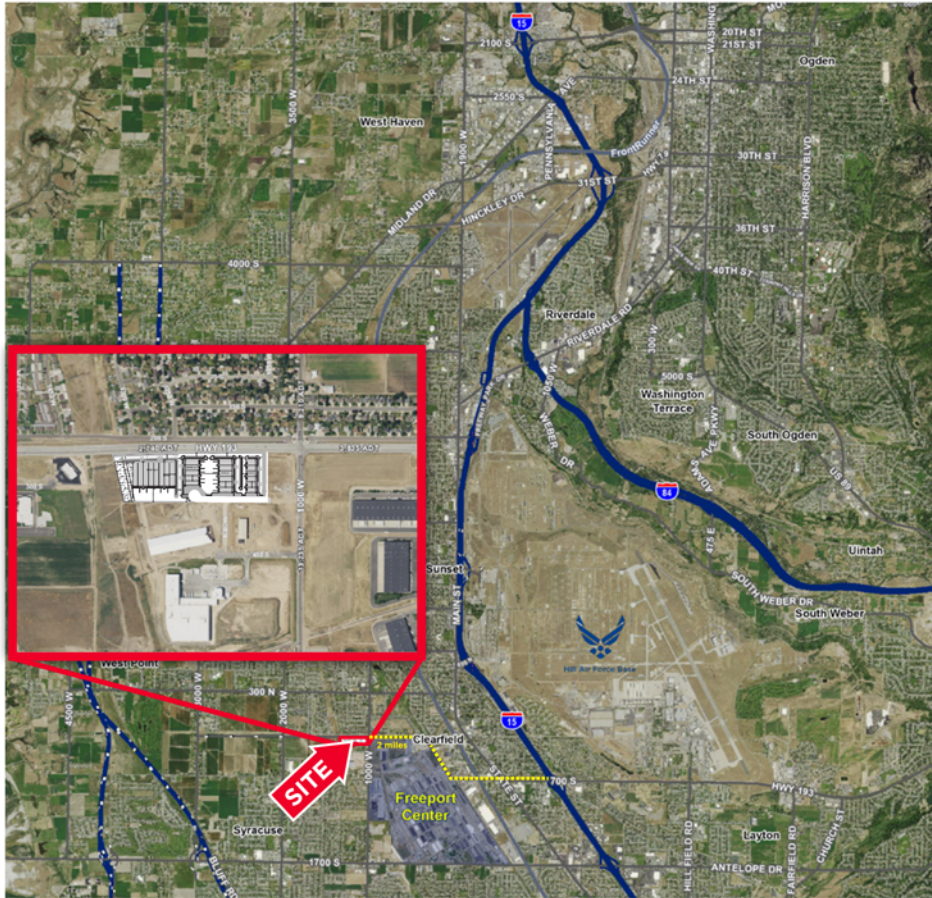


FOR LEASE

## Antelope Business Park Syracuse Phase I & II

1100 West 350 South / Syracuse, Utah

### Aerial



### Property Highlights

- 220,002 Total SF
- Phase I:**
  - Building 1: 32,206 SF
  - Building 2: 48,600 SF
- Phase II:**
  - Building 3: 39,000 SF
  - Building 4: 104,140 SF
- 12' x 14' grade level doors
- 9' x 10' dock high doors
- ESFR fire suppression
- Fiber optics to buildings
- Divisible bay sizes from 5,400 - 45,000 SF
- Fronts Highway 193, less than 2 miles from I-15
- Lease Rates:
  - \$0.65 PSF, NNN Warehouse
  - \$1.10 PSF, NNN Office



**Jeremy Terry**  
Industrial Specialist  
+1 801 303 5561  
jeremy.terry@cushwake.com

**Tom Freeman, SIOR**  
Executive Director  
+1 801 303 5449  
tom.freeman@cushwake.com

**Travis Healey, SIOR**  
Senior Director  
+1 801 303 5565  
travis.healey@cushwake.com

**Josh Wangsgard**  
Industrial/Investment Specialist  
+1 801 525 3000  
josh.wangsgard@cushwake.com

170 South Main Street Suite 1600  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
Main +1 801 322 2000  
Fax +1 801 322 2040  
cushmanwakefield.com

**Jeremy Terry**  
Industrial Specialist  
+1 801 303 5561  
jeremy.terry@cushwake.com

**Tom Freeman, SIOR**  
Executive Director  
+1 801 303 5449  
tom.freeman@cushwake.com

**Travis Healey, SIOR**  
Senior Director  
+1 801 303 5565  
travis.healey@cushwake.com

**Josh Wangsgard**  
Industrial/Investment Specialist  
+1 801 525 3000  
josh.wangsgard@cushwake.com

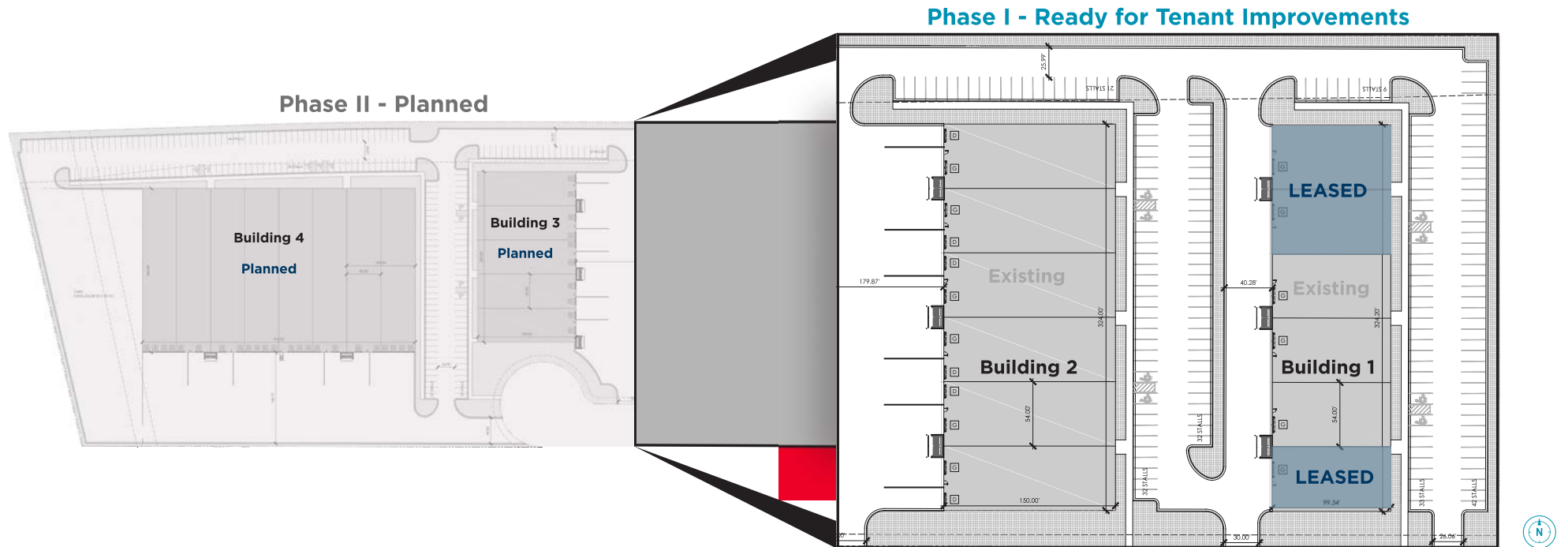
170 South Main Street Suite 1600  
Salt Lake City, UT 84101  
Main +1 801 322 2000  
Fax +1 801 322 2040  
cushmanwakefield.com



FOR LEASE

## Antelope Business Park Syracuse Phase I & II

1100 West 350 South / Syracuse, Utah



### Property Information

#### Building 4

- Total size: 104,140 SF
- Available: 104,140 SF
- Divisible to: 26,000 SF units
- Office: Finish to suit
- Clear height: 32'
- Car parking: 158 stalls allocated to building
- Power: 600A, 208/480V, 3 phase
- Loading: (19) DH doors  
(4) GL doors

#### Building 3

- Total size: 39,000 SF
- Available: 39,000 SF
- Divisible to: 7,800 SF units
- Office: Finish to suit
- Clear height: 28'
- Car parking: 55 stalls allocated to building
- Power: 600A, 208/480V, 3 phase
- Loading: (5) DH doors  
(5) GL doors

#### Building 2

- Total size: 48,600 SF
- Available: 48,600 SF
- Divisible to: 8,100 SF units
- Office: Finish to suit
- Clear height: 28'
- Car parking: 85 stalls allocated to building
- Power: 600A, 208/480V, 3 phase
- Loading: (6) DH doors  
(6) GL doors

#### Building 1

- Total size: 32,206 SF
- Available: 16,200 SF
- Divisible to: 5,400 SF units
- Office: Finish to suit
- Clear height: 22'
- Car parking: 84 stalls allocated to building
- Power: 1,200A, 208/480 volt, 3 phase
- Loading: (0) DH doors  
(6) GL doors



# COUNCIL AGENDA

February 12, 2019

Agenda Item “b”

## **Review and Discussion of Draft Parks Master Plan.**

### *Factual Summation*

- Any questions regarding this agenda item may be directed at City Manager, Brody Bovero, Parks and Recreation Director, Kresta Robinson, Councilmember Peterson and Councilmember Bolduc
- The Recommended Parks Master Plan was brought to the Council for a first reading on January 22, 2019, with further discussion to take place at the next work session.
- Talking points for the Parks Master Plan discussion:
  1. Classification System
  2. Parkland Supply
  3. Future Parkland needed
  4. Type of Parks (active vs passive)
  5. Develop Capital Improvement Program
- Staff is seeking direction from council on how to proceed.





**SYRACUSE CITY**



**SYRACUSE**  
**EST. CITY 1935**

**PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN**  
**2018**

**DRAFT COPY**

**December 24, 2018**

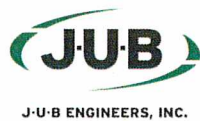
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Executive Summary .....                                | 2  |
| Section 1: Introduction .....                          | 5  |
| Section 2: City Demographic .....                      | 7  |
| Section 3: Existing Parks and Trails Descriptions..... | 9  |
| Section 4: Inventory.....                              | 12 |
| Section 5: Analysis .....                              | 13 |
| Section 6: Recommendations .....                       | 16 |
| Section 7: Funding .....                               | 21 |
| Appendix: Map Exhibits .....                           | 23 |

Citizen Survey Results

Citizen Survey – Raw Data

Prepared with Assistance From:



**GATEWAY  
MAPPING  
INC.**  
*a J·U·B Company*



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan looks closely at recreational opportunities and amenities provided by the City of Syracuse to its residents. This was accomplished by conducting a comprehensive inventory and condition assessment to identify what opportunities are currently available, and how they are classified using existing City park and trail classifications. Collected information was entered into a GIS database and used to perform robust analyses of the data and develop maps. The current level of service provided by existing amenities was determined, and the deficiencies and surpluses of these amenities (meaning their relative distribution throughout the City to be used by residents) were identified. The potential demand on recreation as the City's population grows toward build-out was also examined.

This master planning exercise found that the existing level of service (LOS) for developed parks (neighborhood and community combined) is 3.95 acres per 1,000 population. This number is slightly lower than that of many other cities we have seen. (Average LOS ranges between 4 and 6 acres per 1,000 population.) Per the Syracuse City code (Chapter 8.10 GENERAL PROVISIONS, Section 8.10.050 Parks, open space, and other public spaces), the desired "level of service for community parks is 4.95 acres for every 1,000 population throughout the City." The overall distribution of the City of Syracuse's recreational amenities was also found to be inadequate. As is shown in this study, some older areas of the City are adequately served, while many recently developed areas have deficiencies.

Other statistical findings were as follows:

- Acres of existing developed neighborhood parks: 52.61 acres.
- Acres of existing developed community parks, trails, and Community Center: 63.88 acres.
- Acres of existing developed parks (community and neighborhood parks, trails, and Community Center): 116.49 acres.
- Current population of Syracuse Area of Impact (2010 Census): 29,507 people.
- Current park LOS (community and neighborhood): 3.95 acres per 1,000 population.
- Amount of City-owned land readily available for additional park development: ± 99.89 acres.

The areas of the City not well served by parks are generally located around the northwest part of the City, as well as along the southern boundary. This is consistent with the areas identified as having the most potential for growth. The City is still far from being built out with respect to population, but that is changing fast. The current population is 29,507 (2018 City estimate). Projections based on current zoning estimate the build-out population at approximately 58,258 people. However, that number does not take into account land needed for roads and other public infrastructure. Therefore, after adjusting for infrastructure space requirements, a more realistic projection would be 43,694 (75% of the maximum number). Per these estimates, the population at build-out will be more than 148% of the current population, with most of this growth occurring in the form of traditional single family homes, with some multi-family housing. The overall increase in demand for existing recreation facilities will be significant, and it will require additional parks to be constructed. Ultimately, maintaining the current LOS (3.95 acres/1,000 population) means an additional 56.10 acres of new park space will be needed at the lower build-out projection, while reaching the City code mandate of (LOS of 4.95 acres/1,000 population) will require a minimum of 99.65 additional acres of park space.

In terms of recreational programs and offerings, the citizen survey revealed several interesting points.

- People actively use all the parks, but the **community parks are the most used**. Jensen Nature Park is by far the most popular – almost double the repeat visits than any other park in the City.
- The **activities most preferred to do in the parks include family time, and exercise/walk /run**. Play/watch organized sports comes up in the middle of the list of activities in terms of frequency, but is 3<sup>rd</sup> in importance.
- **The most desired amenities/facilities in City parks are shade, trails, and Nature Center and Nature Trails.**
- Overall, **the City is providing pretty good recreational services**. The services getting the most “excellent” ratings include: providing places for the quiet enjoyment of the outdoors; safe facilities; and clean and well maintained facilities. However, the services mentioned as the most important are: program variety; managing tax dollars efficiently, and clean and well maintained facilities.
- **The best liked programs are Community Events** sponsored by the City: Heritage Days and Pumpkin Walk, with Heritage Days as being the overwhelming favorite as well as most important. The only program that people who took the survey gave more “yes” votes than “no” votes was a shooting range.
- **More trails are desired and needed** to accommodate demand and provide walkable connections to other parks and areas of the City.
- **Almost 75% of respondents are supportive of the City developing large park complex** or some type. A swimming pool complex was their first choice, followed by soccer, baseball/softball (a virtual tie), and indoor recreation center.
- While almost every respondent felt that parks and open spaces provide benefits to the City, **only half expressed a willingness to pay the full price** for what those benefits might cost. With the right approach and up-front transparency, residents could reasonably be expected to participate in some of the expense for additional recreational amenities and programs.
- In terms of willingness to pay for a park complex using a 20 year bond, the results were:

| <u>Payment Terms</u>     | <u>Annual</u> | <u>Monthly</u> | <u>Percent</u> |
|--------------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| Full Cost .....          | \$82.00.....  | \$6.83. ....   | 50.57%         |
| 3/4 Cost.....            | \$61.50.....  | \$5.12 .....   | 3.91%          |
| 1/2 Cost.....            | \$41.00.....  | \$3.42 .....   | 17.66%         |
| 1/4 Cost.....            | \$20.50.....  | \$1.71 .....   | 13.93%         |
| Not Willing to Pay ..... |               |                | <u>13.93%</u>  |
|                          |               |                | 100.00%        |

Based on these percentages, we recommend that the **City move forward with a design and feasibility plan to build a large park complex**. In so doing, a well organized and thoughtfully prepared professional public engagement program is strongly recommended.

General recommendations for improving recreational service in Syracuse include:

- **Move quickly but carefully** to determine the full viability of constructing a large park complex. Waiting too long may likely jeopardize the opportunity to secure the right location for this complex.
- **Modify City code so that newly developing subdivisions must include neighborhood parks**. Small mini-parks will not provide the public recreational amenities that the City needs, especially if they are privately owned with a public easement.
- Focus on ways to develop community parks by **actively exploring opportunities for public/private partnerships** with school districts, businesses, and other public entities.

Community parks will require the most effort to develop and will need the most lead time to acquire land and construction funding, so begin immediately to secure opportunities.

In summary, the City of Syracuse currently offers a fair range of recreational opportunities and amenities to its citizens. However, in order to maintain current LOS (3.95), the City must plan now to establish new neighborhood parks as development occurs, and seek future land acquisition opportunities for new community parks. This is especially true if the City desires to expand to the LOS stated in City Code, and future City budgets should be developed with this in mind. With careful planning and execution, the City can be successful in reaching their desired Level of Service goals.

A word of caution should be given with respect to the results of the citizen survey. The results and trends emerging from the responses given are representative of those who actually took the survey, and may not be reflective of all user groups living in the City. While the limited budget of the project prevented the study from being truly random statistically, the large number of responses received means the master plan does provide a good indicator of the recreational interests and desires of Syracuse residents, and should be used as a starting point for further evaluations. One particular recommendation we suggest be considered for action is more public engagement and citizen participation. This helps stakeholders have an opportunity to be aware of the recommendations and actively participate in their formulation and development.

In addition, further development (including design and programming) of a large park complex in terms of design and programming will be needed to help the public better understand what is being proposed, what it will look like, what specific amenities it will have, and what the economic impacts will likely be to each household. These elements cannot be lightly addressed when asking the public to support and finance a major public amenity such as a large park complex or recreation center. Professional public facilitation and design services are strongly encouraged during this development process.

Regarding the physical analysis of park service areas and approximate locations and types of new recreational amenities, the information presented in this study is a good long range planning tool. It can help inform future decisions concerning new facilities, where they should be located, and the type of amenities they might include. While one cannot predict exactly where and how fast growth will occur, having a long range recreation plan in place better prepares the City to address future growth at whatever pace it develops.



## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

J-U-B ENGINEERS, Inc. was retained by the City of Syracuse, Utah in October 2014 to prepare a Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The City wanted to develop a document that would give City officials and staff a renewed look at the recreation potential of Syracuse. The City also wanted to have substantial citizen input and comment on what the people wanted with regard to recreation and open space. This master plan serves as an organized and thoughtful approach to recommending park and trail improvements, recreation priorities, and identifying the citizens' perceptions and desires for recreation and recreation programming. In 2018, the City Council assigned the Parks Advisory Committee to reexamine the draft master plan, make appropriate updates and changes, and recommend a final draft for adoption by the City Council.

This report, along with the accompanying GIS database and maps, is the master plan which identifies the recreation amenities currently offered in the City, and suggests which additional recreation programs and facilities might be required in the future in order to meet the City's growth needs. It establishes a base line of service, and quantifies the types of recreational improvements needed to maintain it.

The process used to develop this master plan is straight forward and easy to follow. Major tasks and sub-tasks include:

- A. Inventory** – Syracuse City provided the basic recreational inventory information used in this study.
  - 1. City demographics.
  - 2. Identify existing parks, recreation facilities, open space and trails – Including condition assessment, review of park classification system, and recreation programming.
- B. Survey** - The survey was originally drafted by the project team and vetted by the City. Upon completion of the draft, the survey was presented to the Recreation Committee, where survey length and questions were tested on Committee members. After dialogue and feedback from the Committee, the survey was again modified and edited. The final draft received one more review by the internal team and City, and was then ready for import into the online tool used to administer the survey (Survey Monkey). The survey opened on February 23, 2015, closed on April 6, 2015, and was provided to the public in an online format. A hard copy was also mailed to City residents. The project team received a total of 1,185 responses to the online and hard copy surveys.

The survey was promoted to residents using a variety of methods, including:

- 1. Press releases.
  - 2. Media coverage (newspaper, online).
  - 3. Social media postings.
  - 4. Promotion by Recreation Committee.
  - 5. Survey availability at parks/rec office.
  - 6. Online survey URL passed out at events.
- C. Analysis** – An analysis was completed on both the physical recreational sites and facilities that currently exist within the City of Syracuse, and the citizen survey that was prepared and circulated. Using GIS tools to spatially evaluate the collected data, several maps were prepared that highlight significant findings. Other tasks completed include the following:

1. **Park classification system** – Review and refine definitions, and apply to all parks and special use facilities to determine the appropriate classification for each.
  2. **Recreation program analysis** – Evaluate the existing programs for effectiveness and demand, and determine other program needs.
  3. **Calculate current level of service.**
  4. **Identify deficiencies and/or surpluses** – Determine the areas of the City not currently being served by the existing parks.
  5. **Develop amenity replacement schedule.**
  6. **Analyze demands on existing parks and recreation facilities by new development** – Identify where new growth is expected to occur, and recommend new park locations to serve those new residential areas.
  7. **Identify Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)** – Prepare a capital improvement projects list based on the shortfalls of the various existing park amenities and their current condition. Compare that list with current improvement projects currently listed by the City.
  8. **Develop strategic funding plan** – Identify possible funding opportunities for implementing the recommended improvements.
- D. Master Plan** – Based on the findings of the analysis process, a master plan was developed for the City's use. A significant element of the master plan is the GIS data base, which includes all spatial information from the inventory, survey, and analysis tasks. This allows the City to access the data at any time, to correct or update information as it changes, and to produce its own set of maps or spreadsheets according to its own purposes. The GIS is a dynamic, living tool that is intended to be used and updated each time new information is available or changes to the recreation system are made.

Accompanying the GIS database is a report that summarizes the process used to generate the master plan, provides a snapshot of existing conditions, and highlights significant findings and recommendations for the future. As conditions change, the GIS database can be updated, and subsequently used to update recommendations.

## SECTION 2: CITY DEMOGRAPHIC

### HISTORY

The City of Syracuse is a city in Davis County, Utah, United States, between the Great Salt Lake and Interstate 15, about 25 miles (40 km) north of Salt Lake City. It is part of the Ogden–Clearfield, Utah Metropolitan Statistical Area. Syracuse was incorporated on September 3, 1935.

The population was 24,494 at the 2010 census, an increase of approximately 15,096 citizens since the 2000 census. The City has seen rapid growth and development since the 1990s. The estimated population in 2018 is 29,507.

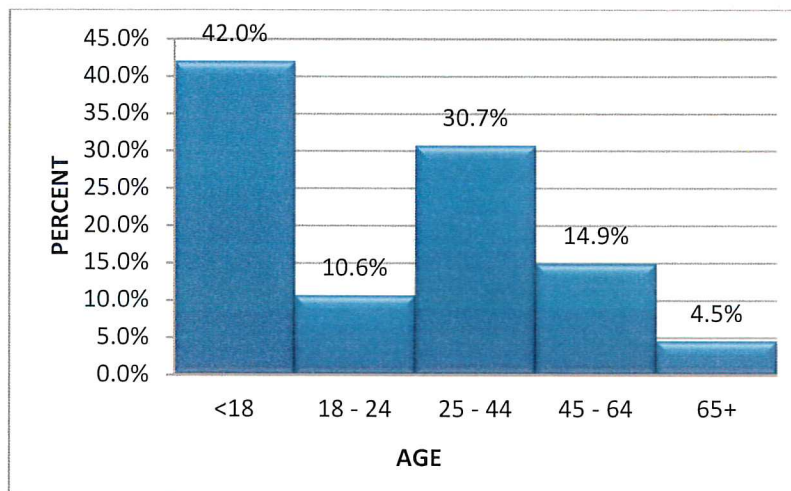
### POPULATION

According to the United States Census Bureau, Syracuse has a total area of 8.71 square miles, all of which is land. As of the 2010 census, there were 24,494 people (in 6,998 households) residing within the City boundaries. The population density was 298.6 people per square mile. There were 6,534 housing units. The estimated number housing units in 2018 is XXXXX

As of the 2010 Census, the racial makeup of the city was 94.6% (2010) White, 2.9% (2010) Asian, 1.2% (2010) African American, 0.7% (2010) Native American, 0.6% (2010) Pacific Islander, 2.7% (2010) from other races. Hispanic or Latino of any race were 6% (2010) of the population.

There were approximately 6,998 households, out of which 42.0% (2010) had children under the age of 18 living with them. The average household size was 3.81 (2010) and the average family size was 4.02 (2010).

In the City, the population was spread out with 42.0% (2010) under the age of 18, 10.6% (2000) from 18 to 24, 30.7% (2000) from 25 to 44, 14.9% (2000) from 45 to 64, and 4.5% (2010) who were 65 years of age or older. The median age was 26.5 years (2010).



**Table 1: Population Age Distribution**

## **ECONOMICS**

The 2015 median income for a household in Syracuse was \$41,589 (compared to \$32,641 in 2000). The overall median household income in 2000 was \$58,223. The estimated per capita income is \$16,989 (2000). About 2.1% (2000) of families were below the poverty line.

Growth has changed the City's character over the years. Originally an agricultural community, the City is now rapidly moving towards a suburban residential area, with a host of small businesses and shops to provide support for the residents. In early 2006, a large national commercial developer began construction on a new Town Center on land south of Syracuse Jr. High School and within walking distance of the City offices, police and fire stations, community center, and many of the City's houses. The Town Center development includes many large retail chains, anchored around a Wal-Mart Supercenter. The Town Center also includes other restaurants and housing areas. Other large businesses in the City include R.C. Wiley's Furniture and Davis School District (Syracuse Jr. High, Syracuse High School, 4 elementary schools, and one charter school with two campuses).

## **ZONING**

The zoning of Syracuse is similar to most other suburban communities, with several residential zones, commercial and professional areas, industrial, and agriculture zones.

## **GROWTH POTENTIAL**

The City of Syracuse has a current maximum projected population of approximately 58,258 (24,494 in 2010 according to the 2010 Census). When adjustments are made for infrastructure and other public needs, the projected population number can be reasonably reduced by 25%, to about 43,694. Thus, the projected buildout population range is between 43,694 and 58,258.

## SECTION 3: EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS DESCRIPTIONS

Syracuse City recreation amenities include several categories of parks: Neighborhood Park, Community Park, Regional Park/Park Preserve, and Special-Use Facility. The City's intent is to provide continuing recreation opportunities in the form of well-maintained and strategically placed Neighborhood and Community parks. Trails are also to be provided for, however they are primarily planned in the City's Trails Master Plan. Each park will have reasonable walkable access for the area it serves. These two categories of parks are the main ones considered in the determination of future need, where the goal is to maintain a current standard or level of service into the future. Based on current City definitions, the following descriptions outline the specific park types and associated amenities that can be found in each classification offering.

### PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

**Neighborhood Park** – Areas designed for intense recreational activities such as field games, court games, crafts, playground apparatus, skating, picnicking, wading pools, etc. Neighborhood park sites should be suited for intense development, easily accessible to neighborhood populations, and geographically located for safe walking and bicycle access (service radius of one-half mile). A minimum twenty percent of the site area should be dry (i.e. not used for detention). These parks are included in the City's level of service and considered system improvements.

- Typical Park Size: 3.0 – 12.99 acre
- This park type typically serves a ½ mile area
- Site Characteristics: Centrally located to provide direct and safe walking/biking access
- Appropriate facilities include: open play areas for softball, soccer, youth baseball, Frisbee, etc., as well as restrooms, parking facilities, picnic areas, shelters, and playgrounds with seating available nearby. Sites should be relatively visible from adjoining streets.

**Community Park** – Areas of diverse recreational value including intense recreational facilities, such as athletic complexes and pools, as well as more passive uses such as picnicking, viewing, nature studying, and other types of recreational development. The size and amenities contained within each community park should be based on the planned population to be served. A minimum twenty percent of the site area should be dry (for a 10-year storm event). Community parks should serve the majority of residential areas with overlapping service-area coverage. These parks are included in the City's level of service and are considered system improvements.

- Typical Park Size: 13.0 – 50.0 acre
- This park type typically serves a 1 mile
- Site Characteristics: Comprises both active and passive recreational activities with support facilities such as off-street parking and restrooms
- Appropriate facilities include: fields for formal baseball-softball, soccer, etc., along with picnic facilities, trail/pathway systems, and children's playgrounds. These parks should be located on arterial or collector streets and have landscaped setbacks to buffer active use areas from residential areas as needed.

**Linear Park** - A linear park is a park that has a much greater length than width and has a limited area for recreational facilities. These parks are predominately used in combination with trail/pathway development or other leisure activities. Appropriate facilities include trails/pathways, picnic facilities, restroom facilities, public seating areas, horse shoes, etc. These parks are included in the City's level of service and are considered system improvements.



- Typical Park Size: 1.0 – 10.0 acres (1,000 to 10,000 feet in length and can measure 30 to 300 feet wide based on the area and availability of land.
- Site Characteristics: Linear Parks usually are found within a trail alignment or along a utility or power corridor and can be used to link other recreational areas within the community. They can stand on their own as a park if the area is wide enough to allow a pick-up game of kick-ball or volleyball but are limited to activities that do not require large open fields.

**Regional Park/Park Preserve** – Regional Parks supplement Neighborhood and Community Parks, often serving broader citywide and regional recreation needs. Regional parks are much larger in size than the other park classifications and have heavily programmed facilities as well as passive recreational activities. Various areas in these facilities have a well-defined role. For example, active facilities such as baseball fields and soccer fields will serve their intended purpose and are typically used by leagues and other users for organized sports events. Examples of passive recreational amenities include picnic areas, jogging trails, and lawn areas. Regional parks tend to be destinations and often generate tourism. These parks are included in the City's level of service and are considered system improvements.

- Typical Park Size: 50+ acres
- Site Characteristics: Comprises both active and passive recreational activities used to service the needs of the entire region.

**Special-Use Facilities** – These are public recreation facilities that are set aside for specific purposes. Typical uses include community recreation centers, swimming pools, gymnasiums, rodeo grounds, golf courses, etc. Special use facilities/parks are included in the level of service.

**Special-Use Areas** - Miscellaneous public recreation areas or land occupied by a specialized facility. Typical uses of these areas include small or special uses/or specialty landscaped areas, cemeteries, community gardens, streetscapes, viewpoints, or historic sites. Special-use areas are not considered in the level of service.

## TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Trails are linear routes on land with protected status and public access for recreation or transportation purposes such as walking jogging, hiking, bicycling, horseback riding, mountain biking, etc. Trails can be included within open spaces or landscaped areas. They often follow stream corridors, abandoned railroads, power line easements, or other linear features. Developed trails that are separated from roads are calculated into the level of service. On-road trails such as expanded sidewalks and bike lanes are not included in the level of service.

**Natural Trail** - These are unpaved, primitive paths intended for pedestrians and mountain bike use, created in the existing dirt and rock environment. They are usually in open, natural areas not following roadways.

**Paved Bike/Pedestrian Paths** - Paved bike/pedestrian paths are developed with a hard surface of pavement or concrete. The trails are intended for use by both bicyclists and pedestrians. They should be built to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards.

**Bike Lanes and Routes** - Bike lanes and routes utilize vehicle roadways for bicyclists only to access local facilities and connect to other trails. These lanes and routes should also meet AASHTO bikeway standards:

1. *Class I Bike and Pedestrian Trails (path)* – Paved, hard-surface paths, with a minimum 10-foot-wide tread, and requiring a minimum separation of 5 feet from the roadway. AASHTO standards should be used as design guidelines.
2. *Class II Bike Lane* – Striped lanes adjacent to the curb on a roadway.
3. *Class III Bike Routes* – Existing streets with signage for on-street bicycle use.

**Walking Path** – This path has a paved hard surface path usually 8 feet-wide but a minimum of 6 feet-wide. These types of trails/paths can be located in parks, used as trail/sidewalk when there is a separate bike lane in the roadway, or used just as trails with a shared use.

**Trailheads** - Trailheads are considered staging areas along a trail often accompanied by various public facilities such as parking areas, restroom, directional and information signs, benches, and picnic tables. Trailheads are an important link to trails as they provide areas for walkers and bikers to park, enter and exit the trail system, rest, picnic, and further enjoy the trail system.

## SECTION 4: INVENTORY

To determine the type, quantity, and quality of recreation facilities and opportunities that are currently available in the City of Syracuse, an inventory was conducted by City Staff. First, the City provided a list of all the parks and the amenities found in each one (see GIS data base). Next, J-U-B prepared a spreadsheet listing each park and amenity, and the City staff used the spreadsheet to assess the quantity and condition of each amenity on the list. Finally, J-U-B compiled the inventory data and entered it into the GIS data base. The information is now spatially linked to each park on the map, and is available for recall and updating whenever changes are made. It provides an accurate and current “picture” of the amenities found at each park and their current condition.

For the major results of the inventory, please see Exhibit 1: Existing Parks, and Exhibit 2: Existing Trails in the Appendix. Also see the tables in the GIS database that are associated with each individual park for a review of the condition of the various amenities described therein. In general, the parks and trails are in an average of fair condition, with many of them being similar in age and useful life expectancy.

## SECTION 5: ANALYSIS

After collecting and inputting the inventory data into the GIS model, an analysis of the level of service, park and trail surpluses and deficiencies, and growth and demand on services was performed. To conduct this analysis certain assumptions, observations, and considerations were made. These were based on City direction and preference, common sense, and access to accurate data. Assumptions included:

- Use of the City's 2018 estimates for population calculations.
- The presence of physical barriers within the City that limit, impede, or virtually eliminate reasonable walking access to the existing parks and trails. Such barriers essentially include major streets.
- Distances greater than 1 mile are considered outside a reasonably "walkable" distance.
- Open space areas used solely for storm water detention or retention have been identified as special-use areas and not as parks.
- Open spaces used as detention basins that are greater than 1 acre and provide some recreational value are considered open spaces, but not parks.

### LEVEL OF SERVICE

Current Syracuse Population (per 2018 City estimates) –29,507; projected future build-out population range – 43,694 to 58,258.

For the purposes of the master plan analysis, neighborhood and community parks, along with separated trails and the Community Center were used for the level of service calculations. These classifications are the only ones included because they will continue to be the primary recreational offering developed by the City in the future. Regional parks may be developed, but only with specific and well-defined recreation goals in mind.

### Parks

*Exhibit 1: Existing Parks*, shows all existing parks in the specified Area of Impact in and around the City of Syracuse. These include Regional parks, Community parks, Neighborhood parks, Linear parks, and some Special Use Facilities.

*Neighborhood Parks* –12 parks with a combined total of 52.61 developed acres (Bluff Ridge, Canterbury, Fremont, Legacy, Linda Vista, Stoker, Trailside\*, Monterey, Canterbury North, Equestrian Park, 1475 West Open Space, and Tuscany).

- *Developed Level of Service* – 1.78 acres per 1,000 residents (52.61 acres / 29,507 residents x 1,000 =1.78). Approximately 30% of the population are within ½ mile walking distance of neighborhood parks.
- *Total Level of Service*\*\* –2.77 acres per 1,000 residents (81.75\*\*\* acres / 29,507 residents x 1,000 =2.77).
- *Barriers* – Lack of direct connecting streets inhibits walking.

\*Trailside is included here even though it is technically designated as a Linear Park. It still provides valuable developed recreation opportunities for the citizens.

\*\*Total Level of Service includes both developed and undeveloped park acreage owned by the City.

\*\*\*Includes 2000 W Linear Park land 2.25 acres

Community & Regional Parks and Trails, and Community Center – 4 parks with a combined total of 43.9 developed acres (Centennial, Founders, Jensen Nature, and Rock Creek), 16.84 acres of developed trails, and 3.14 acres for the Community Center, totaling 63.88 acres.

- Developed Level of Service – 2.06 acres of parks per 1,000 residents (63.88 acres / 29,507 residents x 1,000 = 2.16). Approximately 60% of the population are within 1 mile travel distance of community parks.
- Total Level of Service \*\* – 4.56 acres per 1,000 residents (134.63 acres / 29,507 residents x 1,000 = 4.56).
- Barriers – All citizens can access these parks if driving is considered, even though the lack of connecting streets requires extended routes to be used.

\*\*Total Level of Service includes both developed and undeveloped park acreage owned by the City.

Neighborhood and Community Parks, Trails, and Community Center Combined – 16 parks/open spaces, plus trails and the Community Center, with a combined total of 116.49 developed acres.

- Developed Level of Service – 3.95 acres of parks (neighborhood and community) per 1,000 residents (116.49 acres / 29,507 residents x 1,000 = 3.95). The average level of service for cities of similar size is somewhere between 4 - 6 acres per 1,000 population. Approximately 70% of the population are within a 1 mile travel distance of community parks and ½ mile of neighborhood parks. Approximately 30% of the population are not currently being served by a neighborhood or community park.
- Total Level of Service \*\* – 7.33 acres of parks (neighborhood and community parks, trails, and Community Center) per 1,000 residents ( 216.38 acres / 29,507 residents x 1,000 = 7.33).
- Barriers – When driving is considered, there are really no barriers that prevent people from using the parks. Driving routes may be affected but access is still possible.

\*\*Total Level of Service includes both developed and undeveloped park acreage owned by the City.

It should be stated that in the City Code (Chapter 8.10 GENERAL PROVISIONS, Section 8.10.050 Parks, open space, and other public spaces), the desired “level of service for community parks is 4.95 acres for every 1,000 population throughout the City.” Assuming that the term “community parks” means developed acres of neighborhood and community park classifications, the City’s total is well below that threshold at present. Either the standard needs to be amended to reflect current City park resources, or a substantial capital investment should be made in park development to bring the current supply into alignment with the stated standard.

## DEFICIENCIES AND SURPLUSES

### Parks

This analysis examines the distribution of the Neighborhood and Community parks within the City, and identifies the areas and numbers of citizens either under-served or over-served by the parks. *Exhibits 3: Neighborhood Parks Existing Service Areas, Exhibit 4: Community Parks Existing Service Areas, and Exhibit 5: Neighborhood and Community Parks Existing Service Areas (combined)*, show the service areas of each classification of park, which clearly demonstrates the areas that are over-served and



under-served. *Exhibit 6: Areas Not Currently Served by Neighborhood or Community Parks*, shows the areas of the City that are currently not served by either a neighborhood or community park.

### **Trails**

The City of Syracuse has a map of its Existing and Planned Trails (see *Exhibit 2*). It shows where current trails exist and how the City would like to expand them in the future. The only trails that will be suggested by this master plan are those thought to be necessary to improve the overall network by connecting to proposed parks. Please refer to the City's Trails Master Plan.

### **Schools and Churches**

As a side note, there are several schools and church properties within the City boundaries that have associated recreation facilities available (playgrounds, ball fields, pavilions, etc. – see *Exhibit 2A: Church and School Recreation Facilities*). People use these facilities and derive some recreational benefit, even though the City does not own them nor does it contribute to their upkeep. Despite their limited use by citizens, there are currently no formal agreements between Syracuse City and either the School District or the LDS Church for joint use of church or school amenities. It should also be noted that, because they are not City-owned, these facilities cannot be factored into calculations regarding levels of service for impact fees. They are mentioned in this report only because they are available and are used by citizens from time to time; however the City has no jurisdiction over them. If the City desires to use school and/or church recreational facilities for official City-sponsored events or activities, it is recommended that a formal agreement be put into place in order to protect both the City and the owner of the facilities being used. By so doing, the City would be better prepared to deal with liability, maintenance, risk management, and other legal issues that might arise.

## **POPULATION GROWTH AND DEMAND ANALYSIS**

### **Parks**

Determining future growth and its location is the next task in the analysis process. Where will future growth occur and what will its impact be on recreation? To gain an understanding of where and how much additional growth can be expected, existing zoning and the amount of current development was examined at the census block level. The blocks were divided into categories and color-coded to indicate approximately how much of the land was available for further residential development. The resulting analysis is shown in *Exhibit 7: Population Growth Potential*. Note that the greatest opportunity for growth is around the periphery of the area of impact (red color).

*Exhibit 8: Population Growth Potential (with park service areas)*, shows growth potential overlaid with existing park service areas. Note that most high-potential growth areas do not have parks planned to accommodate future recreational needs.

With these under-served areas in mind, *Exhibit 9: Proposed Future Parks (Community and Neighborhood)*, shows future parks positioned strategically to fill the gaps in coverage. There is not a lot of overlap in service area between the new proposed neighborhood and community parks. This is the result of past development that did not accommodate new park land as subdivisions were established.

**Trails** *Exhibit 10: Proposed Trails*, shows the existing and currently planned trails, along with a few new proposed trails to connect proposed new parks to the trail system. Most proposed new parks have frontage along a road that is designated as a future trail, so new trails are somewhat limited.

## SECTION 6: RECOMMENDATIONS

After closely analyzing the data gathered from the inventory of the City's demographics and recreational amenities, and collecting information from the citizen survey, recommendations can be made, including projects that reflect the City's long term planning goals and desires. Following are lists of proposed projects that provide direction without imposing limitations or details that should be determined by City Staff and maintenance personnel.

As a cross-check to the proposed future park locations, some additional calculations were performed to help identify whether the proposed improvements would actually serve people or just fill in gaps on the map.

For purposes of calculations, it should be noted that Future Neighborhood parks proposed in this plan are calculated at 7.5 acres each, representing an average size of the existing neighborhood parks. Community parks are considered to be the full size acreage (50.0 acres) in order to accommodate future proposed uses. In reality, any Neighborhood or Community park which meets the criteria set forth in its description (other than size) could fulfill the recreational intent of that park designation. Ultimately, the acreage is not as important as the amenities provided and their recreational value.

Current Population..... 29,507 people  
 Current Level of Service (LOS Developed Acreage).....3.95 acres / 1,000 population  
 Projected Population Range at Build-Out .....43,694 to 58,258 people  
 Current Amount of Developed Park and Recreation Space .....116.49 acres

Using the lower build-out population range number of 43,694 people, and applying the current LOS number, the calculated required additional developed park acreage needed to meet future demand is:

43,694 people / 1,000 units per population = 43.694 units x 3.95 acres per unit = 172.59 acres.

172.59 acres total – 116.49 acres currently = 56.10 acres of new park space required. This may be accommodated by adding:

- 1 community park @ ±50 acres and 1 Neighborhood Park = ..±56 acres
- or
- 8 neighborhood parks @ ± 7.5 acres each = .....±60 acres
- Additional trail acreage can also be built to account for some of the needed space.
- or
- A combination of smaller community parks and/or fewer neighborhood parks totaling ±56 acres.

Using the higher build-out population range number of 58,258 people, and applying the current LOS number, the calculated required additional park acreage needed to meet future demand is:

58,258 people / 1,000 units per population = 58.258 units x 3.95 acres per unit = 230.12 acres

230.12 acres total – 116.49 acres currently = 113.63 acres of new park space required. This may be accommodated by adding:

- 2 community parks @ ±50 acres each plus 2 neighborhood parks =       ±115 acres
- or
- 1 community park @ ±50 acres plus 9 neighborhood parks @ ± 7.5 acres each =±117    acres
- or
- 15 neighborhood parks @ ± 7.5 acres each =±113 acres
- Additional trail acreage can also be built to account for some of the needed space.

An important point for consideration is that according to City Code (Chapter 8.10 GENERAL PROVISIONS, Section 8.10.050 Parks, open space, and other public spaces), the desired “level of service for community parks is 4.95 acres for every 1,000 population throughout the City.” It is assumed that the term “community park” as used here includes both neighborhood and community park designations.

If the higher LOS (4.95 acres/1,000 pop) is to be used, then the following calculations might apply:

**Low Build-Out**

43,694 people / 1,000 units per population = 43.694 units x 4.95 acres per unit = 216.29 acres.  
216.29 acres total – 116.49 acres currently = 99.8 acres of new park space required.

**High Build-Out**

58,258 people / 1,000 units per population = 58.258 units x 4.95 acres per unit = 288.38 acres  
288.38 acres total – 116.49 acres currently = 171.89 acres of new park space required.

If the City determines to achieve the LOS as defined in City Code, then the requirements could be met by planning to add the following number of parks:

**Low Build-Out**

- 2 community parks @ ±50 acres each = .....100.0 acres
- Total acres = .....100 acres = meets demand.

**High Build-Out**

- 3 community parks @ ±50 acres each = .....150.0 acres
- 3 neighborhood parks @ ± 7.5 acres each = .....22.5 acres
- Total acres = .....172.5 acres = meets demand.

These calculations are based strictly on population and do not consider whether or not the actual service area of the parks extends to all citizens. This only serves as a check to see if the proposed parks based on coverage or area served are in line with the population demands (regardless of location). Other combinations of park sizes can be used to meet the demand.

**GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

*Exhibit 9: Proposed Master Plan Improvements*, shows an approximate location of proposed future parks, and illustrates the coverage they would provide to serve future development. Note that commercial and industrial areas are not being served since no residents live there (or are projected to live there). The proposed solution fits somewhere in between the lower population projection and the higher build-out population projection, and uses the higher City Code-mandated LOS as a basis for number of parks. This may be adjusted depending upon actual growth and future development patterns. As proposed, this plan can promote a vibrant community with a wide variety of recreational opportunities.

Items of special note about the proposed Master Plan Improvements:

- **Approximate Locations** – Park locations are approximate and may be adjusted to fit in with the actual development that occurs around each general location.
- **Current LOS** – The current developed level of service (LOS of 3.95) for all parks in the City – both neighborhood and community parks, trails, and Community Center – is somewhat low for a town the size of Syracuse, and it is important to recognize that its citizens need recreational

opportunities as a part of their community quality of life. Careful consideration should be given to vetting precisely which amenities citizens want, and the methods available to provide those amenities. This master plan is a very good first step, and more work is needed for rational and prudent action.

- **Passive vs Active/Programmable Space:** The existing mix of recreational space is approximately 60% active/programmable, and 40% passive. Both types of recreational space are needed in the community to accommodate the variety of activities enjoyed by residents. The future growth of Syracuse is expected to include a large segment of the population with families and school-aged children. These families tend to have high-participation rates in recreation programs. For this reason, the goal of the City is to obtain a recreational space mix of approximately 70% active/programmable area, and 30% passive recreation. From time to time, the City should examine the needs of the residents and adjust the mix of recreation space accordingly.
- **Fremont Park** – This park is currently considered a neighborhood park. However, there is enough adjacent property currently owned by the City to develop it into a Community Park. A new park plan and program should be developed and compared to City recreational needs in order to come up with the right amenities, but this could be a smart move for the City in the long run.
- **New Community Parks**– There are generally four areas of the City that are recommended for one or more community parks. One option is located on the north end of the City near 700 South. A second option is on the west edge of the City. The third and fourth options are generally located on the south and southwest edges of the City. These would be the “large park complex” identified as desirable in the citizen survey.
- **Partnership Agreements** - Partnership agreements with local large businesses may be used to establish a community park. Some key partnerships may really help in providing the needed capital improvement funds to raise the current LOS to where it should be.
- **Modify City Code LOS** – The City’s declared level of service is 4.95 acres of developed parkland per 1,000 population. If the LOS identified in the City Code is considered to be too high for the desires of the community, and funding the capital improvements proves to be too great of a tax burden on the citizens, then it is recommended that the City Code be amended to reflect what the citizens want based on their willingness to pay.
- **Land Acquisition** – A mechanism should be added to City Code that assists the City in acquiring property from development as it occurs in order to accommodate public neighborhood parks at their designated size. Substituting “mini-parks” (i.e. less than 3 acres) for neighborhood parks is not recommended because mini-parks lack the amenities to serve the citizen’s recreational needs.

### CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Based on inventory review of all the neighborhood and community parks, input from the citizen survey, and information previously provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, a list of Capital Improvement Projects was developed. These projects are items that the City can proceed to implement as funding is available, according to a 5-Year capital improvement plan.

### General Observations

- Most of the parks seem to have been developed about the same time, and their general condition is average. Their amenities appear to be quite similar, with little variety in style or type. The implication is that they may need replacement around the same time period.

- With the exception of Founders Park, there are virtually no baseball/softball fields in the City park system.
- There is only 1 basketball court in all of the City parks.
- Park furniture (benches, trash receptacles, picnic tables) are generally in average condition and not sufficient in numbers.
- Pavilions are typically in average condition or worse. It is recommended that they be more closely evaluated, and that a replacement schedule developed soon to avoid mass replacement.
- According to the inventory provided, there are no designated soccer fields in the City.
- There are no specialized or demonstration gardens in the City parks, nor are there any historical or interpretive signs or markers present.
- There is only one fountain or water feature in the City parks (Jensen Nature Park).
- With the exception of Chloe's Sunshine Playground, which was just recently completed in Centennial Park, the children's playgrounds are not exciting and of limited play value. Chloe's playground is a good example of higher play value.

### SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

There are several general improvements that could be made to most of the parks currently owned by the City. After reviewing the citizen survey and noting the desires for specific amenities/facilities, the concerns for what is valued and needed, and evaluating the individual park inventories and condition of the existing amenities, the following system-wide recommendations for park improvements are proposed:

- **Shade** - Provide more shade. That means more trees, perhaps more shelters. Every park that we examined could use a thorough tree replacement plan, and new parks really need more trees than are currently being planted. It's much easier to remove or thin out tree coverage than to wait 30 years and discover they didn't fill in like you expected, or you lose a tree and have to start over. Trees are perhaps a park's single most important investment over time.
- **Monitor Irrigation Systems** – Regularly check and evaluate the performance of irrigation systems in each park. Many are in an "okay" condition, but that can change rapidly without care and periodic adjustments. Annual evaluations should be made, and audits should be done on a regular basis to ensure that the systems are functioning properly. Upgrade those that are rated "2" or less. Water conservation is an important policy to incorporate into all City-owned and operated facilities.
- **More Walking Paths and Trails** - Where feasible, provide more walking paths and trails, particularly around the park perimeters. Such walks are constantly used by residents for exercise and fresh air, and they encourage connectivity with other community parks and places.
- **More Picnic Tables** - Provide more picnic tables, either under a pavilion or in grassy areas. These should be accessible for daily use. Most parks do not have enough tables, even if the pavilions are fully stocked.
- **Well Maintained Restrooms** - Keep the restrooms in good condition. This is big concern for many people and has a huge impact on whether their park experience is pleasant or unpleasant. Where there are no restrooms in a new park, install them as soon as possible. Make them nice and keep them clean.
- **Maintenance Facilities**: A study of the maintenance needs will need to be conducted to ensure the City can properly maintain current and future park and recreation spaces. This will likely include the need for a dedicated maintenance facility for parks fleet, equipment, materials, and supplies.



### Trail Improvements

Recommendations for trails are not extensive. This master plan does not propose to alter the City's existing trail plan, or to provide numerous other recommendations. What it does recommend is expanding the trail system to include the newly proposed parks and linking them to the current trail system. Most of these links will likely be shared use trails between pedestrians and bicyclists, following along existing roads.

### PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS

Based on the results of the citizen survey, the programming of the Parks and Recreation Department is doing a fairly good job of providing the types of activities that people enjoy. Improvements and additional programs can always be made, and in this case there are a few items that became apparent as the survey results were analyzed. These include:

- **City Events** - City-sponsored events (Heritage Days, Pumpkin Walk) were the most liked and most well-known programs. Almost twice as many people participate in these events than any other activities. Continue to provide these events and improve how smoothly they function.
- **Current Programs** – The current programs are all being used by someone, but some are more widely used than others. Youth programs seem to be among the more desired programs (soccer, basketball, baseball, other youth-oriented programs) along with aerobic/fitness classes. Focus on these.
- **Shooting Range** - Having a shooting range facility is the only new program that citizens gave more “yes” votes than “no” votes. Weight training is also gaining in popularity but would require some type of gym facility in order to operate successfully.
- **Other Programs** – Other programs that garnered enough support to be considered include: spin classes, indoor soccer, youth soccer competitive leagues and tournaments, disc golf, and youth flag football.
- **Good Job** - Quiet, safe, and clean and well maintained are the things that Parks & Recreation are doing well at right now. Interestingly, clean and well maintained is also identified as an area that needs improvement – people seem to be on both ends of this item (however, more on the positive than the negative).
- **Needs Improvement** – Parks & Recreation is not doing as well at:
  - Providing adequate facilities to meet demand
  - Places for indoor recreation and fitness activities
  - Managing resources wisely (e.g. water conservation)
  - Managing tax dollars efficiently
  - Allocating resources fairly to different parts of the City

These last 3 items are rather subjective and may be a result of the conservative desires of City residents rather actual data supporting their responses.

- **City Publications or Newsletters** – The most used method for citizens to learn about parks and recreation is by City publications or newsletters. Word of mouth is the next best method, followed by use of the City's website. Focus on effectively using the newsletter to spread your message, followed by continual updates of the website information.

## SECTION 7: FUNDING

When it comes to financing of new park construction, The City of Syracuse will need to rely heavily on recreation impact fees. Over the past several years federal funding and grants for parks and recreation projects has been limited and will continue to be limited based on the economic climate. Communities have had to get very creative to find sources that will help build parks and recreational facilities. Grant funding for these types of facilities require advanced planning of at least 2 years prior to making application in order to be successful.

Keep in mind that the proposed master plan includes numerous parks. While not all of these will be built immediately, their construction will mean an added new maintenance burden in addition to the actual construction of the facilities. The City should be prepared to handle the increase in park maintenance by increasing its maintenance personnel and budget.

Below are potential funding sources for both park and trail development.

### PARKS

**City Funding - General Fund or Bonding** - The City can fund parks directly from its general fund or can bond for park development and spread the cost over many years. Because of the amounts needed to fund park development, bonding is a reasonable approach.

**Park and Recreation Impact Fees** - The City currently collects impact fees for parks and recreation which can be used for planning and construction for new parks.

**Private Fundraising** - While not addressed as a specific strategy for individual recreation facilities, it is not uncommon that public monies be leveraged with private donations. Private funds will most likely be attracted to high-profile facilities such as a recreation, aquatic and cultural facilities. These type of funds generally require aggressive promotion and management by the local parks and recreation department or city administration.

**Service Organizations** - Many service organizations and corporations have funds available for park and recreation facilities. Organizations such as Lions Clubs, Shriners, Elks Club, and others are often willing to partner with local communities in the development of playgrounds and other park and recreation equipment and facilities.

**Land and Water Conservation Fund** - This Federal money is made available to states. In Idaho, it is administered by the Idaho Parks and Recreation. Funds are matched with local funds for acquisition of park and recreation lands, redevelopment of older recreation facilities, trails, improvements to accessibility, and other recreation programs and facilities that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for youth, adults, senior citizens, and persons with physical and mental disabilities. Project sponsors must provide, as matching share, the balance of a project's cost (at least 50%). Project sponsors share can be local funds, state funds, force account or donation of privately owned lands. IDRPP encourages the use of cash match.

## TRAILS

**The Recreational Trails Program (RTP)** - Projects must be from trail plans included or referenced in a Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. The typical grant funding level for the program is approximately \$1.5 million annually. Uses of the funds are: maintenance and restoration of existing recreational trails; development and rehabilitation of trailside and trailhead facilities and trail linkages for recreational trails; purchase and lease of recreational trail construction and maintenance equipment; and construction of new recreational trails (with restrictions for new trails on Federal lands). RTP grants require a 20% match. At least 5% of the overall project costs must be non-federal funds. Indian Tribe government funds are considered non-federal.

**Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)** - The goal of the program is to improve transportation facilities that provide access to, are adjacent to, or are located within federal lands. The program supplements state and local resources for public roads, transit systems, trails, and other transportation facilities, with an emphasis on high-use recreation sites and economic generators. Local match will follow the state's sliding scale rate 7.34%.

**Local Highway Safety Improvement Program** - This program is a data driven process by which local highway jurisdictions (LHJs) with jurisdiction over public right-of-way identify safety improvement countermeasures based on the analysis of five years of crash data. Potential projects to reduce crashes at identified hazardous locations can include (but are not limited to) bicycle and pedestrian crossing facilities, signing, striping, signals, surface improvements, guardrails, signal timing, and geometric changes. Local match will follow the state's sliding scale rate 7.34%.

## FUNDING FOR ALL TYPES OF RECREATION

**Private and Corporate Foundations** - This is a great way to get local businesses involved in promoting walking and bicycling and giving back to the community. To receive provide funds, the project must be designed and planned out to allow the project to be marketable. A few private foundations that have been known to participate in these types of projects include: Bikes Belong, the Whittenberger Foundation, Kellogg Foundation, U.S. Soccer Foundation, Cliff Bar Foundation, and Baseball Tomorrow Foundation. There are many more foundations that fund these types of projects. A better understanding of the projects is required in order to identify the funding opportunities available.

**In-Kind and Donated Services or Funds** - Several options for local initiatives could possibly further the implementation of the trails plan. These include:

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

These kinds of programs would require the City to implement a proactive recruiting initiative to generate interest and sponsorship.



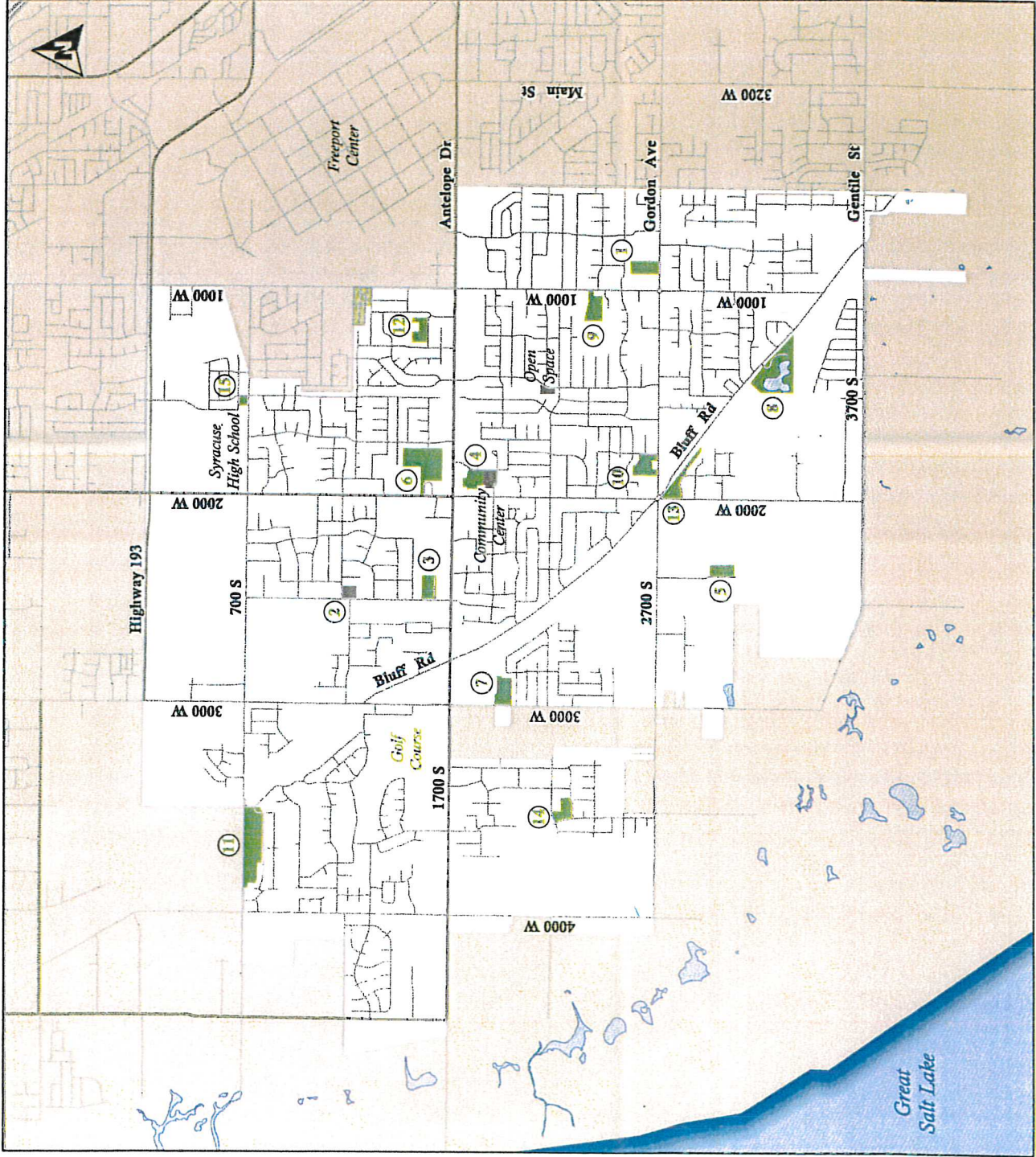
**SYRACUSE**  
EST. CITY 1935

## Existing Parks Exhibit 1



### Syracuse City Parks

- (1) Bluff Ridge Park
- (2) Canterbury North Park
- (3) Canterbury Park
- (4) Centennial Park
- (5) Equestrian Park
- (6) Founders Park
- (7) Fremont Park
- (8) Jensen Nature Park
- (9) Legacy Park
- (10) Linda Vista Park
- (11) Rock Creek Park
- (12) Stoker Park
- (13) Trailside Park
- (14) Tuscan (Ranchettes West) Park
- (15) Monterey Park



December 2018









**SYRACUSE**  
EST. CITY 1835

## Existing and Planned Trails

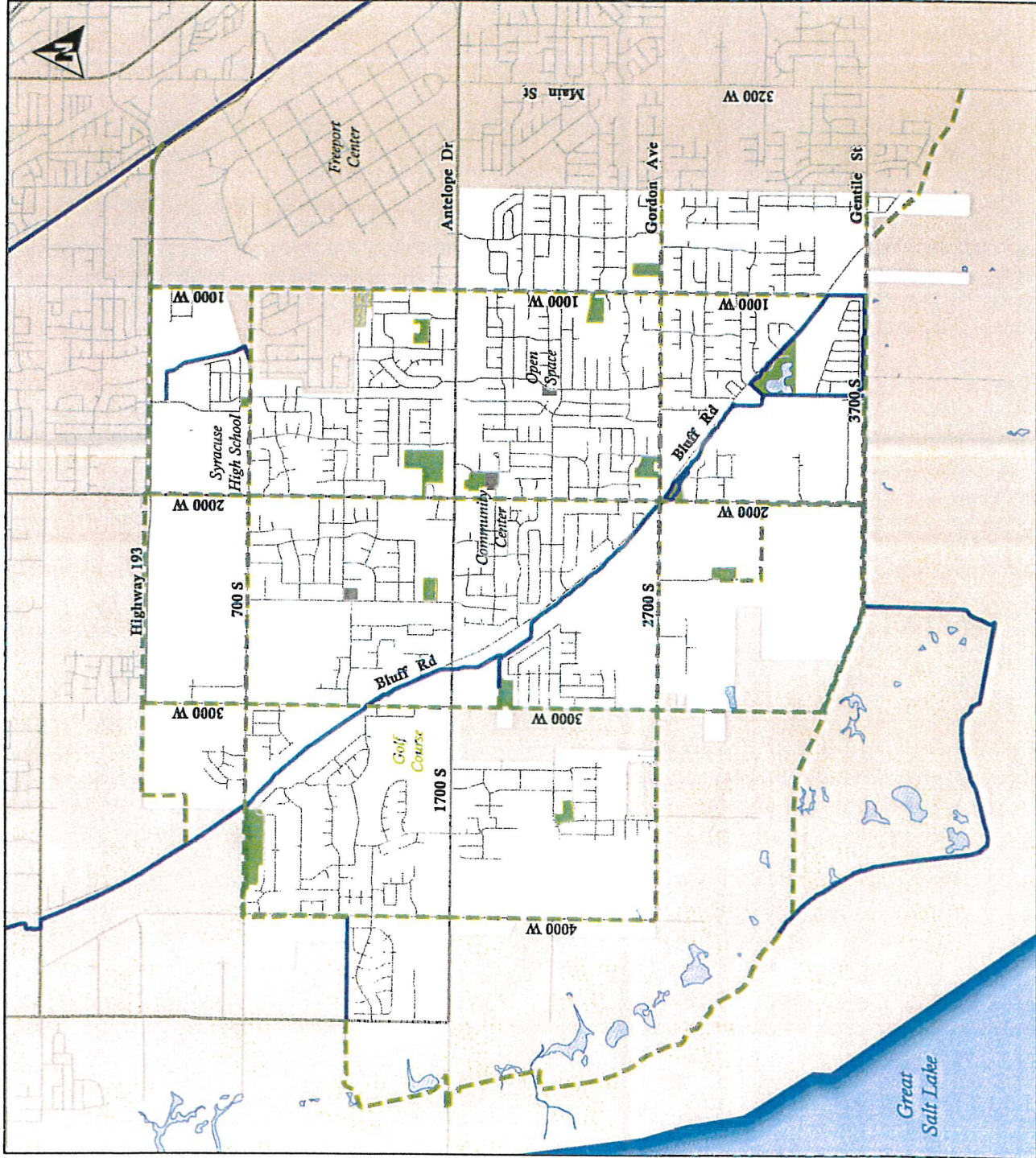
### Exhibit 2

-  Currently Existing
-  Currently Planned
-  Existing Parks
-  Syracuse City Boundary



OTHER 10'S COUNCILS

December 2018







**SYRACUSE**  
EST. CITY 1935

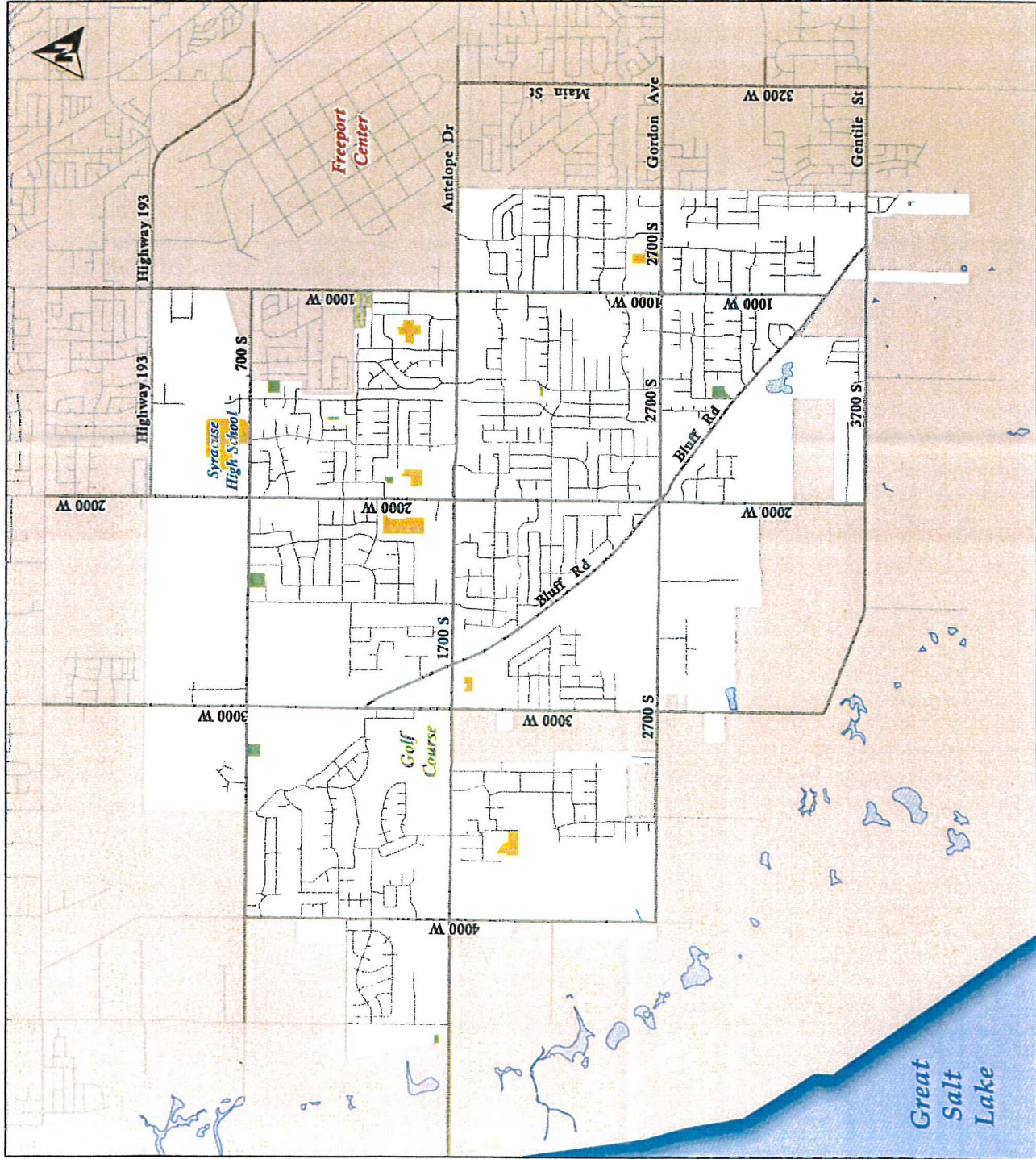
## Church and School Recreational Facilities

### Exhibit 2A

- Church Recreational Facilities
- School Recreational Facilities
- Syracuse City Boundary



November 2015







**SYRACUSE**  
EST. 1935

## Neighborhood Parks Existing Service Areas

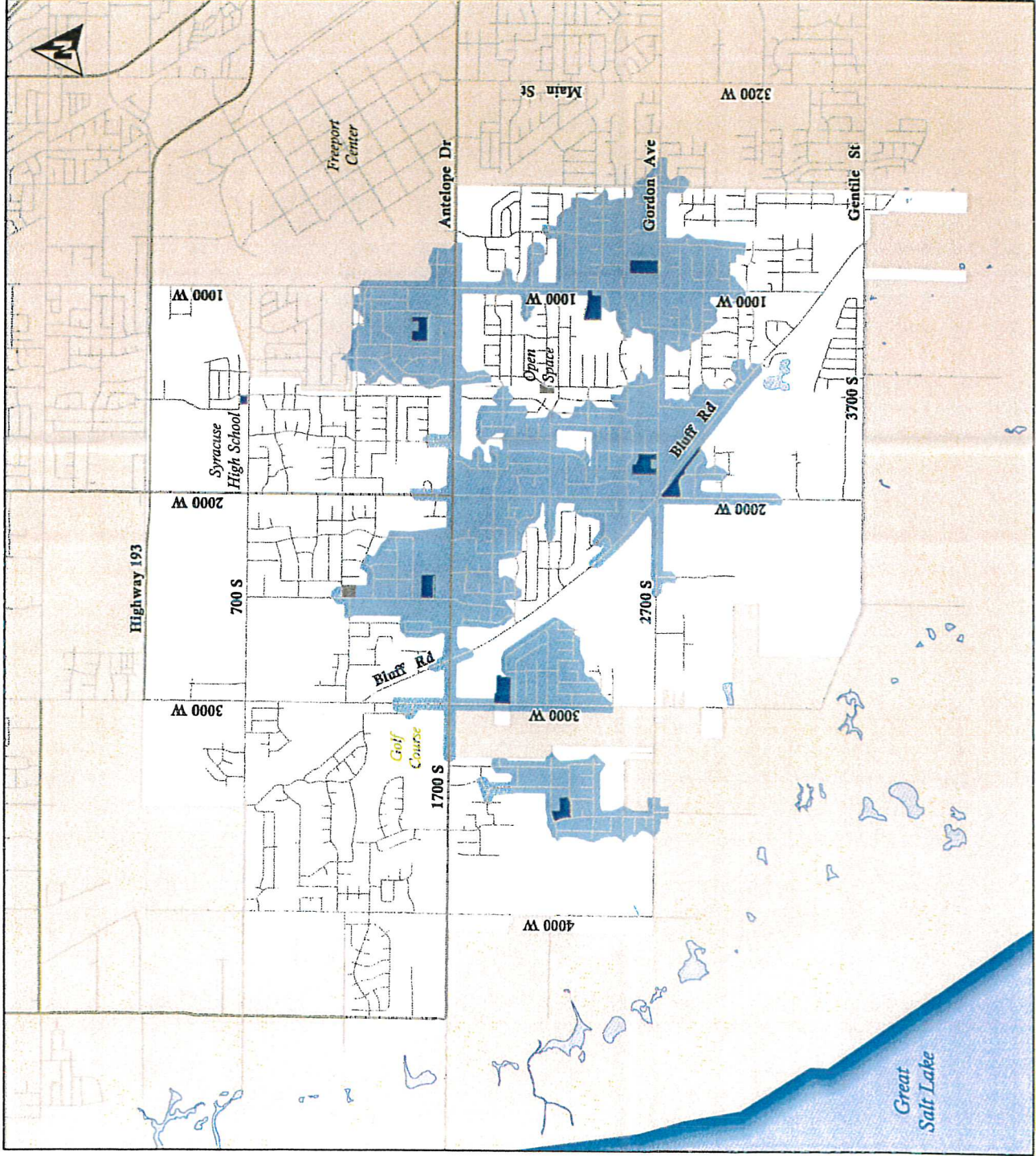
### Exhibit 3

- Neighborhood Parks
- Neighborhood Park Service Areas
- Syracuse City Boundary

Note: Trailside Park (east of 2000 W. and south of Bluff Rd) is classified as a linear park, but for the purposes of this study will be treated as a neighborhood park.



December 2018







**SYRACUSE**  
EST. CITY 1935

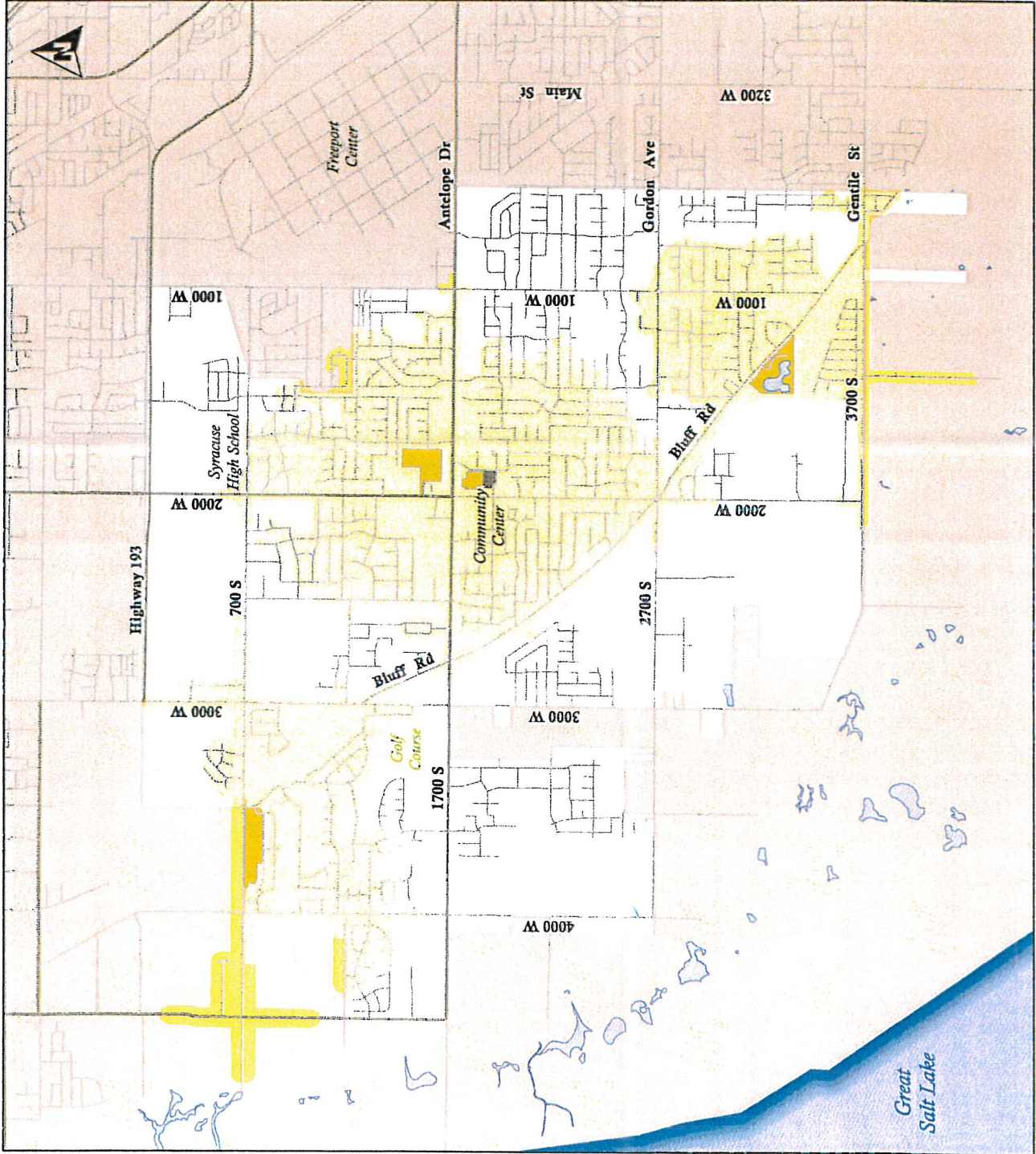
## Community Parks Existing Service Areas

**Exhibit 4**

-  Community Parks
-  Community Park Service Areas
-  Syracuse City Boundary



December 2018





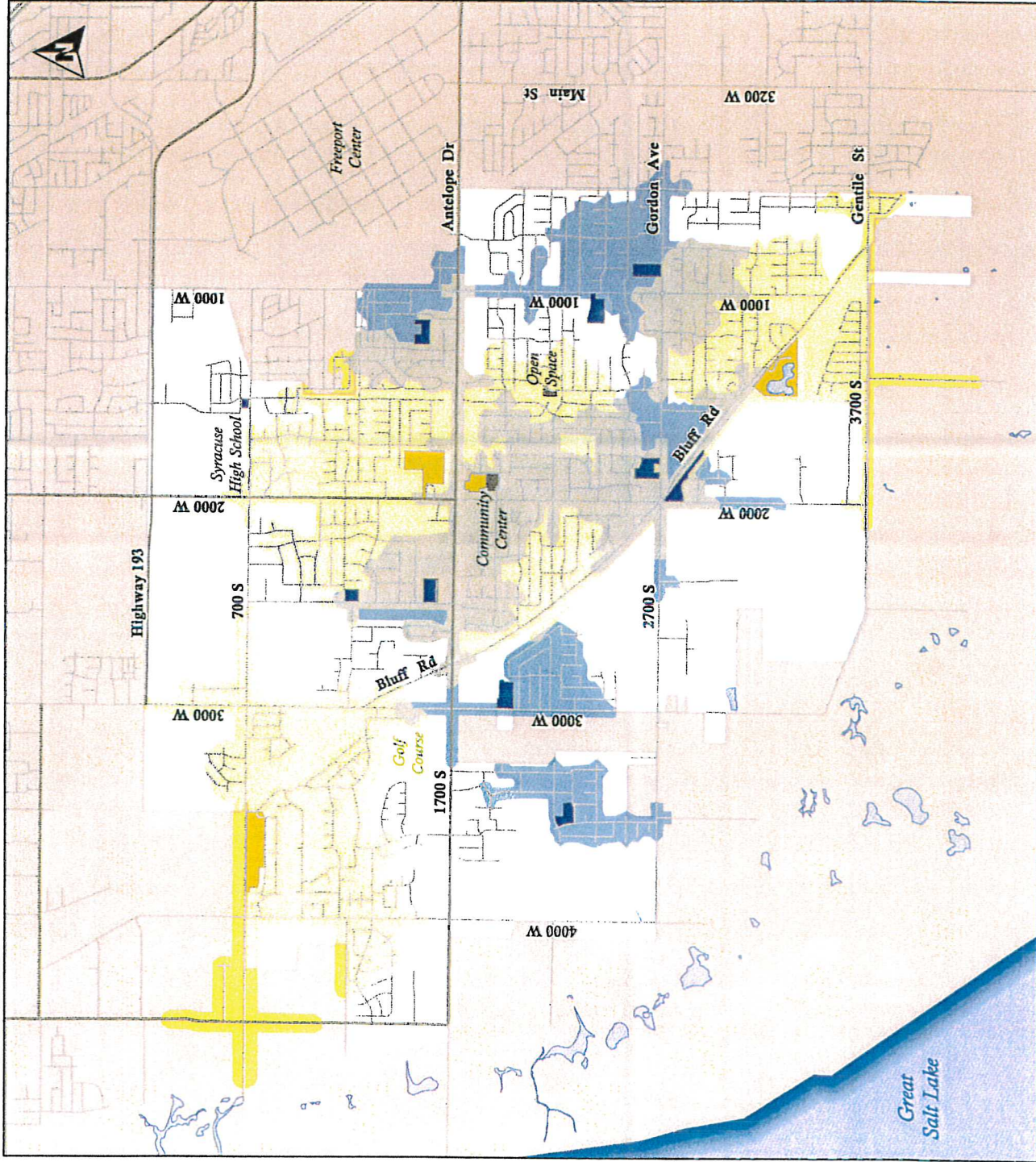


**SYRACUSE**  
EST. CITY 1935

## Neighborhood Park & Community Park Existing Service Areas

### Exhibit 5

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Community Park Service Areas
- Neighborhood Park Service Areas
- Syracuse City Boundary



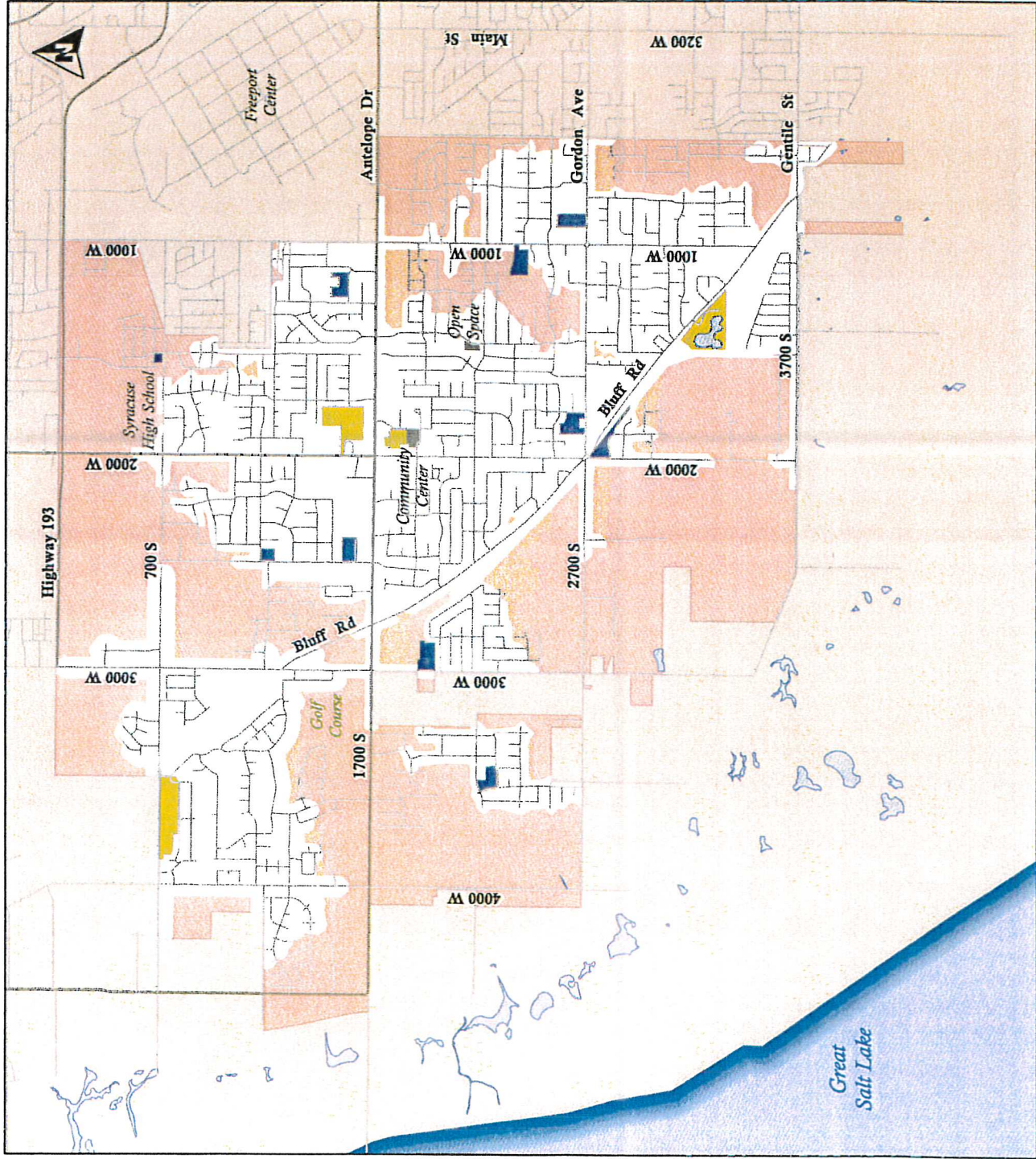




# Areas Not Currently Served by Neighborhood or Community Parks

Exhibit 6

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Areas Not Currently Served
- Syracuse City Boundary







## Population Growth Potential

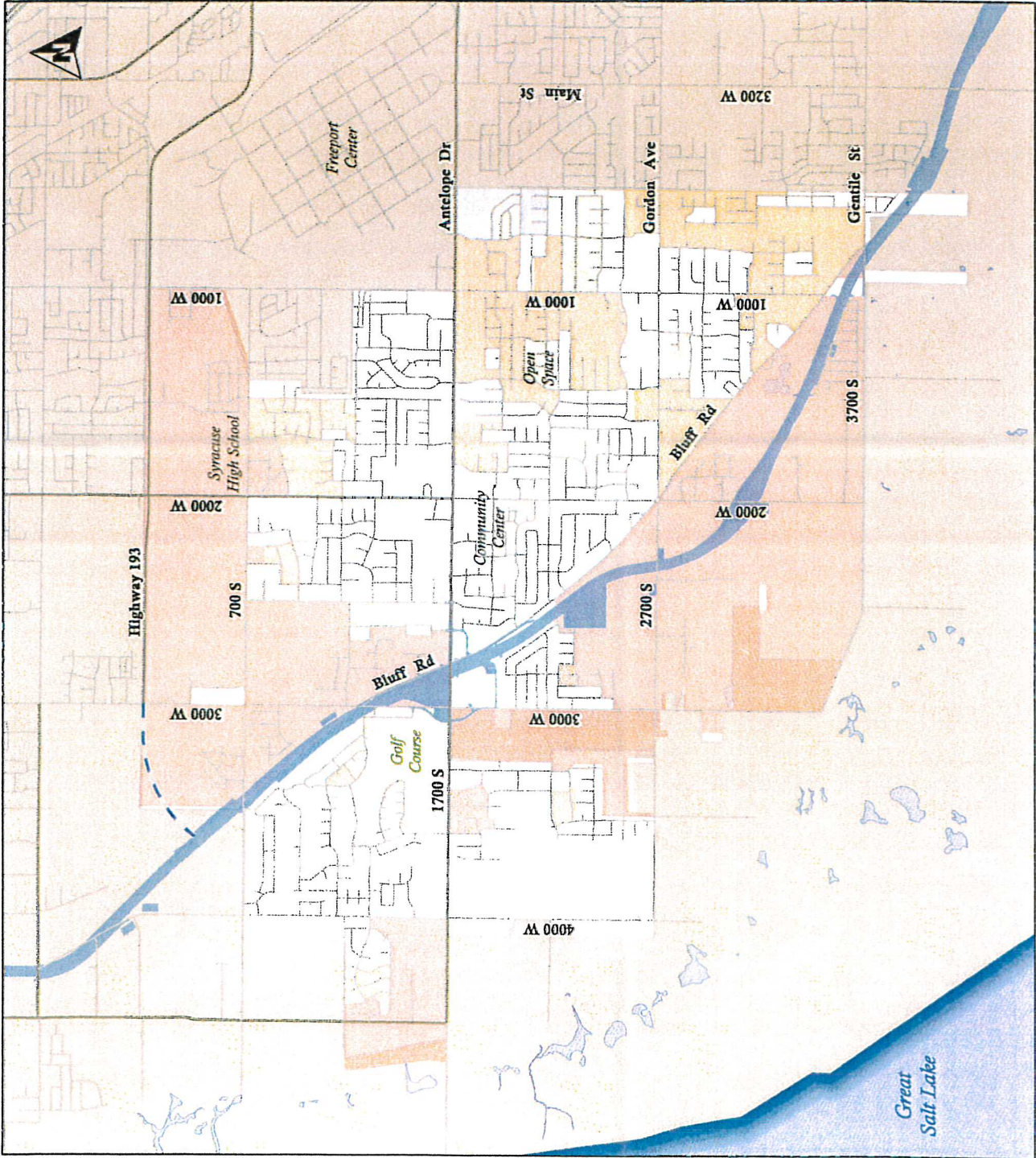
### Exhibit 7

#### Future Population Growth

- Up to 25%
- 25% - 50%
- 50% - 75%
- 75% - 100%

#### West Davis Corridor

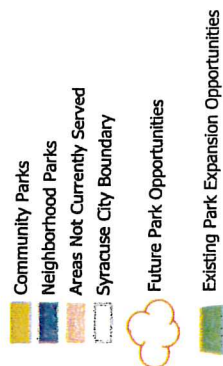
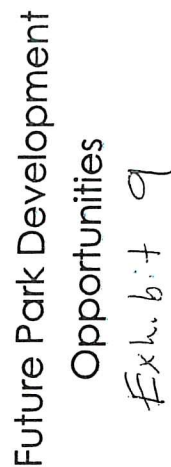
- Locally Preferred Alternative (B1)
- Future SR-193 Extension











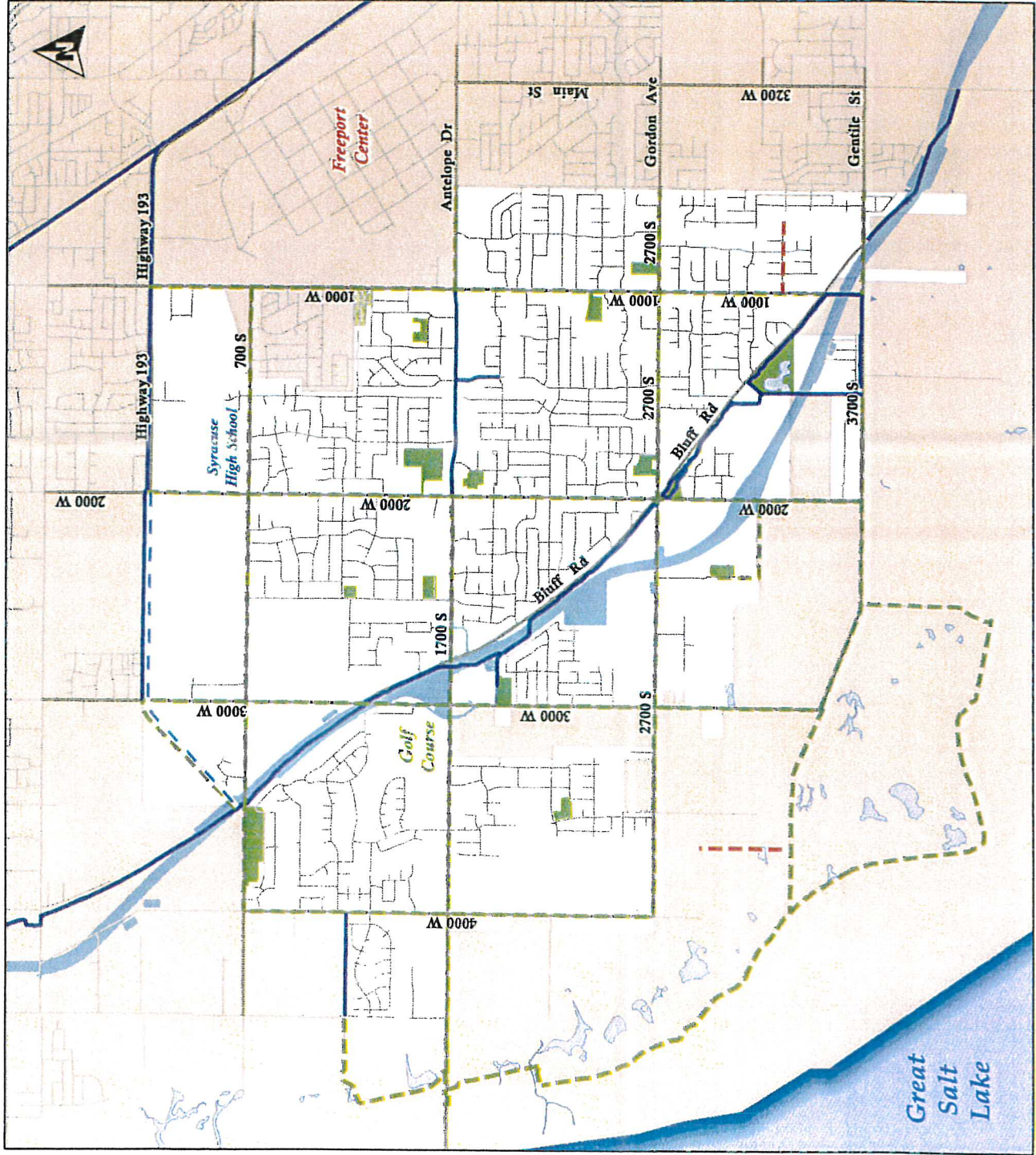




## Proposed Trails

### Exhibit 10

- Existing Parks
- Syracuse City Boundary
- Trails**
  - Currently Existing
  - Currently Planned
  - Additional Proposed Trails
  - West Davis Corridor
  - Locally Preferred Alternative (B1)
  - Future SR-193 Extension



## **APPENDIX: Exhibits**

**Figure 1: Existing Parks**

**Figure 2: Existing and Planned Trails**

**Figure 2A: Church and School Recreational Facilities**

**Figure 3: Neighborhood Parks Existing Service Areas**

**Figure 4: Community Parks Existing Service Areas**

**Figure 5: Neighborhood Park & Community Park Existing Service Areas**

**Figure 6: Areas Not Currently Served by Neighborhood or Community Parks**

**Figure 7: Population Growth Potential**

**Figure 8: Population Growth Potential (showing Existing Park Service Areas)**

**Figure 9: Proposed Future Parks**

**Figure 10: Proposed Trails**

**Citizen Survey Results**

## **CITIZEN SURVEY RESULTS**

### **SURVEY DEVELOPMENT**

As described earlier in this report, the survey was originally drafted by the project team and vetted by the City. After several edits and revisions based on Committee and City staff input, the final survey was put into the online tool used for this effort (Survey Monkey). The survey opened on March 6, 2015 and closed on June 15, 2015, and was provided to the public in an online format as well as a hard copy. The project team received 1,185 responses during the survey. For this type of survey, the response rate was very good (1,185 responses per 24,494 population = 4.84%).

The survey was promoted to residents using a variety of methods, including:

- Press releases
- Media coverage (newspaper, online)
- Social media postings
- Promotion by Recreation Committee members
- Survey availability at parks & recreation office
- Online survey URL passed out at events

Note that due to budget limitations, this survey was not truly a statistically random survey of the entire City. The survey was publicized, advertised, and mailed to each household, but response to the survey was voluntary and no specific follow-up was provided. Therefore, only those motivated by recreational interests responded, and disinterested or disenfranchised persons could have been missed. It is possible that whole segments of the population could be under-represented in the results. In order to ensure that citizens from every group of stakeholders within the City were contacted and their feedback obtained, significant follow-up and monitoring, beyond the scope of this project would be necessary. With that in mind, the large number of responses received does indicate that this work provides a good general indicator of the recreational interests and desires of Syracuse citizens, and should be used as a starting point for further evaluations.

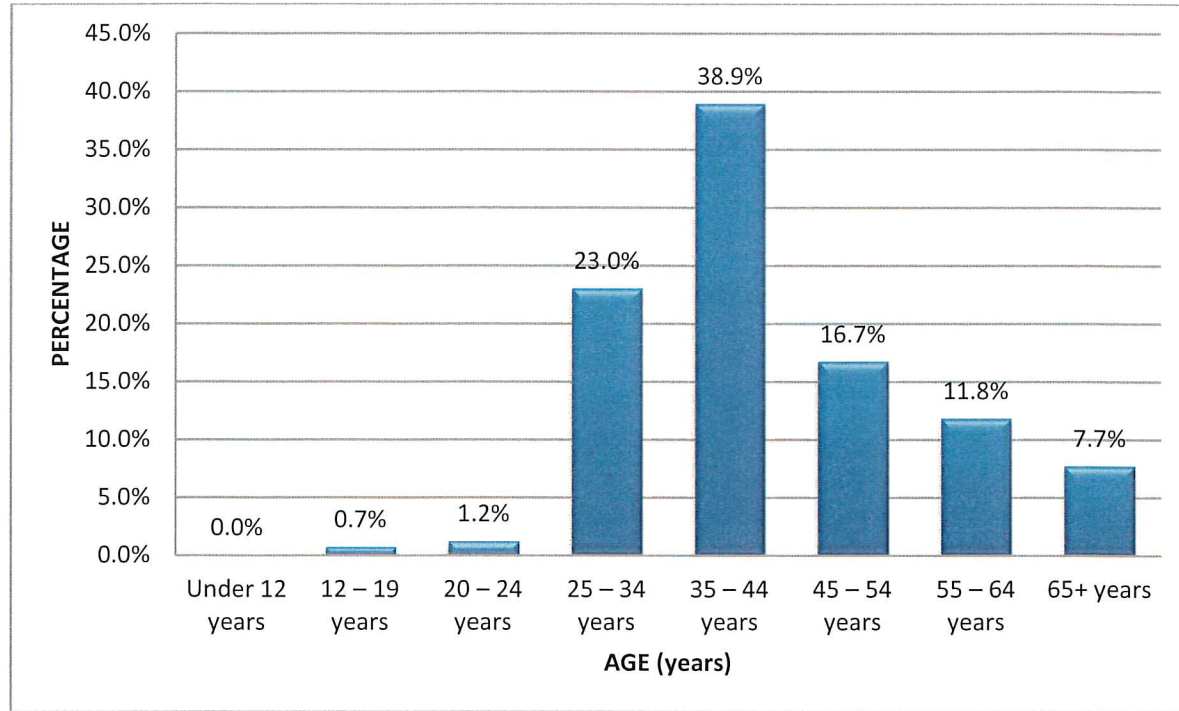
### **3P VISUAL MAPPING**

In order to look for potential trends, patterns, and vocal minorities that might exist within the community regarding recreation, we used a proprietary mapping and analysis process we call 3P Visual. This unique process allows us to not only hear what the public is saying, but also to see where they are saying it. When survey respondents gave their address or general location (83% provided this information, which is pretty good), we were able to see what parts of the city comments were coming from. By analyzing spatial data patterns, we could detect no hot spots or anomalies in the responses. Comments were well distributed across the City, and virtually every residential area had representation. Our basic findings were:

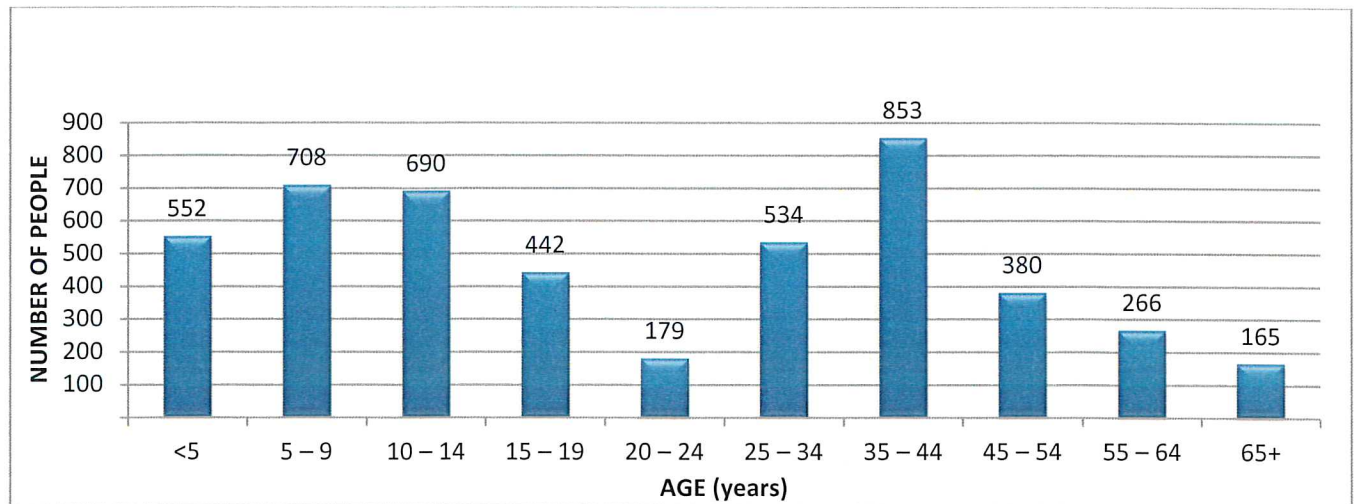
- No hot spots or significant patterns present.
- Broad general representation across the City.
- People go where they prefer to go, regardless of distance or proximity.

### Demographics of Survey Respondents

The following is a brief summary of the demographic profile of those who took the survey:



**Table 2: Age Distribution**



**Table 3: Age Distribution of Household Members**



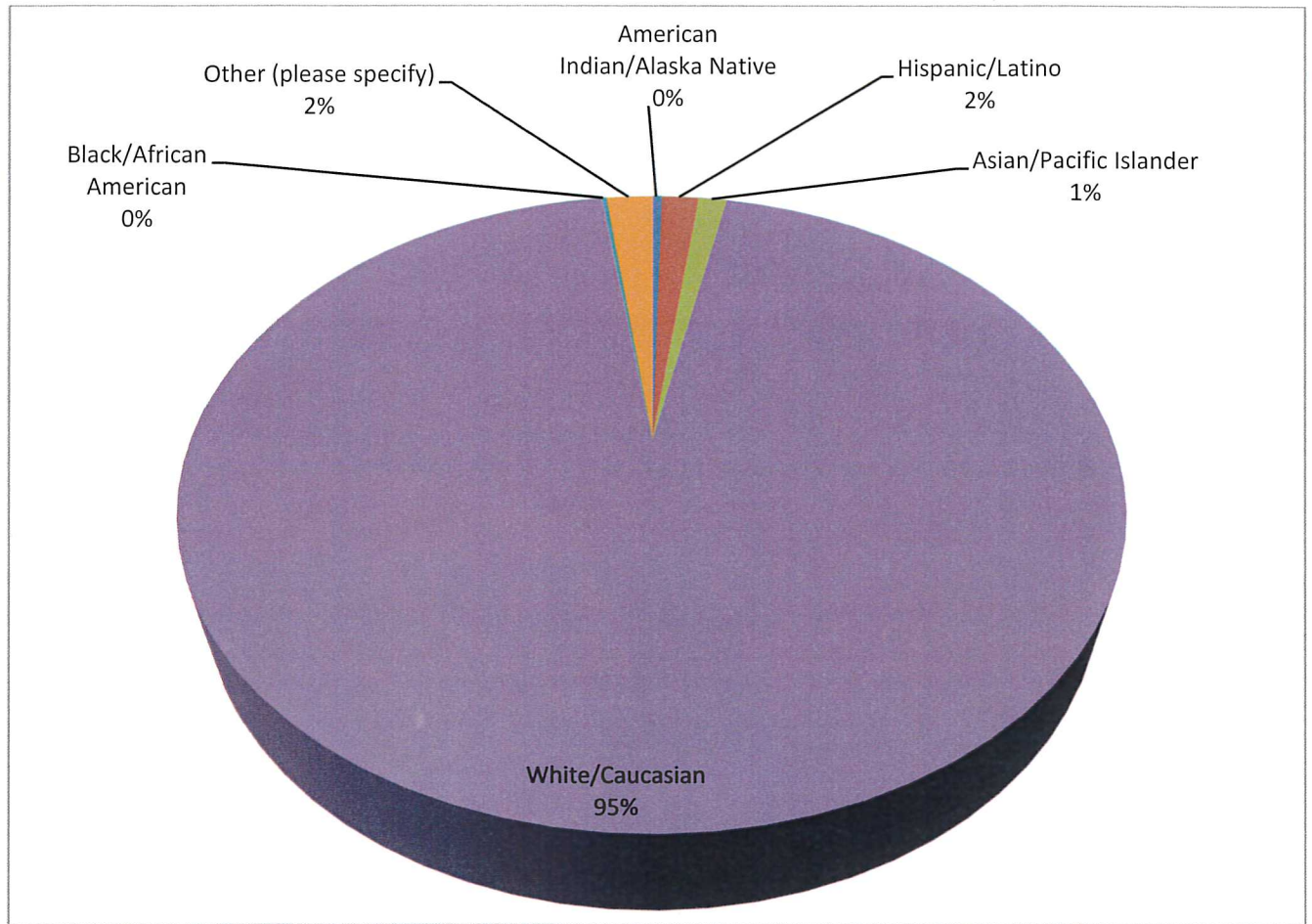


Table 4: Ethnicity

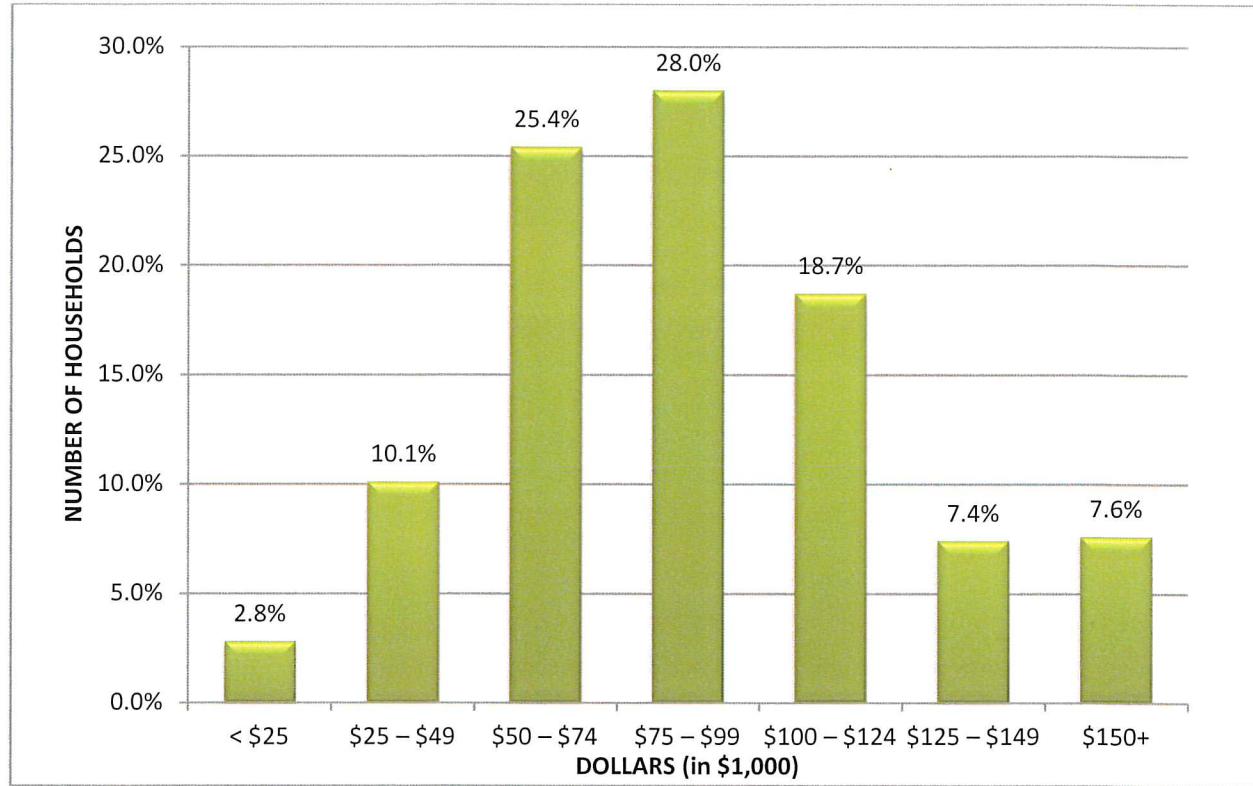


Table 5: Annual Household Income

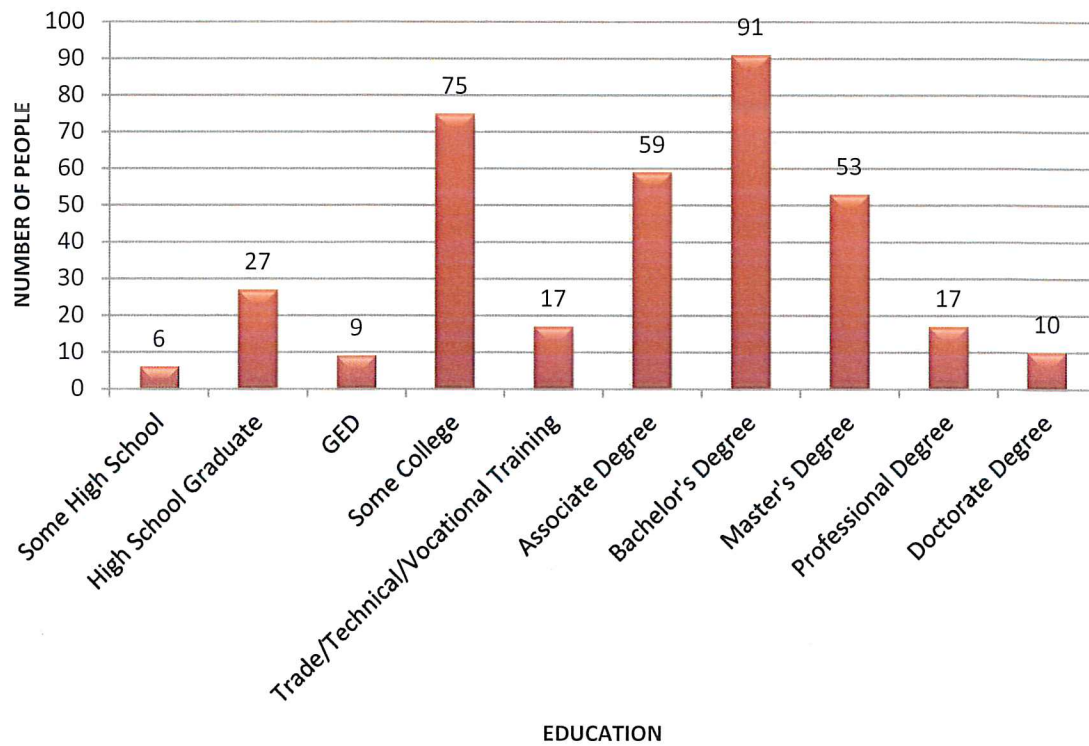


Table 6: Education Level



In summary, the families generally represented *by those taking this survey*:

- Are typically younger parents.
- Have lots of young children, not many teens.
- Are fairly well educated, with a majority having college degrees.
- Earn modest incomes, but are likely to increase in earnings because they are in their early working years.

## INTENT AND GOALS

The purpose of the citizen survey was to invite as much public participation as possible in the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. Transparency is important to the City, and having significant public input is a way to increase transparency and make open communication a main part of the planning process. Community support and buy-in is dependent upon people knowing what is happening and being reassured that their concerns and opinions are being heard and considered. Other goals included gathering feedback on user preferences regarding:

- Existing parks.
- Park activities.
- Park facilities and amenities.
- City recreation programs.
- Trails.
- Funding options.

## SURVEY RESULTS

All of the survey responses were tabulated in a large spreadsheet and results were totaled. Each question was analyzed individually, including responses and range of answers provided. Many questions were skipped or left partially answered, so the number of responses varied from question to question. In spite of this, there were still enough completed responses for each question that a comfortable level of confidence can be placed in the answers, and the answers are likely representative of the opinions of those who took the survey. While the responses might not be reflective of every person in the City, they do provide reasonable insight into general recreational interests, preferences, perceptions, and values of the community. The following is a summation of the survey findings. A complete raw statistical tabulation of the survey is provided in the Appendices of the master plan summary.

### Park Use and Preference

The vast majority of respondents (83%) visit a Syracuse park at least once per month, with more than half (60%) visiting at least once per week (Question 5). They also tend to stay for a couple of hours or less (Question 6).

With respect to which parks citizens visit (Question 7), the following list shows the top 10 most visited parks and trails:

| Rank | Park Name                | Number of Visits | Response Percent |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1.   | Jensen Nature Park ..... | 1,007 .....      | 87.2%            |
| 2.   | Founders Park .....      | 700 .....        | 60.6%            |

|     |                       |     |       |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|-------|
| 3.  | Trail System.....     | 602 | 52.1% |
| 4.  | Community Center..... | 461 | 39.9% |
| 5.  | Centennial Park.....  | 417 | 36.1% |
| 6.  | Bluff Ridge Park..... | 361 | 31.3% |
| 7.  | Canterbury Park.....  | 313 | 27.1% |
| 8.  | Fremont Park .....    | 256 | 22.2% |
| 9.  | Linda Vista Park..... | 254 | 22.0% |
| 10. | Legacy Park .....     | 230 | 19.9% |

All City parks were visited by people during the past year.

When asked to choose the City parks visited most (multiple visits – Question 8), the top 6 were:

| Rank | Park Name                | Number of Visits | Response Percent |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1.   | Jensen Nature Park ..... | 362              | 32.1%            |
| 2.   | Founders Park .....      | 182              | 16.2%            |
| 3.   | Trail System.....        | 164              | 14.6%            |
| 4.   | Canterbury Park.....     | 68               | 6.0%             |
| 5.   | Bluff Ridge Park.....    | 58               | 5.2%             |
| 6.   | Fremont Park .....       | 58               | 5.2%             |

When asked the type of park that people most enjoy (Question 9), the ranking by average score (1 = most enjoy, 5 = least enjoy; low score = most enjoyed park type) and number of total votes was:

| Rank | Park Type          | Rating Average |
|------|--------------------|----------------|
| 1.   | Passive Park ..... | 2.83           |
| 2.   | Nature Park.....   | 2.89           |
| 3.   | Trails.....        | 2.91           |
| 4.   | Water Park .....   | 3.10           |
| 5.   | Sports Park.....   | 3.29           |

When these same park types are evaluated by looking at how many ranked them as high (1+2) or low (4+5), the results are:

| Park Type          | High Score(1 + 2) | Middle (3)      | Low Score (4+5) |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Passive Park ..... | 465 people        | 319 people..... | 366 people      |
| Nature Park.....   | 496 people        | 234 people..... | 420 people      |
| Trails.....        | 494 people        | 224 people..... | 432 people      |
| Water Park .....   | 452 people        | 200 people..... | 499 people      |
| Sports Park.....   | 393 people        | 173 people..... | 585 people      |

#### Observations:

- **The top 2 visited parks are Community parks.**
- **Jensen Park is significantly more popular** than any other park in the City, and has almost double the return visits than the next highest visited park.
- **Nature Parks and Trails received almost the same number of high scores.**
- The ranking of the **middle scores matched** precisely with the ranking of **overall rating averages**.
- The **Trail System is fairly popular** and competes with almost any park in terms of frequency of use.

- **Sports parks have the lowest average score**, meaning that overall they are enjoyed least.
- **Sports parks received more low scores than it did high scores**, and significantly more low scores than any other type of park. There was also the fewest number of middle scores, indicating that it is either liked or disliked. No middle ground.
- **Water parks also had more low scores than high scores**, but they were a little more closely matched.
- **Passive parks have the most middle scores**, meaning that they aren't most enjoyed nor are they least enjoyed. But they did have the fewest low scores of all park types.

### Activities

We wanted to learn more about what people actually like to do and which activities they like to participate in while they are at a park or recreational area. (This is different than amenities or programs.) The following are the results of Question 10, which focuses on what people are actually doing. Of the 19 choices provided, the top 12 activities people said they do at a park are:

| Rank | Activity                           | Number of Votes | Response Percent |
|------|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1.   | Exercise/walk/run .....            | 924             | 79.9%            |
| 2.   | Family time/play with my kids..... | 907             | 78.4%            |
| 3.   | Use the park amenities.....        | 713             | 61.6%            |
| 4.   | Experience nature/fresh air.....   | 699             | 60.4%            |
| 5.   | Picnic/BBQ .....                   | 673             | 58.2%            |
| 6.   | Socialize with friends .....       | 555             | 48.0%            |
| 7.   | Swimming/water play.....           | 553             | 47.8%            |
| 8.   | Biking .....                       | 550             | 47.5%            |
| 9.   | Festivals/City Special Events..... | 516             | 44.6%            |
| 10.  | Watch organized sports.....        | 504             | 43.6%            |
| 11.  | Play organized sports.....         | 474             | 41.0%            |
| 12.  | Passive play .....                 | 470             | 40.6%            |

When asked which activities are most important to them (meaning what they value more), the list changes a bit:

| Rank | Activity                             | Number of Votes | Response Percent |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1.   | Family time/play with my kids.....   | 401             | 35.6%            |
| 2.   | Exercise/walk/run.....               | 227             | 20.1%            |
| 3.   | Play organized sports.....           | 97              | 8.6%             |
| 4.   | Watch organized sports.....          | 68              | 6.0%             |
| 5.   | Use park amenities (playground)..... | 64              | 5.7%             |
| 6.   | Walk my pet.....                     | 61              | 5.4%             |

### Observations:

- **Exercise** is listed **most frequently** as the thing that people like to do, and is high on the value list as well.
- **Family time** is the **most important** thing to people, and they value it almost twice as much as exercise.
- **Sports** (participating and watching) were shown to be in the middle of all the things people like to do, yet they ranked relatively high on the "most important" scale of values. However, they scored significantly lower than exercise and family time.

- **Walking a pet** was done by only a third of the respondents, yet it ranked somewhat high on the “most important” scale. However, only a small percentage (5.4%) think it’s most important.
- Nearly half of the respondents listed **Festivals/City Special Events** as something they like to do, which may provide some incentive for program directors to find ways to emphasize community activities and thus build community morale.
- In general, **individual or family activities were liked more** than community or group activities.

### Amenities/Facilities

Another area of interest is the type of amenities and/or facilities that people feel they need for recreation. From a comprehensive list of amenities/facilities, people were asked to provide a “yes/no/no opinion” vote for each one (Question 12). The top 12 vote-getters for “yes” were:

| Rank                                    | Amenity/Facility                                        | Number of “Yes” Votes |
|-----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1.                                      | Shade (trees, structures, etc.) .....                   | 1,048                 |
| 2.                                      | Walking/Running Trails .....                            | 1,040                 |
| 3.                                      | Nature Center and Nature Trails .....                   | 993                   |
| 4.                                      | Picnic Shelters .....                                   | 985                   |
| 4.                                      | Neighborhood Parks (3 – 10 acres) .....                 | 985                   |
| 6.                                      | Playgrounds .....                                       | 955                   |
| 7.                                      | Outdoor Swimming Pool/Water Park .....                  | 950                   |
| 8.                                      | Biking Trails.....                                      | 924                   |
| 9.                                      | Natural Features (vegetation, rocks, water, etc.) ..... | 923                   |
| 10.                                     | Community Parks (11-25 acres) .....                     | 904                   |
| 11.                                     | Indoor Swimming Pools.....                              | 900                   |
| 12.                                     | Large Group Pavilions.....                              | 784                   |
| Lowest Score = 135 (Riding/Rodeo Arena) |                                                         |                       |

The top 12 vote-getters for “no” were:

| Rank                      | Amenity/Facility                                | Number of Votes |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.                        | Skateboard Parks.....                           | 836             |
| 2.                        | Riding/Rodeo Arena .....                        | 811             |
| 3.                        | BMX Bike Racing Tracks.....                     | 804             |
| 4.                        | Equestrian Trails .....                         | 801             |
| 5.                        | Lacrosse Fields.....                            | 762             |
| 6.                        | Rollerblade or In-line Skating Facilities ..... | 699             |
| 7.                        | Bocce Ball Courts.....                          | 688             |
| 8.                        | Pickleball Courts .....                         | 646             |
| 9.                        | Boating Areas .....                             | 637             |
| 10.                       | Football Fields Racquetball Courts.....         | 634             |
| 11.                       | Baseball/Softball Fields, Adult.....            | 615             |
| 12.                       | Volleyball Courts (indoor) .....                | 614             |
| Lowest Score = 59 (Shade) |                                                 |                 |

### Observations:

- **Shade was consistently the most desired amenity** for a park: first in “yes” votes, last in “no” votes, and next to last in “no opinion” votes. This is a must have item for any park.
- **Walking/running trails showed the same pattern:** second in “yes” votes and second in least “no” votes and last in “no opinion” votes. This also is a must have item.

- Amenities associated with **nature** (natural features, nature center, nature trails) were also **very high on peoples' "yes" list**. This seems consistent with answers from other questions.
- **Skateboard parks and riding/rodeo arenas** apparently are **not particularly important** to City residents.
- Generally speaking, the facilities people didn't have an opinion about were also the facilities that received the most "no" votes. **"No" and "No Opinion/Don't Care" seem to have a strong correlation.**
- **Pickleball**, a strong emerging recreational trend in many parts of the country, including the Intermountain area, **did not show strongly** in this survey. Either the activity truly isn't popular yet, or the group that might participate in it was not represented in the survey.
- **Swimming is relatively high on the list of amenities** that people feel they need, but less than half of survey respondents (47.8%) indicated that swimming is also a desired activity. Surprisingly, swimming pool/water park was not listed as a high priority type of park. There seems to be a mis correlation on this point because the activity is desired, a pool is desired, but that type of park is not. Perhaps the experience with a water park or splashpad is not widespread enough for most people to appreciate their value or desirability.
- Of 44 possible amenities/facilities listed, **seventeen (17) amenities/facilities received more "no" votes than the "yes" votes**. Think twice about these facilities before providing them.
- The **"no opinion" votes could have a significant "swing" effect** on the interpretation of 6 of the 44 amenities listed in the survey.
  - If "no opinion" is considered the same as "no," then 3 amenities go from being "yes" or about the same (even) to the "no" side: baseball/softball fields, youth, ice skating rink, and multi-purpose rooms.
  - If "no opinion" is considered the same as "yes," then just 3 amenities go from being considered "no" or about the same (even) to the "yes" side: horseshoe pits, golf courses, and racquetball courts.
  - The only **amenity on the bubble** (no more than 10 between the numbers of "yes" vs. "no" votes) in terms of need or desirability is **horseshoe pits**.
- The **amenities considered needed** ("yes" vote) regardless of how they are analyzed include the following (in order):
 

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shade (trees, structures, etc.)</li> <li>- Walking/running trails</li> <li>- Nature center and nature trails</li> <li>- Picnic shelters</li> <li>- Neighborhood parks (3-10 acres)</li> <li>- Playgrounds</li> <li>- Outdoor swimming pools/water park</li> <li>- Biking trails</li> <li>- Natural features (native vegetation, rocks, water, etc.)</li> <li>- Community parks (11-25 acres)</li> <li>- Indoor swimming pools</li> <li>- Large group pavilions</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indoor Recreation Center</li> <li>- Passive open space/turf areas</li> <li>- Large regional parks (&gt;25 acres)</li> <li>- Basketball courts (outdoor)</li> <li>- Shooting range</li> <li>- Fishing areas</li> <li>- Camping</li> <li>- Soccer fields</li> <li>- Tennis court</li> <li>- Basketball courts (indoor)</li> <li>- Performing areas (amphitheater, stage)</li> <li>- Baseball/Softball fields, youth</li> <li>- Volleyball courts (outdoor, sand)</li> </ul> |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
- The **amenities considered not needed** ("no" votes) regardless of how they are evaluated include:

- Dog parks
- Baseball/softball fields, adult
- Boating areas
- Football fields
- Volleyball courts (indoor)
- Pickleball courts
- Rollerblade or in-line skating facilities
- Interpretive signage/monuments
- Bocce ball courts
- BMX bike racing tracks
- Lacrosse fields
- Equestrian trails
- Skateboard parks
- Riding/rodeo arenas

### Non-Use of Parks

Questions 13 through 17 were included to help understand why the City's parks and trails facilities might not be used by the citizens. Of the 13 various reasons why people seldom or did not visit a City park (Question 13), the top 6 reasons were:

| Rank | Reason                                      | Number of Votes | Percent |
|------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.   | Amenities I want are not there .....        | 269             | 32.7%   |
| 2.   | No restroom/I don't like the restrooms..... | 263             | 32.0%   |
| 3.   | Not enough trees/shade .....                | 251             | 30.5%   |
| 4.   | I am too busy/I don't have time .....       | 238             | 28.9%   |
| 5.   | I go somewhere else.....                    | 130             | 15.8%   |
| 6.   | Facilities not well maintained.....         | 129             | 15.7%   |

When asked which of the listed reasons was most important to the respondent (Question 14), the top 6 answers were:

| Rank | Reason                                        | Number of Votes | Percent |
|------|-----------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.   | Amenities I want are not there .....          | 167             | 23.3%   |
| 2.   | I am too busy/I don't have time .....         | 149             | 20.6%   |
| 3.   | No restrooms/I don't like the restrooms ..... | 91              | 12.7%   |
| 4.   | Not enough trees/shade .....                  | 66              | 9.2%    |
| 5.   | I go somewhere else.....                      | 49              | 6.8%    |
| 6.   | Park is too crowded.....                      | 41              | 5.7%    |

When asked if they visit parks outside of Syracuse, 79.9% of the respondents said "yes". When asked why, the answers included:

| Rank | Reason                                                                                                                           | Number of Votes | Percent |
|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.   | More amenities I like .....                                                                                                      | 350             | 38.2%   |
| 2.   | More established; mature trees.....                                                                                              | 335             | 36.6%   |
| 3.   | More variety of things to do .....                                                                                               | 297             | 32.4%   |
| 4.   | Other (a whole variety of answers, none of which constituted any kind of majority – mostly a sounding board to voice complaints) | 289             | 31.6%   |
| 5.   | Organized sports there.....                                                                                                      | 250             | 27.3%   |
| 6.   | Equipment is better maintained .....                                                                                             | 121             | 13.2%   |
| 7.   | Better programs there.....                                                                                                       | 89              | 9.7%    |
| 8.   | Less crowded .....                                                                                                               | 53              | 5.8%    |

## Observations:

- **People do what they want to do**, and if the amenities to accommodate their preferred activity are not present, they won't go there. They will go to where their preferred amenities are located.
- Having a **clean, well maintained restroom** is important to the success of any park or recreation area. People expect nice restrooms. Citizen users can help by fostering an attitude of taking care of restroom facilities.
- **Shade and mature trees** are highly valued amenities that every park should try to accommodate in abundance. Future park design (and even existing park upgrades) should pay particular attention to the placement of trees and ways of providing shade until the trees are of sufficient size to accomplish that task.
- There will **always be people that are too busy** to take advantage of recreational opportunities and the associated amenities regardless of their proximity. Not much can be done except to make sure facilities are within a reasonable distance for the average resident. An abundance of neighborhood and community parks serve this purpose.

## Programs

Several questions addressed the residents' reactions to the recreational programs that the City provides. Question 18 and 19 looked at some of the existing programs/services and how they are rated by citizens. Of the existing programs that are currently offered by the City (Question 18), only 2 events received more "yes" votes than "no" votes. They were:

| Rank | Program                              | "Yes" | "No" | "No Opinion" |
|------|--------------------------------------|-------|------|--------------|
| 1.   | Community Event – Heritage Days..... | 932   | 151  | 35           |
| 2.   | Community Event – Pumpkin Walk.....  | 873   | 196  | 44           |

If the "no opinion" votes are considered "yes" votes, only 1 other program would change from "no" to "yes", and that is the Ice Rink. No other evaluation performed on the responses will change a program either way. People either are supportive (voted "yes") or they are not (voted "no"). The only event that came close to being an "on-the-bubble" activity (within 10 votes one way or the other) was the City Easter Egg Hunt (77 vote difference). For the overall results to this question, see the Appendix.

Please note that there was some support for all of the existing programs/services listed, but the votes dropped drastically after the 2 community events listed above.

As expected, the program with the most "yes" votes also received the fewest number of "no" votes (Community Event – Heritage Days). Conversely, the program with the least number of "yes" votes also received the most number of "no" votes (Youth Competitive Girls Basketball (5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>)). That trend remained somewhat consistent throughout the scoring.

When asked which one of the listed existing programs/services was most important (Question 19), the top responses were:

| Rank | Program/Service                      | Number of Votes | Percent |
|------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.   | Community Event – Heritage Days..... | 405             | 39.7%   |
| 2.   | Youth Soccer (spring and fall).....  | 118             | 11.6%   |
| 3.   | Summer Program for Kids .....        | 92              | 9.0%    |
| 4.   | Community Event – Pumpkin Walk.....  | 68              | 6.7%    |



|     |                                        |    |      |
|-----|----------------------------------------|----|------|
| 5.  | Youth Baseball .....                   | 66 | 6.5% |
| 6.  | Youth Football (tackle) .....          | 59 | 5.8% |
| 7.  | Senior Citizen Activities .....        | 46 | 4.5% |
| 8.  | Youth Basketball.....                  | 43 | 4.2% |
| 9.  | Aerobic/Fitness Classes .....          | 42 | 4.1% |
| 10. | Community Gardening .....              | 15 | 1.5% |
| 10. | Ice Rink (City owned, rented out)..... | 15 | 1.5% |

The responses for Question 20, which asked respondents to rate the City in providing the services listed as “Excellent”, “Good”, “Fair”, “Poor” or “Don’t Know”, are shown below:

| Rank | Service                                                   | “Excellent” | “Excellent” + “Good”<br>(rank) | “Fair” + “Poor”<br>(rank) |
|------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1.   | Provide for quiet enjoyment of the outdoors.....          | 277         | 862 (2)                        | 219 (14)                  |
| 2.   | Safe facilities.....                                      | 264         | 892 (1)                        | 171 (16)                  |
| 3.   | Clean, well maintained facilities.....                    | 229         | 789 (3)                        | 297 (6)                   |
| 4.   | Opportunity for participation.....                        | 223         | 739 (4)                        | 195 (15)                  |
| 5.   | Enjoyment of active sports.....                           | 193         | 687 (6)                        | 291 (8)                   |
| 6.   | Providing natural areas for wildlife (habitat) .....      | 188         | 673 (7)                        | 284 (9)                   |
| 7.   | Type/variety of programs.....                             | 163         | 702 (5)                        | 259 (11)                  |
| 8.   | Places for indoor recreation and fitness activities ....  | 155         | 575 (9)                        | 376 (2)                   |
| 9.   | Reasonable fees .....                                     | 154         | 598 (8)                        | 262 (10)                  |
| 10.  | Quality of organization.....                              | 136         | 567 (10)                       | 249 (12)                  |
| 11.  | Quality of leadership .....                               | 132         | 546 (11)                       | 240 (13)                  |
| 12.  | Managing resources wisely (water conservation).....       | 97          | 455 (12)                       | 359 (3)                   |
| 12.  | Adequate facilities to meet demand.....                   | 97          | 450 (13)                       | 439 (1)                   |
| 14.  | Managing tax dollars efficiently .....                    | 88          | 401 (14)                       | 341 (4)                   |
| 15.  | Allocating resources fairly to different parts of City .. | 77          | 386 (16)                       | 323 (5)                   |
| 16.  | Enough qualified coaches/instructors.....                 | 74          | 392 (15)                       | 297 (6)                   |

Based on these results, priorities regarding services seem to be: quiet outdoor spaces that are safe and clean. However, when asked to list which of the listed services are the most important to them (Question 21), respondents said:

| Rank | Service                                | Number of Votes | Percent |
|------|----------------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
| 1.   | Type/variety of programs.....          | 180             | 16.9%   |
| 2.   | Managing tax dollars efficiently ..... | 161             | 15.1%   |
| 3.   | Clean, well maintained facilities..... | 143             | 13.4%   |
| 4.   | Adequate to meet demand .....          | 109             | 10.2%   |
| 5.   | Safe facilities.....                   | 84              | 7.9%    |
| 6.   | Opportunity of participation .....     | 48              | 4.5%    |

When it comes to new recreational programs that citizens feel are needed (Question 22), the top 10 responses were as follows:

| Rank | Program              | “Yes” | “No” | “No Opinion” |
|------|----------------------|-------|------|--------------|
| 1.   | Shooting range ..... | 606   | 423  | 92           |
| 2.   | Weight training..... | 476   | 529  | 106          |
| 3.   | Spin classes.....    | 399   | 577  | 127          |

|                                |                                                        |          |           |     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----|
| 4.                             | Indoor soccer.....                                     | 392..... | 592 ..... | 113 |
| 5.                             | Youth competitive leagues & tournaments (soccer) ..... | 377..... | 620 ..... | 115 |
| 6.                             | Frisbee golf (disc golf) .....                         | 352..... | 622 ..... | 123 |
| 7.                             | Youth flag football.....                               | 318..... | 669 ..... | 120 |
| 8.                             | Adult softball leagues.....                            | 296..... | 693 ..... | 117 |
| 9.                             | Youth competitive leagues & tournaments (baseball).... | 288..... | 698 ..... | 118 |
| 10.                            | Racquetball leagues and tournaments.....               | 265..... | 700 ..... | 140 |
| Lowest Score = 123 (Wrestling) |                                                        |          |           |     |

The programs that scored highest in the “yes” category also scored lowest in the “no” group. While order of programs varies slightly, this inverse relationship appears to be consistent for all the programs listed. It seems to indicate that the choices being made are indeed for the things they want and against the things they don’t want; the selections do not appear to be random.

Important to note is that only 1 program (shooting range) received more “yes” votes than “no” votes. Only 1 program (weight training) saw a change in rating if the “no opinion” votes were added to the “yes” votes to change the program from no to yes. No other evaluation caused a change in the ratings for any other program. In fact, 18 of the 22 listed programs received more “no” votes than the top program received “yes” votes.

#### Observations:

- The **City-sponsored Heritage Days and Pumpkin Walk** events are very well received by the residents. They were the only two activities that received more “yes” votes than “no” votes. Keep it up!
- All of the other listed existing programs/services received more “no” votes than “yes” votes, and only 1 program/service (ice rink) changed to “yes” when the “no opinion” votes were included in the analysis. It appears that there is **limited support for about half of the existing programs**, with those being supported focused on youth sports programs.
- The respondents liked safe and clean, but more **important to their values are the variety of programs and managing tax dollars wisely.**
- **Aerobic/fitness classes also show some support** among respondents.
- **Clean and safe facilities are very highly desired** and valued services that the City can offer.
- **Outdoor quiet and peaceful enjoyment is the service desired most**, but is quite a ways down the list of being the most important service that the City can provide.
- A **shooting range** is the only new activity that seems to be **strongly desired** by the respondents.
- **Weight training is popular**, and the need for space to accommodate that program is important.

## Trails

Questions 25 and 26 deal directly with trails and the characteristics that people value most when using them. The types of trails were ranked from 1 through 3 (1 = most enjoy, 2 = second-most enjoy, 3 = third-most enjoy; low score = most enjoyed trail type). The Response Average is the Response Total divided by the Response Count (lowest average score is preferred). The Response Total is the sum of the ratings given (highest score is preferred), and the Response Count showed how many times that trail type was listed as either 1, 2, or 3 (highest score is preferred). The rankings were as follows:

| Rank | Trail Type                                       | Response<br>Average | Response<br>Total (rank) | Response<br>Count (rank) |
|------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.   | Walking/Running (paved).....                     | 1.69 .....          | 1,387 (3) .....          | 823 (1)                  |
| 2.   | Shared Use: Walking/Biking (paved) .....         | 2.12 .....          | 1,426 (2) .....          | 672 (2)                  |
| 3.   | Biking (paved).....                              | 2.14 .....          | 1,348 (4) .....          | 630 (4)                  |
| 4.   | Hiking (unpaved, varied terrain) .....           | 2.34 .....          | 1,488 (1) .....          | 635 (3)                  |
| 5.   | Walking/Running (unpaved, relatively flat) ..... | 2.37 .....          | 1,163 (5) .....          | 490 (5)                  |
| 6.   | Mountain biking (unpaved, varied terrain) .....  | 3.03 .....          | 954 (7).....             | 315 (7)                  |
| 7.   | Motorized Trail: ATV, ORV, OHM (unpaved).....    | 3.23 .....          | 1,114 (6) .....          | 345 (6)                  |
| 8.   | Shared Use: Walking/Equestrian (unpaved) .....   | 3.80 .....          | 821 (9).....             | 216 (8)                  |
| 9.   | Equestrian (unpaved) .....                       | 4.57 .....          | 846 (8).....             | 185 (9)                  |

When ranking the importance of various trail characteristics (Question 26), the response results were as follows:

| Rank | Trail Characteristic                         | Response<br>Average | Response<br>Total (rank) | Response<br>Count (rank) |
|------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1.   | Safety.....                                  | 1.86 .....          | 1,312 (3) .....          | 706 (2)                  |
| 2.   | Well maintained .....                        | 2.00 .....          | 1,658 (1) .....          | 829(1)                   |
| 3.   | Scenic value .....                           | 2.03 .....          | 1,361 (2) .....          | 670 (3)                  |
| 4.   | Connectivity.....                            | 2.08 .....          | 1,265 (4) .....          | 607 (4)                  |
| 5.   | Variety of distances to complete a loop..... | 2.43 .....          | 1,144 (5) .....          | 471 (5)                  |
| 6.   | Pet-friendly.....                            | 2.47 .....          | 934 (6).....             | 378 (6)                  |
| 7.   | Variety of terrain types .....               | 2.79 .....          | 833 (7).....             | 299 (7)                  |

### Observations:

- The ranking clearly shows that **walking and running are the preferred uses** on local trails.
- **Paved surfaces are most preferred** for walking/running and biking.
- **Shared use between walking/biking is preferred** over sharing with equestrians. There seems to be a desire to separate pedestrian use from most other uses (biking, equestrian).
- **Equestrian trails do not appear to be too high** on the priority list for trails.
- **Safety** on the trail appears to be the **most important** concern about trails.
- Having a **well maintained trail is almost as important as safety**. It received the highest overall points and was mentioned the most frequently.
- **Pet-friendly trails** had a high point average, low overall score, and low frequency of being mentioned. This does **not seem to be a high trail priority**.
- **Connectivity** had a surprising middle score: 4<sup>th</sup> in average, 4<sup>th</sup> in overall points, and 4<sup>th</sup> in how often it was selected.
- **Scenic value ranks as important**, but not above safety or good maintenance.

## Funding

Several questions were asked of the respondents regarding funding to gauge their understanding of the importance of parks and open space, determine the relative support for some development of a large park complex, and what types of funding options they might be willing to support. Of the 1,110 responses given to Question 27 (Do you think parks and open space provide benefits to the City?), 98.2% of the respondents said yes, while 0.4% said no and 1.4% did not know.

When asked if they would support the idea of the City developing a large (50-60 acre) park complex (Question 28), 1,135 respondents said the following:

“Yes” ... 850 (74.9%)                      “No”.... 157 (13.8%)                      “No Opinion” ....128 (11.3%)

Of the types of large park complexes that could be developed (question 29), the 939 response results were as follows:

| Response                          | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Swimming Pool Complex.....     | 613                 | 65.4%      |
| 2. Soccer Fields.....             | 523                 | 55.8%      |
| 3. Baseball/Softball Fields ..... | 521                 | 55.5%      |
| 4. Indoor Recreation Center.....  | 446                 | 47.5%      |
| 5. Tennis .....                   | 367                 | 39.2%      |
| 6. Football Fields .....          | 283                 | 30.2%      |
| 7. Lacrosse Fields.....           | 156                 | 16.6%      |
| 8. Pickleball.....                | 140                 | 14.9%      |
| 9. Horse Riding Arena.....        | 114                 | 12.2%      |

When asked to indicate the one they would most support (Question 30), responses were:

| Response                          | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| 1. Swimming Pool Complex.....     | 322                 | 34.6%      |
| 2. Soccer Fields.....             | 166                 | 17.8%      |
| 3. Baseball/Softball Fields ..... | 143                 | 15.4%      |
| 4. Indoor Recreation Center.....  | 107                 | 11.5%      |
| 5. Tennis .....                   | 70                  | 7.5%       |
| 6. Football Fields .....          | 47                  | 5.1%       |
| 7. Lacrosse Fields.....           | 31                  | 3.3%       |
| 8. Pickleball.....                | 24                  | 2.6%       |
| 9. Horse Riding Arena.....        | 20                  | 2.2%       |

Question 31 discusses some possible funding options for constructing a large park complex. Of the options given, the respondents indicated the following (ranking 1-4; 1 = most preferred, 4 = least preferred):

| Option                                                      | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   | (1+2) | (3+4) | Average | Response Count |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------|-------|---------|----------------|
| 1. As funds are available .....<br>in City's annual budget. | 468 | 358 | 125 | 73  | 826   | 198   | 1.81    | 1,024          |
| 2. By combining any of.....                                 | 334 | 119 | 300 | 271 | 453   | 571   | 2.50    | 1,024          |

the other options.

3. Selling undeveloped City .. 148 ..... 351 ..... 270 ..... 255 ..... 499 ..... 525 ..... 2.62 ..... 1,024  
land held for future  
purposes.
4. By financing the..... 74 ..... 196 ..... 329 ..... 424 ..... 270 ..... 753 ..... 3.08 ..... 1,023  
construction (via bond or  
other method).

Question 32 presented specific conditions of sponsoring a bond to pay for a new large park complex, which would result in a fee of \$6.83 per month per household (approximately \$82.00 per year). The results were:

“Yes” ...570 (50.58%)                      “No” .....557 (49.42%)

The follow-up Question 33 asked those who answered “no” to the previous question to indicate how much they would be willing to pay. That response was as follows:

| Response                              | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| \$5.12/month (\$61.50 per year) ..... | 46 .....            | 8.0%       |
| \$3.42/month (\$41.00 per year) ..... | 208 .....           | 35.5%      |
| \$1.71/month (\$20.50 per year) ..... | 164 .....           | 28.2%      |
| \$0.00 .....                          | 164 .....           | 28.2%      |

Combining the above information and tabulating everything into relative percentages, the following approximation can be made:

| Response                              | Number of Responses | Percentage |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|------------|
| \$6.83/month (\$82.00 per year) ..... | 570 .....           | 50.6%      |
| \$5.12/month (\$61.50 per year) ..... | 46 .....            | 4.0%       |
| \$3.42/month (\$41.00 per year) ..... | 208 .....           | 17.6%      |
| \$1.71/month (\$20.50 per year) ..... | 164 .....           | 13.9%      |
| \$0.00 .....                          | 164 .....           | 13.9%      |
|                                       |                     | 100.0%     |

#### Observations:

- **Swimming Pool Complex appears to be the most desired park complex.** Soccer and baseball/softball are a virtual tie for second most desired complex. Both choices are desired by more than half of the respondents, while all other choices are less than a simple majority.
- The **priorities do not change** at all when evaluating the most desired park complex choice.
- People are **not very willing to pay more taxes** without knowing how much it will cost. Only 54.6% are will pay all or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the proposed bond price per household, while 13.9% are completely opposed.
- People are generally okay about funding when it appears that **someone else will be paying** (user fees, private donations, public/private partnerships).
- If the **amount is relatively low, conditions specified up front** (\$6.83 per month per household), and people are assured that the **money will go exclusively to recreation needs**, then about half of the respondents (50.6%) were willing to support a bond. Interestingly, only 4.0% said they were willing to pay  $\frac{3}{4}$  that amount, while 17.54% said they would pay half that amount, and 13.93% said they would pay  $\frac{1}{4}$  that amount.
- **13.9% of all respondents were unwilling to pay** any amount towards funding a large park complex.

- **City General Funds seem to be viewed a little differently than tax dollars.** Respondents seem a little more willing to spend “City” dollars in spite of the fact that the money still comes primarily from taxes on local businesses and sales transactions. The money is still looked at more as coming from someone else and not them.

It is important to note that the apparent willingness to support a bond issue is expressed only by those who took the survey, and may not represent all the voting public. This is a **good starting point**, but much more needs to be done before trying to implement such a bond. A significant public involvement campaign is recommended to verify that all segments of the voting population are being heard and expressing their opinions.

**(attach raw survey results)**





# COUNCIL AGENDA

February 12, 2019

Agenda Item “c”

**Discussion regarding proposed legislation being considered by the Utah Legislature in the 2019 Session.**

*Factual Summation*

- Any questions regarding this agenda item may be directed at City Manager, Brody Bovero. Mr. Bovero will upload to Dropbox a spreadsheet including information about items of legislation that could impact Syracuse City.