



# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN

JULY 2025



# WELCOME

## A LETTER FROM MAYOR JENSEN

July 3, 2025

Dear El Reno Community,

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I present the Adams Park Master Plan. This comprehensive and thoughtful vision reflects the values, aspirations, and dedication of our community to enhancing the quality of life for all who call El Reno home.

Adams Park has long served as a central place for recreation and connection. Through your input, ideas, and commitment, we now have a clear plan to elevate it into a dynamic regional destination that will benefit current residents and future generations. With improved athletic fields, enhanced trails, a destination playground, expanded water access, and inclusive gathering spaces, this plan represents more than physical improvements. It is a reflection of our collective investment in health, vitality, and civic pride.

The Adams Park Master Plan reaffirms El Reno's identity as a thriving and forward-thinking city where families flourish, opportunities grow, and community bonds are strengthened. As we move forward with implementation, we do so with confidence in our vision and with deep appreciation for the citizens who make El Reno exceptional.

Thank you for your continued belief in our city and for helping shape a park and a future we can all take pride in.

Sincerely,



J. Steve Jensen

Mayor, City of El Reno



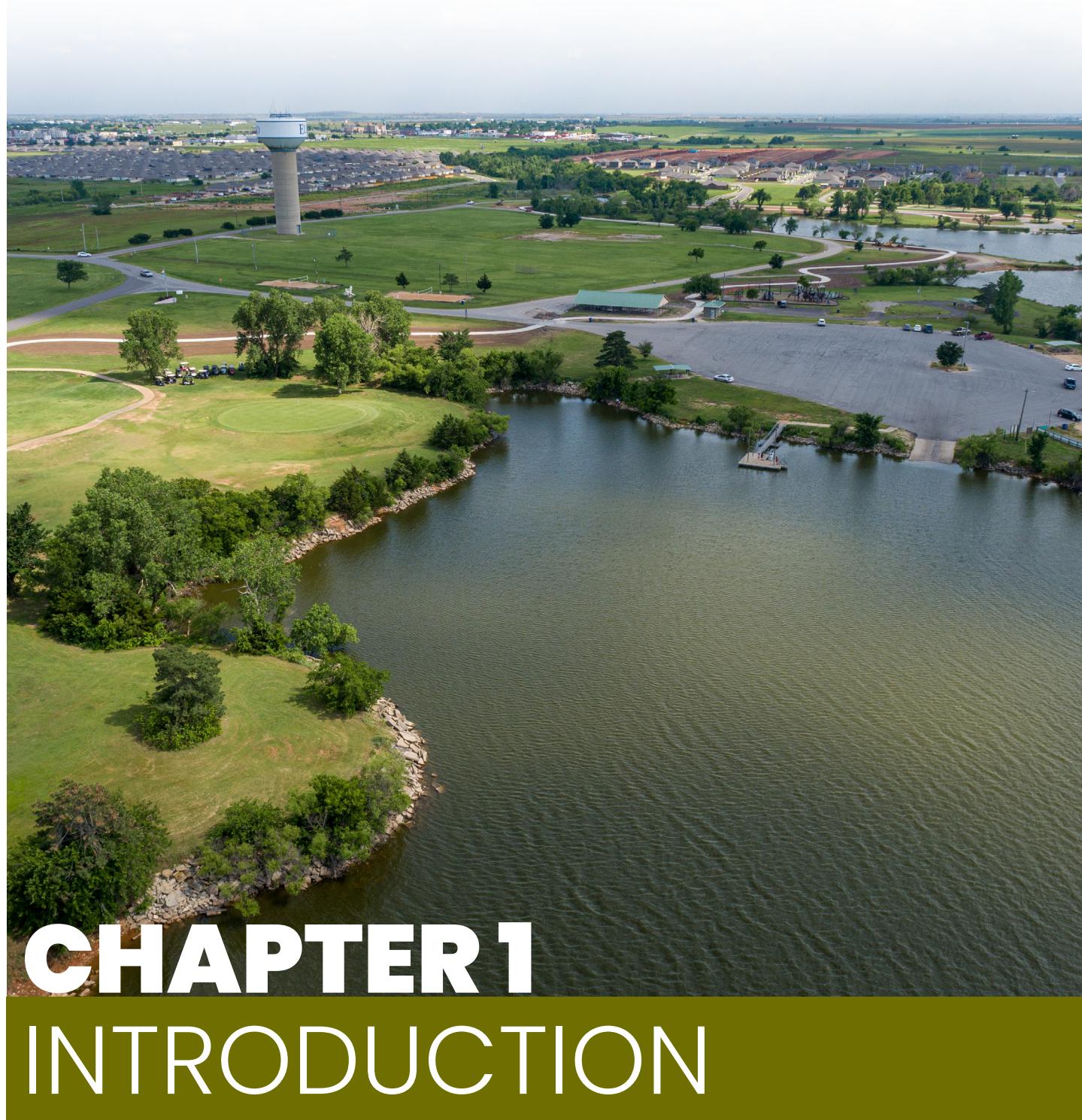
Mayor J. Steve Jensen

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# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

## INTRODUCTION

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# PARKS PLANNING

## ABOUT THE ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN

The Adams Park Master Plan (the “Master Plan” or “Plan”) was initiated in early 2024 to establish a vision for how Adams Park and Lake El Reno would meet the evolving long-term needs of El Reno residents. To successfully implement the city’s new vision for Adams Park, this Master Plan provides an overview of community outreach, reviews the existing conditions of El Reno’s parks, system-wide needs and a detailed review, conceptual plan, and operational recommendations for the Adams Park study area.



## THREE PILLARS OF PARKS PLANNING

According to the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA), public parks play an important role in enhancing three primary elements of community well-being: health and wellness, social equity, and conservation. While these are foundational elements of parks and recreation, there are many more quality of life benefits that are extensions of the “Three Pillars.” Communities throughout the nation increasingly view lively park systems as an essential community service that is as vital to public quality of life as infrastructure and community safety.

### 1. HEALTH AND WELLNESS

Advancing community health and well-being through parks and recreation.

### 2. SOCIAL EQUITY

Provide fair and just access to quality parks and recreation for all people.

### 3. CONSERVATION

Creating a community of resilient and climate-ready park spaces.

The El Reno Comprehensive Plan *Route to the Future* calls for the city to “Develop and implement a Parks and Recreation Master Plan, to establish priorities and timelines for providing additional amenities for all El Reno parks.” This Master Plan is created in response to this recommendation and exceptional community interest in the Adams Park study area.



# NAVIGATE THE PLAN

The Master Plan is divided into six chapters that cover elements of the planning process and findings. The Plan identifies city-wide park needs and priorities then provides guidance on the specific needs and design guidance for the Adams Park Study Area. The Master Plan structure is outlined below:



### CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND ON THE PLANNING PROCESS AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT.

### CHAPTER 2: COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROCESS AND RESULTING PROJECT VISION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES.

### CHAPTER 3: PARKS ASSESSMENT

AN ANALYSIS OF THE EXISTING PARKS SYSTEM AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING IN EL RENO AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

### CHAPTER 4: ADAMS PARK TODAY

A REVIEW OF THE ADAMS PARK STUDY AREA AND SITE CONDITIONS, RESTRAINTS, AND OPPORTUNITIES.

### CHAPTER 5: ADAMS PARK TOMORROW

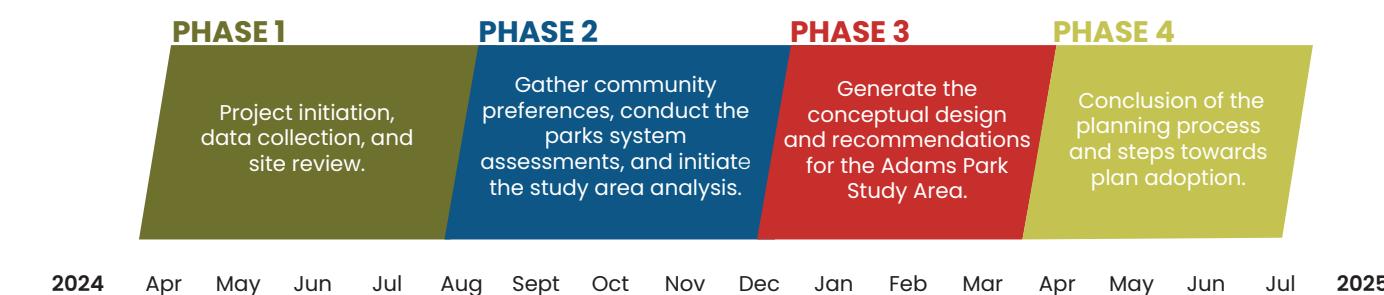
THE CONCEPTUAL DESIGNS FOR THE ADAMS PARK STUDY AREA.

### CHAPTER 6: IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION

THE ADAMS PARK STUDY AREA OPERATIONAL ASSESSMENT AND CONSOLIDATED WORK PROGRAM TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE PLAN.

## THE PLANNING PROCESS

The Adams Park master planning process was conducted in four phases. Each phase consisted of different planning tasks and goals, as detailed below:

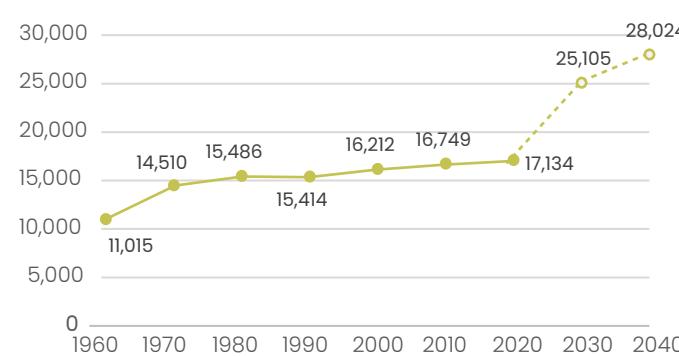


# COMMUNITY CONTEXT

## RESIDENTS OF EL RENO

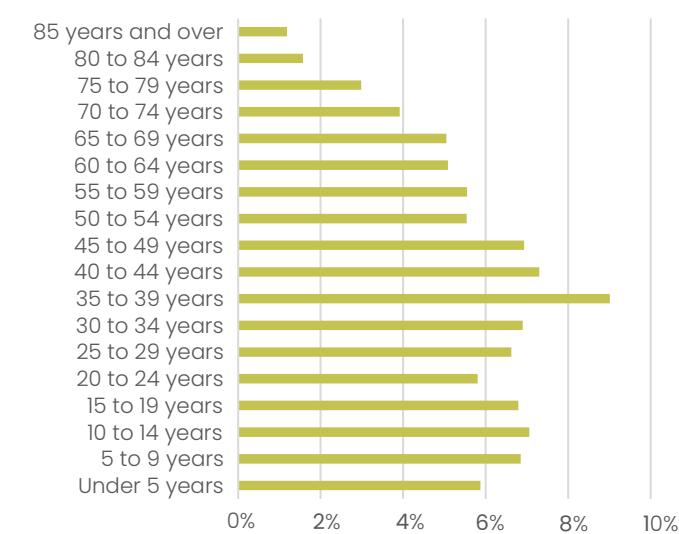
### POPULATION<sup>1</sup>

As of 2022, El Reno has an estimated population of 17,474. The community has experienced steady population growth since the 1960's, and according to El Reno's comprehensive plan *Route to the Future*, is projected to see significant increases over the next 20 years, exceeding 28,000 residents by the year 2040.



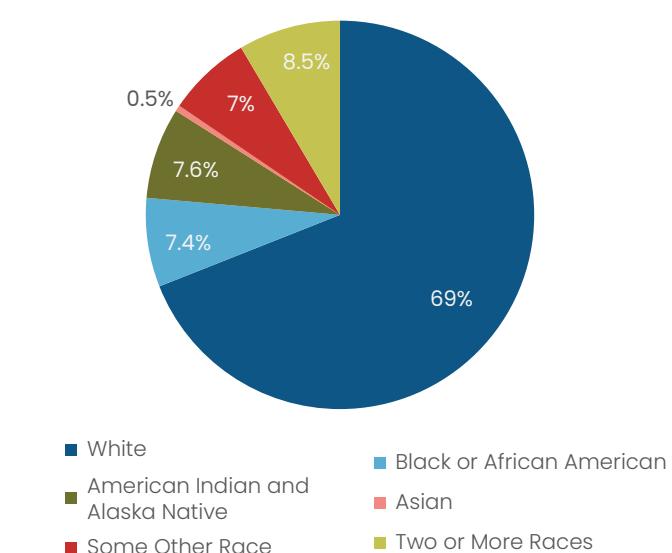
### AGE<sup>1</sup>

In El Reno, 26.6 percent of the population is under 18 while 14.7 percent is over 65. The median age for residents of El Reno is 35.7 years, younger than the state median of 36.3 years.



### RACE AND ETHNICITY<sup>1</sup>

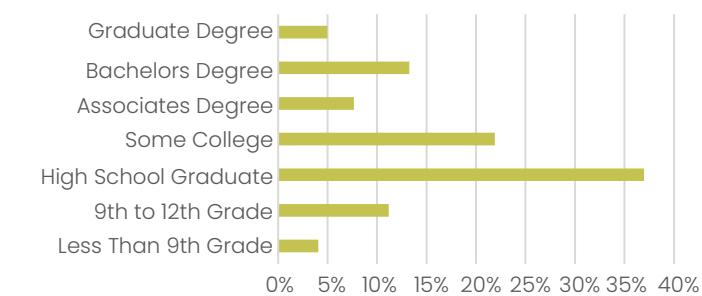
El Reno's population is predominantly White at 69 percent, followed by American Indian and Alaska Native at 7.6 percent, and Black or African American at 7.4 percent. Additionally, 17.2 percent of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino.



Source  
1. 2022 ACS 5 Year Estimates.

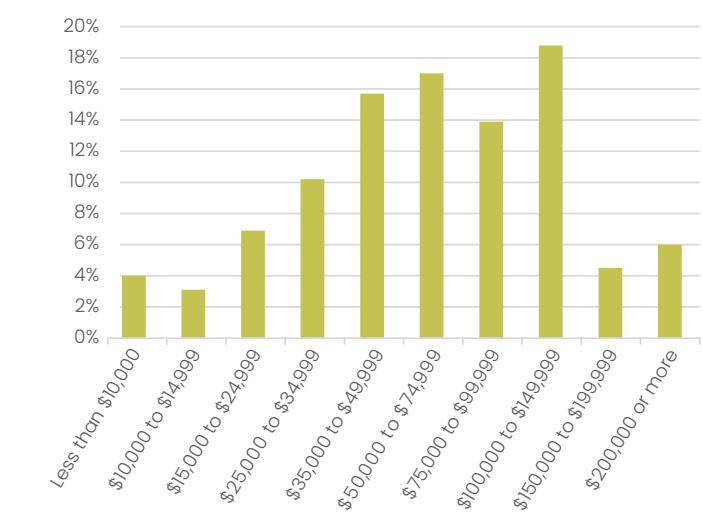
### EDUCATION<sup>1</sup>

Educational attainment rates in El Reno are slightly behind state-wide averages, with 85 percent of the population having a high school diploma or higher in the city, compared to the Oklahoma state average of 89 percent.



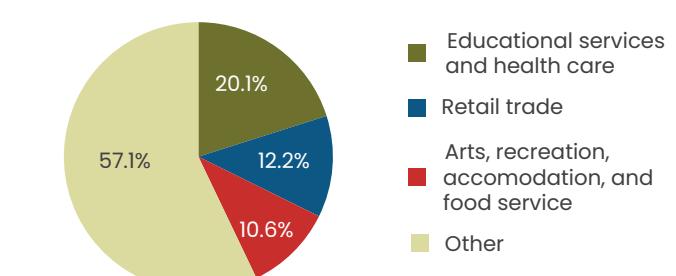
### INCOME<sup>1</sup>

The majority of households in El Reno earn between 50,000 dollars and 149,999 dollars, with 17 percent earning 50,000 dollars to 74,999 dollars and 18.8 percent earning 100,000 to 149,999 dollars. The median income stands at 65,683 dollars.



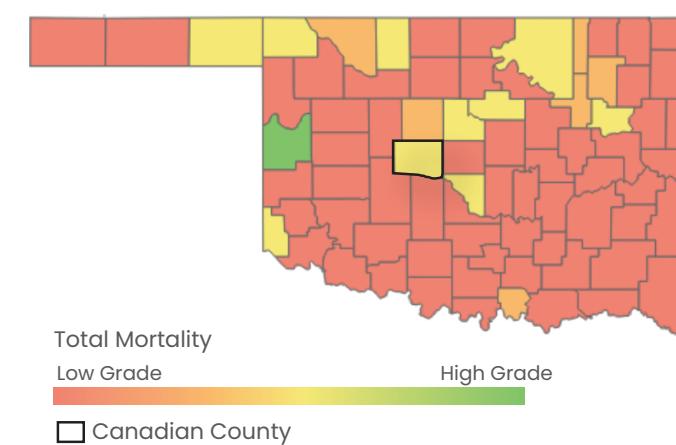
### EMPLOYMENT<sup>1</sup>

Employment data shows that 61 percent of the population aged 16 and over is in the labor force, with 58 percent employed and three percent unemployed. The remaining 39 percent of residents are not in the labor force. The civilian employed population of 13,421 is spread across various industries with the largest being educational services and health care (20.1%), retail trade (12.2%), and arts, recreation, accommodation, and food services (10.6%).



### HEALTH<sup>2</sup>

The Canadian County total mortality rate score from the 2017 State of the Health Report is better than the majority of Oklahoma, earning the county a grade of C.

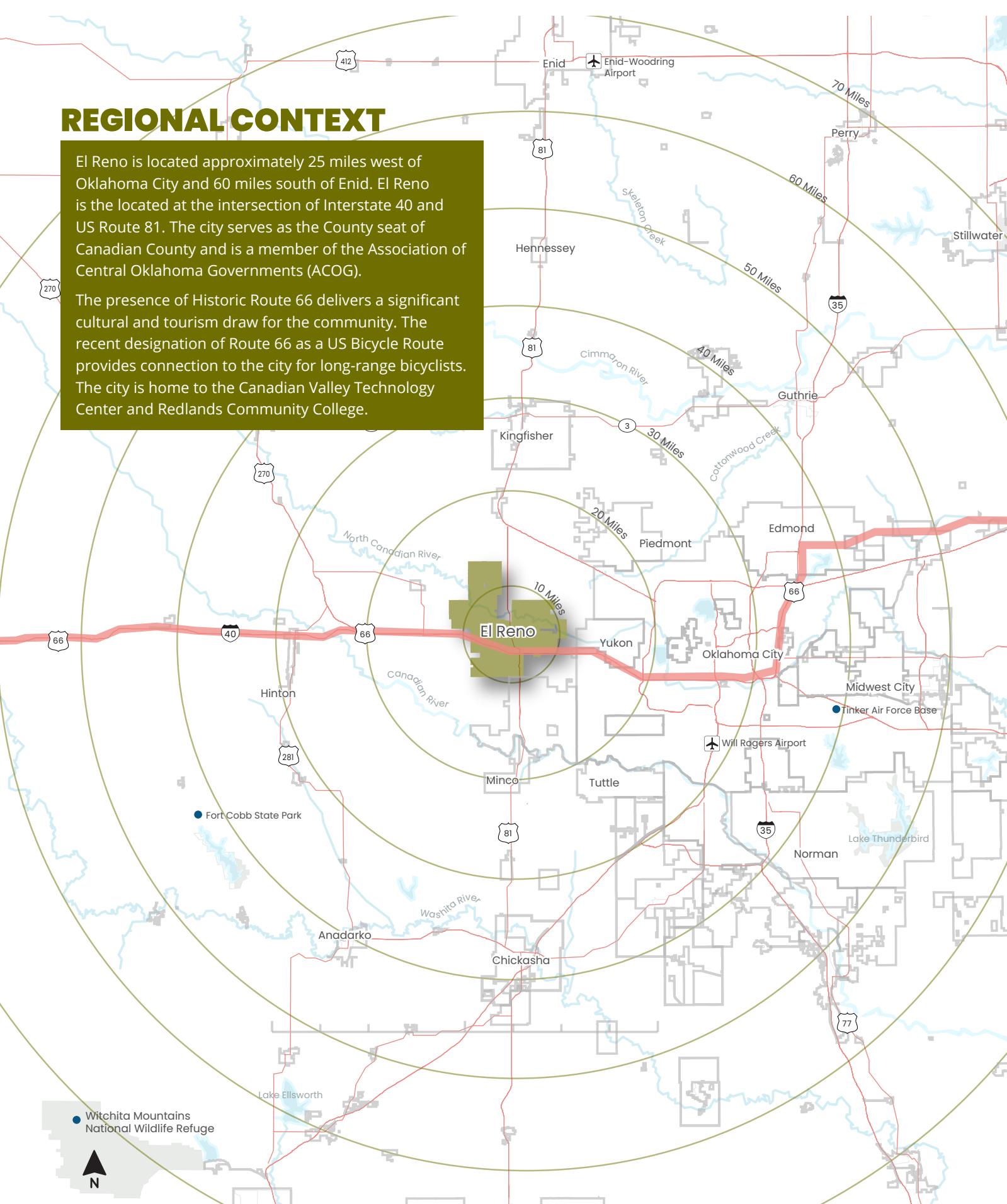


Source  
1. 2022 ACS 5 Year Estimates.  
2. Oklahoma State Department of Health.

## REGIONAL CONTEXT

El Reno is located approximately 25 miles west of Oklahoma City and 60 miles south of Enid. El Reno is the located at the intersection of Interstate 40 and US Route 81. The city serves as the County seat of Canadian County and is a member of the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments (ACOG).

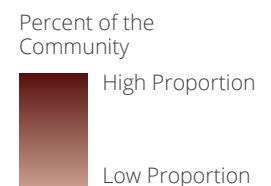
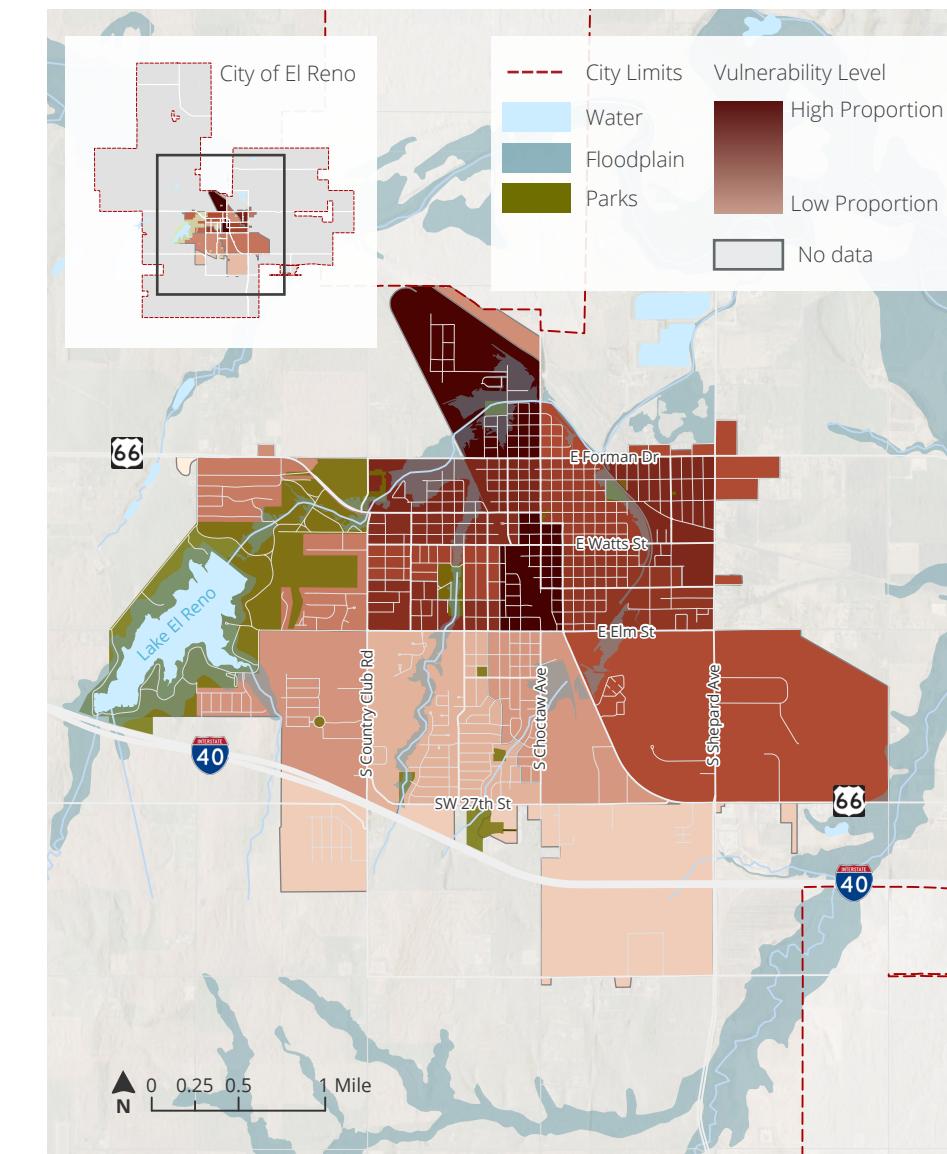
The presence of Historic Route 66 delivers a significant cultural and tourism draw for the community. The recent designation of Route 66 as a US Bicycle Route provides connection to the city for long-range bicyclists. The city is home to the Canadian Valley Technology Center and Redlands Community College.



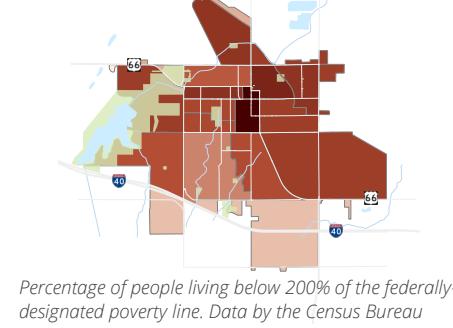
## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Vulnerable populations include historically underserved groups of people, or those that have traditionally been left out of the decision-making process. To ensure this Master Plan accounts for these groups, three indicators were used to classify where vulnerable groups of people live in the community. The three groups in this assessment include people experiencing poverty, individuals with poor health outcomes, and racial and ethnic minority populations. The three groups were geographically identified by prevalence and equally weighted to identify where the highest concentration of vulnerable populations reside in El Reno.

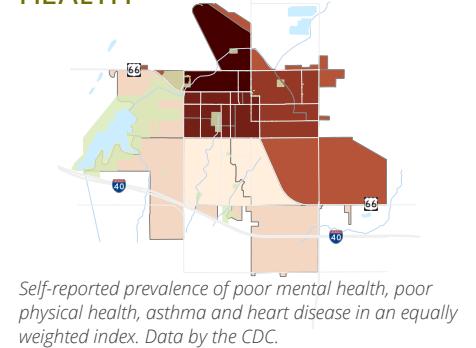
The analysis found that the largest portions of individuals experiencing all three vulnerability indicators live in central and northern El Reno. The southern and western portions of the community have a smaller percentage of individuals in these groups. No data was available for the areas outside of those shaded in red.



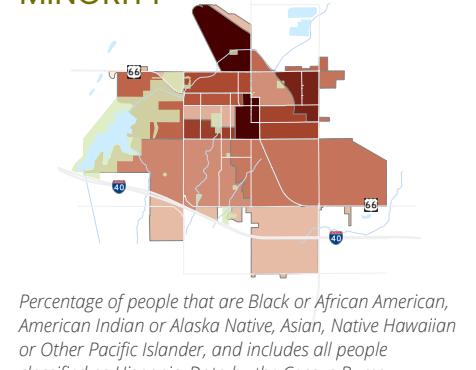
### POVERTY



### HEALTH



### MINORITY



# THE STUDY AREA

## CITY OF EL RENO

### CITY-WIDE

The City of El Reno is approximately 86 square miles and home to over 17,000 residents. According to Route to the Future, the city is expected to grow by 64 percent to over 28,000 residents by the year 2040. Residents have access to many of quality of life amenities, including 12 parks, a historic downtown, and other entertainment opportunities.

The city is within the Prairie Tablelands eco-region, an area defined by rolling plains with broad flat intervals. Vegetation in the area includes a mix of grasses including little bluestem and indiangrass, and riparian area trees such as elm and ash.

### HISTORY

Adams Park is names after Lawrence G. Adams, who upon his death in 1941 donated a large portion of his 120-acre farm to the city of El Reno for a public park. It was on the old Bellamy Lake site, following the dam rupture in 1908.

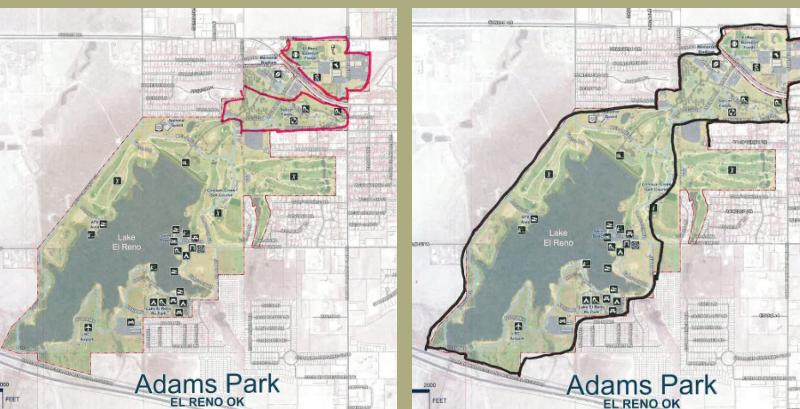
Construction of Lake El Reno began in the fall of 1965 as a solution to the frequent flooding of Four Mile Creek. The lake was opened for fishing and recreation by June 1968. Additional channel improvement on the 4.8 miles of Four Mile Creek started in July 1968.



View on Bellamy Lake.

### BOUNDARY OF ADAMS PARK

The boundaries of Adams Park are not consistently recognized among El Reno residents. During public engagement events, residents were ask to draw an outline around what they consider to be "Adams Park." Some include Lake El Reno within the park, while others view the park as a single facility, such as the soccer fields or the airpark. This plan envisions Adams Park as a cohesive space that incorporates all amenities, including Lake El Reno, within its boundaries.



Resident's perception of the Adams Park boundary.

## ADAMS PARK

### STUDY AREA

The Adams Park Study Area (the "Study Area") is a 750-acre area in west El Reno. All land in the Study Area is owned by the City of El Reno, though several other organizations, such as the El Reno Public Schools, Redlands Community College, and Army National Guard share use of the space. The Study Area includes many facilities such as the Crimson Creek Golf Course, Lake El Reno Swim Beach, Lake El Reno RV Park and Campground, the RC airfield, an ATV course, Route 66 Disc Golf Course, Memorial Stadium, Route 66 Skatepark, Denny-Crump Rodeo Arena, and other athletic fields.

## ADAMS PARK STUDY AREA, 2024



# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## CHAPTER 2 COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

## COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

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# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

## OUTREACH METHODS

Resident input and feedback form the cornerstone of a community-driven planning effort. The planning team engaged residents throughout the planning process using multiple outreach techniques. These activities were categorized into two mediums: in-person and digital. Insights gathered from these community engagement efforts shaped the development of the Plan's vision statement and guiding principles, and informed the issues and recommendations presented in the Master Plan.



### ADAMS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Adams Park Advisory Committee (APAC) is a nine-member group formed to guide the master planning process. The APAC met three times to provide ongoing insight and feedback, develop the Master Plan's vision statement and guiding principles, and to review final recommendations.



### OPEN HOUSES

Two open houses were held in July and November of 2024. Feedback was collected through interactive boards. Residents used sticky notes and dot voting to share their ideas and preferences.



### FOCUS GROUPS

Three focus group discussions were held in July 2024. The focus groups were organized by topic, which included "Adams Park," "Lake El Reno," and "Athletic Facilities."



### PUBLIC INFORMATION BOOTHS

Four public information booths were staffed in conjunction with important community events to collect in-person feedback during the planning process. These events included Burger Fest, Small Town Weekend, and Smoke on the Water.



### COMMUNITY SURVEY

The Master Plan's community survey was created and disseminated to give residents an opportunity to express their preferences for the future of Adams Park and the parks and recreation system. The survey was available from June through September 2024, and received 361 responses.



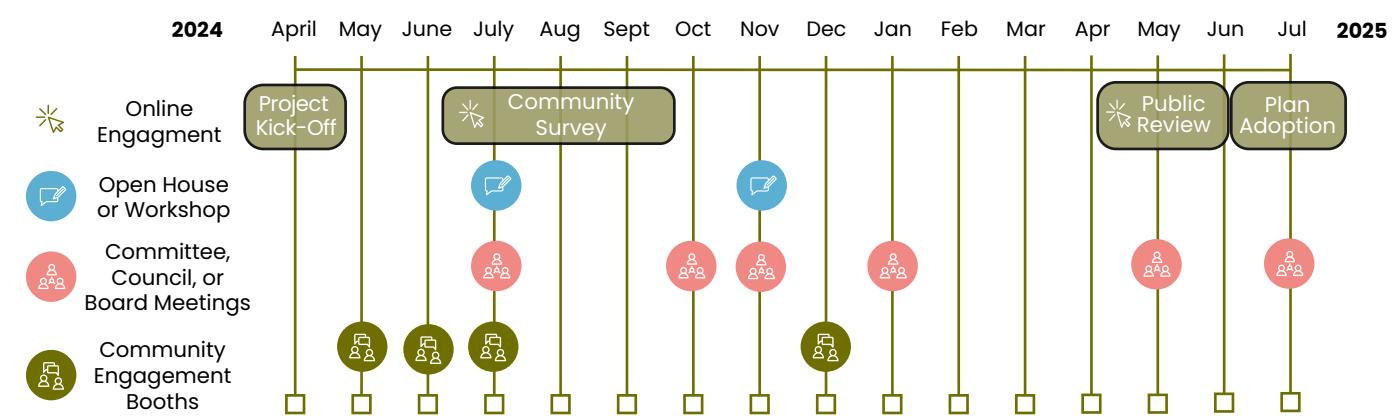
### CITY COUNCIL

The El Reno City Council was engaged at numerous points throughout the planning process. Council meetings provided an in-depth understanding of their collective goals for the community and the needs of their constituents. Their participation in the visioning process enabled the planning team to learn more about each ward and their unique challenges.



## OUTREACH TIMELINE

The planning team engaged the community throughout the entire planning process, from project kickoff to plan adoption, and gathered feedback at key development checkpoints. Initial engagement was more intensive, aimed at informing the Plan's development. Through collaboration with City Council, adjustments were made to align with community desires and reflect the needs of El Reno residents. A detailed timeline of all engagement activities is provided below.



In conjunction with the development of the Adams Park Master Plan, the City of El Reno launched **EL RENO NEXT**, a comprehensive capital investment program administered by the City. El Reno NEXT is aimed to enhance the built environment in El Reno through investment in capital projects, infrastructure, and programs that enhance the quality of life for residents in the community.



# WHAT WE HEARD

## ADAMS PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Adams Park Advisory Committee (APAC) was composed of select community champions and area stakeholders to provide project oversight and guidance. The group met three times in conjunction with project benchmarks. An overview of each meeting and important topics discussed are presented below.

**Meeting #1: Project Kick-Off.** The APAC met to receive a project overview and conduct a visioning work session. Findings from the session included importance of equity, followed by maintenance, safety, and accessibility. Members brought up issues with drainage and program organization, and discussed dredging the lake.

**Meeting #2: Project Update.** The APAC received an overview of preliminary findings, which includes a summary from early public engagement, assessment of existing conditions, and other preliminary assumptions to move forward into the conceptual phase of the project.

**Meeting #3: Plan Review.** The APAC met to review the final conceptual plan for Study Area and project recommendations.

### TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE STUDY AREA:

1. Equity/Engagement
2. Infrastructure Improvements/Maintenance
3. Safety
4. Accessibility
5. Athletic Facilities/Outdoor Recreation
6. Local/Regional Destination

**"I WANT SOMETHING GRAND AND COHESIVE."**  
- Committee Member

**"BUILD SOMETHING THAT IDENTIFIES OUR TOWN AND RAISES THE QUALITY OF LIFE."**  
- Committee Member

## FOCUS GROUPS

Master Plan focus groups were composed of community champions with a key interest or involvement in the Adams Park Study Area. Three groups were categorized by topic area (parks, sports, or lake) to allow for an in-depth assessment of each area.

### KEY THEMES

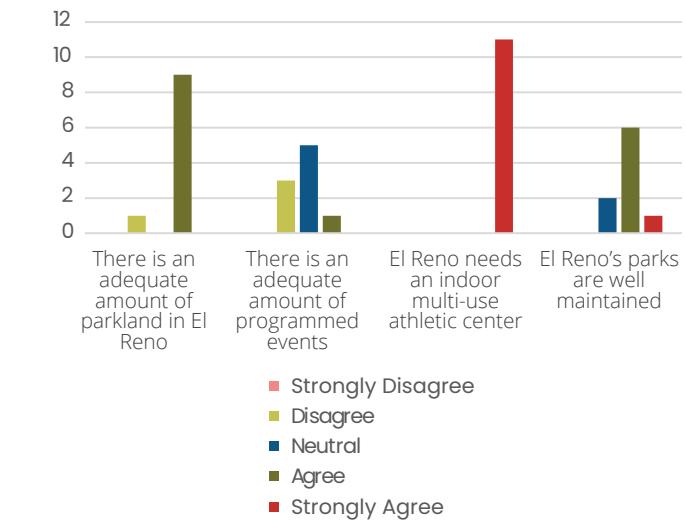
PARK	"A creative place that encourages kids' imaginations" "Create a clean and safe environment" "Turn El Reno into a destination on Route 66"
SPORTS	"Some facilities need a little TLC" "Sports facilities can help keep people in El Reno" "An indoor, multi-use facility would be nice"
LAKE	"There could be events like, Movies on the Lake" "We can encourage the arts by adding an amphitheater" "Expand biodiversity around the lake"

## PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE

Two public open houses were conducted during the planning process. The first open house was initiated to receive public input on facility and programming priorities and design preferences for city parkland. The second open house was conducted to review conceptual designs for the Adams Park/Lake El Reno Study Area. Key findings from the public open houses are presented below.

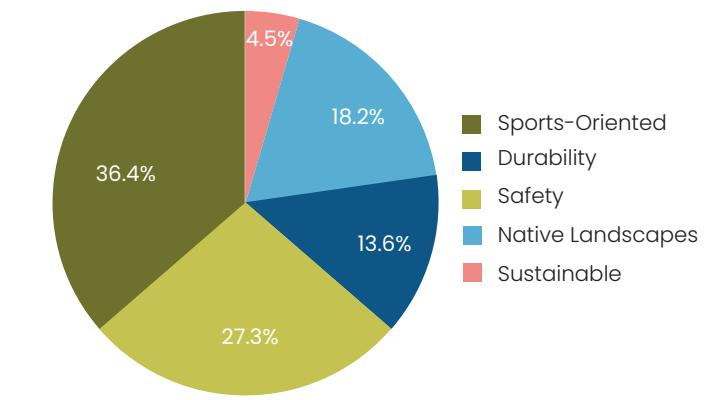
### SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

Residents felt strongly that there was a need for an indoor multi-use athletics facility, and generally agree that there are many existing, well-maintained parks.



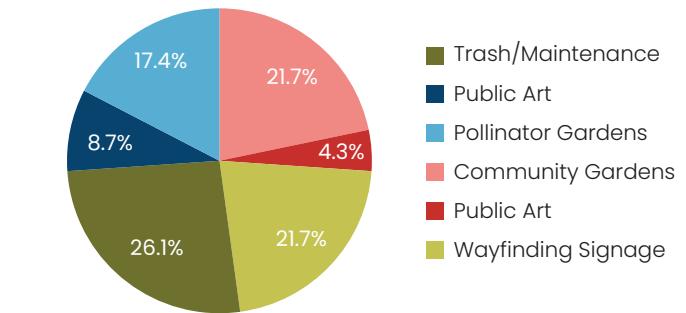
### DESIGN PREFERENCES

Residents were asked to select the themes that matter most to them in designing parks in El Reno, with sports-oriented and safety being the most important themes.



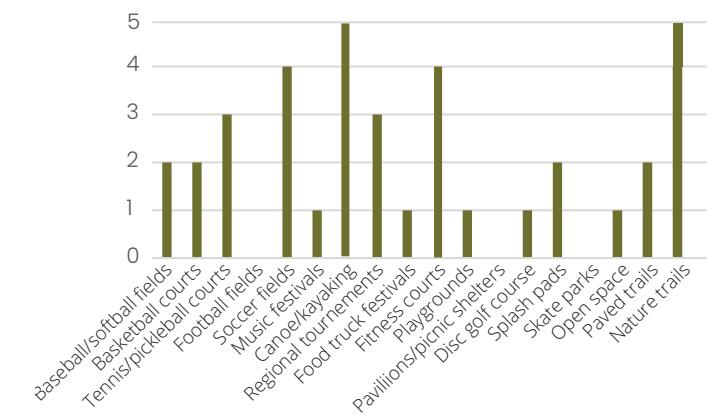
### BEAUTIFICATION EFFORTS

Residents were asked what services would have the largest impact in beautifying El Reno's parks, with there being the most interest in trash maintenance, wayfinding signage, and community gardens.



### RECREATION PREFERENCES

Residents were most interested in increasing recreational opportunities for canoeing/kayaking, nature trails, fitness classes, tennis, pickleball, soccer, and regional tournaments.



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOOTHS

The planning team attended four community events during the planning process to receive public input and recommendations. Events included the Fried Onion Burger Festival, Small Town Weekend, Smoke on the Water, and Lights in Legion. Information booths provided residents with the opportunity to learn about the planning process, discuss their priorities, and ask questions. Key findings are presented below.

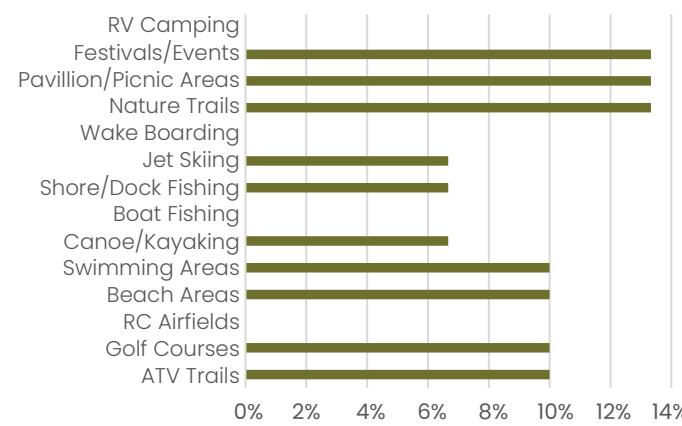
### WHAT DOES A PERFECT DAY IN ADAMS PARK LOOK LIKE?

Residents mentioned different amenities and locations within Adams Park that contribute to their perfect day.



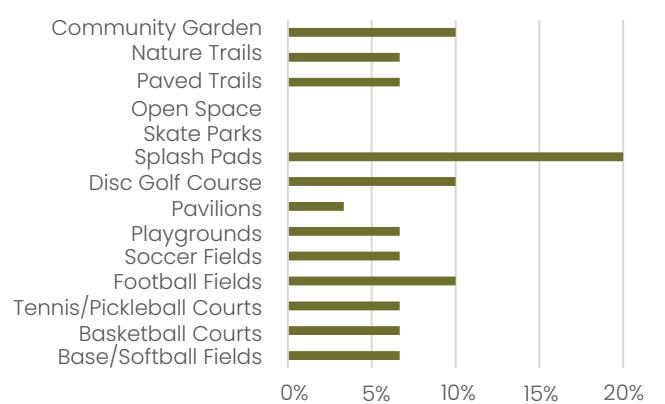
### FACILITIES NEEDED AT THE LAKE:

The most desired facilities at Lake El Reno included: nature trails, pavilion/picnic areas, and festivals/events, each receiving 13.3 percent support.



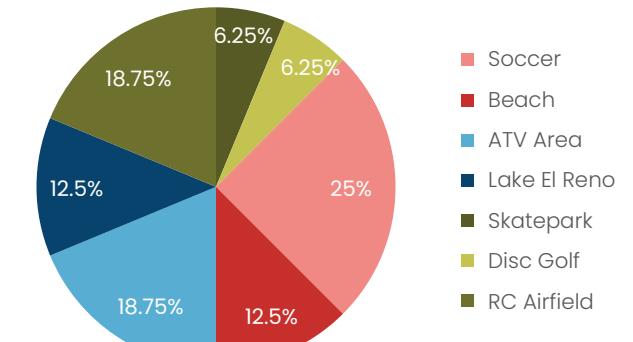
### FACILITIES NEEDED AT THE PARK:

The most desired facilities at Adams Park included: splash pads (20%), football fields (10%), disc golf courses (10%), and community gardens (10%).



### WHERE IMPROVEMENTS ARE NEEDED:

The areas identified for improvement included: soccer facilities (25%), ATV (All-Terrain Vehicle) area (18.75%), and the RC (Radio Controlled) airfield (18.75%).

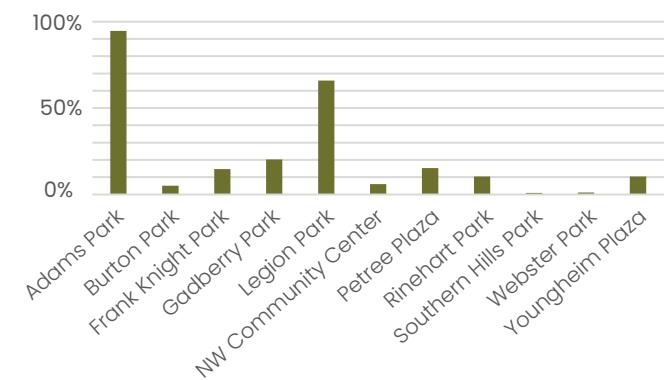


## COMMUNITY SURVEY

An online community survey was administered from July to September of 2024 and received a total of 361 responses. Findings from the survey influenced plan recommendations and design considerations for the Adams Park/Lake El Reno Study Area.

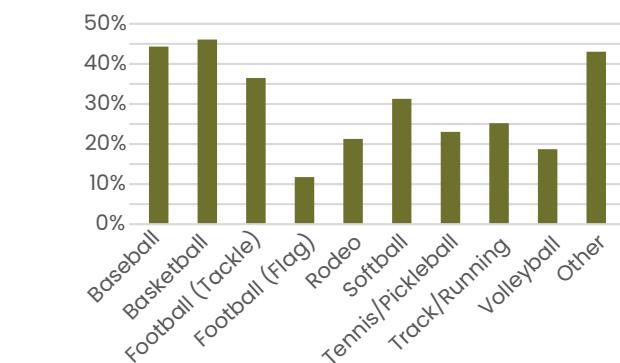
### WHICH OF THESE PARKS/FACILITIES HAVE YOU VISITED IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS?

The majority of responders (95%) had visited Adams Park/Lake El Reno in the past year.



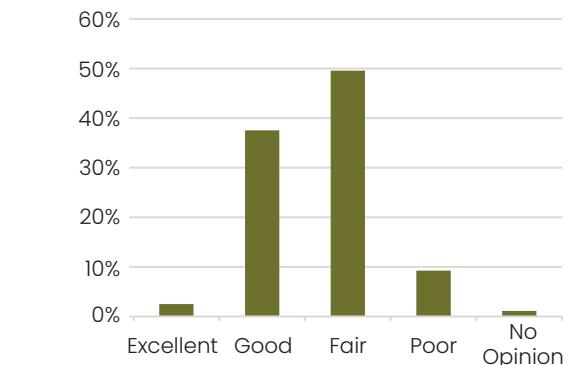
### WHAT SPORTS DO YOU OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PARTICIPATE IN?

Baseball, basketball, soccer and golf are among the most popular sports played by respondents.



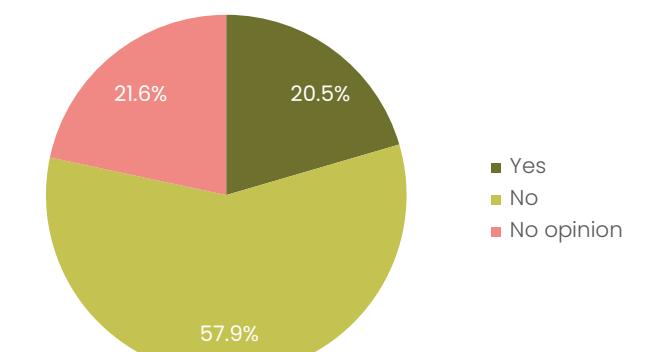
### HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE PARK OR PARK FACILITIES YOU HAVE VISITED IN PAST 12 MONTHS?

Ninety percent of respondents rate the conditions of the parks or park facilities as fair, good, or excellent.



### DO YOU FEEL THERE ARE ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN YOUR SPORT?

Fifty-eight percent of respondents say that there are currently not enough opportunities for them to participate in their preferred sport.



# RECREATIONAL PRIORITIES

The Master Plan's community survey included two related questions about the importance of specific recreational amenities and recreational programs compared to the perceived performance of the community in providing each facility/program. The combined results of these surveys illustrate participant opinions on how well the City is performing in providing preferred recreational amenities/programs. Results are categorized within one of four quadrants.

**Keep Up the Good Work.** Identifies recreational amenities/programs where the City's ability to support the activity closely matches a strong desire from residents.

**Needs Work.** Shows where the community is under-performing in providing recreational facility/programming compared to resident demand. Facilities and programs in this category will be higher priority for improvement.

**Possible Overkill.** Contains recreational amenities/programs provided in the community that exceed resident desire for them.

**Low Priority.** Contains programs where community provision is low, but so is resident demand.

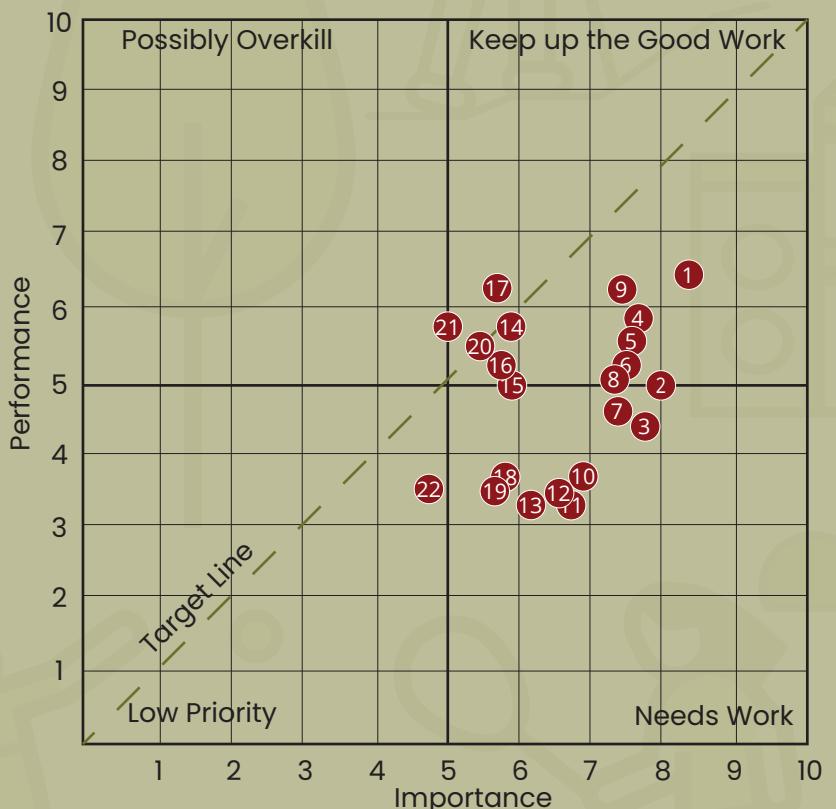
## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

All facilities were seen as high importance, with the exception of the climbing wall and disc golf course. The facilities that fell into the "Needs Work" category and should be considered higher priority for investment. Survey results suggest that the community should prioritize investment in the following recreational facilities:

1. Splash Pads
2. Aquatics/swimming facilities
3. Natural trails
4. Outdoor amphitheaters
5. Community gardens

Facilities in the "Keep up the Good Work" category should continue to receive investment, especially those of higher importance to residents, such as playgrounds, walking/jogging tracks, and picnic shelters.

Recreational Facility Priority Matrix



1. Playground
2. Walking/jogging track
3. Splash pad
4. Picnic shelters
5. Pier/fishing
6. Water access (boating, kayaking, etc)
7. Aquatics/swimming facility
8. Multi-purpose trail system (paved)
9. Baseball and softball fields
10. Natural trails (unpaved)
11. Outdoor amphitheaters
12. Community gardens
13. Outdoor fitness equipment
14. Sand volleyball courts
15. Dog park
16. Tennis courts
17. Golf courses
18. Pickleball courts
19. Canoe/kayak rentals
20. Skate park/BMX
21. Disc golf course
22. Climbing wall

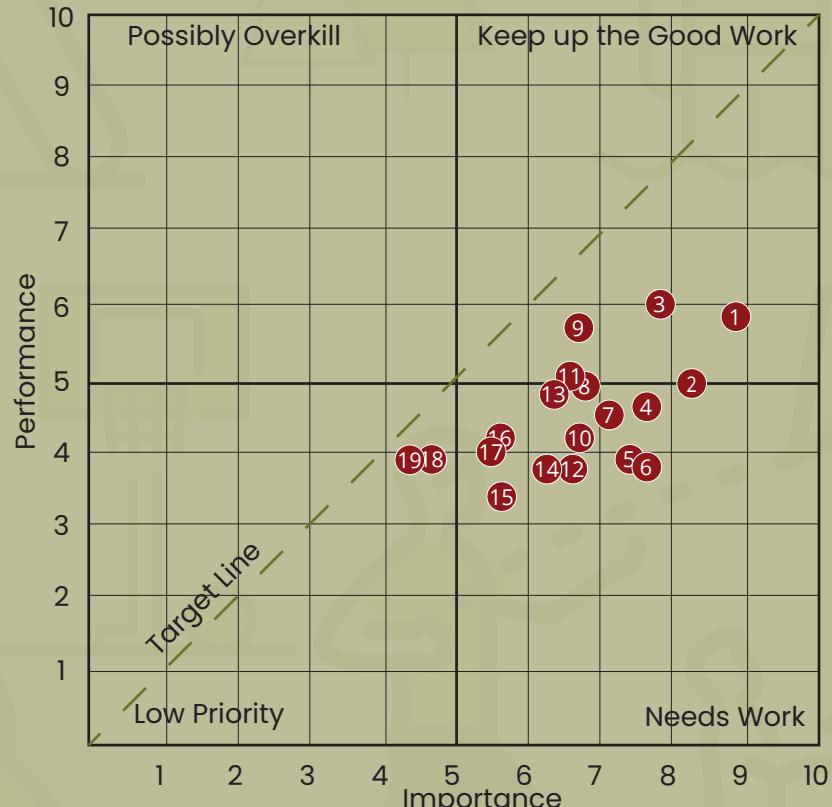
## RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

A majority of programs need improvement, with all programs falling below the target line. Survey results suggest that the community should prioritize investment in the following recreational programs:

1. Music concerts/festivals
2. After school programming
3. Aquatic programs
4. Senior programming
5. Archery/shooting sports

The programs that residents consider the most important include youth sports leagues, farmers markets, and special events. Residents recognize that these programs are being addressed adequately by the community.

Recreational Program Priority Matrix



While select priorities identified in this assessment may be incorporated into the Adams Park Study Area, others may be addressed through future investments at other municipal parks.

# IDEAS AND FEEDBACK

## THEMES

### EQUITABLE ACCESS

Residents emphasized the importance of making Adams Park and Lake El Reno accessible to everyone. This includes improving pathways for better mobility, adding more benches and restrooms, and ensuring facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. Enhancing accessibility for swimming, fishing and horseback riding was also highlighted, along with the need for better signage to guide visitors safely through the park.

### QUALITY SPACES

Residents envision areas that are well-maintained, clean, and equipped with modern amenities like splash pads, pavilions, and an amphitheater for public art and performances. The goal is to create inviting spaces that encourage community gatherings and enhance the overall park experience.

### ACTIVE PARKS

Active parks are a priority for the community, with a strong emphasis on sports programming and events. There is a desire for a better athletics complex to engage children and attract tournaments, as well as an indoor sports facility to support year-round activities. Residents also suggested organizing events like athletic competitions with food trucks, family days, concerts, and festivals to keep the community engaged. The vision includes a vibrant park that offers diverse activities for all ages and interests.

### NATURAL AREAS

Preserving and enhancing natural areas within the park is another area of focus. Residents want to balance forest preservation with safety, and they see potential for incorporating pollinator plants and creating quality green space. Portions of Adams Park can serve as a natural sanctuary that maintains an ecological balance.



There are opportunities to build more infrastructure at Adams Park to improve access to the water.



The geography of Adams Park provides opportunity to develop more natural areas within the park.

# VISION FOR ADAMS PARK

The recommendations of this Master Plan are guided by the community's input and are summarized in the vision statement, mission statement, and guiding principles. The vision statement for Adams Park represents the overarching purpose of Adams Park while the mission statement elaborates further on how the vision will be carried out.

## VISION STATEMENT

**ADAMS PARK IS AN ACTIVE, ACCESSIBLE, AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY SPACE THAT IS A PROMINENT DESTINATION IN THE REGION.**

## MISSION STATEMENT

**WE WILL ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE BY PROVIDING RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY, TRANSFORMING ADAMS PARK INTO A VIBRANT HUB ALONG ROUTE 66 FOR COMMUNITY WELLNESS AND REGIONAL TOURISM.**

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### EQUITABLE ACCESS



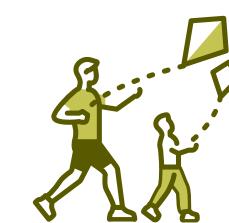
We will ensure equitable access to all park facilities and amenities, making them inclusive and welcoming for people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

### QUALITY SPACES



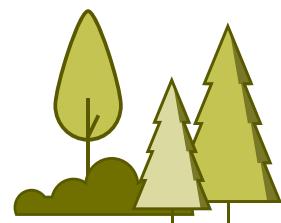
We will create and maintain high-quality spaces that are safe, clean, and well-designed, providing enjoyable and engaging environments for recreation and relaxation.

### ACTIVE PARKS



We will foster community engagement and environmental stewardship, and activate spaces through design and programming.

### NATURAL AREAS



We will promote the preservation and enhancement of natural spaces, promoting biodiversity and ecological balance within the park.

# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## CHAPTER 3 PARKS ASSESSMENT



## PARKS ASSESSMENT

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# INTRODUCTION

Parks are an essential element of a healthy community. These outdoor gathering areas host a mix of active and passive recreational opportunities for residents of all ages. This section of the Adams Park Master Plan (the “Master Plan”) provides an assessment of the current parks system and how it may adapt to meet the needs of residents. Findings from this analysis are used to recommend improvements to the overall parks system and with a priority on Adams Park.

## CLASSIFYING PARKS

Building on industry standards, a series of parks classifications are recommended (page 26) to distinguish between park types based on size, character, and the community needs they satisfy.

In addition to parks classifications, the Master Plan outlines the two standard classifications for trails in El Reno (below). The trail system in El Reno has historically been contained within park spaces and at Lake El Reno, however, public feedback suggest there is demand for additional trails that may be used as an active transportation option, connecting destination points within the community beyond strictly recreational purposes. The City should use the trail classifications below as it begins building new trail connections in the community.

## TRAIL CLASSIFICATIONS

Trails are an important component of a balanced parks system. The popularity of walking, running, and bicycling is growing across the country, and many users prefer a separate, dedicated space away from motor vehicles to feel safe and comfortable. Within this Plan, there will be reference to two overarching trail types, multi-use trails and recreational trails.



### MULTI-USE TRAILS.

Multi-use trails are an important component to the overall parks system. With more people walking, running, and bicycling, many users prefer a separate, dedicated space away from motor vehicles to feel safe and comfortable.



Mulit-use trail examples include **shared-use paths**, which are trails, typically paved, designed for multiple user groups that follow greenways and are in undeveloped areas, and **sidepaths**, which are paved trails that run parallel to a roadway.

**RECREATIONAL TRAILS.** Outside of a multi-use trails network, recreational trails provide a separate but important benefit to residents. These hard- or soft-surface trails are facilities contained entirely within an individual property and have limited ability to serve as a transportation option. These trails typically cater to a specific user group and may only provide a limited or incidental transportation benefit for the community.

Recreation trail examples include nature trails, mountain bike trails, or paved walking paths. For purposes of this Master Plan, recreational trails are treated as park amenities.



## PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

Many types of parks can be found in El Reno today or could exist in the future. A healthy parks system should contain a mix of park classifications, however, the key building blocks of a great parks system are neighborhood and community parks; particularly ones that are easily accessible through a connected network of trails, sidewalks, and/or bikeways. As El Reno continues to grow and develop new parkland, a focus on these neighborhood and community parks will be essential.



### REGIONAL PARKS

Often the largest park spaces offered by a municipal parks provider, regional parks serve the community at large and often will draw visitors from outside the jurisdictional limits. These parks offer a broad range of active and passive recreational opportunities (e.g. fishing, amphitheaters, recreational trails, golf course, etc.) that could not be hosted at a smaller park. It is common for these parks to host special events, offer distinct facilities, and preserve unique landscapes.



### COMMUNITY PARKS

Large park spaces that attract residents from across the community. Community parks will have active and passive facilities (e.g. playgrounds, dog parks, recreation centers, etc.) and offer specialized amenities that attract residents of many ages, abilities, and interests.



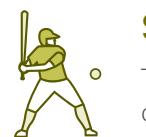
### NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS

Typically, the most numerous and accessible type of park, serving residents within about a ½ mile radius of their home. Neighborhood parks are designed to be easily accessed by walking or biking and often contain a mix of common recreational facilities (e.g. playgrounds, sport courts, open play areas, etc.) but at a scale to fit the context of the neighborhood.



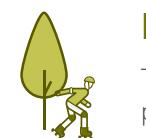
### POCKET PARKS

The smallest park classification, pocket parks provide small-scale recreational facilities near medium-high density areas. It is common for these parks to be built on empty lots, at gateway locations, or at trailheads, and include limited amenities such as benches, community gardens, playgrounds, and/or gazebos.



### SPECIAL USE PARKS

These parks vary in size and serve the community through access to a special recreational facility or amenity. Special use parks attract visitors from around the community (and beyond) for the specialized amenities that are offered. Prominent examples of “special use” parks include athletic complexes, nature centers, golf courses, and more.



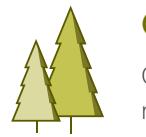
### LINEAR PARKS

These are green open spaces that typically provide pedestrian and bicycle users access to parks, neighborhoods, schools, or other major destinations. Linear parks may include multi-use trails and associated trail amenities including benches, hydration stations, and wayfinding signs.



### CIVIC SPACES

These areas vary in size and serve residents and visitors in city centers and other dense and commercial environments. Civic spaces are defined by their social features rather than active recreational amenities. These spaces can host special events and festivals and may include plazas, parkways, or other similar public grounds.



### OPEN SPACE

Open spaces serve regional or community recreation needs and provide access to preserved natural areas. Open spaces typically contain minimal amenities to conserve natural resources and reduce impacts on the space.

# PARKS IN EL RENO

## PARKS SYSTEM

The City of El Reno maintains 12 publicly accessible parks that span 832 acres. The majority of this parkland (757.8 acres) is contained within the Adams Park Study Area. This includes Lake El Reno, with the lake itself being approximately 170 acres, and contains 2.5 miles of multi-use trails, and multiple recreational facilities and amenities. El Reno owns two community parks (Legion Park and Frank Knight Park). There are five neighborhood parks, three maintained by the City (Rinehart, Burton, and Gadberry Parks) and two that are owned and operated by private providers (Hillcrest Park, El Reno Public Schools - and Settlers Crossing Park, Settlers Crossing Home Owners Association). Webster Park is El Reno's only pocket park. There are two civic spaces (Younghiem Plaza and Petree Plaza) that are located in the downtown area, and the only open space is Southern Hills Park, which contains a pond and benches for passive recreation.



A



B



C

El Reno Parks Inventory (2024)

ID <sup>1</sup>	Park Name	Acres <sup>2</sup>
<b>Regional Parks</b>		
1	Adams Park and Lake El Reno	757.8
<b>Community Parks</b>		
2	Legion Park	23.7
3	Frank Knight Park	6.9
<b>Neighborhood Parks</b>		
4	Rinehart Park	6.7
5	Burton Park	6.2
6	Gadberry Park	3.1
7	Hillcrest Park <sup>3</sup>	2.1
8	Settlers Crossing Park <sup>3</sup>	1.8
<b>Pocket Parks</b>		
9	Webster Park	0.3
<b>Civic Space</b>		
10	Petree Plaza	0.5
11	Younghiem Plaza	0.1
<b>Open Space</b>		
12	Southern Hills Park	23.2
<b>Total</b>		832.4

1. ID corresponds to the El Reno Parks System Map on page 28.

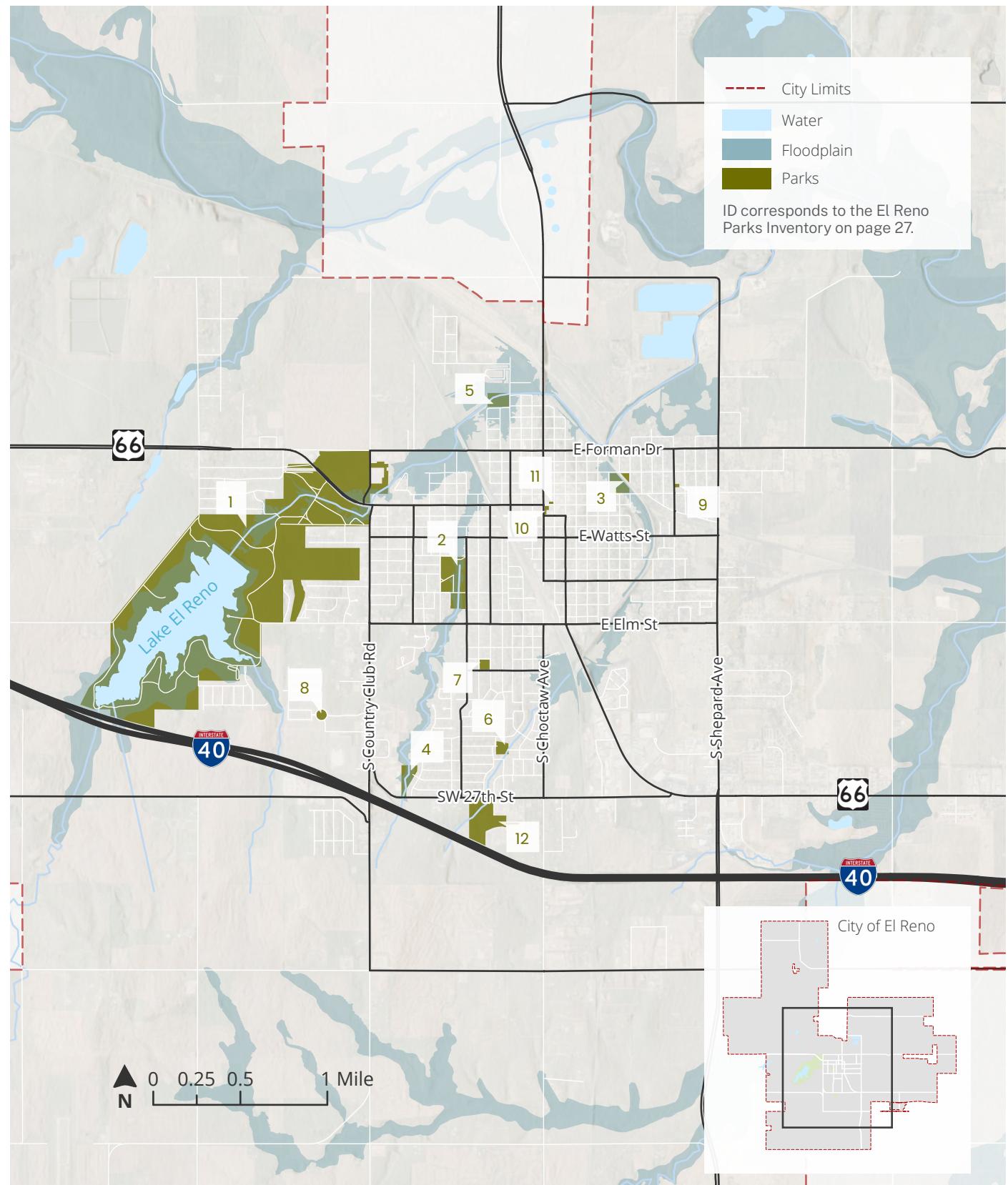
2. GIS data provided by the City of El Reno and Halff.

3. Not City owned or maintained.

### Image Description:

- A. Gadberry Park Pavilion
- B. Rinehart Park recreational trail
- C. Petree Plaza in downtown El Reno

## EL RENO PARKS SYSTEM MAP, 2024



# REGIONAL PARK CASE STUDIES

## THE GATHERING PLACE | TULSA, OK

The Gathering Place is a 66.5-acre privately funded park in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Funded by the George Kaiser Family Foundation, the park was opened in 2018 with a goal to connect residents through a beautiful and socially engaging space. The park is located along the Arkansas River and is connected to the River Parks Trail System.

Among the Gathering Place's many features and attractions is a five-acre adventure playground, an event space and lodge, a BMX pump track and skate park, a central pond, and numerous natural pathways and gardens. The park provides a retreat from the city and embraces native plants and natural features in its building materials. It uses engaging and iconic play spaces to create memorable experiences for park users.



Unique playgrounds provide visual intrigue and stimulate the viewer's imagination.



Boat rentals at the central pond provide ongoing programming on the water.

## FOREST PARK | ST. LOUIS, MO

Forest Park is a 1,300 acre nature park along Interstate 64 in St. Louis, Missouri. The historic park opened in 1876 to coincide with the 100-year anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The park has been a significant cultural hub for the city since its opening, hosting events like the 1904 World's Fair, and is home to the St. Louis Zoo and St. Louis Art Museum.

The park is managed and maintained by Forest Park Forever, a private nonprofit conservancy that partners with the City of St. Louis. Forest Park amenities include 190 acres of nature reserve, 30 miles of multi-use trails, botanical gardens, sports courts, athletic fields, and playgrounds. The use of a private foundation to assist the city in funding and administering park operations galvanizes ongoing financial support from the community and enables long-term success.



The mix of amenities in Forest Park allow the park to bring in a wide-range of residents. Photo Source: Forest Park Forever



Athletic facilities and sports courts are open to residents throughout the year. Photo Source: Forest Park Forever

## CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK | JONESBORO, AR

Craighead Forest Park is a 692-acre regional park in Jonesboro, Arkansas. The park opened in 1937 when the Young Men's Civic Club began work on the Craighead Forest Lake, a central body of water surrounded by the park property. The Park is situated in Crowley's Ridge, a scenic topographic ridge that bisects the state of Arkansas.

The Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department operates and maintains the park. Featured amenities in the park include a 3.1 mile multi-use trail that loops around the lake, basketball courts, themed playgrounds, RV and tent camping, disc golf course, dock fishing, softball fields, and mountain bike trails. The department manages a self-service kayak rental service with partner, Rent.Fun kayak share, that allows residents and visitors to rent kayaks without needing staff assistance.



The addition of lakeside overlooks provides a space for rest and passive activities like bird watching.



The recent installation of accessible playground surfaces is part of Jonesboro's commitment to building an inclusive parks system.

## LUCY PARK | WICHITA FALLS, TX

Lucy Park is a 178-acre regional park located in Wichita Falls, Texas. The park was constructed in 1964 and is situated at a bend in the Wichita River, providing a natural setting with an ample tree canopy for wildlife viewing. The park contains a large pond that is home to multiple species of waterfowl.

Lucy Park is maintained and programmed through the Wichita Falls Parks and Recreation Department. The park contains a 1.7 mile multi-use trail, has two large pavilions, public restrooms, a community swimming pool, an 18-hole golf course, and three playscapes. The park includes the River Bend Nature Center, a non-profit environmental education facility that educates residents on the natural environment of the region.



Nature education provides hands-on learning activities that can draw in children and adults. Photo source: River Bend Nature Center



Pavilions give residents a place for community gatherings and a shaded place to rest.

# PARK INVENTORY

## LEVEL OF SERVICE

Level of service is a method used to measure how well a parks system is meeting the needs of residents. Levels of service (LOS) are quantifiable measures of the amount of public facilities that are provided to the community. Typically, levels of service measures are expressed as ratios of facility capacity to demand. These common metrics allow city staff to compare local service levels to those of communities around the country. LOS are often population-based figures, such as "X acres of parkland per 1,000 residents." This allows the data to translate across communities of differing sizes.

Parkland, trails, and amenities in El Reno were compared to national medians presented in the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Agency Performance Review (2024). This report polls 1,000 park agencies across the country and compiles results into a unified data source.

### PARKLAND

The City of El Reno has **47.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents**, exceeding the median LOS of similar sized communities (12.6 acres per 1,000) by 378 percent. While it appears the city has ample parkland, the majority of this land is contained within the Study Area. Excluding the Study Area, the city's parkland LOS is limited to 4.3 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. While the Study Area can fulfill many of the recreational needs in the community, the importance of dispersed park spaces must not be overlooked.

### TRAILS

The City of El Reno has **2.5 miles of multi-use trails**, two miles less than the median of a similar sized communities (4.5 miles). Existing multi-use trails are all within the Study Area and do not connect to the adjacent residential areas. While the internal trail provides an important recreational asset to the city, extending additional trails throughout the community can provide more accessible recreation and transportation options to residents.

## Parkland LOS

El Reno<sup>1</sup>

**47.6 acres**  
per 1,000 residents

Communities under 20,000 residents<sup>2</sup>

**12.6 acres**  
per 1,000 residents

## Trail LOS

El Reno<sup>1</sup>

**2.5 miles**  
of multi-use trails

Communities under 20,000 residents<sup>2</sup>

**4.5 miles**  
of multi-use trails

1. City owned; data provided by the City of El Reno, 2024; based on a population of 17,474 (ACS 5-year estimate, 2017-2022)

2. Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review, 2024



## RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The Park Facility Level of Service (LOS) table to the right depicts the LOS of amenities and facilities commonly found in a parks system. El Reno's inventory and LOS is compared to national medians as collected by the NRPA. The table displays the median of all communities surveyed and that of communities of a similar size (under 20,000 residents).

While it is beneficial to benchmark against other communities, the table should not be viewed as a conclusive comparison, as each community has unique needs, priorities, and circumstances. The analysis from this table is just one method of determining El Reno's future need for amenities.

**In Summary, the table displays that El Reno is below the national median in providing many recreational facilities and park amenities.** El Reno is keeping up with other communities in providing playgrounds, basketball courts, skate parks, volleyball courts, and walking loops. The city falls behind in providing the remaining amenities, most notably community gardens, pickleball courts, and splash pads. The target LOS of each facility can be viewed on page 38.

Recreational Facilities Level of Service (2024)

Facility	Current Number in El Reno <sup>1</sup>	El Reno Current LOS <sup>2</sup>	Median LOS, All Communities <sup>3</sup>	Median LOS, Communities less than 20,000 <sup>2</sup>
			Residents per Facility	
Playgrounds	8	2,184	3,750	1,990
Diamond Fields	8	2,184	4,063	1,833
Basketball Courts	4	4,369	8,000	4,366
Rectangular Fields	1	17,474	5,000	2,493
Tennis Courts	6	2,912	6,003	3,074
Dog Parks	1	17,474	46,917	10,327
Community Gardens	0	-	34,105	8,800
Swimming Pools	1	17,474	45,919	9,500
Skateparks	1	17,474	54,750	11,284
Multi-use courts-basketball, volleyball, etc	1	17,474	19,571	5,248
Pickleball	0	-	12,597	3,390
Multi-use courts-tennis, pickleball	1	17,474	15,674	4,634
18-hole golf course	1	17,474	96,391	9,626
Driving range stations	1	17,474	24,360	2,122
Volleyball courts, standalone	2	8,737	27,640	9,250
Splash pads, spray grounds, or spray showers	1	17,474	54,010	12,756
Fitness zones/exercise stations	0	-	39,188	8,233
Disc Golf Courses	1	17,474	76,780	11,079
Walking loops/running tracks	3	5,825	20,017	5,459
Water parks	0	-	82,250	17,813

1. City owned; data provided by the City of El Reno, 2024

2. Based on a population of 17,474 (ACS 5-year estimate, 2017-2022)

3. Source: NRPA Agency Performance Review, 2024

4. Source: Skatepark Adoption Model, Square Foot (SF) per 1,000 residents



Route 66 Skatepark in Adams Park

# PARK ACCESS

## GAP ANALYSIS

The El Reno Park Gap Analysis Map (facing page) displays areas of the community that do not have convenient access to parkland. This is determined through a walkshed assessment, an analysis looking at both a five- and 10-minute walkshed from a park entrance via a defined path. The assessment only considered programmed parks with potential for active recreation, such as regional, community, neighborhood, and pocket parks. The assessment follows roadways and accounts for barriers like highways, rivers, and railroad tracks. The residential areas outside the park walkshed are then identified and grouped to determine the gaps in existing service.

**In El Reno, 52 percent of residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park.** This is primarily in the central portion of the city and areas with higher existing population levels. Areas outside the walkshed are largely large-lot estates and rural in character. Parks should be incorporated into these areas as residential development progresses.

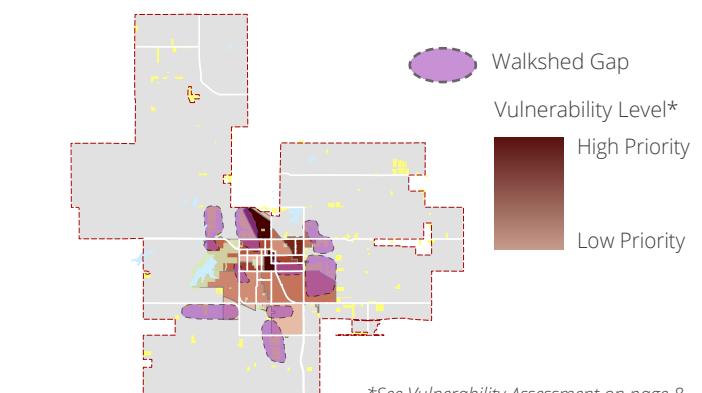
## Walkshed



The Trust for Public Land is a national organization that has established the 10-minute Walk Program. This program aims to ensure that all communities have safe and equitable access to high-quality parkland within a 10-minute walk from every home. Their program collaborates with cities and other partner organizations to address park access and create better connections to green spaces.

## PRIORITY AREAS

The planning team identified nine gaps in park service within the community. These nine areas are locations that should be reviewed when adding new parkland. To further evaluate which areas should be prioritized, the walkshed gaps were compared to residential areas of the community with higher rates of vulnerable populations (see page 8). Using this information, along with population projections and a review of physical barriers, three gaps have been identified as a high priority.



While these three identified gaps are the highest priority for new park locations, other factors such as funding availability, land availability, and changing demographics should be considered when adding new parkland to the system. In addition to filling these system gaps, the City should explore other methods of ensuring parkland is incorporated along with new residential development in the community.

## Top Priorities

### CENTRAL GAP

1. The central gap is in an area with higher population density and rates of vulnerable populations.

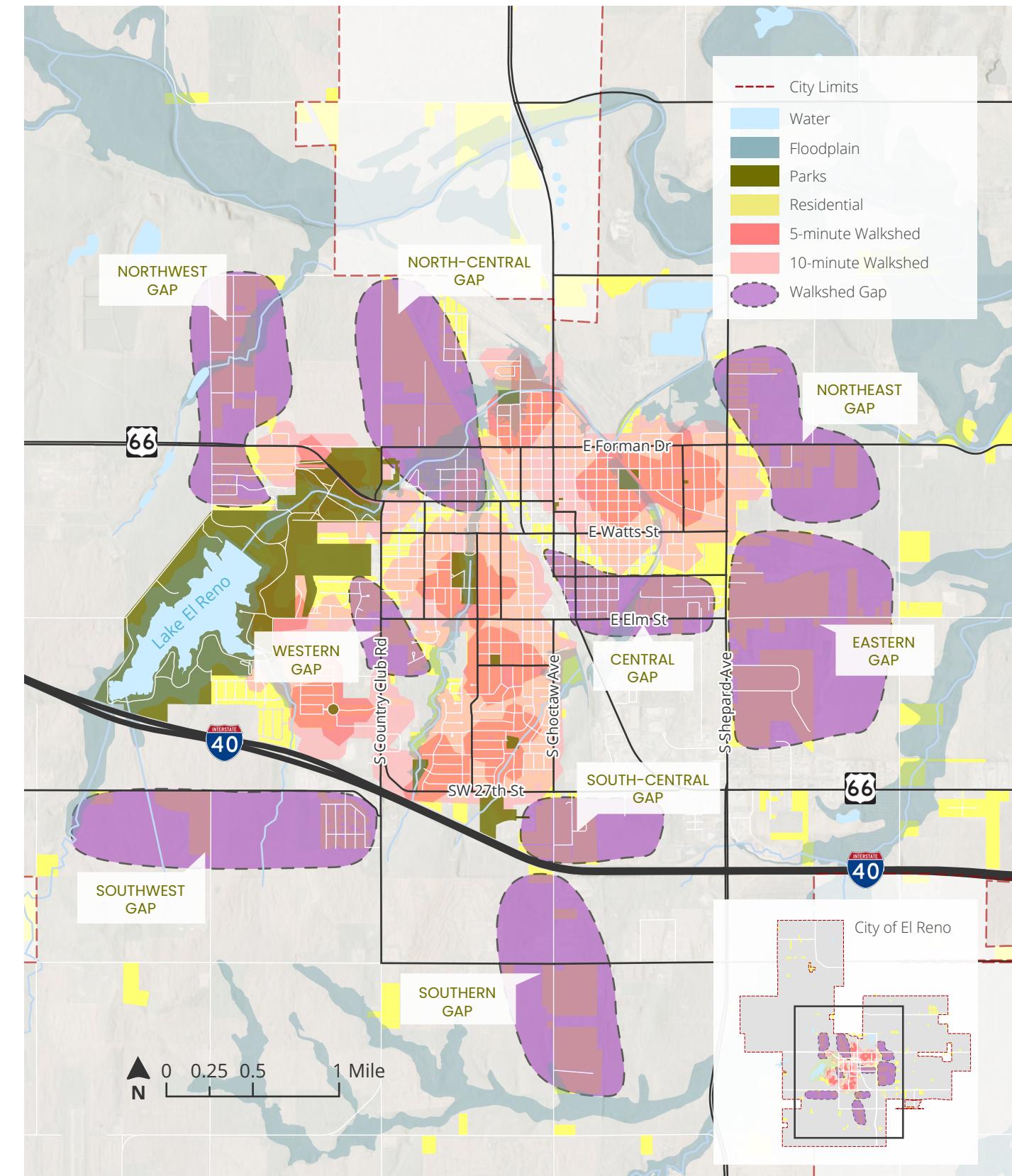
### EASTERN GAP

2. The eastern gap is in an area with moderate levels of vulnerability and expected growth.

### SOUTHWEST GAP

3. The southwest area has low vulnerability levels, but has no existing access to a park south of interstate 40.

## EL RENO PARK GAP ANALYSIS MAP, 2024



# RV CAMPGROUND ASSESSMENT

An assessment of the Lake El Reno RV Campground was conducted to identify administrative and physical improvement that could be made to increase desirability and profitability of the space. The assessment included a review of the community, the conditions of the campground, target markets to address, financial goals, operational goals, and recommendations for improvements. This page presents a summary of key findings and recommendations from the assessment. [The full report can be viewed in Appendix A.](#)

## SWOT ANALYSIS

A SWOT analysis was utilized to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the RV Campgrounds. The analysis was based on the reviewers' experience, industry standards, observations, research, and interviews. The listed items below are representative examples of the full SWOT analysis and are not prioritized.

### STRENGTHS

- Proximity to Route 66
- Location on Lake El Reno
- Established clientele
- Proximity to city services and attractions

### WEAKNESSES

- Lack of uniformity between campsites
- Absence of online reservation system
- Limited staff
- Outdated rules which hinder potential revenue

## Recommendations

- Install area-wide Wi-Fi
- Define the park boundaries with fencing
- Consider a maximum stay for the summer (four weeks)/winter (four months)
- Implement holiday and weekend rates

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Online booking system
- Marketing to state, regional, and national travelers
- Additional amenities and services
- Expansion for additional RV sites

### THREATS

- Competition from other campgrounds
- Drought / low water levels at the lake
- Competition from developers for land
- Stigma of municipal campgrounds

- Consider converting 10 percent of all sites to alternative forms of lodging / "glamping" (approximately 12 units)
- Develop abandoned Lawnmower Track into an equestrian RV park for rodeo arena
- Develop a monthly digital newsletter for guest



# SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

The Sports Facilities Assessment (Appendix B) provides a evaluation of the El Reno's current athletic infrastructure, with a focus on enhancing community well-being and positioning El Reno as a regional hub for sports entertainment tourism (SET). The report centers on three main components: a review of the Ashbrook Complex, conceptual soccer field layouts at Adams Park, and a regional analysis of comparable facilities within a two-hour drive radius.

## ASHBROOK COMPLEX

The Ashbrook Complex, located in Adams Park, includes five baseball/softball fields and two multipurpose fields. While it serves local youth and school sports, the facility faces several challenges, including inconsistent field dimensions, poor drainage, limited accessibility, and outdated infrastructure. Results of a review of physical conditions across 17 categories resulted in an average score was 2.9 out of 5. Opportunities identified for the space include leveling the fields, enhancing ADA accessibility, increasing seating, and upgrading lighting. However, constraints such as limited space for expansion and suboptimal field configurations hinder its potential for hosting large-scale tournaments.



Ashbrook Complex, 2024

## SOCcer FIELD LAYOUTS

The current site of El Reno Youth Soccer play was assessed for rearrangement of existing fields to better align with the space and allow for tournament play and practice. The site is located in Adams Park on either side of Earle Pennwright Drive and Four Mile Creek. The site plan was developed in conjunction with and incorporated into the Adams Park Master Plan (2025).

## REGIONAL ANALYSIS

The regional analysis identifies 26 athletic complexes within a two-hour drive, highlighting the competitive landscape for sports tourism. Facilities in cities like Oklahoma City, Edmond, and Mustang offer extensive amenities and field counts, often surpassing El Reno's current offerings. These competing venues typically feature natural or synthetic turf, ample parking, lighting, and support facilities such as restrooms and concessions.

[The full report can be viewed in Appendix B.](#)

# PARK PRIORITIES

## IMPROVING OUR PARKS

This Master Plan outlines recommendations for the City to adopt targets for parkland level of service (LOS), park accessibility, trail connectivity, and park facility LOS. The priorities listed in this section have been selected to help the City achieve the recommended targets, based on community feedback and national best practices. The recommended targets and projected need are advisory and aspirational only and are not meant to restrict the City from exceeding the recommended targets.

### PARKLAND RECOMMENDATIONS

Aim to increase the amount of programmed parkland (outside of the Adams Park Study Area) in El Reno, specifically community parks and neighborhood parks. **The City should aim for 2 acres per 1,000 residents for community parkland (currently 1.8 acres per 1,000) and maintain at least 1 acre per 1,000 residents for neighborhood parkland (currently 1.1 acres per 1,000).** Other parks may be incorporated to fill specific needs or uses.

### PARK ACCESS

**Strategically add new community and neighborhood parks to areas that are currently outside a 10-minute walk to a park.** To increase park accessibility and meet the demands of residents, the City should use the identified walkshed gaps and prioritize the top three "priority areas" as described on page 33.

## Parkland Target LOS

### Community Parks

 **2 acres**  
per 1,000 residents

Currently LOS 1.8 acres per 1,000 residents

### Neighborhood Parks

 **1 acre**  
per 1,000 residents

Currently LOS 1.1 acres per 1,000 residents

### Park Proximity



**All residents should be within a 10-minute walk to a neighborhood, community, regional or pocket park.**

### RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Maintain or improve the current recreational facilities LOS using the recommended target in the table to the right. Using the national medians and resident feedback, a target level of service for the most common amenities in parks has been prepared. Using the targets and projected population figures, a projected need is established for El Reno for 2040. **To achieve the recommended targets, the City should incorporate these amenities throughout the entire parks system, in addition to select amenities within the Study Area.**

### INDOOR RECREATION CENTER

Conduct a feasibility study to explore the addition of an indoor multi-use recreation center. Public outreach efforts conducted during the planning process uncovered a strong demand for an indoor facility to conduct athletic events and recreation. The feasibility study should include site selection and a cost benefit analysis.



Pocket parks can fill crucial gaps in the park system by utilizing vacant lots in existing and new neighborhoods. Webster Park is an example of this concept.

Recreational Facilities Target Level of Service (2024)

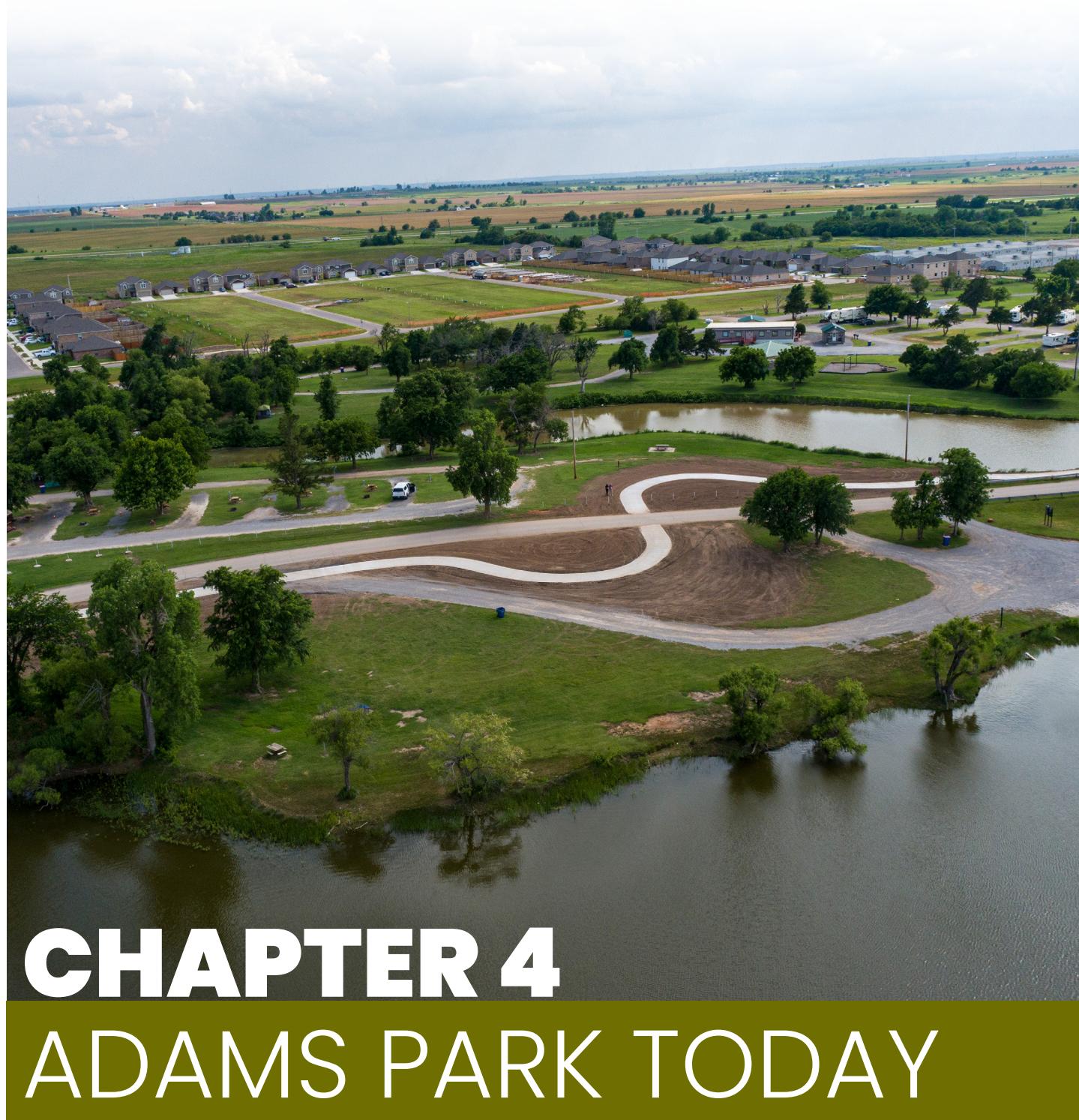
Facility	Current Number in El Reno <sup>1</sup>	El Reno Current LOS <sup>2</sup>	El Reno Target LOS <sup>2</sup>	Projected Need (2040) <sup>3</sup>	Deficit
		Residents per Facility			
Playgrounds	8	2,184	2,000	14	6
Diamond Fields	8	2,184	2,000	14	6
Basketball Courts	4	4,369	4,000	7	3
Rectangular Fields	1	17,474	8,000	4	3
Tennis Courts	6	2,912	4,000	7	1
Dog Parks	1	17,474	10,000	3	2
Community Gardens	0	-	8,000	4	4
Swimming Pools	1	17,474	9,500	3	2
Skateparks	1	17,474	30,000	1	-
Multi-use courts-basketball, volleyball, etc	1	17,474	15,000	2	1
Pickleball	0	-	10,000	3	3
Multi-use courts-tennis, pickleball	1	17,474	4,000	7	6
18-hole golf course	1	17,474	30,000	1	-
Driving range stations	1	17,474	30,000	1	-
Volleyball courts, standalone	2	8,737	8,000	4	2
Splash pads, spray grounds, or spray showers	1	17,474	10,000	3	2
Fitness zones/exercise stations	0	-	15,000	2	2
Disc Golf Courses	1	17,474	15,000	2	1
Walking loops/running tracks	3	5,825	5,000	6	3
Water parks	0	-	30,000	1	1

1. City owned; data provided by the City of El Reno, 2024

2. Based on a population of 17,474 (ACS 5-year estimate, 2017-2022)

3. Based on projected population of 28,024

# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## CHAPTER 4 ADAMS PARK TODAY

## ADAMS PARK TODAY

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# ADAMS PARK SITE ASSESSMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Before undergoing the conceptual design process for the Adams Park Study Area (the study area), a full site assessment was conducted to review existing conditions and characteristics of the park. This included an in-person driving/walking tour of the study area to review facilities, amenities, and conditions of the grounds. The review was enhanced by a desktop assessment of site features, such as impervious surfaces, topography, vegetation, water and flood prone areas, and zoning of the study area and surrounding land.



A



C



D



E

### Image Description:

- A. The abandoned lawnmower race track has become overgrown and the site features are falling apart.
- B. The riparian areas along Four mile Creek collects litter and shows signs of algae buildup and erosion.
- C. The beach at Lake El Reno is uninviting and has limited water access.
- D. The Route 66 Skatepark is well maintained and in good working condition.
- E. The disc golf course has been maintained and activated through the El Reno Disc Golf Club.

# IMPERVIOUS SURFACES



There are large portions of impervious surface in the northern section of the study area. These are primarily large surface parking lots and roadways. Other sections of impervious surface include the former hospital site on Parkview Drive and the former man-camp site east of the RC Airpark. Other segments of impervious surface include the mulit-use trail and the golf cart paths that are located northeast of Lake El Reno.

# TOPOGRAPHY

# VEGETATION

The topography of the study area funnels to the low points of Lake El Reno and Four Mile Creek. The dam on the northeast side of the lake is the most significant elevation change. Other high points in the area include the water tower location and sections of the Crimson Creek Golf Course. Elevation is considered when planning for recreational facilities, such as trails, amphitheaters, and playgrounds. The drainage and water management also influence site design.

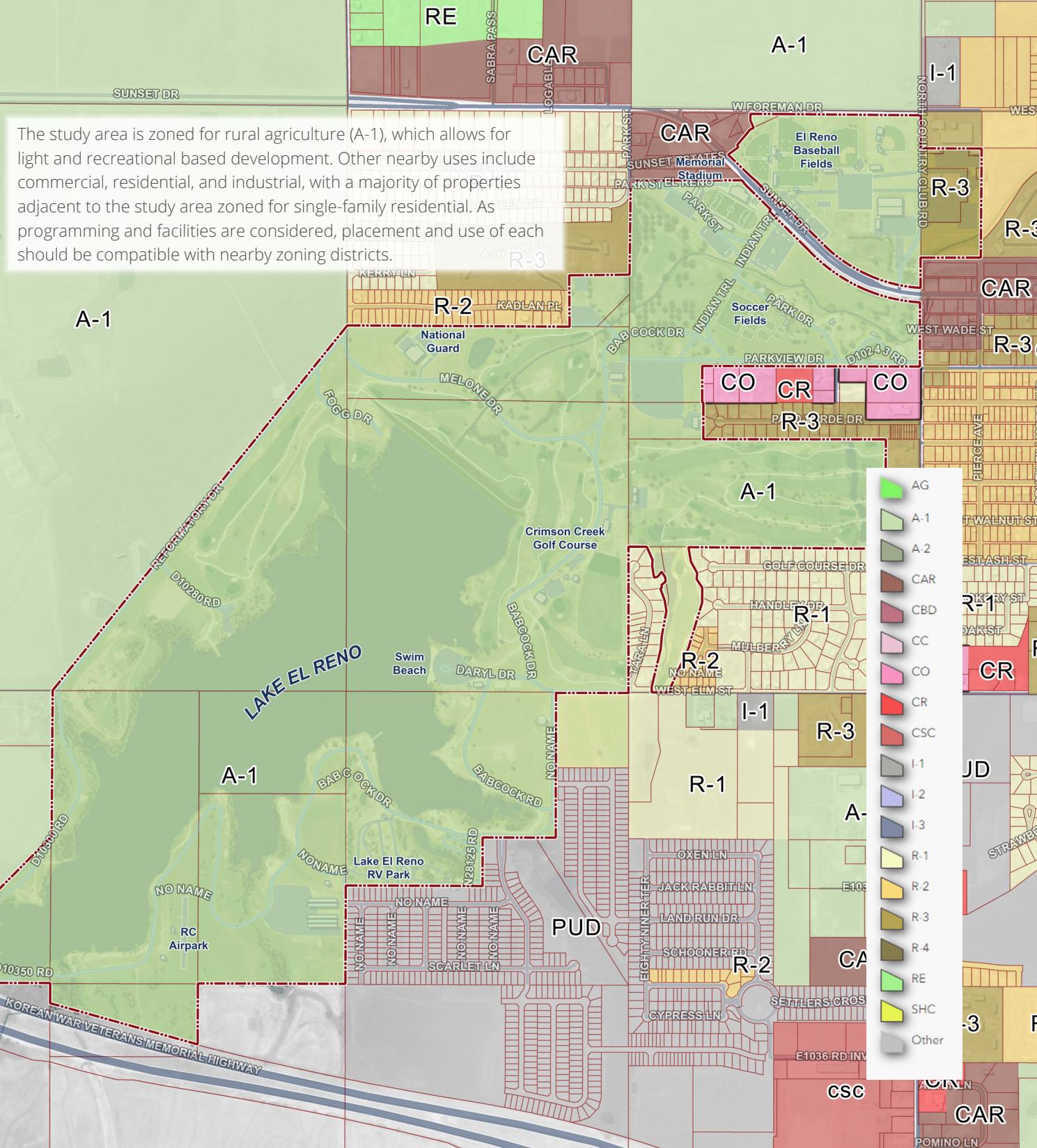


The study area is primarily covered by turf grass and maintained/mowed by parks staff. Areas of heavy vegetation and tree canopy include the pecan grove and the southern portion of the study area. The Crimson Creek Golf Course is heavily manicured and has little tree canopy. There are few areas of natural vegetation growth or identified "no-mow" locations.

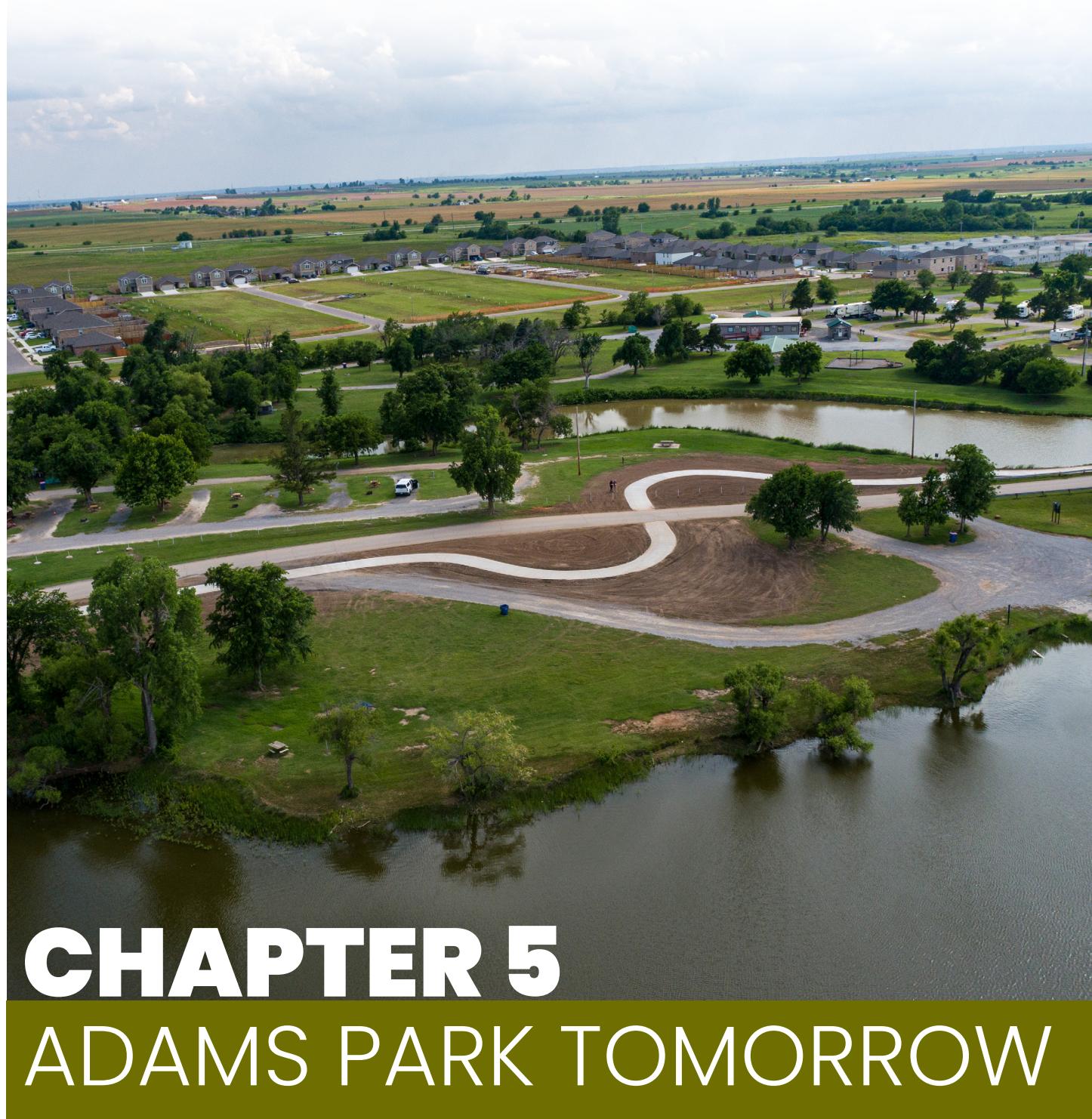


# WATER AND FLOOD

# ZONING



# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## CHAPTER 5 ADAMS PARK TOMORROW

## ADAMS PARK TOMORROW

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DESIGN FOCUS .....	51
ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN .....	53

# COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

## INTRODUCTION

The design for the Adams Park study area (the study area) was heavily influenced by community priorities and feedback gathered during the planning process. Results from the community survey and findings from the public open house and public engagement booths guided recommendation for new and altered amenities, areas of focus, and recommended programming. While the study area cannot support all facilities needed throughout the community, it can host prominent facilities that have a regional and community draw.

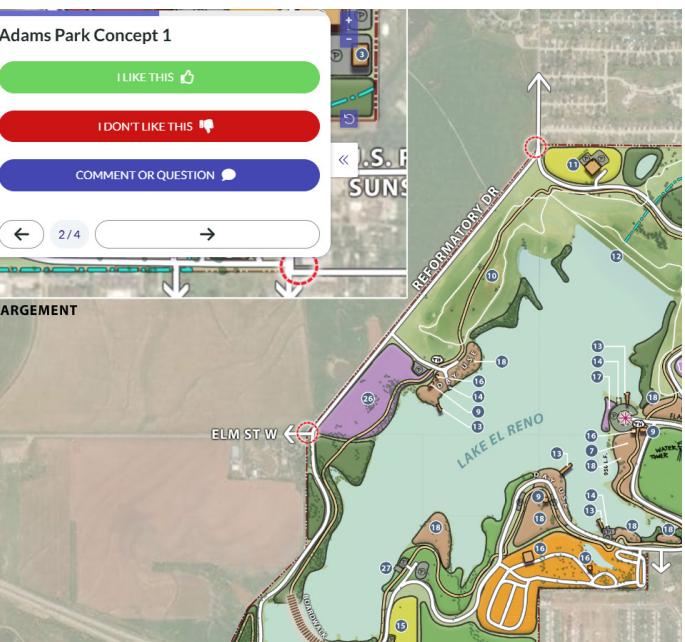
## DESIGN PROCESS

The design for the study area was developed through ongoing communications with El Reno residents, stakeholders, and City staff. Initial concepts were developed by park stakeholders during an interactive design workshop. Three groups used the guiding principles and public engagement findings from the planning process and incorporated them into the site design. These concepts were further refined by Halff into two concepts. These concepts received public review and input and were combined into a final conceptual plan.

The final conceptual plan was posted to the project website for public review. Feedback was gathered and incorporated into the final site design for City Council review and approval.



Residents and park stakeholders were invited to participate in a design workshop to identify park needs and the location for desired facilities and amenities. These recommendations were used to create two conceptual designs for the park.



Two draft concepts were taken to the public to receive additional input and recommendations. Feedback was taken and consolidated into an update draft park design.



# DESIGN FOCUS

## PARK IDENTITY AND WAYFINDING

Findings from the community engagement activities indicate that the public does not have a clear idea of where the boundaries of Adams Park begins and ends (see page 9, "Boundaries of Adams Park"). To create the "grand park" that the community envisions, it is imperative that the City adopt a unifying name and naming convention for Adams Park and the many areas within. Using this naming method, park branding wayfinding signage will be unifying and easy to navigate.

Signage and wayfinding elements should be consistent throughout the park. The regional scale of Adams Park provides opportunity for more unique design and naming conventions (such as those suggested in "Focus Areas" below). By establishing a consistent design language and identity, the wayfinding signage will help users feel more comfortable visiting park and the various areas within.

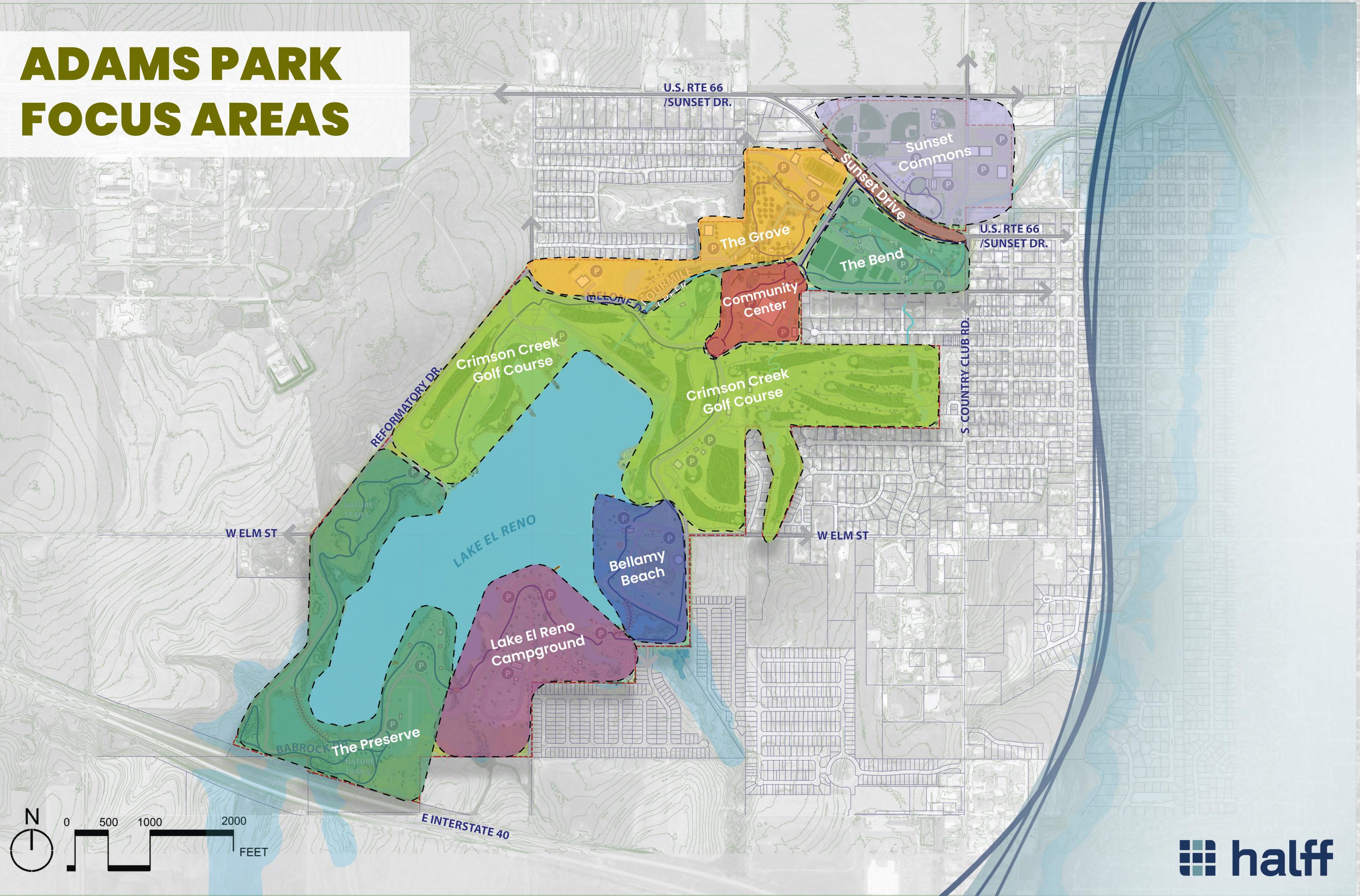
## FOCUS AREAS

To provide a greater level of detail, Six priority areas were identified at prominent activity centers across the Adams Park and Lake El Reno area. These six locations are prominent anchor points in the area, meant to generate greater levels of visitation and activity as the park master plan is realized. These priority areas are identified on page 52 and detailed on pages 55 through 70.

1. SUNSET COMMONS
2. SUNSET DRIVE
3. THE BEND
4. COMMUNITY CENTER
5. BELLAMY BEACH
6. LAKE EL RENO CAMPGROUND
7. THE GROVE
8. THE PRESERVE



# ADAMS PARK FOCUS AREAS



# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## SUNSET COMMONS

Sunset Commons contains the northern section of Adams Park is intended to cater to older children and active recreation. This includes updates to the existing sports fields, adding a pump track, and the addition of a community gardens and farmers market. This section will serve as a community gathering space and connect to the rest of the park and Lake El Reno through a network of paved trails.



**Image Description:**

- A. Horseback riding provides recreation opportunity along the open trail space. *Image Source: Great Rivers and Routes of Southwest Illinois*
- B. Paved pump track. *Image Source: Explore Menifee*
- C. Farmers market support local businesses while creating a space for community gathering. *Image Source: Visit Muskegon*
- D. Multi-use athletic courts and fields support a range of recreation and league play. *Image Source: Merritt Tennis Systems*



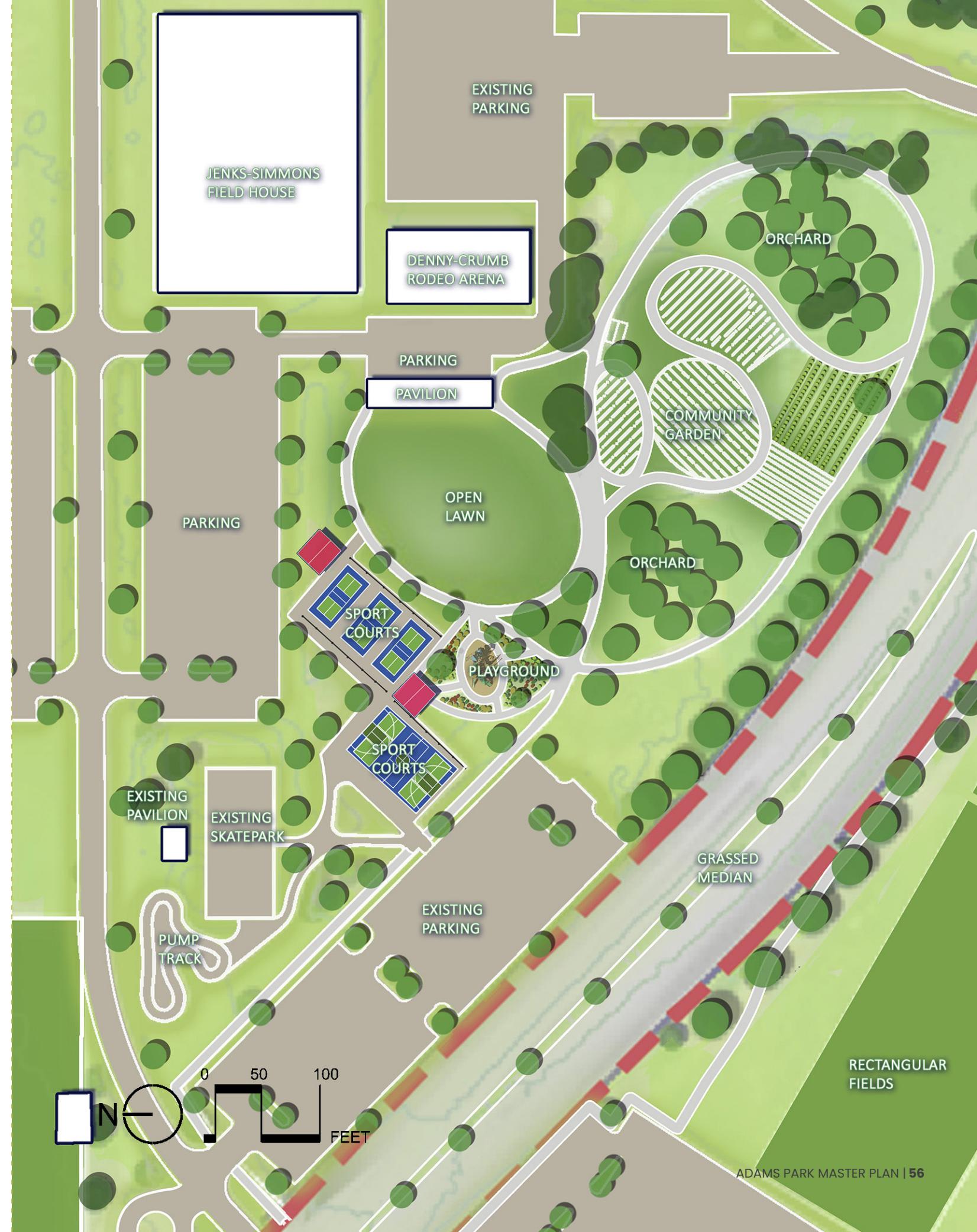
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## SUNSET DRIVE

The plan for the Sunset Drive corridor is to leverage the road as a primary gateway for Adams Park, while also addressing the division between the north and south sections of the park. The corridor is planned to clearly mark the entrance of the park through added landscaping, art, signage, sidewalk, lighting, trees, and safe pedestrian crossings.



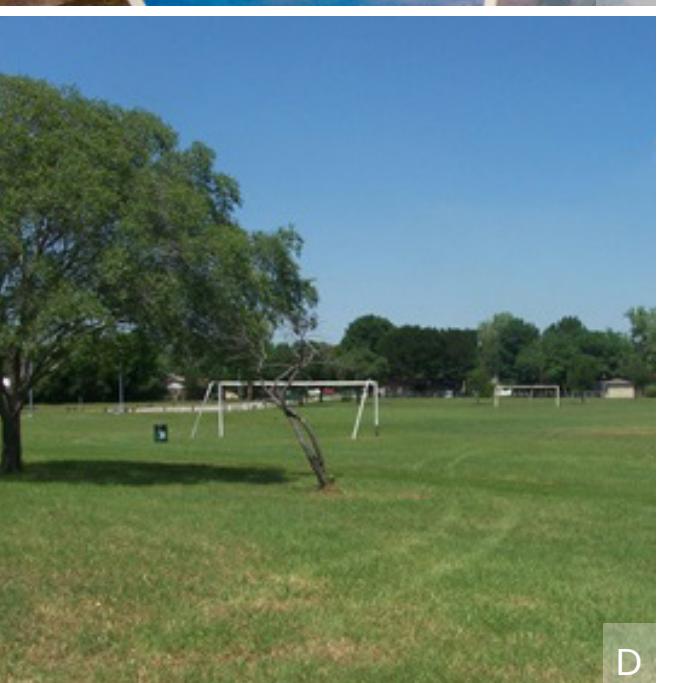
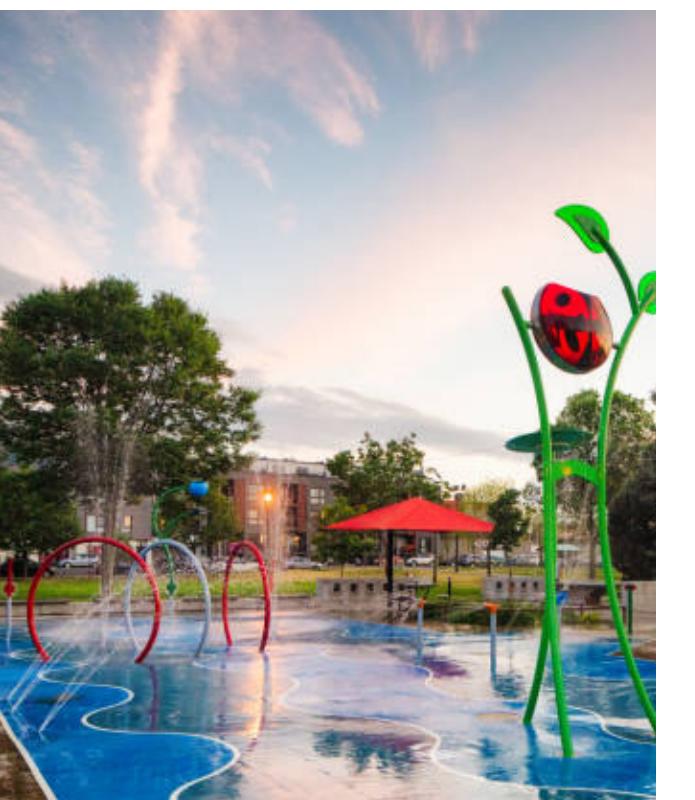
### Image Description:

- A. Wide sidewalks designed for accessibility, comfort, and increased pedestrian use. *Image Source: San Antonio Report*
- B. Landscaped medians soften the corridor and provide visual interest for drivers and pedestrians.
- C. Cross section showing roadway, sidewalks, bike lanes, and landscaping. *Image Source: Halff*
- D. High-visibility crosswalk enhances safety and encourages pedestrian activity across the corridor. *Image Source: Halff*
- E. Green infrastructure elements like vegetated swales manage stormwater and improve environmental quality. *Image Source: Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)*



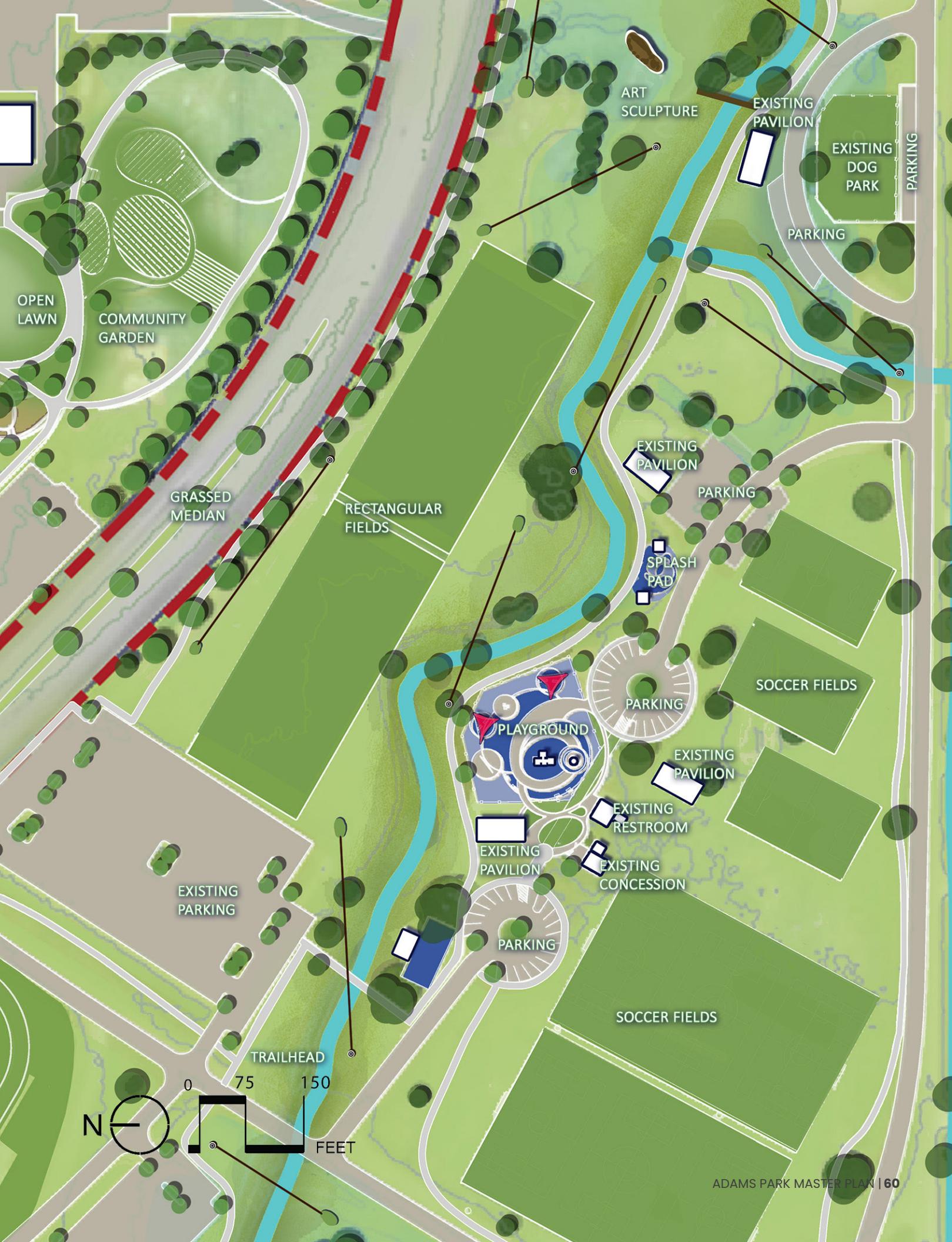
## THE BEND

The Bend is intended to be activated for younger kids and families through the inclusion of playgrounds, picnic areas and soccer fields. It is proposed that the section of Four Mile Creek be restored with native plants and rocks. The area would include the addition of a splash pad and improvement to the playground and pavilions.



### Image Description:

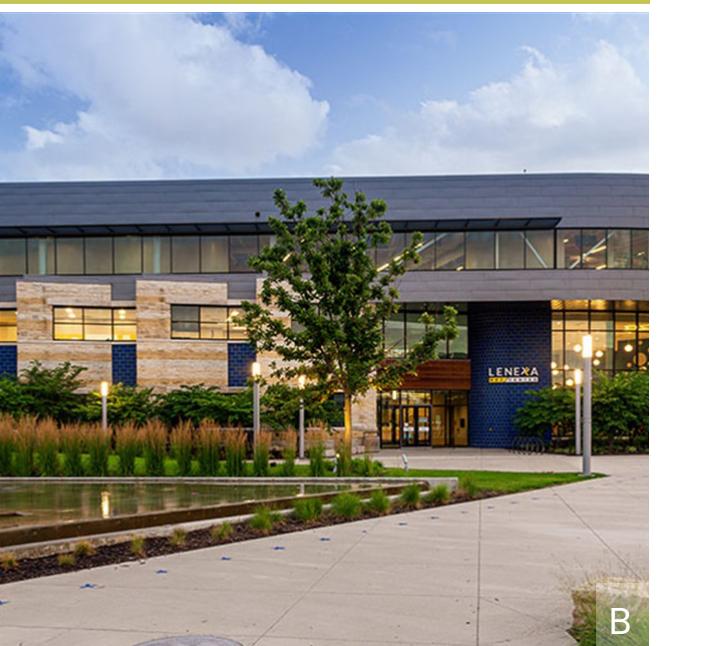
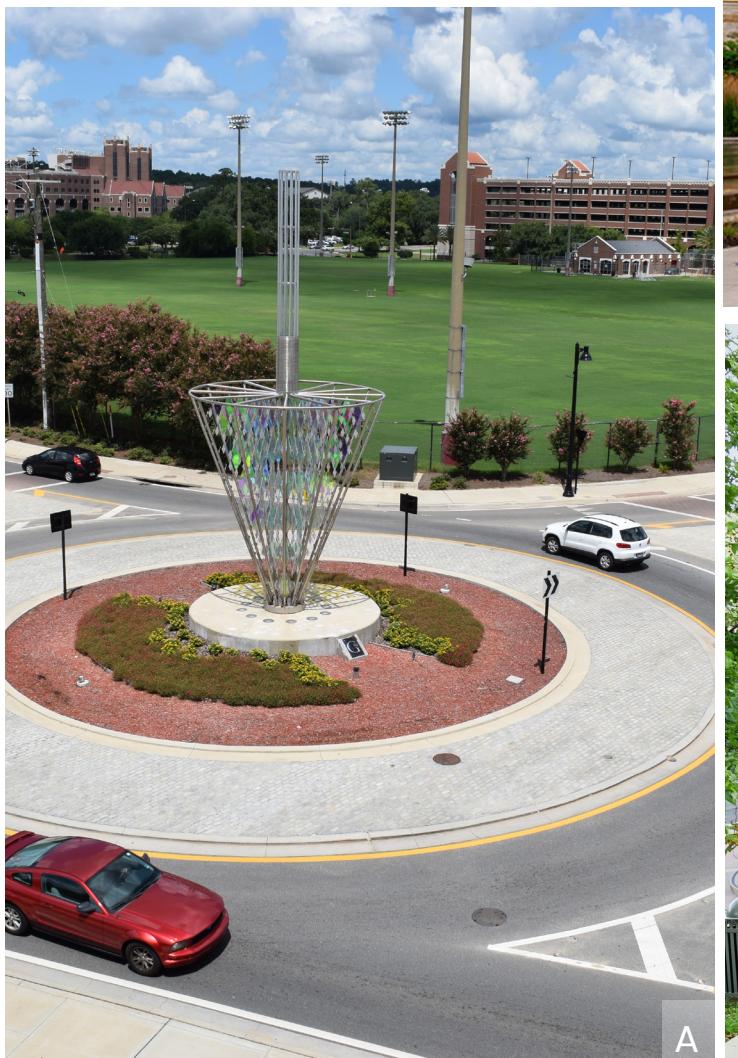
- A. Restored natural creek bank with native vegetation. *Image Source: Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project*
- B. Modern playground amenities for children and families. *Image Source: Earthscape Play*
- C. Interactive splash pad offering water play for children of all ages. *Image Source: iStock Photos*
- D. Two full-sized fields and three youth-sized fields accommodate children and adults. *Image Source: City of Fort Worth*



## COMMUNITY CENTER

The plan for a future community center would be placed at the former INTEGRIS Hospital site, at the intersection of Parkview Drive and Babcock Drive. The site should include native plantings, permeable surfaces for parking, and accessibility to the trail network.

The intersection of Babcock Drive and Melone Drive is planned to be reconstructed as a roundabout to slow traffic and reduce conflict points between drivers.

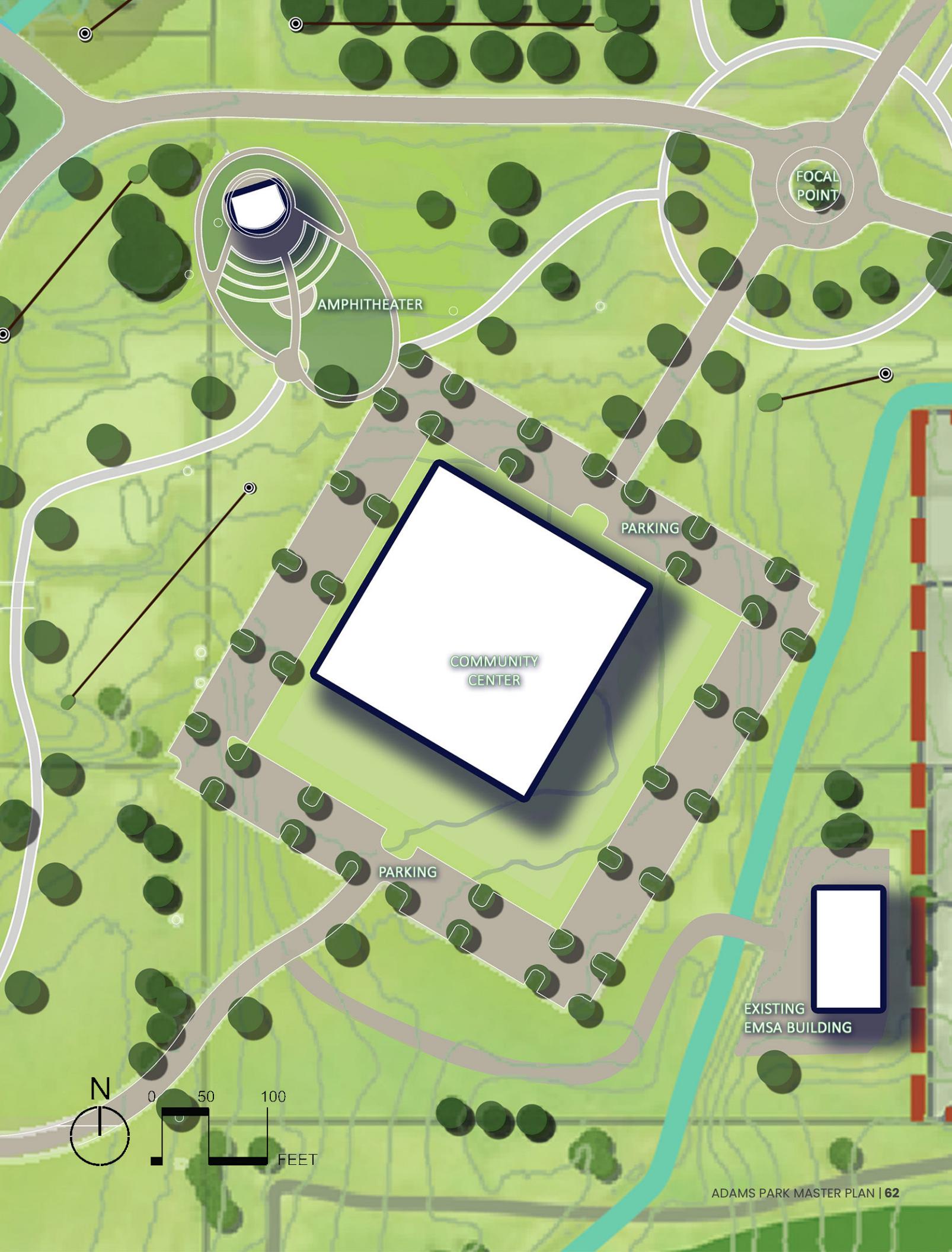


### Image Description:

A. An example of a roundabout with public art as a focal point. Image Source: Halfff

B. Native plantings and lighting will enhance the area around the Image Source: City of Lenexa, KS

C. An amphitheater with seating built-in the hill. Image Source: City of Laguna Niguel



## BELLAMY BEACH

The Bellamy Beach area (named for the former Bellamy Lake) is intended to serve as the primary node of activity on the lake. The plan depicts a refreshed beach area, new playground, parking lot redesign, and stage/lawn for events and recreational activities.



### Image Description:

A. Beach area designed for relaxation and recreation. Image Source: Lake Eufaula State Park

B. The beach can be activated with events like Movies on the Lake Image Source: Time Out Los Angeles

C. A new playground with modern design. Image Source: Visit Edmond

D. Open lawn space allows for informal recreation. Image Source: Republican Herald

E. A paved bike track. Image Source: City of Fort Worth



## LAKE EL RENO CAMPGROUND

The plan for the RV Campground area is to rearrange existing sites and expand into the former man-camp to the southeast. The intent of the campsite is to allow for a variety of stay options, including personal RVs, tent camping, and preset "glamping" sites. Additional information and recommendations for can be found in Appendix A, RV Campground Assessment.



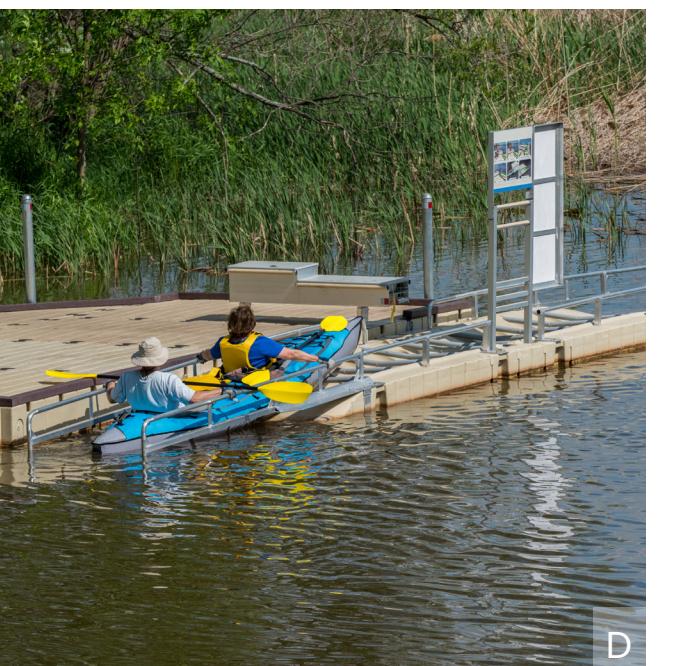
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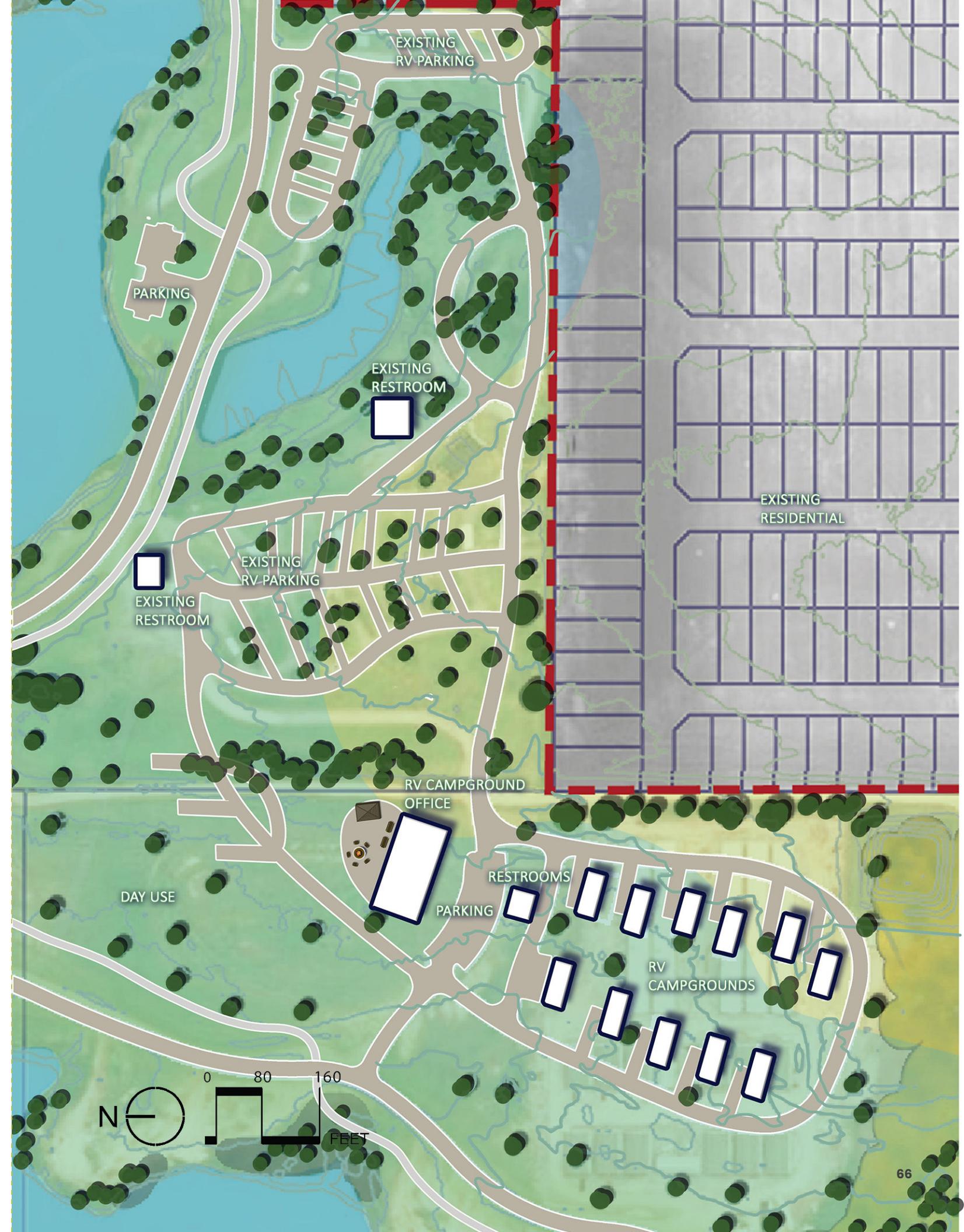
### Image Description:

A. Improved RV sites with hookups for camping. *Image Source: Up the Creek RV Camp*

B. RV parking. *Image Source: Adobe Stock*

C. Formal lodging like cabins accommodates a range of visitors *Image Source: Native Falls Campground*

D. Kayak launch for visitors to enjoy water-based recreation. *Image Source: Adobe Stock*



## THE GROVE

The Grove is located at the current pecan grove west of Indian Trail and north of Babcock Drive. The area is intended to serve the passive recreation needs of residents and visitors, providing space for walking, picnicking, and disc golf. The riparian area around Four Mile Creek should be reestablished with native plants and natural pathways.

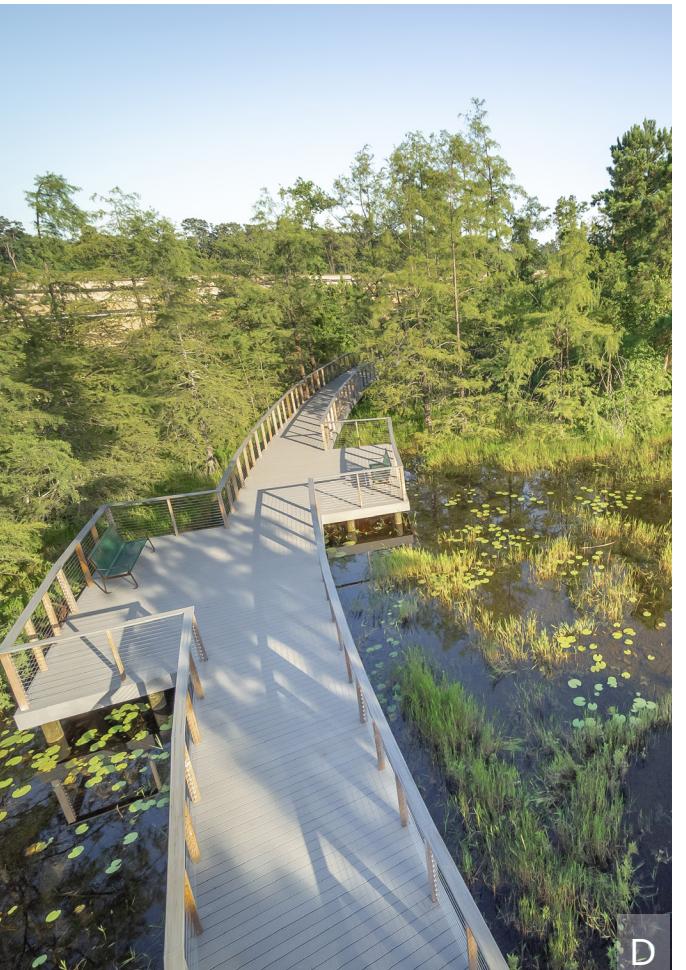
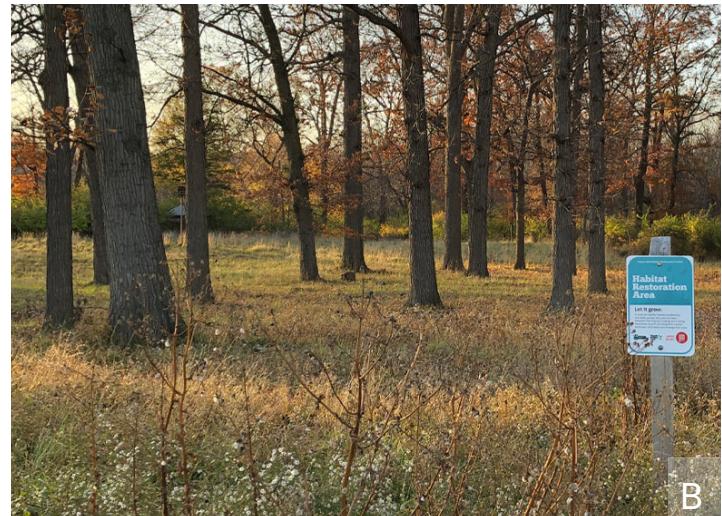


**Image Description:**  
A. Pathway woven through the natural areas. *Image Source: Mountain Bike Texas*  
B. The pavilion provides a place for community events *Image Source: City of OKC*  
C. Educational signage can provide information about local flora and fauna.. *Image Source: Halff*  
D. Disc golf course. *Image Source: Adobe Stock*



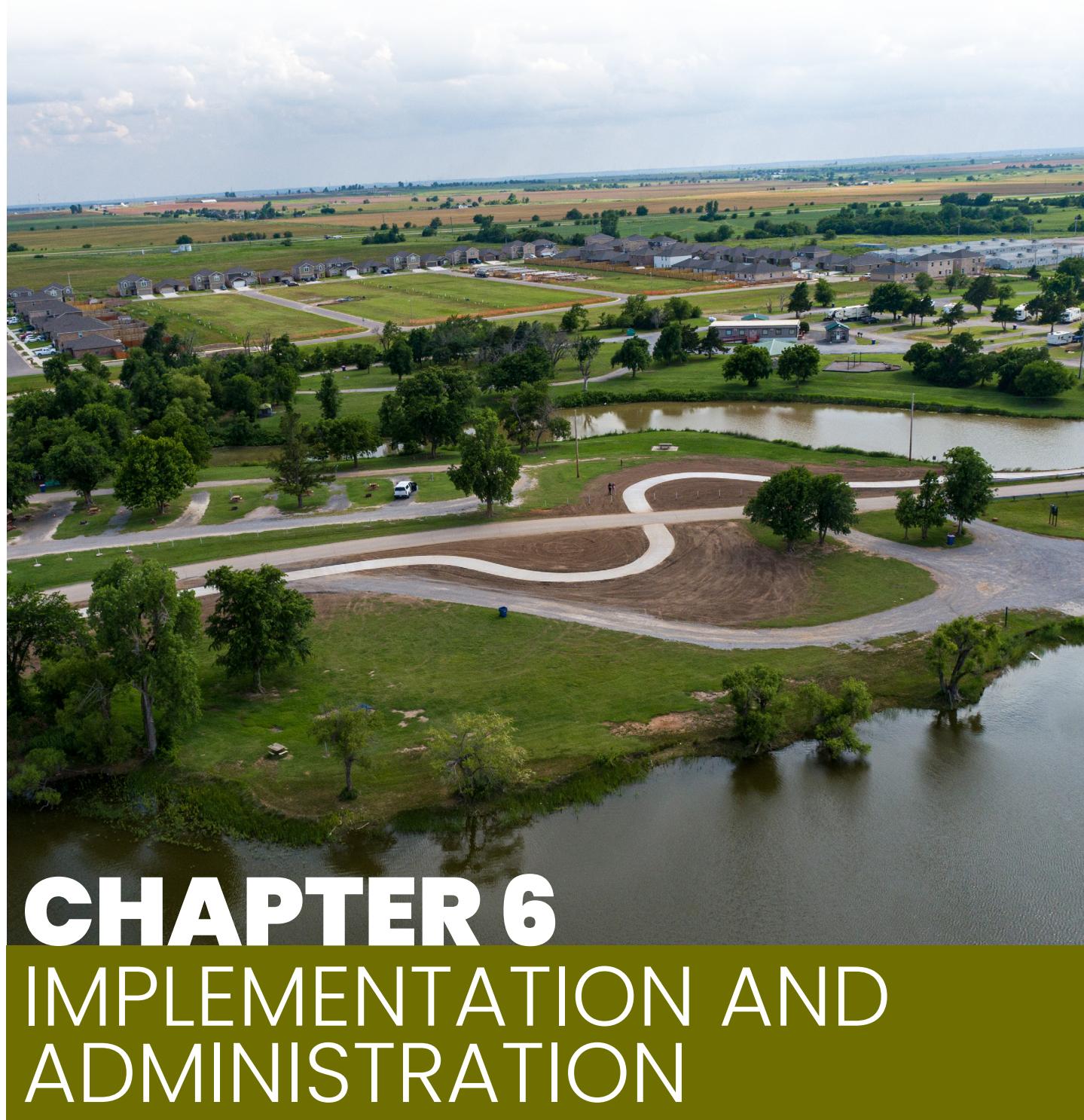
## THE PRESERVE

The Preserve is the largest section of the park and is intended to remain natural and available to passive recreation, such as fishing, bird watching, hiking, and other low-impact activities. This area will encourage the growth and preservation of natural habitat and a healthy tree canopy. The shores of the lake should have water tolerant plants and trees to provide habitat to waterfowl and fish.



**Image Description:**  
A. Bird watching. *Image Source: Nature Discovery Center*  
B. Habitat restoration area. *Image Source: People for Palmer Park*  
C. Hiking pathway. *Image Source: iStock*  
D. Pathway with viewing areas and benches. *Image Source: Halff*

# ADAMS PARK MASTER PLAN



## CHAPTER 6 IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION

## IMPLEMENTATION

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RECOMMENDATIONS .....	72
SUSTAINABLE PARK PRACTICES .....	75
REVENUE FORECAST .....	77
INVESTMENT PROGRAM .....	79

# PARK OPERATIONS

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

Operations & maintenance of the Adams Park study area (the study area) is currently lead by the parks department and the fields services manager. In addition to the operations and maintenance of Adams Park, the parks department oversees programming at all parks, maintenance of ballfields and all park grounds, security of the parks and Lake El Reno, and pavilion reservations.

### STAFFING

The parks department falls under the oversight of the public services department. The department is lead by a director and includes an administrative assistant and landscaper. In addition to the administration, the parks department employs three full-time maintenance workers, two part-time maintenance workers, and 4,500 hours of seasonal maintenance staff (approximately 2.16 full-time equivalent). These staff oversee the maintenance of all parkland in El Reno, in addition to the maintenance of Adams Park and Lake El Reno.

**8.16**

Full-time Equivalent staff member that work directly with El Reno Parks and Recreation.



Volunteers should be used to offset staff needs for special tasks, like weeding, litter pick-up, and programming.

### MAINTENANCE

The City does not currently have a formal maintenance schedule for the Adams Park and Lake El Reno area. There are typically more employees that maintain the park in the warm seasons than in the cool seasons.

The grounds are largely comprised of turf grass and are mowed on a regular basis. The soccer fields are maintained by the El Reno Soccer Club and the baseball/softball complex at the north end of Adams Park are maintained by the El Reno Public School District.

**90%**

Residents that said the physical condition of El Reno parks are in fair, good, or excellent condition.



Park rules and regulations should be clearly explained and openly displayed for patrons of the park.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

A series of strategies pertaining to park operations, maintenance, design, and policy/programming are recommended to advance the practices of the parks department. These recommendations are designed to improve long-term quality of the park and enhance the efficiency, cost recovery, staff levels, and maintenance practices of the Department.

## OPERATIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

### TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION

Improve field staff's access to handheld GPS and web-based equipment for field maintenance and inventory of facilities.

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Promote and budget for professional development opportunities that strengthen staff skills and knowledge of park maintenance and operations practices.

### LAKE GUIDE

Improve park security and identify ongoing maintenance needs by implementing a volunteer Park Ranger Program. The program could engage volunteers to regularly monitor the park and provide assistance to maintenance staff and police.

## MAINTENANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

### VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Engage the public in the maintenance and operation of the park system through volunteer programs. Programs can be used to supplement landscape maintenance and for litter abatement.

### USER GROUP SUPPORT

Require user group cooperation in keeping sites litter free and properly maintained. These requirements may be incorporated in service agreements and ensure frequently used facilities will be regularly addressed.

### NATIVE PLANTS

Utilize drought-tolerant and native plants throughout the park, including tree canopy, riparian coverage, and maintained flowerbeds. Work with the Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension and Oklahoma Conservation Commission to identify plants that are best suited for the Prairie Tablelands eco-region.

### CAPRA ACCREDITATION

Pursue CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Parks and Recreation Agencies) accreditation from the National Recreation and Parks Association.

### PARTNERSHIPS COORDINATOR

Add a new staff position to coordinate and manage volunteers, partnerships, and vendor contracts for the Department.

### NO MOW ZONES

Identify areas of the park that do not require frequent mowing or landscaping that may allow native plants to grow, flower, and self-seed. This includes open space and riparian areas.

### RIPARIAN BUFFER

Maintain a vegetative buffer around Four Mile Creek and portions of Lake El Reno to help prevent flooding and erosion. Engage partners, like Blue Thumb, the OSU County Extension office, and community volunteers to monitor the water quality of Four Mile Creek and Lake El Reno.

## DESIGN RECOMMENDATIONS

### REDUCE AND SLOW TRAFFIC

Establish traffic calming measure and reduce external roadway access through the park to encourage lower traffic levels and slower travel speeds. This will reduce cut-through traffic and improve the safety and comfort for park users.

### NAMING CONVENTION

Identify names for areas within the Adams Park/Lake El Reno area and develop a naming convention.

### WAYFINDING

Using the new naming convention identified in the recommendation above, develop wayfinding signage and park branding throughout the park. This will better create an identity for the park and simplify park navigation for visitors.

### UTILITIES

To reduce instances of storm damage and to improve aesthetics of the study area, encourage the underground installation of future and repaired utility lines throughout the park.



## POLICY AND PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS

### TOBACCO-FREE POLICY

To align with Tobacco Settlement Endowment Trust (TSET) goals and be eligible for TSET funding, the City should adopt a tobacco-free policy, applied to all park properties.

### GREEN SPACE PRESERVATION

Expand and preserve natural habitat and green space in Adams Park and around Lake El Reno. Particularly as El Reno grows and develops, the preservation of natural areas will be more important.

### REVENUE GENERATION

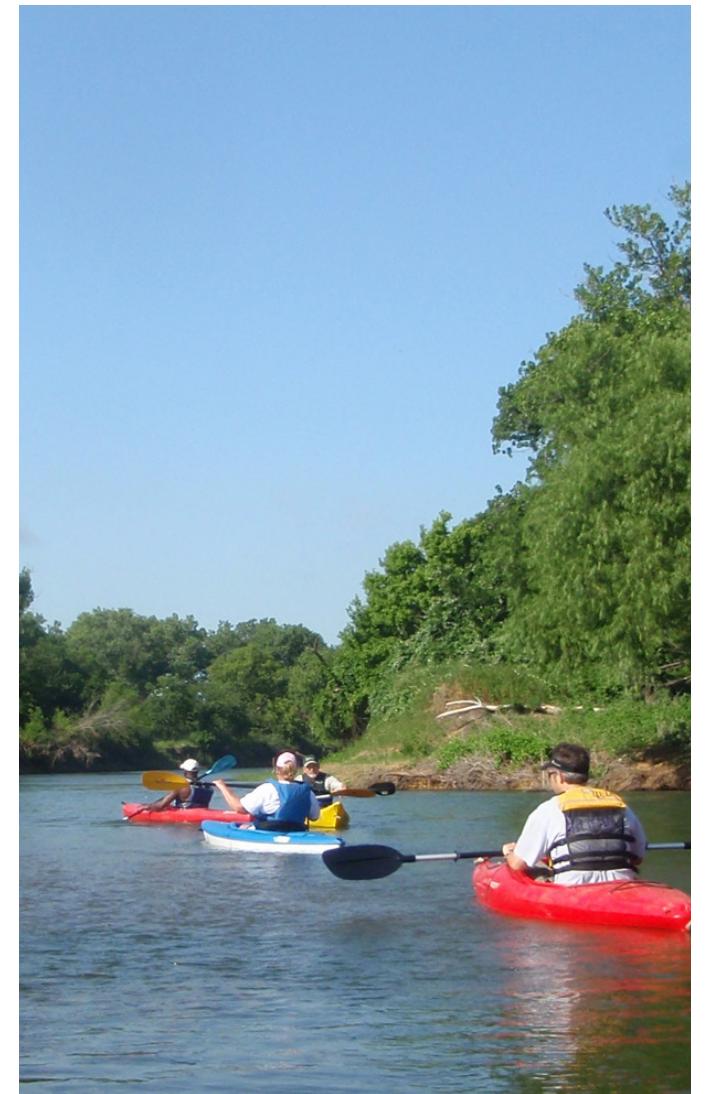
Continue to pursue additional revenue generating activities at the lake, such as boat permitting, day-use fees, and rental equipment.

### WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Allow the use of treated wastewater to feed and maintain lake levels. This water may also be used from the lake to supply water for site irrigation.

### DESTINATION-BASED PROGRAMMING

Capitalize the park's location on Route 66 and along I-40 to attract visitors to the park's unique attractions and features.



# NATURAL PARK PRACTICES

Developing a park that is resilient and adaptive to a changing community is imperative for long-term success. There are a number of steps the parks department and City can take today provide a park space that endures for the future generations of El Reno residents. The four sustainable practices detailed below are just a few of the strategies that may create lasting ecological and environmental prosperity of the Adams Park study area (the study area).

## PROTECT THE RIPARIAN AREA

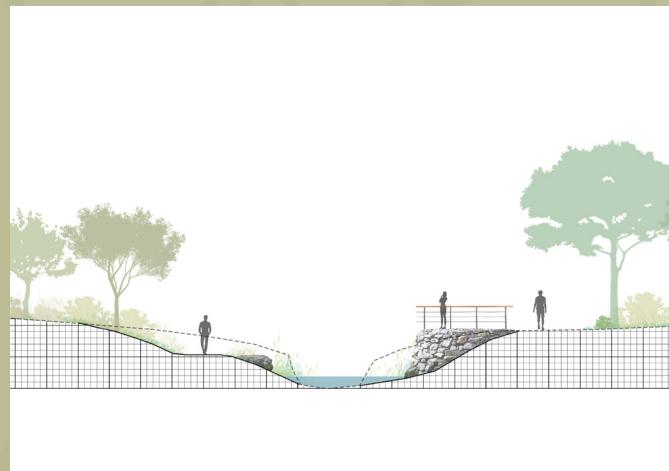
The Oklahoma Conservation Commission gave Four Mile Creek an overall stream score of "F." This score considers the water quality, amount of fish and microinvertebrates (bugs), and general habitat suitability. According to their reports, the creek experiences bouts of significant algae, floating detritus (decomposing plants), and high levels of chloride. The water quality of Four Mile Creek directly impacts the habitat for wildlife in the park.

To protect the creek from contamination and improve the environmental outcomes within the riparian area, **the City should designate "no-mow zones" around the perimeter of the creek and lake and add native and Oklahoma proven wetland plants**, such as Slippery Elm, Bur Oak, Cardinal Flower, Bee Balm, Switch grass, and Prairie Drop-seed. Additionally, the use of fertilizers and herbicides should be minimized or eliminated to reduce runoff into Four Mile Creek and Lake El Reno.

## INCREASE THE TREE CANOPY

Trees are one of the most valuable assets to a park system. Trees not only add to the beauty of a park, but reduce temperatures through added shade and cooling from leaves, absorb pollutants from the air, capture stormwater runoff, and provide habitat for wildlife.

While additional trees are recommended for the study area, not all trees should be valued the same. **Native species and those adapted to the ecology and climate of western Oklahoma will provide more lasting benefits over non-native and ornamental species.** As the community adds to the tree canopy, the practice of "right tree, right place" should be implemented. This ideology considers the tree height, width, and benefits for each location when the tree reaches maturity. Tree planting and care should be conducted following best practices from the International Society of Arboriculture.



A redesign of Four Mile Creek can better activate the space while improving the water quality of the creek.



An extensive tree canopy provides shade and other cooling benefits for park users.

## PROMOTE POLLINATOR HABITAT

Pollinators, like bees, butterflies, birds, and moths, are an essential contributor to the ecological function of an area. According to the US Forestry Service, over 1,400 crop plants require pollination by animals to produce. These pollinators ensure the genetic diversity and resilience of the natural environment, and themselves are an important food source for many species of birds and bats.

Across the 750 acres of the study area, there are many locations that are not programmed for recreational use and have no practical need to be mowed. Many of these locations could be converted into "pollinator pockets." A pollinator pocket is an area that has been converted into a prairie of native grasses and flowers that may host a variety of pollinators. In addition to the areas identified in the Adams Park Conceptual Plan, review of new potential sites should be conducted on an ongoing basis.



Photo Source: Scissortail Park

The Scissortail Park Pollinator Pockets and Programs (funded by OG&E), provides educational material and programming covering the benefits of pollinators and their habitat.

## COORDINATE TRAINING AND EDUCATION

To enable long-term resilience of the study area, education and training on sustainable maintenance practices will need to be provided to staff and volunteers. Best practices regarding water conservation, organic fertilization, tree pruning, and native plant identification will need to be covered to give staff and volunteers the tools needed to adequately maintain the new or altered features.

In addition to training staff and volunteers, educational material, such as signage, brochures, and social media engagement, should be created to inform residents about the ecological benefits of sustainable parks practices. While these practices are beneficial to the ecology and environment of the park, they may be unfamiliar to many residents. To avoid confusion or concern about the aesthetics of the park, there should be clear justification provided to explain concepts like riparian restoration, pollinator habitats, and "no-mow" zones.



The City of Oklahoma City includes educational signage at Martin Nature Park to explain the local ecosystem.

# REVENUE

## INTRODUCTION

Additional improvement to the Adams Park and Lake El Reno area have the opportunity to increase revenue and offset maintenance costs for improvements. Further, through changes in maintenance practices, the City can minimize expenses from related to regular operations at the park and lake. This section reviews the current budget and revenue sources.

### BUDGET

In the Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) budget, Parks shifted from being funded by the Recreational Authority to the General Fund.

In FY25, the department was allocated \$556,000 dollars for operations. An additional \$40,500 dollars are allocated to Parks throughout the Agency and Special Accounts. This includes funds for holiday lights and general equipment improvements.

Another \$96,000 dollars were budgeted for Capital Improvements in FY25. These funds are designed for the purchase of fleet vehicles and other equipment.

In addition to the General Fund, the Recreation Authority has a total of \$1,103,000 dollars budgeted for FY25. This is split between general government (\$31,100 dollars), the golf course (\$980,900 dollars), and the RV park (\$91,000 dollars).

**This budget equates to \$2,157 dollars per acre of parkland. According to the NRPA, this is significantly lower (78% less) than the national median for communities under 20,000 population (\$9,777 dollars per acre).**

City of El Reno, Parks Budget Items, FY2025

Category	Budget
<b>General Fund</b>	
Personnel Services	\$281,700
Materials and Supplies	\$220,000
Other Services and Charges	\$54,000
Facility Improvements and Holiday Lights	\$40,500
<b>Capital Improvements</b>	
Vehicles	\$65,000
Equipment	\$31,000
<b>Recreation Authority</b>	
General Government	\$31,100
Golf Course	\$980,900
RV Park	\$91,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,795,200</b>

Source: El Reno Budget Book, FY 2024-2025

### CURRENT REVENUE SOURCES

The largest revenue source for the city is through sales and use tax. The total sales and use tax collected in FY24 was \$16,435,000 dollars. Other revenue sources from FY24 included permit and license fees, charges for service, County ARPA funds, and FEMA disaster relief payments.

Specific to the parks system, the largest revenue generator is the El Reno Recreation Authority. The authority generates revenue through permits and licenses, interest, grants, and others. In FY24, the authority generated approximately \$1,857,200 dollars in revenue. This revenue is primarily dedicated to the golf course, parks department, and the RV campground. The RV campground generated approximately \$109,000 dollars of this through parking fees, washer/dryer fees, and ice sales.

In addition to the Recreation Authority, the Crimson Creek Golf Course is the recipient of a dedicated 1/4 cent sales tax, generating approximately \$43,000 dollars in revenue in FY24.

El Reno Recreation Authority, Revenue Sources, FY2024

Category	Revenue
<b>Revenue Summary</b>	
Total Permits and Licenses	\$109,000
Total Interest	\$19,000
Total Other Revenue	\$785,200
Other Financing Sources	\$944,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,857,200</b>

Source: El Reno Budget Book, FY 2024-2025



# COST ESTIMATES

## INTRODUCTION

The cost estimates below identify the projected cost to achieve the full vision of the Adams Park Master Plan (pg. 53). The estimates include a cost range to account for the varied programming and facilities that could be included in the different areas. They are intended to provide a planning level estimate and are subject to detailed refinement during the design and construction process.

Adams Park Master Plan Cost Estimate by Focus Area, 2025

Location	Cost Estimate
Sunset Commons	\$720,000 - \$850,000
The Bend	\$2,450,000 - \$3,000,000
The Grove	\$13,500,000 - \$15,000,000
The Community Center	\$27,000,000 - \$45,000,000
Bellamy Beach	\$410,000 - \$800,000
Lake El Reno Campground	\$450,000 - \$875,000
The Preserve	\$680,000 - \$910,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,210,000 - \$66,435,000</b>

Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification.  
See page 52 for Master Plan Focus Area Locations.



**PREPARED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**

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