



# OPEN SPACE & PARKS MASTER PLAN

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PEA RIDGE, ARKANSAS

DECEMBER 5TH, 2024

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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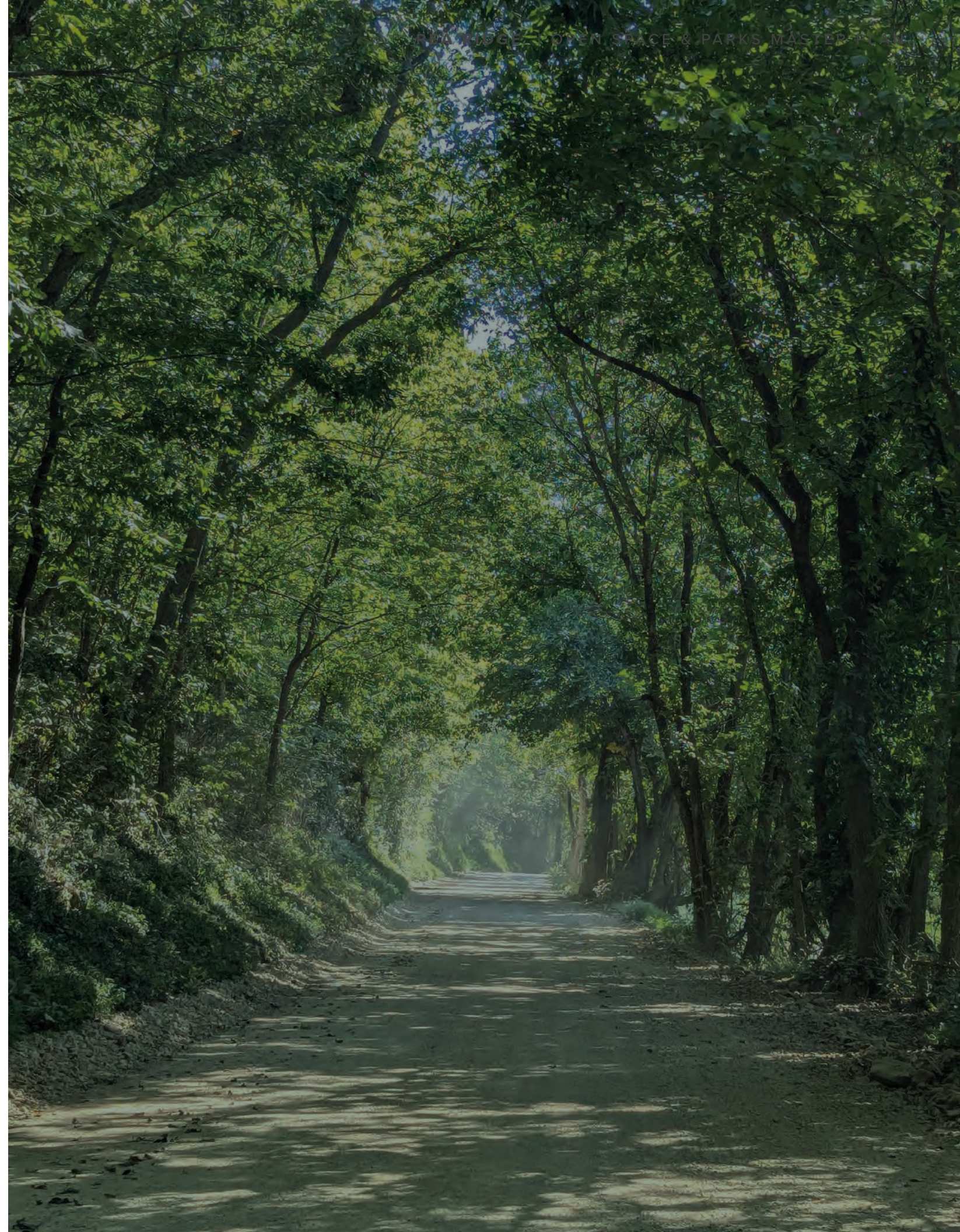
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CHAPTER 01

# INTRODUCTION

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PLAN INTENT

OVERVIEW

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REGIONAL CONTEXT



# PLAN INTENT

As Pea Ridge experiences rapid growth and transformation, the need for intentional planning of parks, open spaces, and recreational amenities becomes critical to future planning for the community. Nestled in Northwest Arkansas, Pea Ridge has become a desirable community due to its proximity to major employment hubs like Bentonville and Rogers. This growth, while offering exciting opportunities, also brings challenges in preserving the community's identity, heritage, and natural resources.

The Pea Ridge Open Space & Parks Master Plan, commissioned by both the City of Pea Ridge and the Urban Land Institute of Northwest Arkansas (ULI NWA), serves as a strategic framework to address these complexities and ensure that the City's green spaces are thoughtfully integrated into its existing and anticipated development fabric.

To ensure that the plan reflects community values and priorities, extensive community engagement has been a cornerstone of the planning process. A community-wide survey was conducted in tandem with the City's Comprehensive Plan update, capturing residents' needs, preferences, and aspirations for future parks and open spaces. The survey results, along with ongoing public input, will directly inform the Master Plan's vision and goals, ensuring that it is shaped by the people it serves.

With a focus on community mobility, safety, and universal accessibility, the plan will shape a future where residents of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy vibrant public spaces that contribute to a healthy and thriving community. Whether it's playgrounds and athletic fields for active recreation or nature trails and preserved open spaces for quiet reflection, the Master Plan envisions a future where every neighborhood has access to quality outdoor experiences.



# OVERVIEW

## SYSTEM OVERVIEW

Pea Ridge currently has about 25 acres of dedicated parkland and an additional 30 acres of shared space through the Pea Ridge School District, often used for community events and recreation. The City is planning a significant expansion of open space, with several areas in development or acquisition, but gaps in park service and equitable distribution remain a concern as the population grows.

A key challenge, however, is the limited connectivity within the City. Sidewalk infrastructure is scarce, mostly found in residential subdivisions, and even then, sidewalks are often too narrow to support multi-use paths for both pedestrians and cyclists. This creates accessibility gaps, particularly in areas where road conditions are unsafe for cyclists. Additionally, Pea Ridge lacks designated shared roads for cyclists, with only road connectors to rural recreational routes that are more suited for leisure than commuting. As a result, cycling infrastructure within the town remains underdeveloped.

Another major obstacle to connectivity is the division created by Highway 72 and Highway 94, which limit safe pedestrian and cyclist movement. Pea Ridge is exploring a potential highway swap with ARDOT to gain greater control over certain roads, allowing the City to implement active transportation improvements, such as sidewalks and bike lanes, to better connect the community.

Overall, while Pea Ridge is making progress in expanding its parks and open space offerings, improving connectivity and safe access for both pedestrians and cyclists will be essential for creating a more integrated and accessible recreational network.

## WHAT IS A PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN?

A Parks and Open Space Master Plan is a long-range planning document designed to guide the development, management, and preservation of a community's parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces. It establishes a vision for how these spaces can best serve residents and visitors, supporting quality of life, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. By analyzing current assets, identifying gaps, and anticipating future needs, the plan provides a comprehensive framework to ensure that parks and open spaces are accessible, connected, and meet the diverse needs of the community.

In Pea Ridge, this plan will serve as a road-map for thoughtful growth and development of the City's parks and green spaces. As the community expands, the master plan will offer strategic guidance on how to enhance recreational opportunities, improve connectivity, and preserve the natural environment. By aligning with community values and goals, the plan will ensure that Pea Ridge's parks and open space system grows in an equitable and sustainable manner, ultimately improving quality of life for all residents, while maintaining Pea Ridge's agricultural heritage.

### Pea Ridge's Parks and Open Space Master Plan:

- Provides a vision to enhance quality of life, sustainability, and economic growth
- Analyzes current assets, identifies gaps, and plans for future needs
- Ensures parks and open spaces are accessible and connected for the whole community
- Guides the equitable and sustainable growth of Pea Ridge's parks system as the City expands
- Prioritize the preservation and enhancement of natural resources by identifying key conservation areas, protecting sensitive ecosystems



Givens Park in the northwest side of town

### A PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN IS....

- Long-term planning guide to identify **service gaps**, **assess growth patterns**, and **identify opportunities for improvements**
- Visionary document that outlines the **values and goals** for current and future parks and open space
- Plan to conserve **natural areas and protect agricultural lands**, ensuring they remain an important part of the community character and environment
- Opportunity for the **community** to weigh in on the future of parks and open space

### A PARKS AND OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN IS NOT....

- A solution to traffic problems
- A solution to affordability
- A solution to infrastructure problems



## WHO PLAYED A ROLE IN SHAPING THE PLAN?

The Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan is the result of extensive collaboration and input from various sources, ensuring that it reflects the community's needs and aspirations. Contributions came from key reports, stakeholder engagement, and public feedback, all helping to shape a vision for the future of Pea Ridge's parks and open spaces. Below are the key contributors to this plan:

- **2024 ULI TAP Report:** The Technical Assistance Panel report provided strategic recommendations for improving park connectivity, expanding active transportation, and integrating parks with broader City functions such as land use and economic strategies.
- **Stakeholder Sessions:** One-on-one meetings with key community members offered detailed insights into local priorities, helping to tailor the plan to address specific concerns and opportunities.
- **Community Survey:** With over 500 responses, the survey gathered widespread input from residents on their preferences for park features, recreational opportunities, and open space improvements.
- **Community Engagement Workshop:** During this event, attendees reviewed draft proposals and shared feedback in an open, interactive format. Team members engaged in conversations and collected feedback, ensuring the final plan aligns with community interests.
- **City Departments:** Conversations with various City departments ensured the plan's alignment with existing initiatives and the City's vision, providing a well-rounded approach to parks and open space development.

## PLANNING PROCESS

The Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan was a comprehensive initiative to create a sustainable, connected, and vibrant park system that meets the recreational and environmental needs of the growing community.

### Kick-Off and Analysis

The project began with a kick-off meeting involving key City staff and stakeholders to gather information, identify technical and policy issues, and refine the project schedule. A thorough analysis of relevant documents and existing conditions was conducted, resulting in a Site Inventory and Analysis Report, the establishment of project goals, and a synthesis of related plans, including connectivity assessments and park system evaluations.

### Plan Development

A comprehensive analysis identifying strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) while categorizing parks and open spaces took place in this phase. Recommendations for future park and facility needs were developed, outlining strategies for conservation, passive and active recreation, and ensuring connectivity and accessibility across the City. Additionally, a community survey and engagement event were held to gather public input, which informed the proposed parks and open space plan. Key recommendations include active transportation considerations, the need for additional park space, and the importance of conserving open space.



*Residents at Community Engagement Workshop*

### Master Plan Refinement and Finalization

In the final phase, the draft plan was refined based on feedback, with a detailed implementation strategy and funding mechanisms prepared. The finalized Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan was presented for City review and adoption, complete with strategic priorities, and actionable recommendations for future growth and development.

# PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PRINCIPLES

## IMPORTANCE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

Planning parks and open spaces in a growing community is essential to ensure that these green spaces are thoughtfully integrated into the urban fabric, promoting health, connectivity, and environmental sustainability as the community expands.

- **Enhance Quality of Life:** Parks and open spaces provide recreational opportunities, promote physical activity, and create peaceful environments, improving overall well-being for residents.
- **Support Environmental Sustainability:** These areas help conserve natural resources, protect biodiversity, and improve air and water quality, contributing to environmental health and resilience.
- **Promote Social Interaction and Community Engagement:** Parks serve as gathering spaces where people can connect, fostering social ties and building a sense of community.
- **Increase Property Values and Economic Growth:** Access to parks and open spaces can raise nearby property values, attract new residents and businesses, and stimulate local economies.
- **Encourage Active Transportation:** Greenways and trails provide safe, attractive options for walking, cycling, and other forms of non-motorized transportation, reducing traffic congestion and pollution.
- **Preserve Cultural and Natural Heritage:** Parks can protect historical sites and natural landscapes, ensuring that the community's unique character is maintained for future generations.
- **Improve Mental Health and Well-being:** Access to green spaces has been shown to reduce stress, boost mood, and support mental health.
- **Protect Farmlands and Rural Landscapes:** Ensure these landscapes remain part of the community's heritage and food production system.

## KEY PRINCIPLES IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING

To provide a comprehensive understanding of current trends in parks, open spaces, and outdoor recreation, we have gathered insights from several key sources, including national reports and regional studies. These sources include the **National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) 2023 Agency Performance Review**, the **Arkansas Outdoors Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)**, and the **2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**. Together, these documents offer valuable perspectives on the importance of health, sustainability, and community engagement in the development of parks and open spaces, highlighting trends that inform both local and national strategies.

### 1. Health and Wellness Focus

Parks and open spaces are increasingly recognized for promoting physical and mental health. Green spaces provide areas for exercise, stress relief, and community interaction, directly supporting public health initiatives.

### 2. Environmental Sustainability

There is a growing emphasis on creating parks that conserve natural resources. This includes integrating

green infrastructure like rain gardens and bioswales, using native plants for landscaping, and preserving biodiversity to promote ecological resilience.

### 3. Equitable Access to Parks

Ensuring that parks are accessible to all residents, especially those in under-served communities, is a top priority. Many plans now focus on reducing disparities in park access and advocating for the “10-minute walk” standard, where all residents live within a 10-minute walk to a park.

### 4. Increased Focus on Connectivity

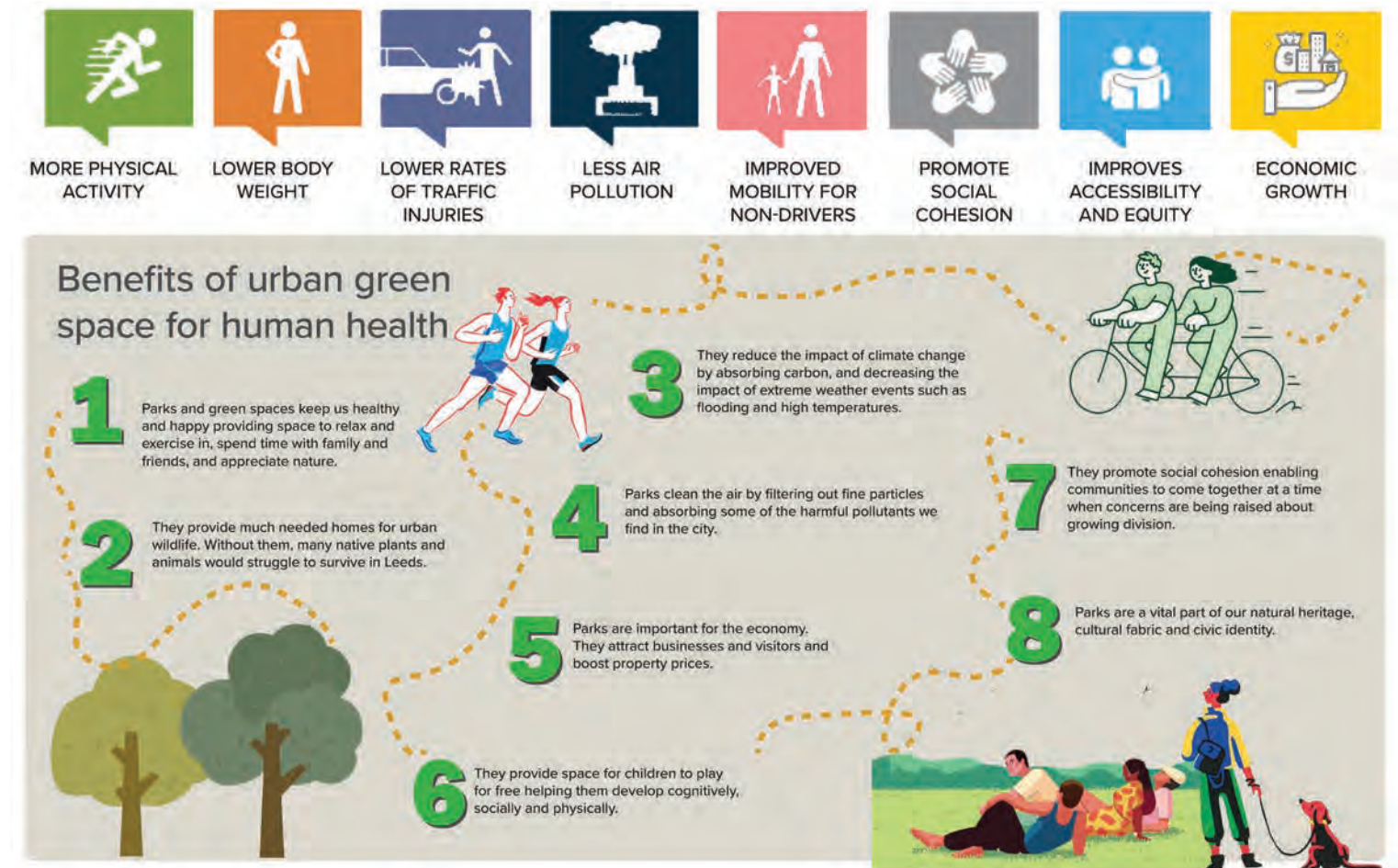
Connected outdoor spaces, linking parks, trails, and key community areas like schools and neighborhoods is a priority for the City of Pea Ridge. Trails and greenways are critical infrastructure to enhance walkability and bikeability in growing communities.

### 5. Outdoor Recreation Trends

Outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, and outdoor fitness are seeing increased demand. Parks are adapting by offering more trails, fitness stations, and flexible recreational spaces.

### 6. Public Engagement and Inclusivity

Inclusive park planning involves extensive community input through surveys, public workshops, and stakeholder meetings.



## CONNECTIVITY FOR ALL

As suburban sprawl has expanded over the past few decades, several trends have emerged: more cars, wider roadways, higher speed limits designed to increase vehicular efficiency, fewer green spaces, and degradation of natural corridors for wildlife. This emphasis on vehicle-oriented infrastructure sends a message that cars are essential for travel, leading to roadways that are often unsafe, disconnected, and unwelcoming to those who walk, bike, or rely on other forms of transportation.



Person using the shoulder of a road for exercising

Vehicles come equipped with various safety features—crumple zones, airbags, seat belts, and driver-assist technology—all aimed at reducing injuries and fatalities for occupants. Roadways, in turn, are engineered with crash-worthy signage, clear zones, and adequate lighting to minimize crash likelihood and severity. Yet, these conventional roadway designs primarily benefit vehicle occupants, while pedestrians, bicyclists, and other vulnerable road users (VRUs) remain largely unprotected. Traditional roadway designs often prioritize vehicle travel lanes, leaving VRUs exposed and contributing to an increase in the frequency and severity of VRU-related crashes, even as vehicle crash rates have declined.

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has recognized the need to shift priorities from vehicle-dominant roadways toward "connectivity for all" through its Safe System Approach (SSA). This framework redefines the goals of roadway design, focusing not on simply reducing crashes but on safeguarding the lives of all users:

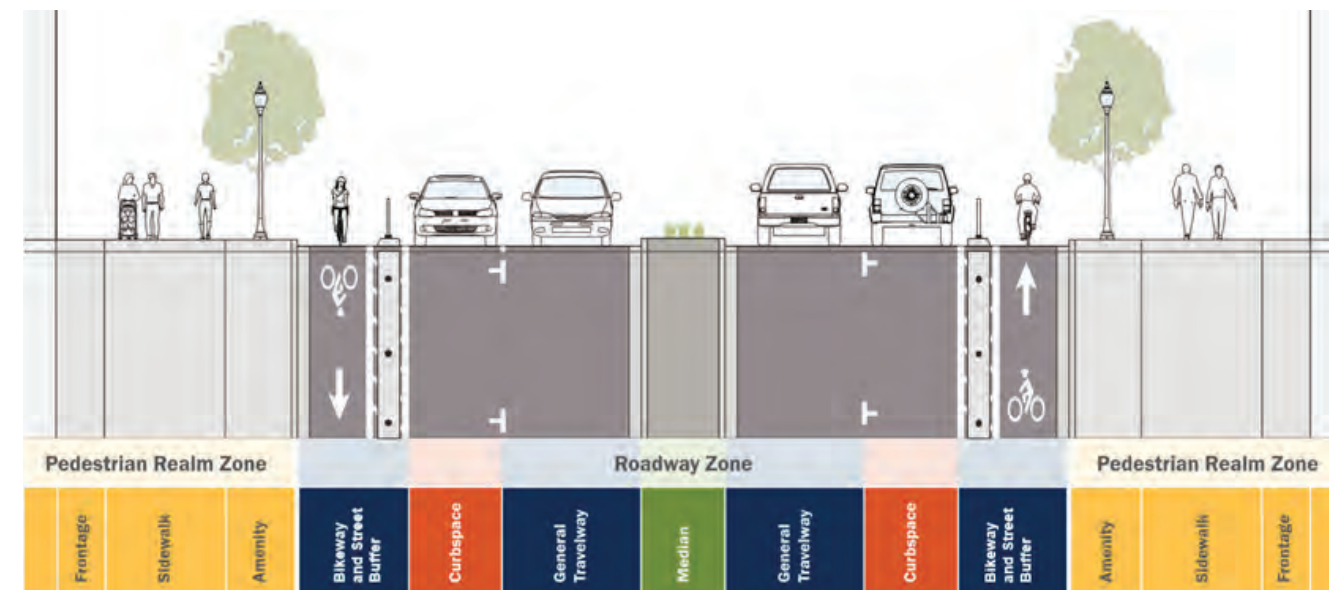
- Rather than preventing crashes altogether, the SSA prioritizes reducing deaths and serious injuries.
- It acknowledges human error and designs roadways that account for human limitations.
- It focuses on reducing the kinetic energy within the system to lessen crash impact.
- SSA promotes shared responsibility across all road users, rather than placing the burden solely on individuals.
- It also emphasizes proactive risk management, addressing potential dangers before crashes occur.

The SSA's five objectives—Safe People, Safe Roads, Safer Vehicles, Safe Speeds, and Post-Crash Care—guide this inclusive approach to roadway safety.



Safe System Approach

Complete Streets is a context-driven planning and design approach which recognizes that transportation infrastructure should prioritize people over vehicles. Street typology, right-of-way allocation, and design decisions balance land use accessibility, transportation mobility, and safety between all roadway users. By planning for multi-modal connectivity, including sidewalks, walkways, multi-use trails, greenways, bikeways, micro-mobility options, and public transit, we ensure that everyone, including those too young to drive or with conditions that limit driving, can move safely and independently within their communities.



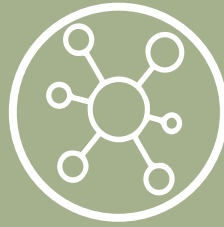
Complete Streets Roadway Typical Section

# VISION AND GOALS

## VISION

The Pea Ridge Open Space & Parks Master Plan aims to create an accessible, and sustainable network of parks, trails, and open spaces that supports community growth while preserving the City's natural and cultural heritage, and agricultural roots. The vision emphasizes enhancing local and regional connectivity to improve mobility and safety for all. It prioritizes inclusive recreational opportunities for residents of all ages and abilities while promoting connections to adjacent communities. This will ensure that Pea Ridge's small-town character is balanced with future development demands, making parks and open spaces key assets for the City's identity, health, and quality of life.

## GOALS



### ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

Improve north-south and east-west connections throughout the City using existing rights-of-way, sidewalks, and trails to better connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, and regional networks. Focus on active transportation, such as walking and biking, to link adjacent communities and employment hubs, creating more comprehensive transportation options for residents.



### PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Focus on conserving open spaces, preserving the agricultural character, and integrating cultural assets, such as historical sites and community gardens. This will enhance Pea Ridge's sense of place and ensure that recreational spaces contribute to the town's cultural identity and environmental sustainability.



### PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Ensure barrier-free, accessible pathways and amenities in all recreational spaces, catering to residents of all abilities. Emphasize Safe Routes to School and active transportation options, promoting safe and efficient walking and biking routes that connect residents to schools, parks, and community spaces.



### FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Ensure that parks and open spaces reflect the community's identity by balancing its rural heritage with the needs of a growing urban environment. Prioritize inclusive, welcoming spaces that foster connection and promote a strong sense of place for all residents.



### PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES

Create a balance of active and passive recreational spaces, including athletic venues, playgrounds, walking paths, and lifestyle sports facilities, to accommodate a wide range of interests. Ensure these spaces are connected by accessible, safe routes for walking and biking.

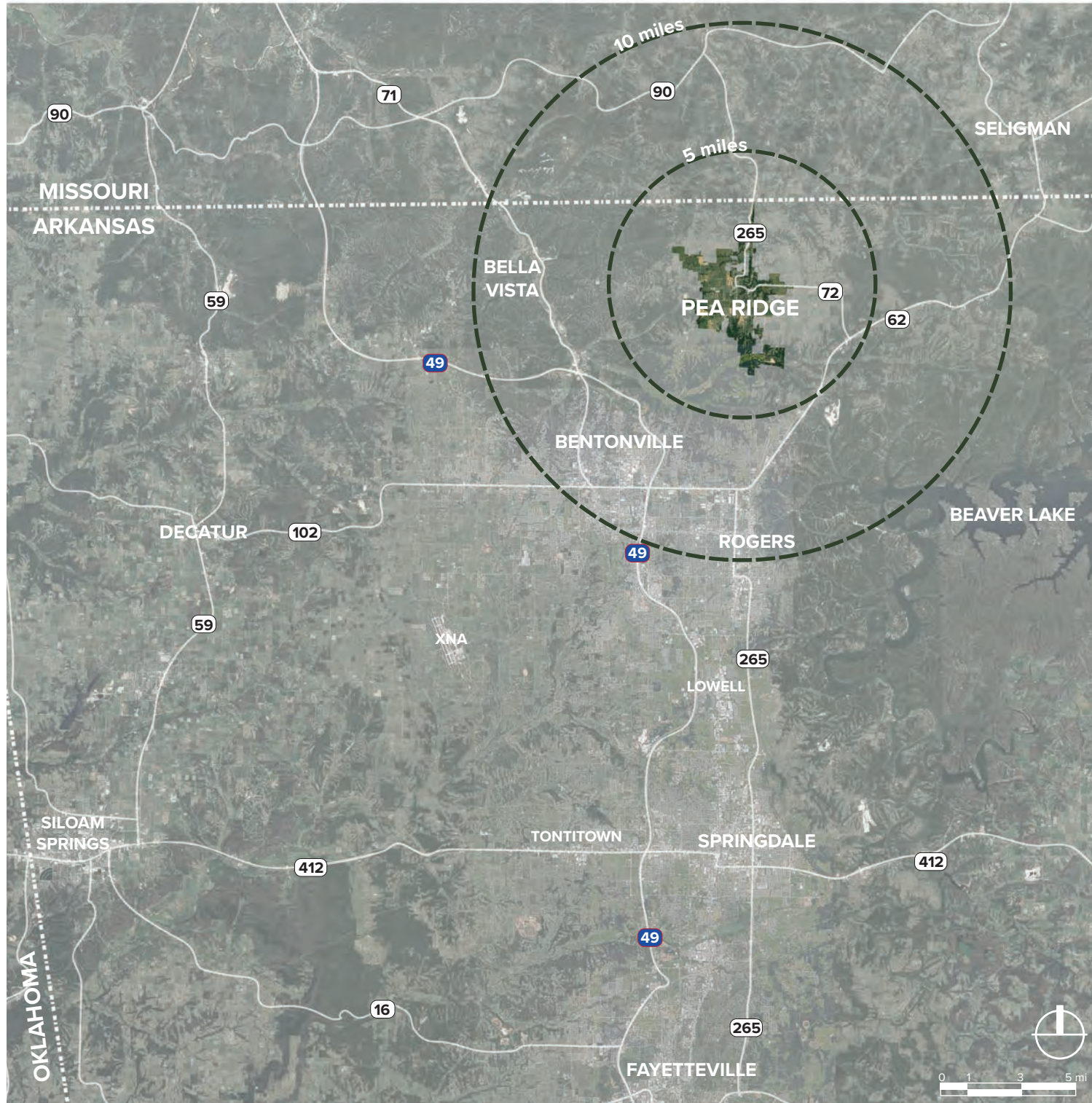


### SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Maximize the economic potential of Pea Ridge's parks and open spaces by positioning them as key tourism destinations, supporting local businesses near parks, and promoting health-focused amenities and programs.

# REGIONAL CONTEXT AND DEMOGRAPHICS

## GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT | NORTHWEST ARKANSAS



Northwest Arkansas is experiencing rapid growth, driven by its strong economy and the presence of major corporations like Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt. The region, which includes cities like Bentonville, Fayetteville, Springdale, Pea Ridge, and Rogers, has become a thriving hub for business, arts, and outdoor recreation. As the population increases, there is a focus on developing infrastructure, housing, and preserving natural spaces to maintain a high quality of life. Balancing development with environmental sustainability remains a key challenge for the region.



1. Talk Business & Politics. (2023). NWA 18th fastest growing U.S. metro; Benton County leads state's growth. Talk Business & Politics. Retrieved from [www.talkbusiness.net/nwa-18th-fastest-growing-metro](http://www.talkbusiness.net/nwa-18th-fastest-growing-metro)  
 2. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. (2019, October 29). NWA population expected to reach 1 million by 2045. Arkansas Democrat-Gazette. Retrieved from [www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/oct/29/nwa-population-expected-reach-1-million-2045](http://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/oct/29/nwa-population-expected-reach-1-million-2045)  
 3. Northwest Arkansas Council. (n.d.). Economic indicators. Northwest Arkansas Council. Retrieved from [www.nwacouncil.org/economic-indicators](http://www.nwacouncil.org/economic-indicators)





CHAPTER 02

# INVENTORY

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OVERVIEW

PEA RIDGE DEMOGRAPHICS

INVENTORY

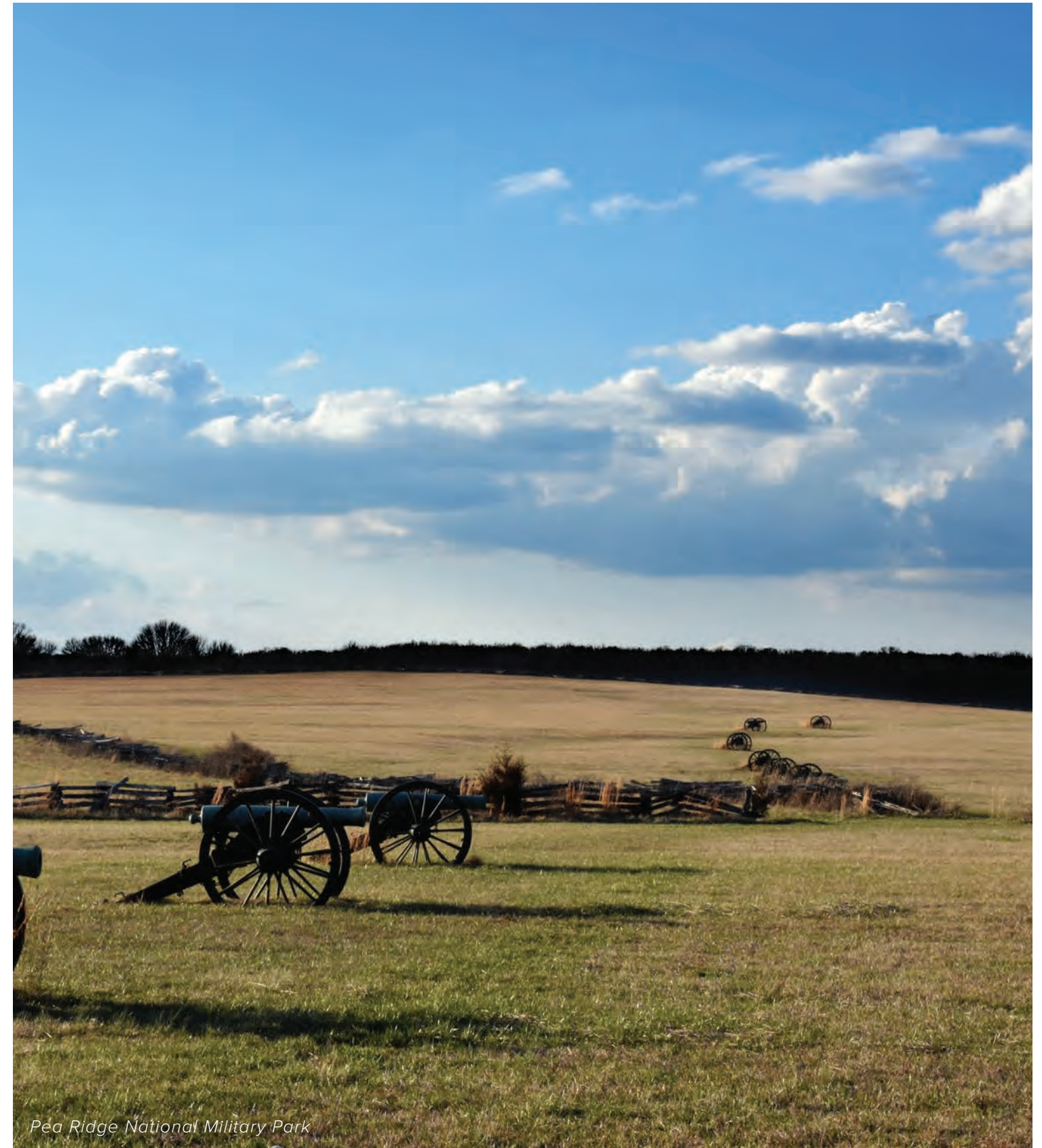
## OVERVIEW

The inventory analysis for Pea Ridge's Parks and Open Space Master Plan provides a comprehensive view of the City's current demographics, physical assets, and growth patterns. This foundation helps identify both opportunities and challenges in creating a more connected, accessible, and resilient open space network. With Pea Ridge experiencing notable growth, understanding who the community serves and how the built environment has evolved over time is essential for planning the next phases of parks, trails, and recreational spaces.

A key component of the inventory involves a demographic analysis to capture the evolving needs of residents. Population trends, age distribution, and commuting patterns provide insight into current recreational demands and future needs. As Pea Ridge continues to attract new residents, these demographic insights inform strategies that ensure parks and open spaces support all age groups and activity levels, fostering inclusive, multi-generational recreation options and accommodating the needs of residents with varied daily travel routines.

The planning process also includes an in-depth assessment of Pea Ridge's existing parks and open spaces, examining their locations, accessibility, and variety of amenities. This assessment aligns with a review of zoning patterns to reveal growth corridors and potential areas where new parks, trails, and green spaces could fit into future development. Additionally, analyzing subdivisions and the built environment provides insights into the layout of open spaces within neighborhoods, offering a clearer picture of Pea Ridge's recreational infrastructure distribution and current accessibility.

Finally, the analysis evaluates existing infrastructure, such as sidewalks and multi-use trails, alongside proposed projects. This perspective on Pea Ridge's development pipeline helps forecast future connectivity needs and highlights essential natural systems that should be preserved as development continues. Understanding the City's layout, current amenities, and environmental features sets a solid foundation for shaping a parks and open space plan that aligns with Pea Ridge's growth while preserving its natural charm and community character.





# PEA RIDGE DEMOGRAPHICS

## GENERAL

2023 POPULATION

**8,680**

10.5% INCREASE

2022 MEDIAN AGE

**35.6**

5.64% GROWTH

2022 POVERTY RATE

**5.28%**

22% GROWTH

2022 MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

**\$93,113**

4.09% GROWTH

## HOUSING

2022 MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUE

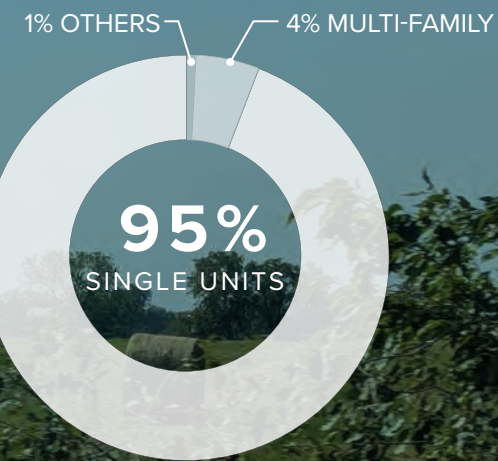
**\$222,800**

37.3% 1-YEAR GROWTH

2022 HOMEOWNERSHIP

**72.5%**

7.41% 1-YEAR GROWTH



**2,613**

HOUSING UNITS

**97%**

UNITS OCCUPIED

## TRANSPORTATION

2022 COMMUTE

**72.8%**

DROVE ALONE

2022 COMMUTE

**1.34%**

RODE A BIKE OR WALKED

2022 COMMUTE

**24.6**

MINUTES (AVERAGE)

## GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY

2022 MIGRATION

**15.7%**

MOVED TO PEA RIDGE SINCE 2021

Northwest Arkansas is experiencing rapid growth, driven by a strong economy and the presence of major corporations like Walmart, Tyson Foods, and J.B. Hunt. This region, which includes cities such as Bentonville, Fayetteville, Springdale, Pea Ridge, and Rogers, has become a hub for business, arts, and outdoor recreation. As the population rises, the focus is on developing infrastructure and housing while preserving natural spaces to maintain a high quality of life. Balancing this growth with environmental sustainability remains a key challenge for the region.

Pea Ridge, Arkansas, positioned in this rapidly expanding area, holds onto its agricultural roots and rural traditions, even as nearby cities like Bentonville and Rogers develop. As growth pressures intensify, protecting open spaces is essential to preserving both Pea Ridge's quality of life and its unique character. Safeguarding the town's historical legacy and natural landscapes is crucial as the region evolves.

Pea Ridge's strategic location and affordability have fueled significant population growth, with the 2023 population reaching 8,680, a 10.5% increase from the previous year. This trend is expected to continue, with a projected 2024 population of 9,591. The City's growth reflects broader regional trends, as housing and job opportunities attract residents to smaller, accessible communities like Pea Ridge.

### Affordability and Housing

Pea Ridge remains affordable, making it attractive to families and individuals seeking a balanced lifestyle. The median property value of \$222,800 is significantly lower than in nearby cities like Bentonville (\$454,435) or Fayetteville (\$359,130). This affordability, paired with a 72.5% homeownership rate, continues to drive population growth.

### Transportation and Commuting

Most residents rely on personal vehicles, with an average commute time of 24.6 minutes to nearby employment hubs. Despite this, only 1.34% of residents use active transportation, reflecting the City's car-dependent nature. Pea Ridge's location offers convenient access to Northwest Arkansas's major job centers, enhancing its appeal as a residential community.

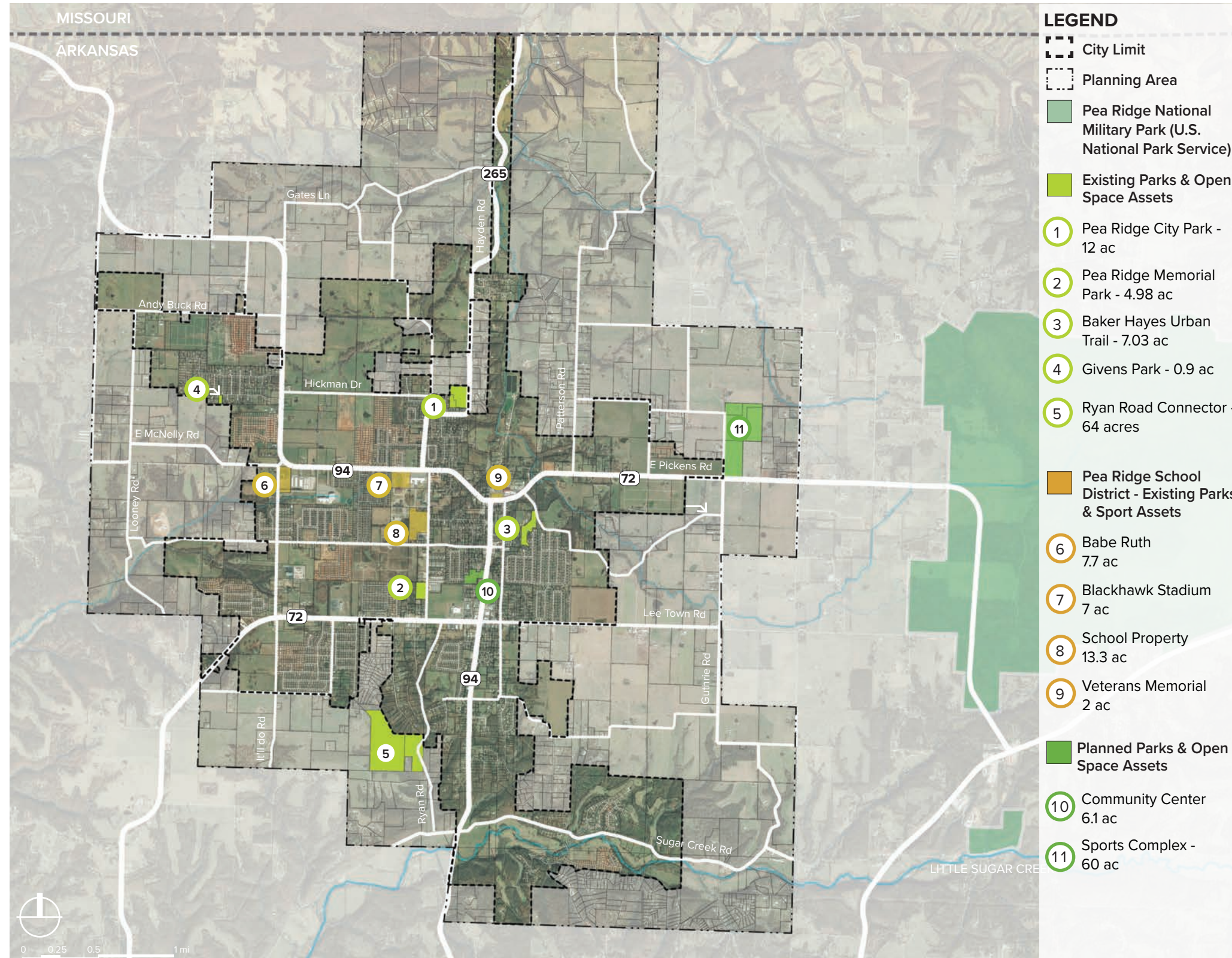
Source:

1. Data USA. (2022). Pea Ridge, AR. Data USA. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/pea-ridge-ar>

2. Arkansas Demographics. (2023). Pea Ridge demographics. <https://www.arkansas-demographics.com/pea-ridge-demographics>

# INVENTORY

## EXISTING AND PLANNED PARKS AND OPEN SPACE



Pea Ridge currently has around 25 acres of dedicated parkland, providing essential recreational and open space for residents. In addition, approximately 30 acres of Pea Ridge School District's fields and open space are frequently used by the community for events and activities, serving as shared recreational spaces. Additionally, the City has identified a substantial amount of planned open space, which is currently in various stages of development. Some of these areas already have preliminary plans, while others are still in the early phases of acquisition and planning.



Pea Ridge City Park



Babe Ruth Fields

Source: City of Pea Ridge

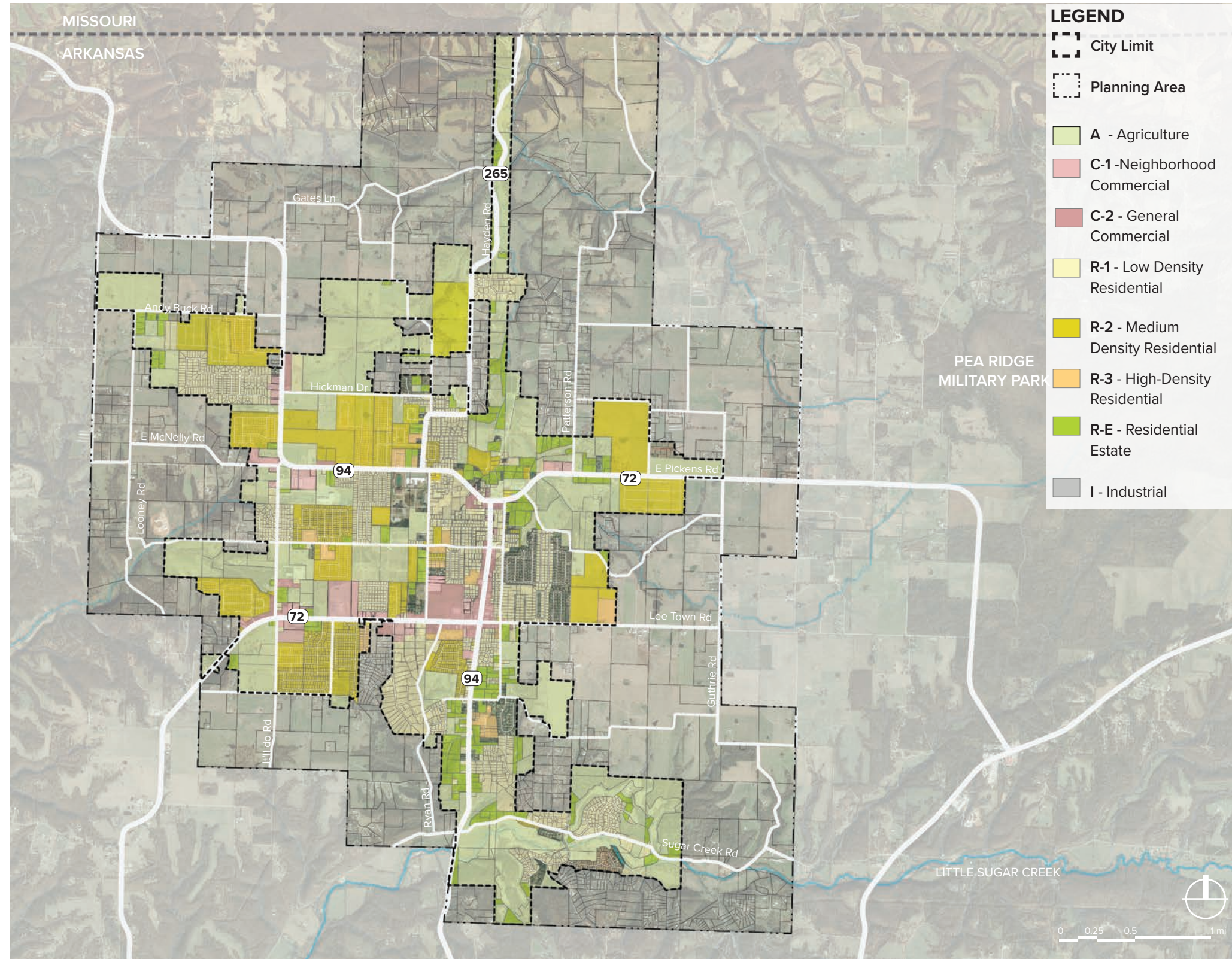
## MATRIX OF EXISTING AND PLANNED FACILITIES

PARK	SIZE	ADDRESS	AMENITIES
<b>EXISTING PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACE ASSETS</b>			
01. Pea Ridge City Park	12 ac	2344 Hayden Rd, Pea Ridge	
02. Pea Ridge Memorial Park	5 ac	407 Weston Loop, Pea Ridge	
03. Baker Hayes Urban Trails	7 ac	1265 Greer St, Pea Ridge	
04. Givens Park	1 ac	2265 S Harvey Wakefield Ave, Pea Ridge	
<b>PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT - EXISTING PARKS &amp; SPORT ASSETS</b>			
05. Babe Ruth Fields	7.7 ac	1586 It'll Do Rd, Pea Ridge	
06. Blackhawk Stadium	7 acres	781 W Pickens Rd, Pea Ridge	
07. School Property	13.3 ac	1411 Weston St, Pea Ridge	
08. Veterans Memorial	2 acres	312 AR-72, Pea Ridge	
<b>PLANNED PARKS &amp; OPEN SPACE ASSETS</b>			
09. Community Center	6.1 ac	600 Carr St, Pea Ridge	
10. Sports Complex	60 acres	E AR 72 Hwy & Guthrie Rd, Pea Ridge	
11. Ryan Road Connector	64 acres	Blue Jay Rd, Pea Ridge	TO BE DETERMINED
<b>ASSETS OUTSIDE PLANNING AREA</b>			
NN. Pea Ridge National Military Park	4,300 ac	15930 National Park Dr, Garfield	

### AMENITIES LEGEND

- |  |                   |  |                     |
|--|-------------------|--|---------------------|
|  | MULTI-USE PATH    |  | MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL |
|  | RESTROOM          |  | HIKING TRAILS       |
|  | PLAYGROUND        |  | BASEBALL FIELD      |
|  | NATURAL LANDSCAPE |  | PICKLE BALL COURT   |
|  | SITE FURNISHING   |  | TENNIS COURT        |
|  | LIGHT FIXTURE     |  | SOCCER FIELD        |
|  | PARKING LOT       |  | DOG PARK            |
|  | OPEN LAWN         |  | MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD |
|  | MONUMENT          |  |                     |

## EXISTING CITY LAND USE ZONING



The existing land use zoning in Pea Ridge is primarily composed of agricultural and single-family residential areas, with a focus on low-density development. Most residential zoning is for single-family homes, creating a suburban and rural character throughout much of the community. Commercial activity is concentrated in key areas, particularly around the historic downtown and along the Highways 72 and 94 corridors, where businesses and services are more prevalent. These intersections serve as the primary commercial hubs. Currently, there is limited high-density residential zoning within the City. Notably, Pea Ridge is undergoing a comprehensive plan update for its Future Land Use Plan, which will guide zoning and development to better align with future growth and community needs.



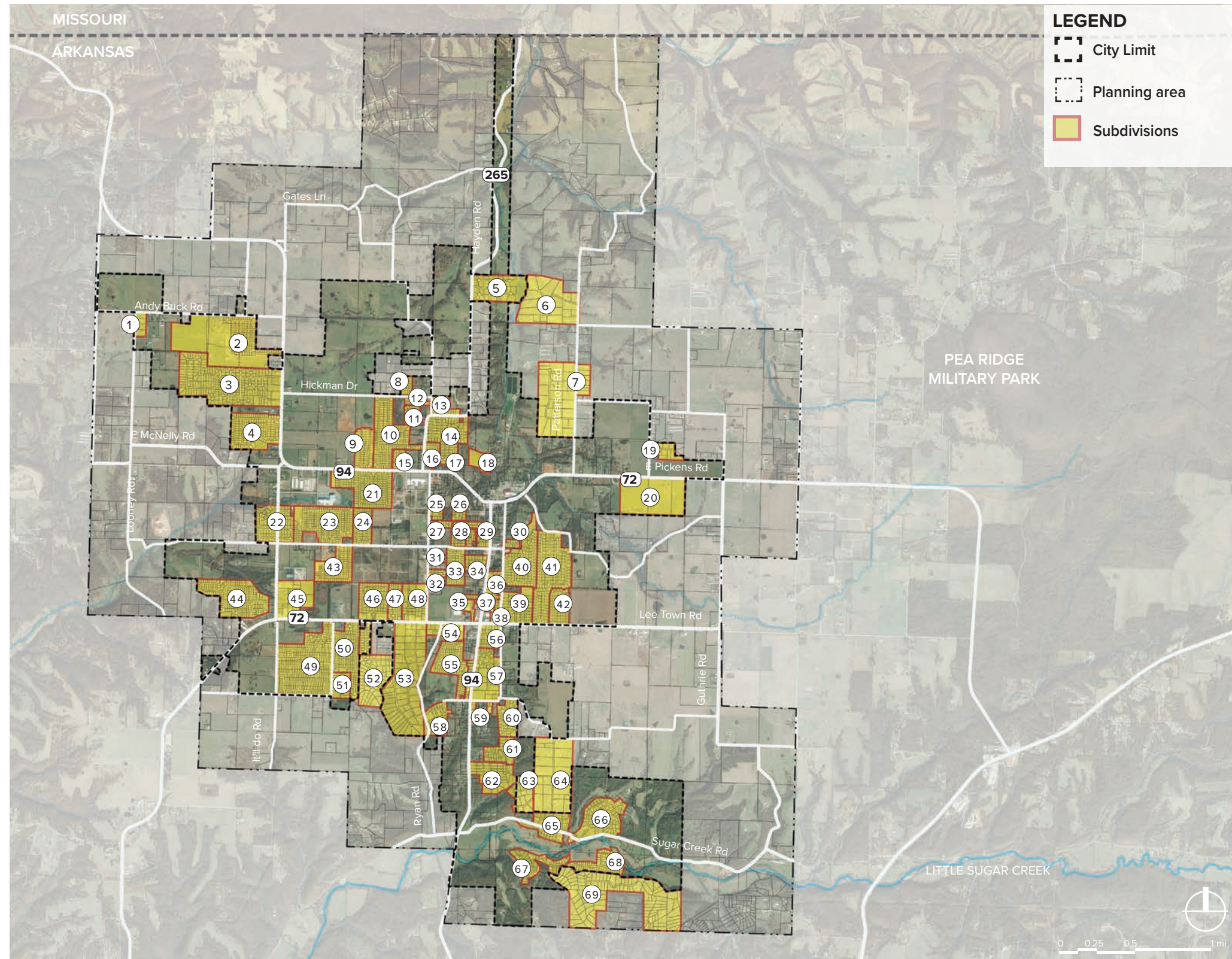
Pastures west of Pea Ridge City center



Example of single family home

Source: City of Pea Ridge

# SUBDIVISIONS

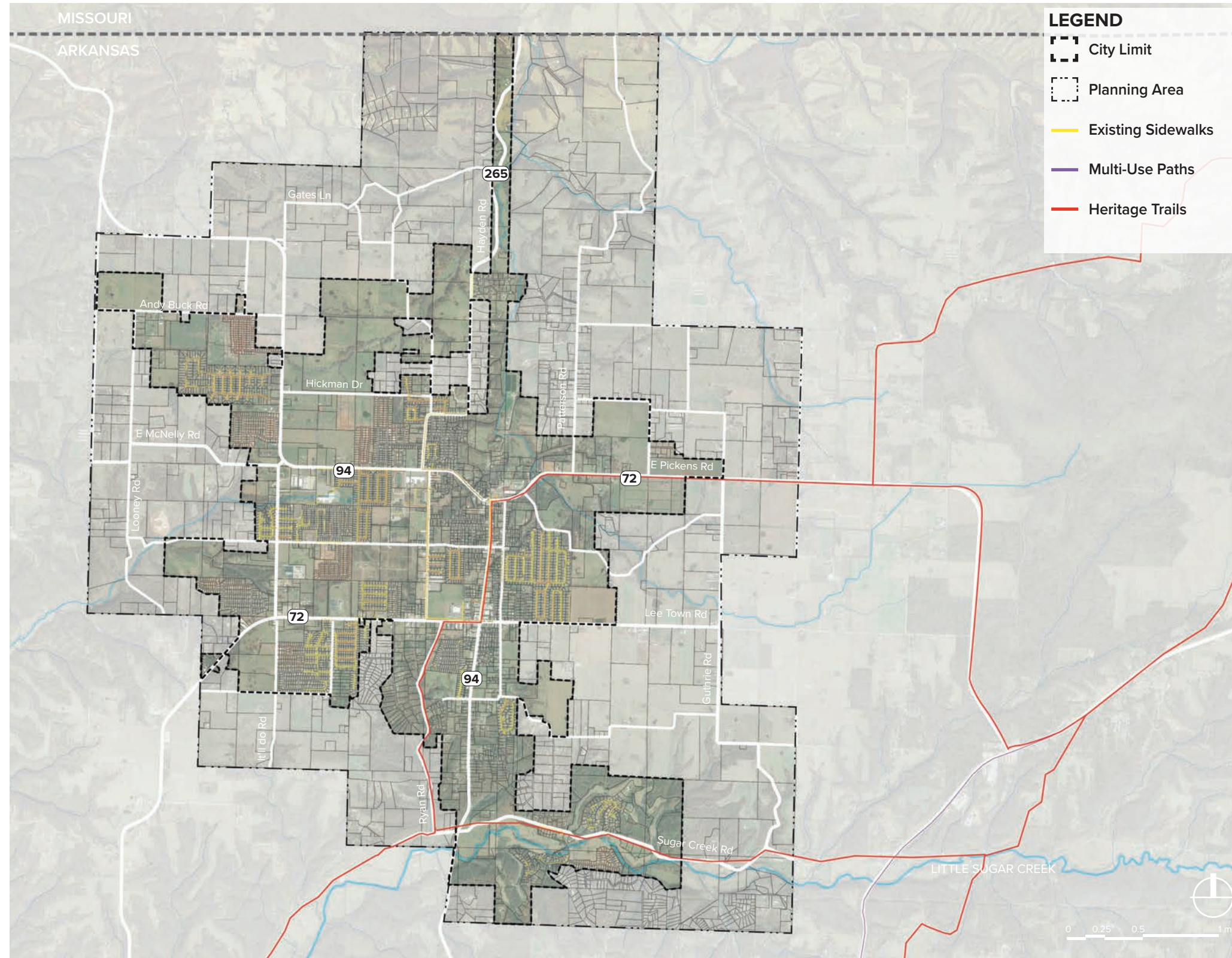


Pea Ridge is experiencing rapid sprawl, with large subdivisions developing at an accelerated pace, particularly in the eastern parts of the City. As new residential areas continue to expand, they are encroaching on historically agricultural land, which has been a defining characteristic of the town's rural heritage. This eastward growth is now slowly spreading toward the west, raising concerns about the loss of open farmland that has long contributed to Pea Ridge's identity. The expansion of subdivisions is reshaping the landscape, introducing a more suburban character and challenging the community's ability to balance development with the preservation of its agricultural roots.

- |                      |                             |                                      |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 Jo Dar Van Estates | 28 Miller Addition          | 55 Fox Spur                          |
| 2 Walnut Hill        | 29 B A Jefferson's Addition | 56 Town & Country Subdivision        |
| 3 Givens Place       | 30 Medlin                   | 57 David Musteen Addition            |
| 4 Sedona Rose        | 31 Weston Plexes            | 58 Shepherd Hills                    |
| 5 Creekside Estates  | 32 Maple Leaf Heights       | 59 Buttry Subdivision                |
| 6 Otter Creek Place  | 33 Windmill Estates         | 60 Creekwood Manor                   |
| 7 Otter Creek Place  | 34 Cecil Hall Addition      | 61 Dogwood Addition                  |
| 8 Brett Ryan Ridge   | 35 Lee Town Crossing        | 62 Hillcrest Addition                |
| 9 Wellington Hills   | 36 Young's                  | 63 Shelby Forrest                    |
| 10 Arlington         | 37 Montgomery's Addition    | 64 Heritage Hills                    |
| 11 Bloxham Estates   | 38 Leetown Addition         | 65 Sugar Creek Estates               |
| 12 Kayto Estates     | 39 Country Acres            | 66 Sugar Creek Residential Community |
| 13 Tyler Estates     | 40 Battlefield Estates      | 67 Sugar Creek Residential Community |
| 14 Ridgemoor Estates | 41 Battlefield View         | 68 The Greens At Sugar Creek         |
| 15 Belmont           | 42 Patterson Place          | 69 Red Oak Hills                     |
| 16 Woodbridge        | 43 Saratoga                 |                                      |
| 17 Smith Addition    | 44 Avalon                   |                                      |
| 18 Gastineau MHP     | 45 K-D Ranch Estates        |                                      |
| 19 Stephanie Estates | 46 Summit Meadows           |                                      |
| 20 Yorktown          | 47 Prairie Lea              |                                      |
| 21 Standing Oaks     | 48 Weston Road Addition     |                                      |
| 22 Deer Meadows      | 49 Elkhorn Ridge            |                                      |
| 23 Hazelton Heights  | 50 Maple Glenn              |                                      |
| 24 The Oaks          | 51 Marilyn's Orchard        |                                      |
| 25 Pea Ridge Estates | 52 Oak Ridge West Addition  |                                      |
| 26 Lucky Acres       | 53 Medlin Subdivision       |                                      |
| 27 Thompson Addition | 54 Pea Ridge Commons        |                                      |

Source: City of Pea Ridge

## EXISTING SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS



Source: City of Pea Ridge

Sidewalks in Pea Ridge are limited, with most concentrated within residential subdivisions. However, the status of sidewalks in these areas changes rapidly, as new sidewalks are often constructed as parcels are developed. Even within subdivisions, sidewalks are typically only four feet wide, which is inadequate for multi-use paths that could safely accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists. This poses particular concerns where road conditions may be dangerous for cyclists. The City has identified some slightly wider sidewalks as potential multi-use paths, but these are limited. Outside of subdivisions, the largest concentration of sidewalks is around the school, though pedestrian infrastructure in this area remains minimal, leaving significant gaps in safe, accessible walkways for the broader community.

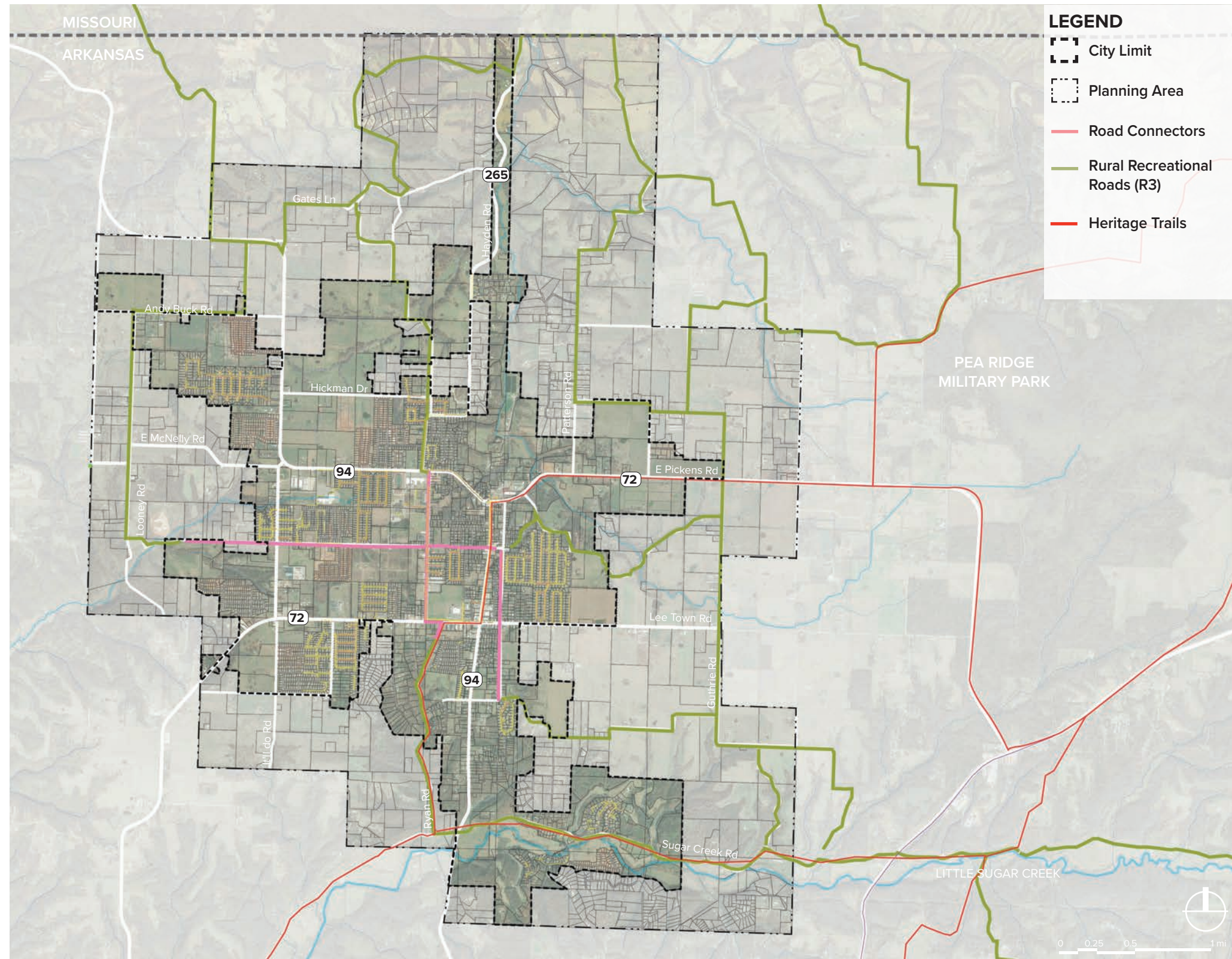


Crosswalk and sidewalk conditions in the downtown area



Limited sidewalk connections within Pea Ridge

# BICYCLE ROUTES



Source: City of Pea Ridge

Pea Ridge lacks recognized shared roads for cyclists, making it less accommodating for regular bike commuting. Instead, the City has a few road connectors that link sections of the Rural Recreational Roads, but these roads do not feature any specific design elements or signage to ensure cyclist safety. While these rural routes are scenic and popular for recreational use, particularly gravel cycling, they are not designed for commuting or consistent use by cyclists. Additionally, the Baker Hayes Trails, a small mountain biking network, offers limited riding opportunities due to its size, leading cyclists to use it for short visits rather than extended stays. Though many gravel roads in the area are frequented for events like gravel races, cyclists often pass through Pea Ridge without lingering, as the infrastructure does not support safe or consistent cycling within the town itself.

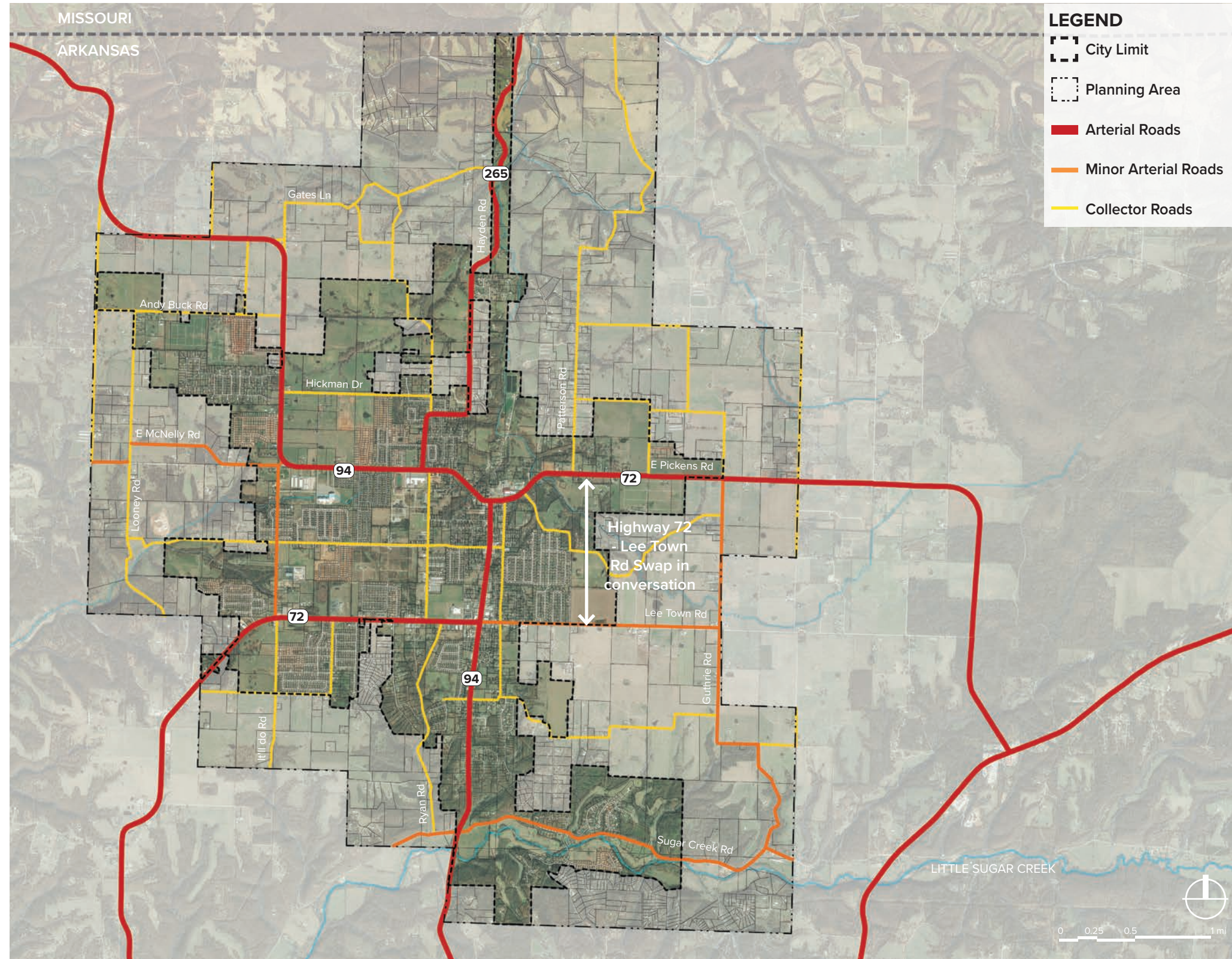


Example of limited crosswalk connections



Rural Recreational Roads

## EXISTING STREET NETWORK



Source: City of Pea Ridge

One of the key challenges Pea Ridge faces in becoming a safe, connected, and walkable City is the fact that it is dissected by Highway 72 (running east-west) and Highway 94/265 (running north-south). These highways act as barriers, limiting connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. To address this, the City has been in discussions with ARDOT (Arkansas Department of Transportation) about a potential highway swap of Highway 72 and Lee Town Road, east of Highway 94; this swap would shift jurisdictional control, allowing Pea Ridge to have more autonomy over this road and enabling the City to apply active transportation principles—such as adding sidewalks, crosswalks, and bike lanes—across its street network.



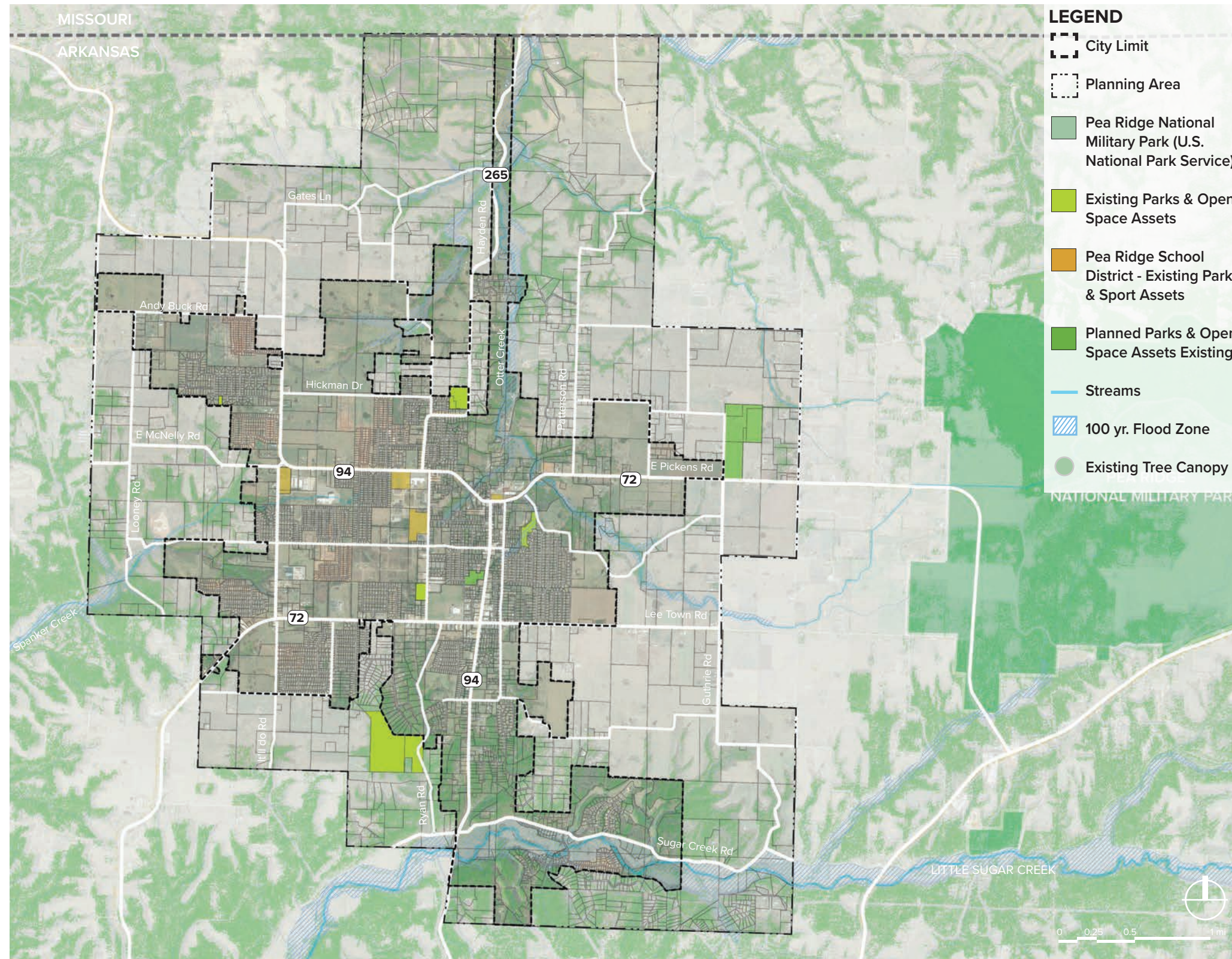
Highway 72 leading to Pea Ridge



Highway 72 and Highway 94 intersection



# NATURAL SYSTEMS



Source: City of Pea Ridge

Pea Ridge is home to several natural features, including Little Sugar Creek to the south, which remains largely inaccessible due to the surrounding land being privately owned, despite the creek itself being public. Additionally, Otter Creek and Spanker Creek flow through the City, though these creeks are typically dry for much of the year. Despite their seasonal nature, the floodplains associated with these waterways offer potential opportunities for outdoor recreation and open space, as development is generally restricted in flood-prone areas. Furthermore, the nearby Pea Ridge Military Park to the east, with its preserved acreage, provides another significant opportunity for conservation and recreational uses, complementing the potential of the City's natural floodplain areas.



Open Field north of Little Sugar Creek



Otter Creek Tributary



A photograph of a forest scene, overlaid with a semi-transparent green filter. In the foreground, there is a wooden structure made of logs, possibly a bench or a support for a fence. To the left, a wire fence is visible. The background is filled with dense green foliage and tree trunks.

CHAPTER 03

# ANALYSIS AND FINDINGS

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INTRODUCTION

SWOT ANALYSIS

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

FRAMEWORK

KEY FINDINGS

# INTRODUCTION

## ANALYSIS

Through review and our analysis, key themes and opportunities have been identified to inform the development of Pea Ridge’s parks and open space plan. These findings highlight opportunities to enhance park distribution, strengthen community connectivity, and prioritize open space conservation to support sustainable growth and equitable access for all residents. These findings are highlighted in the SWOT analysis outlined in the following page.

## KEY FINDINGS AND PLANNING OPPORTUNITIES

### 1 PARKS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRIBUTION

Pea Ridge has a unique opportunity to expand its parks and open space network to support future growth while preserving its natural and rural identity. Currently, park assets are primarily concentrated west of the legacy town center, leaving newer residential neighborhoods undeserved. To address this gap, the City is planning new parks to the east and south of the legacy downtown area, ensuring that these rapidly growing communities have access to recreational amenities.

**PLANNING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Current Levels of Service:** Future park development is planned to improve equitable access for emerging residential communities in the east and south, enhancing overall service levels across the City.

**Future Demand and Growth:** Anticipated growth in undeserved areas will increase demand for parks and open spaces. Strategically developing new parks will ensure high-quality recreational amenities for all residents.

### 2 COMMUNITY CONNECTIVITY

With the addition of new parks, Pea Ridge can work towards providing all residents with access to a park or open space within a 10-minute walk of their homes. Establishing a cohesive greenway network with new north-south and east-west corridors will further enhance access by connecting existing and future parks, supporting active transportation options like walking and biking. This expanded network would also integrate Pea Ridge into the larger regional trail systems, positioning the City as a hub for outdoor recreation and tourism.

**PLANNING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Connectivity and Access:** Establishing greenway corridors will link existing and future parks, improve overall connectivity, and position Pea Ridge as a key connector to regional trails like the Razorback Greenway and Back 40.

### 3 OPEN SPACE CONSERVATION

Preserving the community’s natural landscapes and agricultural areas, particularly in the eastern regions, will help maintain Pea Ridge’s rural character. These areas, including the City’s floodplains, offer opportunities for creating conservation corridors that can serve as natural buffers and recreational trails. By prioritizing conservation alongside development, Pea Ridge can support future demand for parks and open spaces while protecting its environmental and cultural heritage.

**PLANNING OPPORTUNITY:**

**Conservation and Protection:** Safeguarding Pea Ridge’s open spaces, agricultural lands, and floodplains, especially in the eastern regions, presents an opportunity to maintain the town’s rural identity and establish conservation corridors that provide recreational and environmental benefits.

### 4 FRAMEWORK CONSIDERATIONS

The following planning exhibits highlight initial framework considerations for addressing key themes and opportunities, including:

**PLANNING OPPORTUNITY:**

- Park and Open Space Accessibility and Distribution
- Community Connectivity
- Open Space Conservation

These themes collectively support the vision of a balanced and sustainable open space system that serves the needs of current and future residents while preserving Pea Ridge’s unique character and identity.

# SWOT ANALYSIS

## STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES, & THREATS

### STRENGTHS

**Agricultural Heritage:** The community has a strong agricultural identity, which fosters a unique sense of place and pride among residents. This heritage can be leveraged to preserve open spaces and promote outdoor recreation.

**Potential for Growth:** Rapid sprawl shows that the community is growing. With proper planning, this growth can lead to opportunities for better infrastructure, parks, and development of safe routes for pedestrians and cyclists.

**Strategic Location:** Pea Ridge is situated within the rapidly growing Northwest Arkansas (NWA) region, which is seeing significant investment in infrastructure and economic development.

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### WEAKNESSES

**Limited Parks and Need for Improvements:** The community has few parks, many of which could benefit from upgrades, limiting recreational opportunities as the population grows and school facilities become more restricted.

**Rapid Sprawl Impacting Land Use:** Fast-paced sprawl is consuming essential agricultural land, threatening open space preservation, limiting future recreational areas, and distancing the community from its rural roots.

**Lack of Safe Routes and Sidewalks:** The absence of sidewalks and safe routes to school poses safety risks, particularly for children, and discourages walking and biking, increasing car dependence and traffic congestion.

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**Open Space Preservation:** The community can implement strategies to protect remaining agricultural land by transforming it into green spaces, parks, or nature preserves. These areas would not only preserve Pea Ridge's agricultural heritage but also provide valuable recreational opportunities for residents.

**Development of New Parks and Greenways:** Through planning and collaboration with developers, the community can establish new parks and greenways to accommodate the growing population. Dedicating land for public parks will ensure that residents have accessible spaces for recreation.

**Implementation of Safe Routes to School:** Securing funding from state or federal programs for Safe Routes to School initiatives would allow the construction of sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, and bike paths, improving safety and encouraging active transportation, especially for children walking or biking to school.

### OPPORTUNITIES

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**School Infrastructure Strain:** As the population grows, the school district will need to expand its facilities to accommodate more students, potentially reducing the availability of shared community access to school-owned fields and recreational areas.

This could lead to a shortage of accessible recreational spaces if the community doesn't invest in its own public infrastructure.

**Loss of Agricultural Land:** Continued sprawl threatens to permanently eliminate agricultural land, a key part of Pea Ridge's identity and heritage. If not managed, this could lead to a loss of cultural and natural resources that are integral to the community's character.

**Increased Traffic and Safety Issues:** As development continues without proper infrastructure for pedestrians, traffic and safety concerns are likely to rise. The lack of sidewalks and safe routes for schoolchildren could result in more accidents and discourage walking or biking within the community.

### THREATS

The SWOT analysis for Pea Ridge highlights the community's key strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats as it navigates rapid growth and development. Pea Ridge's agricultural heritage and the shared use of school facilities offer a strong foundation, but the community faces challenges such as limited parks, rapid sprawl, and a lack of safe infrastructure like sidewalks and routes to school. These factors are critical as the population grows and school infrastructure becomes increasingly constrained.


Opportunities exist for Pea Ridge to preserve its agricultural identity through open space protection and the creation of new parks. Collaborating with developers and securing funding for Safe Routes to School initiatives can address infrastructure gaps and improve mobility. However, the threat of losing agricultural land to unchecked development, along with increased traffic and school infrastructure strain, requires thoughtful planning and smart growth strategies to ensure a balanced and sustainable future for the community.

# PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

## TYOLOGIES

Park and open space typologies play a vital role in shaping Pea Ridge’s recreational and environmental landscape. Each typology serves a distinct purpose, catering to diverse recreational and conservation needs within the community. From small, easily accessible pocket parks to larger, multi-functional community parks, recreation and community facilities, and golf courses, these spaces offer both active and passive recreational opportunities. Additionally, conservation areas and greenways enhance natural preservation and connectivity, ensuring the City's green spaces are well-distributed and accessible to all residents.

### LEGEND

-  Pea Ridge Military Park
-  Existing Parks & Open Space Assets
-  Pea Ridge School District - Existing Parks & Sport Assets
-  Planned Parks & Open Space Assets



#### POCKET PARK

**Size:** Less than 1 acre  
**Purpose:** Small, localized spaces meant for recreation in close proximity to neighborhoods.  
**Amenities:** Benches, playground equipment (small-scale), picnic tables, garden spaces.  
**Examples:** Small playgrounds, pocket parks, community gardens.

- 
- Givens Park



#### NEIGHBORHOOD PARK

**Size:** 1–5 acres  
**Purpose:** Designed to serve surrounding neighborhoods, providing space for unstructured recreation and relaxation.  
**Amenities:** Playgrounds, picnic areas, walking paths, small sports courts (basketball or tennis), open grassy areas.  
**Examples:** Local playgrounds with some open space for picnics or small games.

- 
- Veterans Memorial



#### COMMUNITY PARK

**Size:** 5–20 acres  
**Purpose:** Larger spaces that serve multiple neighborhoods, providing a variety of activities for different age groups.  
**Amenities:** Sports fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking/jogging paths, restrooms, multi-use open spaces, dog parks.  
**Examples:** Parks with soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and community pavilions.

- 
- Pea Ridge City Park
- 
- Pea Ridge Memorial Park
- 
- Babe Ruth



#### SPECIAL USE

**Size:** Varies  
**Purpose:** Dedicated spaces for specialized recreational activities which also contribute to green space and environmental conservation.  
**Amenities:** Varies  
**Examples:** Golf courses, MTB trails, botanical gardens, historical landmarks, skateboard parks, etc.

- 
- Baker Hayes Urban Trails
- 
- Ryan Rd Connector
- 
- Pea Ridge Military Park



#### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

**Size:** Varies  
**Purpose:** Multi-use spaces providing indoor and outdoor recreation, fitness, and community activities. These facilities serve as hubs for active recreation and social engagement.  
**Amenities:** Indoor gyms, fitness center, swimming pools, sports field and courts, even spaces, meeting rooms, and community gathering areas, playground area, and supporting facilities like locker rooms and restrooms  
**Examples:** Community center, sports complexes, recreation centers

- 
- Blackhawk Stadium
- 
- Community Center
- 
- Sports Complex



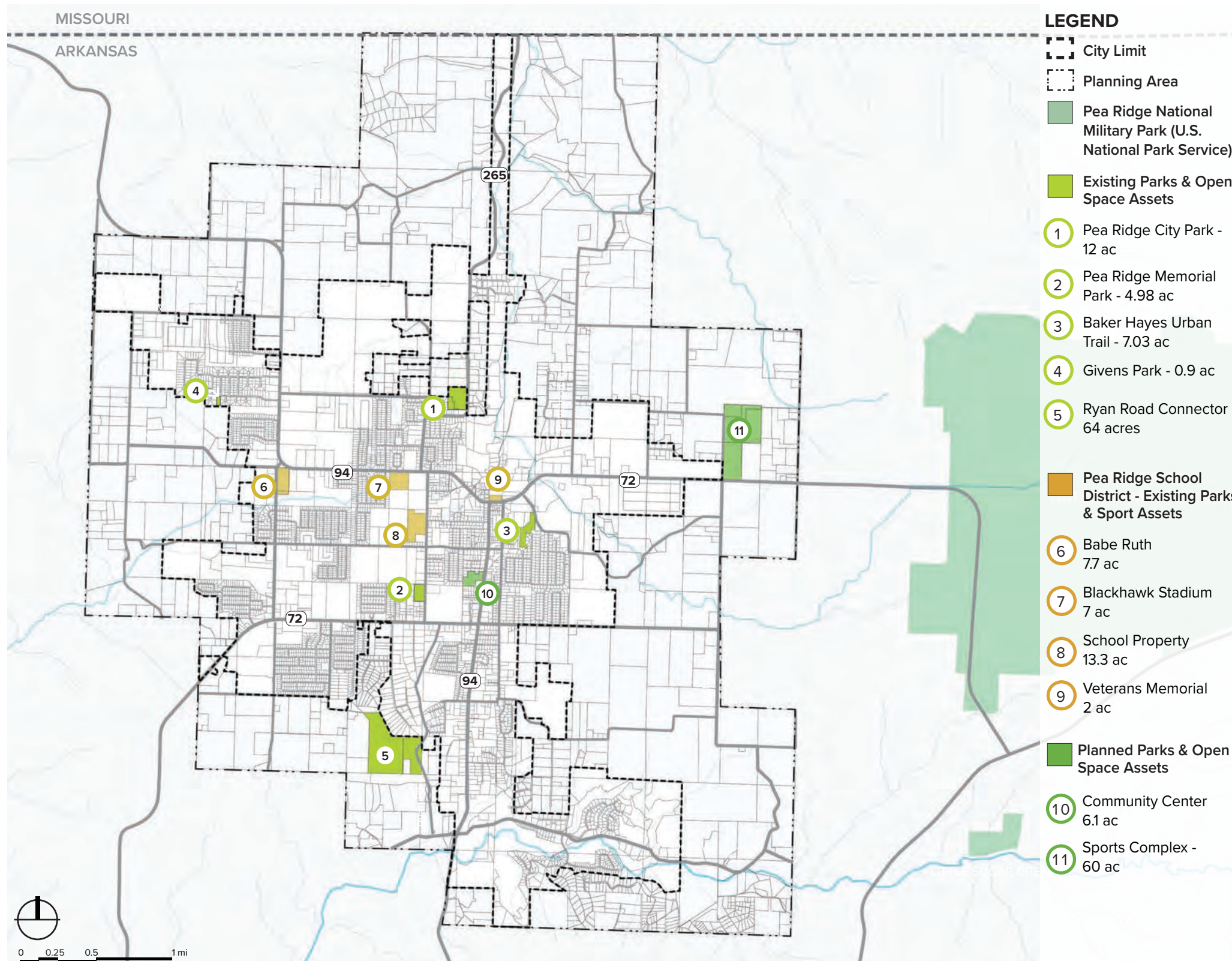
#### OPEN SPACE + CONSERVATION AREAS

**Size:** Varies  
**Purpose:** Natural or semi-natural spaces that focus on the preservation of natural habitats and biodiversity.  
**Amenities:** Minimal amenities (trailheads, wildlife observation areas, educational signage).  
**Examples:** Agricultural preservation; cultural landscapes, nature reserves, forests maintained for environmental education and passive recreation like birdwatching.



#### GREENWAY/TRAIL

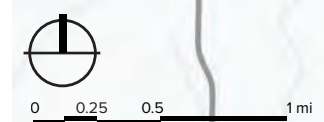
**Size:** Linear (varies)  
**Purpose:** Provide connectivity through walking and biking trails, often following natural features such as rivers or creeks OR vehicular circulation corridors. Can also provide recreational space along natural or man-made corridors, often serving as buffers or connectors between areas.  
**Amenities:** Paved or unpaved trails, landscape buffer, benches, interpretive signage, access points for pedestrians and cyclists.  
**Examples:** Nature trails, riverside walkways, bike paths connecting neighborhoods, parks running alongside rivers, roads, or rail lines.



An analysis of park typologies in Pea Ridge reveals gaps in certain categories, particularly in pocket parks and neighborhood parks. Currently, Given Park is the city’s only pocket park, offering a compact, low-acreage form of open space that could be ideal for neighborhoods, especially where connectivity is limited. These smaller parks provide essential recreation options within walking distance, making them a valuable asset in densely populated or connectivity-challenged areas. Additionally, the city has only one neighborhood park, Veterans Memorial Park, which serves as a more accessible recreational space for local subdivisions. Given Pea Ridge’s layout around residential areas, additional neighborhood parks would provide local gathering spaces and recreational amenities for families and individuals across the community.

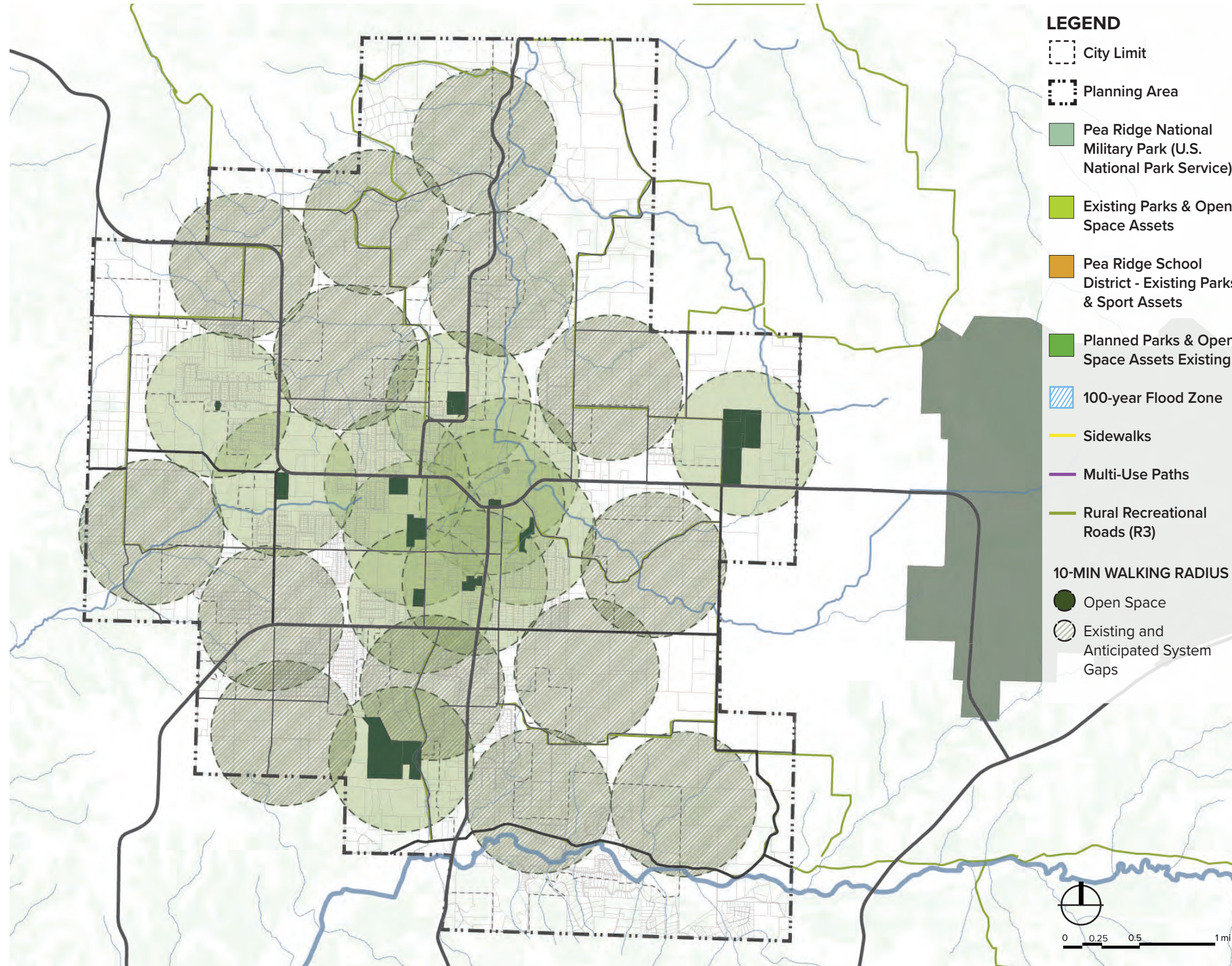
The city’s most prominent typology is community parks, with Pea Ridge City Park, Pea Ridge Memorial Park, and Babe Ruth Park all serving as larger, central green spaces. These parks are well-suited to Pea Ridge’s needs and offer broad recreational and social benefits for residents. Special use parks, such as Baker Hayes Park and Ryan Road Connector, add further diversity to Pea Ridge’s green spaces, as does Pea Ridge Military Park, even though it lies outside the official planning area. Additionally, with the planned Community Center and Sports Complex, along with Blackhawk Stadium, Pea Ridge has a solid foundation of recreational and community facilities to meet larger-scale activity demands.

However, the City lacks open space and conservation areas, as well as greenways and trail facilities, which are essential for environmental preservation and promoting active transportation. Without these spaces, Pea Ridge misses out on opportunities to protect natural resources and enhance connectivity between parks and neighborhoods. In summary, the City would benefit from a focus on developing more pocket parks, neighborhood parks, conservation areas, and greenway/trail facilities to ensure an equitable, accessible, and sustainable parks system that supports Pea Ridge’s growing community.



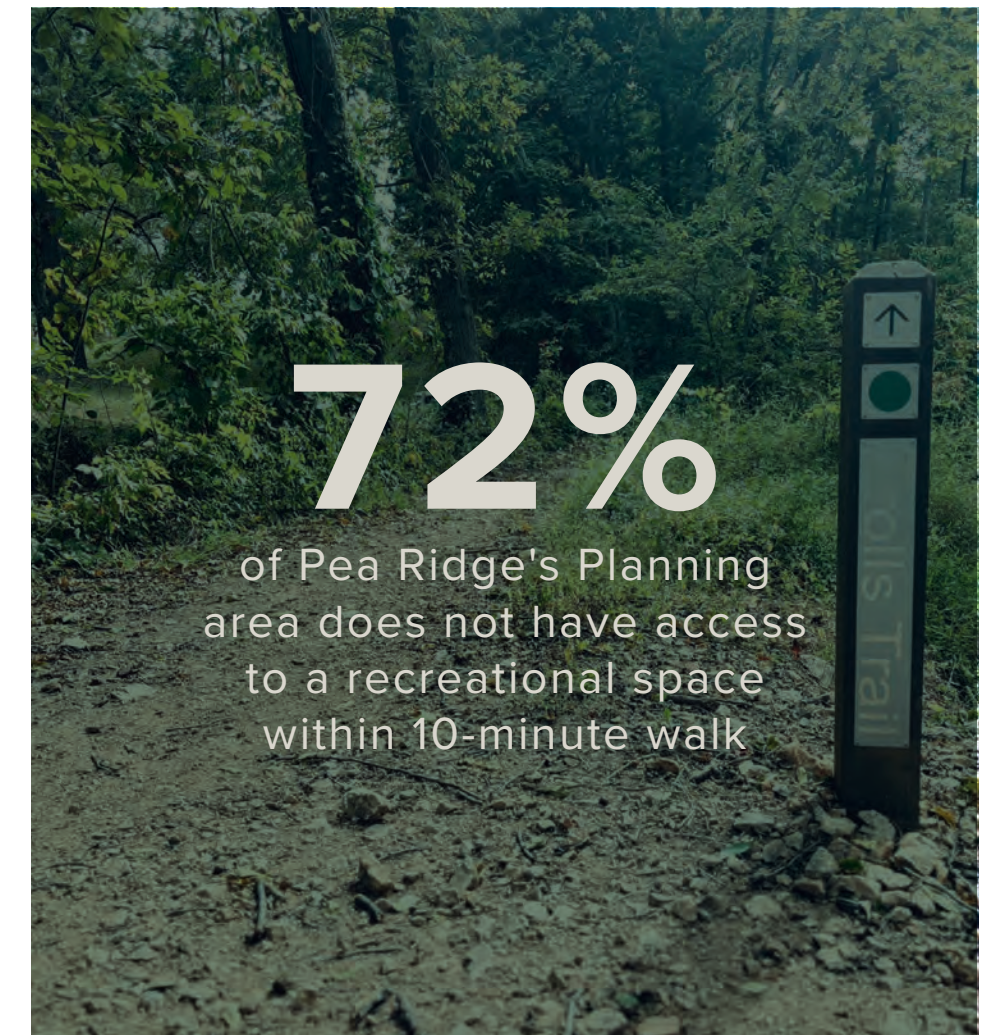
Source: City of Pea Ridge

## WALKSHED AND DISTRIBUTION ANALYSIS



Walkshed and Distribution Analysis Map

Access to green spaces is critical for fostering recreation, physical activity, and mental well-being, and provides opportunities for both passive and active recreational activities, as well as connections to natural areas. Analyzing the proximity of parks and open spaces reveals significant gaps in accessibility. Specifically, the gap analysis shows that approximately 72% off Pea Ridge's planning area is located beyond a 10-minute walk of a recreational space, leaving many without convenient access to vital green spaces. Addressing this lack of access to parks, trails, and natural areas would help ensure all residents can enjoy the benefits of recreation, community spaces, and environmental resources. This emphasizes the need to enhance connectivity and distribution, especially in the western growth regions of Pea Ridge, to build a more cohesive, accessible, and equitable park and recreation system.



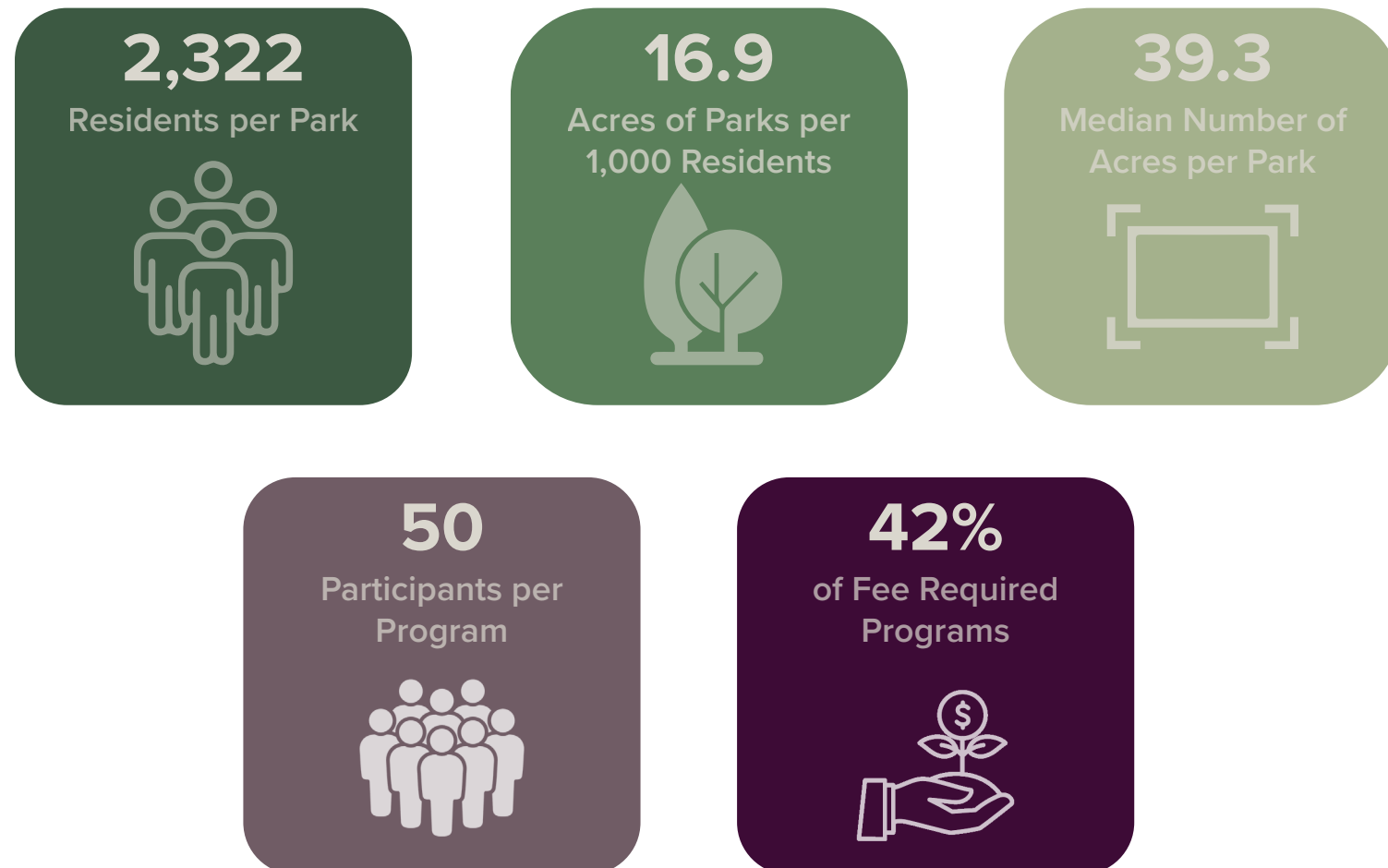


## BENCHMARK EVALUATION

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is a leading nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing public parks, recreation, and conservation efforts across the United States. They establish national standards, conduct research, and promote best practices to ensure equitable access to parks and recreational facilities for all residents.

The NRPA Park Metrics tool allows users to calculate recommended park and recreation facilities by population count, using peer analysis based on communities with similar population densities. This tool helps planners and decision-makers make data-driven choices by comparing local facilities with national standards and benchmarks. The table to the right considers Pea Ridge existing population and a **future population of 15,000** and provides a representative benchmark utilizing NRPA data for reference only. However, specific facilities and assets should be determined in conjunction with the City of Pea Ridge and based on inputs from community engagement as well as the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, ensuring alignment with the unique needs and vision of the community.

### Park Metrics - 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review Key Insights



FACILITY OR AMENITY	CURRENT POPULATION NEEDS			FUTURE POPULATION NEEDS	
	CURRENT NEED	EXISTING FACILITIES	% OF NEED MET	FUTURE NEED	POTENTIAL NEEDS GAP
<b>FACILITY OR AMENITY</b>					
Community Center	0.6	1	161%	1	0
Senior Center	0.6	0	0%	1	1
Stadium	1.9	1	54%	3	2
Performance Amphitheater	0.6	0	0%	1	1
Permanent or Semi-permanent Restrooms	5	5	100%	9	4
<b>RECREATION/PLAY FACILITY</b>					
Playgrounds or play structures	5	4	80%	9	5
Playgrounds for kids 5-12	1.9	4	214%	3	(1)
Tot lot for kids 2-5	1.2	1	80%	2	1
Playgrounds with Inclusive Structures	1.2	1	80%	2	1
Community Gardens	3.7	0	0%	6	6
Basketball Courts, standalone (outdoor)	5	0	0%	9	9
Multi-use courts - basketball, volleyball, etc (outdoors)	1.2	0	0%	2	2
Volleyball, standalone (outdoor)	0.6	0	0%	1	1
Diamond fields; total	1.9	8	428%	3	(5)
Rectangular Fields (multi-use)	1.2	4	321%	2	(2)
Walking Loops/Running Tracks (outdoor)	1.2	2	161%	2	0
Splashpads	0.6	1	161%	1	0
Fitness Zones/Exercise Stations (outdoor)	1.9	0	0%	3	3
<b>SWIMMING / AQUATICS</b>					
Aquatics Centers	0.6	0	0%	1	1
Swimming pools (outdoors)	0.6	0	0%	1	1
<b>RACQUET SPORTS FACILITIES</b>					
Tennis courts (outdoors)	6.2	0	0%	11	11
Pickleball (outdoors)	2.5	2	80%	4	2
Multi-use courts- Tennis, Pickleball (outdoors)	1.2	4	321%	2	(2)
<b>GOLF FACILITY</b>					
Driving range station	0.6	0	0%	1	1
Regulation 18-hole courses	0.6	0	0%	1	1
Disc golf courses	0.6	0	0%	1	1

Very Deficient    Deficient    Adequate    Exceeds

\*This matrix is representative benchmark utilizing NRPA data for reference only; specific facilities and assets should be determined in conjunction with City of Pea Ridge and based upon alignment with community engagement inputs and the City's Comprehensive Land Use Plan

## PROGRAMMING

Pea Ridge Parks and Recreation currently provides limited programming, including “The Garage,” a community space designated for seniors and young adults during the day and youth in the evening, along with a Bike Tune-Up & Maintenance class. Expanding on this, the department has established partnerships with Arkansas Game and Fish and PedalKids, enabling upcoming programming that includes hunter and boater education, archery, bike safety, and introductory cycling programs for youth and families.

Future plans also include transitioning youth sports under the department's management, offering recreational and competitive play. New adult programs, such as kickball and corn hole leagues, Sip & Paint in the park, and a range of wellness activities for seniors, reflect efforts to increase inclusive community engagement across all age groups. The chart below outlines the percentage of jurisdictions with populations under 20,000, like Pea Ridge, to provide insight into recommended programming for small community sizes.

TARGETED PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN, OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PERCENT OF AGENCIES)	
	Jurisdictions with less than 20,000 people
Summer Camps	65%
Specific Senior Programs	63%
Specific Teen Programs	50%
Programs for People with Disabilities	37%
STEM Programs	41%
After-School Programs	44%
Preschool	26%
Before-School Programs	17%
Full-Day Care	7%

Source: 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

### STRENGTHS

**Partnerships with Key Organizations:**

Collaborations with Arkansas Game and Fish and PedalKids provide diverse, expert-led programming, especially beneficial in a community with limited in-house resources.

**Youth and Family Focus:**

Initiatives like Ditch the Training Wheels and Family Bicycle Day engage younger residents and families, promoting long-term community involvement.

**Diverse Programming:**

New offerings, including archery, outdoor cooking, and wellness programs, cater to a variety of age groups and interests, enhancing community appeal.

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### WEAKNESSES

**Limited Current Offerings:** With most programs in the planning stages, current options are minimal, limiting community engagement.

**Reliance on Partnerships:** While partnerships are beneficial, they may lead to dependencies that could impact programming stability if partnerships change.

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**Expanding Youth Sports:**

Transitioning youth sports under the parks department can standardize and broaden access to sports, meeting both recreational and competitive needs.

**Increasing Senior and Adult Engagement:**

Upcoming leagues and wellness programs for seniors present opportunities to expand engagement among diverse age groups.

**Seasonal and Event-Based Programs:**

Programs like Sip & Paint and Kickball leagues offer seasonal engagement, potentially attracting broader community involvement.

### OPPORTUNITIES

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**Funding Constraints:** Limited funding may impact the department's ability to sustain and expand programming. Securing adequate resources for staffing, facilities, and equipment remains a challenge, affecting both current offerings and the capacity to introduce new programs.

**Balancing Demand and Capacity:** As the community grows, ensuring enough facilities and staff to support diverse programs may become challenging.

### THREATS



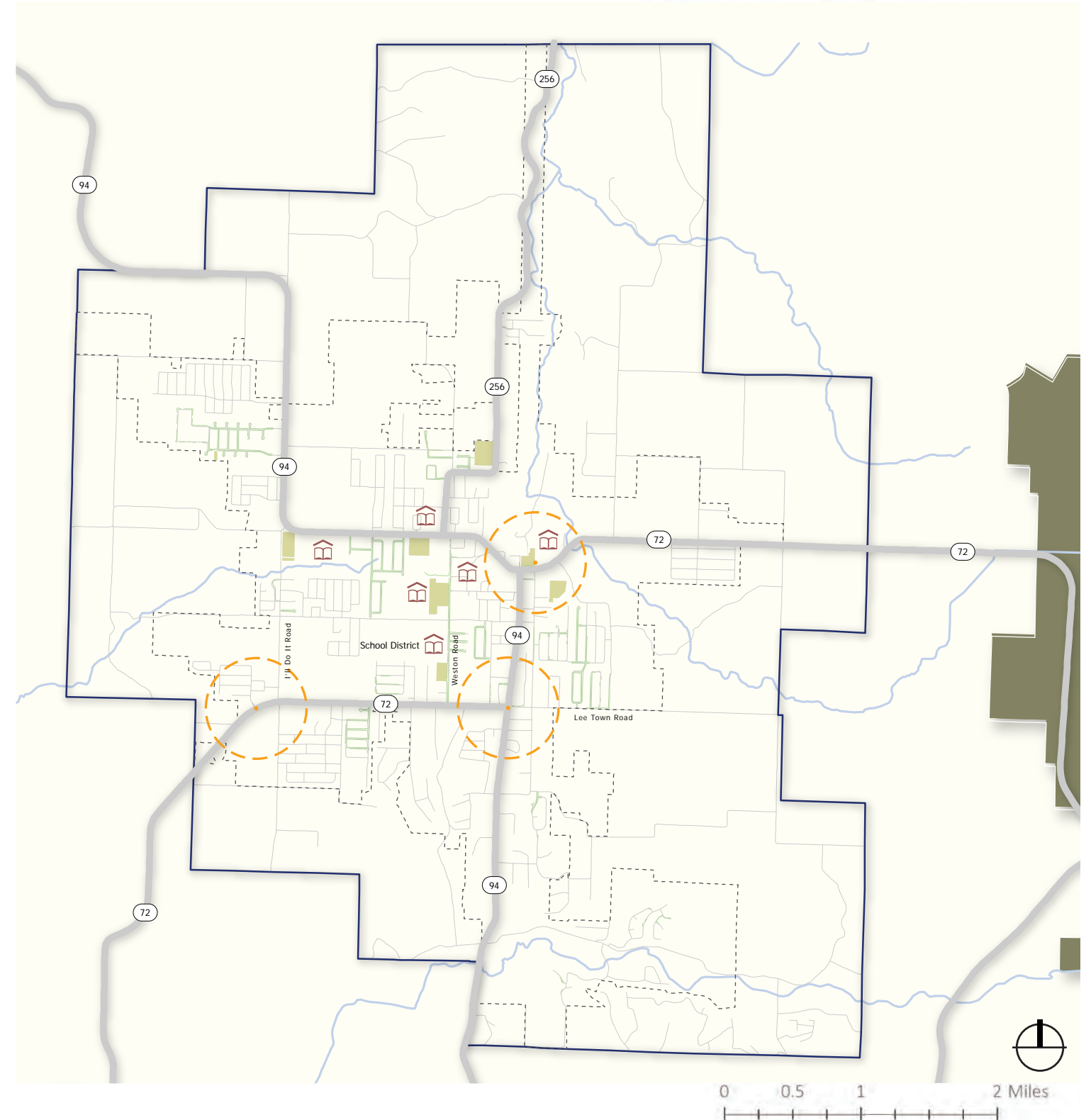
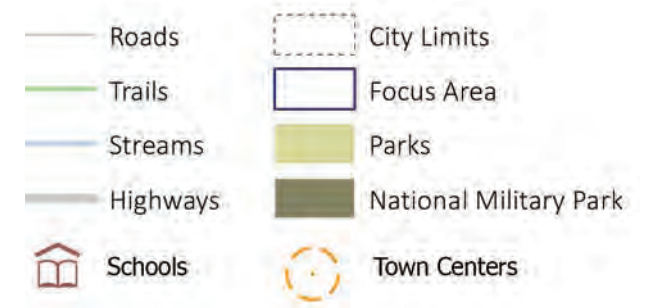
Yoga in the Park example

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ANALYSIS

The existing active transportation analysis includes a study of existing conditions of destinations, such as the locations of parks, schools, residential, and commercial areas. Sidewalk and bicycle connectivity is evaluated within and between these destinations to understand the status of multi-modal connectivity within Pea Ridge and uncover opportunities for the City of Pea Ridge. Potential opportunities include the improvement of local connections, such as Safe Routes to Schools and elimination of barriers, as well as regional trail and off-roadway connections.

### EXISTING CONDITIONS

Pea Ridge is known as an affordable community within commuting distance of several major employment centers within NWA, and the city is experiencing rapid growth in population and development. To continue this positive trajectory of economic vitality and population growth, it is the City's desire to create a more connected, safer community. This goal has been reaffirmed through stakeholder engagement. Existing conditions, such as schools, parks, existing sidewalks, town centers, and city facilities were identified and the routes between them were located and analyzed to identify opportunities and challenges to multi-modal connectivity.



**SCHOOLS**

Pea Ridge School District covers all public schools in the City, which include Pre-K, Primary, Intermediate, Middle, Junior High, and High Schools. Additional School District property includes Blackhawk Stadium, the high school football stadium.

**a. Blackhawk Stadium, Junior High School, Middle School, and Primary School** are located adjacent to each other within a 70-acre block at the intersection of Pickens Rd and Weston Rd. Existing sidewalk connections between the stadium and the adjacent neighborhood to the west are along Pickens Rd. Continuous sidewalks are along the west side of Weston Rd from Pickens Rd to Slack St. An existing sidewalk connection between the Primary School and Weston St is along the north side of driveway entrance.

**b. The High School** is a half-mile to the west from the block. Pea Ridge High School has two neighborhood connections, a multi-use path to the neighborhood northeast of the school, and a second multi-use path to the neighborhood south of the school.



*a. Existing sidewalks around Blackhawk Stadium and Pea Ridge Junior High, Middle, and Primary Schools*



*b. Existing sidewalks around Pea Ridge High School*

**c. The Pre-K School and Intermediate School** are a half-mile to the east of the block, north of the historic downtown area. There are no existing sidewalk connections to either school. The closest sidewalks end at the City's veterans memorial near the intersection of Davis St and Pickens Rd.



*c. Existing sidewalks around Pea Ridge Pre-K and Intermediate Schools*

**PARKS**

The City of Pea Ridge has four parks available to the public.

- Baker Hayes Urban Trail System
- City Park
- Memorial Park
- Givens Park

**a. Baker Hayes Urban Trail System** is located in the southeast area of the city and includes one mile of mountain bike trails across seven separate trails. The park trails are accessible from the southwest through an off-street connection, from the north off Greer St, and from the southeast on Harrison St. There is no trailhead or parking area within Baker Hayes.

**b. City Park** is 12 acres in the north central portion of the City. The amenities include parking, splash pad, playgrounds, fitness stations, and 0.6 miles of walking trails. Existing sidewalk connections are available with the adjacent neighborhood to the west and along Hayden Rd.



*a. No existing sidewalks adjacent to Baker Hayes Urban Trail System*



*b. Existing sidewalks around City Park*



*A park with amenities and trails that connect to the surrounding neighborhood in Houston, TX.*

**BICYCLE TRANSPORTATION**

The City of Pea Ridge has no existing on-street bicycle facilities other than shared lanes. The State of Arkansas does allow bicyclists to use the sidewalk. However, as part of best practice for analyzing and planning active transportation networks, it is not recommended to include sidewalks as part of a bicycle network. The bicycle network should only include facilities designed to accommodate bikes, such as on-street bicycle lanes and shared use or multi-use paths.

**RECREATION**

Pea Ridge is also a tourist destination for its rural scenery, Pea Ridge National Military Park, and events such as gravel races, 2nd Saturday, and the annual Mule Jump. The City of Pea Ridge is also a recognized hub for Arkansas Rural Recreational Roads (R3). R3 is a pilot program in Northwest Arkansas to designate specific gravel cycling routes on existing country roads to preserve and maximize their value. These routes are predominantly for tourism and recreation.

**FUTURE OPEN SPACE OPPORTUNITIES**

The City has received donations from property owners and organizations and purchased open greenspace for future parks, schools, and city facilities. Connectivity to these future facilities is critical to ensure safe and accessible connections.

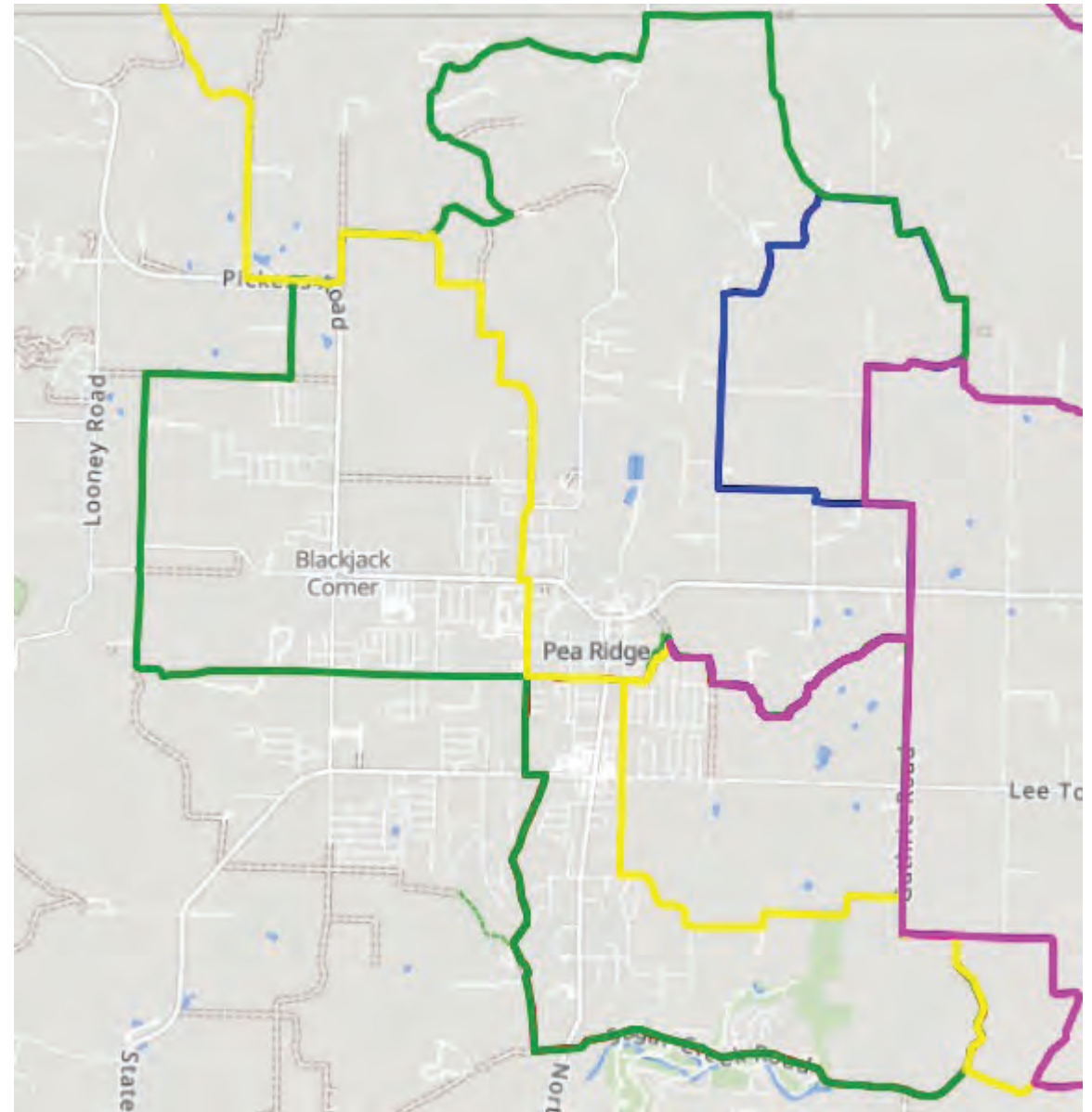
The City of Pea Ridge is also in the process of updating several City plans, including the land use plan and master streets plan.



City of Pea Ridge undeveloped open space on Curtis Ave



City of Pea Ridge and Pea Ridge School District undeveloped open space on Guthrie Rd



Existing sidewalks around commercial zone on Hwy 94

**c. Memorial Park** is almost 5 acres in the south area of the city. The amenities include gravel parking areas and three youth sports fields for baseball, softball, and T-ball. Existing sidewalks are along both sides of Weston Rd.

**d. Givens Park** is a less-than 1 acre neighborhood park within the Givens Place neighborhood subdivision in the northwest corner of the city. The amenities include a gravel parking area, playground, ball field with bleachers, and a fully fenced perimeter. The existing sidewalk connections are limited to the Givens Place neighborhood.



*c. Existing sidewalks around Memorial Park*

*d. Existing sidewalks around Givens Park*

**RESIDENTIAL**

Pea Ridge currently has a typical suburban style residential development pattern characterized by a mix of low-density properties with direct access to roadways and higher-density subdivisions with consolidated access points to the road network. Pea The city is undergoing tremendous growth in neighborhoods comprised of single-family homes. Apartment complexes are also being permitted and constructed. The existing neighborhoods are generally isolated from adjacent neighborhoods with segregated neighborhood entrances and privacy fence borders. The neighborhoods are also developed with cul-de-sacs to maximize the number of single family homes but reduces the accessibility between neighborhoods. This type of development can isolate neighborhoods from the rest of the Pea Ridge community



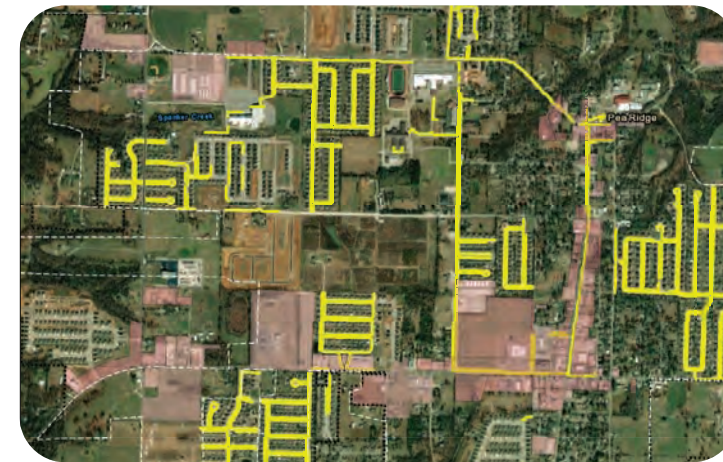
*A Pea Ridge neighborhood with no connectivity between cul-de-sacs*

**COMMERCIAL**

The City of Pea Ridge has several commercial business corridors in its current land use plan. Commercial zone areas include:

- Property adjacent to Arkansas State Highway 72 (Slack St and Lee Town Rd) from Manfield Ln to Greer St,
- Arkansas State Highway 94 (Curtis Ave) from Arkansas State Highway 72 to Arkansas State Highway 94 (Pickens Rd),
- Arkansas State Highway 94 from Pickens Rd to Hickman Dr), and
- A commercial zone along Arkansas State Highway 94 from Hickman Dr to approximately 900 ft south of Don McAllister Rd.

Overall, there is no multi-modal connectivity within commercial areas and minimal connectivity between the separate commercial areas. Existing sidewalk connections are on both sides of the road along Curtis Ave from Hwy 94 to Patton St and on the east side only from Patton Rd to Hwy 72. There is intermittent sidewalk along both sides of Hwy 72.



*Existing sidewalks on Hwy 72 and 94*



*Existing sidewalks around commercial zone on Hwy 94*

## OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

The open space assessment for Pea Ridge serves as a foundation for preserving the city's natural landscapes and managing environmental vulnerabilities effectively. This assessment identifies critical ecological assets, such as tree canopy coverage and floodplain areas, which contribute to Pea Ridge's environmental health and resilience against erosion, flooding, and development impacts. By evaluating existing conditions and prioritizing preservation and restoration strategies, we can enhance the functionality of these open spaces, support biodiversity, and safeguard essential natural buffers. The following sections focus on key areas for intervention: tree canopy preservation and floodplain management. Together, these considerations provide a road-map for sustaining Pea Ridge's unique natural resources and promoting a resilient ecological infrastructure.

The map to the right illustrates Pea Ridge's vulnerability zones, highlighting areas with highly erodible soils and slopes exceeding 15%. These zones, identified in red, represent locations where soil stability is most at risk due to natural topography and soil composition. Areas with steep slopes and loose soils are prone to erosion, especially along stream corridors and riparian zones. When these vulnerable landscapes are disturbed by development or lack adequate vegetation, the risk of soil degradation and sedimentation in waterways increases, impacting water quality and ecosystem health. This map guides preservation and restoration efforts, emphasizing regions where tree canopy and riparian buffers can play a crucial role in stabilizing soils and protecting Pea Ridge's natural infrastructure.

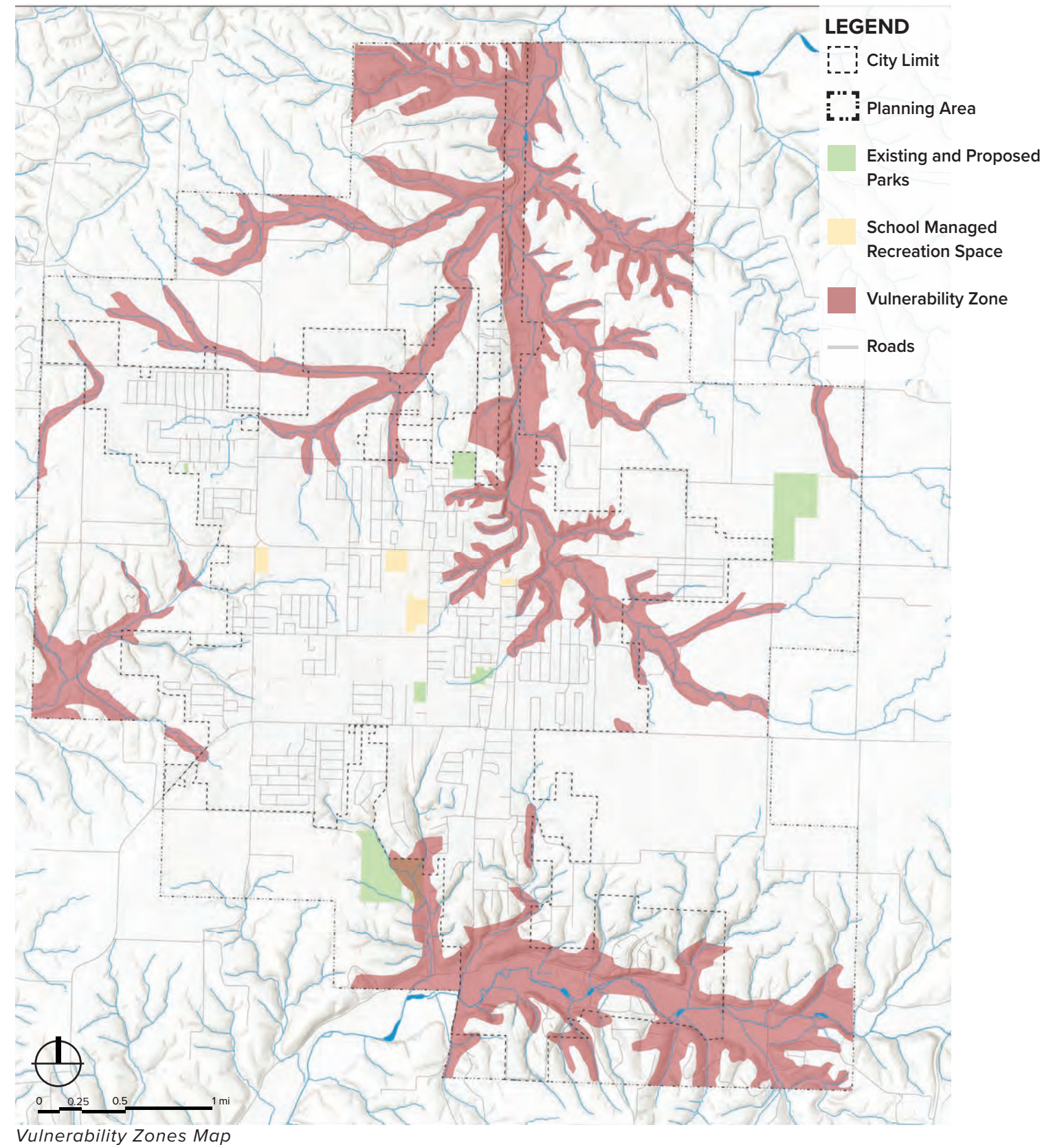
### TREE CANOPY PRESERVATION CONSIDERATIONS

Pea Ridge boasts a robust tree canopy that plays a vital role in preserving the town's ecological health and preventing soil erosion. The tree canopy is closely linked to the hydrology of Pea Ridge, flourishing along creeks, streams, and their tributaries. Protecting these riparian areas is important not only for maintaining water quality and biodiversity but also for safeguarding the landscape from erosion and the impacts of development. Designated on the Vulnerability Focus Map in red, are areas of high vulnerability with highly erodible soils and slopes exceeding 15%. Focus should be placed in these regions which are typically undevelopable and prone to environmental degradation. Tree preservation should take place within these highly vulnerable zones to protect existing tree canopy. There is also an opportunity for reforestation in these areas where there is little to no tree canopy. Extending the tree canopy, thus strengthening existing and proposed riparian buffers, provides necessary soil stabilization and water filtration to Pea Ridge's abundant riparian corridors. By prioritizing these natural buffers, we can ensure the resilience of Pea Ridge's ecosystem for generations to come.

The prioritization of focus should be placed firstly on Otter Creek that runs north through the heart of Pea Ridge and has close connections with the existing Pea Ridge City Park. Specifically, tree canopy preservation should take place directly west and northwest of the sewer plant where Otter Creek flows. The next area of priority for tree canopy preservation should be between Ryan Rd and HWY 72 where vulnerable soils and waterways exist in conjunction with the proposed open space in this area.

### FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

Pea Ridge has three main waterways, Little Sugar Creek, Big Sugar Creek, and Spanker Creek, along with their respective tributaries. The Pea Ridge Vulnerability Focus Map included showcases areas of vulnerability concerns, which are mostly situated along these riparian corridors, located by overlaying layers of high soil erodibility and slopes greater than 15%. On the map, highlighted in blue, are Buffer Restoration Zones where tree canopy and vegetation





are missing. By implementing strategies such as Streamside Protection Zones, these areas can be delineated for preservation, reforestation efforts, and invasive species removal. Through the application of LID strategies and the reintroduction of vegetated buffers of 75 feet or more along these waterways, a more ecologically functional riparian ecosystem can be created and maintained in preparation for future development.

Prioritization of floodplain management in terms of strengthening and introducing riparian buffer zones should be firstly placed on Otter Creek. Along this tributary exist areas of missing tree canopy and substantial erosion issues that would greatly benefit from bank improvement strategies such as live staking. One area of prioritization along Otter Creek is where the tributary crosses Clark St directly south of the sewer plant, erosion issues are prevalent and tree canopy is lacking. The next area of prioritization for Otter Creek would be where Camden Branch meets Otter Creek and areas to the south of this junction. Patches of tree canopy can be connected through reforestation efforts and erosion issues in this area could be alleviated through the introduction of healthy riparian buffers and bank stabilization. Lastly, an area that experiences heavy sedimentation and wash-outs where the tributary crosses Hazelton Rd should be prioritized to strengthen soil stability and reintroduce native vegetation to combat these stormwater issues.



*Otter Creek Farm and Forest in the City of Pea Ridge*



*Otter Creek after rainfall*

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVERVIEW

## OVERVIEW


Community engagement has been a crucial part of Pea Ridge’s Parks and Open Space Master Plan. It began with a stakeholder meeting in late August, bringing together key figures—such as City Council members, the school superintendent, department heads, and active community members—to discuss the City’s most pressing concerns.

A community-wide survey followed, open for several weeks and receiving over 669 responses, including a significant number of youth participants.


In late October, a community engagement workshop was held in a circuit format, allowing participants to provide input through various tools, including image preference marking, comment cards, and post-it notes. The workshop attracted over 75 participants, whose valuable feedback helped shape the future of parks and open spaces in Pea Ridge.

## ENGAGEMENT PROCESS






**669**  
Community Survey Respondents



**23%**  
Survey Respondents Under 18



**75**  
Community Workshop Participants


## KEY FINDINGS




Connectivity is a **top priority** for community members, with emphasis on expanded **sidewalks and trails**



Focus on balancing growth while **preserving natural spaces**



Desired for enhanced safety, particularly around **active mobility infrastructure**




Need for **diverse and accessible** recreation spaces




Desire to preserve the community’s **natural charm**, while enhancing community identity

**78%** of residents would like to see **Parks and Recreational Spaces** developed and improved in the **next 5 years**



**25%** of community members thinks that more recreational facilities is the most important improvement needed in Pea Ridge


**65%** of residents would like to see **trails** developed and improved in the **next 5 years**



residents believe that environmental preservation and open spaces are among Pea Ridge's biggest opportunities

**20%** of members would like to see more **areas for preservation, natural habitats, and wildlife areas**

42



## ENHANCED CONNECTIVITY

→ **High Demand for Connectivity:** Residents want more interconnected sidewalks, bike trails, and pathways to improve park accessibility and mobility.

**14%**  
respondents believe additional trails is the most important improvement

→ **Regional Connections:** There's interest in linking Pea Ridge to nearby areas like Bentonville and Bella Vista via expanded cycling and pedestrian infrastructure.

**36%**  
respondents believe that active transportation infrastructure would make parks more accessible

→ **Enhanced Infrastructure:** Adding sidewalks, crosswalks, and lighting to the road system would improve park access and enable safer neighborhood travel.



## SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY

**61/100**  
parks and open space accessibility score from community survey

**24%**  
respondents prioritize improved safety and accessibility

→ **Pedestrian Safety Focus:** Residents emphasize the need for better traffic flow, stoplights, crosswalks, and traffic management near parks and busy roads.

→ **Secure Play Areas:** Requests include fenced playgrounds, well-designed spaces, and clear signage to ensure safe environments for all ages.

→ **Accessible Features:** High demand exists for ADA-compliant paths, accessible playground equipment, and stroller-friendly trails to make parks inclusive and usable by all.



## PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES

For residents, the most important improvement in parks, trails, and open space:

- 1 **More Recreation Facilities**
- 2 **Improved Maintenance and Cleanliness**

→ **Enhanced Park Maintenance:** Respondents prioritized the upkeep of existing parks, including cleanliness, shaded rest areas, benches, and trash cans.

→ **Diverse Amenities:** Requests for new facilities, like splash pads, pickleball courts, and swimming pools, indicate a desire for varied recreation options that cater to different age groups and family needs.




## PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

**20%**  
of members would like to see more areas for preservation, natural habitats, and wildlife areas

→ **Balancing Growth with Preservation:** Respondents emphasized the importance of maintaining Pea Ridge's rural and small-town character by limiting excessive development.

→ **Green Space Conservation:** Additional nature trails and conservation of green spaces were mentioned, reflecting a desire to preserve the town's natural beauty for residents and future generations.



## FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY

**30%**  
of members mentioned the importance of community identity as one of Pea Ridge's greatest opportunity

→ **Community-Centric Activities:** Members shared a strong interest in community-focused events, such as family gatherings, festivals, and educational programs that bring residents together.

→ **Leveraging Local Identity:** Suggestions for using local landmarks in park design reflect a desire to strengthen Pea Ridge's cultural identity and create a sense of place.



## SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

Survey Responses around Pea Ridge's greatest opportunity:

*"Greatest opportunity would be to give non-residents reasons to travel out here. Restaurants, parks, bike trails, pickleball courts and so on."*

*"As the city expands, focusing on sustainable development that prioritizes accessible green spaces, a well-connected trail network, and family-friendly amenities...position Pea Ridge as a destination for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation."*

→ **Attracting Residents and Businesses:** A few responses noted that enhanced parks and open spaces could draw more residents and support local businesses.

→ **Comparable Standards to Nearby Cities:** Members mentioned interest in developing parks that reach the quality seen in nearby towns, making Pea Ridge more attractive to families and businesses.

# FRAMEWORK

## ANALYSIS

The analysis examined key factors—geography, growth patterns, walkability, built environment, and natural features—to pinpoint ideal spots for new parks and open spaces in Pea Ridge. By analyzing these elements, the plan identifies opportunities to expand recreational areas, improve connectivity, and safeguard natural landscapes. This ensures that parks, trails, and service areas are well-placed, forming an accessible, sustainable network that meets the city’s current and future needs while preserving its unique character.

### 1

#### **GEOGRAPHY OF PLACE: SERVICE AREAS + GROWTH PATTERNS**

Define service areas to ensure equitable access to parks for all residents. Analyze Future Land Use (FLU) to understand growth patterns and strategically plan park distribution in both existing and newly developing areas.

### 2

#### **BUILT ENVIRONMENT: WALKABILITY AND SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

Map the spatial relationships between existing recreational areas, such as City- and school-owned properties, and analyze the built environment to ensure that all residents have access to parks and open spaces within a 10-minute walk, creating an equitable system for the entire community. This includes identifying gaps in service, where residents may be under-served, and pinpointing opportunities for strategically locating new parks and connections.

### 3

#### **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: FLOODPLAIN AND TREE CANOPY PRESERVATION**

Utilize floodplains and other natural areas to create green spaces and conservation corridors that enhance recreational and environmental value. Analyze the location of the existing tree canopy as a key determinant for where parks and natural areas could be established, both as a preservation strategy and to ensure the community benefits from the best natural spaces. Protecting tree canopy and agricultural lands will help maintain the City's natural character and resilience.

### 4

#### **ESTABLISHING CONNECTIONS: TRAILS AND GREENWAYS**

Develop a network of trails, greenways, and sidewalks to connect parks, open spaces, and neighborhoods. These connections improve mobility and integrate the City into regional trail systems, promoting active transportation.

### 5

#### **KEY PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

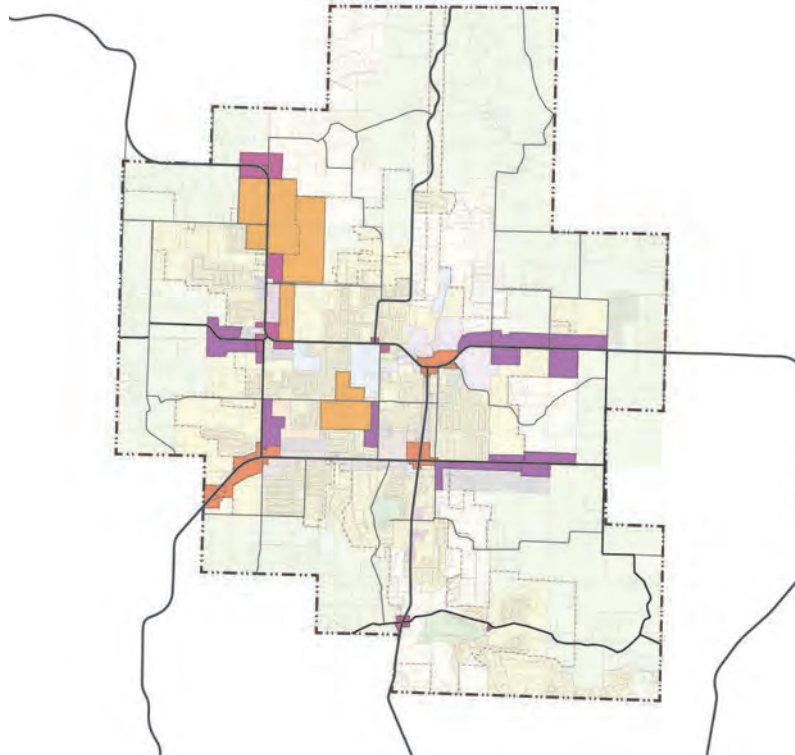
Identify key priorities for land acquisition, park development, and enhancing connectivity. These priorities will guide the strategic growth of the park and open space system, ensuring that the City's recreational and environmental needs are met in a sustainable and phased manner.



Pea Ridge National Military Park

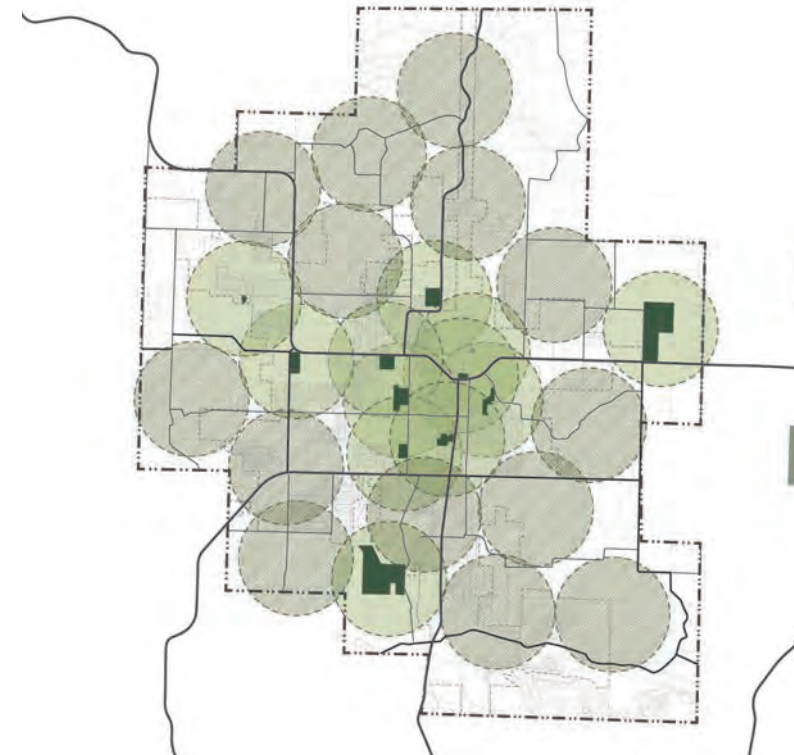
**01. GEOGRAPHY OF PLACE: GROWTH PATTERNS**

In analyzing growth patterns for Pea Ridge, the process identified key areas where future development is projected based on the City's Proposed Future Land Use Map. These areas include mixed-use neighborhoods, neighborhood nodes, entry centers, downtown neighborhoods, and City centers/corridors, which are expected to see increased residential density and development. To balance this growth, it is crucial to identify opportunities for preserving and creating open spaces within these zones. Ensuring that parks and green spaces are integrated into these areas will provide residents with essential recreational spaces and promote connectivity, enhancing both quality of life and community well-being as Pea Ridge grows. These spaces will serve as important communal areas and help maintain a healthy balance between urban development and open space preservation.



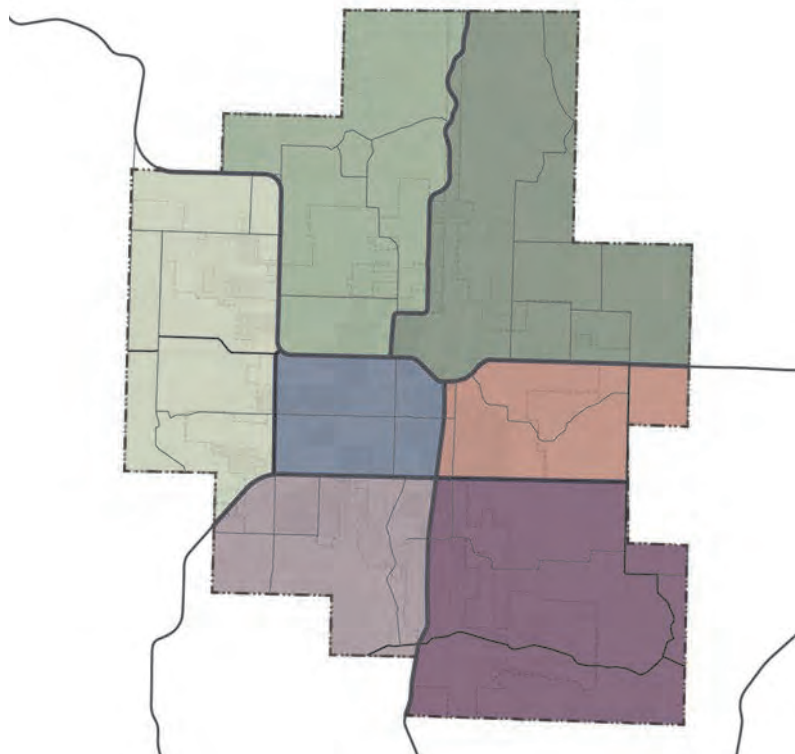
**02. BUILT ENVIRONMENT: WALKABILITY AND SPATIAL RELATIONSHIPS**

In the spatial analysis of the built environment, we focused on identifying areas in Pea Ridge where residents lack access to green spaces within a 10-minute walk. This analysis revealed gaps in the City's park and open space network, particularly in higher-density residential areas and emerging neighborhoods. By mapping these under-served areas, we can strategically plan new parks, trails, and green spaces to ensure equitable access for all residents. Filling these gaps will enhance walkability and ensure that every resident has nearby opportunities to enjoy nature, exercise, and gather with the community, ultimately fostering a healthier and more connected City.



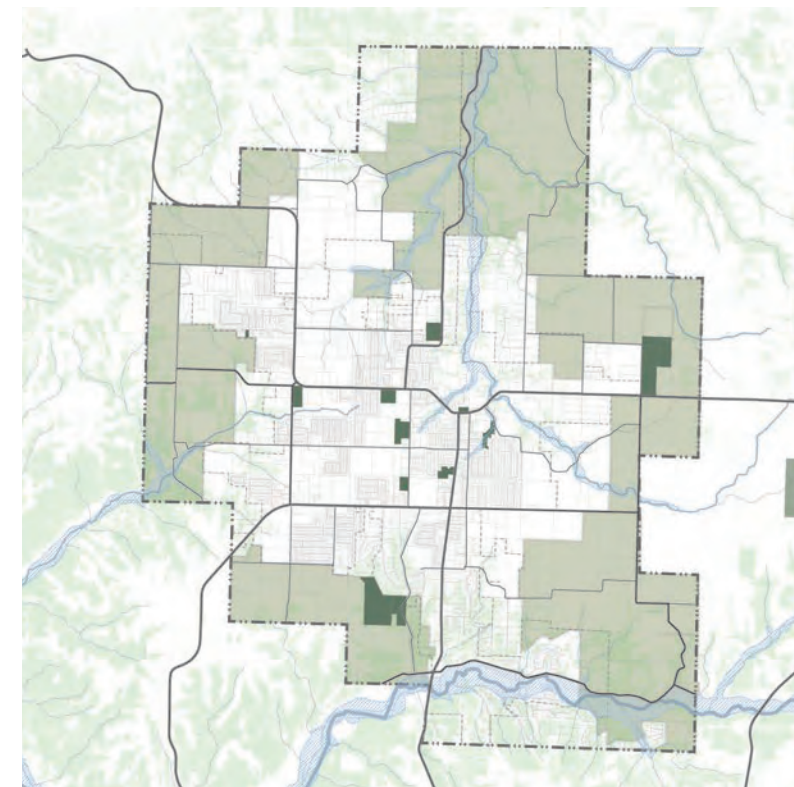
**02. BUILT ENVIRONMENT: FRAMEWORK**

The analysis of Pea Ridge's built environment showed that major roadways like Highway 72 and Highway 94 serve as key elements dividing the city into natural quadrants. These highways shape the city's structure and flow, creating distinct areas for planning. By using these roadways as a framework, the process can strategically place parks and open spaces within each quadrant, ensuring recreational access across the city. This approach also highlights opportunities for adding sidewalks and trails to connect areas across the highways, enhancing accessibility for all residents.



**03. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT: FLOODPLAIN AND TREE CANOPY PRESERVATION**

The analysis identified floodplains, tree canopies, and agricultural lands as key areas for both preservation and recreational opportunities. Floodplains offer potential for green corridors that mitigate flood risks while providing natural spaces for trails and recreation. The tree canopy, essential for moderating temperatures and improving air quality, can be enhanced to create shaded, enjoyable outdoor environments. Agricultural lands, part of the town's heritage, can be preserved for community gardens or open spaces that reflect Pea Ridge's rural character while offering recreational use. Protecting these areas enriches both the environment and the community.



## KEY FINDINGS

The City of Pea Ridge is at a pivotal moment in its development, with exciting opportunities to shape a parks and open space system that meets the needs of its growing community while preserving its unique character and heritage. This assessment outlines key findings across several core planning principles:

- Enhancing Connectivity
- Prioritizing Safety
- Providing Diverse Recreational Spaces
- Preserving Cultural and Natural Heritage
- Fostering Community Identity
- Supporting Economic Growth.

Together, these findings highlight Pea Ridge's potential to expand equitable access to parks, ensure safety and accessibility for all, protect rural and natural landscapes, celebrate community identity, and promote economic resilience. With careful planning and community collaboration, Pea Ridge can establish a well-rounded network of parks and open spaces and promote their interconnectivity that effectively serves the needs of the community now and in the future.



### ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

Pea Ridge has the potential to enhance resident access to green spaces, create active transportation corridors, and leverage floodplain areas to build resilient, connected greenways that integrate local parks with regional trail systems, enriching the community's role in outdoor recreation. Key findings and considerations include:

**1. Community Connectivity:** Pea Ridge has the opportunity to create greater access for residents by expanding park connectivity, aiming for consistent access to green spaces within a 10-minute walk of homes. Developing north-south and east-west corridors would improve connections across existing and future parks, supporting walking, biking, and other active transportation options. This increased connectivity could also integrate Pea Ridge into nearby regional trail systems, such as the Razorback Greenway and Back 40, enhancing its role in the region's outdoor recreation network.

**2. Floodplain Areas for Connectivity:** Floodplain areas present an ideal opportunity to create connected greenway corridors that link parks and open spaces, enhancing connectivity while also respecting natural water flow, which increases resilience across the park and open space system. Within Pea Ridge's current parks and open space system these floodplain areas are significantly underutilized and represent a significant opportunity for Pea Ridge to promote the use and preservation of these areas for the greater community benefit and promote open space connectivity throughout the community.



### PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Improving pedestrian and cyclist safety and expanding accessible infrastructure in Pea Ridge can address current connectivity gaps, promote inclusivity, and create a safer, more welcoming environment for all residents to confidently enjoy parks, trails, and community spaces. Key findings and considerations include:

**1. Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety:** Pea Ridge has very limited pedestrian and cyclist connectivity throughout the City at both a local and regional level. These system 'gaps' limit the communities' mobility and impact user safety and access opportunity. Enhancing safety measures—such as improved lighting, crosswalks, and clear signage—can make Pea Ridge's parks and trails safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Strengthening these safety features would promote a secure environment for those walking and biking, encouraging more residents to use active transportation confidently.

**2. Accessible Infrastructure:** Accessible infrastructure represents a critical challenge throughout the Pea Ridge Community and an important priority for the future of parks and open space. Expanding accessible infrastructure throughout Pea Ridge can ensure that residents of all abilities can easily reach and enjoy parks, schools, and community spaces. Enhancements like dedicated pathways, widened sidewalks, promote compliance with ADA, and universally accessible play and recreational equipment would create a more inclusive network, encouraging safe and active use of public spaces by everyone in the community.



## PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES

Expanding equitable access to diverse, adaptable park spaces and amenities across Pea Ridge can create inclusive, multi-generational environments that meet current and future recreational needs for all community members. Key Findings and considerations include:

- 1. Equitable access to diverse recreational spaces:** Expanding park locations to under-served areas of Pea Ridge will ensure that all community members have equitable access to a variety of recreational options
- 1. Varied Park Amenities for All Ages:** Introducing diverse recreational spaces, from playgrounds and sports facilities to passive relaxation areas, will ensure that Pea Ridge's parks appeal to a wide range of interests and age groups. Offering regular programming can further enrich these spaces, creating inclusive, multi-generational environments.
- 2. Adaptable Spaces for Future Demand:** Creating parks with flexible spaces that can accommodate diverse activities—such as community gardens, dog parks, and event spaces—will allow Pea Ridge to adapt to evolving recreational and user needs.



## FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Expanding diverse park offerings and incorporating Pea Ridge's cultural heritage into park programming can reinforce community identity, celebrating local traditions and creating inclusive spaces that deepen residents' connection to their shared legacy. Key findings and considerations include:

- 1. Diverse Park Offerings:** Pea Ridge can foster a sense of community and identity while meeting the diverse recreational needs of its residents by expanding the types of parks and programming offered. Through strategic partnerships, unique and varied programming can be introduced to create engaging spaces for all ages.
- 2. Specialized Programming Around Community Legacy:** Building upon Pea Ridge's unique cultural events by integrating them into park programming can strengthen community identity and pride, while attracting residents and visitors to celebrate local traditions in engaging, accessible spaces. Events like Second Saturday reinforce community identity and experiences.



## PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Preserving Pea Ridge's natural landscapes and agricultural areas through conservation efforts and policy-driven land preservation will help maintain its rural character, support environmental sustainability, and protect cultural heritage for future generations. Key Findings and considerations include:

- 1. Open Space Conservation:** Preserving Pea Ridge's natural landscapes and agricultural areas, particularly in eastern regions, will help maintain its rural character and heritage. Conservation corridors in these areas, including agricultural buffers, can serve as natural corridors, supporting environmental sustainability and cultural preservation.
- 2. Policy-Driven Land Preservation:** Developing policies to support the preservation of agricultural lands will help Pea Ridge safeguard its unique rural identity amidst growth. This policy-driven approach will ensure that natural and cultural resources remain protected for future generations, strengthening the community's connection to its agricultural heritage.

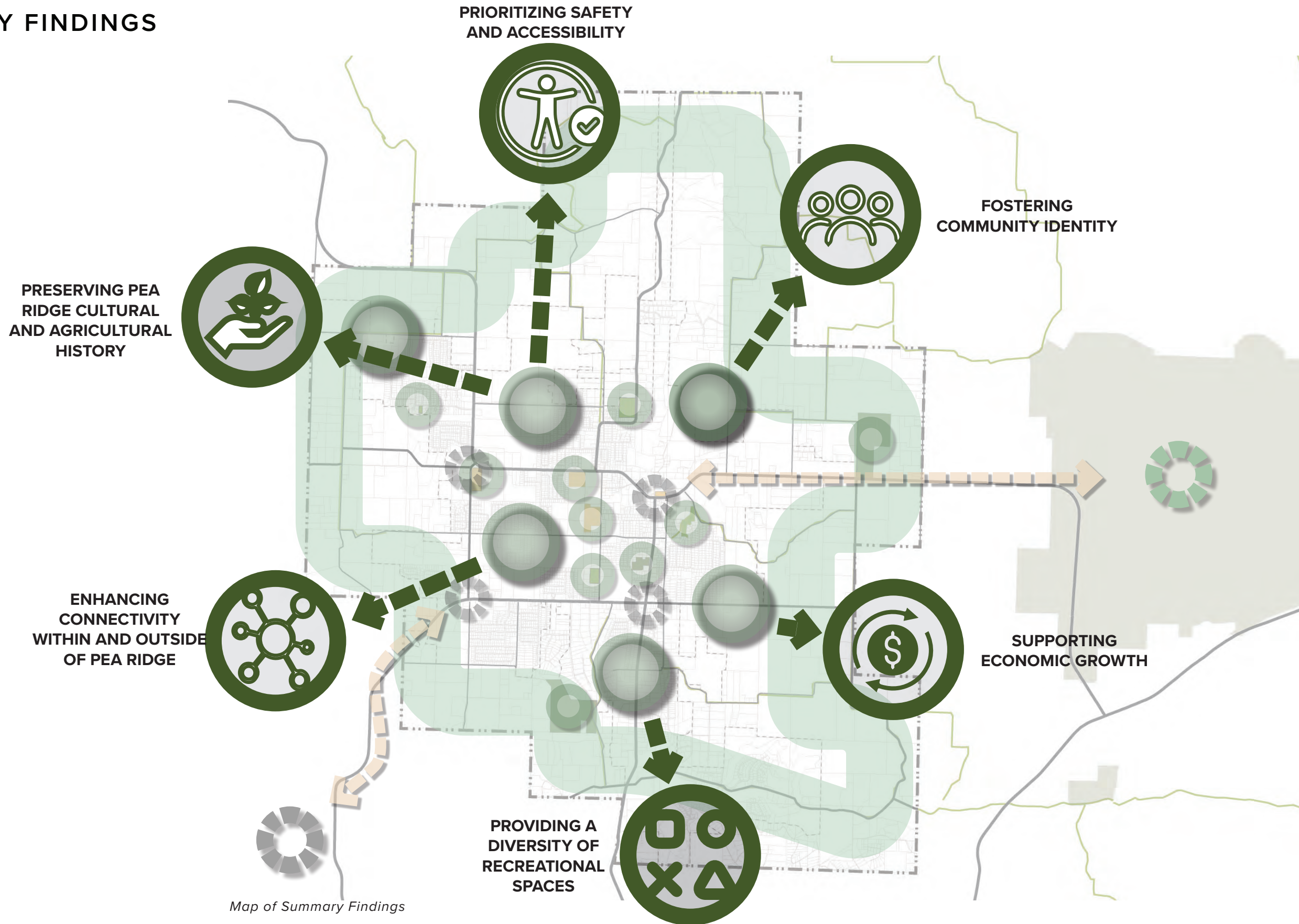


## SUPPORT ECONOMIC GROWTH

Enhancing Pea Ridge's connectivity within regional trail systems and developing neighborhood-scale parks as community hubs can stimulate local economic growth, attracting tourism, supporting small businesses, and creating vibrant, community-centered commercial areas. Key findings and considerations include:

- 1. Community Connectivity and Regional Trails:** Pea Ridge's role as a connector in larger regional trail systems has the potential to boost economic growth by attracting tourists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts.
- 2. Neighborhood-Scale Hubs for Commercial Growth:** Developing parks and open spaces as neighborhood-scale hubs can stimulate local economic growth by creating opportunities for small businesses and services around these recreational areas. By strategically placing parks, active recreation and event area near commercial spaces, Pea Ridge can foster vibrant, community-oriented hubs.

## KEY FINDINGS











CHAPTER 04

# MASTER PLAN

INTRODUCTION

PLAN PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves as a guiding framework for the City of Pea Ridge's Parks and Open Space Master Plan. It offers recommendations and direction to help the City enhance its network of parks, open spaces, and recreational amenities while addressing current and future needs within the community. It also aims to establish accessible, connected green spaces that reflect the City's unique character and accommodate its expanding population.

The recommendations within this chapter are structured by goal, strategy, and action. Each goal captures an essential outcome for the City's parks and open space system, while the strategies outline targeted approaches for achieving these goals. Actions and key projects provide specific, tangible steps to implement these strategies, ensuring that Pea Ridge can effectively meet its recreational, environmental, and community-centered objectives as it grows. Together, these recommendations create a road-map to a greener, more connected, and resilient Pea Ridge, enhancing its role as a livable and vibrant community



## ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

- Establish a Connectivity Policy and Planning Initiative
- Adopt a Safe Streets Design Framework
- Engage the Community in Creating Inclusive, Connected Streets



## PRIORITIZE SAFETY & ACCESSIBILITY

- Develop an Integrated Accessibility and Safety Policy Framework
- Ensure Compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act
  - Introduce Community Education and Engagement for Safe, Accessible Travel



## PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES

- Pursue strategic land acquisition for Parks Development and Expansion
- Ensure equitable access to recreation spaces
  - Incorporate passive recreation areas
  - Designate specialized recreation zones
- Ensure new development includes sufficient and adequate green space
- Enhance park programming to increase community engagement



## PRESERVE CULTURAL & NATURAL HERITAGE

- Protect agricultural land to preserve Pea Ridge's rural character and heritage
- Conserve the Tree Canopy to Prevent Erosion, Stabilize Soils, and Support Wildlife
  - Implement floodplain management to reduce flood risks and protect natural waterways.



## FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- Develop community gathering spaces in parks
- Incorporate public art and cultural installations



## SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Position the parks as regional destinations
- Integrate Local Businesses Near Parks and Trails
- Encourage active lifestyles to promote health and reduce healthcare costs

# PLAN PRINCIPLES, STRATEGIES, AND ACTIONS



## ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY

Improve north-south and east-west connections throughout the City using existing rights-of-way, sidewalks, and trails to better connect neighborhoods, parks, schools, and regional networks. Focus on active transportation, such as walking and biking, to link adjacent communities and employment hubs, creating more comprehensive transportation options for residents.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

Multi-modal connectivity is crucial for Pea Ridge, as it supports growth, safety, and quality of life for all, not just those who can and choose to drive. A transportation network that provides for safe walking and bicycling allows greater access to essential services, boosts local economic development, and can reduce traffic by shifting shorter trips to other modes. A well-connected, walkable, and bikeable city promotes health, fosters community interaction, and enhances inclusivity for all ages and abilities. Improved connectivity also benefits the environment by reducing vehicle emissions and preserving green spaces, while making Pea Ridge more attractive for tourism and recreation. Prioritizing multi-modal connectivity will help Pea Ridge grow sustainably and develop as a vibrant, accessible community for residents and visitors alike.

Pea Ridge has an established network for vehicular circulation within City limits and great regional connectivity. However, the City has little bicycle infrastructure and incomplete pedestrian infrastructure. Pea Ridge should continue to build out pedestrian connectivity and connect regionally for non-motorized modes of transportation.

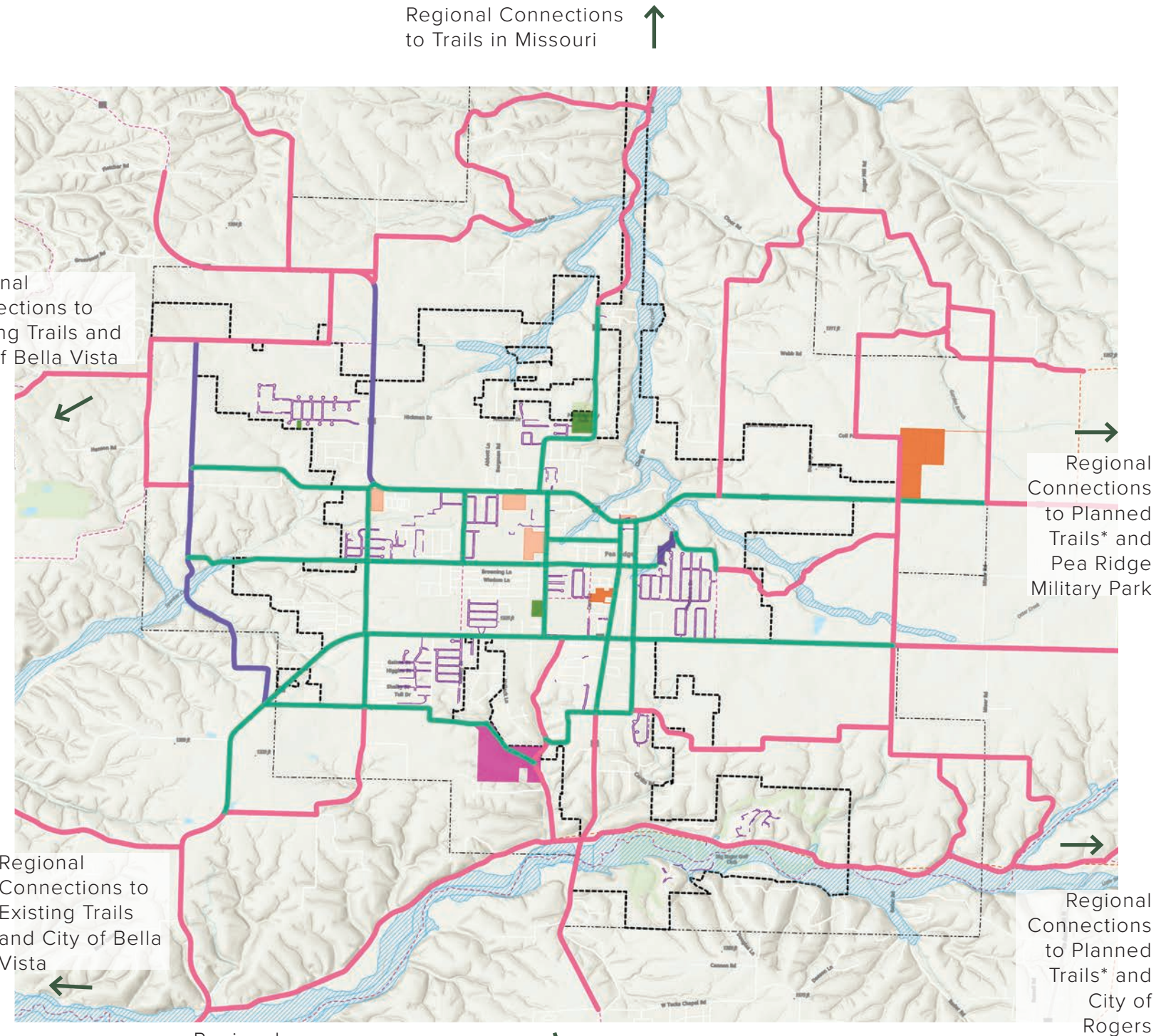
**LEGEND**

- - - City Limit
- ▣ Planning Area
- ▣ Benton County Floodplain
- ▣ School
- ▣ Sidewalk
- ▣ Baker Hayes Urban Trail System
- ▣ Future City Development
- ▣ City Owned Spaces
- ▣ Parks

- - - Proposed Heritage Springs Trail
- - - Proposed Trails

**Connections**

- ▣ Local
- ▣ Local & Regional
- ▣ Regional



\*Note: "Planned trails" are outside the proposed connections of Pea Ridge's Open Space and Parks Master Plan and are instead proposed by third parties.

## STRATEGIES

As Pea Ridge continues to grow, strategic policies, planning, community engagement, and responsible use of resources can link neighborhoods with schools, parks, businesses, and essential services, promoting a more walkable, bikeable, and inclusive environment. By focusing on safe, direct multi-modal pathways and thoughtfully designed public spaces, Pea Ridge can ensure that everyone has the freedom to move about the community safely and comfortably, strengthening its appeal as a dynamic place to live and work.

### STRATEGY 1: ESTABLISH A CONNECTIVITY POLICY AND PLANNING INITIATIVE

As the city experiences rapid growth, there is an increasing need to address traffic safety, multi-modal connectivity, and infrastructure planning proactively. Vision Zero policies will focus on reducing traffic-related fatalities and serious injuries, emphasizing a culture of safety and slower vehicle speeds. The Complete Streets approach will enhance existing roadways to accommodate all users, from cyclists to pedestrians, fostering connections to neighboring cities and regional trails. Finally, developing a city-specific Master Transportation Plan will establish multi-modal standards and provide clear guidance for developers, ensuring safe, connected, and accessible transportation options for the community. Together, these efforts will create a robust, people-centered transportation network that supports Pea Ridge’s long-term growth and sustainability goals.

#### Actions

##### a. Adopt Vision Zero Policies:

Without proper planning and coordination, growth like what Pea Ridge is experiencing often leads to increased traffic volumes on a few roadways, higher vehicle speeds, and more frequent and severe crashes. Crashes over a 5-year period (2017-2021) resulted in 220 people—mothers, fathers, children, grandparents, friends, and coworkers—losing their lives in Northwest Arkansas. An average of 44 people each year; however, 2021 alone was a year when 55 people died in roadway crashes—a 25% increase from the five year average. The Northwest Arkansas Regional Planning Commission (NWARPC) recognizes that one life lost within the region’s transportation network is one too many set a target to eliminate all killed and serious injury (KSI) crashes that occur on the regional roadway network by 2038.

To achieve this target, NWARPC recently adopted a Northwest Arkansas Regional Vision Zero Plan as a regional tool to assist cities and counties in building safer streets for all. The plan is organized around the Federal Highway Administration’s (FHWA) Safe System Approach. That approach acknowledges that people driving, walking, and bicycling, make mistakes, while our communities’ roads have often been designed to facilitate moving vehicles quickly and efficiently by expecting perfect behavior at all times.

#### The Regional Vision and includes specific goals, objectives, and actions to:



1. Promote a culture that prioritizes people’s safety
2. Reduce conflicts between roadway users
3. Establish policies, practices, and programs that focus on safety at all levels
4. Slow vehicle speeds.

##### b. Design Complete Streets:

The City’s most significant opportunities for increasing multi-modal connectivity are in improving existing roadways to accommodate bicycle and pedestrian modes of travel. The City is highly encouraged to incorporate the upcoming Regional Complete Streets Guide, currently in development by NWARPC, in all current and future plans, projects, permits, and development activities. The Regional Complete Streets Guide will include information on Complete Streets and Vision Zero programs specific to Northwest Arkansas and information to assist cities in creating context-sensitive designs that incorporate land use, zoning, street types, and overlays for safe, connected transportation roadways for all users.

Increasing multi-modal connectivity along roadways will allow residents of and visitors to Pea Ridge access to the extensive active transportation network in Northwest Arkansas, including adjacent cities, such as Bentonville, Bella Vista, and Little Flock, large employers, and existing and proposed regional multi-use trails.



**SEPARATED BIKE LANES** create a safer space for bicyclists of all ages and abilities. Implementation of a bicycle facility should be conducted as an overall bicycle master plan.



**STREET LEVEL LIGHTING** improves visibility for all users along a corridor, but is particularly effective in high-trafficked areas.



**MEDIAN AND PEDESTRIAN CROSSING ISLANDS** reduce head-on motor vehicle collisions and provide a protected refuge at intersections and midblock crossings for pedestrians. They narrow the motorist’s field of vision and reduce vehicle speeds.

Example of Complete Streets mid-block crossing.

##### c. Develop an Active Transportation Plan:

Pea Ridge currently has no specific design requirements for multi-modal connectivity and must rely on developers to propose and include multi-modal connectivity in their proposals and requests to the City. The City is highly encouraged to develop its own bicycle, pedestrian, and active transportation plan to be integrated into the master streets plan for a comprehensive city transportation plan that is inclusive of safe travel for all modes. A comprehensive transportation plan will set clear expectations and guidance for development and allow the city to enforce best practices, context-sensitive bicycle and pedestrian facility types, and facility placement on city, development, and permitted work within Pea Ridge.

**STRATEGY 2: ADOPT A SAFE STREETS DESIGN FRAMEWORK**

Streets are among our largest and most significant public spaces, and a Complete Streets approach designs from the “outside in.” Pedestrian needs, bikeways, and curbside demands (including transit) are developed before allocating space for private vehicles, and streets evolve into welcoming and accessible spaces that support the physical and social well-being of the community. This design approach supports the region’s guiding principles of safety, accessibility, inclusivity, health, environmental sustainability, community character, and economic vitality. Prioritizing people-first elements like street trees and pedestrian spaces, Pea Ridge can foster a vibrant, community-focused streetscape that enhances both functionality and sense of place.



*Bicyclist safely riding on side-path*



*Family walking and cycling on sidewalk*

**Actions**

**a. Foster a Strong Sense of Place through Complete Streets and Placemaking:**

The City of Pea Ridge can enhance its unique identity and create a strong sense of place through Complete Streets and placemaking initiatives. Thoughtfully designed gateways, narrowed streets, and inviting streetscapes can welcome residents and visitors, promote a slower pace, and foster a people-centered environment where community connections thrive. Integrating green infrastructure like tree trenches and planter beds adds beauty and environmental benefits, filtering runoff and reducing ponding.



*Sense of place along multi-use trail*



*Sense of place using landscaped gateway treatment*

Placemaking offers creative strategies to activate public spaces and support local businesses, including parklets, public art, “streateries,” and sidewalk cafes, as well as temporary events like block parties and farmers markets. Context-sensitive design helps placemaking reflect and strengthen community character, and working with community members ensures that initiatives have public support and meet local needs.



*Sense of place using public art*



*Incorporating sense of place into multi-use trail and landscaping*

A standardized wayfinding system enhances navigation and encourages walking and biking across the region. Wayfinding signage should be clear, branded locally, and strategically placed at key destinations to improve access to neighborhoods and employment centers. Accessible wayfinding elements, like tactile surfaces and directional indicators, should guide all users safely and effectively through the area.



*Sense of place using wayfinding*



**b. Implement Traffic Calming Measures to Promote Safe Speeds:**

A street's safety is closely tied to the speed of its fastest traveling vehicles, as higher motor vehicle speeds drastically reduce the likelihood of crash survival for those involved. For this reason, effective traffic calming is essential, especially in urban areas that prioritize a mix of transportation modes. The Northwest Arkansas Regional Vision Zero Safety Action Plan emphasizes actions to create safe speeds across the region, reinforcing the need for streets designed to encourage naturally lower speeds. Often, existing roadway designs, such as geometric features or signal timing, may result in prevailing speeds above the posted limits. In these cases, design interventions should be employed to align the actual speed with the intended safe speed.

The Institute of Traffic Engineers (ITE) outlines various traffic-calming measures, not all of which apply to every street, that can help lower speeds effectively. These include:

- **Narrowing travel lanes** to naturally slow motorist speeds
- **Introducing physical elements** like curb extensions, speed humps, cushions, raised crossings, and medians
- **Adding design features** such as on-street parking, trees, and planted areas for side friction
- **Minimizing the horizontal offset** between travel lanes and median curbs
- **Avoiding roadway banking** (super-elevation) in urban contexts
- **Removing shoulders where feasible in urban settings**, except for bicycle lanes
- **Reducing turning radii and redesigning high-speed** channelized right turns
- **Utilizing textured paving materials in crosswalks and intersections** to signal pedestrian presence
- **Properly positioning speed limit, warning, and advisory signage** to gradually reduce speeds near walkable areas

Narrowing roadways and travel lanes plays a particularly impactful role in setting comfortable driving speeds. When selecting a design speed range, designers should aim for the lower end of the range, maximizing safety for all street users and fostering a calmer, safer environment for everyone.



Visual narrowing using landscaped curb bulb outs. Channel is maintained for drainage.



Roundabout approach with median and splitter island, and street crossing



Visual narrowing of roadway using on-street bicycle lane with buffer and vertical separation

**c. Design Safe and Accessible Intersections for All Users:**

Intersections are high-conflict zones where vehicles intersect with vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists, increasing collision risks. Effective design reduces these conflicts by controlling speeds, enhancing visibility, and prioritizing safe crossing paths. Key strategies include smaller corner radii to slow turns, curb extensions to reduce crossing distances, and raised crosswalks to promote yielding compliance.

Bikeway and intersection design should focus on minimizing vehicle speeds, ensuring visibility, and separating vulnerable users. Maintaining continuous bike lanes at intersections minimizes exposure to motor vehicles, and high-turn volume intersections benefit from bicycle signals or phase separation to limit conflicts. Protected elements, such as bicycle boxes, colored pavement markings, and shared-lane markings, improve safety for cyclists.



*Street crossing at a signalized intersection*



*Sidewalks, separated bicycle lanes, and street crossing at a signalized intersection*

For low-volume streets, mini roundabouts, or traffic circles, calm traffic effectively and can incorporate landscaping or signage for neighborhood identity. Traffic control measures, like yield or stop signs, channel vehicles and reduce speeds, while truck aprons accommodate turning needs of larger vehicles without increasing speeds for smaller vehicles.



*Mini roundabout with public art in a residential area.*

**d. Enhance Street Crossings for Safe and Accessible Pedestrian Movement:**

Well-designed crosswalks are essential for creating pedestrian-friendly streets and promoting safe street crossings. Crosswalk design must prioritize the safety of all pedestrians, especially those with limited mobility or disabilities, ensuring accessible and stress-free crossings. Marked crosswalks define a clear, designated path for people walking and rolling at intersections, mid-block crossings, and high-volume driveways. Curb extensions enhance crosswalk safety by shortening the crossing distance, reducing pedestrian exposure to motor vehicles.

In school zones, crosswalk design should be a top priority, providing students and caregivers with safe, dependable routes to and from school. Special consideration should be given to signal timing and traffic calming measures in these areas, as younger students are more vulnerable and require low-stress, easily navigable crossings.

Raised crosswalks are effective for both traffic calming and improving motorist yielding behavior at intersections and mid-block crossings. By elevating the crosswalk, the transition between the sidewalk and street crossing is minimized, making crossings smoother and more visible. Transition aprons with pavement markings alert drivers to the grade change, further enhancing safety.



*Street crossing outside of a school at a signalized intersection*



*Street crossings with curb bulb outs at a signalized intersection.*



*Raised crosswalk at an unsignalized intersection.*

At locations where increased visibility, priority, or accessibility is needed—such as school zones or areas with trail and sidewalk-level bikeways—well-marked crossings ensure that all users, including people walking, rolling, biking, or using dock-less mobility vehicles, can cross with confidence and ease.



*Raised crosswalk at an unsignalized intersection*

**STRATEGY 3: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN CREATING INCLUSIVE, CONNECTED STREETS**

Complete Streets should ultimately serve the people who use and enjoy them, and creating a network that genuinely meets community needs requires meaningful engagement, trust-building, and sustained support.

The City of Pea Ridge should actively seek input directly from community members, ensuring diverse voices are heard through various public engagement and education events, such as city meetings, pop-up events, and street closure festivals. To foster a deeper connection with the community, the City should prioritize reaching out to all age groups—including preschoolers, school-aged children, teens, young adults, families, older adults, and seniors. Additionally, all user groups, such as cyclists, pedestrians, and drivers, should feel included and empowered to contribute. These community engagement efforts not only inform and educate the public on safe street strategies but also build trust by allowing community members to shape solutions that reflect their unique needs and values



Attendees at a closed street event



Visitors at a display table during a closed street event

**Action**

**a. Host Inclusive Street Design Workshops and Pop-Up Feedback Stations**

Organize hands-on street design workshops and set up pop-up feedback stations at popular community events, schools, and public spaces. These workshops and feedback stations should include youth-specific sessions at schools and community centers, allowing young residents to share their unique perspectives and ideas for safer, more inclusive streets.



Attendees at the Community Engagement

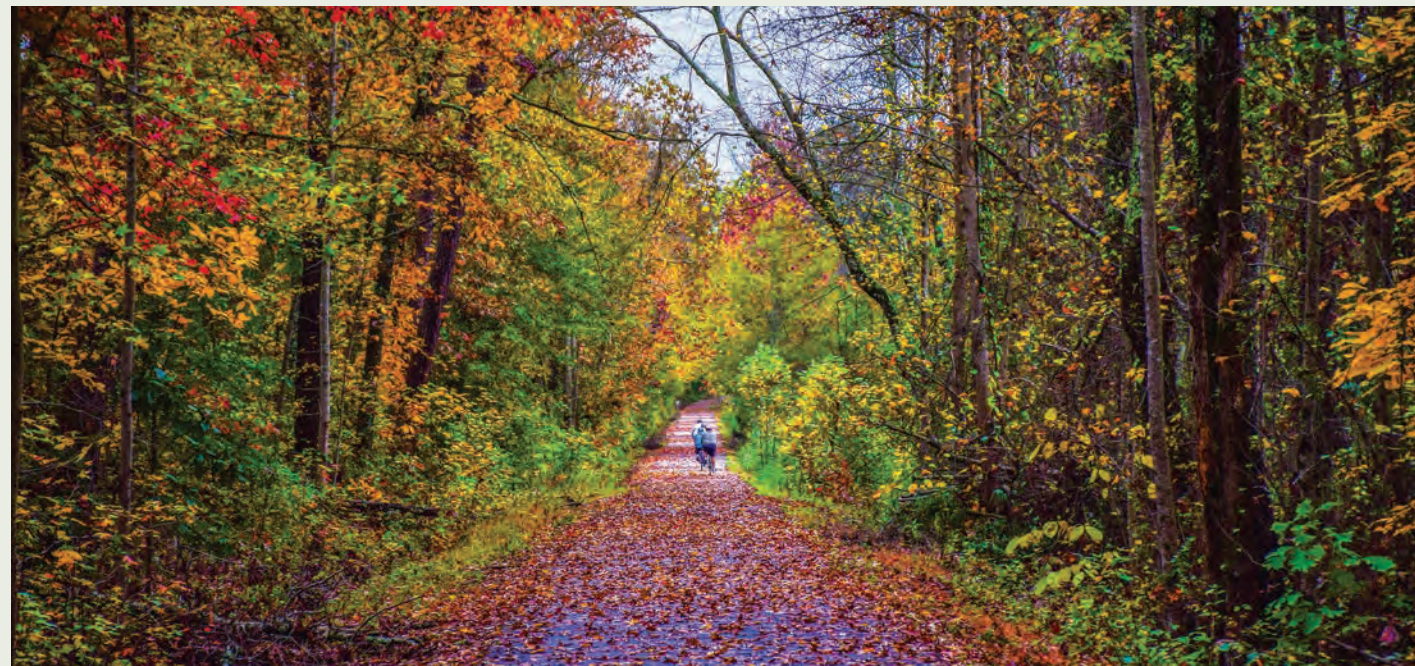
## CASE STUDY: SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL

### GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC

#### OVERVIEW

Greenville's Swamp Rabbit Trail shows how a trail can boost business, increase property values, and strengthen the community. Pea Ridge can use similar strategies—like using existing infrastructure, forming partnerships, and involving volunteers—to create a successful trail system, benefiting from its connection to the OZ Trails in Northwest Arkansas.

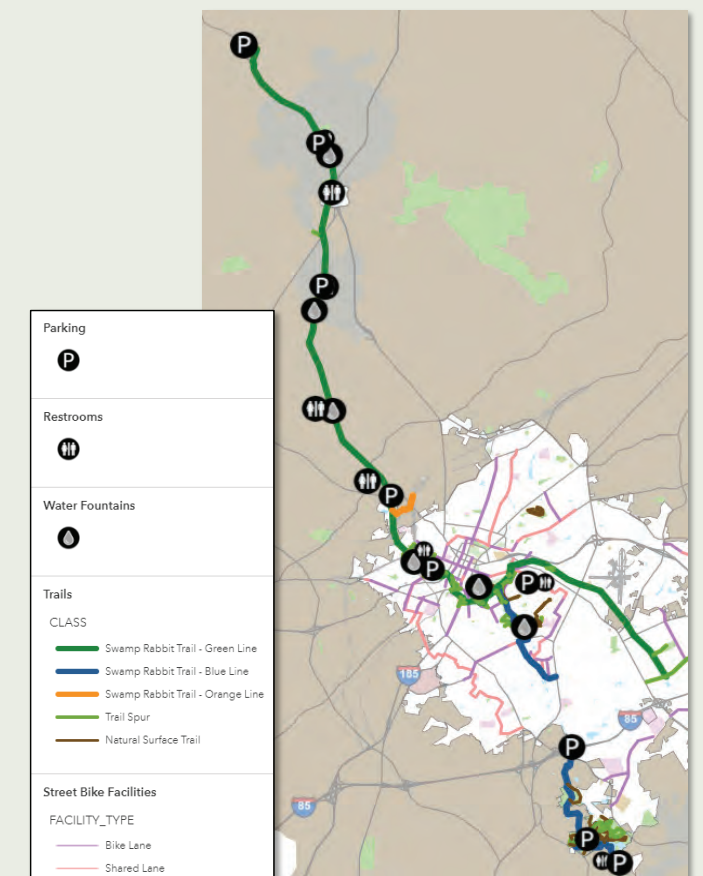
Greenville, like Pea Ridge, is a small, fast-growing community. The Swamp Rabbit Trail is an economic powerhouse for the region, driving significant local business growth and real estate appreciation. The innovative grassroots financing, including community involvement and public-private partnerships, offers a great model for Pea Ridge.



Swamp Rabbit Trail

The Swamp Rabbit Trail project cost approximately \$28 million in construction – about \$1 million per paved trail mile. This was funded primarily by the county and Prisma Health. With an operational cost of around \$1.2 million annually, the city covers most of the trail's operational and maintenance expenses, particularly through hospitality tax funds. The Swamp Rabbit Trail utilized existing infrastructure, diversified funding sources, and involved community volunteers in maintenance, strategies Pea Ridge could adopt to reduce costs and ensure long-term success. Pea Ridge also has a unique opportunity to tap into an extensive trail system in Northwest Arkansas through OZ Trails, leveraging its well-established infrastructure.

PROJECT DETAILS
<b>Location &amp; Context:</b> Located in Greenville, SC, home to around 37,000 households, with a median home value of \$439,000 and a median household income of about \$168,000
<b>Year Built:</b> 2009, with latest extension in 2023/2024
<b>Scale:</b> 28 Miles of Trails, with several branch trails
<b>Key Amenities/Features:</b> Mixed-use path (bike lane and shared lane), Restrooms, Parking, Water Fountains, Bridges
<b>Development &amp; Ownership Groups:</b> Greenville County
<b>Planning &amp; Design Team:</b> Studio Main; AECOM
<b>Initial Construction Budget:</b> \$2.7 million
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Responsibilities:</b> Greenville County Rec
<b>Annual Operations Budget:</b> ~\$1.2 million
<b>Relevance to Pea Ridge:</b> Explores increased connectivity



Swamp Rabbit Trail

RCLCO's work revealed a remarkable impact on both businesses, economic vitality, and residential values near the trail. Retail trade sales notably increased within a half mile of the trail, rising to \$78,000 per acre annually compared to around \$40,000 annual retail sales per acre one miles to two miles away from the trail. Median home values rose 37.4% within 0.5 miles outpacing Greenville's overall median home value growth of 15.6%.



## PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY

Ensure barrier-free, accessible pathways and amenities in all recreational spaces, catering to residents of all abilities. Emphasize Safe Routes to School and active transportation options, promoting safe and efficient walking and biking routes that connect residents to schools, parks, and community spaces.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

Accessibility is crucial for Pea Ridge, Arkansas, as it supports growth, safety, movement, and quality of life. By enabling easy access to essential services, connectivity empowers all residents—including those with limited mobility—to navigate the community independently. A well-connected town promotes local economic development, reduces traffic through walking and biking options, and enhances inclusivity for people of all ages and abilities.



Safe Streets are for Everyone

### STRATEGIES

To create a safer and more accessible Pea Ridge, Arkansas, strategic policies, accessible street designs, active community engagement, and clear project prioritization are essential. Policies that center on inclusivity and connectivity lay the groundwork for streets that are safe and accessible for all, from pedestrians and cyclists to people with disabilities. Accessible street designs that incorporate wider sidewalks, improved crossings, and dedicated bike lanes enable residents to move about safely and independently. Engaging the community in planning ensures that local voices shape development, fostering a shared sense of responsibility and support for accessibility initiatives. By prioritizing projects that enhance safety and accessibility, Pea Ridge can build a connected, welcoming environment that meets the needs of all its residents and visitors.

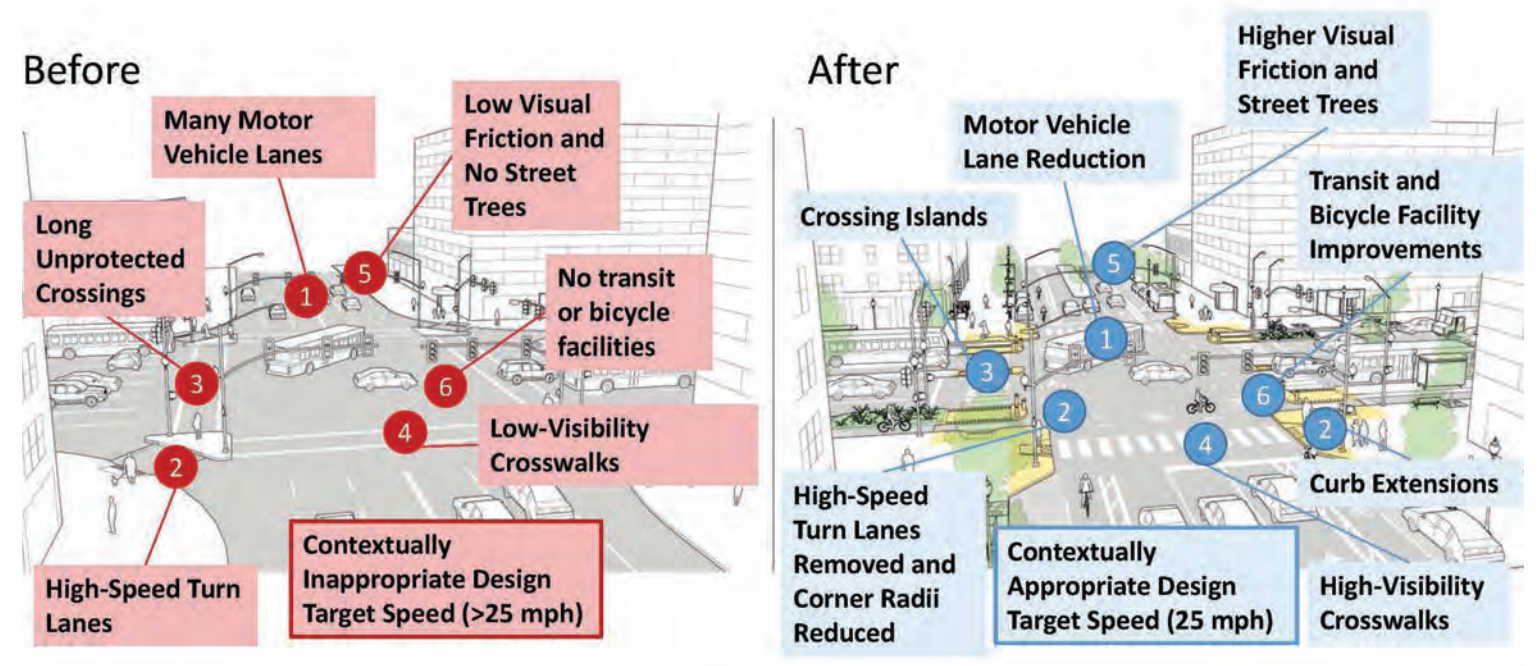
### STRATEGY 1: DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY POLICY FRAMEWORK

Establish a unified framework to enhance safety and accessibility by integrating Vision Zero, Complete Streets, and American with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance in Pea Ridge. This approach would align with NWARPC's Vision Zero Plan and the upcoming Complete Streets Guide, implementing measures such as crash safety audits, reduced pedestrian crossing distances, and prioritized pedestrian phases at intersections. Adopting Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) and creating an ADA Transition Plan would ensure that all public right-of-way projects meet accessibility standards, address existing barriers, and create a more inclusive, connected network for all users.

#### Actions

##### a. Adopt Vision Zero and Complete Streets Policies:

As stated under Enhance Connectivity, NWARPC has recently adopted the Northwest Arkansas Regional Vision Zero Plan and is currently developing the Regional Complete Streets Guide to further enhance connectivity, safety, and accessibility. Some actions within the Vision Zero Plan to meet these goals include conducting crash safety audits, reducing pedestrian crossing distances, closing gaps in bicycle and pedestrian networks, prioritizing pedestrian phases at signalized intersections, and enhancing access management strategies. These efforts align with NWARPC's commitment to making Northwest Arkansas a safer, more accessible place for all.



Identifying pedestrian safety problems and solutions. Source: NACTO

In the image above, the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) identifies key pedestrian safety issues and highlights solutions to improve street design for safer, more accessible walking environments. Their recommendations focus on measures like better crosswalk visibility, traffic calming, and protected pathways to reduce accidents and encourage walkability.

**b. Implement Public Right of Way Guidelines:**

Under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the City is required to provide accessible government services, including transportation in the public right of way. The current best practice for accessible design in the public right of ways is the Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines (PROWAG) from the U.S. Access Board. The city is recommended to adopt this best practice for all future construction work constructing new or altering existing pedestrian facilities within the public right of way.



*Family members with different abilities can still walk together*



*Safe and accessible street crossing*

**c. Establish ADA Transition Plan:**

An ADA Transition Plan policy is needed to ensure compliance with regulations that require accessible public facilities. The policy should include a self-evaluation to inventory physical barriers, an implementation plan outlining methods and schedules for improving accessibility, public involvement to inform and support the plan, and identification of a responsible person to oversee its execution. Implementing the ADA Transition Plan allows Pea Ridge to discover its non-compliant or missing gaps in the existing pedestrian transportation network, ensure all future construction is ADA compliant, and better plan and prioritize ADA remediation in public spaces.

**d. Safe Routes to School:**

The goals of the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program are to:

- Enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school;
- Make bicycling and walking to school safer and more appealing, fostering a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age; and
- Support projects and activities that improve safety, reduce traffic, cut fuel consumption, and lower air pollution around schools.

Initially, SRTS planning was focused on these goals, with projects designed to build consensus and identify actions for community-wide safety improvements. However, with funding now eligible through programs like the Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside and the Highway Safety Improvement Program, there is a risk that SRTS funds may be diverted to projects with unrelated goals, such as general infrastructure inventories or district-driven initiatives to reduce school bus services.



*Safe Routes to Schools encourages safe commuting in a walk train*

While SRTS can complement broader planning efforts, Pea Ridge’s SRTS projects should maintain a clear focus on creating safe walking and biking routes to school to avoid losing sight of primary goals. For example, **an infrastructure inventory covering all streets within a 1-mile radius** can generate excessive data, much of which may not impact safety or behavior meaningfully. Similarly, if reducing bus services is a goal, it should specifically address hazardous busing locations within realistic walking distances; otherwise, more parents may opt to drive, worsening safety for pedestrians and cyclists.

**STRATEGY 2: ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**

In the City of Pea Ridge, creating accessible public spaces and streets is essential to fostering an inclusive, walkable community where all residents can navigate safely and comfortably. Ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) through an Accessible Streets and Public Spaces Policy establishes ADA-compliant for pedestrian paths, curb ramps, and public right-of-way improvements. Accessible streets rely on well-designed circulation paths, clearly defined routes, strategically placed curb ramps, and safe, visible street crossings. By prioritizing accessibility across all public spaces, Pea Ridge supports residents and visitors of all abilities, enhancing mobility, connectivity, and overall quality of life throughout the city



*Sidewalk with obstructions*



*Accessible sidewalk with landscape buffer*



*Accessible pedestrian-friendly streetscape*



**Actions**

**a. Create Accessible Pedestrian Zones:**

All proposed improvements within the public right-of-way must comply with ADA to ensure accessible pedestrian zones for all users.

**ADA is a federal civil rights law** mandating accessible infrastructure for people with disabilities, and the recommended design criteria for accessible routes emphasize ease of movement and compliance:

- Minimum sidewalk width
- Turns in pedestrian paths
- Curb ramps at crossings



*Accessible pedestrian zone with landscape buffer and on street parking*



*Accessible pedestrian zone with grass buffer and plaza*

In established commercial and mixed-use areas, careful planning is necessary to integrate existing, outdated infrastructure like stoops, landings, and ramps. Upgrading these zones should retain essential elements, such as street trees and stormwater structures, where possible, while ensuring compliance with ADA requirements

Driveways should be level with pedestrian paths, providing a minimum clear width of 5 feet to eliminate vertical transitions and maintain a continuous, priority-driven pedestrian and bike route. Raised crossings at driveways further support protected bikeways by maintaining the sidewalk level. In high-volume areas, the bike lane may also be raised to the sidewalk grade to prevent frequent elevation changes. Clear sightlines, proper driveway widths, and stormwater drainage considerations should be incorporated into all driveway designs to preserve usability and comfort in pedestrian zones.



*Accessible sidewalk and separated bike lane at a driveway crossing*

**b. Enhance Intersection and Street Crossings:**

To prioritize safety and accessibility, intersections and street crossings in Pea Ridge should incorporate ADA-compliant curb ramps, as well as appropriate planning to install future traffic signals with accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and optimized pedestrian signal phasing.



*Curb ramps and pedestrian signals provide safe, accessible routes for each crossing direction*



*Streetscape with accessible curb ramps and street crossing*



*Accessible street crossing at an unsignalized intersection*



*Accessible street crossings at a signalized intersection*

ADA-compliant curb ramps are federally mandated at all intersections, mid-block crossings, and any locations with vertical elevation changes along pedestrian routes. These ramps enable independent travel for all people, including those with physical disabilities, and support people pushing strollers or towing luggage. Whenever possible, directional curb ramps should be used instead of diagonal ramps to improve navigability and provide clear guidance, particularly for people with low vision.

Pedestrian signal phasing aims to minimize exposure to motor vehicles, reduce waiting times, and improve accessibility, especially for people with disabilities. Phasing can be concurrent with vehicle signals, exclusive to pedestrians, or hybrid. Lead pedestrian intervals (3-7 seconds of advance crossing time before vehicles get a green light) increase pedestrian visibility and safety. Consistent phasing across jurisdictions is essential for network predictability

Accessible pedestrian signals (APS) enhance accessibility by providing non-visual timing cues, such as audible tones, verbal messages, and vibrating surfaces. These signals offer critical information, including the existence and location of push buttons, the start of the WALK interval, crosswalk direction, and curb location.

**Key design features** include:

- **Directional ramps** to enable pedestrian traffic to navigate grade transitions
- **Extended length and reduced slope** above minimum requirements for safer and easier access.
- **Wider ramp** widths that match the sidewalk's clear width, accommodating multiple users, especially at shared-use paths or sidewalk-level bikeways.

**Best practices for pedestrian signal timing** include:

- **Walking speed** of 3.5 feet per second to provide sufficient crossing time.
- **Protected-only** left turn phases and right-turn-on-red restrictions to protect pedestrians from turning vehicles.



*Accessible pedestrian signal button and signage*

**Placement of APS pushbuttons** is crucial for accessibility:

- **Placement should follow APS guideline** for specific distance from the edge of the curb, positioned between the curb ramp and crosswalk edge, on the side farthest from the intersection center.
- **Additional tactile information** such as street names in Braille or raised print further supports users with vision impairments.

**c. Install Accessible Amenities:**

Accessible street amenities, or street furniture, play a key role in creating comfortable, inclusive public spaces and include elements such as benches, trash and recycling receptacles, bollards, transit stops, shelters, and decorative planters.



**Seating:** Essential for all streets, seating options include chairs, benches, seat walls, steps, and raised planters, both temporary and permanent. Placement should consider adjacent land uses, shade from buildings or trees, buffering from traffic (e.g., parallel parking), and adequate amenity zone width.



**Trash and Recycling Receptacles:** These should be positioned at high-traffic areas and all transit stops to maintain cleanliness and support active public spaces.



**Additional Street Furniture:** Bollards, transit shelters, and planters enhance travel comfort and safety, with placement determined by site-specific needs and project goals. Ensuring these elements do not block sightlines is crucial.

Installed furnishings must ensure unobstructed pedestrian access to structures, vehicle doors, and fire hydrants, and should be durable, vandal-resistant, and accessible for maintenance personnel.



*Accessible streetscape with landscape, benches, and on street parking*

**b. Design Inclusive Playground:**

Consider opportunities to develop inclusive playground equipment and accessible surfaces at Pea Ridge City Park, Pea Ridge Memorial Park, and Given Park, to accommodate children with diverse abilities. This includes amenities such as sensory play panels, accessible swings, wheelchair-friendly ramps, and ground-level play components—ensures that children with diverse physical, sensory, and developmental abilities can play alongside their peers. Accessible surfaces, like rubberized flooring, provide safe, stable ground that supports mobility devices, allowing all children to engage safely and comfortably. This approach fosters an inclusive, community-oriented environment that encourages social interaction, play, and physical activity for children of all abilities.



*Inclusive playground*

**STRATEGY 3: INTRODUCE COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR SAFE, ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL**

Community engagement focused on prioritizing safety and accessibility for vulnerable road users should include education and encouragement programs for all ages, promoting safe walking and bicycling as community-wide habits. By normalizing these activities at all levels—from schools to neighborhood programs—everyone is encouraged to adopt safer and healthier travel practices, establishing walking and biking as everyday norms across the community.

Encouragement programs provide opportunities for families, seniors, and individuals to reconnect with the benefits of active transportation, using a "try-out" approach that aligns with social marketing theory: people are more likely to adopt new behaviors when they can experience them firsthand. Unlike some engineering solutions that require time to implement, these educational and engagement initiatives can begin immediately, making them effective first steps in community-wide Safe Routes programs.

For areas where walking and biking conditions are not yet fully safe, education is urgently needed to help reduce risks for those who walk or bike out of necessity. In safer areas where participation is low, community-wide encouragement programs can increase engagement across age groups, helping everyone from children to seniors gain the confidence to walk and bike more regularly.

These programs also emphasize broader benefits, such as improved health, reduced traffic congestion, and positive environmental impacts. Schools, community centers, and local organizations can collaborate to integrate these themes into public education efforts, ensuring safety, health, and accessibility for everyone in the community.

**Action**

**a. Launch a Community "Walk & Bike Day" Initiative**

Establish a regular "Walk & Bike Day" event where schools, community centers, and local businesses encourage residents to walk or bike to their destinations instead of driving. These events can include group walks or bike rides, safety workshops, and demonstrations on safe pedestrian and cycling practices.



*Safety demonstration including young users*



*Educating young users on the rules of the road*





## PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES

Create a balance of active and passive recreational spaces, including athletic venues, playgrounds, walking paths, and lifestyle sports facilities, to accommodate a wide range of interests. Ensure these spaces are connected by accessible, safe routes for walking and biking.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

Providing diverse recreational spaces is essential to meeting the varied needs and interests of Pea Ridge's growing community. A well-rounded parks system offers opportunities for physical activity, relaxation, social interaction, and connection with nature, ensuring that residents of all ages and abilities can find activities that resonate with them. By creating spaces that range from active sports facilities to peaceful areas for quiet reflection, the City can enhance the quality of life for its residents and foster a sense of community. Equitable access to these recreational opportunities is key, as it ensures that every neighborhood, regardless of its location, has access to well-designed, safe, and inclusive parks.

### STRATEGY 1: PURSUE STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION FOR PARKS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION

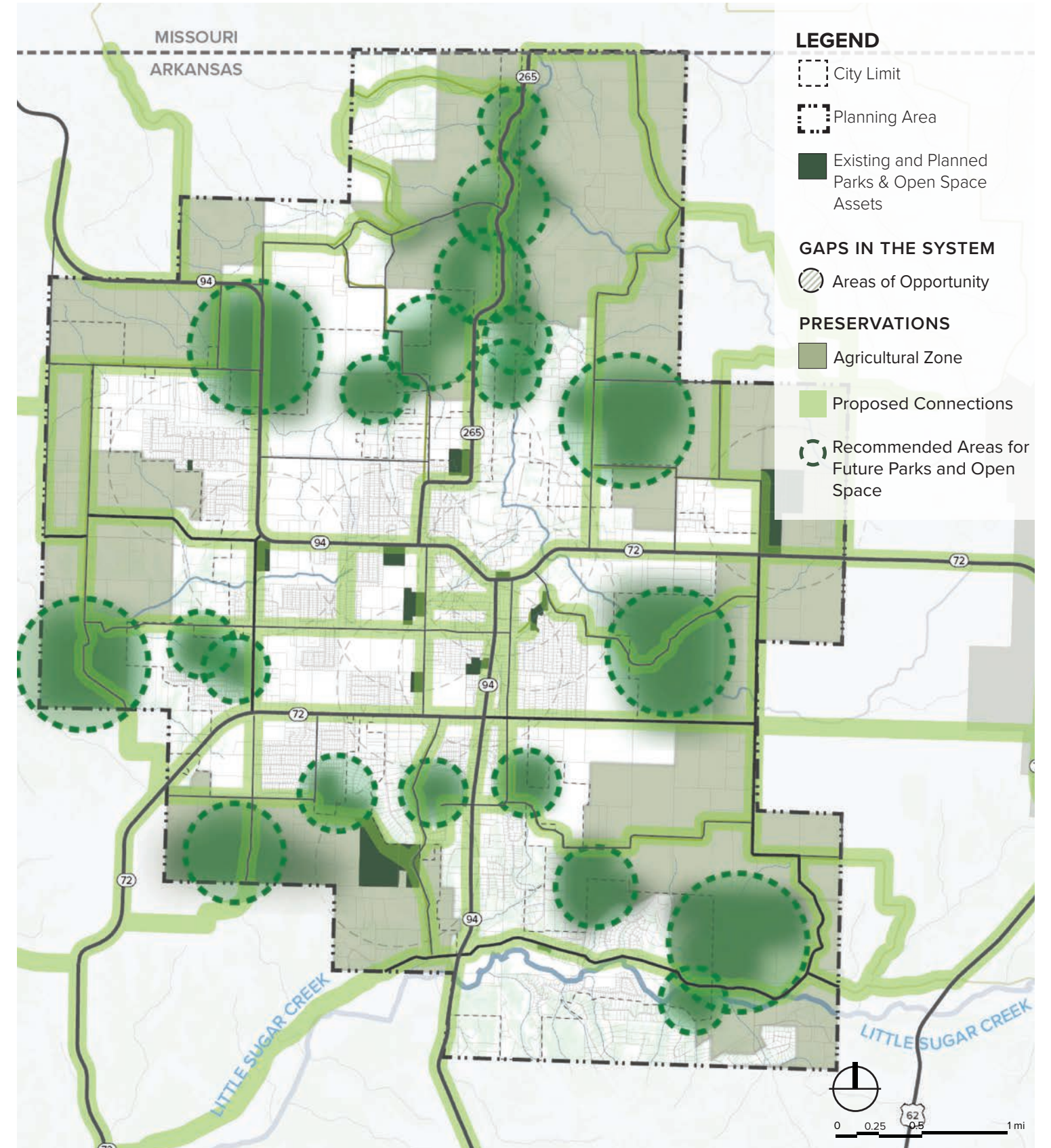
Expanding parkland through strategic land acquisition or securing land use rights in under-served areas is essential to ensuring equitable access to open spaces and recreational facilities for all Pea Ridge residents.

Targeting high-growth areas and neighborhoods lacking green spaces to ensure that all residents, regardless of location, have nearby parks for recreation and leisure. By prioritizing land purchases in these identified zones, Pea Ridge can create new parks and open spaces that meet the community's needs while preserving natural areas and promoting sustainable growth. Securing additional land also provides opportunities to build new parks that are responsive to future growth and population shifts.

#### Actions

**a. Gap Analysis for Land Needs:** In response to a gap analysis, Pea Ridge should prioritize under-served areas locations for parkland and open space preservation.

By overlaying key functions of the city - land use, circulation, development patterns, and natural features - gaps in the overall parks and open space network are realized. The diagram to the right exemplifies areas within the Pea Ridge Planning Area Boundary that are under-serving the adjacent residents. The large, dashed circles represent an approximate target area for the City for increase park space and/or preserve open space. The Recommended Areas for Future Parks and Open Space are imperative to target recreational (active and passive) development prior to increasing more residential subdivision development. Once land is developed, it rarely ever can become parkland or its original, natural quality.



Opportunities for parks development and expansion

The lighter green around the edge of the Planning Area Boundary - Agricultural Zone - are highlighted to conserve agricultural land to maintain open space and historic Pea Ridge character. While there are 'gaps' noticeable in the agricultural zone, there is not additional infill shown as it is very rare to bring a developed parcel back to agricultural purposes or natural open space. This is further discussed in the Preserve Cultural and Natural Heritage strategy.

Both of these parts - parks and open space - make up a complete parks and open space system for the City of Pea Ridge. They are both equally important. What brings the system together are the corridors of connectivity - Proposed Connections. These connections are linear and can take the form of walking, biking, or vehicular pathways that allow a resident to get from one location to another in a safe and timely manner. The corridors provide the connection between parks and accessible open space for all residents and visitors to access all that Pea Ridge has to offer.

**b. Collaborate for Land Opportunities:** Consider opportunities to partner with NWA Land Trust, other conservation groups, and private owners to secure land for recreational use through purchases, donations, or conservation easements. These collaborations often involve formal agreements where conservation groups help identify and negotiate with landowners, sometimes providing funding or grants to support acquisition. This approach enables the City to expand its park network while preserving valuable natural spaces.

By overlaying multiple layers—growth patterns indicating areas where higher density is expected, the existing built environment and framework, walkability gaps, and sensitive preservation zones such as floodplains, tree canopy areas, and agricultural buffers—a clearer picture of opportunities for park and open space development begins to emerge.

This comprehensive approach allowed the process to identify specific locations where new parks and green spaces would be most beneficial, both for recreation and conservation. Areas with anticipated population growth can be prioritized for park access, ensuring that new developments have nearby green spaces. At the same time, preservation of sensitive areas, like floodplains and heavily canopied regions, protects valuable ecological assets and maintains Pea Ridge's natural character.

This layered analysis highlights ideal sites for land acquisition and development, ensuring that parks and open spaces support both the city's growth and its commitment to environmental stewardship and accessibility.

## STRATEGY 2: ENSURE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO RECREATION SPACES

Develop parks that serve a wide range of recreational activities, including sports fields, playgrounds, walking trails, and open green spaces for unstructured activities.

Developing multi-use facilities is crucial for maximizing the functionality and appeal of Pea Ridge's parks. These parks would offer a range of recreational opportunities, from sports fields and playgrounds to walking trails and green spaces for unstructured activities. Multi-use parks allow different user groups to enjoy the same space, fostering social interaction while providing various options for active and passive recreation.

### Actions

**a. Align with Nationally Recognized Recreational and Park Guidelines and Best Practices:** Leverage National Recreational and Park Association (NRPA) and similar best practices and guidelines to assess and plan facility types appropriate for Pea Ridge's size and growth projections, ensuring new spaces meet community needs and can serve multiple purposes as demand evolves.

**b. Expand Neighborhood and Pocket Parks:** Prioritize the development of neighborhood and pocket parks in under-served areas to provide equitable access to recreational spaces within walking distance for all residents, particularly those in outlying neighborhoods.

**c. Create Flexible, Multi-Purpose Spaces:** Design new parks with adaptable facilities that can accommodate a variety of uses—such as community gardens, sports, events, and passive recreation—to maximize utility and appeal to a wide range of residents.



*Neighborhood park with playground equipment*



*Park with community gardens and playground equipment*

**STRATEGY 3: INCORPORATE PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS**

Creating passive recreation areas within parks provides spaces for residents seeking quieter, low-impact activities like birdwatching, reading, and picnicking. These areas should include shaded spaces, benches, and peaceful environments where people can relax and enjoy nature without engaging in strenuous activities.

By including these spaces in Pea Ridge parks, the City can appeal to individuals who may not participate in active sports but still value outdoor experiences. Passive recreation areas enhance the diversity of offerings in the parks system, contributing to the overall inclusivity and appeal of the parks.

**Actions**

**a. Integrate Passive Recreation into Existing Parks:** Identify spaces within current parks such as Pea Ridge City Park and Given Park, where passive recreational elements—such as seating areas, natural walking paths, or shaded spots—can be incorporated to enhance nature-based activities without requiring large land expansions.



*Viewing platform for passive recreation*

**b. Install Viewing Platforms and Wildlife Observation Points:** Place platforms or viewing areas near natural habitats to facilitate birdwatching and wildlife observation. Consider adding binocular stands, informational panels, and seating to enhance the experience for nature enthusiasts. These accessible observation points would allow visitors to engage with Pea Ridge's natural landscape while celebrating the city's agricultural identity and character. By showcasing native plants, wildlife, and views of surrounding farmland, these areas reinforce Pea Ridge's rural heritage and offer a peaceful retreat within the park.



*Viewing platforms for passive recreation*

**c. Implement Sensory Gardens and Trails:** Create sensory trails or garden areas featuring plants with diverse textures, scents, and colors, enhancing the experience for visitors, including those with disabilities. Include interpretive signs to highlight the sensory attributes and ecological benefits of each plant species. These spaces encourage exploration and engagement with nature for visitors of all ages and abilities, offering both recreational and therapeutic benefits.



*Sensory garden with paths and seating areas*



**d. Develop Seasonal Programming for Passive Areas:** Offer seasonal events, such as birdwatching tours, star-gazing nights, or botanical walks, to promote passive recreation. These events can enhance community engagement and provide educational opportunities for all ages. By organizing activities that showcase different aspects of the natural environment year-round, Pea Ridge can encourage residents to experience and enjoy local parks in diverse ways. These programs also create accessible opportunities for community groups and families to gather and learn in an informal outdoor setting.

**STRATEGY 4: DESIGNATE SPECIALIZED RECREATION ZONES**

Incorporating specialized recreation zones caters to diverse interests by offering facilities for lifestyle sports such as bouldering, skate parks, disc golf, and pump tracks. These areas not only provide opportunities for physical activity but also serve as social hubs for teens and young adults to meet friends and engage in positive, recreational experiences.

**Actions**

**1. Continue Community Input and Market Research:** Conduct surveys and research to identify recreational activities that residents would like to see in specialized zones, ensuring that new facilities reflect community interests and preferences. Additionally, consider funding requirements not only for developing these amenities but also for their long-term operations and maintenance to ensure their sustainability.



Community engagement workshop

**2. Leverage NRPA Guidelines for Specialized Activities:** Consult National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidelines to identify popular specialized activities for communities of similar size, such as climbing walls or outdoor fitness zones, helping to create facilities that best serve Pea Ridge’s demographics and recreational trends. Include planning for funding that supports both initial construction and ongoing maintenance, ensuring these amenities remain accessible and well-maintained for the long term. Drawing from nationwide benchmarks and trends, potential activities that align with Pea Ridge’s size and population diversity, the list below identifies options that fit best the community.

Target Recommendations:

**LOWER INVESTMENT**

**Nature Trails and Walking Paths**

Simple, unpaved paths require minimal upkeep and are accessible for all ages.

**Community Garden**

Basic setup with individual plots; community members typically maintain their own plots, keeping maintenance low.

**Disc Golf Course**

Primarily needs clearings and simple signage; low-cost and limited upkeep.

**Pickleball Courts**

Simple to set up with a hard surface, nets, and court lines, and they require minimal upkeep beyond occasional surface cleaning and line repainting.

**Outdoor Basketball Courts**

Hard surface and simple hoops; repainting and occasional surface maintenance needed.

**Fishing Pier or Pond Access**

Basic dock or access point; minimal upkeep if natural shoreline is used.

**MODERATE INVESTMENT**

**Archery Range** - Requires target setup and designated area; moderate maintenance for target replacement and safety monitoring.

**Outdoor Fitness Zones** - Basic exercise stations; equipment is durable, though occasional inspection and repairs are necessary.

**Skatepark** - Small-scale ramps and rails; moderate maintenance to keep surfaces safe and clean.

**Pump Track or BMX Track** - Built with dirt or asphalt for bikes and scooters; requires periodic inspection and track maintenance.

**HIGHER INVESTMENT**

**Amphitheater or Outdoor Performance Space** - Seating and stage area; requires setup and seasonal maintenance, especially if electronics or lighting are involved.

**Community Climbing Wall (Outdoor or Indoor)** - Climbing holds and safety equipment need regular checks; high installation cost with ongoing inspections for safety.

**STRATEGY 5: ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES SUFFICIENT AND ADEQUATE GREEN SPACE**

To support Pea Ridge’s growth while maintaining quality recreational access, it’s essential that all new developments incorporate sufficient and diverse green spaces. By setting standards that include both active and passive recreation options, the City can ensure that new projects contribute meaningfully to the community’s open space network. These green spaces should not only meet minimum requirements but also promote connectivity, accessibility, and long-term maintenance.

**Actions:**

**a. Establish Green Space Requirements and Standards:** Update development codes to mandate minimum green space in all new residential, commercial, and mixed-use projects. Standards should specify options for both active and passive recreation, ensuring that green spaces meet community needs for playgrounds, shaded seating, walking paths, and diverse recreational opportunities.

**b. Incentivize Enhanced Green Space and Connectivity:** Encourage developers to exceed basic green space standards by offering incentives like density bonuses for projects that incorporate trails, athletic courts, community gardens, and direct connections to Pea Ridge’s recreational network.



*Neighborhood with paths and gardens*



*Walking path along gardens in neighborhood*

**STRATEGY 6: ENHANCE PARK PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Expand and diversify accessible recreational programming in Pea Ridge’s parks to meet community needs and maximize resources through partnerships with local organizations and schools.

**Actions**

**a. Provide a Range of Affordable Recreation Opportunities:** Balance traditional sports like soccer and baseball with lifestyle activities like disc golf, archery, and hiking. Current initiatives, including The Garage youth space, bike safety classes, and Arkansas Game and Fish programs, offer low-cost options that align with National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) guidance and recommendations for diverse, accessible recreation.



Source: 2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review

**b. Identify, Establish and Enhance Partnerships:** Expand collaborations with Arkansas Game and Fish, PedalKids, and other organizations to introduce after-school programs, summer camps, and outdoor events. Partnering with local businesses and nonprofits can also provide sponsorships and resources to support park programming.

**c. Continue and Enhance Collaboration with Pea Ridge School District For Joint-Use Spaces:** Establish joint-use agreements with schools to allow community access to playgrounds and sports fields outside school hours, optimizing existing facilities for public recreation and ensuring safe, accessible spaces for all.

**CASE STUDY: LEGACY PARK**

ALACHUA, FL

**OVERVIEW**

Pea Ridge can draw inspiration from Alachua, FL, where Legacy Park—a 105-acre community space—has thrived through a flexible, needs-based approach, adapting to serve local demands as they evolve. This model has boosted community engagement, raised nearby property values, and maintained low operational costs by involving local volunteers. By adopting similar strategies, Pea Ridge can create adaptable, community-centered park spaces that grow in line with residents' needs.

Alachua, FL, a small town comparable to Pea Ridge, houses Legacy Park - a **105 acres park** that includes a multipurpose center, sports fields, playgrounds, and walking trails. Legacy Park’s master plan was implemented with a flexible, needs-based approach. This adaptive strategy has allowed the park to respond to community needs, fostering greater community engagement over the years as development progresses. Pea Ridge could adopt a similar approach to ensure that its facilities and programs evolve in line with community preferences and meet the needs of a growing population.

RCLCO’s study found that property values within a **one-mile radius exhibited a 13.2% higher total growth and a 1.4% increase in average annual growth** compared to the broader city. Moreover, within the one-mile radius of Legacy Park, **property values saw a 48.1% higher total growth** after the park’s establishment compared to before.

Revenue generated is reinvested into parks and recreation, fueling ongoing growth and development. Impressively, annual operational costs are kept under \$40,000. Legacy Park partners closely with volunteers, vetted by the City of Alachua Recreation Department, to offer over ten weekly programs across their facilities. Similarly, Pea Ridge could motivate local volunteers to assist with park maintenance, lowering ongoing operational expenses.



Legacy Park Aerial View. Source: How 1 Tech, LLC.



## PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE

Focus on conserving open spaces, preserving the agricultural character, and integrating cultural assets, such as historical sites and community gardens. This will enhance Pea Ridge's sense of place and ensure that recreational spaces contribute to the town's cultural identity and environmental sustainability.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

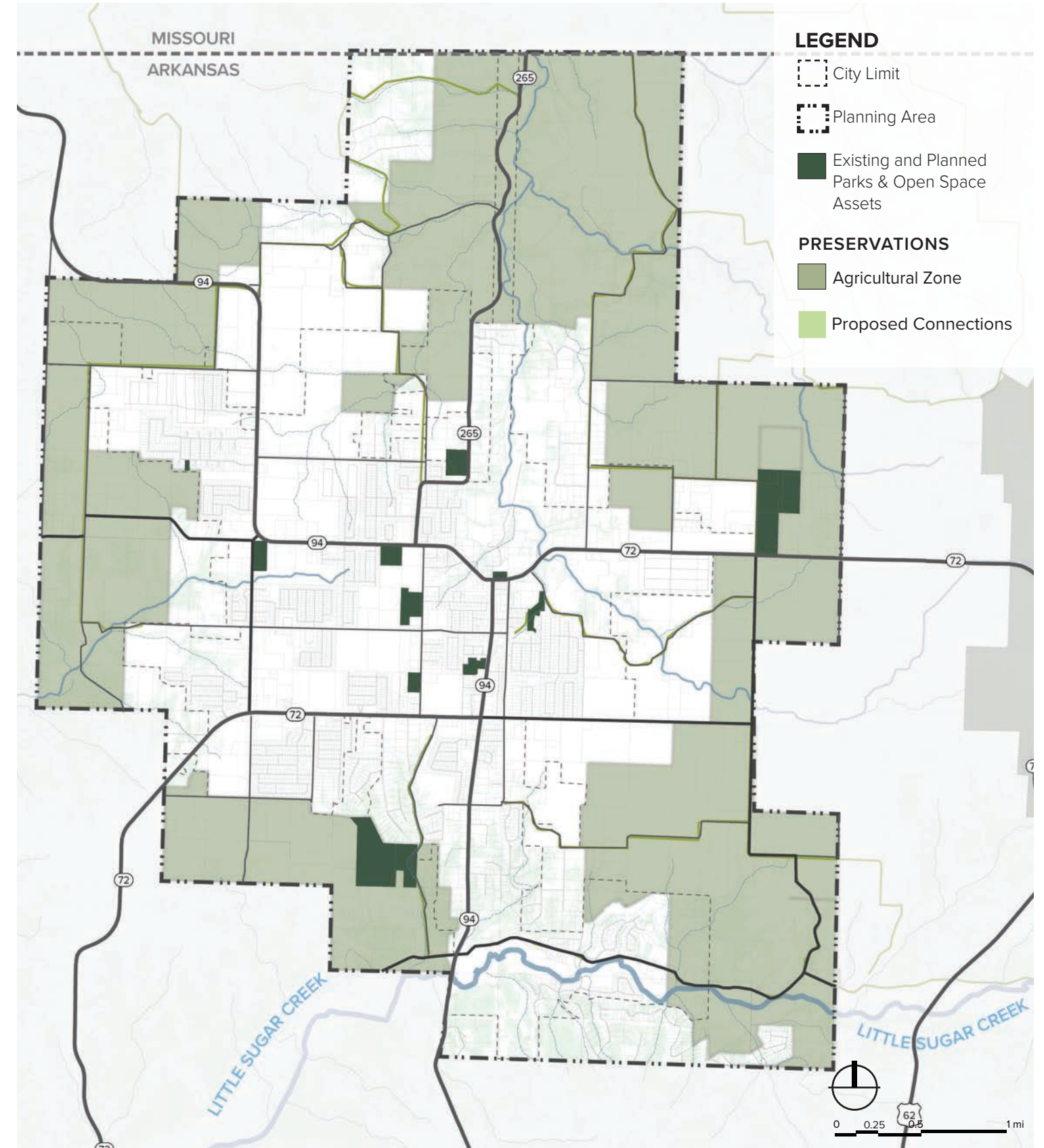
Preserving cultural and natural heritage is vital for maintaining the unique identity and environmental integrity of Pea Ridge as the community grows. By protecting agricultural lands and conserving natural ecosystems, the City can honor its historical roots while ensuring that future generations continue to benefit from the richness of its landscape. Preserving these assets fosters sustainable growth by integrating conservation into Pea Ridge's future growth. This focus on heritage and environmental stewardship leads to the development of key strategies to protect agricultural land, conserve the tree canopy, and manage floodplains within the parks and open space system.

### STRATEGY 1: PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND TO PRESERVE PEA RIDGE'S RURAL CHARACTER AND HERITAGE

Preserving agricultural land is vital to maintaining Pea Ridge's rural character, heritage, and long-term sustainability.

#### Actions

**a. Adopt Agricultural Land Use Policies with Agricultural Buffers:** Establish land use policies and guidelines that limit non-agricultural development on designated farmland and create agricultural buffer zones to separate farmland from urban areas, helping to maintain Pea Ridge's rural character and protect farming operations. As shown in the exhibit to the right, the agricultural buffer is highlighted to indicate areas where development should be limited to prevent sprawl and support long-term agricultural use.



Agricultural Buffer

**b. Promote Agricultural Easements:** Partner with land trusts and property owners to establish easements that protect agricultural land from development, preserving open space and agricultural heritage for future generations.



Field North of Little Sugar Creek

## CASE STUDY: JEFFERSON COUNTY OPEN SPACE COLORADO

### OVERVIEW

JeffCo Open Space near Denver, which preserves over 57,000 acres to protect natural resources and increase property values, provides a valuable model for Pea Ridge. Supported by a dedicated sales tax and strategic land acquisitions, JeffCo has boosted nearby property values while maintaining open spaces. A similar approach in Pea Ridge could enhance its scenic landscapes, support sustainable growth, and protect its rural character.

JeffCo Open Space preserves over **57,000 acres of land** just 20 minutes west of Denver. This extensive land conservation effort includes more than **27 regional parks and over 270 miles of trails**, offering a wide range of outdoor activities for residents and visitors while protecting critical natural resources and wildlife habitats.

Jeffco Open Space's land preservation and park development projects are funded through a variety of sources, with the primary one being a **half-cent sales tax** that was established in 1972, the year Jeffco Open Space was established. Jeffco Open Space engages in land acquisitions primarily from profiled families willing to sell or donate their properties for conservation. These transactions are often motivated by the landowners' desire to preserve natural spaces, otherwise, Jeffco Open Space commits to paying fair market value. Moreover, Jeffco Open Space is involved in several land exchanges as a strategy to expand its conservation efforts.



Jefferson County expansive preserved land



Jefferson County recreation trails

Average residential values near one of the newest preservation areas are about \$810,000, much higher than county averages; price appreciation near the area was 7.3% compared to 4.9% county-wide. The increase in average property value within a two-mile radius of the park, as compared to the rest of Jefferson County, supports that proximity to open space developments like Jeffco Open Space have a positive impact on residential property market value, supporting the case for continued community investment, especially in a fast-growing and naturally scenic region like Northwest Arkansas.

**STRATEGY 2: CONSERVE THE TREE CANOPY TO PREVENT EROSION, STABILIZE SOILS, AND SUPPORT WILDLIFE**

In Pea Ridge, protecting tree canopy is crucial, especially in sensitive areas like riparian corridors and floodplains, to sustain these benefits.

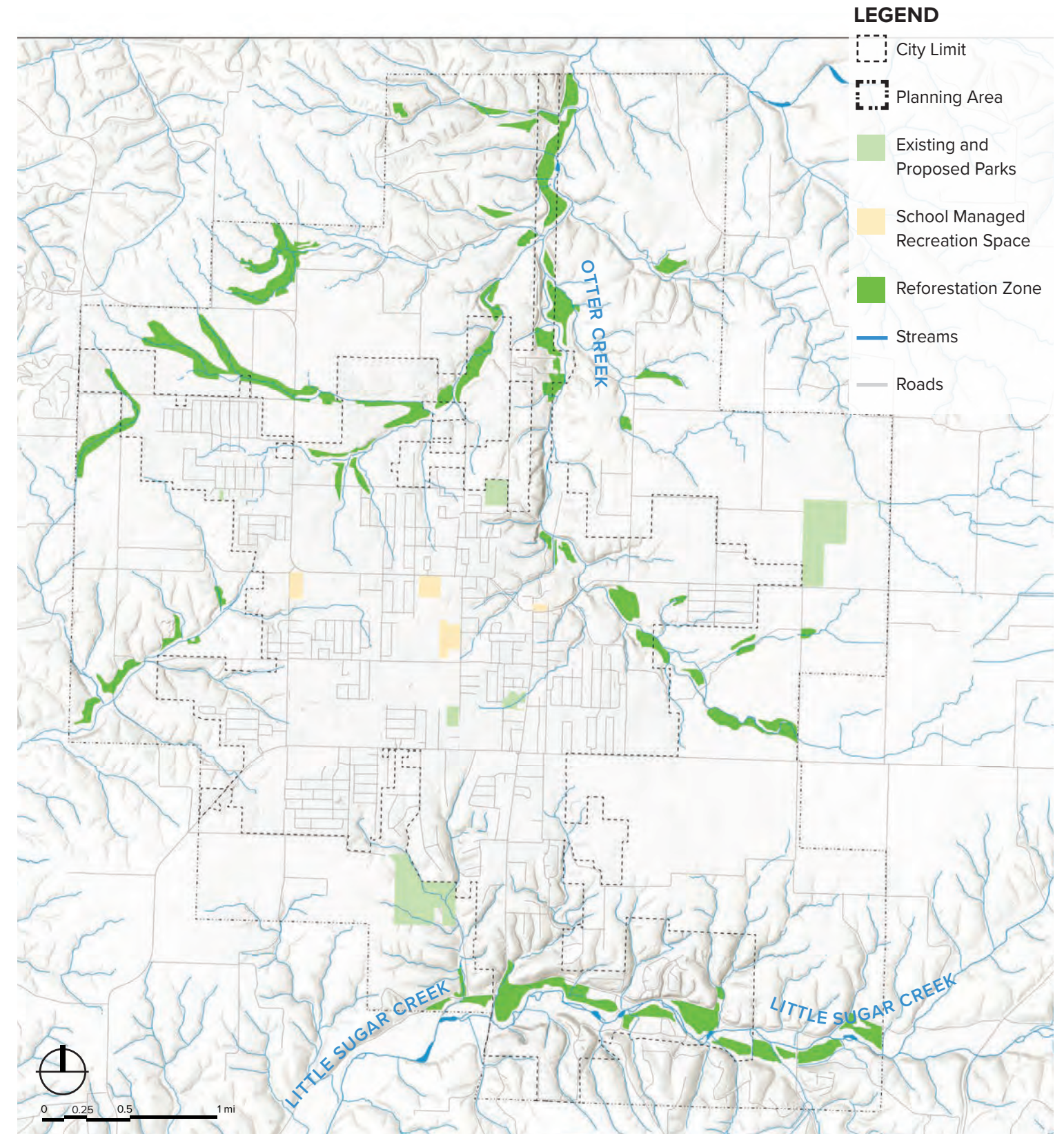
**Actions**

**a. Protect Key Tree Canopy Areas:** Prioritize conservation of tree canopies along Little Sugar Creek, Spanker Creek, and Big Sugar Creek, as identified in the assessment, to stabilize soils, reduce erosion, and enhance habitat quality. Implement protective ordinances and buffer zones to limit development and safeguard these ecologically sensitive areas. Adopt tree protection and preservation measures to create a Tree Preservation and Protection Manual that establishes clear standards, encouraging both the conservation of existing tree canopy and expansion in previously disturbed sites.

**b. Re-vegetate Riparian Zones:** Focus on re-vegetating areas along Big Sugar Creek’s tributaries, which currently lack a sufficient tree canopy to serve as an effective buffer. Planting native trees and riparian vegetation will stabilize banks, reduce sedimentation, and create continuous habitat corridors. Educate and coordinate with property owners to strengthen and connect existing tree canopy patches through reforestation initiatives, establishing an interconnected tree canopy that supports ecological health and resilience.



*Vegetated creek*



*Reforestation Zones*

## TREE PRESERVATION

Trees and their canopies are vital for environmental health and human well-being, offering ecological, social, and economic benefits. They filter air, support biodiversity, and regulate water and temperature cycles. In urban areas, trees mitigate challenges like the urban heat island effect and stormwater runoff while enhancing community spaces and mental health. To protect these benefits, cities must prioritize tree preservation through comprehensive planning and regulations, especially in sensitive areas like riparian corridors and floodplains.

### ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL BENEFITS OF TREES



Trees provide essential ecological benefits that support life by absorbing carbon dioxide and pollutants, releasing oxygen, and enhancing air quality. In urban areas, they offer shade, reduce the urban heat island effect, conserve energy by lowering air conditioning needs, and support biodiversity by providing habitats for various species. Additionally, trees stabilize soil, manage stormwater, and improve water quality, aiding in erosion prevention. Beyond environmental functions, trees enhance mental health, encourage outdoor activity, and foster community, making green spaces vital for sustainable, vibrant cities. These benefits underscore the importance of proactive tree protection, especially in high-development areas.

### TREE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION PRACTICES



To safeguard this essential resource, municipalities should adopt comprehensive tree protection measures. A Tree Preservation and Protection Manual can establish standards, especially in high-development areas, by outlining pre-development tree inventories, invasive species control, construction protections, and mitigation requirements. It can also guide alternative compliance measures and legal tools like conservation easements for long-term tree protection.

### REGULATORY EXAMPLES IN THE MIDWEST



Many Midwest municipalities have enacted regulations to protect riparian tree cover. Kansas City, Missouri, enforces a Stream Buffer Ordinance with a 100-foot buffer zone to protect water quality and native vegetation. Columbus, Ohio, requires riparian setbacks based on watercourse size to prevent erosion and maintain habitats. Similarly, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, has a Riparian Corridor Overlay Zone restricting development within 75 feet of water bodies to preserve ecological integrity. These codes protect riparian zones through setbacks and development restrictions, promoting long-term environmental sustainability.

### LOCAL AND REGIONAL APPLICATIONS



In Fayetteville, Arkansas, Streamside Protection Zones safeguard riparian buffers with a 25-foot Waterside Zone from the stream bank and an additional 25-foot Management Zone, extending to the FEMA floodway if overlapped. By preserving riparian tree canopies, Fayetteville mitigates flooding, improves stormwater management, and supports environmental resilience, demonstrating how local regulations can balance development with natural resource conservation.

### THE ROLE OF TREES IN RIPARIAN CORRIDORS



Trees in riparian corridors are particularly important for flood mitigation, controlling stream migration, and regulating water temperature. Their deep root systems stabilize stream banks, reducing erosion and controlling the movement of water during periods of high flow. Trees also absorb excess water and dissipate the energy of floodwaters, thereby decreasing the severity of downstream flooding. Moreover, tree canopies provide crucial shade, helping to lower water temperatures, which benefits temperature-sensitive aquatic species like fish and macroinvertebrates. This combination of flood risk mitigation and habitat preservation enhances the overall resilience of riparian ecosystems. Removing invasive species and introducing native plants in riparian buffer zones is critical for maintaining soil stability, supporting biodiversity, and creating healthier ecosystems. Native vegetation not only anchors soil more effectively but also supports local wildlife by providing appropriate food sources and habitat. Furthermore, ensuring that buffer zones are designed with proper interfacing for recreational access helps communities enjoy natural areas without compromising the ecological integrity of floodplains.

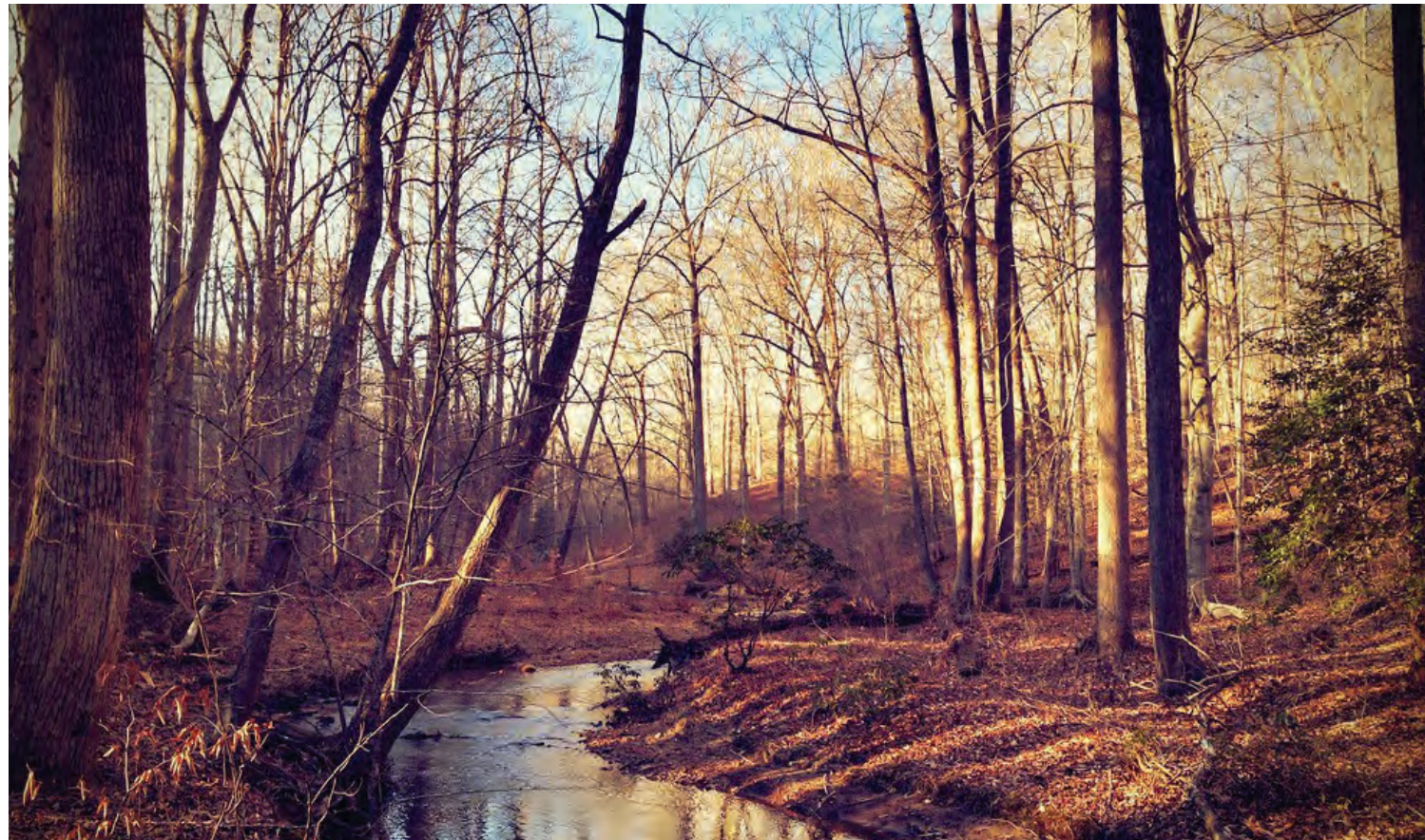
In summary, trees and their canopies play a fundamental role in environmental and human health, providing essential services such as air filtration, temperature regulation, and flood mitigation. Comprehensive tree preservation practices, supported by well-designed regulations and manuals, are necessary to ensure that urban development does not come at the cost of these vital resources. Municipalities that implement thoughtful policies—such as riparian buffer zones, invasive species control, and the integration of native vegetation—can maintain the health of ecosystems while enhancing quality of life for their residents. By protecting trees, particularly in sensitive areas like floodplains, cities can promote long-term sustainability and resilience.

**STRATEGY 3: IMPLEMENT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS AND PROTECT NATURAL WATERWAYS**

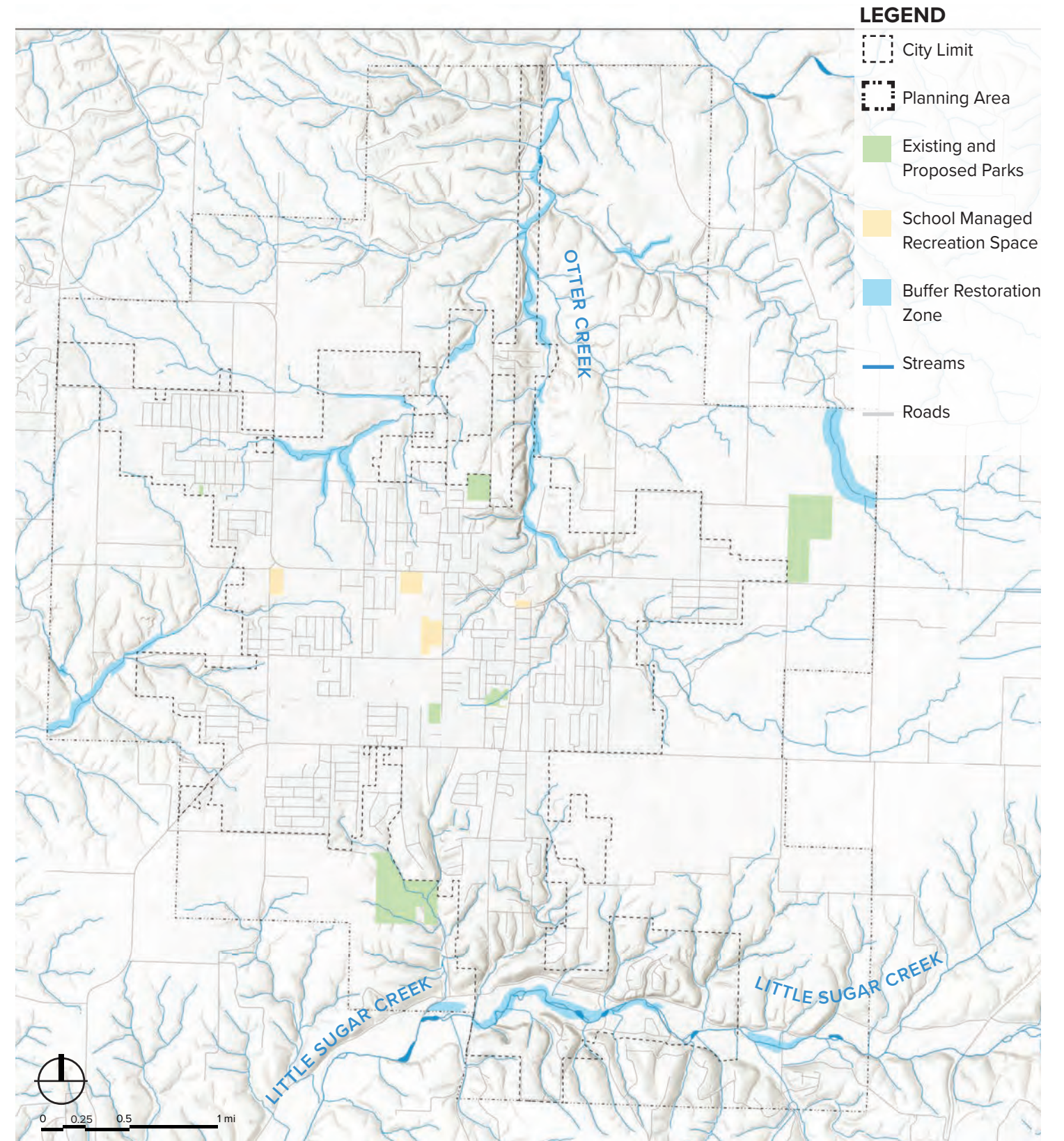
Preserving natural vegetation in floodplains, particularly trees, is essential for managing floodwaters and protecting water quality. Vegetated floodplains act as natural buffers, reducing water velocity, promoting groundwater infiltration, and filtering out pollutants. Both FEMA and NRCS emphasize the need to maintain these areas intact to prevent flood-related damage, while the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) advocates for riparian buffer conservation.

**Actions**

- a. Adopt Stream Buffer Ordinances and Streamside Protection Zones:** Establish ordinances requiring minimum vegetated buffer widths along designated waterways, with special protection zones for high-value areas like Little Sugar Creek. These buffers will restrict certain development types and activities within set distances from the creek, preserving natural vegetation, reducing erosion, and protecting water quality.
- b. Enhance Riparian Corridors through Reforestation and Vegetation:** Improve riparian zones by reforestation and re-vegetating buffer areas along streams and creeks, helping to stabilize soils, reduce sedimentation, and improve habitat for biodiversity. These efforts will bolster floodplain resilience and create a continuous, ecologically healthy corridor.



*Creek with buffer ordinances to protect waterways*



*Buffer Restoration Zones*



## FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT

In floodplains, preserving natural vegetative cover, particularly trees, is crucial for maintaining the area's ability to manage floodwaters effectively. Vegetated floodplains act as **natural buffers, reducing water velocity, promoting groundwater infiltration, and filtering out sediments and pollutants before they enter waterways**. Both the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) stress the importance of keeping floodplains intact with natural vegetation to prevent flood-related damage. In Arkansas, the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) advocates best practices for floodplain management, recommending that communities **maintain natural riparian buffers and limit development** in these sensitive areas. These guidelines encourage the conservation of vegetative cover to support the floodplain's natural functions, protecting both ecological health and human infrastructure from the risks associated with flooding.

Effective floodplain management often involves limiting the types of land use allowed near waterways. These restrictions are vital for ensuring responsible stewardship of natural resources and protecting public waterways. Development within floodplains should be closely monitored and regulated to preserve their protective function. Parks, open spaces, and trails are ideal uses for floodplain lands because they offer public access to natural resources, are less affected by flood events, and do not significantly contribute to the degradation or pollution of waterways. Erosion control methods, such as natural barriers, vegetation, and engineered structures, also play a key role in preventing soil loss and stabilizing banks.

**Examples of these erosion control methods include:**



### VEGETATED BUFFERS

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommends vegetated riparian buffers, consisting of native grasses, shrubs, and trees planted along waterways to absorb runoff, reduce sedimentation, and slow water velocity. These buffers prevent erosion, improve water quality, and provide vital wildlife habitat.



### LIVE STAKING

The NRCS promotes live staking, a technique that involves inserting cuttings from native woody plants directly into stream banks. As these cuttings take root, they stabilize the soil, serving as a natural erosion control barrier, particularly effective in flood-prone areas.



### REVETMENTS WITH NATURAL MATERIALS

FEMA's best practices include using natural materials like large woody debris, stone, and biodegradable fabric for revetments. These materials absorb and deflect the energy of flowing water, helping to protect stream banks while preserving the natural environment's function.

In addition to these methods, strategic flood risk reduction through comprehensive land use planning emphasizes the importance of establishing well-defined buffer zones along waterways. Tools such as stream side protection zones, conservation easements, overlay zones, and land acquisition programs help safeguard these areas from future development.

Furthermore, implementing Low Impact Development (LID) practices within or near floodplains can enhance flood resilience. LID strategies, which aim to mimic natural hydrological processes, manage stormwater runoff by promoting infiltration, evapotranspiration, and water reuse. In floodplain areas, techniques such as rain gardens, permeable pavements, bioswales, and green roofs help reduce runoff, mitigate peak flows, and minimize development impacts on waterways. By slowing and dispersing stormwater, LID practices alleviate the burden on conventional drainage systems and strengthen flood resilience, while preserving the ecological integrity of floodplain environments.

In conclusion, preserving floodplains through strategic land use planning and sustainable management practices is essential for reducing flood risks, protecting water quality, and maintaining ecological balance. By conserving natural vegetative cover, particularly trees, and implementing erosion control methods such as vegetated buffers, live staking, and natural revetments, communities can enhance the floodplain's ability to manage stormwater and prevent erosion. Additionally, the integration of Low Impact Development (LID) strategies further strengthens flood resilience by mimicking natural hydrological processes and reducing the strain on urban drainage systems. Comprehensive floodplain protection policies, supported by federal and state guidelines, ensure that these sensitive areas remain functional as natural flood buffers, supporting both environmental sustainability and public safety. By prioritizing thoughtful development and the preservation of natural landscapes, Pea Ridge can safeguard these critical zones for future generations.

**c. Coordinate with Federal and State Agencies for Best Practices:** Engage in close collaboration with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and the Arkansas Natural Resources Commission (ANRC) to stay informed of floodplain management best practices and implement effective strategies that align with local and regional needs.

**d. Enhance Development Oversight and Land Use Restrictions in Floodplains:** Enforce strict development oversight and land-use restrictions in floodplains to prevent high-risk activities and maintain the ecological integrity of waterways, ensuring long-term flood mitigation and waterway protection.

**e. Implement Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure:** Incorporate LID strategies, including permeable pavements, rain gardens, vegetated swales, and green infrastructure such as vegetated buffers, live staking, and revetments, in projects near floodplains to reduce runoff, support water infiltration, and lower flood risks. These measures strengthen the natural function and vitality of floodplains and riparian corridors.

### GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIES

Low Impact Development (LID) is a sustainable approach to managing stormwater that emphasizes minimizing the impact of development on the environment. LID strategies focus on managing rainfall where it falls, using techniques such as permeable pavements, green roofs, rain gardens, and vegetated swales. These methods allow stormwater to infiltrate, evaporate, and be absorbed by vegetation, thus reducing runoff, and promoting natural hydrology. By integrating LID practices into landscape design, we can enhance water quality, reduce flooding, and recharge groundwater supplies, all while creating aesthetically pleasing and functional green spaces.

The importance of green infrastructure in this context cannot be overstated. Green infrastructure complements traditional stormwater management by incorporating natural systems that improve resilience to climate change impacts, such as increased rainfall and flooding. The use of environmentally focused stormwater features is a multi-layered approach to alternative stormwater management that integrates varied strategies rather than relying on a single solution. By using plants and soil to manage stormwater, LID not only mitigates environmental issues but also enhances biodiversity, provides habitat for wildlife, and improves community well-being. In urban areas, these strategies can transform hardscape into vibrant ecosystems, contributing to healthier neighborhoods and promoting stronger connections between communities and their natural surroundings.

Some common LID methods that filter, retain and reuse stormwater which can be incorporated into parks and open spaces as well as commercial developments include:

#### ENHANCED SITE ANALYSIS

Conducting rigorous site analysis aids in identifying site specific needs and constraints to design. More concentrated hydrology, soils, slope, and vegetation analysis is necessary as high-level zoning and large-scale developments become more prevalent. Studies of existing drainage patterns, soil structure and health, and vegetation are necessary to craft resilient solutions and prioritize preservation areas for long term environmental quality.



#### DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTINGS

Climate change resiliency is becoming increasingly important as we continue to see shifts in our environment. One way to ensure the longevity and sustainability of our greenspaces is to select plantings that require minimal water once established. Drought tolerant planting reduces the need for irrigation, conserving increasingly precious water resources, as well as promoting infiltration through deeper root system.

*Image:*



#### BIOSWALES

These are **shallow, vegetated channels designed to slow, filter, and infiltrate stormwater runoff**. They often use native, hyper-accumulating plants and soil to absorb pollutants, effectively treating the water before it reaches storm drains. These features also aid with infiltration improving ground to water contact and restoring the function of natural buffers in areas where impervious cover has increased. But their function in parks and opens spaces should not be undervalued or overlook as unnecessary due to lack of development.

*Image: Bioswale at Crystal Flats in Bentonville, AR*



#### VEGETATED SWALE

These **shallow, landscaped channels** are designed to manage stormwater runoff by slowing water flow and promoting infiltration. This feature can be used to reduce peak runoff volumes and filter out pollutants, helping to protect nearby waterways with less intensive development requirements.

*Image: Vegetated swale at The Momentary in Bentonville, AR*



### CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS

Engineered to mimic natural wetlands, these systems can **filter pollutants and provide habitat**. They are particularly effective for treating runoff from high intensity use sites, parking lots, and can be used adjacent to floodplains for additional flood control measures.

*Image: Enhanced constructed wetland at Osage Park in Bentonville, AR.*



### PERMEABLE PAVERS

These are paving materials designed to **allow water to infiltrate through their surface**. They are commonly used in driveways, parking lots, and walkways, providing a durable and environmentally friendly alternative to traditional impermeable surfaces when increasing greenspace is not possible.

*Image: Permeable paving implementation at Atalanta Park in Roger, AR*



### RAINWATER HARVESTING

This involves **collecting and storing rainwater for reuse in greywater applications**, such as irrigation or toilet flushing, reducing reliance on municipal water supplies. By reducing the amount of runoff, it also lessens the burden on conventional stormwater systems.

*Image:*



### RIPARIAN BUFFER

Riparian buffers play a crucial role in **reducing floodwater velocity, allowing water to spread out and slowdown**, which minimizes erosion and sediment transport. These vegetated areas stabilize stream banks, reducing flood damage to surrounding lands and infrastructure. Additionally, riparian buffers filter out pollutants from runoff, improving water quality and supporting healthier aquatic ecosystems.

*Image: Mullins Branch Riparian Restoration project in Fayetteville, AR.*



### TREE CANOPY COVERAGE

Increasing tree cover in urban areas can intercept rainwater and reduce runoff. Trees also help filter air pollutants, provide shade which reduces urban heat island effect, and stabilize soils, enhancing the overall urban ecosystem.

*Image:*





## FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Ensure that parks and open spaces reflect the community's identity by balancing its rural heritage with the needs of a growing urban environment. Prioritize inclusive, welcoming spaces that foster connection and promote a strong sense of place for all residents.

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

Fostering community identity is essential to ensuring that Pea Ridge's parks and open spaces reflect the town's unique character, balancing its rural heritage with the needs of its growing urban population. Parks can serve as welcoming, inclusive spaces where the community gathers, builds connections, and strengthens its sense of place. By preserving and celebrating the town's agricultural roots while adapting to its evolving needs, parks and open spaces can provide both historical context and modern recreational opportunities.

### STRATEGY 1: DEVELOP COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES IN PARKS

Promote parks that serve as central gathering spaces for the community, providing areas for residents to host events and gather. These parks can offer flexible spaces for events, activities, and social interaction, fostering a sense of connection among neighbors.

#### Actions

- a. Create Central Gathering Pavilions:** Provide pavilions in key parks to serve as gathering spaces for community events, picnics, and casual meetups, providing residents with accessible spaces to connect
- b. Designate Flexible Event Lawns:** Establish open areas within parks that can accommodate diverse events - from farmers' markets and concerts to local celebrations, such as the Mule Jump or Second Saturday.
- c. Create Youth-Oriented Gathering Areas:** Promote dedicated spaces within parks geared towards youth, such as outdoor seating circles, skate spots, or small sports courts.



Example of lawn space for gatherings



Example of a gathering space with shade

**STRATEGY 2: INCORPORATE PUBLIC ART AND CULTURAL INSTALLATIONS**

Integrating public art and cultural installations into Pea Ridge’s parks and open space can foster a strong sense of place, reflecting the City’s unique identity and heritage.

**Actions**

- 1. Introduce Public Art Installations Reflecting Local Culture:** Collaborate with local artists to bring murals, sculptures, and rotating installations to parks, including spaces like an "Art Walk" in Pea Ridge City Park. Ensure funding for ongoing maintenance to preserve these installations long-term.
- b. Partner with Local Art Organizations:** Consider opportunities to collaborate with local art organizations, such as Crystal Bridges and Art Bridges, to bring temporary and/or rotating art displays and cultural exhibits to Pea Ridge’s parks and open space.
- c. Encourage and Promote the Integration of Public Art:** As part of park’s and open space investment, encourage programs that integrate public art that are representative Pea Ridge’s heritage, culture and identity. Ensure funding for ongoing maintenance to preserve these installations long-term.



Pea Ridge Downtown



Example of Pop-Up Events in Pea Ridge



Farmers Market



Community members painting a mural in City Park



## SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Maximize the economic potential of Pea Ridge’s parks and open spaces by positioning them as key tourism destinations, supporting local businesses near parks, and promoting health-focused amenities and programs

### WHY IT IS IMPORTANT?

Parks and open spaces are vital economic drivers, particularly in regions like Northwest Arkansas, where outdoor recreation is central to the area's identity and growth. With the region’s focus on outdoor activities, including biking, hiking, and water-based recreation, Pea Ridge has a unique opportunity to capitalize on this trend. At the state level, the Natural State Initiative highlights Arkansas' commitment to preserving and promoting outdoor recreation as a key economic asset, aiming to attract visitors, boost tourism, and enhance the quality of life for residents.

By developing parks and open spaces, Pea Ridge can align with these broader regional and state priorities, driving economic development while ensuring connectivity and recreational opportunities. Enhanced connections to employment centers and surrounding communities through active transportation can further support the City's growth, offering both economic and lifestyle benefits to residents.

### STRATEGY 1: POSITION THE PARKS AS REGIONAL DESTINATIONS

As Northwest Arkansas grows as an outdoor recreation destination, Pea Ridge can position its parks as key attractions, drawing visitors through enhanced amenities, events, and partnerships with regional outdoor initiatives.

#### Actions:

**a. Enhance Infrastructure to Support Regional Outdoor Recreation:** Invest in essential infrastructure, such as restrooms, shaded picnic areas, and parking facilities, in key parks and trailheads. This will help Pea Ridge attract outdoor enthusiasts from Northwest Arkansas’ growing reputation as a recreation destination.

**b. Promote Pea Ridge as a Gateway for Regional Outdoor Events:** Collaborate with tourism associations, such as the Northwest Arkansas Tourism Association (NATA), Ozark Outdoor Foundation, and event organizers to highlight Pea Ridge’s assets as part of the larger Northwest Arkansas outdoor experience, encouraging visitors to explore beyond the race routes and trails.



Enhanced area at the entrance of trail



Example of F&B option



Art incorporated into trail system

## STRATEGY 2: INTEGRATE LOCAL BUSINESSES NEAR PARKS AND TRAILS

Create opportunities for parks and open space to complement small-scale businesses to enhance community engagement experience and stimulate local economic growth. Through land use guidance and policy and strategic partnerships, Pea Ridge can encourage the establishment of neighborhood-scale retail spaces, food trucks, and pop-up services, transforming parks into vibrant community hubs that support both recreation and commerce.

### Actions:

**a. Encourage the enhancement and development of parks to collocated with Neighborhood-Scale Commercial and Retail Spaces:** Use FLUP and related land use policy and guidance to promote the inclusion and engagement of Park spaces and retail spaces to enhance activation.

**b. Facilitate Food Trucks and Pop-Up Services in Parks:** Designate specific areas in or near parks for rotating food trucks and pop-up services, such as coffee carts and bike repair stations, to enhance the visitor experience and support local businesses.



Pop-Up Events in parks

## STRATEGY 3: ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS

Making parks easily accessible and offering programs that promote physical activity supports Pea Ridge's vision of a healthier community. By providing spaces and activities that encourage regular exercise, the City can help residents embrace active lifestyles, contributing to long-term wellness and potential healthcare cost savings.

### Actions:

**a. Expand Fitness Programs in Parks:** Offer programs such as yoga, walking clubs, and fitness classes that promote physical activity and wellness, helping residents to maintain a healthy lifestyle and reducing long-term healthcare costs.

**b. Install Outdoor Fitness Equipment:** Place fitness stations along popular trails or in central parks, encouraging active use of park spaces and supporting health-focused initiatives for people of all ages.



Outdoor Fitness Equipment in Park





A green-tinted landscape photograph of a field with a wooden fence and a cannon in the background. The scene is a wide, open field with a wooden fence in the foreground and a line of trees in the background. A cannon is visible in the middle ground. The overall tone is historical and serene.

CHAPTER 05

# IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN PRIORITIES

INTRODUCTION

IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN PRIORITIES

FUNDING STRATEGY APPROACH

MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES

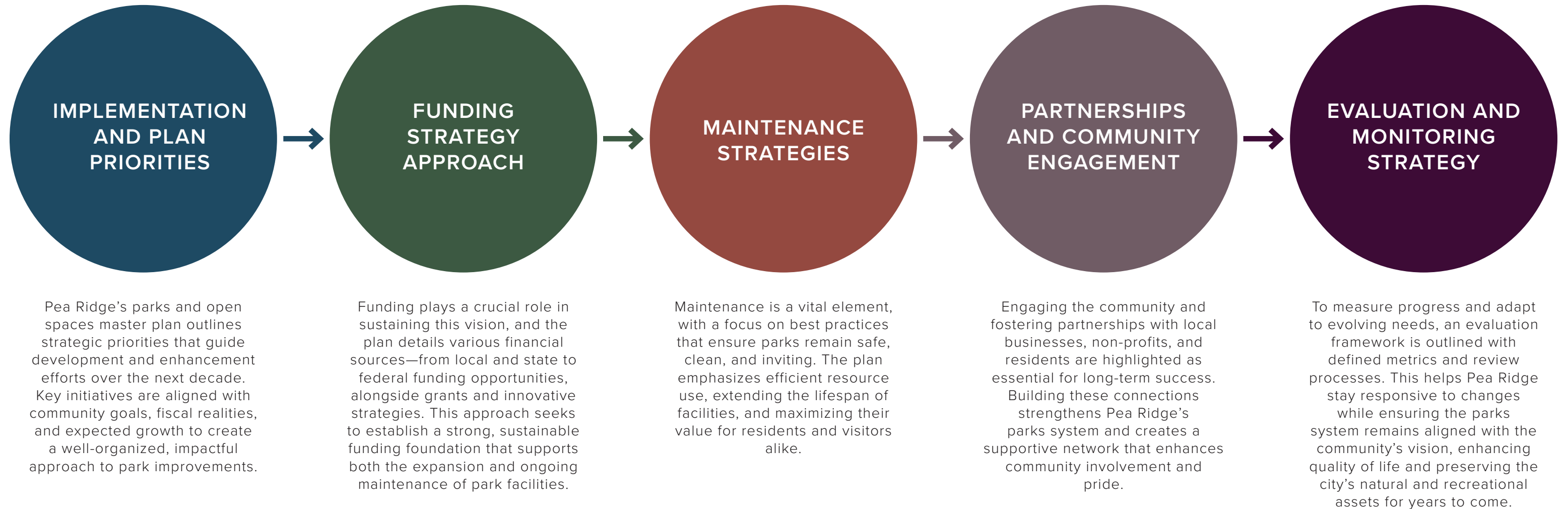
PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

EVALUATION AND MONITORING STRATEGY



# INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents a road-map for the successful execution of the Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Pea Ridge. Each section provides a focused approach to ensure Pea Ridge's parks and open spaces are effectively implemented, managed, and sustained over time. From setting clear priorities to fostering community partnerships, the chapter is organized as follows:



# IMPLEMENTATION AND PLAN PRIORITIES

## IMPLEMENTATION

The Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan is designed to guide the development, maintenance, and enhancement of the City’s parks, trails, and recreational services over the next 10-15 years. This plan prioritizes community needs, financial sustainability, and strategic growth to ensure that Pea Ridge’s parks system continues to offer high-quality facilities and services. The implementation framework is built on research, public input, and stakeholder collaboration, serving as a decision-making tool for setting short, mid, and long-term priorities and forming the basis for future budget planning and project execution.

### Purpose of the Master Plan

The purpose of this Master Plan is to guide the City of Pea Ridge in applying strategic actions and determining implementation priorities. It ensures a high level of service for parks, recreation, open spaces, and trails while maintaining alignment with community needs. An accompanying implementation matrix will summarize key recommendations, timelines, and financial impacts. The plan should be reviewed and updated annually to align with growth strategies and new developments, serving as a foundational tool for the City’s Parks & Open Space resource and budget planning.

### Timeline Framework

The Master Plan aims to address the following time frames:

- **Short-Term:** 1-2 years
- **Mid-Term:** 3-5 years
- **Long-Term:** 5 years and beyond
- **Ongoing:** Continuous review and responsive action to support sustainable growth and community needs.

## PRIORITIZATION MATRIX

The accompanying prioritization matrix will align the plan’s recommendations with city goals and prioritize them according to community needs and available resources. This adaptable process should be regularly updated to respond to changing conditions.

### Objectives of the Prioritization Matrix:

- Provide a prioritized list of projects, including parks, trails, and recreational facilities, categorized by short, mid, and long-term goals.
- Integrate projects into the city’s Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for structured funding and execution.
- Ensure adaptability through annual reviews to update and adjust priorities based on new developments and feedback.

## SHORT-TERM

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD
<b>PRINCIPLE 1: ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 1.1: ESTABLISH A CONNECTIVITY POLICY AND PLANNING INITIATIVE</b>	
1.1.c. Develop an Active Transportation Plan	Active Transportation Department
<b>STRATEGY 1.2: ADOPT A SAFE STREETS DESIGN FRAMEWORK</b>	
1.2.b Implement Traffic Calming Measures to Promote Safe Speeds	Planning Department
1.2.d. Enhance Street Crossings for Safe and Accessible Pedestrian Movement	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 2: PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 2.1: DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY POLICY FRAMEWORK</b>	
2.1.a Adopt Vision Zero and Complete Streets Policies	Planning Department
2.1.b Implement Public Right of Way Guidelines	Planning Department
2.1.c Establish ADA Transition Plan	Planning Department
2.1.d Safe Routes to School	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 2.3: ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT</b>	
2.2.b. Enhance Intersection and Street Crossings	Planning Department
2.2.d Design Inclusive Playground	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 3.1: PURSUE STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION FOR PARKS DEVELOPMENT EXPANSION</b>	
3.1.a Gap Analysis for Land Needs	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.3: INCORPORATE PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS</b>	
3.3.a Integrate Passive Recreation into Existing Parks	Parks and Recreation Department
3.3.c Implement Sensory Gardens and Trails	Parks and Recreation Department
3.3.d Develop Seasonal Programming for Passive Area	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.5: ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES SUFFICIENT AND ADEQUATE GREEN SPACE</b>	
3.5.a Establish Green Space Requirements and Standards	Planning Department
3.5.b Incentivize Enhanced Green Space and Connectivity	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.6: ENHANCE PARK PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	
3.6.c Continue and Enhance Collaboration with Pea Ridge School District For Joint-Use Spaces	Parks and Recreation Department

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 4.3: IMPLEMENT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS AND PROTECT NATURAL WATERWAYS</b>	
4.3.d Enhance Development Oversight and Land Use Restrictions in Floodplains	Planning Department
4.3.e. Implement Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 6: SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 6.2: INTEGRATE LOCAL BUSINESS NEAR PARKS AND TRAILS</b>	
6.2.b Facilitate Food Truck and Pop-Up Services in Parks	Planning Department



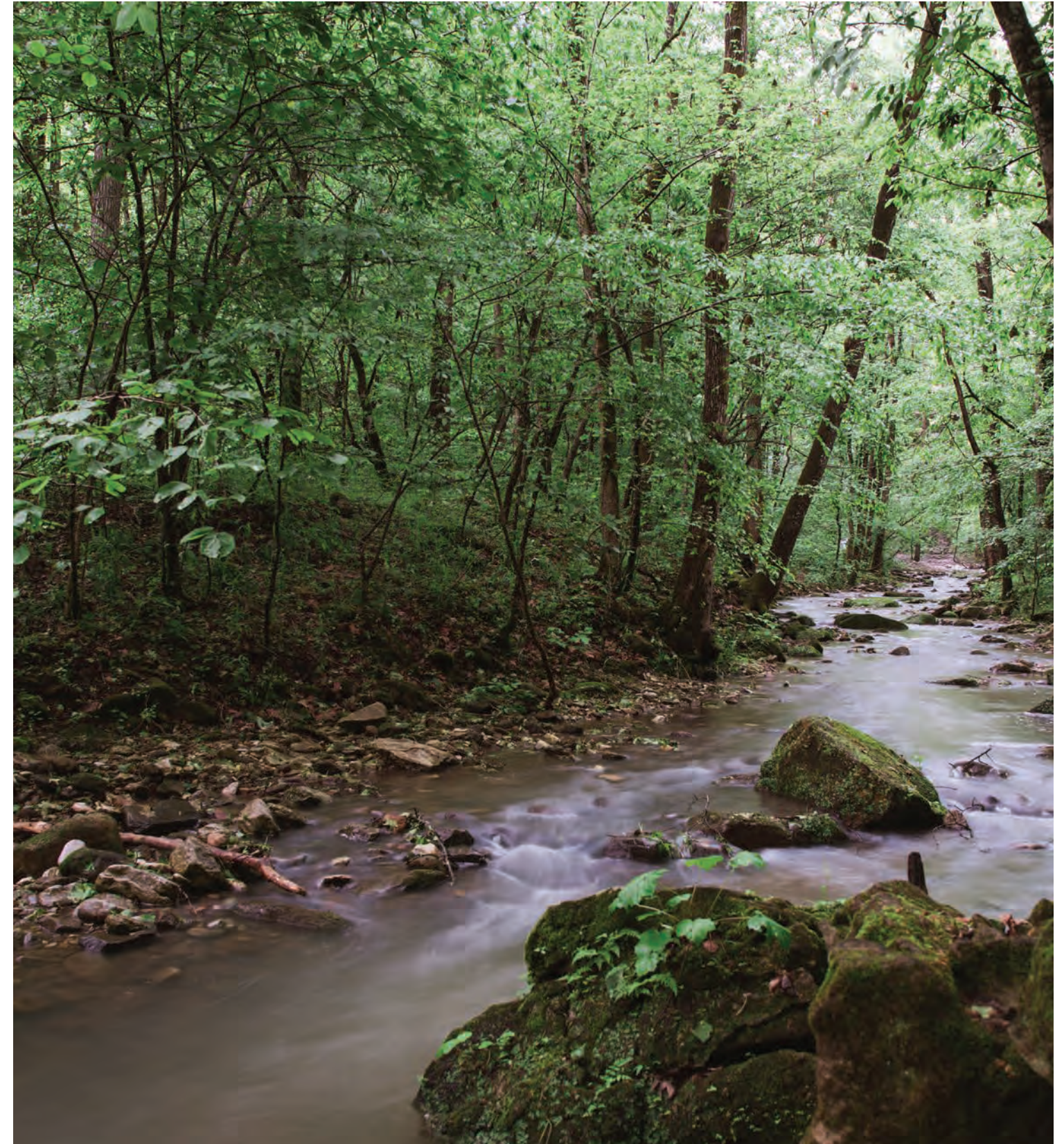
Designated Bike Lane

## MEDIUM-TERM

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 3.2: ENSURE EQUITABLE AND STANDARDIZED ACCESS TO RECREATION SPACES</b>	
3.2.b. Expand Neighborhood and Pocket Parks	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.3: INCORPORATE PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS</b>	
3.3.b Install Viewing Platforms and Wildlife Observation Points	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.6: ENHANCE PARK PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	
3.6.a Provide a Range of Affordable Recreation Opportunities	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 4.1: PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND TO PRESERVE PEA RIDGE'S RURAL CHARACTER AND HERITAGE</b>	
4.1.a Adopt Agricultural Zoning Policies with Agricultural Buffers	Planning Department/City Council
<b>STRATEGY 4.3: IMPLEMENT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS AND PROTECT NATURAL WATERWAYS</b>	
4.3.a Adopt Stream Buffer Ordinances and Streamside Protection Zones	Planning Department/City Council
4.3.c Coordinate with Federal and State Agencies for Best Practices	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 5: FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 5.1: DEVELOP COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES IN PARKS</b>	
5.1.a Create Central Gathering Pavilions	Parks and Recreation Department
5.1.b Designate Flexible Event Lawns	Parks and Recreation Department
5.1.c Create Youth-Oriented Gathering Areas	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>STRATEGY 5.2: INCORPORATE PUBLIC ART AND CULTURAL INSTALLATIONS</b>	
5.2.a Introduce Public Art Reflecting Local Culture	Parks and Recreation Department
5.2.b Partner with Local Art Organizations	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 6: SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 6.1: POSITION THE PARKS AS TOURISM DESTINATIONS</b>	
6.1.a Enhance Infrastructure to Support Regional Outdoor Recreation	Parks and Recreation Department
6.1.b Promote Pea Ridge as a Gateway for Regional Outdoor Events	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>STRATEGY 6.3: ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS</b>	
6.3.a Expand Fitness Programs in Parks	Parks and Recreation Department
6.3.b Install Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Parks and Recreation Department

**LONG-TERM**

<b>PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION</b>	<b>LEAD</b>
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 3.1: PURSUE STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION FOR PARKS DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION</b>	
3.1.b Collaborate for Land Opportunities	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.4 DESIGNATE SPECIALIZED RECREATION ZONES</b>	
3.4.b Leverage NRPA Guidelines for Specialized Activities	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 4.1: PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND TO PRESERVE PEA RIDGE'S RURAL CHARACTER AND HERITAGE</b>	
4.1.b Promote Agricultural Easements	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 4.2: CONSERVE THE TREE CANOPY TO PREVENT EROSION, STABILIZE SOILS. AND SUPPORT WILDLIFE</b>	
4.2.a Protect Key Tree Canopy Areas	Planning Department
4.2.b Re-vegetate Riparian Zones	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 6: SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 6.2: INTEGRATE LOCAL BUSINESS NEAR PARKS AND TRAILS</b>	
6.2.a Encourage the enhancement and development of parks to collocated with Neighborhood-Scale Commercial and Retail Spaces	Planning Department



*Preserved land around creek*

**ONGOING**

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD
<b>PRINCIPLE 1: ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 1.1: ESTABLISH A CONNECTIVITY POLICY AND PLANNING INITIATIVE</b>	
1.1.a. Adopt Vision Zero Policies	Planning Department
1.1.b. Design Complete Streets	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 1.2: ADOPT A SAFE STREETS DESIGN FRAMEWORK</b>	
1.2.a Foster a Strong Sense of Place through Complete Streets and Placemaking	Planning Department
1.2.c Design Safe and Accessible Intersections for All Users	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 1.3: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN CREATING INCLUSIVE, CONNECTED STREETS</b>	
1.3.a Engage the Community in Creating Inclusive, Connected Streets	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 2: PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 2.3: ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT</b>	
2.2.a Create Accessible Pedestrian Zone	Planning Department
2.2.c. Install Accessible Amenities	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 2.3: INTRODUCE COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR SAFE, ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL</b>	
2.3.a Introduce Community Education and Engagement for Safe, Accessible Travel	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 3.2: ENSURE EQUITABLE AND STANDARIZED ACCESS TO RECREATION SPACES</b>	
3.2.a Align with Nationally Recognized Recreational and Park Guidelines and Best Practices	Parks and Recreation Department
3.2.c Create Flexible, Multi-Purpose Spaces	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.4 DESIGNATE SPECIALIZED RECREATION ZONES</b>	
3.4.a Community Input and Market Research	Planning Department
<b>STRATEGY 3.6: ENHANCE PARK PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>	
3.6.b Identify, Establish and Enhance Partnerships	Parks and Recreation Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 4.3: IMPLEMENT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS AND PROTECT NATURAL WATERWAYS</b>	
4.3.b Enhance Riparian Corridors through Reforestation and Vegetation	Planning Department
<b>PRINCIPLE 5: FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY</b>	
<b>STRATEGY 5.2: INCORPORATE PUBLIC ART AND CULTURAL INSTALLATIONS</b>	
5.2.c Encourage and Promote the Integration of Public Art	Planning Department



Dirt Pump Track

# FUNDING STRATEGY APPROACH

Ensuring the sustainability and growth of Pea Ridge’s parks and open space system requires a comprehensive approach to funding. While municipal funding is essential, it alone is often not sufficient to meet the demands of high-quality operations and maintenance. Strategic funding initiatives, diversified funding sources, and strong partnerships are needed to bridge financial gaps, promote fiscal sustainability, and support long-term park development. This approach emphasizes the importance of clear budget structures, incremental funding targets, grant acquisition, partnerships, and community engagement to build a robust financial foundation for the future of Pea Ridge’s parks.

## 1 CLEARLY DEFINE BUDGETS FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, ADMINISTRATION, OPERATIONS, AND MAINTENANCE

Establishing well-structured budgets for capital improvements, administration, operations, and maintenance ensures financial transparency and efficient resource allocation. This approach enables Pea Ridge to prioritize projects, manage costs effectively, and strike a balance between developing new facilities and maintaining existing ones. Clearly defined budgets support the City’s vision for a sustainable and high-quality park system.

**Action Items:**

- **Develop Comprehensive Budget Categories:** Create distinct budget categories for capital improvements, administration, operations, and maintenance to clearly allocate resources and track expenditures.
- **Prioritize Capital Projects:** Implement a process to prioritize capital improvements based on community needs, safety considerations, and potential return on investment.
- **Set Maintenance and Operations Funding Goals:** Establish specific funding goals for ongoing maintenance to prevent deferred maintenance backlogs and ensure consistent upkeep.
- **Regular Budget Reviews:** Conduct annual budget reviews to evaluate performance, make necessary adjustments, and maintain alignment with strategic goals.
- **Engage Stakeholders:** Incorporate feedback from stakeholders and community members to ensure budget planning aligns with public expectations and needs.
- **Implement Budget Tracking Tools:** Use financial management software to monitor spending and enhance budget oversight for better decision-making.
- **Create a Contingency Fund:** Establish a contingency fund for unforeseen maintenance needs or emergency repairs to minimize service disruptions.

## 2 ESTABLISH INCREMENTAL FUNDING TARGETS

Setting incremental funding targets guides budget allocation and future planning, aligning resources with population growth and evolving community needs. Regularly reviewing and adjusting these targets ensures adaptive financial planning that supports consistent park services.

**Action Items:**

- Set per capita funding targets for 2025, 2030, and 2040 (e.g., \$70 per capita by 2025, \$85 by 2030, \$100 by 2040).
- Regularly review and adjust funding targets to reflect community growth and inflation.

## 3 LEVERAGE GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grants provide critical funding for project-based improvements and capital investments. By actively seeking grants from state, federal, and private sources, Pea Ridge can support projects like new facilities, trail expansions, and park renovations, reducing reliance on municipal budgets.

**Action Items:**

- Apply for grants such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and the Recreational Trails Program (RTP).
- Explore funding from Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) to enhance infrastructure and access.
- Regularly pursue grant applications to maintain a continuous flow of project funding.

*\*Refer to additional grant opportunities outlined in the Appendix*

## 4 DEVELOP PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPPS)

Public-private partnerships (PPPs) are effective for enhancing funding and management of park facilities. Collaborating with private entities helps share financial and operational responsibilities, bringing additional expertise and resources that improve the quality of park services.

**Action Items:**

- Partner with local businesses and organizations for co-management and funding of park facilities.
- Explore PPP models like leasing arrangements or build-operate-transfer agreements for new facility development.
- Collaborate with private sector partners to secure funding for major projects and maintenance efforts.



5

**FOSTER FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR LAND ACQUISITION**

Strategic land acquisition is vital for expanding parks and preserving open spaces. Building partnerships with conservation groups, stakeholders, and funding entities provides the financial support needed for these initiatives, aligning with community growth and sustainability goals.

**Action Items:**

- Work with entities such as the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust to identify and secure key parcels for acquisition.
- Build partnerships with local businesses, conservation groups, and regional stakeholders to pool resources for land acquisition.
- Develop relationships with grant programs and philanthropic organizations to fund land preservation and park expansion.

6

**RESPONSIBLY ADD AND INCREASE USER FEES**

Strategically adjusting user fees can generate revenue while maintaining affordability. Periodic reviews and updates ensure that income supports operational costs and facility maintenance without compromising accessibility for residents.

**Action Items:**

- Conduct regular reviews of user fees for programs and facilities to balance affordability with maintenance needs.
- Introduce tiered pricing structures for high-demand facilities to align with cost recovery goals.

7

**SEEK CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS AND DONATIONS**

Corporate sponsorships and community donations provide essential support for park projects and programs. By engaging local businesses for sponsorships and creating clear channels for donations, Pea Ridge can secure additional funding for events, facility upgrades, and new initiatives.

**Action Items:**

- Develop sponsorship opportunities for events, facility naming rights, and program funding.
- Implement a streamlined process for corporate and individual donations to support specific park initiatives.

8

**CONSIDER ESTABLISHMENT OF A PARKS AND OPEN SPACE FOUNDATION**

Creating a nonprofit foundation for Pea Ridge's parks can facilitate fundraising and advocacy efforts. A foundation would enable tax-deductible donations and increase community involvement, providing flexible funding for development.

**Action Items:**

- Form a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to manage and accept donations and endowments.
- Use the foundation to engage the community, attract philanthropic support, and fund large-scale projects and initiatives.

9

**CONSIDER AND EVALUATE PARKS IMPACT FEES FOR NEW DEVELOPMENTS**

Evaluating the potential implementation of impact fees can be a strategic approach for generating revenue to support the development and expansion of Pea Ridge's parks and open space system. Impact fees shift the financial responsibility for providing new park and recreation facilities from the municipality and taxpayers to developers of new residential and commercial projects. These fees would ensure that as Pea Ridge grows, new developments contribute to the creation and maintenance of parks and recreational infrastructure that benefits the entire community.

**Action Items:**

- **Assess Feasibility:** Conduct a comprehensive study to evaluate the feasibility and potential economic impact of implementing parks impact fees.
- **Develop a Preliminary Impact Fee Structure:** Draft a potential structure for the impact fee that includes requirements for the dedication of land or payment in lieu of land dedication. Ensure the draft aligns with projected park and trail space needs.
- **Engage Stakeholders:** Collaborate with local developers, community members, and city planners to communicate the potential benefits and rationale behind considering parks impact fees. Gather feedback to inform the evaluation process.
- **Review Legal and Policy Implications:** Work with legal experts and municipal staff to assess ordinances or policies necessary for the potential implementation of impact fees. Ensure compliance with state regulations and local requirements.
- **Determine Possible Allocation of Collected Fees:** Develop initial guidelines for how fees, if implemented, could be allocated to prioritize the creation and improvement of parks, trails, and recreational facilities.
- **Monitor and Reassess:** Establish a process for ongoing review of impact fee proposals to reflect changes in development trends, economic conditions, and community growth.

# MAINTENANCE STRATEGIES

Effective and sustainable maintenance practices are essential for the long-term success of Pea Ridge’s parks and open space system. As the community continues to grow, increased demand on facilities and maintenance will necessitate strategic, principle-driven approaches. These strategies will guide the evolution of the parks and open space system while aligning maintenance practices with the vision outlined in this master plan.

Expanding maintenance services requires proportional investments in staffing and resources. To maintain a high level of service, Pea Ridge must plan for incremental staffing increases, training programs, and investments in equipment. In times of funding constraints, a transparent plan should be in place to adjust maintenance standards, ensuring that essential functions are met, and deferred maintenance risks are minimized.

## KEY STRATEGIES AND ACTION STEPS

### STRATEGY 1

#### DEVELOP PROACTIVE AND ADAPTIVE MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS STANDARDS

Establishing proactive and adaptive maintenance standards is crucial to aligning Pea Ridge’s practices with current and future park demands. Updated protocols should reflect varying levels of use and environmental impact, enabling effective resource allocation. A tiered maintenance structure is recommended to prioritize care levels for different City assets, supporting efficient management and ensuring that personnel and funding are directed appropriately.

#### Recommended Tiered Maintenance Levels (adaptable for Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Assets):

- **Level 1 – High-Level Maintenance:** For highly developed public areas, such as city centers and government grounds.
- **Level 2 – Moderate-Level Maintenance:** For areas with moderate development or resource-limited operations.
- **Level 3 – Minimum-Level Maintenance:** For locations with limited resources or minimal development.
- **Level 4 – Natural Area Maintenance:** For undeveloped natural areas needing minimal intervention.

#### ACTION PLAN:

- Implement a tiered classification system that adjusts to seasonal demands and park usage.
- Use data-driven assessments to update maintenance schedules and optimize resource allocation.



Facilities at Pea Ridge City Park



Facilities at Pea Ridge City Park

## STRATEGY 2

### ENHANCING NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Sustainable management of natural resources should be embedded into Pea Ridge's comprehensive maintenance strategy. This approach supports the City's commitment to sustainability and resiliency, allowing the protection of natural habitats, the preservation of native vegetation, and fostering biodiversity. Additionally, it aligns with the community's legacy of open spaces and helps reduce costs associated with intensive maintenance.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

##### 1. Adopt Mulching and Soil Health Practices:

- Use organic mulching to conserve moisture, improve soil health, and reduce weed growth.
- Incorporate native composting techniques and soil amendments to promote sustainable plant growth.

##### 2. Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM):

- Minimize chemical use through IPM, using natural predators and strategic plant placement.
- Train staff to distinguish beneficial and harmful insects for balanced ecosystems.

##### 3. Develop Rain Gardens and Bioswales:

- Incorporate these features to manage stormwater, reduce runoff, and filter pollutants.
- Position them strategically to mitigate erosion near high-use areas.

##### 4. Preserve and Restore Native Vegetation:

- Focus on planting native species that are low-maintenance and climate-adapted.
- Establish conservation zones to support wildlife habitats.

##### 5. Promote Biodiversity through Landscape Design:

- Create diverse plantings that support wildlife and install pollinator gardens.
- Use native wildflower meadows to attract beneficial insects.

##### 6. Educational and Community Involvement Initiatives:

- Develop educational programs to inform residents about eco-friendly practices.
- Partner with local schools and organizations for workshops and tours.



*Otter Creek in City of Pea Ridge*

### STRATEGY 3

#### ONGOING EVALUATION AND EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Regularly analyzing maintenance practices helps identify inefficiencies and areas for enhancement. Routine assessments, such as staff reviews and cost-benefit analyses, allow Pea Ridge to refine strategies and optimize resource use, ensuring that parks remain well-maintained.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Utilize Technology for Monitoring:**
  - Implement GIS and maintenance software for real-time activity tracking.
  - Use sensors and drones for quick assessments and prioritization.
- 2. Regular Staff Reviews and Training:**
  - Conduct performance evaluations and provide targeted training.
- 3. Cost-Benefit and Data-Driven Analysis:**
  - Review financials to identify cost-saving measures.
  - Use data insights for task prioritization.
- 4. Community Feedback Mechanism:**
  - Set up a feedback system for user-reported issues and suggestions.
- 5. Maintenance Audits:**
  - Schedule regular audits to review conditions and effectiveness.



*Maintenance crew mowing in a park*

## STRATEGY 4

### FUTURE-READY PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION

Proactive planning for future maintenance needs helps Pea Ridge adapt to population growth, increased usage, and climate impacts. This strategy ensures quality park services, aligning with sustainability goals and public expectations.

#### ACTION ITEMS:

##### 1. Develop a Multi-Year Maintenance Forecast:

- Create forecasts for budgets, staffing, and capital improvements.
- Align projections with growth trends and usage data.

##### 2. Set Realistic Funding and Staffing Targets:

- Establish funding goals for daily and long-term needs.
- Plan for flexible staffing with full-time, seasonal, and volunteer support.

##### 3. Explore Diverse Revenue Sources:

- Pursue grants and public-private partnerships for additional funding.
- Collaborate with local businesses to align with community goals.

##### 4. Incorporate Climate Resilience into Planning:

- Plan for climate impacts, such as extreme weather, and integrate sustainable solutions like drought-tolerant landscaping.

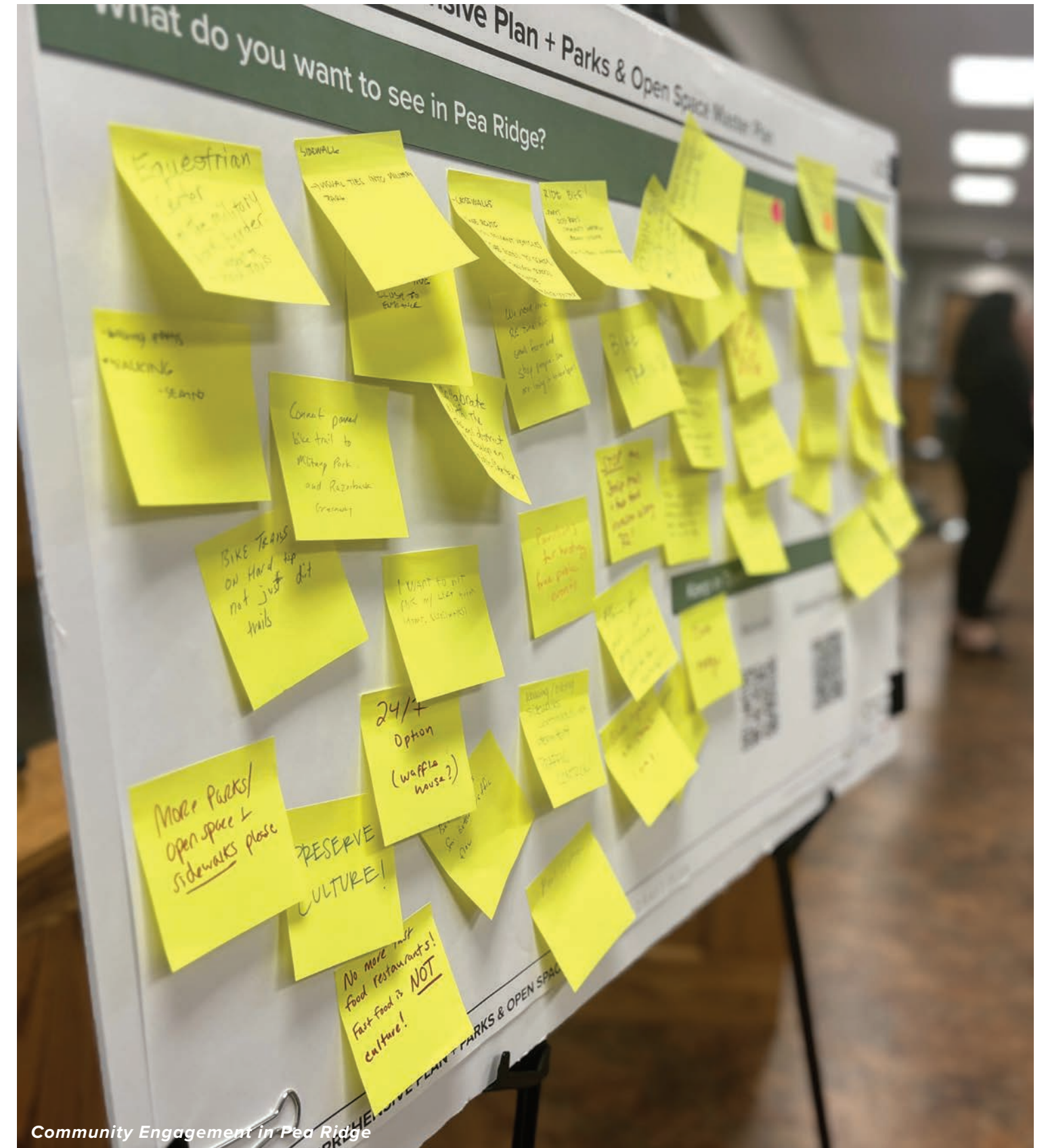
##### 5. Engage Stakeholders and Community:

- Collaborate with residents and experts for maintenance strategies.
- Host public forums and surveys for transparency and input.

##### 6. Integrate Technological and Data Solutions:

- Use predictive analytics to anticipate needs.
- Implement systems for tracking progress toward goals.

By adopting these strategies and best practices, Pea Ridge can build a resilient, well-maintained park system that balances resource efficiency with community needs. This approach supports immediate recreational use and promotes long-term environmental sustainability and community pride.



Community Engagement in Pea Ridge

# PARTNERSHIP AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Pea Ridge’s parks and open space system is vital to the well-being of its residents, offering recreational opportunities and promoting environmental sustainability. To ensure continued success and resilience, fostering strategic partnerships and volunteer engagement is essential. These initiatives can supplement the City’s resources, address service gaps, and encourage community stewardship. The following strategies present a comprehensive framework for building, maintaining, and expanding partnerships and volunteer programs that align with the City’s long-term vision for its parks and open space system.

1

## STRENGTHEN EXISTING PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance and formalize current partnerships to ensure consistent, efficient, and high-quality service delivery. Collaborating with established local partners allows Pea Ridge to maximize resources, improve communication, and maintain effective service alignment.

### Action Items:

- Formalize key partnerships to promote continuity and accountability.
- Maintain detailed, centralized records of existing partnerships for easy access by relevant staff.
- Strengthen collaborations with local entities, such as the Pea Ridge School District and the Boys & Girls Club, to enhance cooperative efforts and broaden community outreach.

2

## IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP NEW RECREATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Pursue new partnerships to diversify recreational programs and expand the range of services available to residents. Collaborating with various local organizations will introduce new activities and fill service gaps.

### Action Items:

- Actively seek partnerships with local community centers, schools, and sports clubs to introduce new recreational activities and expand existing offerings.
- Identify organizations that can provide unique programs that complement or supplement current City services.
- Engage with potential partners to continue providing programs the City may phase out, ensuring uninterrupted recreational opportunities for residents.
- Investigate PPP models for supporting new recreational facilities.
- Partner with local businesses and recreation-focused organizations to share resources and co-manage park facilities.
- Explore partnerships, such as neighborhood improvement districts, to secure maintenance and operational support for parks and high-use public spaces, particularly in commercial zones.

3

## ESTABLISH A PEA RIDGE PARK AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Form a Park and Open Space Advisory Committee to support strategic planning, promote community engagement, and enhance decision-making for Pea Ridge’s parks and open spaces. This committee will act as an advisory body to the City, fostering transparency, building partnerships, and ensuring that park initiatives align with community needs and the City’s long-term vision.

### Action Items:

- Develop a committee charter and guidelines to define the structure, roles, and responsibilities.
- Recruit a diverse group of residents, community leaders, and stakeholders representing interests such as recreation, conservation, and education.
- Hold regular meetings to review projects, discuss new initiatives, and provide input on long-term strategies for park and open space development.
- Advise on strategic initiatives by offering feedback on proposed projects, partnerships, and funding opportunities.
- Facilitate community input by gathering feedback through public meetings and surveys.
- Support volunteer and partnership programs by organizing events and fostering relationships with local businesses, organizations, and conservation groups.

4

**CULTIVATE AND CELEBRATE VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT**

Enhance volunteer involvement to support parks and recreation activities and foster a culture of community participation. Volunteers extend the reach and impact of Pea Ridge’s parks services.

**Action Items:**

- Develop and implement recruitment, training, and mobilization strategies to support volunteer coordination.
- Partner with local schools, civic organizations, and community groups to expand volunteer programs.
- Build on successful events like Secondary Saturday and organize additional community events to engage residents and promote and celebrate volunteerism.
- Collaborate with local media and businesses for event sponsorships and promotional efforts to increase community awareness and participation.

5

**FOSTER FUNDING PARTNERSHIPS FOR LAND ACQUISITION AND CONSERVATION INITIATIVES**

Develop funding partnerships to support strategic land acquisitions that expand Pea Ridge’s parks and open spaces. Collaborating with conservation groups and funding partners helps secure the financial resources needed for these initiatives.

**Action Items:**

- Partner with entities such as the Northwest Arkansas Land Trust and other conservation organizations to identify key parcels for park expansion and secure funding support.
- Engage in joint funding efforts with regional stakeholders, environmental groups, and local businesses to pool resources for land acquisition.
- Build relationships with state and federal grant programs and philanthropic organizations to access funds for park development and land preservation.
- Explore public-private partnerships (PPPs) to share the financial responsibilities of land acquisitions, ensuring sustainable funding.
- Align funding partnerships with strategic goals focused on acquiring land that supports recreation, community growth, and environmental protection.

**CONCLUSION**

By implementing these strategies, Pea Ridge can strengthen its network of partnerships and volunteer support, enhancing the quality and sustainability of its parks and open spaces. These efforts will foster community pride, promote environmental stewardship, and ensure that the parks system meets current and future public needs.



Mule Jump Competition. Source : Northwest Arkansas Democrat-Gazette



Second Saturday Community Event. Source : Pea Ridge Times

# EVALUATION AND MONITORING STRATEGIES

Effective implementation of the Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan requires a structured approach to review, evaluation, and monitoring. These strategies help maintain alignment with city goals and allow for adjustments in response to community input and changing conditions.

## 1 ESTABLISH PERFORMANCE METRICS AND INDICATORS

**Introduction:**  
Establishing clear performance metrics and indicators provides a foundation for tracking progress and measuring the success of the Master Plan’s implementation. These metrics highlight strengths, identify areas for improvement, and ensure efficient resource utilization.

**Key Performance Metrics:**

- **Project Completion Rates:** Percentage of completed projects within designated time frames.
- **Budget Adherence:** Comparison of projected versus actual expenditures for financial efficiency.
- **Community Satisfaction:** Feedback from resident surveys on park services, programs, and facilities.
- **Park and Facility Usage:** Attendance and participation data for measuring the effectiveness of services.
- **Environmental Impact:** Implementation of sustainable practices and conservation progress.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Total volunteer hours and community participation in park programs.

**Action Items:**

- Develop specific metrics for each project or initiative.
- Implement tools to monitor park usage and participation trends.
- Track environmental progress through periodic evaluations of sustainability practices.

## 2 IMPLEMENT EVALUATION CRITERIA

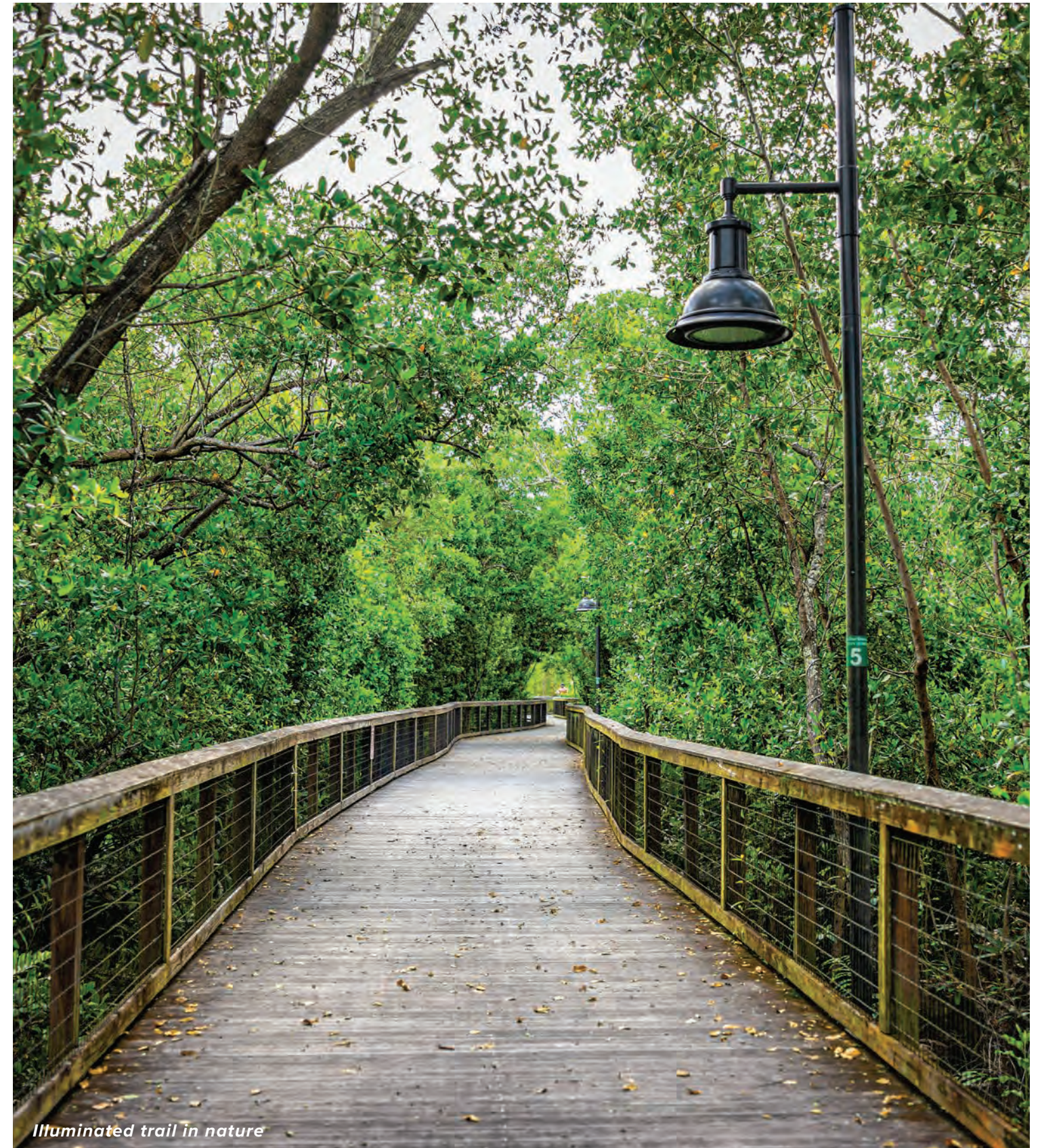
**Introduction:**  
Consistent evaluation criteria ensure that project outcomes align with the Master Plan’s goals. This strategy measures project success using both qualitative and quantitative data.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- **Alignment with Strategic Objectives:** Degree to which projects meet the Master Plan’s goals.
- **Resource Efficiency:** Evaluation of whether projects are completed within budget and use resources effectively.
- **Community Engagement Levels:** Public participation and feedback.
- **Sustainability Practices:** Use of eco-friendly materials and sustainable practices.
- **Accessibility and Inclusivity:** Extent to which facilities are accessible to all.

**Action Items:**

- Use checklists to confirm alignment with strategic goals.
- Review resource allocation for cost-effectiveness.
- Collect feedback through post-project surveys.
- Monitor sustainability efforts and their impacts. .



*Illuminated trail in nature*



### 3 ADOPT AN ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT APPROACH

#### Introduction:

An adaptive management approach ensures flexibility in the implementation process. This strategy allows for adjustments based on new information or feedback, supporting continuous improvement.

#### Key Performance Metrics for Adaptability:

- **Timeliness of Adjustments:** Speed of implementing changes following evaluations.
- **Effectiveness of Adaptations:** Success of new strategies on project outcomes.
- **Stakeholder Feedback:** Quality and frequency of input that informs adjustment

#### Action Items:

- Make data-driven decisions for project modifications.
- Pilot new strategies on a small scale before broader implementation.
- Create regular feedback loops with staff and stakeholders to inform improvements.

### 4 CONDUCT ANNUAL PLAN REVIEWS

#### Introduction:

Annual reviews are vital for assessing the Master Plan's progress and ensuring its continued relevance. These reviews allow the city to adjust strategies and allocate resources effectively.

#### Key Performance Metrics for Annual Reviews:

- **Completion Status:** Percentage of planned projects completed.
- **Community Approval Ratings:** Survey results reflecting satisfaction with projects.
- **Budget Compliance:** Comparison of actual spending against budgeted amounts.

#### Action Items:

- Conduct comprehensive reviews of project milestones.
- Reevaluate priorities based on updated data and community needs.
- Align future projects with current community expectations.
- Prepare annual reports summarizing progress and providing recommendations

### 5 MAINTAIN ACTIVE STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**Introduction:** Maintaining communication and collaboration with stakeholders is crucial for ensuring the plan remains relevant and supported by the community. This strategy builds trust and promotes transparency.

#### Key Performance Metrics for Engagement:

- **Participation Rates:** Number of residents engaged in forums, surveys, and meetings.
- **Volume of Feedback:** Amount and quality of feedback collected.
- **Community Support Levels:** Public sentiment and approval for park projects.

#### Action Items:

- Regularly update stakeholders on progress using newsletters, social media, and public meetings.
- Develop feedback channels, such as Online surveys and events.
- Strengthen partnerships with local organizations and businesses.
- Communicate clearly and consistently about project updates and changes.



Community Engagement Meeting



# APPENDIX

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## **OPEN SPACE AND PARKS PROJECTS**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

STAKEHOLDER MEETING

SURVEY

SURVEY RESPONSES

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARDS

### **BENCHMARK PROJECTS**

RELATED STUDIES

RCLCO STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

### **ADDITIONAL FUNDING**

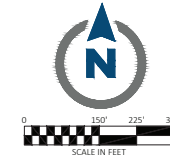
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING MECHANISMS

### **IMPLEMENTATION**

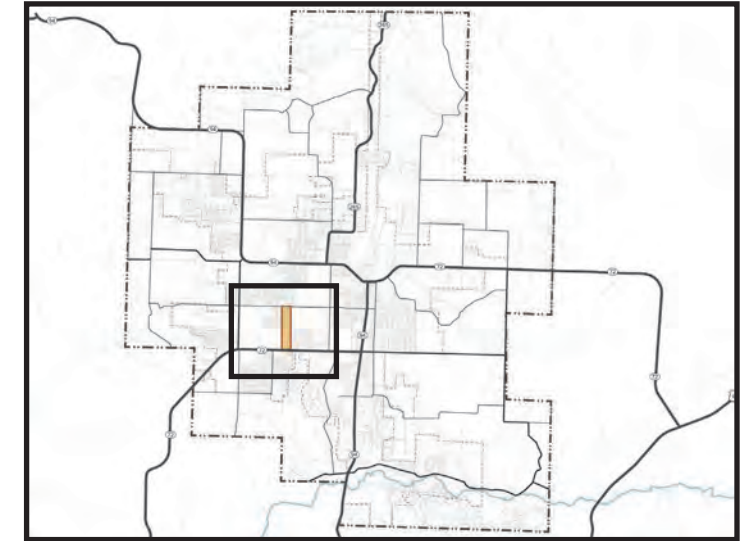
COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIONS BY STRATEGY

# OPEN SPACE AND PARKS PROJECTS

## HWY 72 TO HAZELTOWN TRAIL



LOCATION

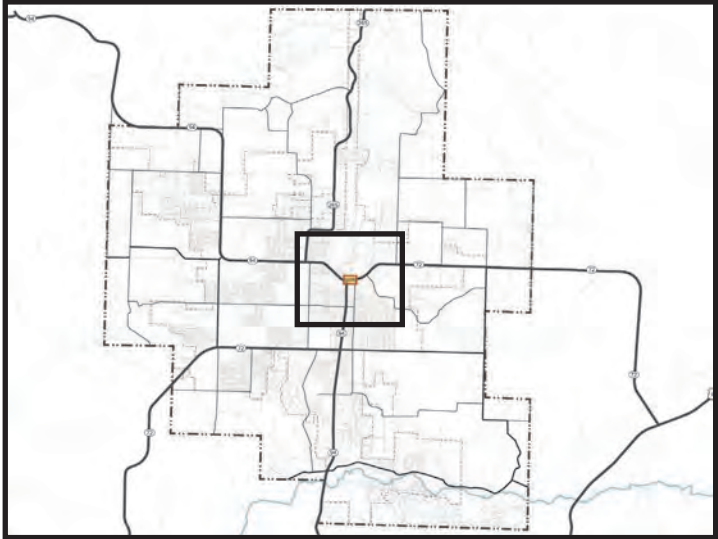


SITE BENCHMARK	
BENCHMARK	SITE BENCHMARK
BM #1 5/8" REBAR W/CEI CAP N: 771,216.94 E: 684,280.84 Elev = 1324.84'	BM #2 5/8" REBAR W/CEI CAP N: 774,800.50 E: 684,808.33 Elev = 1320.00'

# VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SQUARE



LOCATION



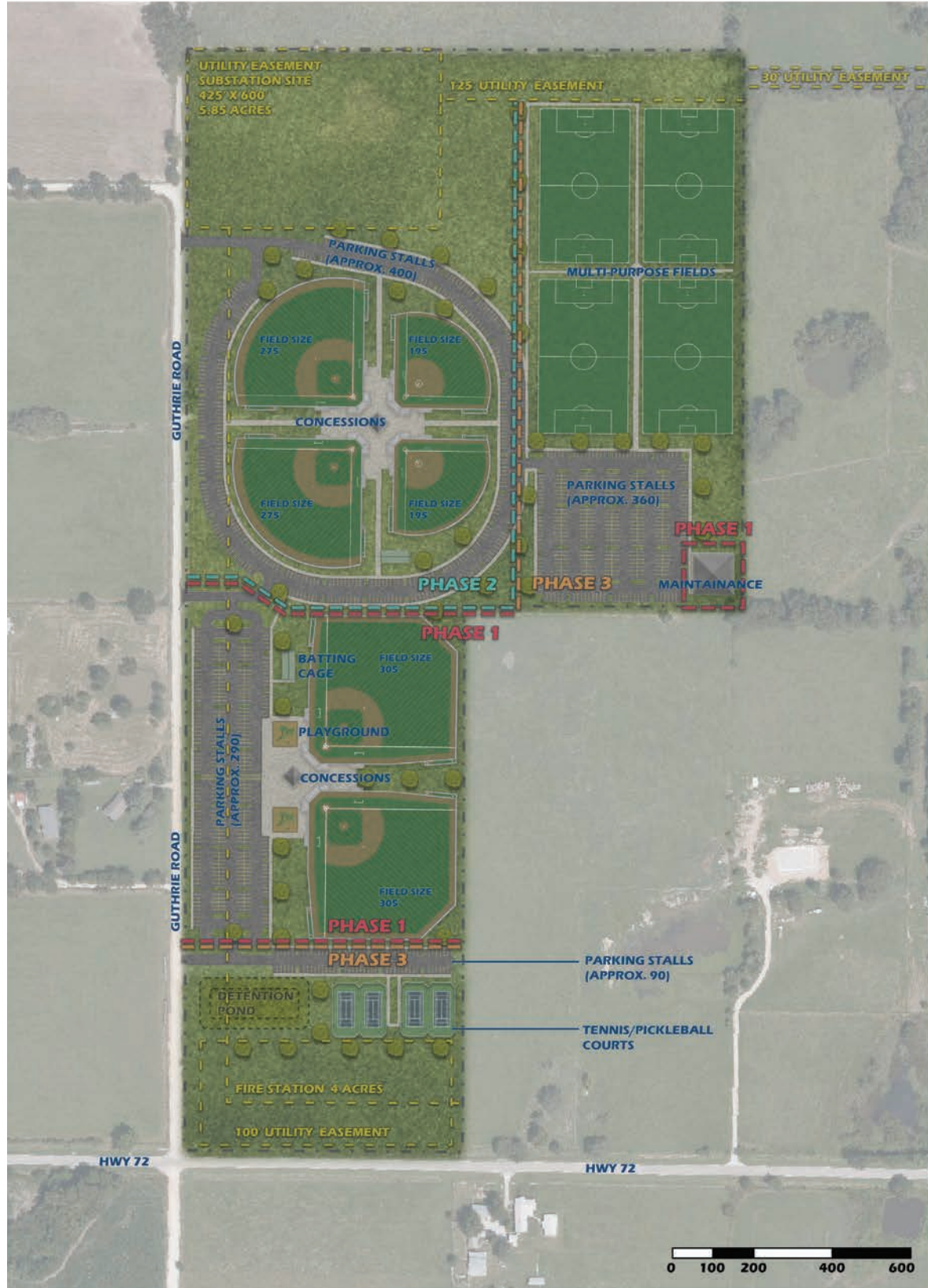
CITY OF PEA RIDGE  
 VETERANS MEMORIAL SQUARE  
 AUGUST 5, 2024

CONCEPT - SITE LAYOUT

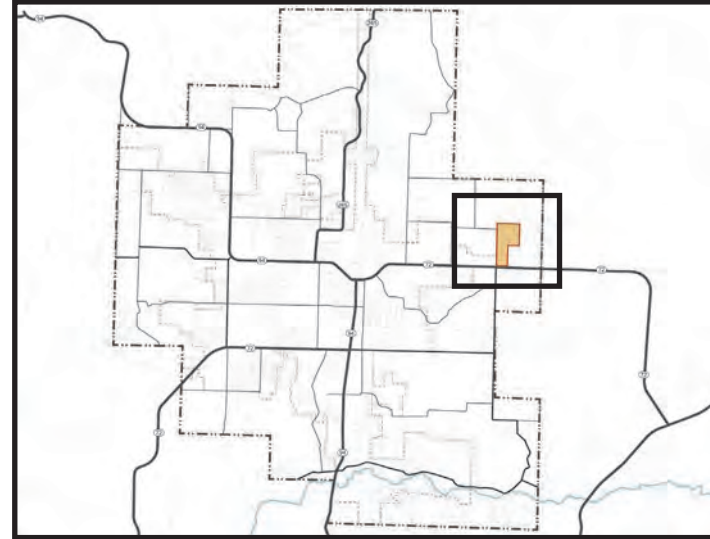


# OPEN SPACE AND PARKS PROJECTS

## SPORTS COMPLEX



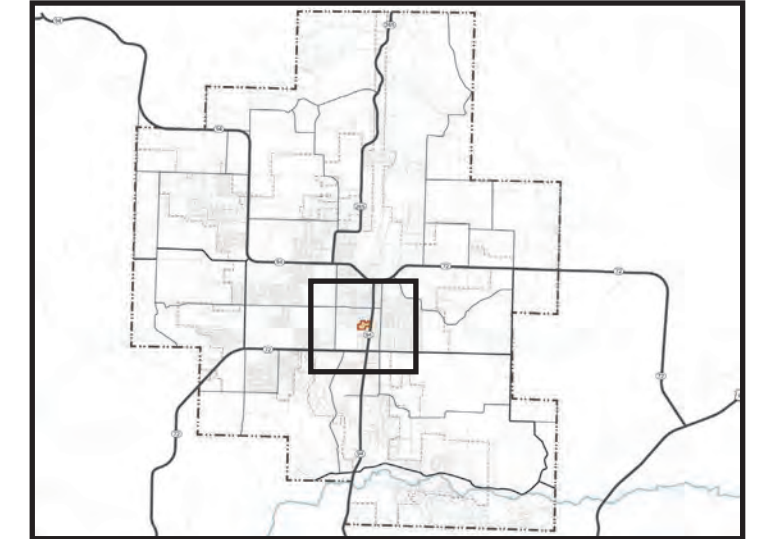
LOCATION



# PEA RIDGE PARK



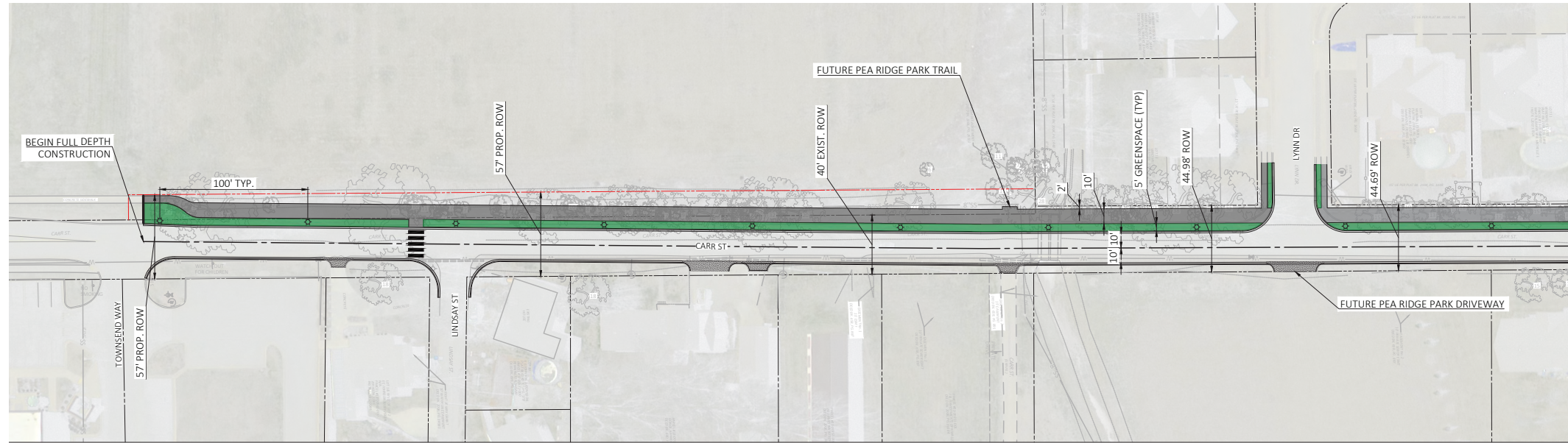
**LOCATION**



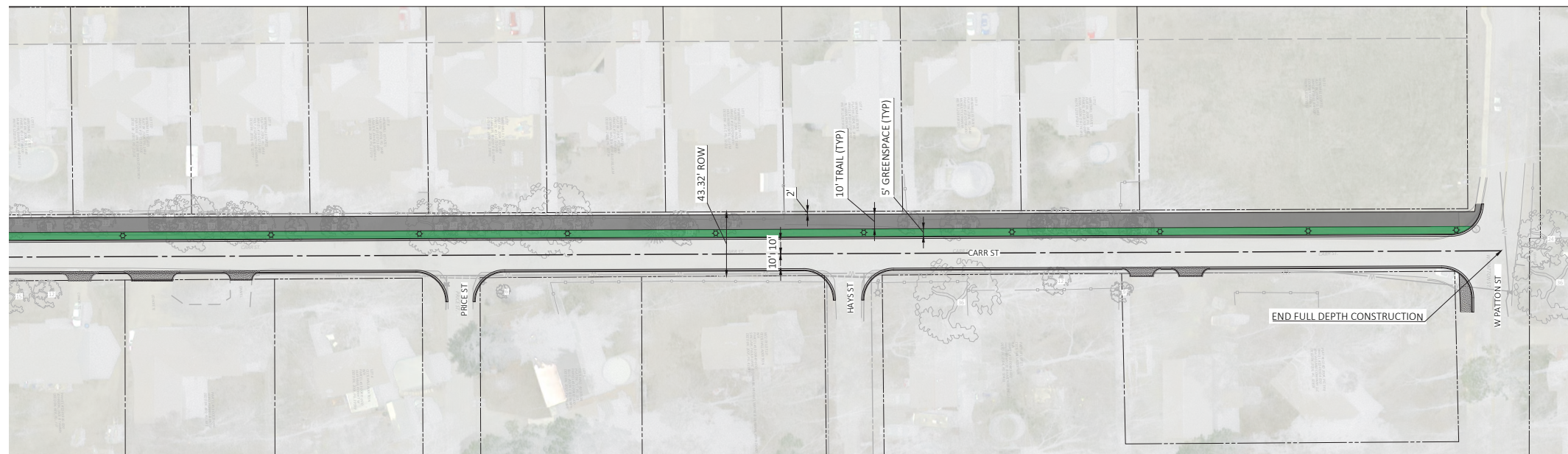
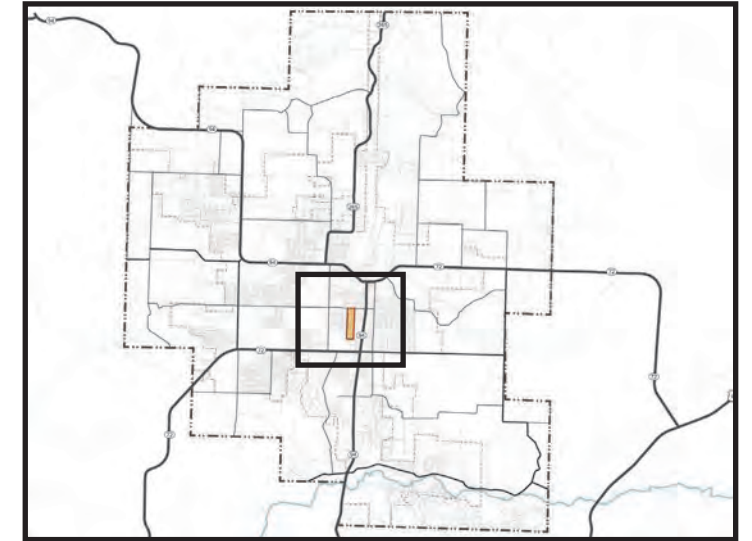
CITY OF PEA RIDGE  
PEA RIDGE PARK



# CARR STREET IMPROVEMENTS



LOCATION



LEGEND	
	PROPERTY LINE
	RIGHT OF WAY LINE
	EASEMENT LINE
	PROPOSED ROADWAY CENTER LINE
	PROPOSED ROW
	PROPOSED SIDEWALKS
	PROPOSED GREENSPACE
	PROPOSED STREET LIGHT



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

At the end of August, our team engaged with key stakeholders, including City council members, the school superintendent, department heads, and active community members, to gather insights for the Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan. Across all conversations, recurring themes such as the need for improved connectivity, enhanced parks and open spaces, and reinforcing the City's unique sense of place emerged as top priorities. These discussions have informed our approach and the recommendations we will provide to align with community values and expectations.

### CONNECTIVITY:

#### 1. COMMUNITY MOBILITY, SAFETY, & RECREATION

- **Safety is an Issue:** Addressing risks and hazards to ensure community safety through improved infrastructure
- **Mobility vs. Active Recreation:** Balancing efficient transportation with adequate spaces for recreation.
- **Differences in Typologies:** Catering to the unique needs of different areas, such as schools, residential, and commercial.
- **Local vs. Regional:** Balancing neighborhood-specific needs with broader regional infrastructure and connectivity

#### 2. CONNECTIVITY

- **North-South and East-West Connections:** Create a complete framework/system.
- **Capitalize on Existing ROWs:** Utilize existing Rights-of-Way to build connections.
- **Differences in Typologies:** Address varying needs of different land uses.
- **Local vs. Regional Connectivity:** Balance neighborhood connections with broader regional infrastructure.
- **Legacy/Heritage Connectivity:** Preserve, integrate, and build on historical and cultural connections.

#### 3. ACCESSIBILITY

- **Barrier-Free Pathways:** Design smooth, accessible pathways and crossings to ensure easy mobility for all users, including those with disabilities.
- **Inclusive Facilities:** Incorporate accessible features and amenities in recreational areas and public spaces to ensure equal participation and comfort for everyone.

### PARKS AND OPEN SPACE:

#### 1. ACTIVE RECREATION

- **Outdoor Athletic Venues:** Outdoor athletic venues, such as fields and courts, to facilitate team sports and recreational games.
- **Indoor Athletic Venues:** Indoor athletic facilities, including swimming pools, tracks, and courts, to provide opportunities for year-round sports and fitness activities.
- **Playspace:** Playgrounds and splashpads to offer safe and enjoyable areas for children and families.
- **Lifestyle Sports:** Lifestyle sports like disc golf, pump tracks, skateboarding, and climbing/bouldering to cater to

various recreational interests.

#### 2. PASSIVE RECREATION

- **Walking Paths:** Provide routes for leisurely walks, promoting physical activity and offering a serene environment for relaxation and reflection.
- **Community Gardens:** Engage in local food production, fostering social interaction and a sense of ownership while enhancing urban green spaces.
- **Nature:** Enhance connectivity to natural environments, providing opportunities for relaxation, wildlife observation, and environmental education, while ensuring easy access and integration with surrounding green spaces.

#### 3. CULTURAL SPACES

- **Arts:** Art exhibitions, public installations, and studios to promote local artists and cultural activities.
- **Music:** Venues for live performances and community concerts to support local musicians and music events.
- **Maker Spaces:** Areas for crafting and innovation, enabling hands-on projects and skill development.

### SENSE OF PLACE:

#### 1. CONSERVATION/STEWARDSHIP

- **Stewardship:** Protect natural habitats and resources, ensuring that recreational areas are designed to preserve ecological integrity and enhance the community's connection to the natural environment.

#### 2. COMMUNITY IDENTITY

- **Schools:** Integral to community identity as they serve as educational, athletic, and social centers
- **Perception of Affordability:** The community's identity is strongly influenced by perceptions of affordability.
- **Perception of Open Space:** The presence and quality of open spaces define the community's identity.

#### 3. SENSE OF PLACE

- **Agricultural Character:** The agricultural character of Pea Ridge contributes to its sense of place by preserving traditional land uses and landscapes that reflect local heritage and rural identity.
- **Undeveloped Land:** The presence of undeveloped open space around a community enhances its sense of place by providing natural buffers, scenic views, and recreational opportunities.

#### 4. HISTORY

- **Agricultural Character:** Agricultural past and rural landscapes reflect the area's early settlement and historical reliance on agriculture.
- **Cultural Connections:** Local traditions and events enhance the sense of identity and shared heritage.

## SURVEY

A community-wide survey has been distributed to gather input from Pea Ridge residents about their usage, preferences, and priorities for the City's parks, trails, and open spaces. The survey includes questions about local park activities, important improvements, and areas for potential development or preservation. It also asks residents about their use of local trails and feedback on recreational facilities. This effort, conducted alongside Garver's Future Land Use Development survey, will be open for one month and aims to capture a broad range of voices from different age groups, including under-18 participants. Responses will help shape the future of Pea Ridge's open spaces and ensure they meet the needs of the growing community.

### OVERALL SURVEY QUESTIONS (#)

#### 1) What is your age?

- A) Under 18
- B) 18-24
- C) 25-34
- D) 35-44
- E) 45-54
- F) 55-64
- G) 65+

#### 13) Do you have children under 18 living in your home?

- A) Yes
- B) No

#### 14) Do you live or work in the City of Pea Ridge?

- A) Live or work in the City
- B) Work in the City
- C) Live and work in the City
- D) Live and work outside the City
- E) Unsure

#### 15) If you do not live or work in Pea Ridge, what brings you to the City? (please select all that apply)?

- A) Grocery Store
- B) Schools
- C) Restaurants
- D) Sports field, parks, biking, or other open space or recreation
- E) Medical, vet, or dental office visit
- F) Library
- G) Shopping in the downtown area
- H) Battlefield Park
- I) Other shopping needs
- J) Other (please specify)

#### 16) Please indicate within which area of the city you live or work by utilizing the city ward map above to located the appropriate ward number. If you both live and work within the city, please choose the ward where you reside.

- A) Ward 1
- B) Ward 2
- C) Ward 3
- D) Unsure

#### 17) Of the existing institutions, businesses, and amenities within the City- please specify which you utilize on a regular basis (please select all that apply).

- A) Grocery Store
- B) Schools
- C) Restaurants
- D) City Parks, sports fields, biking, or other recreation
- E) Personal Services
- F) Medical, vet, or dental office visits
- G) Library
- H) Other (please specify)

#### 18) Which parks do you use or visit in Pea Ridge?

- A) Pea Ridge City Park
- B) Pea Ridge Memorial Park
- C) Baker Hayes Urban Trail
- D) Givens Park
- E) School Sports Fields
- F) Other (Write-In)
- G) None of the above.

#### 19) Which activity(s) do you typically do at parks?

- A) Children's Activities (playground, etc.)
- B) Picnic
- C) Walking Trail
- D) Meet Friends/Family
- E) Enjoy Nature
- F) Exercise
- G) Athletics - Organized
- H) Athletics – Pick-Up
- I) Community Events
- J) Other (Write In)

#### 20) Which walking or biking facilities do you use in and around Pea Ridge? (Multiple Choice; Select all that apply)

- A) Sidewalks
- B) Shared Use Path
- C) Bicycle Lane on Road
- D) Baker Hayes Trail
- E) Pea Ridge Military Battlefield Loop
- F) Williams Hollow Trail
- G) Pea Ridge Horse Loop
- H) Historic Ford Road
- I) Bella Vista Lake Trail
- J) Back 40 (Bella Vista)
- K) Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 21) How accessible do you feel Pea Ridge parks and open spaces are to you?(In this and the following question we are using the word "accessible" to ask how easy is it for you to get to or access the existing parks and open spaces, as well as how easy it is for you to utilize the existing facilities there once you arrive.)

#### 22) What would help make Pea Ridge parks and open space more accessible for you?

#### 23) Please select what types of development and public improvements you would like to see in Pea Ridge over the next 20 years?

- A) Residential
- B) Parks/Recreational Green Spaces
- C) General Commercial/Retail
- D) Trades and Services
- E) Downtown-like Mixed-Use
- F) Drive-Thru Restaurants
- G) Sit-down Restaurants
- H) Arts and Entertainment

#### 24) What do you think are the most important improvements needed in Pea Ridge parks, trails, and open spaces? (Select up to three)

- A) Improved maintenance and cleanliness
- B) Additional trails
- C) More recreational facilities (e.g., playgrounds, sports fields)
- D) Better accessibility (e.g., ADA-compliant features)
- E) More natural areas/wildlife habitats
- F) Enhanced safety/security
- G) More community events/activities
- H) Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

#### 25) Are there specific areas in Pea Ridge where you would like to see new parks, trails, or open spaces developed?(Open-ended question)

#### 9) Are there specific areas in Pea Ridge where you would like to see preservation and no development?

- A) Yes, (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_
- B) No

#### 29) What are the most pressing challenges facing Pea Ridge in the next 20 years? Drag and drop the challenges to the desired position (1=most pressing challenge, 11= least pressing challenge)

- A) Traffic
- B) Population Growth
- C) Retaining the "Small Town" character of the City
- D) Provision of adequate roads and connectivity between new and existing dev.
- E) Water and Sewer Availability
- G) Enhancing Downtown Character
- H) Availability of Affordable Housing
- I) Availability of Local Entertainment and Shopping
- J) Adequate Parks and Greenspaces for New Neighborhoods

#### 30) What do you think is the city's greatest opportunity for the future?

#### 31) What is your greatest concern for the city's future?

#### 32) How do you usually find out about events or activities happening in Pea Ridge parks?

- A) Social Media
- B) City Website
- C) Weekly Newsletter
- D) Local News
- E) Flyers at City Hall
- F) Other (please specify)

#### 35) Please leave any additional comments or thoughts you have regarding the future of Pea Ridge, the Future Land Use, Master Street Plan, or Parks or Open Space Plan.

*Some survey questions have been excluded from this report as they did not directly relate to the work presented. These questions were part of a broader survey conducted in conjunction with Garver as part of the efforts for the Comprehensive Plan and Master Street Plan (MSP).*

## SURVEY RESPONSES

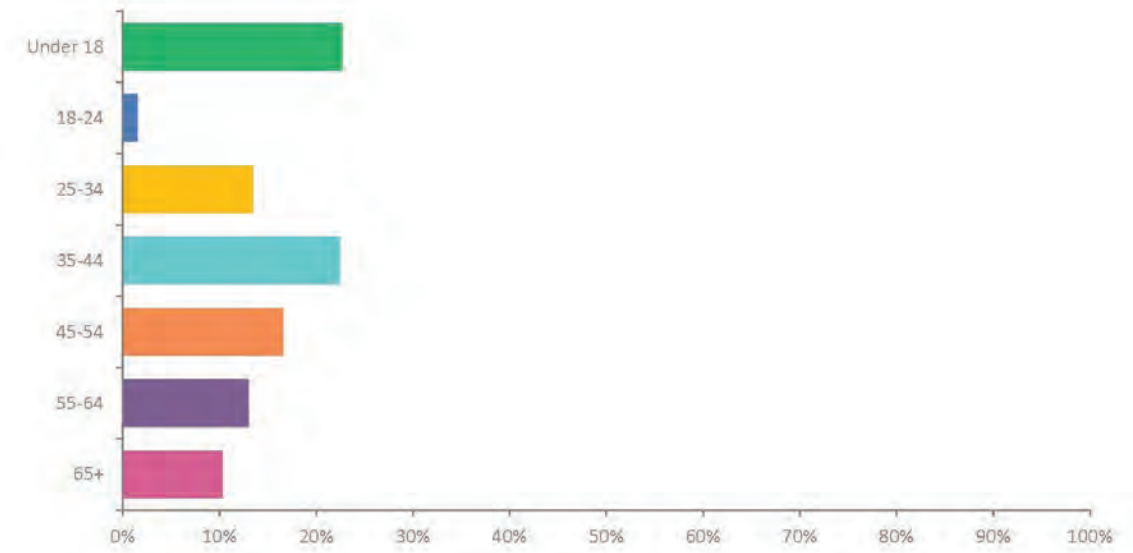
### City of Pea Ridge Public Input Survey (Adult)

Tuesday, December 03, 2024

**669**  
Total Responses

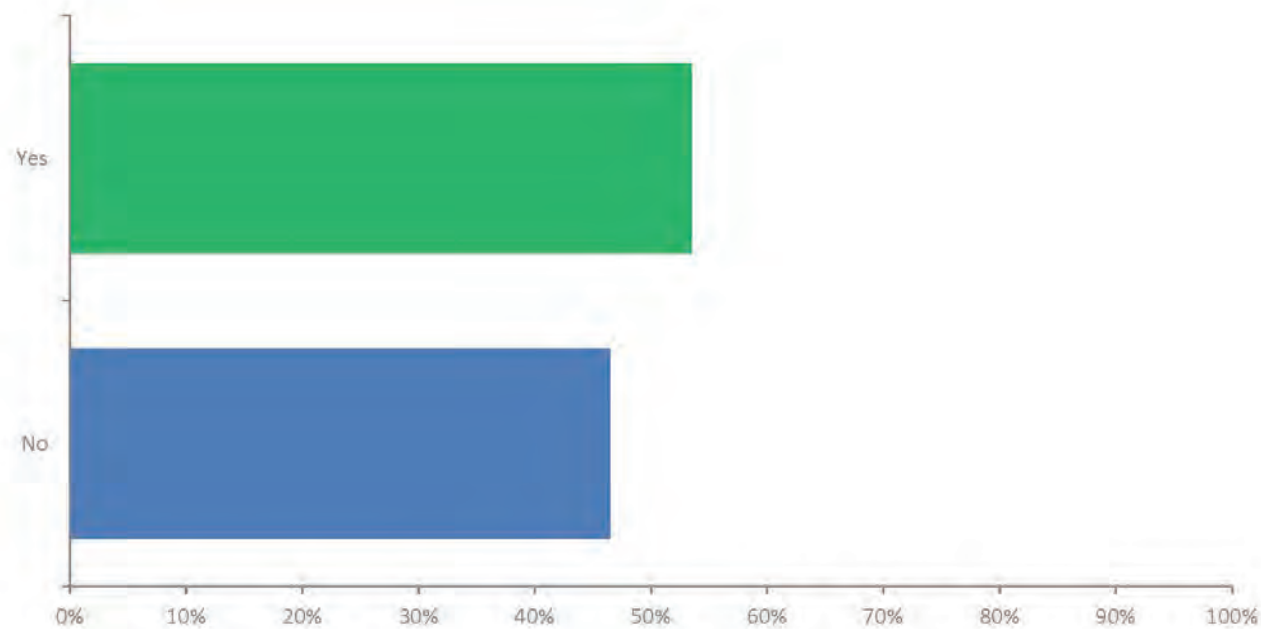
#### Q1: What is your age?

Answered: 669 Skipped: 0



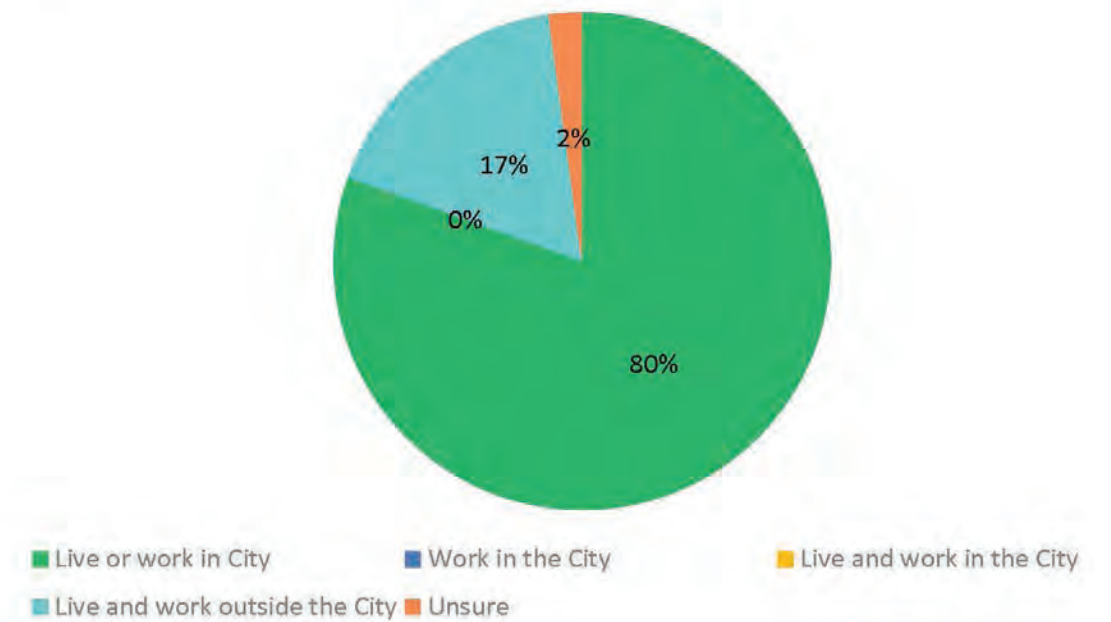
#### Q13: Do you have children under 18 living in your home?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 157



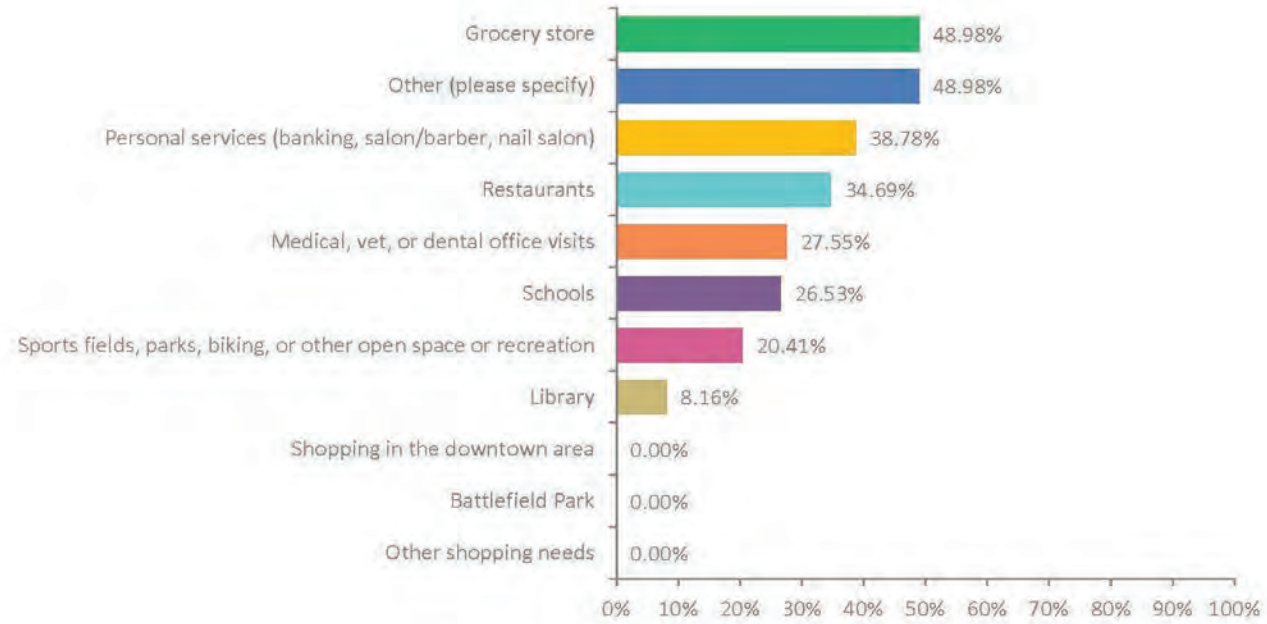
#### Q14: Do you live or work in the City of Pea Ridge?

Answered: 512 Skipped: 157



**Q15: If you do not live or work in Pea Ridge, what brings you to the City? (Please select all that apply)**

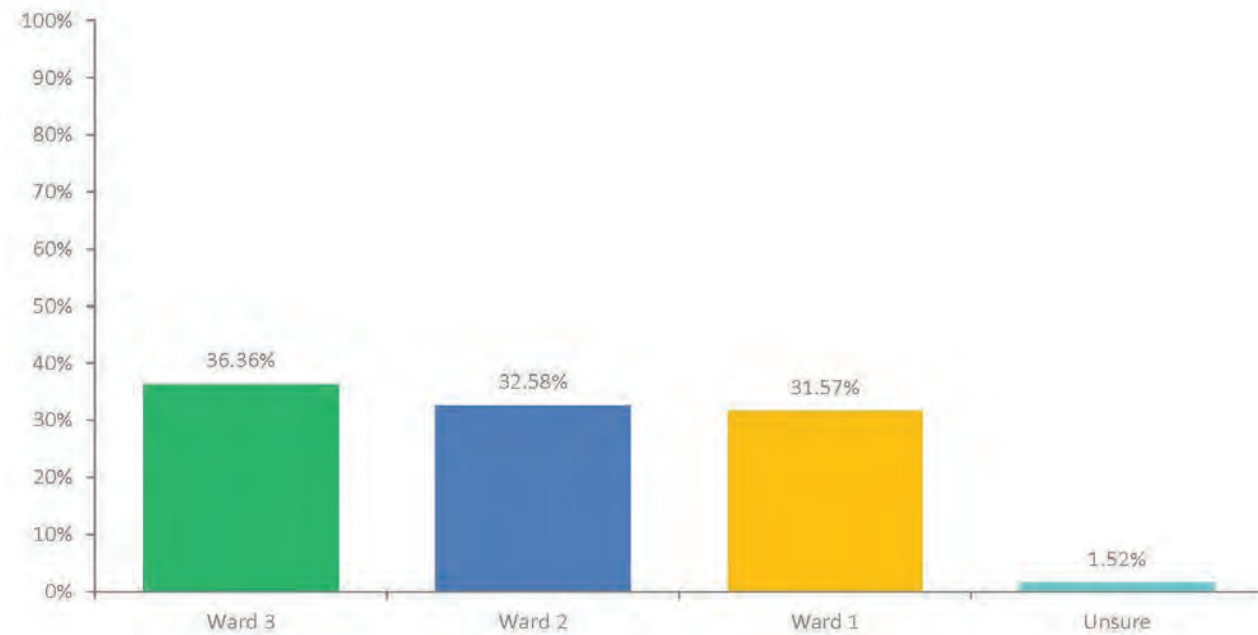
Answered: 98 Skipped: 571



Other (please specify)
I live there...
Na
My mother, brother and rental house
Live in pea ridge
Feed store, Hardware
Live right outside city limits/not on ward map
I live here
Live in city
Other store...dollar general, ace, etc. 2nd Saturdays and holiday events. We live just across the line in Mo. Pea Ridge is closest town to us.
I live here.
Live here
Close to work but small town feel and community
Housing
live in city
We live in PR
Mule jump
pharmacy
Live here
I live in pea ridge
I live here
Church
Na
Just outside city limits, our kids go to Pea Ridge Schools
Car wash
Live in city
Church, Ember Mountain Coffee, Walmart, Ace, Dollar Tree
nothing
sleeping

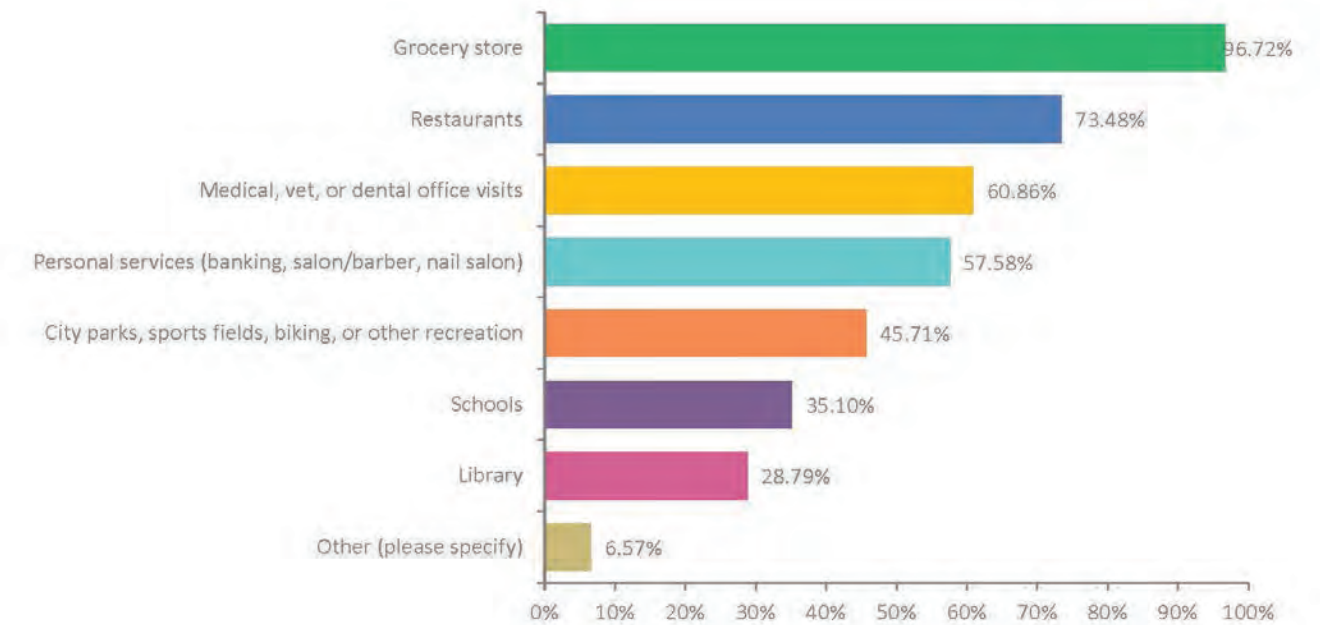
**Q16: Please indicate within which area of the city you live or work by utilizing the city ward map above to located the appropriate ward number. If you both live and work within the city, please choose the ward where you reside.**

Answered: 396 Skipped: 273



**Q17: Of the existing institutions, businesses, and amenities within the City- please specify which you utilize on a regular basis (please select all that apply).**

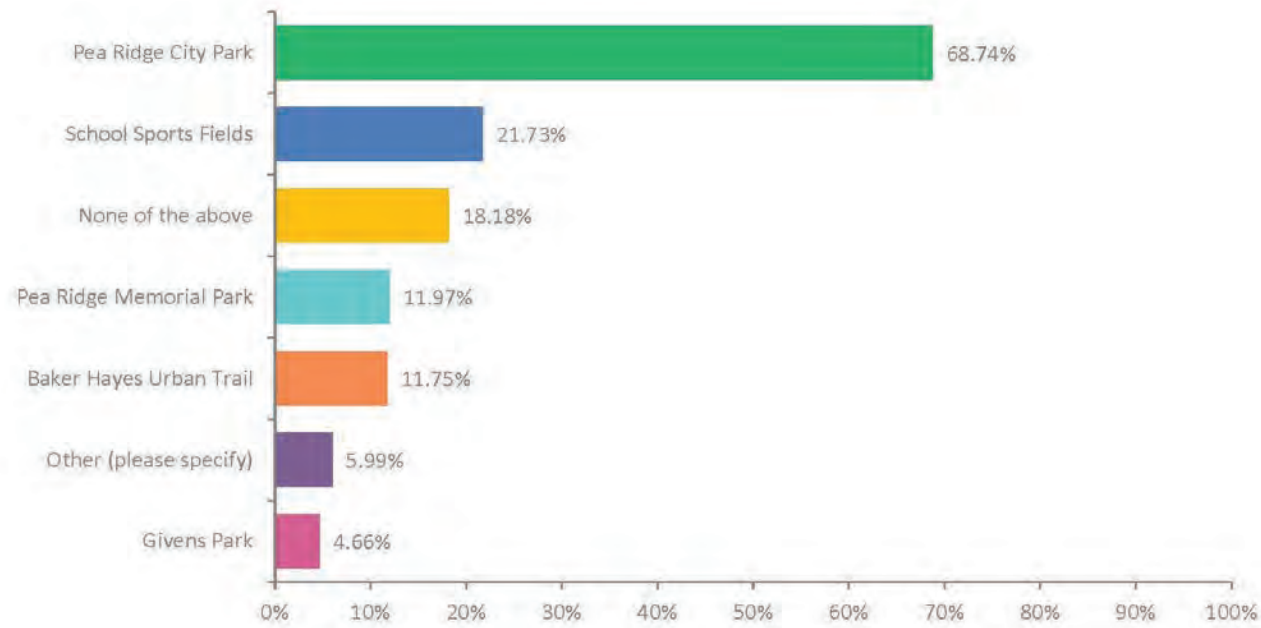
Answered: 396 Skipped: 273



I don't shop in Pea Ridge on a regular basis. I shop in other cities. I live here but can't stand the community
Auto parts store, Ace Hardware
Local businesses
City call
Fire Station. More ambulance and fire trucks (they service 14000 + citizens in the city and county area. More technical rescue resources are needed for the growth of the city.
Post Office
Church
Running trails - we need more.
Church
Church
Non food stores
Dollar Tree - Ace Hardware, etc.
city services
Webb Feed, Ace, Dollar General, Dollar Store etc.
gym, oil changes
Gas station
Gas
Ember Mountain for best smoothies, Dollar Tree for crafts, Ace Hardware,
Trash pick up and water combined with sewer.
I work my Private Practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Pea Ridge

**Q18: Thinking about Parks in Pea Ridge, which parks do you use or visit?**

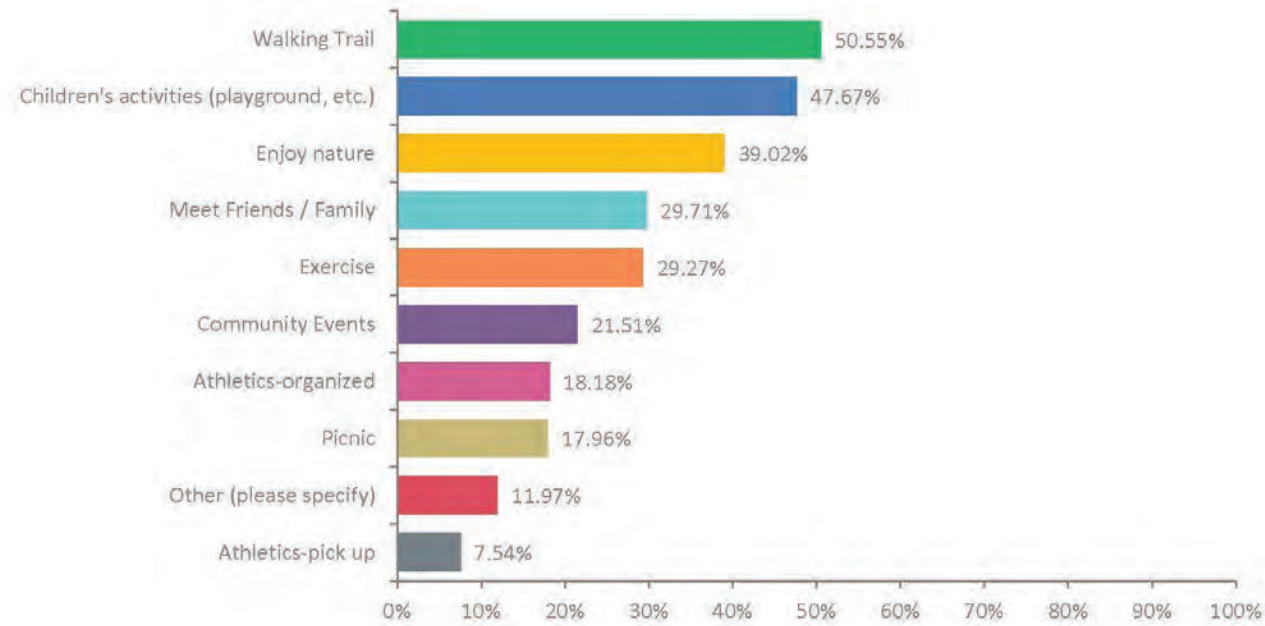
Answered: 451 Skipped: 218



Other (please specify)
The Dog Park- I don't know the name of it
Neighborhood park
Have not used yet
School track to run
I'm
where is go to other parts that are bigger and have more stuff to do Speech
National Military Park
The Military Park
Golf... understanding it's not city property
Wherever events are held
Dog Park
umm----- great great grandson
the track/football field I go there everyday for track
Military Park
Soccer Fields at Church
Dog park
City streets for cycling
Soccer Fields at Baptist Church
Id like these builders to provide neighborhood parks (2 lots) with no parking so centered to the subdivision
Pea Ridge Battlefield
Pea Ridge Military Park
Dog park
Dog park
soccer fields at first baptist church
The Military park
Military park
The new dog park across from the PO!

**Q19: Which activities do you typically do at parks?**

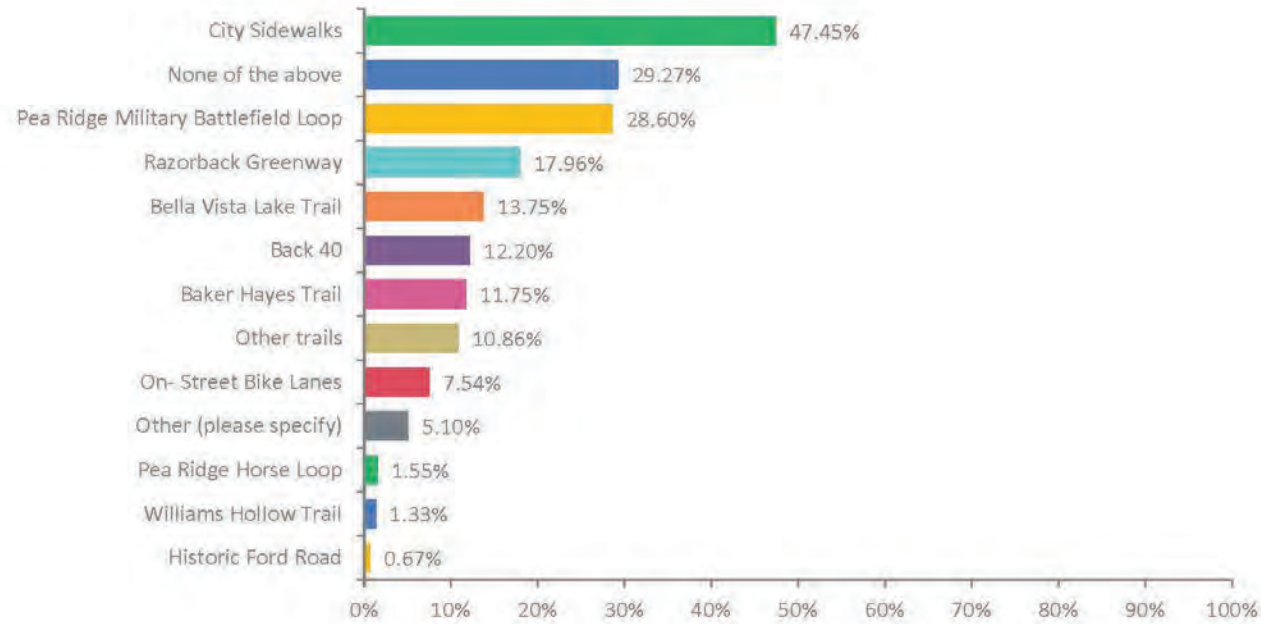
Answered: 451 Skipped: 218



Q19: Other (please specify)
None
Was movie in park
Church activities and events
Church outings
Disc golf
NA
Swim & bike
Biking trail
n/a
N/A
None
Don't go to parks
Birthday or Baby Showers
Walk my dogs
Family events at pavilion and splash pad
N/A
NU UHHHH
qaudrobics
Biking
Tennis
Activities for grand children!
Biking
Splashpad
None
None.
N/A
None
Cycling
Bike
Have difficulty walking so unable to go many places
None
Get away from the hordes of people
None
Splash pad
We haven't used local parks
Birthday Party
Ham Radio Club
None
Church /family events
Exercise dogs
I no longer go to the parks but when I did, I went to the City Park and enjoyed walking the trail.
School field trips
N/A
Splash pad for my granddaughter
Do not go to parks
Walk dog
Mountain bike
None
Biking
Dog walking
Play Pickelball
Watching Grandkids run and play!

**Q20: Which walking or biking facilities do you currently use in and around Pea Ridge?**

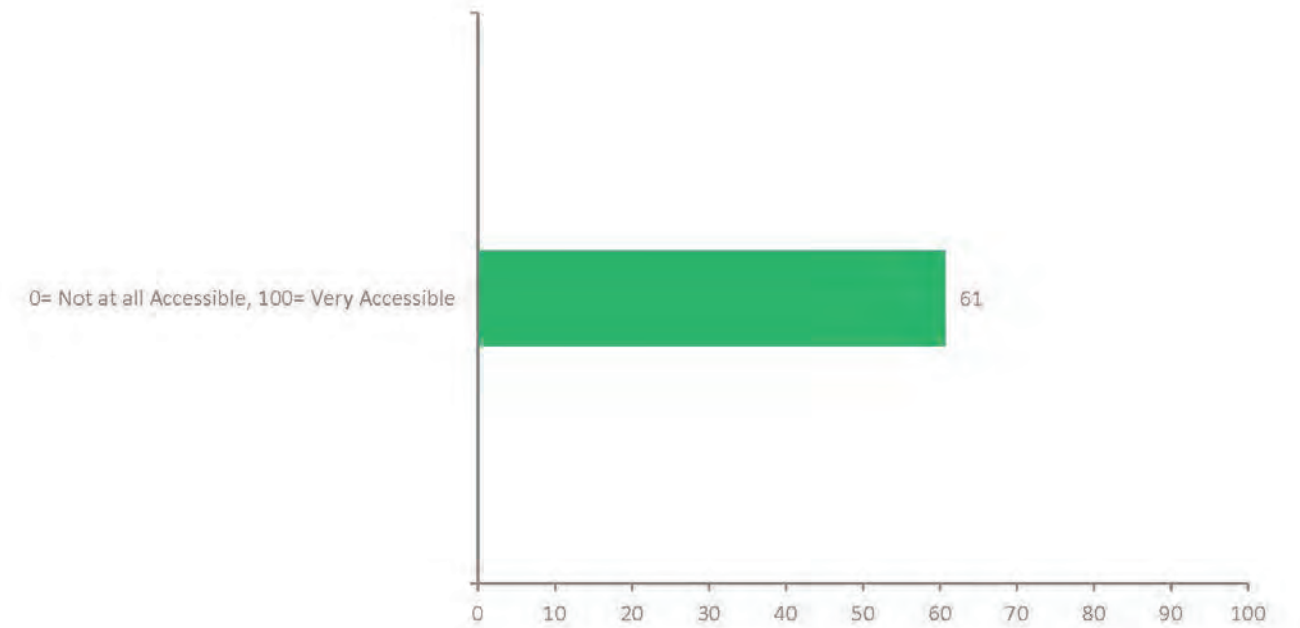
Answered: 451 Skipped: 218



Q20: Other (please specify)
City park
Can we find a way to connect to the greenway!
Country roads
Sidewalks inside our neighborhood.
Didnt know how many trails were in pea ridge. We usually go to bentonville...totally going to check out other trails now that I see this list.
Subdivision sidewalks
City Park
High school track
School track
Coler
Fox Spur neighborhood sidewalks
Railyard bike park
All of the Bentonville/Bella Vista MTB single track teaila
Military Battlefield Loop is a tick hazard.
Pea ridge park trail
Sugar Creek Road
Memorial park for running the loop
City Park
School track
Only the walking loop at the park
City park
Slaughter Pen, Coler
Football field track

**Q21: How accessible do you feel Pea Ridge parks and open spaces are to you?(In this and the following question we are using the word "accessible" to ask how easy is it for you to get to or access the existing parks and open spaces, as well as how easy it is for you to utilize the existing facilities there once you arrive.) 0=Not at all Accessible, 100=Very Accessible**

Answered: 451 Skipped: 218





**Q 22: What would help make Pea Ridge parks and open space more accessible for you?**

**Answered - 237**

**Skipped - 423**

Q22: Responses
More information on what is available
Branch on to Bella Vista and Bentonville
Having equipment that all people can access including those who are differently abled.
Don't use enough
Not building tons of houses and ruining the vibe or feel of the town. Not peaceful when being watched out a window.
Easy access to sidewalks. 265 really needs sidewalks
Clear trails or sidewalks
It is so spread out and very difficult to use safely with my kids at different ages and wants
Better road system in pea ridge with turning lanes and stop lights
Added size walks to for the people that has to use a walker or scooter.
Easier to get to without a vehicle. Parks and open space scattered more evenly throughout the community and connected by cycling and pedestrian infrastructure
A greenway trail that connects us to Bentonville.
X
Neighborhood parks like Givens I would not use. Seems like neighborhood parks, not city. I know the city assumes responsibility of streets but sidewalks still feel like neighborhood not a throughway for walking.
More walking trails near down
Sidewalks so we could walk to the parks.
Disc golf course
Finish putting sidewalks along all the roads.
NA
Sidewalks and crosswalks. Lighted Nature trail
Paved parking. Trails to play equipment that a stroller friendly.
More sidewalks
I know the city has to go through the state for the stop light needs due to 72 and 94, but better traffic flow and stop lights are necessary.
More parks
Location on the west side of Hwy 94
Not sure
More parks closure to neighborhoods
Move City Park to flat space
Street lights and sidewalks
Better connecting sidewalks or trail systems
More parking

Parks comparable to Bentonville. New equipment. Larger splash pad. Paved road/ parking. Pickleball court.
N/A
Trails
If there were more things for younger children to play on.
Love to see pea ridge city park updated playground.
Better roads, more parking and activities. Stop lights, more shops in town for inbetween school/work/ sports events
For the city park, it needs to be much more level, paved instead of concrete, turf or rubber mulch in playground, adaptive swings for handicapped children, more benches, more trash cans, a pickleball court, better lighting
Bike trails to connect parks
I would love to see a sidewalk put in to walk all the way to the city park. We tried going on a walk there once and the sidewalk ended before the park and being a mom with a double stroller I did not want to keep going on a very busy road so we turned around disappointed
Easier walking area or to push a wheelchair or use a scooter
More sidewalks to walk places.
more sidewalks on main roads so we can get to biking trails/parks easier
Better parking areas/gathering areas, sidewalks!
Toddler friendlier parks that are cleaned and not rusty and moldy.
Paved walking and parking
Swimming pool
The city park is hard for my little one. Steep hike and the way the boxes are done on the playgrounds
Sidewalks from my neighborhood into town.
Side walks connecting from neighbors to the park. We have new housing developments that the side walk ends. They don't connect from subdivision to subdivision or there is a side walk on only one side of the street
Have paved areas getting from Avalon subdivision to parks and trails. We would love to walk, run, and bike nearby trails but don't feel safe leaving our neighborhood. We also would like to commute to neighboring towns/cities via bicycle. It would be nice to ditch our vehicles when we don't need them! It allows us to really SEE our community and the ones around us.
Safer walking on our sidewalks and streets .
Side walks to connect us to town. We live in Maple Glenn and would love to ride our bike to Walmart and those business around. If we could get to Walmart, we could then ride our bikes all the way to the city park.
Inter connecting, or roadside, sidewalks.
Wide and interconnected sidewalks.
Having a map
I would really like to see Pea Ridge become a more walkable/rideable town (I know this is not a popular answer). Too many kids and adults walking/riding on roads that are becoming busy with vehicle traffic - it is not safe.
More WHOLE family activities. Water activities/park

**Q 22: What would help make Pea Ridge parks and open space more accessible for you? (continue)**

Sidewalks aren't connected. It's hard to get places without using the car. Pea ridge playgrounds are outdated and need updating
Better streets and traffic flow
Update the roads/infrastructure
I don't know anything about them.
Build side walks. Promote trails sites map in the city.
Putting parks in all the subdivisions
More options would be nice with a growing population
Sidewalks in every part of town is a dire need. This would help with the parks as well. Pea Ridge City park is not easily accessible, but it also consists of hills.
Safer, cleaner
Allow reservations to use the pavilions
To make Pea Ridge parks and open spaces more accessible, I'd love to see improvements like expanded walking and biking paths that connect different areas of town and safer pedestrian crossings on major roads. Additionally, increasing shaded rest areas and adding more benches would make our parks more inviting for families and older residents. It would also be great to have more ADA-compliant features, like accessible trails, so everyone can enjoy the natural beauty around us. As our city grows, enhancing these areas would really encourage more outdoor community engagement.
New play equipment for kids.
More side walks and lighted cross walks
Would love to see some easy trails to ride bikes on. Maybe a community bldg/space to rent for family events.
More cross walks in town to cross Lee Town and Curtis. My kids bike to the park alot and the street crossings are a bit dangerous. (Davis and Patton Rd)
?
If there were completed sidewalks and bike trails to them. Then I wouldn't have to drive or could walk.
Sidewalks and crosswalks
If there were more walking/biking paths
If there was one closer to me. Closest is a 7-minute drive away. Close but not close enough to enjoy daily.
Have more stuff to do
Bigger and more fields
There needs to be more paved (>6' wide) nature trails > with parking!
Pickleball court and further amenities supporting youth activities, such as sand volleyball, and skate park
I don't know where they are, so maybe more signs in town for them?
Special needs park
There are too many people living here now for anything to be called accessible
Having more sidewalks and crosswalks, especially one connecting my neighborhood (Given's Place) to the rest of the city. Better biking infrastructure so I can ride a bike into town.
Better signs and mapping

Connecting bike/walking/jogging trails to main local amenities and parks.
As a graduate level student, I am constantly seeking ways to enhance my overall well-being and quality of life. One aspect that I believe plays a crucial role in achieving this is access to parks and open space. Pea Ridge is a beautiful area with a number of parks and natural areas that offer opportunities for relaxation, recreation, and connection with nature. However, as a busy student with limited time and resources, I often find it challenging to fully take advantage of these spaces.
In order to make Pea Ridge parks and open space more accessible for me, I believe there are several key steps that could be taken. First and foremost, increasing the availability of public transportation options to these areas would be extremely beneficial. Many students, myself included, rely on public transportation as our primary means of getting around, and having reliable and convenient access to parks and open space would make it much easier for us to visit these areas on a regular basis.
Additionally, improving the infrastructure in and around these parks would also help to make them more accessible. This could include adding more accessible pathways, bike lanes, and signage to help visitors navigate the area more easily. By making these simple improvements, the parks and open spaces in Pea Ridge could become more user-friendly and inviting to individuals of all ages and abilities.
Furthermore, ensuring that these areas are well-maintained and safe would also be key in making them more accessible. Students like myself are often looking for places where we can relax and unwind, and having well-maintained parks and open spaces would provide us with the perfect environment to do so. By investing in the upkeep of these areas, Pea Ridge could attract more visitors and encourage them to spend more time outdoors.
In conclusion, making Pea Ridge parks and open space more accessible for me and other graduate level students would not only benefit us as individuals, but also the community as a whole. By increasing access to these areas through public transportation options, improving infrastructure, and maintaining these spaces, Pea Ridge could become a more vibrant and healthy community for all of its residents. I urge local officials and community leaders to consider these suggestions and take action to make our parks and open spaces more accessible for
stop putting more people
Better sidewalk system
More trails. We currently go to Rogers or Bentonville to walk trails. We like shaded trails, not all sun. It gets way too hot for my husband with no shade.
Build the sidewalks throughout the city, including on Curtis south of 72. It's unsafe to get into the main part of town from houses on the south side outside of using a vehicle. There is no crosswalk at 72 and Curtis so it feels like playing Frogger. Would recommend looking at Creekside Park in Bentonville as a shining example of a wonderful park with lots of open space.
website information, maps, park use descriptions
Sidewalks
More space and better parking at times organized sports are utilizing the same spaces. Pickleball Courts. Golf related activities.

More parking, picnic tables and walking trails
Not adding more people and keeping our town quiet and small
More Green Parks and picnic areas, City aquatic center close by. Indoor walking track that can be utilized all year.
Would be nice to have more city provided maintenance on the baker hayes trail. Parking can be a mess when at the city park when parties are going on kind of a hodge podge parking area. Would be great to have e paved parking with lines
Lights and more sodewalks
Would be helpful if playgrounds were fenced in.
More equipment
Sidewalks that connect all around Pea Ridge so that walkers don't have to walk either in the road or in the brush on the side of the road. Also, connecting Pea Ridge to NWA's larger biking/hiking trail network.
Flat surfaces for those who have a hard time walking.
Better/more sidewalks. So you don't have to drive or walk/ride in the street to get to a park
The Pea Ridge Park has spots that seem very isolated and potentially unsafe. The playground equipment with the big slide needs updated.
More sidewalks down main roads. Hwy 72 needs sidewalks from Oak View to the 4 way.
Better, safer sidewalks and connectivity
More signage and links to Greenway
More understanding of locations
More paved walking trails and sidewalks. Ability to leave my neighborhood safely on foot.
The city park ditches are too steep to navigate with young toddlers, and the playgrounds are too far spread out to chase them around the whole city park. I wish the ground was less steep and rocky. A fenced in playground would be awesome.
I live outside the city limits, but just east of town. I would love for there to be more parks and open spaces on the east side of Pea Ridge.
Bigger better parks
Having additional paved or chat walking trails near ward 3.
Not at all
There is very minimal offered at the parks. Parking is horrible at Pea Ridge City park.
More ADA friendly
More family recreation and retail, restaurants, bike trails.
A pool
Have more of them dispersed throughout the city.
I didn't know there were so many trails in Pea Ridge. Is there a map of trails?
Added sidewalks that lead to parks, identification leading to parks

Improvements in infrastructure, public roads connecting opposite sides of the city, public roads connecting through new subdivisions, reduced speed limits close to schools/parks and along Slack, roundabouts, and more parking.
More sitting, shade, good walking paths
Many spaces in Pea Ridge are difficult to access on foot or by bicycle, except by walking on the shoulder of a busy road. More sidewalks or bike trails would help greatly.
It's very accessible to me
MTB trails that link to Bella Vista, Bentonville, Rogers so we don't have to commute out of city to start our long rides
It's a bit hard to ride cycle to the parks. Some of the quiet streets don't always connect. Some of the busier roads don't have bicycle lanes (72, 94, Curtis) which I am uneasy about riding with children on.
Proper bike/walk paths to the park
We would like additional space to be preserved as green space. The more green space, the more attractive the town. We love to see the fields and trees.
Additional nature preserve / green space areas.
More sidewalks to connect spacea
More advertisement so I know where they are
Better located to my shopping activity.
More bike lanes or sidewalks to get into town
More sidewalks and bike lanes
Would like to see more street bike trails
Alleviating traffic patterns in the middle of town would aid in opportunities to be even more accessible by bike (from where I'm located). Yes, I can go far around via dirt road, but it's not a quick trip into town.
Trail connectivity from Big Sugar area to downtown.
Sidewalks and greenways! And more centrally located parks
Updated roads
The spaces around here are ok. But it would be great to have a way to attach pea ridge to the Greenway for road bikes.
Paved lots and some trails
NA
More sidewalks through city thoroughfares
City park is the only one we use. Walking trail there is ok.
Upgrades , asphalt parking lots, smoother walking trails
Better road signs for biking
Asphalt trails in all the parks
A park/play area on the south side of town.
An easier and safe way of getting there, traffic is crazy
More multi mobility infrastructure including sidewalks and dedicated bike trails or multi use trails. connectivity and more of it.

**Q 22: What would help make Pea Ridge parks and open space more accessible for you? (continue)**

I'm not familiar with Pea Ridge Memorial Park, Givens Park, or Baker Hayes Urban Trail, so maybe just bringing more signage/awareness/events to where the open spaces/parks are located would be helpful.
To connect our biking safes roads to the existing routes in Bentonville, Rogers and Bella Vista
Proximity. There aren't any parks (that I know of) in the Big Sugar part of town (Ward 1). better signage and parking
Add more baseball fields
Better parking
They are accessible for us
Sidewalks, turn lanes where applicable.
Make parks more connected to neighborhoods with bike trails or sidewalks so that accessing doesn't always require a drive.
Having a greenway to bicycle from neighborhoods to parks, church, stores, etc.
Please have pedestrian only trails. It's not nice or calming having bikes run up your butt and push you off the trails.
Bike lanes to military park
I am new to the area so I need to get more acquainted with the parks nearby -- I would love to use them
Not sure.
Bring it closer to town/add a walking or running loop, start community events. Yoga in the park or bootcamp in the park
Handicap availability
More bike paths
Having it be closer to my ward. Not as busy. Felling is safety. Quite place for exercise and reflection
Bike trails and sidewalks to be more connected.
Not sure
Another gazebo with tables.
We don't use the local parks, so it's really not applicable.
Pickleball court's Free Exercise equipment Shady rest areas and restrooms
More children assessable parks
No change needed, everything is accessible.
Less rocky more places to put trash
For one, knowing the names and locations. I'm a newer resident and not familiar with all the available open spaces. I would like to be able to do my fitness routines, walk, and have a place to sit and enjoy outside with access to shade.
Would love to be connected to the greenway. Would also love a paved walking trail with shade - mile or two loop would be great.
Sidewalks

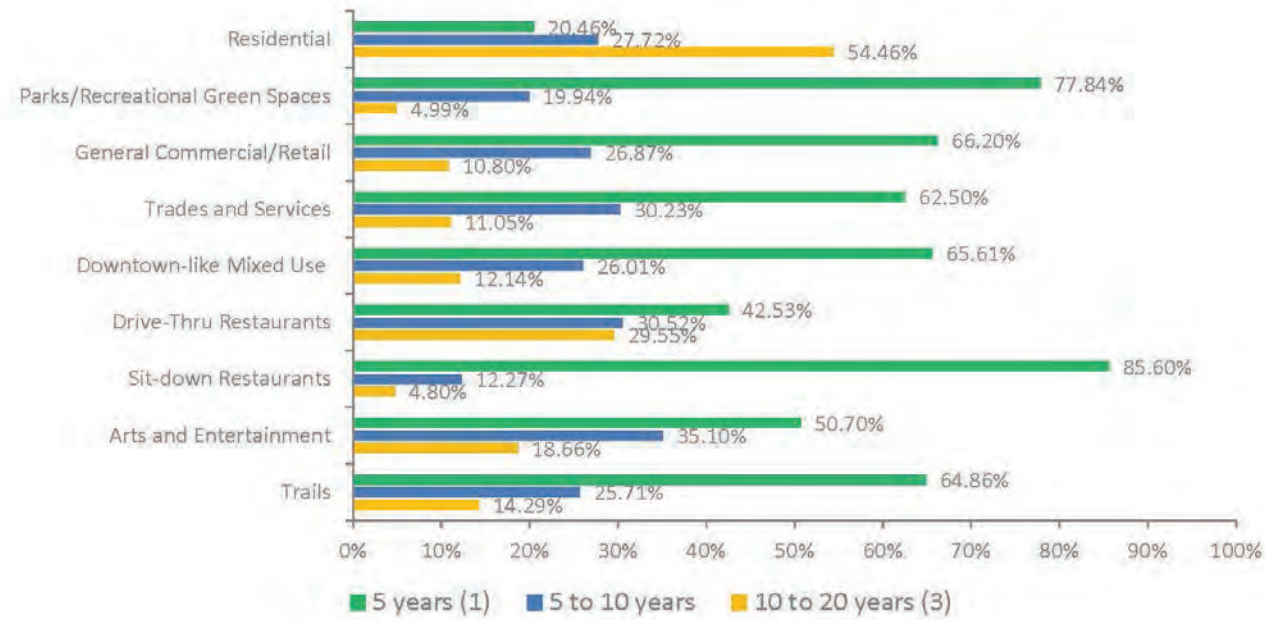
Shade
Lighting
Pavement instead of gravel
A
Parking restrooms pools
I am new to the area and I didn't know we had so many parks
If the play areas were more centrally located. All the play structures are too far apart and it causes my children to run in separate directions I'm always having to be with one or the other. Not both at the same time.
Improved sidewalk continuity, bike trails
Connectivity through trails and sidewalks, as well as adequate parking at the public spaces
More options
The reason I quit going to the City Park is there is no sidewalk on the west side of 265 from the park to the school. People on the west side have to cross highway 265. There are some sharp curves and I fear someone is going to get hit crossing the highway. The sidewalk on the west side currently stops before Todd Circle.
Expand sidewalks to reach more destinations, add traffic lights to make 72 crossable and safe!!
Better available information on parks and locations
Would love a greenway for safe road bikes
Better road traffic management
Advertise them more. Did not know the city had all the parks listed.
More loops to other parks
Every new subdivision be required to build one park that the city will take over managing. This will provide them with a tax write-off, and provide the city with a park with little to no upfront costs.
More sidewalks throughout town
I don't really
Know about all the options so maybe more advertising
A safer, more level surface more suitable for younger kids
Travel/traffic jams during busy school hours make it hard to get to and from the city park. Turning lanes and stop lights would help traffic congestion. Also, a family with a disabled person using a wheelchair is hard to navigate gravel parking area, hills and broken sidewalks.
Wider sidewalks
We need complete, connected and wider sidewalks to encourage transportation modes other than cars. Children should be able to walk to schools on sidewalks and residents should be able bike or walk to parks and trail systems. Connecting to the other trail systems in NWA would also bring more commerce and tax revenue to Pea Ridge.
Jahsk
Less traffic congestion
Connecting working sidewalks thru entire city and new communities

Protected trails, bike lanes, sidewalks connecting our subdivisions to neighboring recreational parks and trails as well as commuter trails/paths/bine infrastructure
Safer biking trails (closed road)
I do not use these.
Reminders to keep pets on leashes at all times
More inclusive and better taken care of
more bike paths INSIDE the city to connect schools and neighborhoods
more sidewalks for kids to safely walk to school and neighborhoods
More pedestrian connectivity (multi-use paths) between neighborhoods. Require developers to create parks for neighborhoods. Keep as many mature trees as possible! We need more connections like Barnes Circle to the city park. We need more wooded trails away from busy streets. I don't enjoy walking on a 4' sidewalk adjacent to a busy street with little to no protection (no trees).
I have to drive to them, which takes 10-15 min. Would love a park and/or walking space closer to me. Would also love a way to walk to the stores (Walmart, Wendy's, the library, etc.) but there are no sidewalks connecting my subdivision to the main areas currently.
Having more options - right now equipment is limited and in a sunny day it feels like space is tight or kids get bored with lack of variety
More sidewalks connecting on Slack Street
Paved bike trail to Bentonville
I would love to see a greenway to make bike commuting, kids having safe transportation to school and parks. More hiking and biking trails would also be so great. Baker Hayes is awesome, just needs more miles.
Concert or turf trials would make the park more accessible. As a mother, I would love to walk around the park with my baby in his stroller but with the gravel trail, it's impossible to do.
I feel the city park is too spread out. Especially the swings. If you have a small child that needs a baby swing and an older child wants to swing in the bigger ones, you can't do both at the same time if you brought 2 or more kids alone. Mitchusson Park in Huntsville is amazing. I would look into it for an example of a great interactive park.
Nothing, I just need to make more time to enjoy the outdoors
More bike lanes and side walks
I would love if my neighborhood was connected to the city. We are right in the middle of town, yet do not have sidewalks to safely walk around town.
I don't know where the parks are located I think advertising them more and what the could be used for would be very helpful. I would love to know what areas are good for walks/exercise what parks are good for play for kids or otherwise like playground, tennis/pickleball courts etc.
Na
More paved walk ways that are not excessively steep.
More complete sidewalks, paved trails and parking lots instead of gravel, better maintained trails for Hayes trails that are overgrown

Better crosswalks and crossing buttons/lights. I know they're pricey, but it's scary running across roads (specifically the crosswalk by the park near the north side of ford street, and the area between woodhouse and the newer neighborhood across Hayden)
More sidewalks
N/A
I commute around town by bike and the routes are a piecemeal of sidewalks, riding on shoulders, or even riding along ditches to get to any park. The entrance off of Davis to Baker Hayes is intimidating, and unsafe now that erroision has ate a hole at the bottom of the drainage ditch.
Having all playground features in close proximity to one another instead of spread out.

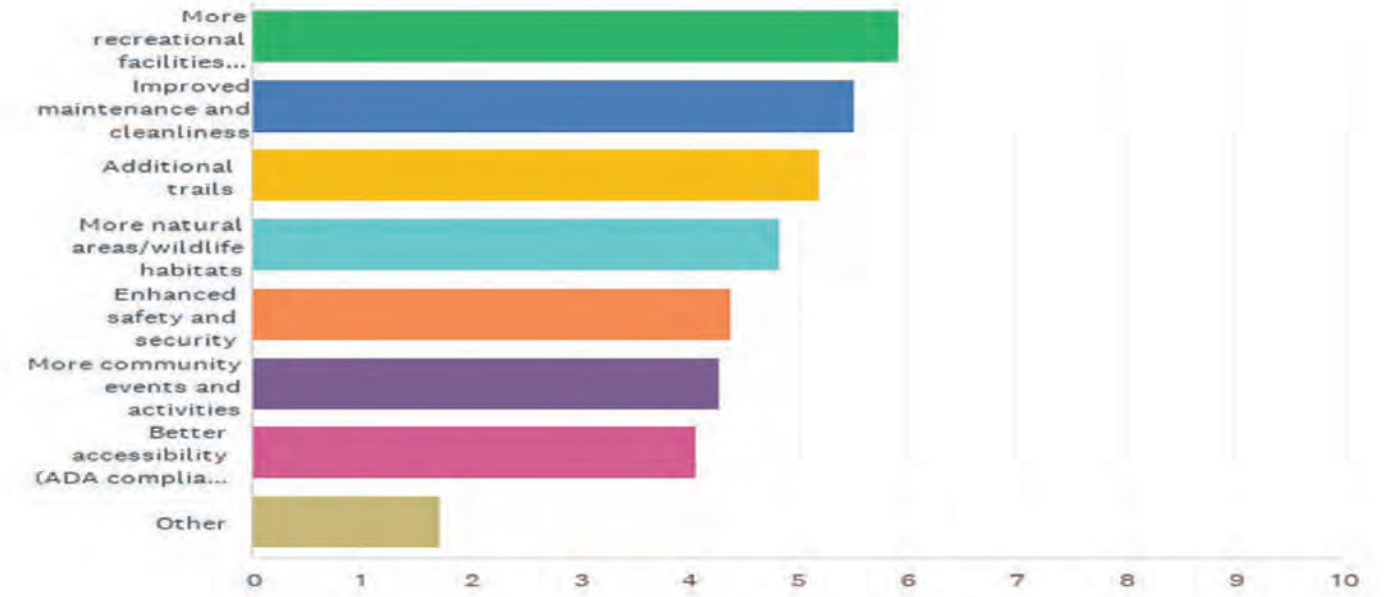
**Q 23: Please select what types of development and public improvements you would like to see in Pea Ridge over the next 20 years?**

Answered: 399 Skipped: 270



**Q 24: What do you think are the most important improvements needed in Pea Ridge parks, trails, and open spaces? (Please rank them in order of importance with 1 = MOST important) Drag and drop the housing types to the desired position (1=most important, 10= least important)**

Answered: 399 Skipped: 270



**Q25: Are there specific areas in Pea Ridge where you would like to see new parks, trails, and open spaces developed, or existing landscapes conserved?**

**Answered - 170**

**Skipped - 490**

Q25: Responses
Ward 2
Neighborhoods, new parks, basically leave as many as you can any where there's a new build
These things instead of more apartments
The green spaces that give the small town feel loved by us and tourists are almost gone. People's back yards are just gone and crammed all together. Fields are gone. Trails and nature mean nothing if your basically just walking through apartment complexes. I think single story dwelling should be the norm as it ruins the aesthetics of the nature. Nobody wants to live next to those ridiculous eye sour birdhouse looking apartments in the center of town. Buildings should not be allowed to destroy the existing tone and feel of established locations. The new car wash is an embarrassment with all those lights.
Sidewalks!!! And a way to connect to the Greenway.
Mainly just stop building so many houses and homes on the undeveloped land so there is still something to use for those parks and recreational areas.
I think the area in the middle of town would be great
I would suggest starting on construction on the park in town that should have started months ago.
I would like to have trail sidewalks throughout the city connecting the different park areas.
The city needs more spaces that encourage community building, especially around farm and food.
A greenway trail that connects pea ridge to bentonville. We would like the opportunity to bike to work safely.
Near Pickens road heading east. Also some of the parks could be worked on and improved
On most roads I would like to see sidewalks on both sides of streets throughout even the older areas. Newer areas should have 15ft or more easements to allow for groups to walk. Like the teenagers I hoped were headed to the Garage on the evening of the first of November.
Also I think it is important to enforce easement requirements for right turn lanes to become required into any new subdivisions and have them added to existing highway and thorough fare corners.
Patterson Rd. Area
No
Connect to the greenway.
NA
Need to improve the downtown area with retail and restaurant

The cow pasture next to Fox Spur would be nice for a walking trail
Paced walking trails that connect of sidewalks for kids to be able to bike scooter moms push strollers. Etc.
4way stop sucks and 72 sucks
I would love for there to be a community building like there used to be.
Trails and or sidewalks from the high school to intermediate
Need bigger water park
Anywhere flat
Having enough sidewalk that someone could move fairly freely from east to west and north to south of the bulk of Pea Ridge. Like a little more and Avalon could walk to school. Have an option to alleviate traffic.
Pea ridge city park needs major overhauls of the walkways, paths, etc. would be helpful if you could easily navigate strollers too. That is extremely difficult today. New playground equipment and artificial turf. Space for little babies and toddlers
Close to town.
No
Not sure
Green space in downtown area by school should be developed as a community gathering park
More green spaces and public art somewhere along 72/Slack St. that whole stretch coming into Bentonville can sometimes be a huge eye sore, and it would make the city look more lively and inviting.
I would love for the field behind our house on Richards st be something like a park or something quiet. Not a huge fan of the mule jump or other events being right behind our house with it being so so loud.
More sidewalks and safer intersections. We need traffic lights or stop signs on it'll do and 72.
Trails and sidewalks leading into downtown and schools
I think the area between Walmart and Weston St. could be a great place for a park, trail, or other activity.
We for sure don't need anymore housing/subdivisions than what are already approved. Roads will not hold the traffic that we already have and traffic lights will not fix the issues.
Downtown updated
Would just like to see the city park get a face lift and possibly some new equipment if that would be possible
NW side of town needs a park. Not just house to house areas all over
I would like to see trails connecting to and from the different parts of the town, especially connecting neighborhoods so my kids can meet up with their friends easier and safer.
Northeast area
Expand main roads and provide shoulders for traffic movement. Most commercial is concentrated north and south of Slack street. This adds pedestrian contact points with a lot of traffic.
A sports park on the south side of town would be nice. This allows visiting teams better access.
Mid-range single family homes

**Q25: Are there specific areas in Pea Ridge where you would like to see new parks, trails, and open spaces developed, or existing landscapes conserved? (continue)**

Along HIW72 and 94
walnut really needs something for the kids no side walks to any park and there are lot of kids and more to come
Disc golf course. Viable locations include the land behind the high school, Big Sugar golf course, and the military park. All of which have unique benefits.
All parts of the city need to be accessible to the other. Sidewalks are in dire need.
Not specifically
Expanding and enhancing parks, trails, and open spaces in Pea Ridge can significantly improve community well-being and environmental conservation.
Here are some specific areas to consider:
1. Integration with Regional Trail Networks: Connecting local trails with regional networks like the Razorback Regional Greenway could enhance recreational opportunities and promote eco-tourism.
2. Development of Green Spaces in Underserved Areas: Identifying residential zones lacking nearby parks and creating new green spaces in these areas would ensure equitable access to recreational facilities for all residents.
3. Enhancement of the City Park and Walking Trail: Improving amenities at the City Park and Walking Trail, located at 2344 Hayden Rd., such as adding playgrounds, picnic areas, and fitness stations, would increase its appeal and usability for families and individuals.
4. Conservation of Natural Landscapes: Preserving existing natural landscapes, particularly areas with significant ecological value or historical importance, would maintain the city's natural heritage and provide educational opportunities.
5. Expansion of the Baker Hayes Urban Trail System: Extending the existing Baker Hayes Urban Trail System to connect more neighborhoods and key areas, such as schools and commercial centers, would promote active transportation and provide safe routes for walking and biking.
By focusing on these areas, Pea Ridge can develop a comprehensive network of parks and open spaces that cater to the needs of its growing population while preserving its natural and historical assets.
By the little sugar creek
We need a community building along with more play ground equipment.
West side of town
Park area in Ward one. We do have Baker Hayes, but additional parks and rising areas would be fantastic.
Soccer fields sports park
We need more of the natural landscape preserved. Native old growth trees.
Housing development should be required to provide more than 1 green space for 349 homes. There should be a ratio of 1 green space per 100 homes or something like that.

There's an open space behind my subdivision (Fox Spur) that I'd like to see better maintained and be able to use and enjoy.
Stop the building of acres of houses packed so tight and provide housing for the disabled, those on fixed income, and a decent Medicaid Nursing home or assisted living.
I love that we have the community center where its going. I can't wait for that!
Leetown
No. All areas of the city should have local outdoor space available.
Personally I had no idea the amount of parks available to residents. I publication and amenities to bring residents in such as walking trails, play grounds, courts etc are necessary. The pea ridge park could use rejuvenation and better lighting.
No more trails! No more housing developments. More road improvements and how about a freaking stop light before people get killed
We need a swimming pool for the kids, bowling Alley, arcade,
More trails linking high density housing areas and commercial/community spaces.
As a middle school student living in Pea Ridge, I believe that there are specific areas in our town that could benefit from new parks, trails, and open spaces. Developing new parks and conserving existing landscapes is important for our community because it provides us with opportunities to connect with nature, exercise, and enjoy the outdoors.
One area in Pea Ridge that I would like to see new parks developed is along the Pigeon Creek. This area is currently undeveloped and could be transformed into a beautiful park with walking trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds. By creating a park along the creek, we would not only provide a new recreational space for our community, but also protect the natural habitat and wildlife that call the area home.
Additionally, I believe that existing landscapes in Pea Ridge should be conserved to maintain their beauty and preserve our town's history. For example, the old Civil War battlefield in Pea Ridge is a historic site that should be protected and preserved for future generations to learn about our town's past. By conserving this site, we can ensure that it remains a place of reflection and education for years to come.
In conclusion, developing new parks, trails, and open spaces in specific areas of Pea Ridge and conserving existing landscapes is important for the overall well-being of our community. By creating new recreational spaces and preserving our town's history, we can enhance the quality of life for residents and visitors alike. Let's work together to make Pea Ridge a more vibrant, healthy, and sustainable place to live.
West Hwy 72 needs sidewalks from the city limits to the 4 way stop. A paved connection to the Razorback Greenway is needed to safely commute between Pea Ridge and Bentonville as well as Pea Ridge and Rogers.
It would be great to have walking trails on the south side of 72 .Also it would be great to have more signage to highlight current trails.
If we can get to park, trails, open spaces by walking/biking, that is MOST important. This is reflected in 'Other' in question 12 as well. Please build a walkable community!
Zone 1
Outline areas
Would love to see more sit down restaurants and to have a Walmart Super center.



Yes 72 west ,Dove Road
No more bike trails until laws are changed with bicyclist on our roads. They seem to not use them as much as folks think and continue to ride the streets with zero concern about vehicles and causing serious traffic issues on main highways. If I were to hit and kill a cyclist around a curve doing the posted speed limit I would never be able to live with myself. It is not safe and has to be addressed before we bring more cyclist activity to this area. Lets focus more on wider roads to share with these bikes rather than more back wood trails.
Not concerned with this
NA
Biking trails and sidewalks to decrease car traffic and make bike riders safer.
No we have enough
No
Closer to the Bentonville/PR line
East side of town
I think green spaces within in the city should be perserved as much as possible. The city park also seems a little out of town.
Ward 3
Parks are a waste of money. If you are planning to spend money then go ahead and Get an Olympic size Swimming pool and make it accesible to all of the people outside of town for a minimal seasonal fee. Or \$5 for those who only come once or twice a year.
City Park and old downtown
A pool, a rec center
Ward 3
I'd like to see 1) bike lanes, and 2) the area off Hazelton (south, and west of Weston) turned into a nature preserve/nature trails/city center park.
Would like to see a senior center close to the library.
Develop sidewalks in and around city for community walkable accessibility. Add trails spurs off sidewalks. Add trails in natural green space settings.
Where I can ride from my house
A paved connector trail from pea ridge to Bentonville. Also a paved connector trail from pea ridge to the military park.
I'd like to see Pea Ridge connected to the larger NWA trail system in a non-street way.
Mini parks within neighborhoods without the HOA fee
We would like to see the open field and pond on Harris behind the Fox Spur subdivision conserved as natural habitat for wildlife and as a reflection of our respect for nature.
Open field and pond behind the Fox Spur subdivision should be conserved as a nature preserve. Should also be better maintained (i.e. mowed regularly so it does not present a fire hazard).
New residential developments should include neighborhood playgrounds and or open space.
Inventory the important ecological features (floodplains, wetlands, forests, prairie soils, prime farmland soils, etc.) and cultural features ( National Register Property, National Military Park Property, etc). Then develop preservation and conservation regulations to protect them.
Ward 1

Trails from Bentonville/Rogers/Bella Vista to Pea Ridge and to Military Park.
Lee Town
A dog park should be put in city park.
The neighborhood "parks" that are open lots with no play equipment. Need to stay that way. We love being able to use that space as we see fit as individuals in the community. Just having a nice park bench on a large empty green space is nice!
Landscapes conserved
West area
Keeping south Ryan road a rural gravel road. I enjoy traveling it to sugar creek feeling like i'm no longer In the city.
There needs to be more neighborhood parks with playgrounds and also benches and landscaping to enjoy.
NO
Seeing all of the farm land be developed into small track homes is very disheartening. We need bigger lot sizes available for building on.
Neighborhood parks
Residential/Commercial property on hwys should add driving lane when construction begins for the additional residents on that frontage now and in future
Subdivisions need to be better planned so the community is more cohesive
around the walmart
Connecting to other recreational spaces, trails, etc so create a network you can bike/run/walk to
Big Sugar/Sugar Creek area.
we just need more
Would like to see a baseball/softball complex built
I would like all the sidewalks in town to join and for there to be safe places for kids to walk or ride their bikes to school. That should be the very first thing before someone is hurt or killed.
Need more sidewalks
A greenway extension from Avalon neighborhood to Bentonville greenway.
City land on Guthrie road developed for public use —sports complex, school, etc
It will also help the city “connect “to the military park.
No specific areas
In town, walkable/ridable distance from home
Open one in ward 2 that is within walking distance. Reduce the housing to provide Moore open natural feel. Bring in business to offset taxes and assist in maintaining the spaces.
Connectivity to the greenway would be amazing
preserve some natural prairie area, more nature areas
maybe on west side of town as well
No. Stop all this building. There will soon be no open land. The only development we need is more youth sports complexes.
Stop mixing commercial and residential
A dog park someplace would be a nice to have.
It'll Do, Dove, Hazelton, behind Elkhorn subdivision

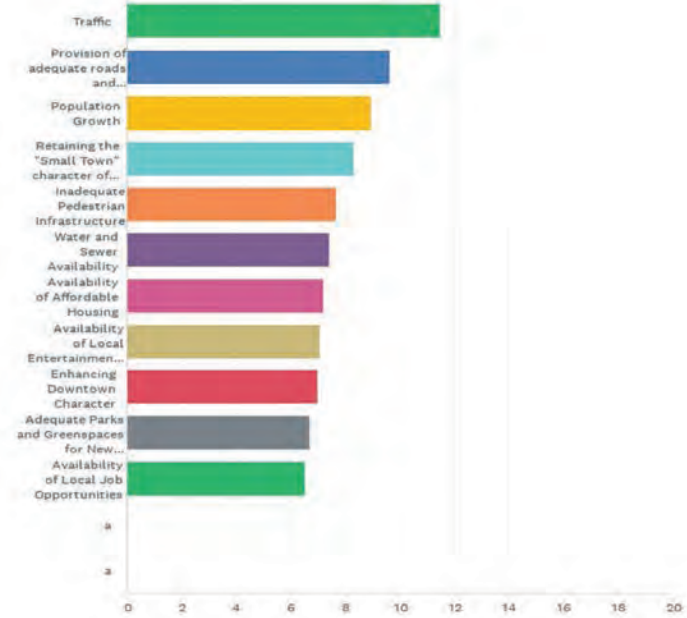
**Q25: Are there specific areas in Pea Ridge where you would like to see new parks, trails, and open spaces developed, or existing landscapes conserved? (continue)**

Please keep the treed areas preserved and don't let anymore developers cut them down. The trees is one of the things that makes it so beautiful here and it preserves the wildlife and ecosystem of the Ozarks. I'm not familiar with all the areas, but I would love to see the "old town" area restored and expanded to include more retail space and non-fast food restaurants. Please, please keep the city's historical essence intact and don't allow anymore multi-story buildings unless they are off the main roads.
Community Pool...kids need summer activities
I'd like to see the greenway eventually connected. Can't wait for the park between Carr and Curtis!
Sugar creek
Old football field trails open spaces.
To new to the area to have an opinion
Stop all the cookie cutter houses and keep the green spaces.
I believe each Ward should have at least 1 Community Park; and that all the parks should be connected through walking & bike trails. I also would like to see signs along the trails indentifying flora and fauna, as well as historical information.
In the areas around the Elkhorn and Maple Glen developments
The east side needs more parks and community elements.
Trails - greenways. Anywhere
Every subdivision should be responsible for building one, or for setting aside land for one.
Yes, please stop build on the farmlands
We need better sidewalk connectivity so that children can walk to school safely and residents can use other modes of transportation besides a car. Some of this can come from businesses, but we have to specify it. In other more established area the city needs to find funding for it. What we have now is an ADA nightmare.
None
Near Summit Meadows
Would like a city pool
Please preserve the historic downtown square along with improving the museum. And the Pea Ridge military park.
We NEED a GYM with equipment and classes that are well maintained, organized and affordable
I'm for whatever parks, open spaces, conservation and trails we can get. The number of housing developments coming and eating up the open space in is alarming even to someone who lives in one of the new developments. There also seems to be little planning of the downtown area. Like, why do we need 3 banks at a single intersection? Pea Ridge is pretty, and we should plan our progress so that it stays that way even as the population grows. Thank you.

I would love some paved sidewalks along slack street. It would be awesome to have paved walking/bike trail that connected to bike trail that go through Bentonville and kept cyclists off 72 and safe. I would love to see the businesses on slack street cleaned up. Many are an eye sore and don't represent our community well. I would also love to see the downtown area revamped and have some shops and maybe small sit down quality restaurants not fast food or junk food. Our town needs to have some businesses to bring in more money and so our community can shop and dine right here instead of going to surroundings cities for most everything.
The wooded area along Otter creek presents a great opportunity for a linear walking trail, with potential connectivity between the city park and Baker Hayes trail system.
The wooded area between Ross Salvage and Oakley would be awesome to preserve and turn into a park.
No
Indoor swimming facilities for exercise! Community center! Closed road access to the Greenway
Pea Ridge has lost its farmland and its natural landscaping due to housing developments. If we could conserve the couple remaining land properties, the small town feel will still thrive. Once those properties are gone, we're a suburb.
New parks and trails on the south side of town! And green space every mile of so, not just subdivision after subdivision.
More options on east side of town
A community swimming pool would be a nice addition to our city.
sports park facilities
I would love to see much of the landscape conserved, even if it was a walkable arbor garden. I would love to see the land behind Fox Spur conserved.
Paved bike trail to Bentonville
I would be happy to see open spaces used for parks and trails in any area of pea ridge. I don't want the open space used for more housing and i definitely don't want more fast food.
West side
No
Trails to nearby cities would be nice.
I would love to see more sidewalks built on both sides of the road especially along N Curtis that will connect all of the parks and trails around the ridge and make it safer for my family to not have to cross very busy streets (sometimes jay walking) to get around the city.
N/A
Improvements to Baker Hayes. Bathrooms, changing station, picnic area, hammock park. Entrance off of Davis made more inviting aesthetically, and structurally (Bridge over the drainage). The 60 acres acquired by the city could be a terrific trail system. Then as the city expands, I would like to see a diversity of parks connected by trails and sidewalks.
Southwest part of town off Hwy 72.

**Q29: What are the most pressing challenges facing Pea Ridge in the next 20 years? Drag and drop the challenges to the desired position (1=most pressing challenge, 11= least pressing challenge)**

Answered: 399 Skipped: 270



**Q30: What do you think is the city's greatest opportunity for the future?**

**Answered - 287**

**Skipped- 377**

Q 30: Responses
Proper planning to avoid commercial sprawl.
To grow and expand northwest Arkansas
Getting ready fast. If you're sleeping in pea ridge, spend your money here.
More revenue
More businesses in Pea Ridge so we can shop and eat here!
Affordable housing
Bringing in more tax dollars by bringing in more stores and restaurants
Maintain the city's small town charm before it's too late.
Smash town feel
Getting a better road system for the city and for the roads/highways in and out of town.
To plan both commercial areas and residential areas carefully as to have a wonderful flow as growth continues.
Something for the teenager's to do that will keep them busy so they stay out of trouble
It is still early in development and has the small town feel that should be retained.
Build a community centered around farm and food in order to preserve the culture
The rapid rate of growth. City development.
Greatest opportunity would be to give non residents reasons to travel out here. Restaurants, parks, bike trails, pickleball courts and so on.
Shopping, sit down restaurants, improved downtown with coffee shops, etc.
Lots of room for development. Would like to see it benefit the city.
Culture
Staying autonomous from the rest of the urban reaches of the regional planning commission. Let us stay unique and become a destination for people to get out of the city to relax!
Small town feel with big town amenities.
Buisness that bring in tax revenue
Amazing city amenities.
Enhanced curb appeal... more sit down restaurants with outdoor dining... retail
Being able to plan for the future growth
Capturing the small town feel while going through the growth that we have seen
Great parks and green belts to draw in families
Adding stoplights around the city
Traffic light
Keeping to the small town like it use to be where people knew everyone they ran into (not like it is now where strangers are everywhere).
Revitalizing old town

Staying a small town
There are a lot of people moving to pea ridge and if we could have everything we needed in pea ridge we wouldn't have to always go to bentonville or Rogers and spend our money locally.
Growth for both residential and commercial properties
..
Roads, stop lights, traffic. Highway 72 needs to be widened now.
Bring the cost down.
Don't know
To enhance the area as is and to limit the amount of housing.
Widen roads and make them safer with more stoplights
Need sidewalks throughout the town
The space is available to develop as needed.
More retail and restaurant business and better infrastructure
Small town actually connected to Bentonville by bike or trails (like the Bella Vista North Bentonville that people use to bike into the city)
Widening of roads to Bentonville and Rogers including pea ridge having roundabouts for smooth traffic flow and widened streets and how can we ensure the fire station can deploy trucks given the traffic?
Traffic
Road infrastructure
Stop bringing people in until the roads can handle the growth
The intersection of itlldo, bc 40 and 94 is terrible.
Diversity of business
The opportunity for a Rec center with gym and aquatic park. Similar to republic missouri
Leave it as a small town
N/A
Providing restaurants and shopping areas without having to fight the crowds and traffic in Rogers or Bentonville.
Improve roads for safety. Create dirt bike paths parallel to major roads that support growing biking community and races but allows for road safety. Take advantage of profiting off of the big bike races.
Focusing on homes & living spaces instead of entertainment and eating
Having a plan to manage growth that addresses traffic, schools, infrastructure and future needs of citizens ie shopping, dining, green spaces
Traffic/things to do in town
Creating a true downtown area with shops and restaurants that has year round programming for residents. Would love to spend more time in the city I live, but don't because better events and programming exist elsewhere.
With consistent growth I see pea ridge being a great place for families to raise their kids. So places for all ages to enjoy would be amazing! Like a pool or rec center. But also more community events would be fun to see.
Fixing roads to accommodate all of the traffic.
Road infrastructure and trail/recreational expansion
Maintain the natural state and not building as much so close.

Expansion of parks & recreation and city services with all the new tax dollars coming in.
I think Pea Ridge could be a popular destination for the NWA area as well as Missouri since it's close to both!
Growing way tooo fast..
To pause on housing developments until infrastructure can handle the current growth
Could create a safe walkable city where stores are just down the road from a home.
Affordable housing for those starting a family
Better parks with all the new families moving in
new businesses
To have some businesses that are sustainable. Less growth in residential for now
To become interconnected with our surrounding communities and to develop a walkable/bikeable city with amenities that keep money invested in Pea Ridge
I believe the city has an opportunity to create a pedestrian friendly community where people can connect to each other without having to drive a vehicle.
Youth programs
Potential to become a central city hub rather than a pass thru town.
To protect its character and uniqueness
The latest donation of green space from the Walton's gives Pea Ridge a great opportunity to use that space wisely - and give the town something local to do vs. having to always go elsewhere.
Infrastructure
I think Pea Ridge can be a great place for families in NWA. Lots or growth, we just need the infrastructure to keep up with growth and add more things like trails, playgrounds for families to use.
What about some sort of big community center that includes a pool. Lots of families go to surrounding towns for this specific type of entertainment/service.
Maintaining small town atmosphere
Pea Ridge can become a sought after town to raise a family in. This means the town will need character and retail/restaurant spaces to attract visitors and new residents. MUST keep the small town feel.
Population growth in Northwest Arkansas is expected to continue to soar. I've been in meetings with feedback from the largest residential builders indicating the construction can't keep up with expected growth. Although it's not always desired, having high density housing available in Pea Ridge with help bring people to town and following them will come additional resources like services and food/entertainment.
Better recreational areas and dinning
Roads
Improved traffic flow and logistical infrastructure
Better sit- down restaurants, nightlife, building city character, etc.

Pea Ridge's greatest opportunity for the future lies in its potential to blend community growth with preservation of its unique, small-town charm and natural beauty. As the city expands, focusing on sustainable development that prioritizes accessible green spaces, a well-connected trail network, and family-friendly amenities would set it apart. Leveraging our proximity to the Razorback Regional Greenway and regional hubs, Pea Ridge could position itself as a destination for eco-tourism and outdoor recreation, attracting visitors while enhancing quality of life for residents. Additionally, fostering a vibrant local economy that supports small businesses, agriculture, and community-centered events could create jobs and maintain a strong community identity. This balanced approach offers the best path forward, embracing growth while conserving the character that makes Pea Ridge special.
Traffic control
Manufacturer jobs
Oooh that's a tough one. To maintain the small town feel while offering it's citizens the best options for shopping/parks etc right in their own city so they aren't having to go out to other cities as often.
More jobs to bring in more Revenue.
Expand properly to make sure we don't turn into a tiny home community.
Business additions and updated roads, water-seerer
Being a great place to raise a family!
Bike and pedestrian infrastructure. Biking is becoming a huge part of NWA life. Making it safe to coss town/connect to the Greenway would be huge.
Copying our sister city, Bentonville, and creating lots of family friendly spaces and activities outdoors!
Sports park
Need more retail less homes
Making it a destination for tourists due to the battlefield and the history.
Providing infrastructure to meet the demands of our growth in population.
To differentiate ourselves from all the characterless "strip mall" towns in America.
This could be a great area for those on a fixed income or those in need of assisted living or nursing home care.
Building community and entertainment
Entertainment and job growth
Affordable housing - stop with the high end ceo houses.
Pea Ridge is a destination for families to live, work, and worship. We still maintain the small-town values.
Promote new businesses to open shop in town
Captivating new residents with its small town feels and landscapes. Bringing back the sense of community that many long for.
Some from of entertainment for the community to do in town.
Gateway to better cities and better run communities.
Growth

**Q30: What do you think is the city's greatest opportunity for the future? (continue)**

Being a beautiful, walkable city with a small town vibe surrounded by nature. A place where people can enjoy the outdoors and partake in outside activities without needing to make a road trip. Leading by example by being a city that is focused on the person, not the car.
Managing the development of the city while conserving the small town/country atmosphere people are moving here for. Setting aside areas for custom built non tract homes. Setting aside areas for minimum acreage lots (like 2-5 acres).
Keeping the fast food restaurants out that serve the same thing. 2 options is enough, helping our Veterans more.
Proximity to trails and outdoor spaces. Room to grow and space to adequately plan for the growth to come.
Traffic
Our city has so much potential for the future! I believe our greatest opportunity is to focus on improving our public transportation system. This would make it easier for everyone to get around and reduce traffic congestion.
Imagine being able to hop on a bus or train and get to school, work, or the mall without having to worry about finding a parking spot or sitting in traffic for an hour. A better public transportation system would be a game-changer for our community. It would give people more freedom and independence, especially those who can't drive or don't have access to a car.
Improving public transit would also be great for the environment. With more people using buses and trains, there would be fewer cars on the road. This would mean less air pollution and a smaller carbon footprint for our city. We could do our part to fight climate change and create a healthier, more sustainable future.
Furthermore, a robust public transportation system would make our city more accessible and inclusive. Right now, some people are isolated because they can't easily get around. Better buses and trains would connect neighborhoods and provide opportunities for everyone. This could help reduce inequality and bring our community closer together.
In conclusion, upgrading our public transportation is the best way for our city to grow and thrive in the years to come. It would make our lives easier, protect the environment, and bring people together. I believe this is the greatest opportunity we have to create a brighter future for our city.
Roads / sidewalks / paved bike trails for commuting
Infrastructure and growth. We can make this town a great place to live if it's done correctly. I look forward to the possibilities of what we can have in our little town. Sit down restaurants, a movie theater, bowling alley, ice cream shop, sit down coffee shops, etc. A designated bike trail along 72 where bikers can bike safely. Walking trails . Maybe a larger grocery store where we are not constantly out of items. It would be nice to be able to keep the tax revenue here instead of Rogers or Bentonville.

Creating a walkable town/city with plenty of local entertainment, shopping, and restaurants. This will help cut down on some of the traffic woes that are a constant complaint on facebook.
To allow the people whose hometown is Pea Ridge to be able to afford to live there.
law enforcement and emergency services
Growth
Enhancing our downtown area.
Golf cart friendly city.
To add more retail and Walmart Supercenter. This would help families to shop here more instead of driving to other towns
Stop trying to be Rogers or Bentonville, stop driving up prices, maintain a true small FARMING town
Providing infrastructure to meet the needs of our growing city
Bring in more businesses more sit down restaurants other than pizza and mexican. A chain sit down would be great.
Traffic in and out of town!
Making community spaces and activities available
Few stop lights to clear traffic and avoid wrecks
Small town kindness. Our ability to really care for our community.
Creating a downtown area that is accessible via pedestrian & bike traffic from all parts of town. Everything now is being built without a clear schematic in mind. Create a food truck area with seating, to attract community. Create a specific downtown area.
Stop being like Bentonville. Stay small!
Slowing down rapid growth with more thought for current residents.
We know the growth is coming and we can prepare ourselves for it.
Infrastructure is the biggest need
Greatest opportunity is not turning into Bentonville
Fast growth
Opportunity to bring in additional services, entertainment, shopping, etc.
The city is growing. Add more restaurant options (chic fil A, Panera, etc), super walmart, etc.
Learn from mistakes other surrounding cities have had when growing.
Infrastructure for growth
Paving the dirt roads. Maintaining the current roads. Providing limited on call travel assistance to those who need to go for groceries and pharmacy.
Keeping tax dollars in PR
Creating the ideal American city that embraces its cultural heritage
Don't grow too fast, plan it right.
Create a city that is self contained with most amenities available, yet still maintains a small town atmosphere.
To preserve the small-town feel and not become a housing project to serve Bentonville.
Find ways to connect with the young and old population
Due to Ag-centric community, and the surrounding accelerated building, we have a great opportunity to create a community that can incorporate existing ideas but also not make same mistakes.

Entertainment
Great town with a lot of potential if we could bring in more local businesses for clothing, home goods, and sit down restaurants/pubs.
There needs to be something to actually do in this town. I'm barely exaggerating saying there's nothing here but houses and gas stations.
Keeping PR small and community focused keep the small town feel. And add small affordable homes for young families NOT apartments.
Small town rural friendly feel where people can still buy an affordable home with a shop in the back yard.
Ignore trying to protect the "small town" feel and instead have a fully developed, intentional plan. Growth is going to happen regardless if we want it or not, so foster a growth mindset and use that growth as acceleration for where we want to go.
Commercial retail clothing stores
I believe that Pea Ridge has an opportunity to create and maintain a city based on small town values, such as a close and involved community, and a safe, healthy and secure environment that is a great place to live, work and play for residents of all ages.
Preserve green spaces, manage growth to keep small town appeal, more sit down dining facilities.
To keep it small town feel
schools and quality education for youth
growth opportunities for business and restaurant options
The need to focus Residential and commercial development in the Downtown and in Mixed-use Nodes. Emphasis should also be placed on infill development. Sprawl development should not be encouraged.
Being near bentonville
Sharing a border with beautiful, natural features that can be integrated into the city and beyond
Accessibility to other areas of NWA
Planning now for the continuing growth so we have infrastructure in place.
Replacing the 4-way stop with a light.
Water/sewer, pedestrian travel.
Grants for new park and greenways
I would say nature like activity or areas
Need for services and business in growing populations, building new community areas and services
Adding more family areas/places for the community to enjoy
Many jobs and things to do for all!
Better infrastructure
Traffic , traffic , traffic. Needs to be wider highways in and out of town to accommodate commuters . Due to the lack of local jobs the two 2 lane highways is not enough to handle current traffic let alone the growing population.
Walkable and bikeable community with live and play.
Providing amenities that would make Pea Ridge self sustaining
Being able to enforce new codes to new areas of growth and applying city ordinances.

To be more diverse in businesses. Not just fast food and gas stations. Schools need to be able to keep up with growth.
Business, job opportunities, affordable housing,
Traffic
The People and small town are what makes this city great. Having people who love this town are what makes it wonderful.
Road infrastructure. Traffic control Speed enforcement especially around school zones. People speed through school zones all the time. Stop building houses. More money for the arts. Less money for sports
Nice bedroom community You have more than enough apts and multi family homes now Ive seen what too many do to a community
Taking advantage of the many families moving here, wanting open space, and modern facilities
Planning for inclusive neighborhoods with mixed use residential to avoid areas of wealth and slums
learning from all sounding cities and making it the best and most family friendly one. with great food and outdoor and family activity ... ( think about 10-15 years )
Keep Pea Ridge small town environment. Small town friendly.
Create a destination that connects visitors with our history (Military Park included); Create cohesive character to our downtown. No one comes to Pea Ridge to spend their money here. We go to other towns for entertainment /shopping. Give its residents open space to breathe; The residential subdivisions are closing in on one another. Citizens are feeling smothered. Stop the in-town subdivision building. Give us green space and events we can enjoy together in those spaces.
Road infrastructure. Food availability
While most towns in NWA have grown and morphed together so it's all one great suburb of Bentonville, Pea Ridge has been spared from that a bit. I think Pea Ridge has the potential to still be a part of NWA, but with its own, unique identity separate from Bentonville. We have a cute downtown that no one has done much with, we have the space to put in some really great community spaces, and we're so close to the military park and Eureka Springs. I think Pea Ridge could become a little gem in the greater NWA area!
Roads
improve the roads and parks/greenspaces
Business
Baseball/softball complex to help bring in revenue to the city

**Q30: What do you think is the city's greatest opportunity for the future? (continue)**

With the population growth in NWA, Pea Ridge has an opportunity to grow into an inviting destination. Planning should be considered carefully so it's not just a hodgepodge of auto stores and fast food joints. Bringing in one or more quality, sit down restaurants and coffee shops would upgrade our city and provide NWA residents another reason to visit and enjoy our town. Connect them with a walkable area where there are several shops to visit or trails to walk on and enjoy nature would make it even more inviting. This doesn't have to be large. It could be a charming haven.
We need better schools and teachers
Loss of green space
More spaces for outdoor activities
Being able to attract the type of residents who can have the largest benefit to tax revenue
A new road from Pea Ridge to connect to Hwy 49. Need another path to connect to the bypass.
Partnership with schools, civic organizations, city, and other stakeholders working together
To have a dry cleaner -- seriously. I drive 30 min away
Improvement of roads in and out of city. Traffic is terrible on Hwy 72 to Bentonville and some better on Hwy 94 to Rogers.
Proper planning, which seems to be happening.
N/A
Small hometown feel is going away.
The growth is to fast. The state roads are not adequate for the traffic. The city roads are not adequately designed to ensure flow of traffic. To many high traffic areas bundled together. Such as the schools restaurants banks etc
Wide open spaces and the ability to still control the land usage
retaining young people for local talent to fill open positions while improving quality of life with amenities
Youth ball fields need to be added. They are inadequate for the population today. No parking. It's a mess.
Utilities. Water, waste, traffic congestion at intersections.
Great small town, best community, friendliest caring people that has many opportunities, appeal.
Embracing the growth.
Has the opportunity to be the new city closest to the Walmart HO and people will live and exist there.
Growing into a new identity while respecting the past, offering a new third spaces to be without having to go to bentonville or Rogers to be "in town", providing safety on highway 72
That is can be a well-balance place of community and commerce while preserving the natural beauty and not crowding out local farmers. In fact, small local farms should be encouraged and incentivized as to bring more learning opportunities and local events to the community and the younger generation. If farms die, we die.
A public pool

Small Business growth
Retail
Great location to all of NWA
To retain the small town feel and attitude
Capitalize on growth and making Pea Ridge and all inclusive place to live and work.
good sit-down restaurants
Building a community where everyone wants to live
Full size WALmart
To not continue on the current path towards unchecked housing growth and no infrastructure improvements. We have stopped shopping at the local grocery store and have to drive to other areas that aren't so congested. It's horrible. Fix the roads and then grow. The amount of housing being added will lower the value of older homes.
Growth
Creating a space to become a welcoming town for new residents while not becoming "Mini Bentonville " We are in the building stages to be able to create our own town with it's own unique personality.
Their greatest opportunity is in welcoming input from new residents. I think our city officials are pretty good at receiving input.
Not to be a bedroom community.
To be able to choose its future...
Growth of small businesses
Maintaining its historical sugnificance
Having more places to shop.
Be a small town that doesn't have all the features of Roger's and Bentonville but creates a hometown atmosphere.
Build an electric train back to the big city to reduce the traffic footprint.
Nurturing the growing diversity of our community by educating citizens on the beauty of diversity through PSA-style engagement.
Keeping development centralized to a smaller portion of the city while allowing for continued small town feel and agricultural roots could keep a niche and pleasant feel to the town.
There's a few streets I think that critically need sidewalks. Carr street is one of them.
Smart planning now could lead to a really great walkable community.
Economic growth and job creation.
Continued growth
Traffic and roads
To be a leader of what a growing community could be.
Stop building homes that we don't have the infrastructure for. This is turning into Centerton, and that's not a good thing
Small business
Continued growth and business expansion for citizens options.
I think it's past time to get a grip on what Pea Ridge was. It will never be a small town again. What little farmland that is left will be gone soon. Therefore, I don't see opportunity. I see tragedy.



There is a great opportunity for businesses, like a sit down restaurant open at night not pizza/Mexican.
There are no sit down restaurants and the traffic issue during commuting hours
Managing population growth by providing appropriate infrastructure for traffic, sidewalks, water, sewer, internet and broadband access.
Connect trail system with Greenway. Connect sidewalks trails in City. Slack doesn't have continuous sidewalks
Continuing traditional values and moral values.
Growth is coming. Don't fight it, plan for it
Creating safe streets
Tragic and safety
Slowing growth so the infrastructure can catch up
Infrastructure
Small town feel, room when Benton ille and Centerton don't offer. Their traffic. A respit
If planned correctly and growth is done with a true plan in place our town could grow and remain "Quaint". It has to be intentional. We have a great opportunity to develop something truly special in Pea Ridge if it thoughtful and not rushed. We need to make sure our infrastructure can grow with our community. We need to stop allowing more houses until we can figure out, for the safety of our community, how we are going to handle our traffic problems getting in and out of town as well as school pick up/drop offs. 1 last thing that would be super cool. What if our town had an ordinance of not allowing any sex offenders within city limits. Not sure if this is realistic.
Developing a place that feels like home and a community rather than a bunch of strip malls and traffic jams.
Creating a city that is fiscally stable in the longterm, while also saving plenty of green space and natural beauty. This is accomplished by building up, and more densely.
Slow down growth
Growth whether we like it or not it's coming. We just have to plan for it.
Bringing Community together.
To provide safe and affordable housing and local job opportunities.
The amount of housing that is going up with no road structure to support it
to enforce proper planning to allow or maintain affordability for all stages of life to be able to live here.
you cannot sustain a "rich man" only builders paradise
I think the city has a great opportunity to provide more people a supportive, welcoming community that values the rising generation and home life.
We have open spaces for recreational development.
Traffic and roads
Highway traffic in and out of town especially highway 72.
Need to have a public indoor/outdoor pool and recreation center
Creating a more connected and safe town.
Utilizing and developing downtown to a destination area
Improved infrastructure
Continued growth

Become the next most desirable city aside from Bentonville Rogers Centerton and Bella vista.
Traffic flow
Focusing on PRidge being an art and green space hub
N/A
As the city expands, creating infrastructure that meets the needs of residents who want to recreate within the city. Buidling with greenspaces in mind.
Commercial

**Q 31: What is your greatest concern for the city's future?**

**Answered - 333**

**Skipped - 327**

<b>Q31: Responses</b>
Traffic
Not able to build infrastructure enough to sustain growth. Highway 72 is awful and there are no plans on expanding current roads to balance population growth
Jobs and tax revenue.
Traffic
Emergency services
Traffic flow
Traffic/poor infrastructure for the amount of people that are coming in
Becoming a Bentonville subdivision and losing our identity. Exploding population. Police that watch but will not direct traffic to alleviate jams. Stop selling out to developers. Your idea of affordable housing is not reality.
72 needs to be widened.
Stop building tons of small housing editions . And apartments townhomes duplexes . You are already ruining the city. Traffic is worse by the week. You are going to turn this town into centerton before long. Will take 30 minutes to leave town. You are completely ruining small town charm.
So many low income houses being built, over population of roads and schools. That all of that will grow before the town is actually ready.
Population growth and lack of retail to keep citizens in town
Getting a better road system for the city and for the roads/highways in and out of town.
Traffic
Continued traffic issues. The city cannot continue to grow without improvements in traffic flow, turning lanes for residents to turn into neighborhoods so traffic doesn't get even more backed up
Haphazard housing developments.
Roads repaired, turning lane on Pickens to ease the traffic flow
Too many people
The city is growing quicker than it can deal with and saying yes to every commercial and residential project rather than putting educated thought and planning into it. Let's not be the urban sprawl that is lots of the NWA towns now.
Continuing to allow land to be developed for housing without any thought towards the best use of the land or food security.
Traffic/infrastructure to support the rate of growth.

Not developing higher end homes to help increase property value.
I would prefer to not have a bunch of apartments, substantially increasing the population.
Loosing the current culture/community feel.
We will be swept up into an Urban mess
Loss of sense of community.
Traffic!!! Inadequate roads!!!
Not connecting roads within subdivisions. Keeping subdivisions separate make choke points in traffic, causing back ups and accidents.
Appropriate infrastructure growth.
Would like the city to be more walkable. Pedestrian safety.
Not being prepared
Building to much residential homes and not having enough infrastructure to support it- school size, grocery store, traffic. There's a serious problem with growth and traffic. There are no crosswalks or sidewalks in ward 1 and traffic is very congested at the four way stop close close to the only grocery store and shopping. There's going to be a pedestrian accident
Inadequate road infrastructure
Growth and keeping up with it. I worry about school and class sizes.
The way one small accident can cause very long delays in traffic due to there essentially being one way into town.
Traffic lights
PR continues to get too big. KEEP SMALL TOWN!!!
Building thousands of ugly cookie cutter neighborhoods with no character. Traffic in and out of Bentonville.
BIKES... I hate them on the roads
The infrastructure specifically the roads
Infrastructure and traffic congestion
Traffic , too many bikes on the highway , need for sidewalks
Road infrastructure and traffic
Over population.
Over Growth
The emphasis on building more housing without dealing with the traffic issues that are already happening.
Accidents due to new construction without adequate road traffic signals
Roads to and from pea ridge
Bike riders on the road causing a big traffic backup especially during peak drive times
Safety
Infrastructure is not growing with the city, and thus safety is becoming a concern.
Infrastructure
Too much too fast and everything done mediocre so nothing stands out
Traffic flow and street/sidewalks
Traffic

Growing to fast and schools, roads ect not growing with it.
Too much unaffordable housing.
The highway into town from I-49
Traffic
Infrastructure
Population
Wayyyy too many house being built! We are losing our small town feel. The schools can't handle it and our roads definitely can't handle it. With all the homes being built a pea Ridge is getting more taxing to live in.
Population growth increasing crime and being too fast for infrastructure to support it.
There appears to be no comprehensive plan for growth. Schools are disconnected and landlocked. Road master plan with curb cuts, ingress and egress planning, and lack of turning lanes encumbers traffic flow. Plan for land usage, currently appears mixed commercial and residential sharing space. Are we saying yes to everything? Last, utilities and availability of water. Have seen our pressure diminish in the last year.
Losing the small town charm.
Traffic. With 72 being peoples main road in and out of the city and with the influx of people moving in, and it being only 2 lanes - I am very concerned about quality of life drastically decreasing and having to spend more time traveling to get places.
I feel like pea ridge is growing faster than it can keep up! More and more houses means more traffic and with that comes dangerous drivers, longer wait times during school pick up and rush hour, and more. I mean seriously we see stop signs being put in but where are the stop lights?! It would make a huge difference I believe
Traffic
overpopulated. traffic is already really busy.
Traffic
Traffic, which I understand is a state issue.
TRAFFIC and too much housing
Need better wider roads to handle all the extra cars
Traffic and crime with the way it it growing, especially with apartment and townhouses
TRAFFIC. Slack street specifically, the speed limit should be lowered on that entire road rather than just one side of town. There are too many entrances and exits and people are not paying attention or don't have enough time to stop in a safe manner with that speed limit.
How to handle the population growth
None
growth and multifamily dewllings
Too much of a small-minded attitude that will prevent diversity from thriving here
Building on every green area.

Growing quicker than the infrastructure can handle.
Crime with increased population.
Infrastructure handling current city growth. We are losing walk ability with concentrated retail section along slavk.
Traffic and strain to the infrastructure
Currently its all the new housing going up without an actual town to support the influx of neighbors. There is nothing to do here - everything is in Bentonville and Rogers. I would love to see Pea Ridge invest in things we can do here.
Lack of current infrastructure
I'm concerned that with the growth we won't prioritize the right areas for families and commercial properties are being built to close to residential areas. We need nice neighborhoods, trails, and parks by our neighborhoods not storage facilities and giant complexes.
Traffic
Traffic
Infrastructure isn't keeping up with the growth
I know that we're going to be in annexed into bentonville
Over commercialized!
Traffic and lack of pedestrian access.
The difficulty in keeping up with the growth, particularly given main roads in town are maintained by County/State.
Roads
Expanding residential faster than the infrastructure can support (roads)
Too much growth too fast. Traffic is as bad as Centerton almost.
Traffic in and out of town, along with major intersections in town.
Traffic. It is already so bad everywhere, I can't even imagine what it will be like in the next 1-2 years +
My greatest concern for Pea Ridge's future is the risk of rapid, unplanned development outpacing the city's infrastructure and resources. As more people move here, there's a chance that unchecked growth could strain our schools, roads, and public services, potentially compromising the quality of life that residents VALUE. Additionally, losing green spaces to development could erode the natural beauty and sense of community that makes Pea Ridge unique. Balancing growth with thoughtful planning, conserving open spaces, and ensuring infrastructure keeps pace with expansion are essential steps to preserve Pea Ridge's identity while welcoming new opportunities.
Overpopulation without proper road structure or traffic signals
Lack of infrastructure with the amount of residential growth
Traffic
Crime and traffic congestion with growth
Too many homes on small lots. There should be a 1/2 acre minimum for any housing developments.
Population

**Q 31: What is your greatest concern for the city's future? (continue)**

Affordable housing and the roads to handle the traffic, lack of reliable affordable internet all over town.
Traffic
Traffic. Getting in or out of town is difficult during peak times with only 2 lane roads for every road
Traffic!!
Lack of affordability
Traffic and crime
We will become a town of subdivisions with nothing else to offer. We will have forgotten our history and character and simply build to appease incoming residents.
We have to get ahead of the traffic in and out of town at rush hour. It's a hazard as much as an inconvenience.
Traffic and safety for all modes of transportation
Traffic and too much housing development too quickly! Also too many duplicate businesses (like 3 banks at the 4-way) and strip-mall types of businesses moving in.
I think Pea Ridge has already fallen off the cliff...the loss of its small town character is gone as are all of the farms/farmland. Trying too hard to become another Rogers/Bentonville chaotic mess. If you want all of the amenities...go to Fayetteville, Rogers, or Bentonville.
Traffic and Influx population
Growing too quickly
Traffic. Roads have not caught up with population growth.
Congestion and overpopulation
Affordable housing.
Traffic (vehicle and pedestrian).
Poor quality of life due to inadequate infrastructure
The growth seen in the last 5 years and keeping up with infrastructure, roads, etc
Afraid of how bad traffic will be as most people move in to town.
Growth for growth sake. Bringing in poorer population and red neck mentality.
Traffic
Traffic getting even worse. Only building bigger roads, parking lots, and single family homes. Little effort spent on walkability and alternate options for housing and transportation. All the while slowly losing more and more greenery and character.
The land development companies having too much freedom. The roads in new tracts should be wide enough for parking and traffic, for example.
Crime
Too much residential sprawl without public amenities/activities/commercial spaces/infrastructure to keep up with it.
Population

Here is a persuasive essay on the topic "What is your greatest concern for the city's future?" written from the perspective of a middle school student:Our city is a great place to live, but I'm really worried about what the future holds. One of my biggest concerns is the growing problem of homelessness. Every time I go downtown, I see more and more people living on the streets. It's so sad to see them struggling to survive, and I worry that the problem is just going to keep getting worse.
Another issue that worries me is the state of our environment. I see a lot of litter and pollution around the city, and I'm concerned about the impact it's having on our air and water quality. I know climate change is a big problem globally, but I think we need to do more locally to reduce our carbon footprint and take care of the planet.
Crime is also a major concern for me. I don't always feel safe walking around, especially at night, because I've heard about so many robberies and assaults happening. I think the city needs to invest more in law enforcement and community programs to help prevent crime and make our neighborhoods safer.
Finally, I worry about the lack of opportunities for young people in our city. It's really hard for teenagers to find good jobs, and a lot of my friends are struggling to figure out what they want to do after high school. I think the city needs to create more vocational training programs and apprenticeships to help prepare us for the workforce.
Overall, I'm really worried about the future of our city. I hope the city leaders and community members will come together to address these important issues and make our city a better place to live for everyone. We need to take action now to ensure that our city has a bright and prosperous future.
Affordable housing / property
Infrastructure. I'm afraid someone is going to get seriously injured or worse if we don't do something soon.
Work-related traffic will still be a major issue. The state owning one of the main thoroughfares in and out of town, but not dedicating local focus is going to become a point that can no longer be avoided. The growth of the city with the lack of state funding to expand infrastructure will be painful.. this may even be a slight advantage to slow down growth curve.
Traffic/Roads
Bullying not being handled correctly at school
That only the wealthy can afford to live here
law enforcement and emergency services
Roads can't handle traffic
Taffic

State highway continuing to ignore our leadership's communication of needs.
Too much traffic
The focus is far too much on "growth" as if that's what matters. We don't need to grow. We need to protect our small town!
Providing water, sewer , traffic control and lack of services including housing for senior citizens.
Traffic that is already a huge concern and allowing folks to walk/ride on these highways it has to be addressed.
Crime rates as the population grows
Roads/Traffic
Losing farm land, houses on top of houses, Schools Over populated
Population and traffic
Growing very quickly without a plan to handle that growth - connected sidewalks, lacking traffic lights/round-a-bouts, more encouraging businesses within city limits, etc.
Population growth
Traffic concerns. Very few people know how to use a 4 way stop appropriately. Safety of our kids in the schools.
Population is outpacing traffic flow. And there is no clear design for the city. Houses and businesses are just being built wherever there is space. It would be nice to have a clear, long term vision that's intentional regarding new construction, traffic flow, pedestrian and bike flow.
Overgrowth! Not being able to deal with all the growth.
Growing too rapidly without thought of current residents. Very dangerous traffic commute already.
Overpopulation of residential housing and traffic to and from town.
Traffic and keeping up with infrastructure
Infrastructure
Spending ourselves into further debt
Lack of fire protection and old equipment
The traffic, growth and increase in crime
Traffic and schools being overwhelmed by growth
Traffic
Traffic.
Keeping the small town feeling.
Infrastructure
The city is spending to much money on things we never needed before.
Traffic
STOP BUILDING SO MUCH!!!! TRAFFIC IS A NIGHTMARE AND THE TOWN IS NOT ABLE TO SUSTAIN IT. Our schools are already over crowded even with building the new High School.
Too many chain developments and not enough local business opportunities
Too many people and businesses ruining the charm.
Traffic

Being a satellite town that is low cost and destroyed by renters and commuters.
Growing so fast.
We can not ignore the amenity aspect relative to population growth. We must grow out of bedroom community but maintain small town feel.
Infrastructure
Traffic
Poor road connectivity and poor traffic management.
It turns into place where wealthy people who work in the city keep their stuff but contribute nothing to the community
There is no traffic lights anywhere. Too many people moving into town. Schools will get overcrowded and some areas of the city don't have sidewalks. Too many unsafe drivers and very dangerous intersections around town.
We moved to PR because of the small town atmosphere, we choose the smaller school district for a personal and hands on education for our kids. We left Bentonville bc the schools didn't care about the kids just the scores. Don't become the next Centerton or Bentonville and loose that. Also traffic getting into Bentonville is terrible it's always backed up I avoid 72 now bc of the congestion. Create a community not an extension of Bentonville
Too many small homes crammed into the city which makes traffic terrible and unsafe for cyclists and pedestrians.
That the more established, older conservatives will have an outsized impact on more progressive development. As an example, everyone knows that more affordable homes are needed, but there's a NIMBY attitude about apartments, tiny homes, and modular homes.
School overcrowding. Out of state students going to school here, when they don't pay taxes. Traffic lights needed. High speeds on slack st were neighborhoods are located.
It will grow much more quickly than roads can keep up. Also that it will loose the small town feel
Growth that is uncontrolled and may be allowed in spite of inadequate infrastructure and city services is a big concern. For example the apartment complex across from Walmart will negatively impact traffic. Especially given the intersection there does not have a traffic light. Any new growth should be matched by expansion in our city resources such as the police and fire department, schools, medical facilities, and roads. We do not want our safety and security, and quality of life to deteriorate as we very much appreciate our city, including our wonderful Mayor and our first responders!
Traffic, poorly managed growth in relation to road and facilities infrastructure.
Too many people changing it into something fancy. Its just right how it is.
accessible roads and transportation in and out of the city

**Q 31: What is your greatest concern for the city's future? (continue)**

Traffic - expanding roads into Pea Ridge. With all the trails available in the area bikes should not be allowed on Hwy 72s or 94 as they are a safety hazard for all concerned.
Reducing sprawl development at the Town's edges and in ecologically valuable areas.
Crime
Turning into the next "Centerton"; lots of congestion, and fast food restaurants becoming the city identity
Handling the growth with our roads
Citizens only sleep in PR. Do their living in neighboring cities.
Retail and roads are not keeping pace with population growth.
Infrastructure and adequate roads to Bentonville/Rogers. Need more lanes.
Poor infrastructure with roads. Roads are poorly connected and need to be improved to handle increased traffic because of population growth.
Traffic and Services
Management of growth, affordable housing, road safety
Traffic congestion. It's already becoming more and more of a struggle compared to a few years ago.
Losing the charm, I love the cows!
Growing too fast
Growing too fast
Traffic , traffic , traffic. Needs to be wider highways in and out of town to accommodate commuters . Due to the lack of local jobs the two 2 lane highways is not enough to handle current traffic let alone the growing population.
Zoning and coding that doesn't lead to aesthetically appealing architecture and landscaping
An organized flow of traffic
Traffic control. Pricing local employees out of the city.
Lack of traffic flow at 4 way stops. Just makes spots to pull in from drives and streets a smaller space. Traffic lights would be better
.
Underground utility infrastructure being upgraded can't decorate the top till you fix what's underground.
Falling behind building infrastructure
That it will turn into Centerton.
Traffic control and infrastructure
Loosing small town feel. It feels like We are starting to become a mini Bentonville. If you want all the amenities of big cities, move there! If you want to run a city (be a mayor) and bring all these things here go run for mayor of a big city.
Infrastructure
Crime thats not here yet

Our infrastructure not being able to keep up with the growth.
Losing the "small town" feel.
Don't bury your heads in the sand due to the rapid growth....
Inadequate transportation infrastructure and multi modal uses.
traffic and roads
Traffic. Bicycles in the highways causing accidents.
The city planning for the reasons stated above.
Traffic
We will just become another Centerton, with miles and miles of (the same type of) residential neighborhoods and strip malls, with no unique identity outside of its proximity to Bentonville.
Crime
small town mentality discouraging new comers
Traffic
Traffic / Roads
Traffic, needing to widen roads. More places to eat and retail businesses
Traffic! With the population growth, we need solutions to manage it. The four way stop is not going to cut it much longer. We are going to need a light with turn lanes or a roundabout. There have also been so many accidents on 72 that citizens are in fear when they drive it. This road desperately needs turn lanes and bike lanes. Something also has to be done about It'll Do Road and 72 . That is a very dangerous intersection.
Losing the small town character- too many high density housing developments and no infrastructure to go with this rapid gro
Losing our identity as a small battlefield town.
Safety
Traffic! All roads leading into/out of Pea Ridge need improved. Also, McNelly and Pickens is a nightmare with too many curves and blind spots. This needs to be remedied to avoid any major accidents
Too much population growth negatively impacting Roads and infrastructure
Adequate roads
That we will loose the 'small town' feel and become too commercialized
Traffic and increase of cost of living.
Safety
Keeping up w infrastructure and safe roads
Too many people and no roads to handle them
Roads, Traffic,Safety
Sustainability. Resources. Tax hikes to pay for all the new infrastructure people moving in requires . The noise each of these people bring. Safety. Sidewalks in older areas. Emergency services and situations only a few ways in and out of town.
Traffic
ingress and egress into and out of city and into and out of subdivisions and local business
Losing the wonderful feeling of small town feel.

Traffic is out of control. Too much building. No focus on infrastructure. Taking all of the open land. We have townhouses right outside our door. Why?!? This is not a big city. Nor do most of us want it to be. We moved here for the small town feel. It's being ruined by all this traffic and building of homes-particularly townhomes, apartments, and subdivisions. For the love of Pete...pleaseeeee stop.
Necessary road widening has fallen behind the growth of residential areas. Should have been built into the building plan of subdivisions.
That PR could be the last dumping ground available for excess nwa population and it will be the worst in poverty and crime of most of nwa. We must maintain quality standards. Not turning into a big city.
Traffic on 72. Desperately need some stoplights.
That old residents will resist the good things happening
Highway 72 is not safe to walk or bike on, cannot get to the other side of town safely.
Trying to preserve the past so much that we're stuck there.
Our towns history and stigma of racism and its ties to confederacy.
That it becomes a suburb of bentonville rather than its own identity.
That it will turn into chaotic Bentonville/Centerton and the small town feel and manners will disappear. The entry into the city from 72 looks so hodgepodge and uninviting, especially with the Walmart. It's not esthetically pleasing, at all.
Over crowded gangs
Traffic and utilities unable to keep up with growth.
Traffic
Traffic
Overgrowth without infrastructure
Traffic management
1. building so many houses and how they affect the traffic. Only one grocery stores. I am worried that the growth of people is happening faster than stores, schools, utilities and water. Better cable and internet choices.
Traffic, population and safety
Traffic
Traffic. Roads in town and roads leaving town. More houses than businesses.
Right now Pea Ridge is a case study in how to ruin a small town It can be fixed but more housing with no traffic improvements or new services isn't the way to do it. It's horrible the direction the city is going.

Our population growth is quickly outgrowing our local infrastructure and road capacity especially given the amount of cyclists utilizing the narrow roads. The combination of these frequently create a safety hazard for both vehicles and the cyclists. There is frequent traffic back-ups miles long due to cyclists in the road.
Losing the natural habitats to homes and losing the country feel, the trees, the landscape.
No traffic intersection improvements, no widened roads, severe traffic jams
Approving development without a '50-year' master plan and the fortitude to stick to it. Rezones should be the exception and not given so easily. The City needs to require more from developers, including street improvements, trees, and anything else needed to mitigate the impacts of developments.
Too much growth with loss of beautiful open land with trees and wildlife. Keeping the feel of small town
Hwy 72 going into Bentonville.
To over populated and crime will go up.
Infrastructure
Security
Infrastructure limitations. Roads, school traffic, and ways to move around it when it happens.
Keeping streets up with population
Over development and loss of character and feel in pursuit of growth
How many people currently in our city hate bicycles and make jokes about running them over. Students facing racist bullying in our schools & sports organizations.
Resistance to change.
Properly managing the growth of the city.
Community not being ready for change, community pushback and mindset
Not being able to keep up with the rate at which we are growing
Overcrowding, crime rates going up due to population increase
Traffic and roads
It's already got too expensive to rent in Pea Ridge. It's at the point that a single person can't rent a house without a great paying job. It is almost like someone is trying to keep a certain demographic out of the city. And it's becoming a sleeper town - where everyone goes to work in another town, then drives back to Pea Ridge to sleep. However, it's becoming a sleeper town for people that make really good money or have 2 incomes.
Stop building homes that we don't have the infrastructure for. This is turning into Centerton, and that's not a good thing
No Small business and over population/traffic
Growing to quickly without a short and long term infrastructure plan to accommodate the growth.

**Q 31: What is your greatest concern for the city's future? (continue)**

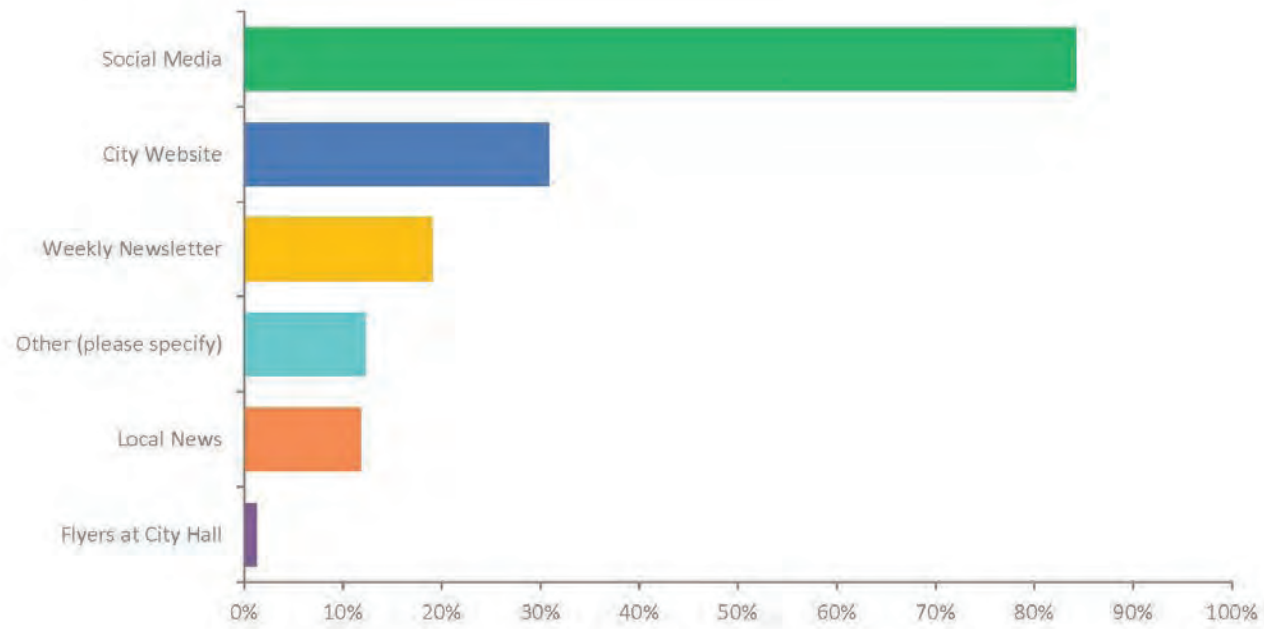
Too many people moving in way too fast. Schools are at top capacity and busting at the seams. The highways don't even have shoulders and what little pavement there is to the right of the white line is crumbling. Some places are very dangerous to drive because of this. Thanks for finally somewhat fixing the highway by the Intermediate school on the hill. It was treacherous. There are many others that need stability.
We love the small town feel Pea Ridge has and hope it's not lost.
That we don't end up like Centerton with a terrible traffic problem and a moratorium on growth.
Not enough new business opportunities to keep money in the city
Local business support.
With the continued influx of new population growth. My main concern is the amount of crime.
Roads
Not planning for growth
Putting in to many houses in to many to fast
Managing affects of humans, like cost of living and trash
Loose pets getting hit by cars
Housing cost, traffic and safety
Infrastructure, infrastructure, and infrastructure
Infrastructure
Growing faster than we are prepared for...not keeping up
That we're just throwing in as many houses and retail spaces as we can, with no vision. That's what it looks like. I'd love to see a vision/growth plan that allows the city to retain some of its rural charm while accounting for all the people, houses, stores and cars we are adding.
I would love to see the image of Pea Ridge cleaned up. I would love to see people care about their property and clean up the area. Too many houses with yards of junk and our Main Street into town looks trashy and unwelcoming. I wouldn't want anyone to lose their businesses. But maybe they can be cleaned up. Maybe even a community can come together to help.
Continued urban sprawl from here to the Missouri border with little-to-no greenspace.
Traffic
Not planning and just letting anyone and everyone continue to build in an available. 5 acre they can find.
Pea ridge is growing way too fast. People wanted to live in this town for the small town life, simple life, quiet life. We don't have that pea ridge anymore.
Traffic
Too many people have made my small town into a city. A city that isn't ready for the growth that is being thrust upon it!
Traffic

The infrastructure for the traffic issues that we have on a daily basis. We don't even have a stoplight anywhere in Pea Ridge. There needs to be a stoplight at it'll do road and also at the four way stop by the arvest Bank.
That there will be no room left for families looking to upsize their house - I'm in a small start home and would love to upgrade to a larger home but not for these prices and the lack of lot size all the way in pea ridge
forcing smaller income families into substandard housing or out of town completely. affordability to live here - housing.
I am concerned that in growing our economy we will sacrifice our quality of life.
We have already out grown the capacity of our road infrastructure.
Traffic and roads
Too much growth too fast!
Continuing development of too many subdivisions and too many fast food restaurants. We're in the natural state, let's get people outside.
Too many people. Not small town living anymore. Traffic issues
Too many subdivisions being built and loaing the small-town feel.
Traffic flow to access pea ridge from other major cities nearby
Too much growth too fast. Y'all are approving way too many housing developments too fast.
That our schools are over populated and children are falling through the cracks
Growing too fast
Traffic flow
Traffic infrastructure
Adequate small multifamily housing
Growth, unable to keep up
Affordable Housing
Keeping pace with population growth.
Traffic Congestion
Traffic



**Q32: How do you usually find out about events or activities happening in Pea Ridge parks?**

Answered: 399 Skipped: 270



Q 32: Other (please specify)
N/A
city council meetings/ planning meetings
Pea Ridge Times paper
By driving by the events
The personal transparent touch of the mayors newsletter in email form.
School news
Library
City app
word of mouth
PR App Notifications
My Wife tells me
App
City app
There isn't any way
Word of mouth
Word of nouth
Pea Ridge Newspaper
Neighbors
Facebook
App
City Meeting
Newspaper
I hate Facebook, put stuff on your website.
I don't
Facebook, and I don't like it. Put stuff on your website and app.
I dont
word of mouth; other options are often after-the-date
word of mouth
Pea Ridge Connect
Library
by happenstance
I don't
Friends tell me
Local PR paper
App notifications
Pea Ridge App
App
People
A mix
Pea ridge app
The app
Friends
Word of mouth
City emails
Notifications from the city app
City app
City app
The App

**Q35: Please leave any additional comments or thoughts you have regarding the future of Pea Ridge, the Future Land Use, Master Street Plan, or Parks or Open Space Plan.**

**Answered - 96**

**Skipped - 564**

Q35: Responses
for the future of Pea Ridge! I would like to see more businesses and restaurants so we can stay right here and work in the same City as we live! The main concern is traffic coming and going in the mornings and evenings. Lots new neighborhoods coming in means a lot more traffic. People of The Ridge would feel better about all the new upcoming homes if the traffic was addressed sooner rather than later.
I think trying to keep the small town family atmosphere that we have going is the most important thing.
cannot buy an acre of land to keep the new neighbors from being literally in their back door. No longer being able to see the sunset for the buildings or flashing neon car washes. It's sad. Single story neighborhoods should not have townhouses or apartments that see into their homes. You're privacy fence just became a joke. This is not Bentonville or Rogers. Why would you want to destroy this town? Plus your new logo looks like a cross between a boy scout badge and a weed advertisement. Whose bright idea was it to waste a ridiculous amount of money to rebrand the town instead of designing a decent marketing campaign for what you want this town to stand for? Friendly. Safe for your children. Feels like home. Relaxing. A peaceful place to breath. Community. A place where chickens are still welcome without getting a ticket.
Please stop approving and building apartments townhomes duplexes. Small housing editions. You are going to destroy the town. Traffic is already bad and going to be out of control.
Pickleball courts would be great!
One other thing I would like to see is garages available to all residential units to preserve safety of our community. If medium to large scale apartment complexes are built they should have to have a bank of garages for tenets to rent. I believe it would make it better for police to patrol if they know people have the opportunity to have vehicles inside removing temptations for those looking for mischief.
I would like to see a community wellness center here
I think one issue that would be easy to fix is finish the sidewalk system. There are random areas with none. We live on Todd cir and we have to cross 265 right by the curve to get to a sidewalk. It would also be amazing to have pea ridge connected to the greenway walking trails.
TRAFFIC & ROADS! The 4way stop has got to go. Way too much traffic on "It'll do". People cutting thru neighbors to avoid turning west on 72 in the morning and traffic being backed up north bound on "It'll do" by the baseball field in the afternoon.
We need better traffic infrastructure, including stop lights. Whatever we need to do through the state to make that happen before we continue to add in more housing. Get rid of all the bicycle junk. I hat it with a passion. Them being on the roads everywhere when they have hundreds of miles of paved and unpaved trails available to them. It is incredibly dangerous and frustrating to be stuck going 15 mph on a 55mph speed limit road because of bicycles.
Roads and highways need to be widened for the amount of growth. Highway 72 especially needs to be 4 lane and to have shoulders. Bicyclist are increasing and extremely dangerous on these roads where there is no shoulder and the majority of people can't even drive their cars safely on it.

Would love to see more investment in the city park. We have so many families moving to Pea Ridge. We could do so much better with green spaces and parks and walkability.
I would love an Aldi and tropical smoothie!
Traffic is biggest concern. We are going to have fatal accidents due to the dangerous intersections.
We also would like to see less multifamily residential living areas and this area kept to single family homes.
Thanks for all that you do!
I appreciate everyone for all they do for pea ridge. Would love to see the city park get better equipment but I can appreciate that would take a lot of effort so I thank you for all you do!
912 Estes Drive
welcomed. To have free and equal access to green spaces and safe mixed-use trails that promote co-mingling with neighboring communities. I envision a revitalization of our downtown zone with spaces for people to network and remote work - we could use a sit down coffee shop or bakery for sure! Commercial spaces that encourage staying a while will generate revenue and allow us to get to know our neighbors in meaningful ways. I am really looking forward to the growth we are experiencing in Pea Ridge and am hopeful that our leadership will help us grow in ways both considerate and impactful!
To many subdivisions are being allowed to be built without proper infrastructure or planning. NO ingress or egress allowed for new subdivisions causes traffic delays/concerns. The speed limit in front of Walmart needs to be reduced to at least 30mph all the way to it'll do. Speed limit needs reduced to 30mph from old downtown to the high school.
There are a lot of people eager for a disc golf course. Pea Ridge and Bentonville are sort of in a course "desert". It would be good for the community and would be relatively cheap to install. The NWA disc golf community is very supportive.
More stop lights
Need a new city code enforcement officer. Should try to work with the residents, especially long time residents. Not just drive around and be a prick because he can.
An immediate need is a round-a-bout where It'll Do Road meeting W Pickens Road and also a round-a-bout at the 4 way stop of Lee Town Road and N Curtis. Traffic light where North Curtis and E Pickens Rd Meets and a 2 lights on Lee Town Road where it meets It'll Do and Weston street.
planning initiatives—across land use, street planning, and parks development—will prioritize preserving this atmosphere while embracing thoughtful, balanced growth. Pea Ridge has a unique opportunity to shape its future sustainably, keeping growth manageable and quality of life high. Expanding pedestrian-friendly infrastructure and ensuring safe biking and walking routes should be central to the street plan, promoting both community health and ease of access. For parks and open spaces, preserving natural areas and enhancing community parks would strengthen our town's appeal for families and foster a deeper sense of belonging. It would be wonderful to see more community involvement in these planning stages to ensure that development aligns with our shared values, allowing Pea Ridge to grow while staying true to the qualities that make it a wonderful place to raise children.
Drop the Pea in the name and become The Ridge!
Please try to attract individuals/companies who would be interested in developing accommodations for those on fixed income or in need of assisted living or nursing home care. Too much attention is being placed on the youth and none on the seriously elderly or medically needy.
Thank you for considering my comments!

We need baseball/softball fields to be proud of not embarrassed by

Pea Ridge City Park  
 Plus:  
 \*Open concept, Different activities for different ages, Walking trails, Free libraries, Picnic tables, Fencing lots of Parking Nostalgic  
 Negative:  
 Uneven Ground/ not safe for a lot of people to walk around, Not inclusive. Little Park off to itself near basketball area many kids can't get on it, Ditch, upkeep of some structures, Need more community events

\*Tree Park in Springdale next to Rotary Park  
 \*Rotary Park- Nice, Inclusive  
 \*Orchards Park- Large shaded area, dog park right there  
 \*Park behind Bentonville Community Center-Love the fenced in area and the large zipline chair  
 \*Horsebarn Park-Double swings for adults and child  
 \*Mt Hebron-Ground, inclusiveness, options for ages, swings, ground cover, climbing structures.  
 \*Railyard Park-Concrete tunnel climbing walls (good to cover ditch area)

Green space area in neighborhoods  
 -used almost daily for soccer ball kicking  
 -neighborhood events, Easter egg Hunts, birthday parties, teen youth events, tennis/racket ball/volleyball ball, horse shoes, learning to ride a bike, bounce houses, slip & slides, relay races, foam parties, movie nights.

I would love to see more trees and shrubbery planted especially in town/along sidewalks. I'm worried we might not be replacing nearly as much as we cut down as we grow.

has to offer, Pea Ridge is perfectly situated to build off of the activities that this area has to offer. To boost tourism in the city and the local economy, Pea Ridge should invest in connecting trails/outdoor spaces/parks to the well maintained trails of the greater Bentonville/Bella Vista area. This would draw more people into the Pea Ridge area to spend money/time/investment. This could also link Pea Ridge into more community events with the surrounding cities (ex: marathons, bike races, concerts, farmers markets).

Pea Ridge: Envisioning a Sustainable Future  
 As a graduate student, I am deeply invested in the future of Pea Ridge and its strategic planning efforts. The city's Future Land Use, Master Street Plan, and Parks or Open Space Plan hold immense potential to shape the community's growth and development in the years to come. In this persuasive essay, I will present a compelling case for a comprehensive and visionary approach to Pea Ridge's future.

The Future Land Use plan is a critical component in ensuring the city's long-term sustainability. By carefully zoning and designating land for various purposes, such as residential, commercial, and industrial use, Pea Ridge can strike a balance between economic development and environmental preservation. Thoughtful land use planning can promote the efficient use of resources, reduce urban sprawl, and create vibrant, livable neighborhoods.

The Master Street Plan, on the other hand, is essential for addressing the city's transportation needs. A well-designed network of roads, sidewalks, and bike lanes can enhance connectivity, reduce traffic congestion, and promote alternative modes of transportation. By prioritizing pedestrian and cyclist safety, the Master Street Plan can contribute to a more sustainable and healthy community.

Lastly, the Parks or Open Space Plan holds the key to enhancing the quality of life for Pea Ridge residents. Investing in public green spaces, recreational facilities, and natural areas can provide numerous benefits, including improved mental and physical health, increased property values, and a stronger sense of community. Furthermore, strategic planning for parks and open spaces can help mitigate the effects of climate change, such as urban heat island effects and stormwater management.

As a graduate student, I firmly believe that the successful implementation of these plans will position Pea Ridge as a model for sustainable urban development. By embracing a holistic approach that balances economic, social, and environmental considerations, the city can create a vibrant, livable, and resilient community that attracts new residents, businesses, and investments.

To achieve this vision, I recommend that Pea Ridge engage in a comprehensive public engagement

This is definitely not an easy job, and I appreciate all those taking on the huge task of planning for Pea Ridge's future!

2593 Peck Rd  
 Pea Ridge

Just want to say I am thrilled with our new mayor and the choices he has made/addressed. Unfortunately having the same leadership in place for so long put our city behind times. He had the chance to fix and address these issues and did nothing and now those issues have fallen on Mr. See's lap to correct. So glad we finally have some real transparency and doesn't seem so shady behind closed doors as it was previously.

Have to improve roads to get here.

I love our city! I live just outside the city limits but Pea Ridge is my home. Thank you for the work you're doing to make Pea Ridge an even better place to live!

Would prefer our local roads not being monopolized by bike races. Too dangerous and inconvenient for local drivers. We have plenty of trails for bike use.

No more large scale neighborhoods. The schools can't handle more growth

**Q35: Please leave any additional comments or thoughts you have regarding the future of Pea Ridge, the Future Land Use, Master Street Plan, or Parks or Open Space Plan. (continue)**

The mayor needs to gather all of the city employees together and tell (ask) them that they need to pick up some trash or debris ever week. That includes the Police and road department and water and fireman and recreationally employees. If they see any issue that they can not handle themselves, they need to report it to someone so that it can be addressed.
Let's build Pea Ridge together!
I've lived here all my life, I like the growth because it adds value to the community, but let's not trash our small community vibe in the interest of economic progress.
Consider a Senior Activity Center. It could be connected to the new recreational center
MTB and walking trails, community events, a community pool would be nice
Please listen to the people and not developers. Us citizens have to live here and deal with the outcomes. Centerton is a great example of a city ruined by developers. Let's not be Centerton.
Pea Ridge is a special city. We love the small town feel. Our Mayor contributes greatly to our positive image. We want to maintain the safe, healthy environment that we have under his leadership. We do think that Parks and open green space definitely improve the quality of life for residents. We would like a continued emphasis on preserving natural areas. For commercial space we would really like to have eat in restaurants such as a sports bar (no more fast food). We would also like to see another supermarket in the area, along with additional medical facilities.
better road and services infrastructure, as well as more green spaces for an enhanced nature-oriented feel.
I just think turning everything into residential housing ruins the charm of the area. It happened to Rogers, Centerton and Bentonville.
As a former resident of PR, but with many family members still present, I greatly appreciate the robust communication that the city has fostered. It is also a blessing that the local newspaper is such an advocate for the city and the public school system.
Growth is good but must be managed very thoughtfully and without urgency to account for all impacts and opportunities. Current ordinances should be enforced to keep existing properties up to par now and for the future.
Always free to offer feedback and provide encouragement for this amazing town
Slow down- don't rush the growth- Rome wasn't built in a day.
Traffic , traffic , traffic. Needs to be wider highways in and out of town to accommodate commuters . Due to the lack of local jobs the two 2 lane highways is not enough to handle current traffic let alone the growing population.
Townhouses in mid time really do overwhelm the streets.
Keep bicycles off Hwy 72 and 94. Make trails next to them. They back up traffic and cause accidents which we have plenty of already.
Please address the four way stop. A round about would be the smoothest way to get traffic moving through their quickly, but at the very least we are long past the point of getting even a light there. Same for It'll Do and 72.
I know we are being forced to grow but that doesn't mean we become the next Centerton and try to keep up with Bentonville. We have lost what made our town so great. Bring back the cannons and embrace the history of the town.
Leave the current beautiful nature along 72 to Bentonville as it is, nature, curving traffic. Just create another road to Bentonville where Walmart home office campus is.
None

We love Pea Ridge and the small town atmosphere, we have lived here 24 years and no plans of leaving until God calls us home.
It would be nice if an American flag welcomed people into town instead of a confederate flag.
Just stop please with all this building. Look around. There's hardly any open land. Not every piece of land needs stuff on it. We aren't getting any more. Please just. Stop. Focus on making the city's existing roads better and do something with all this traffic. I want our small city feel back. I never wanted to live in a big city but all this nonsense is bringing it here.
Appreciate the City asking its residents their opinions. Remember a great city has amenities for ALL age groups. Please stop mixing commercial and residential. Have assigned areas for each.
I think the most important thing is to not rush into decisions. While we do need appropriate growth, we also need organization and traffic relief. We need Pea Ridge to remain beautiful and inviting without developers coming in and gobbling up all the land. I did not move here for it to become strictly a bedroom community. We need a city and a community. Every new neighborhood from this point forward should be required to have enough open space for residents to play and stretch their legs away from driving cars and noise. We need more walking and bike paths to make traveling around the city easier for everyone while keeping the city safe.
Community meetings would be better attended if the time was changed to 7pm. People have jobs, many do not work in Pea Ridge. Also some have animals to take care of before dark.
Pea Ridge's future is bright with proper strategic planning and community input.
What is the plan for the four way stop signs. That four way stop is so busy during the morning and evening, it is very difficult to get to Walmart and some of the stores in the area.
Planning is key. Infrastructure must be built before the population can grow and new housing is built. We need more retail to keep tax dollars in Pea Ridge
You need to visit small towns that have done it right instead of the terrible approach you are taking right now. And when you add restaurants encourage something new instead of a Mexican, fast food or pizza places. The city leadership needs more education about how to do their job because compared to other small cities they're growing in the wrong direction.
Love living in Pea Ridge
I have grown to love Pea Ridge. I'm thankful to live here. I think it's important to have ADA compliant entrances and exits to all facilities in Pea Ridge, including high population events, like the stadium. Recent debates about strollers at the field could be solved if the entrances and exits were wider. No reason to certain types of mobilities are limited for the disabled community. Rules like this only put abled-bodied citizens on pedestals. Sadly, they act like strollers are in their way. 🙄🙄🙄 This attitude has to go. Special needs, disabled, elderly individuals are everywhere and need support.
I have always lived in or near big cities (Boston area, Phoenix, The Villages, FL) and have found that the small town feel of Pea Ridge is bringing me much joy and calmness in my life. I know NWA is expected to have much growth over the next 15+ years and now that improvement in infrastructure is critical to keep up with expected growth. It would be nice to have a few nice restaurants in town, walking and biking trails. Would not want to lose the "out in the country feel" with too much growth.
allows the public to hear and participate in the discussions and witness the CC decisions on the same night. Planning Commission could also do the same.
Hey, there were too many options for the "sort" questions. It became overwhelming and hard to do on mobile. I recommend limiting the options next time.
Mayor See is a thoughtful city leader.

The schools need some modernization and updates. More digital updates on city offerings.
Looking forward to the land use plan, master transportation plan and open space plan.
It's ruined. Add additional law enforcement and fire stations and school buildings to handle the growth
125 Lindsay St. I think you are doing a great job. I also want to give a special shout out to Pea Ridge Law enforcement. A Particular one Jacob Kolasch. He gave help in what could have been a dark moment in my life.
Thank you for sending out this survey. Can't wait to see the results.
Please consider an archery range. I think we could put one near the hiking trail parking with limited cost. I would help raise funds for targets.
Love Pea Ridge just wish I could spend my money on the city for entertainment and restaurants, breweries instead of going to Rpgers or Bentonville
City needs more side street connections around the schools
207 Greer st
Fix up our city park! See my previous comment. Also the connectivity out to Bentonville. Center left turn lane past Wal Mart
We NEED a nice facility where people can hold community events and workout...classes, youth sports, exercise equipment
If Pea Ridge puts in any stop light. Please put in weighted lights. Then no one will be sitting at a red light when there is no traffic.
Would like to see the growth of the city slow down so the older sections can get the same benefits as the newer ones! ie. Sidewalks, guttering updates, unsightly lots and houses cleaned up, more police presence on the race track otherwise known as Lee Town Rd. Would also love to see some areas geared toward the older population. Not everyone rides bikes or plays sports. Something along the lines of a small senior citizens center with activity and exercise areas!
I have lived in Pea Ridge since the 80's. I raised my kid's there. Crime was low and there was strong community involvement. Now there is crime,traffic and Noone knows their neighbors. Progress and growth is not always a good thing. All those apartments going up are excessive and not affordable. You have ruined Pea Ridge!
Are City needs to work on infrastructure, roadways, and maintaining the small town feeling.
In regards to pedestrian infrastructure, the Givens place subdivision needs to have sidewalks connecting adjacent neighborhood along highway 94. I've seen children on scooters and bicycles riding in the highway in a 55 mph zone to go to Dollar General. The city approved the store being put there, they need to provide access to the people who use the store now. It would also be nice to have a way to reach the main part of town via sidewalk from Givens.
I am disappointed to see so many subdivisions being built. I would really like to see more accessibility to greenway type infrastructure for the safety of the kids, residents and visitors.
Stop building homes and apartments
Be cool to stop approving all the housing divisions and why is the water bill so insanely expensive. Most I've ever paid in my life for minimal use.
1607 Higgins St. Pea Ridge, AR

## YOUTH SURVEY

A youth-focused survey has been distributed to gather input from Pea Ridge's younger residents about their interests, preferences, and priorities for the City's parks, trails, and open spaces. The survey was shared with middle school students and circulated throughout the community to engage a wide range of youth perspectives. It includes questions about favorite activities, desired improvements, and ideas for new recreational opportunities. This effort aims to ensure the voices of Pea Ridge's youth are heard, providing valuable insights to shape the future of parks and open spaces in ways that resonate with the next generation.

### UNDER-18 SURVEY QUESTIONS (7)

**2) What is your age? (Write-In)**

**3) How often do you visit parks or open spaces in your community?**

- A) Every day
- B) A few times a week
- C) A few times a month
- D) Rarely
- E) Never

**4) Please list any parks or open spaces where you hang out when you're not in Pea Ridge.**

**5) What activities do you do in parks in Pea Ridge?**

- A) Playing sports (e.g., soccer, basketball)
- B) Walking or biking
- C) Hanging out with friends
- D) Attending events (e.g., festivals, concerts)
- E) Relaxing or enjoying nature
- F) Other (please specify)

**6) How important is it to you to have more spaces for organized sports in Pea Ridge? (baseball, soccer, and others)**

**7) How important is it to you to have more nature activities in Pea Ridge? (trails, wildlife areas)**

**8) Would you be interested in coming to park events or activities if there were more available?**

**9) If yes, what kinds of events or activities would interest you?**

**10) How easy is it for you to get to the parks and open spaces in Pea Ridge?**

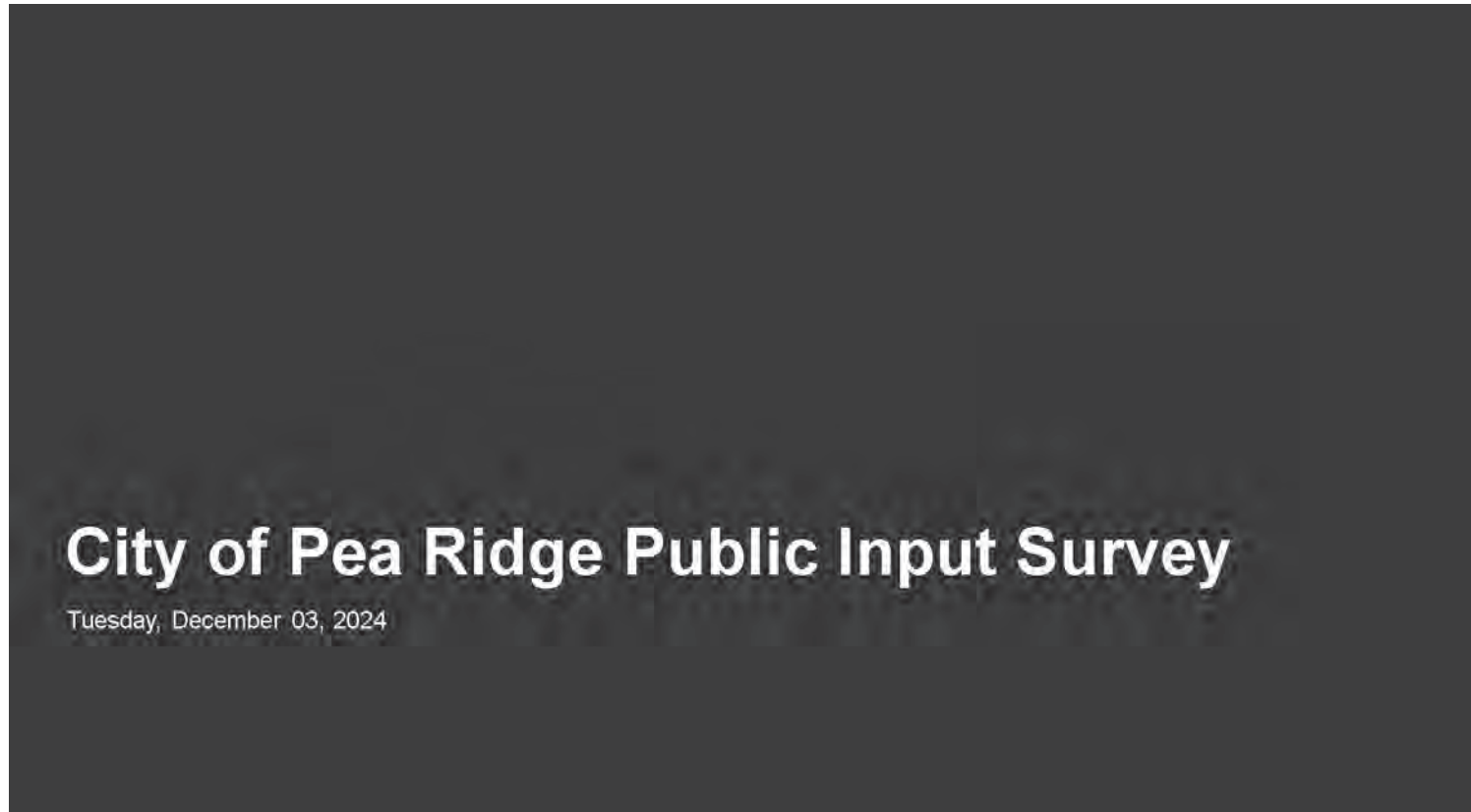
**11) What changes would make Pea Ridge parks and open spaces better for you?**

**12) How do you usually find out about events or activities happening in Pea Ridge parks?**

- A) Social Media
- B) City Website
- C) Weekly Newsletter
- D) Local News
- E) Flyers at City Hall
- F) Other (please specify)

**33) Please leave any additional comments or thoughts you have regarding the Parks or Open Space in Pea Ridge.**

## SURVEY RESPONSES



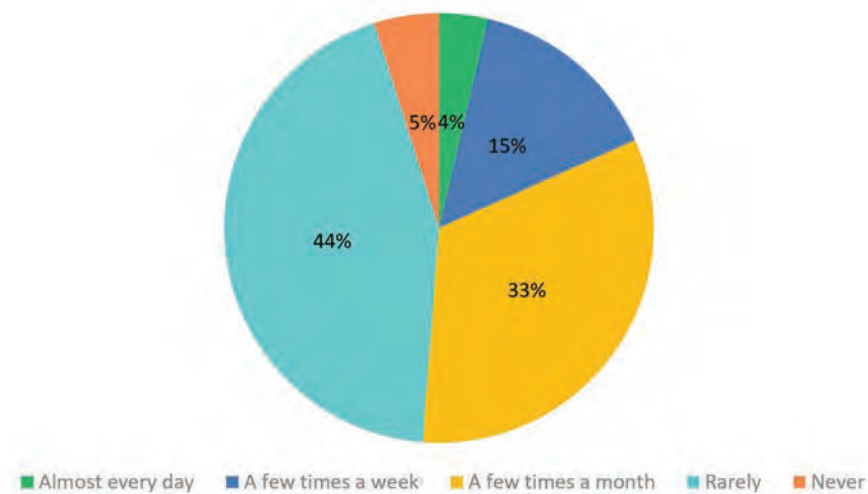
### Q2: What is your age?

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12 about to be thirteen on october 24
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N/A
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N/A
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14

**Q3: How often do you visit Parks or Open Spaces in Pea Ridge? In this survey, when we use the terms "Park" or "Open Space," we are referring to the following:**  
**Parks:** A park is a public space with grass, trees, playgrounds, and sports fields where people go to relax, play, or exercise.  
**Open Space:** Open space is a natural area, like forests or fields, left mostly undeveloped, used for outdoor activities like hiking or biking.

Answered: 82 | Skipped: 587



**Q4: Please list any parks or open spaces where you hang out when you're not in Pea Ridge.**

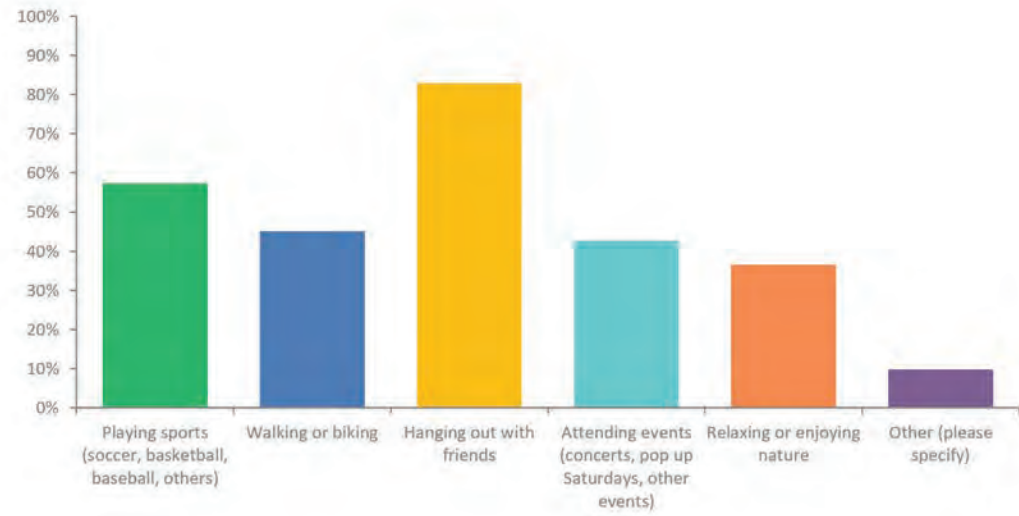
Responses
?
veterans park
The dog park
the railyard
Mount hebron
I don't really go to parks. The closest thing that I do is the Pinnacle or Bentonville square.
baseball fields
the Rogers park or the softball fields in rogers
Bellavista park
none
memorial park
idk
bintivle park
none
other football fields baseball fields exeder and many more like that
parks
I really like to play in the creeks in Missouri
Downtown Roger's, Bentonville parks, etc.
Tontitown Park
Pineville Missouri town square my uncle is the mayor of pineville
I enjoy swimming at community pools and every now and then, I like to go roller skating with friends. It is nice to hang out with friends with easy and nice food options nearby.
Ballparks, and parks.
Bentonvill parks cuz they are better like the swings
the Bentonville park
Bentonville memorial park
the pea ridge park
arcade
n/a
Gateway Park
my football games and my house
restraunts
Rogers park
I just walk anywhere. where my family takes me.
none
the mall
rogers aquatic center
soccer fields
pool
bigger parks
lakes

I went to my mom's in Missouri that's my open space
Lake or crystal bridges
Garfield parks, the military park
Baseball fields
Public pools and wendys
the football fields
sky high and Exeter corn maze
Other parks
I go to the reck center that has a pool basketball a track pickle ball and many other things.
beaver lake
None I fish a lot
idk
friends houses and the house church
Idk
Garfield Park
The Garfield park, and that's basically it.
Pinnacle Mall, Mt. Hebron Park
Crystal bridges
The School
I stay in Pea Ridge unless its to shop
Lake Atalanta
gravet skate park and football field
beaver lake
Gateway City Park
Beaver lake
the city park and other parks
pinnical
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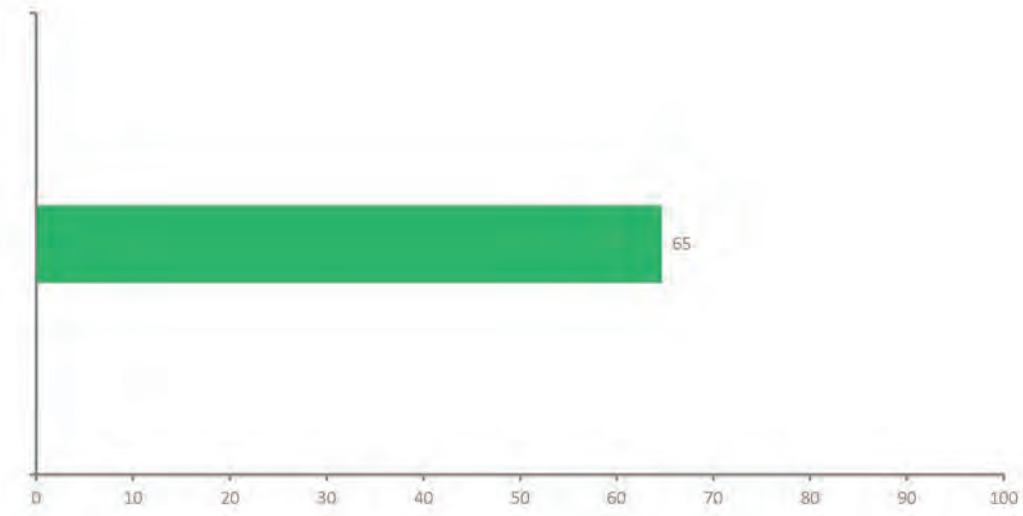
**Q5: What activities do you currently enjoy in Pea Ridge parks or open spaces?**

Answered: 82 Skipped: 587



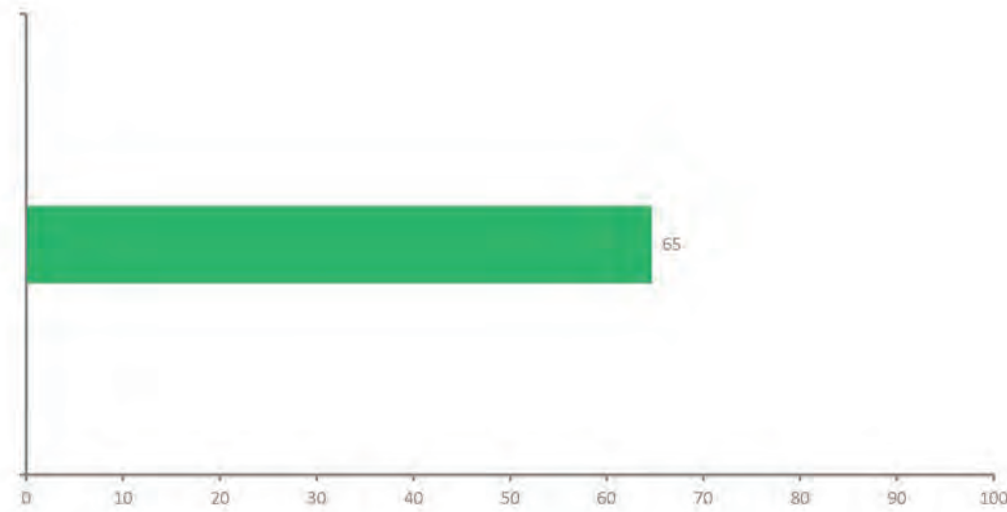
**Q7: How important is it to you to have more nature activities in Pea Ridge? (trails, wildlife areas)**

Answered: 82 Skipped: 587



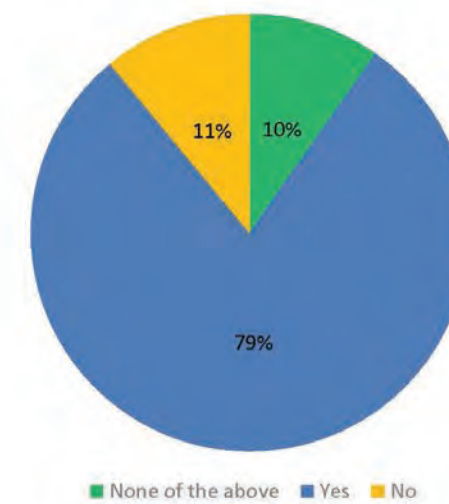
**Q6: How important is it to you to have more spaces for organized sports in Pea Ridge? (baseball, soccer, and others)**

Answered: 82 Skipped: 587



**Q8: Would you be interested in coming to park events or activities if there were more available?**

Answered: 82 Skipped: 587



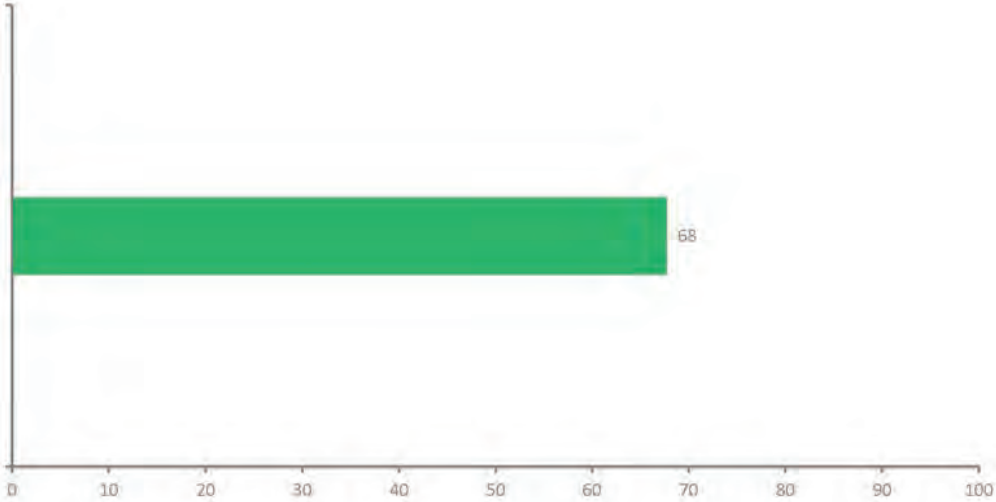
**Q9: If yes, what kinds of events or activities would interest you?**

Responses
?
fairs. parks that actually has activities for teens
Different sports (tennis courts - pickle ball - basketball)
basketball games
mountain bike competitions
I think a lot of things could be interesting, but any type of contest would be fun to have from time to time.
deer cook-off
music events and more fairs that are not expensive
like city-wide events or concerts
idk
new baseball feilds/sports complex
any
volleyball
concerts
maybe like a hiking club or a kindness club where we go around spreading acts of kindness to others around town.
challenges, other fun stuff.
a pool party kinda thing or a scavenger hunt!!
Smaller concerts or music nights like in Downtown Roger's.
Sports related events or festivals
Music or booth sells like a farmer market
I enjoy many of the things Pea Ridge has to offer throughout the year like the second Saturdays and the fair. If we could have a Christmas market or haunted house organized by PTO or others for holidays, I think that would be great!
N/A
gaming fest or like stuff revolving with new games
more people
Fairs/sports activities like cornhole
anything for older kids
N/A
football games
Volleyball
Concert gigs or simply adding sidewalk and crosswalks to more areas.
fun
We Should Add A Cane's
Halloween events, or trail openings.
concerts
Anything that has any moving around and dodging.
state fairs
none
football
concerts

concerts, fairs, festivals
contest
games,cook outs
any events
Parks
more softball fields, just more things to do
any type of sporting events
Any sports outside besides soccer.
Music
any. any event that is against compound housing
fairs and carnivals
Party's, sports events
Conserts, and maybe more fairs
having a kickball ternament or doing baseball or basketball and maybe football
football
None
idk
friend activity
Basketball , cross country and walking
All of them
soccer game, small shows.
I like baseball
concerts, music,
I'm not sure
Pickleball
giant playgrounds that are bigger and older kids can play on like a parkour course
Concert
Running
bull riding
bull riding
Farmers markets
concerts and fairs
small business events
I like playground equipment to play on

**Q10: How easy it is for you to get to the parks and open spaces in Pea Ridge?**

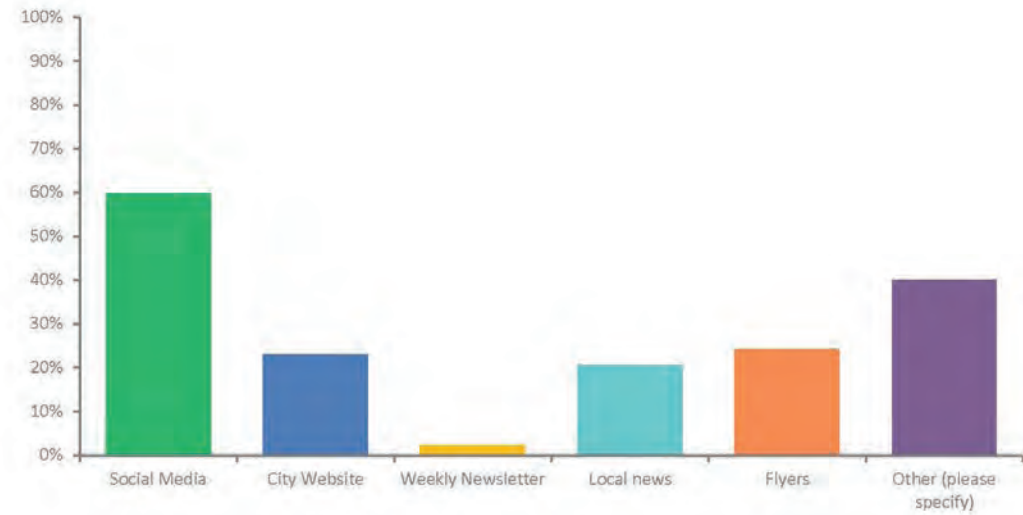
Answered: 82 Skipped: 587





**Q12: How do you usually find out about events or activities happening in Pea Ridge parks?**

Answered: 82 Skipped: 587



**Q13: Please leave any additional comments or thoughts you have regarding the Parks or Open Space in Pea Ridge.**

Responses
?
I would like to see more fields for soccer with turf
I don't got one
No Comment
they are to small so if there is anyway for you to make them bigger it would be pretty much appreciated
I would wish there would be more places for us teenagers to hang out after school or maybe somewhere to get together and study
Nope
I love what Pea Ridge has to offer, but maybe more seasonal or rare events? MANY people loved the fair this year and I know my family would love some seasonal markets.
N/A
cheese
thanks for letting me do this
WE WANT CORNHOLE please and thank you
I love the parks and I love how everyone try's to keep it clean for everyone! Keep up the good work!!!
Adding crosswalks and sidewalks is my main concern, somewhere near central Pea Ridge. A few parks in that area would be nice too.
its not fun
thank you
no
Pickleball courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts
i don't have any
I would love to see more open spaces and parks in the area. more open space would be beneficial in Pea Ridge for multiple reasons.
i would use it for more teen stuff instead of things for kids
nope
I think we should have more events or activities so that the comuity can get together and have fun while meating new people that are living just down the street. So I think we should do this so that the people in our community because eit would be very fun for the kids and adults to get outside and have some fun eating playing fun games like basketball and baseball or maybe even kickball so this is what I think we should be doing more often because we need it so we can get new people to start coming to these things.
I like all the parks and open spaces
there cool and all but Stop putting new houses on open farm land and hunting land
I think that they need to have more hunting land, and I want them to stop building houses on farming land.
idk
idrk
I have nothing
I think we need more stuff for teenagers to do. There isn't much besides the stores and one park.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BOARDS

## Who We Are

Parks & Open Space Master Plan  
Consultant Team

Oversight

Comprehensive Plan  
Consultant Team

**edsa** Lead Consultant  
Planning and Design

**CEI** Environmental Analysis  
& Civil Engineering

**RCLCO** Economic Analysis,  
Development Services,  
& Policy

**TOOLE DESIGN** Active Transportation &  
Recreational Planning



## Timelines

Parks & Open Space Master Plan

**1 KICK-OFF & ANALYSIS**

- Site Visit
- Key Stakeholder Interviews
- Data Collection and Review
- Site Analysis of Existing Conditions
- Community Survey

**2 PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

- Draft Plan Development
- Supporting Documentation Development
- Key Stakeholder Review
- Community Draft Plan Open House

**3 FINAL PLAN**

- Inclusion of Community Feedback
- Final Plan Development
- Final Supporting Documentation

Comprehensive Plan

**1 PROJECT KICK-OFF**

- Existing Conditions Analysis
- Draft Vision & Plans

**2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Public Survey
- Community Outreach Meeting

**3 PLAN DEVELOPMENT**

- Updated Draft Vision & Plans
- Provide Opportunity for Additional Community Review
- Final Plan Document & Maps

## Objectives

Parks & Open Space Master Plan

To develop a Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Pea Ridge to guide the future of their parks, open spaces, trails, and recreational facilities.

Comprehensive Plan

Comprehensive Plans are developed to provide the vision for a community for future development, connectivity, infrastructure, and other types of growth and amenities. The Pea Ridge Comprehensive Plan sets out the Vision and Goals for the future of the community.

In addition to the Vision, the Comprehensive Plan includes a Future Land Use Map and Master Street Plan. Additional technical details will be developed along with these plans to provide implementation methods.

## Vision & Goals

Parks & Open Space Master Plan



Comprehensive Plan



What do you want to see in Pea Ridge?

Keep in Touch!

Website

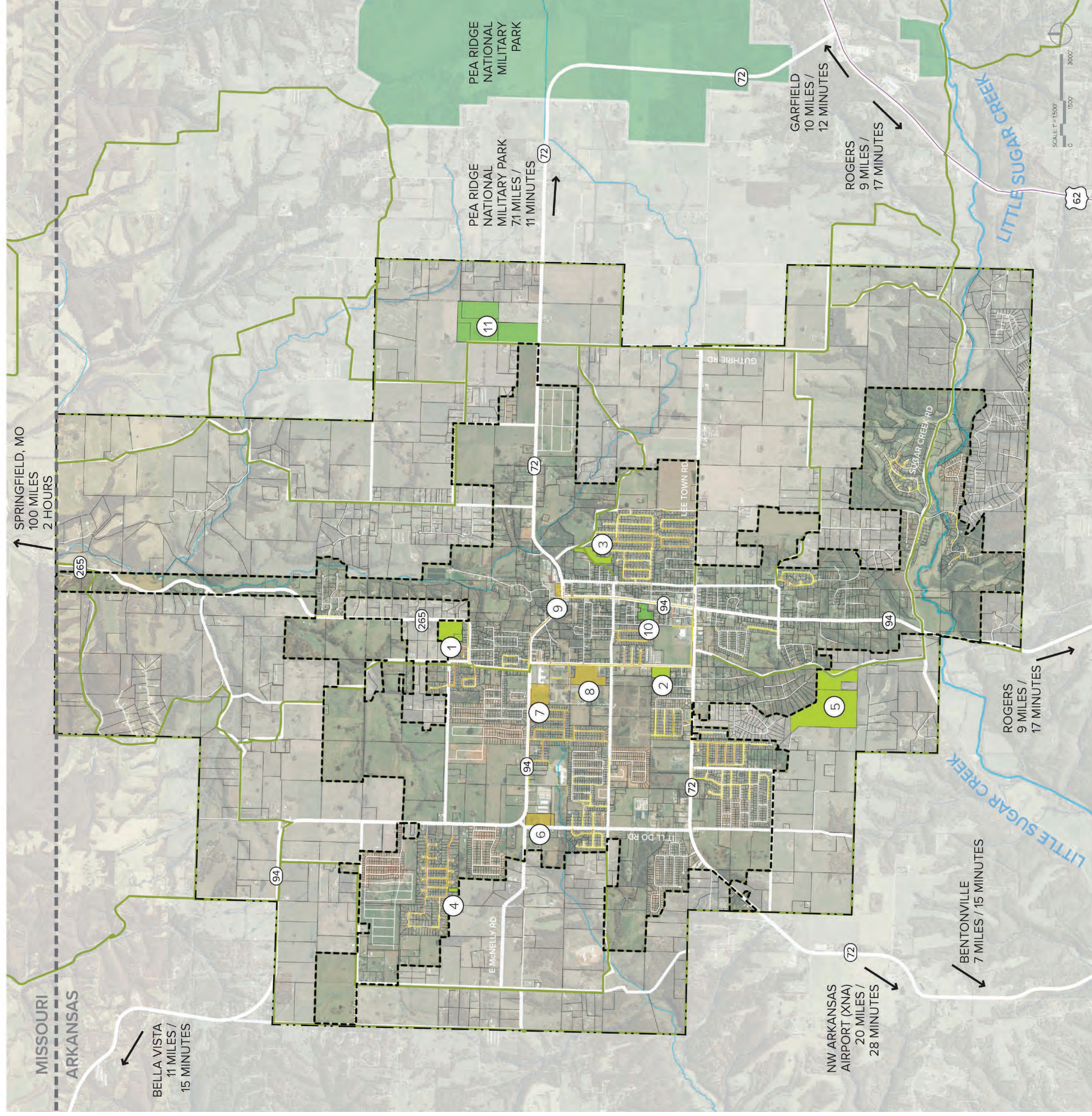


General Feedback



# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE



### MAP OVERVIEW

Pea Ridge, population 6,664 (2020), is a growing city in northwest Arkansas near the Missouri state line. With a rapidly growing population and increased development, Pea Ridge needs a plan to maintain accessible parks and open spaces to provide access to the outdoors, while also maintaining the cultural character.

Currently, Pea Ridge has eleven (11) parks, open spaces, public spaces, and recreation fields and trails.\* Some of the Pea Ridge parks and open spaces serve dual purposes with the Pea Ridge School District.

(Note: some parks are not constructed as of October 2024).

### LEGEND

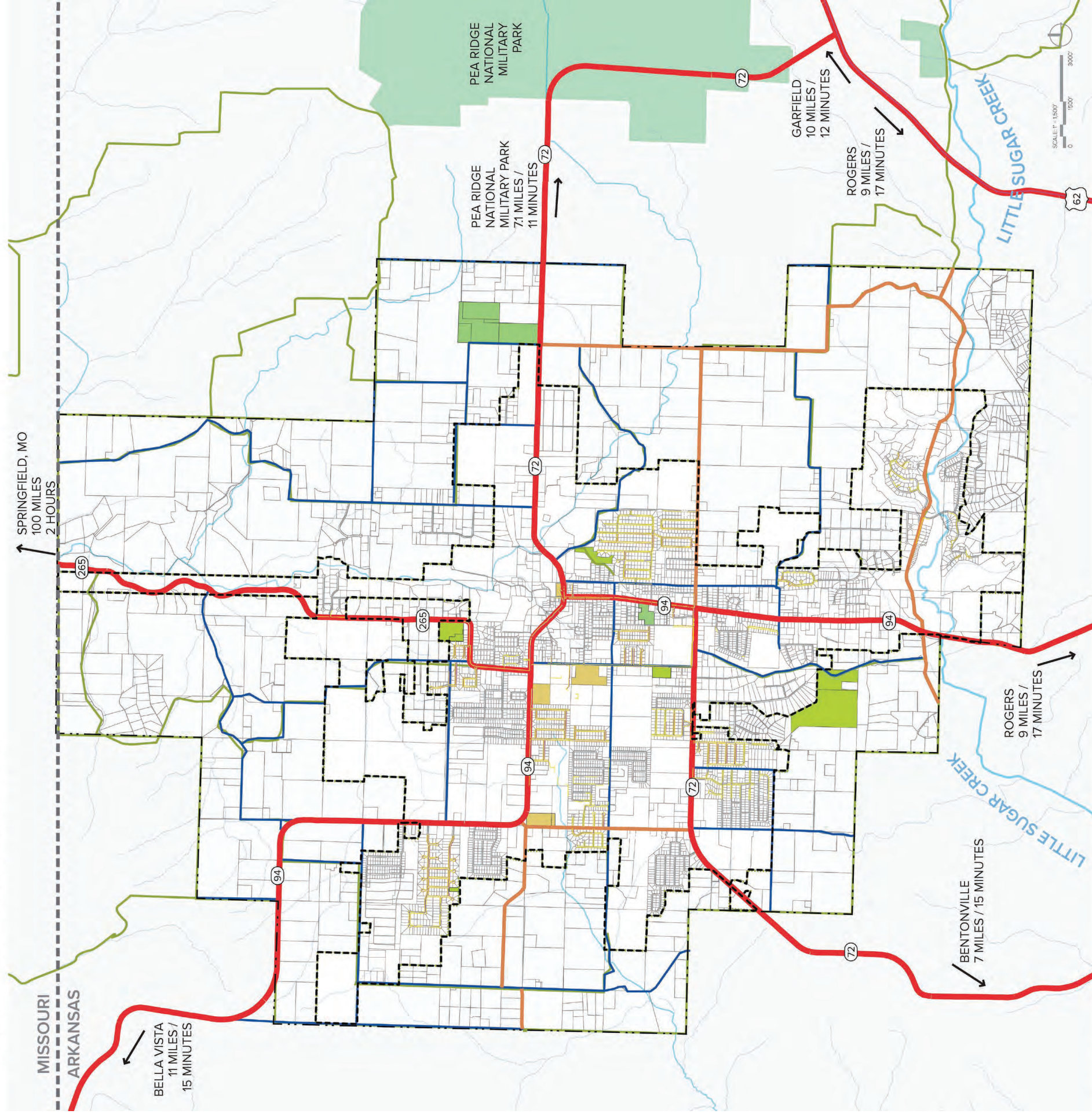
- PEA RIDGE CITY LIMIT
- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
- PRIMARY ROADWAY
- SECONDARY ROADWAY
- GRAVEL ROAD
- EXISTING SIDEWALKS
- MULTI-USE PATH
- NATURAL WATERWAYS
- EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE
- PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT (Existing Parks & Sport Assets)
- PLANNED PARKS & OPEN SPACE

- 1 PEA RIDGE CITY PARK 12 ACRES
- 2 PEA RIDGE MEMORIAL PARK 4.98 ACRES
- 3 BAKER HAYES URBAN TRAIL SYSTEM 7.03 ACRES
- 4 GIVENS PARK 0.92 ACRES
- 5 RYAN RD CONNECTOR 80 ACRES
- 6 PEA RIDGE BABE RUTH 7.67 ACRES
- 7 BLACKHAWK STADIUM 7 ACRES
- 8 SCHOOL PROPERTY 13.3 ACRES
- 9 VETERANS MEMORIAL 2 ACRES
- 10 PROPOSED COMMUNITY CENTER & PARK 6.1 ACRES
- 11 PEA RIDGE SPORTS COMPLEX 60 ACRES



# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## EXISTING CIRCULATION



### MAP OVERVIEW

Pea Ridge has a street network including highways, regional, and local roadways. Pea Ridge has a lack of pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

This circulation map highlights bike routes, shared roadways, recreational gravel roads, primary roads, and secondary streets.

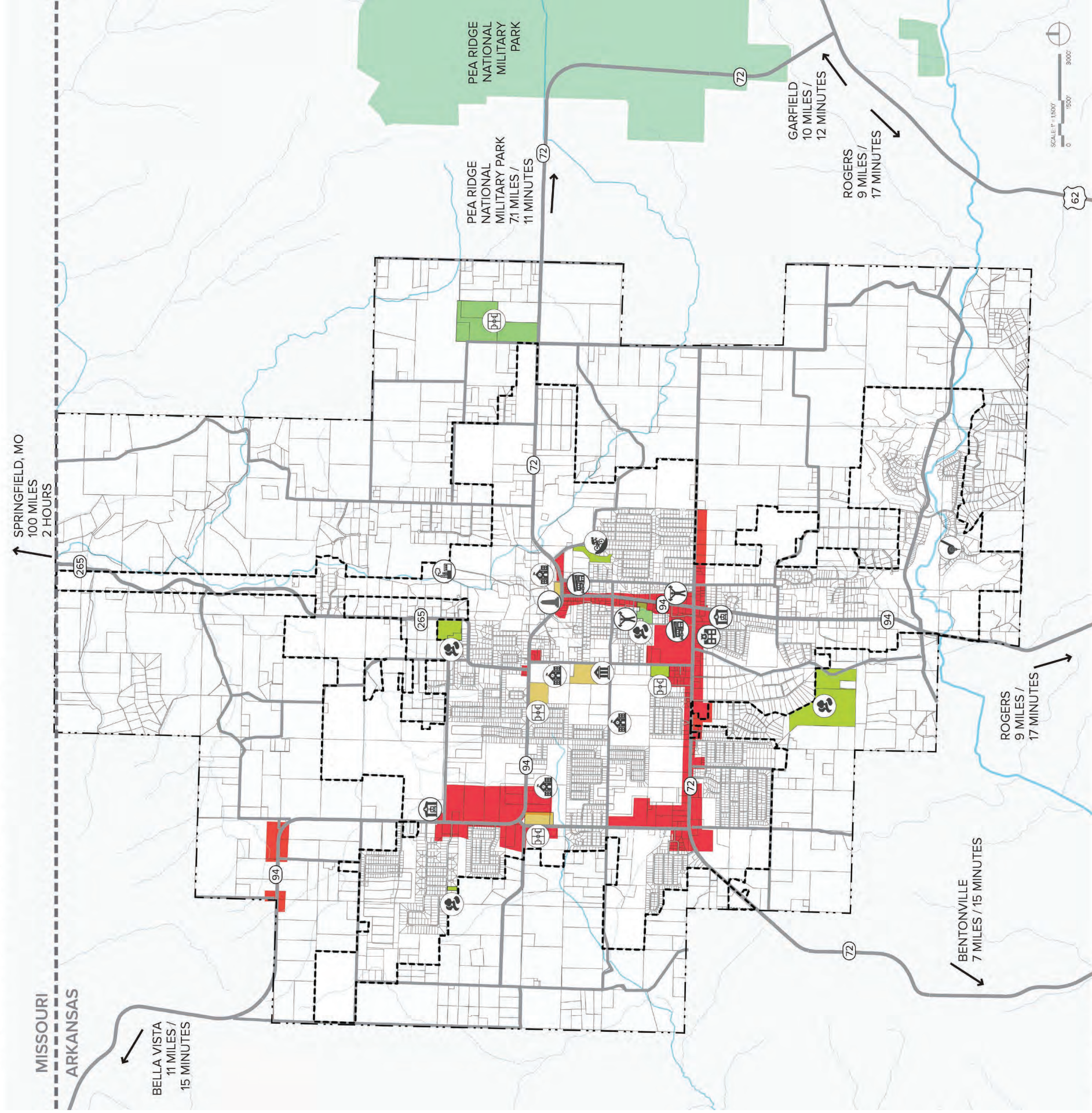
Pea Ridge has great connectivity via car to Bentonville, Belle Vista, and Missouri.

### LEGEND

- PEA RIDGE CITY LIMIT
- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
- PRIMARY ROADWAY
- SECONDARY ROADWAY
- TERTIARY ROAD
- GRAVEL ROAD
- EXISTING SIDEWALKS
- MULTI-USE PATH
- NATURAL WATERWAY
- EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE ASSETS
- PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT (Existing Parks & Sport Assets)
- PLANNED PARKS & OPEN SPACE ASSETS

# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## EXISTING POINTS OF INTEREST



### MAP OVERVIEW

Key landmarks and amenities, such as schools, commercial corridors, parks, and public services across the city, are shown above.

Pea Ridge currently has cluster of commercial activities along Highway 72, Highway 94, Curtis Road, and It'll Do Road. Most of the services within Pea Ridge are located near to the center or north portion of Pea Ridge. While there are commercial businesses and services in Pea Ridge, residents do visit adjacent cities and towns for more comprehensive needs.

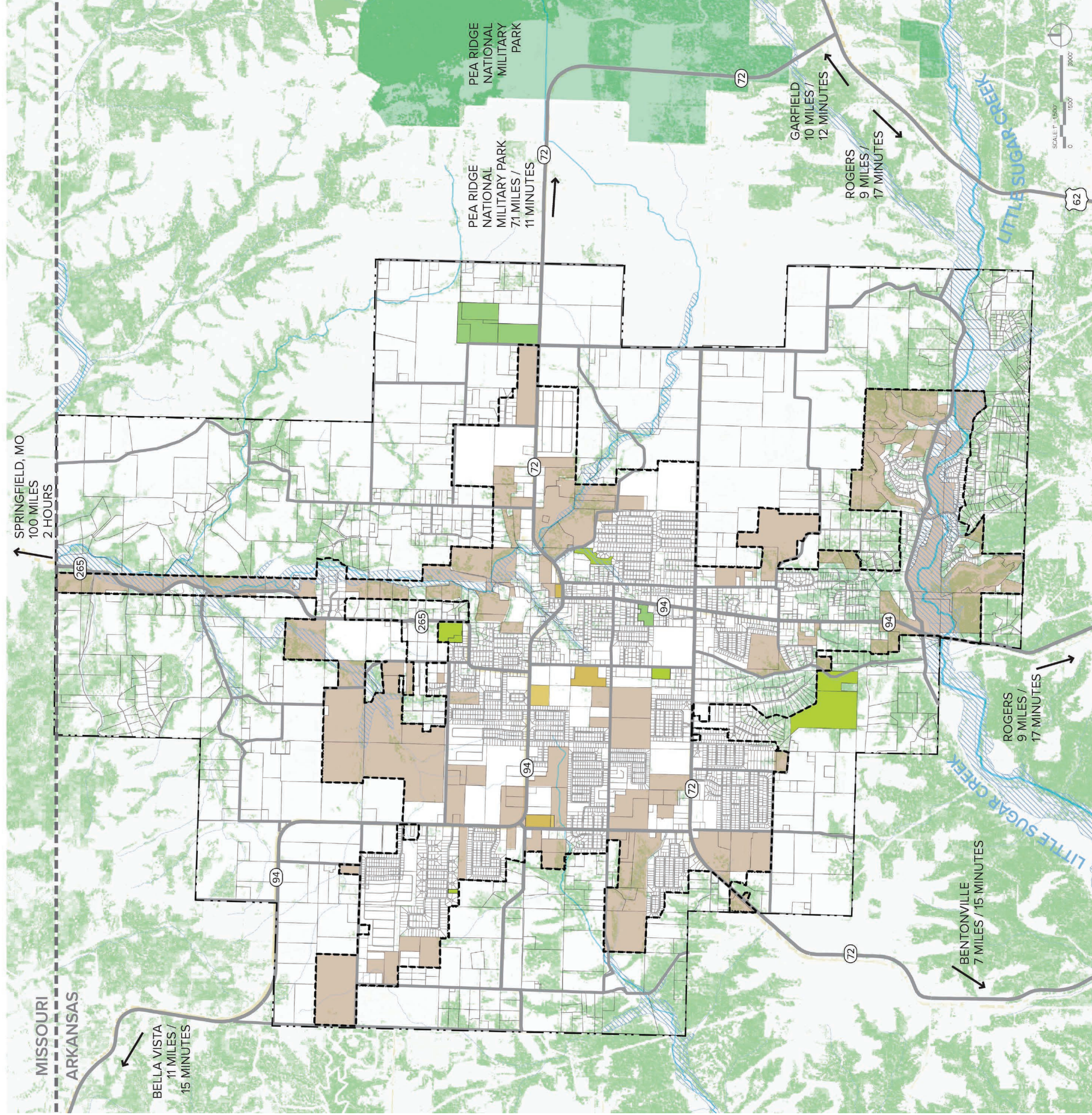
### LEGEND

- PEA RIDGE CITY LIMIT
- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
- EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE ASSETS
- PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT (Existing Parks & Sport Assets)
- PLANNED PARKS & OPEN SPACE ASSETS
- COMMERCIAL CORRIDOR
- NATURAL WATERWAY

- PARKS AND OPEN SPACES
- SPORTS FIELDS
- MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS
- RECREATION CENTER
- GOLF COURSE
- SCHOOLS
- CIVIC CENTER
- MUSEUM
- GROCERY STORE
- POLICE STATION
- FIRE STATION
- WASTE TREATMENT FACILITY

# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## EXISTING NATURAL FEATURES



### MAP OVERVIEW

Pea Ridge's natural features, including Little Sugar Creek, Otter Creek, and Spanker Creek, create a network of seasonal waterways and floodplains that offer opportunities for open space and recreation. Although access to areas like Little Sugar Creek is limited by private ownership, these riparian zones hold potential for public recreational use, as development in flood-prone areas is generally restricted.

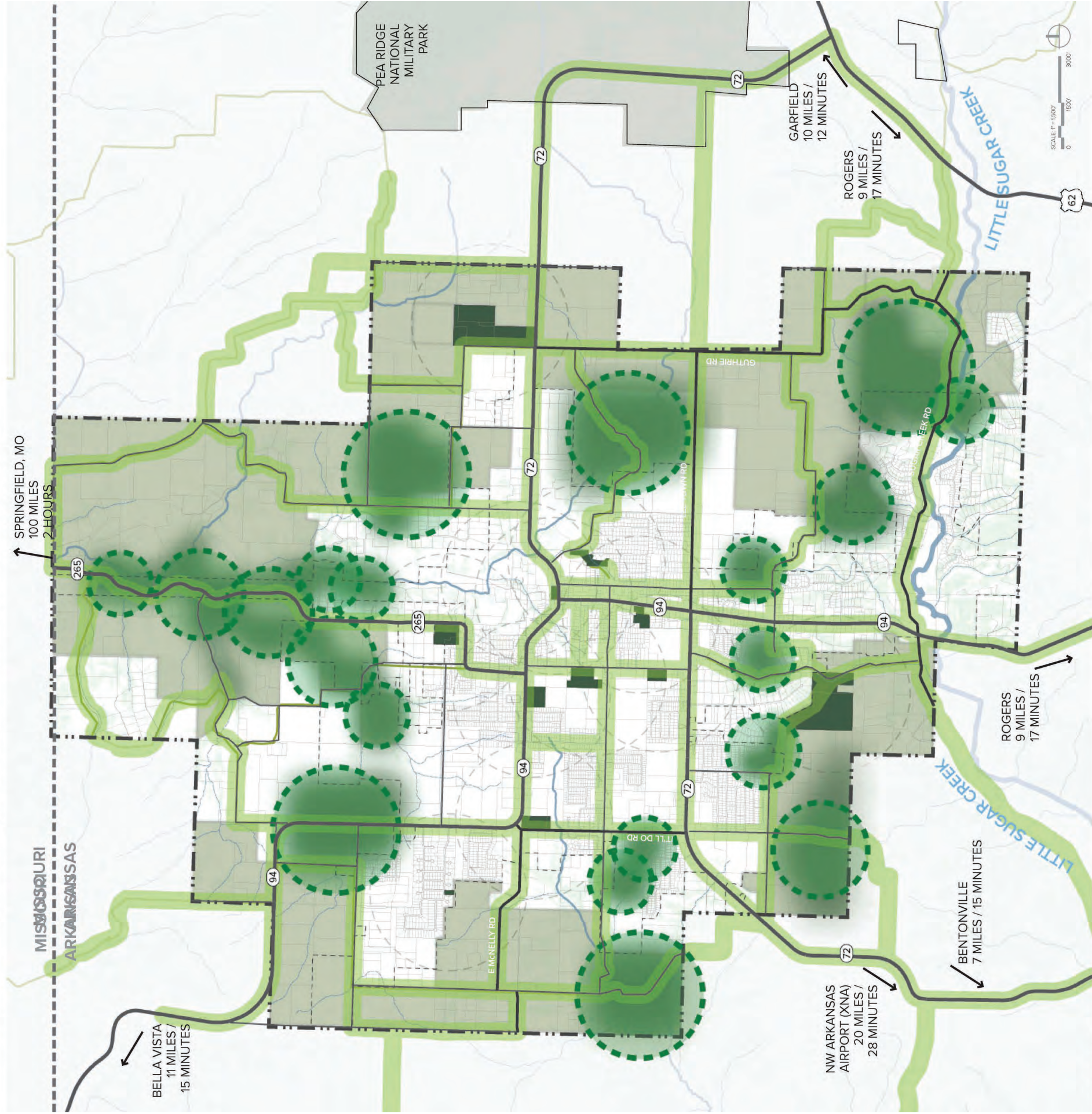
The nearby Pea Ridge Military Park further enhances the city's green infrastructure by adding preserved acreage. Protecting and integrating these natural assets within Pea Ridge's rapidly urbanizing landscape supports sustainable growth and enhances quality of life, promoting an environmentally conscious future for the community.

### LEGEND

- PEA RIDGE CITY LIMIT
- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
- TREE CANOPY COVERAGE
- NATURAL WATERWAY
- 100-YEAR FLOOD ZONE
- EXISTING PARKS & OPEN SPACE ASSETS
- PEA RIDGE SCHOOL DISTRICT (Existing Parks & Sport Assets)
- PLANNED PARKS & OPEN SPACE ASSETS
- EXISTING AGRICULTURAL ZONE

# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## OVERALL (DRAFT) PLAN: PARKS & OPEN SPACE



### MAP OVERVIEW

The Draft Parks and Open Space Master Plan envisions a connected network of parks, open spaces, and active transportation pathways throughout Pea Ridge. Areas designated for future parks focus on locations currently lacking accessible green space, identified through layered analysis, including park deficits, floodway, tree canopy coverage, and anticipated growth patterns. These recommended spaces will support future recreational needs and ensure equal access across the community.

The plan also emphasizes active transportation connections, marked with thicker green pathways, to allow residents to move easily between parks and neighborhoods without relying solely on cars. These pathways aim to make walking and biking safe and convenient, connecting key parts of Pea Ridge for pedestrians and cyclists alike.

Additionally, existing agricultural parcels are highlighted in pale green, underscoring the plan's commitment to preserving these lands as a natural buffer around the city's edges, contributing to Pea Ridge's rural character while supporting sustainable growth.

### LEGEND

#### EXISTING & PLANNED

- PEA RIDGE CITY LIMIT
- PLANNING AREA BOUNDARY
- PRIMARY ROADWAY
- SECONDARY ROADWAY
- GRAVEL ROAD
- NATURAL WATERWAY
- EXISTING & PLANNED PARKS & OPEN SPACE
- 1/2 MILE WALK RADIUS (EXISTING & PLANNED PARKS)

#### PROPOSED

- RECOMMENDED AREAS FOR FUTURE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE
- PROPOSED CONNECTIONS
- AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

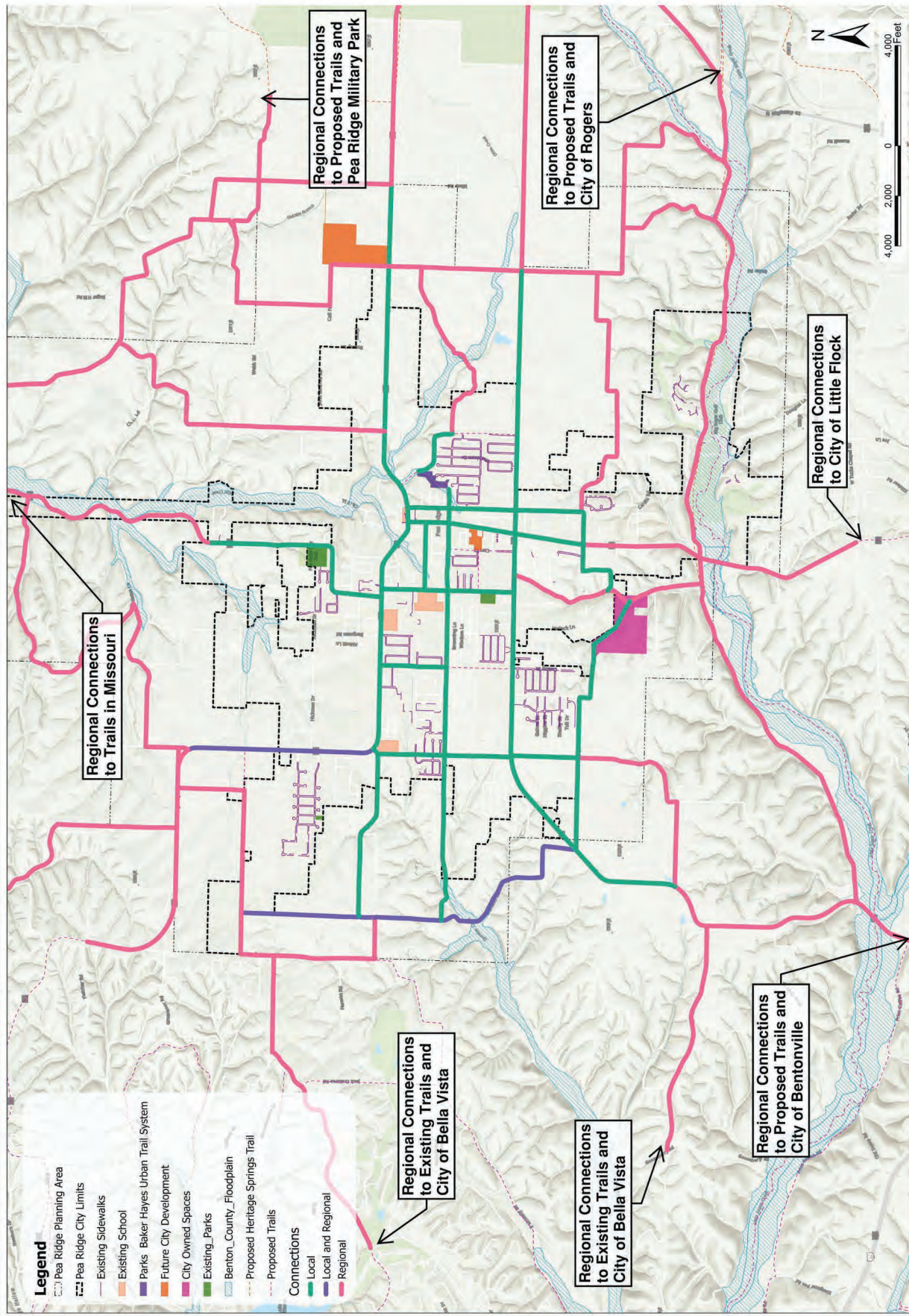
# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## PROPOSED ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

### OVERALL

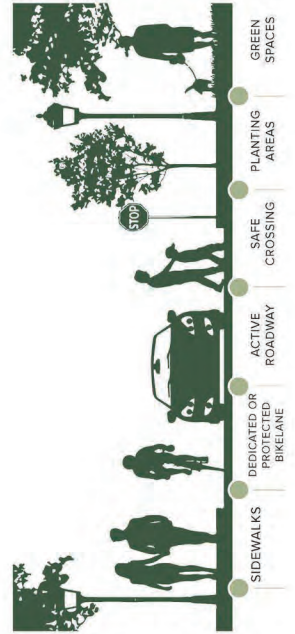
The Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Project is a first step for the City of Pea Ridge in working to provide safe and connected active transportation throughout the City. Below is list of preliminary findings for increasing multimodal connectivity within Pea Ridge and the Northwest Arkansas region (NWA).

### PROPOSED PEA RIDGE CONNECTIONS



### ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- Safe and accessible routes to school
- Safe roadways for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians
- Enhance the small-community feel of the City
- Improve local connections for residents
- Improve regional connections for residents and visitors
- Ensure future growth and development are built for the safety of all users in Pea Ridge
- Improve connections of residential areas to City and school services



### VISION ZERO

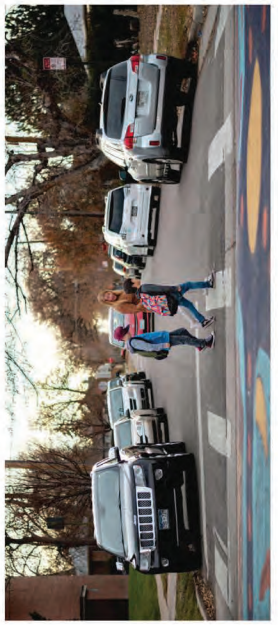
The City of Pea Ridge is rapidly growing, and it is important to recognize the goals of NWARCP's recently adopted Northwest Arkansas Regional Vision Zero Plan.

The plan is organized around the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Safe System Approach and includes goals, objectives, and actions to:

1. Promote a culture that prioritizes people's safety

### SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL

The location of each school is an opportunity for connectivity between the school, adjacent roadways, and surrounding neighborhoods. Each connection allows students, families, and communities to safely commute to, from, and between the schools for school days or events. Safe routes to schools can be heavily utilized by users of all ages and abilities. The close proximity of schools within Pea Ridge is also a good opportunity for a Park-Once-and-Walk district to improve safety and efficiency of student drop-offs and pickups for families with children at multiple campuses.



2. Reduce conflicts between roadway users
3. Establish policies, practices, and programs that focus on safety at all levels, and
4. Slow vehicle speeds.
5. Context sensitive design is beneficial to drivers, pedestrians, and cyclists by separating users in time and space.
6. Increasing visibility and attentiveness, reducing speeds, and decreasing crash severity.



# Pea Ridge Parks and Open Space Master Plan

## UNDERSTANDING PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

<h3>PARKS AND RECREATION</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RECREATION SPACE Youth in neighborhoods with 7 recreational facilities were <b>26% more likely to be active</b> 5 times per week than those in areas without facilities.</li> <li>TRAILS A study in Nebraska found that for every \$1 spent on trails, there was almost <b>\$3</b> in savings in direct medical costs.</li> </ul>	<h3>ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>HEALTHIER LIFESTYLES Active transportation, like walking and biking, encourages regular physical activity, improving cardiovascular health, mental well-being, and reducing the risk of chronic diseases.</li> <li>SIDEWALKS People who live in neighborhoods with sidewalks on most streets are <b>47%</b> more likely to be active at least 30 minutes a day.</li> <li>TRAFFIC CALMING Medians, speed bumps and other traffic calming efforts can reduce the number of automobile crashes with pedestrian injuries by up to <b>15%</b></li> </ul>	<h3>COMMUNITIES</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS Walkable neighborhoods promote more face-to-face interactions among residents, helping to build stronger social ties and a sense of belonging within the community.</li> <li>80% more likely to engage in social activities with their neighbors, and walkable areas have been linked to a <b>65% increase in social cohesion.</b></li> </ul>	<h3>OPEN SPACE &amp; CONSERVATION</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION Preserving open spaces helps protect ecosystems, wildlife habitats, and natural resources. Conservation easements ensure that these areas remain undeveloped, preserving biodiversity and promoting cleaner air and water.</li> <li>ECONOMIC BENEFITS Open spaces and conservation areas increase property values, attract tourism, and create opportunities for eco-friendly businesses. They also reduce the cost of public infrastructure by limiting urban sprawl.</li> <li>Open spaces can sequester up to <b>20 metric tons</b> of carbon per acre annually</li> </ul>
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### LONG-TERM PARKS AND OPEN SPACE PLANNING IS ESSENTIAL FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS

MORE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	LOWER BODY WEIGHT	LOWER RATES OF TRAFFIC INJURIES	LESS AIR POLLUTION	PROMOTE SOCIAL COHESION	IMPROVES ACCESSIBILITY AND EQUITY	ECONOMIC GROWTH

## Benefits of urban green space for human health

- 1** Parks and green spaces keep us healthy and happy providing space to relax and exercise in, spend time with family and friends, and appreciate nature.
- 2** They provide much needed homes for urban wildlife. Without them, many native plants and animals would struggle to survive in Leeds.
- 3** They reduce the impact of climate change by absorbing carbon, and decreasing the impact of extreme weather events such as flooding and high temperatures.
- 4** Parks clean the air by filtering out fine particles and absorbing some of the harmful pollutants we find in the city.
- 5** Parks are important for the economy. They attract businesses and visitors and boost property prices.
- 6** They provide space for children to play for free helping them develop cognitively, socially and physically.
- 7** They promote social cohesion enabling communities to come together at a time when concerns are being raised about growing division.
- 8** Parks are a vital part of our natural heritage, cultural fabric and civic identity.

# PARKS & OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGIES



## POCKET PARK - LESS THAN 1 ACRE

**Purpose:** Small, localized spaces meant for recreation in close proximity to neighborhoods.

**Amenities:** Benches, playground equipment (small-scale), picnic tables, garden spaces.

**Examples:** Small playgrounds, pocket parks, community gardens



## NEIGHBORHOOD PARK - 1-5 ACRES

**Purpose:** Designed to serve surrounding neighborhoods, providing space for unstructured recreation and relaxation.

**Amenities:** Playgrounds, picnic areas, walking paths, small sports courts, open grassy areas.

**Examples:** Local playgrounds with some open space for picnics or small games.

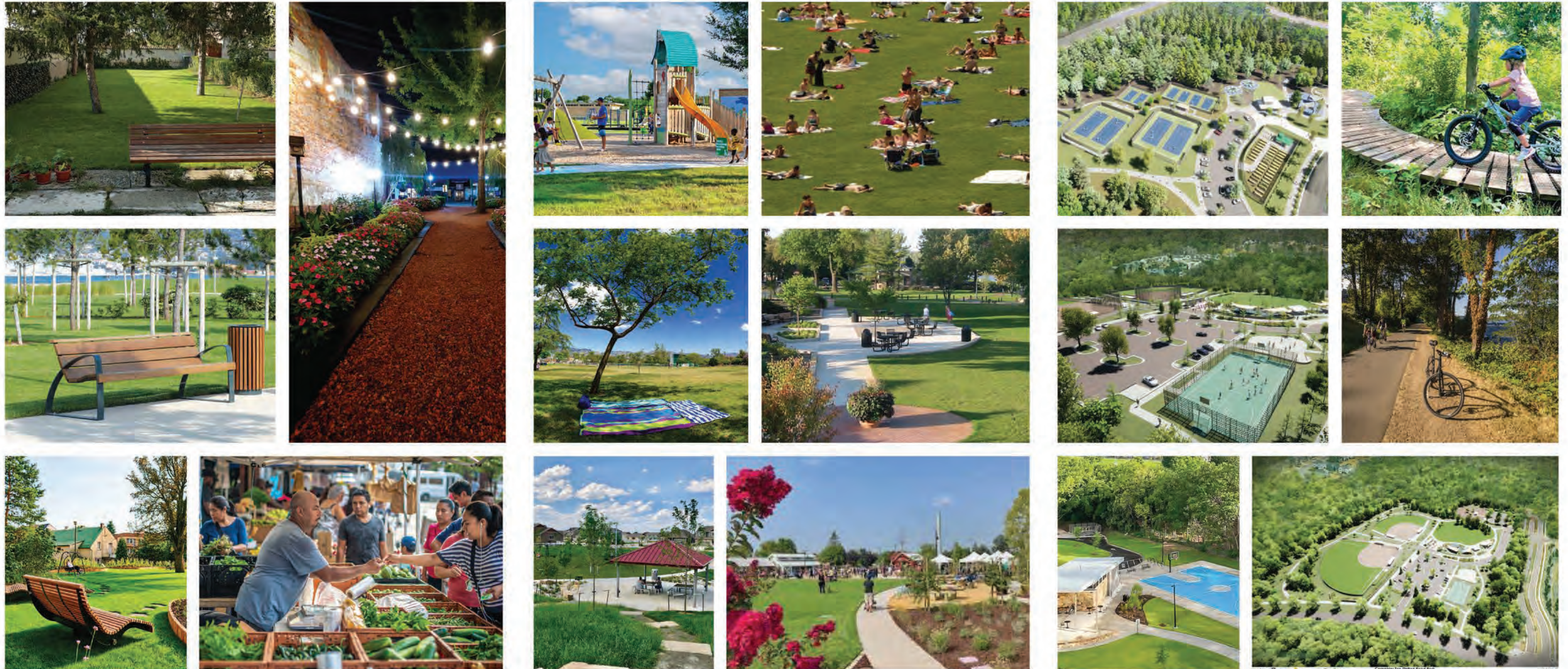


## COMMUNITY PARK - 5-20+ ACRES

**Purpose:** Larger spaces that serve multiple neighborhoods, providing a variety of activities for different age groups.

**Amenities:** Sports fields, picnic shelters, playgrounds, walking/jogging paths, restrooms, multi-use open spaces, dog parks.

**Examples:** Parks with soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and community pavilions.



## PARKS & OPEN SPACE TYPOLOGIES



### RECREATION AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES - VARIES IN SIZE

**Purpose:** Multi-use spaces for indoor and outdoor recreation, and community activities.  
**Amenities:** Fitness center, swimming pools, sports field and courts, event spaces, playground area, and supporting facilities.  
**Examples:** Community center, sports complexes, recreation centers



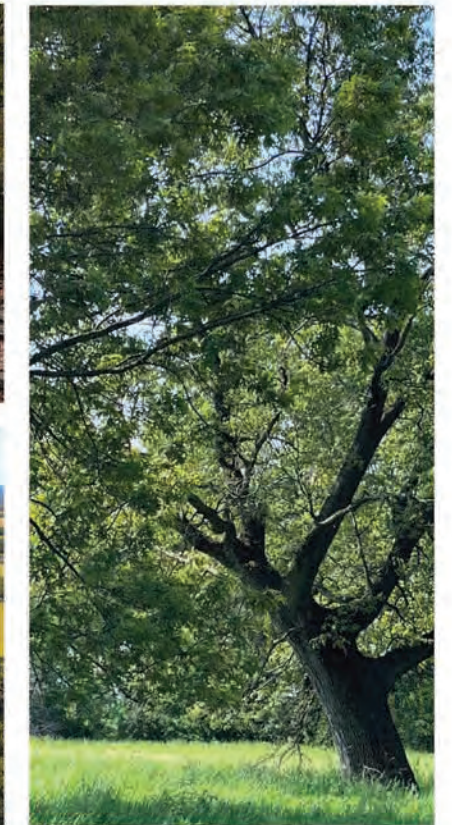
### SPECIAL USE - VARIES IN SIZE

**Purpose:** Dedicated spaces for specialized recreational activities which also contribute to green space and environmental conservation.  
**Amenities:** Varies  
**Examples:** Golf courses, MTB trails, botanical gardens, historical landmarks, skateboard parks, greenway, etc.



### OPEN SPACE AND CONSERVATION AREA - VARIES IN SIZE

**Purpose:** Natural or semi-natural spaces that focus on the preservation of natural habitats.  
**Amenities:** Minimal - trailheads, wildlife observation areas, educational signage.  
**Examples:** Agricultural land, nature reserves, forests maintained for education and passive recreation like birdwatching.





# BENCHMARKING

## RELATED PLAN AND STUDIES

### 01. 2024 ULI TAP - Pea Ridge Arkansas Envisioning the Future of the City's Parks and Open Space (2024)

The Pea Ridge Open Space Technical Assistance Panel Report (February 2024) outlines a strategy for developing the City's parks and open space. As Pea Ridge grows, the focus is on preserving its natural beauty while enhancing recreational assets. The report recommends creating better connectivity between parks, expanding active transportation options, and leveraging recreational areas for economic development. It emphasizes a systems-level approach, ensuring that park planning integrates with broader City functions, including land use and economic strategies. The report also offers guidelines for future land acquisitions, focusing on geographic distribution, connectivity, and environmental stewardship.

### 02. Pea Ridge Comprehensive Land Use Plan (2021)

The Pea Ridge Comprehensive Land Use Plan, adopted in April 2021, outlines a long-term strategy for guiding future growth and development in the community. It aims to maintain the town's low-density residential nature, designate specific areas for commercial and industrial development, and preserve agricultural and historically significant lands. The plan emphasizes protecting the community's natural environment through careful land use management and open space preservation. It also promotes the development of a Master Street Plan that supports multi-modal transportation and ensures safe, efficient movement within the region. Additionally, the plan includes recommendations for improving community facilities, utilities, and overall civic beautification.

### 03. NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (2021)

The NWARPC 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan is a long-term strategy designed to guide the development of transportation infrastructure in Northwest Arkansas, focusing on creating a comprehensive, multi-modal system that supports economic growth, sustainability, and regional connectivity. The plan includes improvements to roadways, public transit, and active transportation infrastructure, while addressing traffic congestion, safety, and environmental concerns. It emphasizes the importance of regional cooperation and aligns with federal and state transportation goals. In relation to Pea Ridge, the plan specifically highlights the Highway 72 Improvement Study, which aims to address safety and capacity issues along the corridor connecting Bentonville and Pea Ridge, due to increasing traffic. Additionally, the plan promotes improvements in biking and pedestrian infrastructure for Pea Ridge residents, contributing to better connectivity and travel safety in the region.

### 04. Pea Ridge National Military Park Trail Master Plan Environmental Assessment (2017)

The Pea Ridge National Military Park Trail Master Plan Environmental Assessment (2017) outlines a proposal to improve and restructure the existing trail network within the park. Its goals include enhancing visitor access to historical sites, improving multi-modal trail connections, expanding regional trail access, and increasing opportunities for recreation while minimizing environmental impact. The plan explores three alternatives, with the preferred one adding new hiking trails, enhancing interpretive features, and improving bicycle safety through modifications to the park's roadways. The plan also includes important compliance measures under the National Historic Preservation Act and National Environmental Policy Act to ensure cultural and environmental resources are preserved.

### 05. Benton County Hazard Mitigation Plan (2016)

The Benton County, Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Plan outlines strategies for reducing risks from natural hazards such as floods, tornadoes, and earthquakes. It focuses on enhancing resilience through infrastructure improvements, community education, and emergency preparedness. For Pea Ridge, the plan emphasizes improving drainage systems to mitigate flood risks, reinforcing community shelters to protect against tornadoes, and ensuring that emergency response systems are in place to handle potential natural disasters. Additionally, the plan highlights the importance of regional cooperation to ensure efficient disaster response and resource sharing across Benton County.

### 06. Future Land Use Plan (Currently being led by Garver)

The Parks and Open Space Master Plan for the City of Pea Ridge is being developed concurrently with Garver's proposed updated Future Land Use plan. While both efforts address the City's growth and involve collaboration, they remain distinct. The Parks and Open Space Master Plan focuses on recreational and environmental spaces, while the Future Land Use plan involves broader urban planning considerations such as zoning, land allocation for residential, commercial, and industrial uses, infrastructure planning, and development patterns to guide the City's long-term growth and sustainability.

RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH



November 11, 2024

**(DRAFT)**  
**Strategic Economic Development  
Research**

Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning  
**Pea Ridge, Arkansas**

Prepared for EDSA



**55+**  
Years in  
Business

**400+**  
Engagements  
Annually

**>100**  
Employees  
Globally

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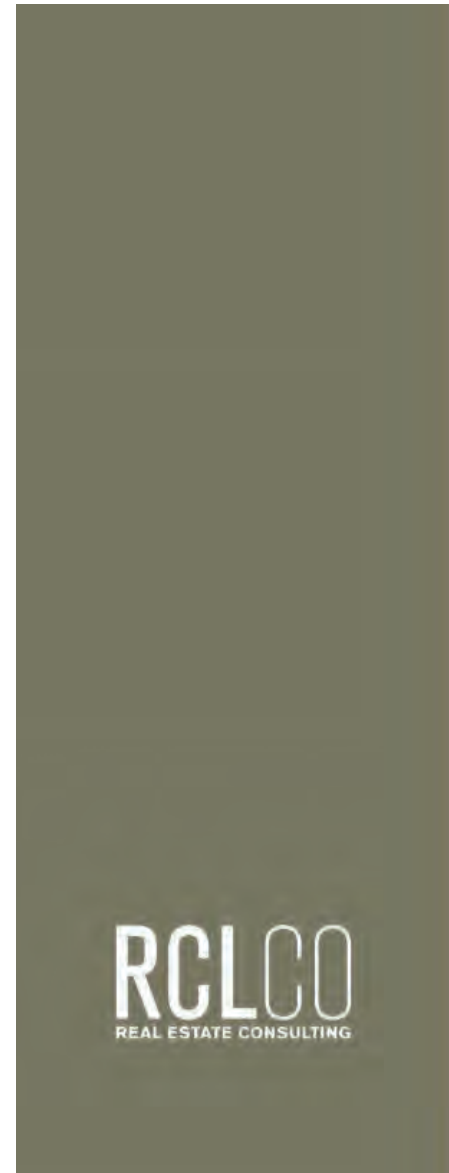


**KEY**  
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# RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH



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Open Space: Jefferson County Open Space	17
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RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

KEY FINDINGS

All three case studies emphasize diversifying funding, engaging local stakeholders, and flexible planning to enhance community connectivity and engagement.

	PARK DEVELOPMENT: LEGACY PARK, ALACHUA, FL	TRAIL CONNECTIVITY: PRISMA HEALTH SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL, GREENVILLE, SC	OPEN SPACE: JEFFCO OPEN SPACE, JEFFERSON COUNTY, CO
			
<b>Governance</b>	City of Alachua	Greenville County	Jefferson County
<b>Initial Funding Source</b>	Wild Spaces, Public Places surtax; Alachua County Tourist Development Tax	Greenville County; Prisma Health	Jefferson County Half-Cent Sales Tax
<b>Construction Costs</b>	~\$14,500,000 (2012-2020 Total)	~\$31,000,000 (2009-2024 Total)	~\$77,000,000 (2019-2023 Total)
<b>Average Annual Operations Budget</b>	~\$40,000	~\$1,200,000	~\$42,000,000 (20219-2023)
<b>Quantitative Community Impacts</b>	Property values within a one-mile radius exhibited a 13.2% higher total growth and a 1.4% increase in average annual growth compared to the broader city.	Retail trade sales notably increased within a half mile of the trail; median home values rose 37.4% within 0.5 miles outpacing Greenville's overall median home value growth of 15.6%.	Average residential values near one of the newest preservation areas are about \$810,000, much higher than county averages; price appreciation near the area was 7.3% compared to 4.9% countywide
<b>Qualitative Community Impacts</b>	Increased community engagement with youth focus; enhanced park connectivity	Significant business growth and tourism; shift to active transportation and healthier lifestyles; enhanced connectivity	Increased park visitation and volunteer engagement; preservation of open space for community use, habitat restoration and environmental health
<b>Key Lessons &amp; Takeaways for Pea Ridge</b>	Leverage local volunteers to reduce operational costs; Provide programming to reinvest into park; Implement a needs-based masterplan	Explore partnerships with local stakeholders to utilize existing infrastructure like parking lots and restrooms; target marketing groups for funding in addition to traditional philanthropy	Explore funding mechanisms that create reliable revenue in perpetuity; maintain a reserve for unexpected challenges; employ proactive land acquisition strategies like land swaps



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Park Development:  
Legacy Park



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# RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

## LEGACY PARK: INTRODUCTION

Legacy Park effectively meets growing population's needs by providing diverse recreational opportunities

PROJECT DETAILS
<b>Location &amp; Context:</b> Located in Alachua, FL home to 4,500 households with a median household income of approximately \$89,000 and a median home value of about \$356,000
<b>Year Built:</b> 2017
<b>Land Acres:</b> 105 acres
<b>Key Amenities/Features:</b> Recreation center, trail, playground, concession stand, amphitheater
<b>Development &amp; Ownership Groups:</b> City of Alachua
<b>Planning &amp; Design Team:</b> CHW, an NV5 Company; Scherer Construction
<b>Initial Construction Budget:</b> ~\$11M
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Responsibilities:</b> Alachua Recreation Department
<b>Annual Operations Budget:</b> ~\$40,000
<b>Relevance to Pea Ridge:</b> Highlights ways to establish community engagement with a growing population



Source: Google Images; Esri; Legacy Park; The Gainesville Sun; CHW Inc.; Scherer Construction; RCLCO  
(Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 7



## LEGACY PARK: CONSTRUCTION & OPERATIONS

Taxes, volunteer-led programs and flexible planning support Legacy Park's community growth

- **Volunteer-led Programming:** With a team of around 13 staff members, Legacy Park partners closely with volunteers, vetted by the City of Alachua Recreation Department, to offer over ten weekly programs across their facilities. Revenue generated is reinvested into parks and recreation, fueling ongoing growth and development. Impressively, annual operational costs are kept under \$40,000. Similarly, Pea Ridge could motivate local volunteers to assist with park maintenance, lowering ongoing operational expenses.
- **Flexible Masterplan:** Legacy Park's master plan, designed by the consulting firm CHW, was implemented with a flexible, needs-based approach. This adaptive strategy has allowed the park to respond to community needs, fostering greater community engagement over the years as development progresses. Pea Ridge could adopt a similar approach to ensure that its facilities and programs evolve in line with community preferences

COMPLETION DATE	PHASE	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCES
2012	Property Purchased	\$1.15M	Wild Spaces, Public Places surtax, the Alachua County Tourist Development Tax fund, and several private donors.
2017	Phase 1: Multipurpose Center and Entry Drive	\$9.175M	Wild Spaces, Public Places surtax, the Alachua County Tourist Development Tax fund, and several private donors.
2017	Phase 1 Plus: Extension of Grading for Open Space	\$0.625M	Wild Spaces, Public Places surtax, the Alachua County Tourist Development Tax fund, and several private donors.
2020	Phase 2: Southern Areas	\$3.6M	Wild Spaces, Public Places surtax
TBA	Phase 3: Northern Areas	\$5M	
TBA	Phase 4: Western Areas	\$2M	



Source: Legacy Park; The Gainesville Sun; CHW Inc.; Scherer Construction; RCLCO  
(Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 8



RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

LEGACY PARK: IMPACT

Legacy Park spurred higher property growth in surrounding area

- ▶ To evaluate the influence of Legacy Park's development on nearby property values over time, RCLCO sourced parcel data prior to the park's establishment from 2014 to 2017, as well as after from 2018 to 2024 in the City of Alachua and within a one-mile radius from where the park was built.
- ▶ Before the park was built, growth in property values in both the City of Alachua and within a one-mile radius of the park were comparable. However, following the establishment of Legacy Park, the property values within a one-mile radius exhibited a 13.2% higher total growth and a 1.4% increase in average annual growth compared to the broader city. This highlights the positive influence of Legacy Park on property values in its immediate vicinity.
- ▶ Moreover, within the one-mile radius of Legacy Park, property values saw a 48.1% higher total growth after the park's establishment compared to before.

Impact of Legacy Park on Alachua Home Values

PERIOD	CITY OF ALACHUA		ONE-MILE RADIUS OF LEGACY PARK	
	TOTAL GROWTH	AVG. ANNUAL GROWTH	TOTAL GROWTH	AVG. ANNUAL GROWTH
2014-2017	23.05%	7.16%	25.07%	7.74%
2018-2024	59.90%	8.14%	73.12%	9.58%

Parcel Data on Residential Property Values within a One-Mile Radius of Legacy Park



Source: ArcGIS; City of Alachua; RCLCO

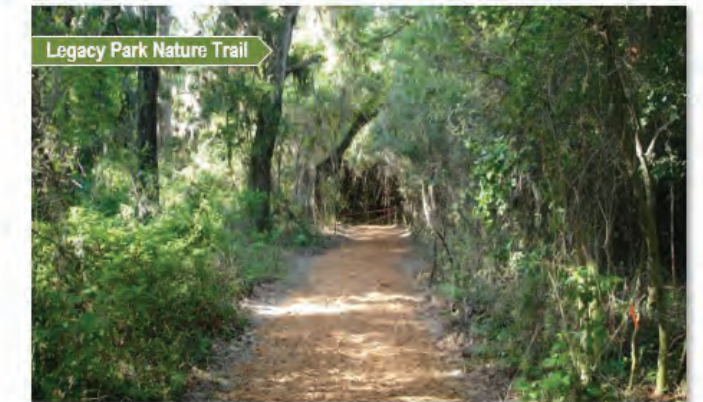
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LEGACY PARK: IMPACT

Legacy Park enhances community engagement through youth programs, events, and connectivity with nearby facilities

- ▶ **Increased Community Engagement with Youth Focus**
  - » Legacy Park plays a key role in community engagement in Alachua by hosting popular events like the July 4th fireworks, famously known as the "Biggest Small-Town Display in America." These celebrations draw vendors who benefit from the high turnout, creating a festive atmosphere for both locals and visitors.
  - » In partnership with the Children's Trust of Alachua, Legacy Park offers summer programming, giving children access to enriching activities at the park's recreation center.
  - » Weekly classes led by trained volunteers are hosted at Legacy Park. These cover a range of subjects—including STEM, art, and sports—catering to youth ages 4 to 17, fostering learning and creativity within a supportive community.
  - » The park features a beginner-friendly 1.1-mile trail for biking, walking and hiking. Although there is no signage, or paving, the trail is easy to navigate making it accessible for all skill levels. This encourages the community to adopt a more active lifestyle.
- ▶ **Enhanced Connectivity**
  - » Legacy Park is strategically connected to the Hal Brady Recreation Complex, which expands the capacity for hosting larger events. While these are separate entities, their physical proximity allows for collaborative opportunities that enhance the scale and variety of events available to the community.



Source: Google Images; Legacy Park; The Gainesville Sun; CHW Inc.; Scherer Construction; RCLCO

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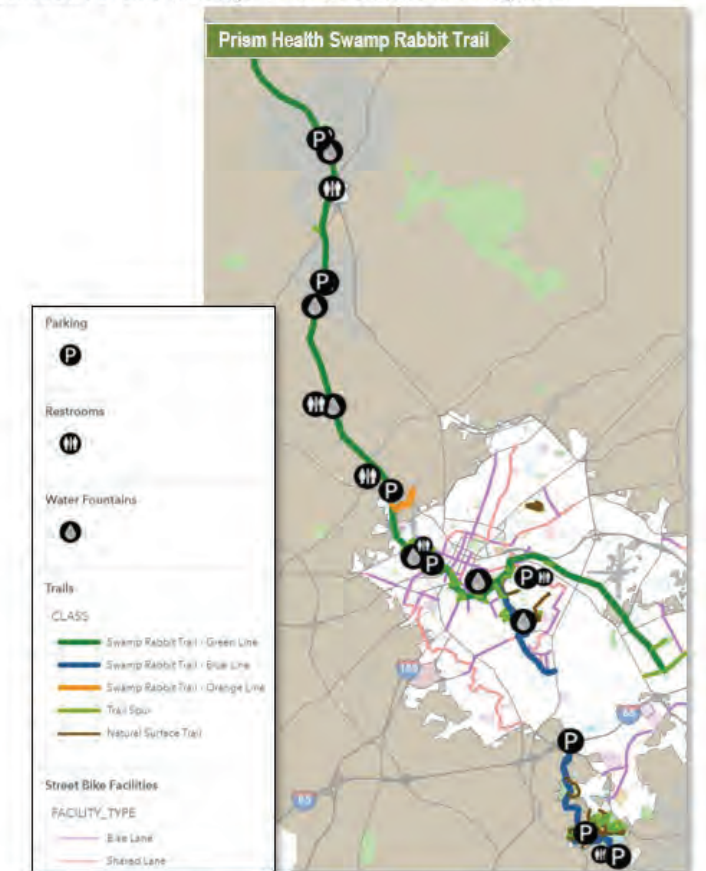
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# Trail Connectivity: Swamp Rabbit Trail

## SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL: INTRODUCTION

Inspired by transit systems, the Swamp Rabbit Trail is a connective link throughout Greenville County, SC

PROJECT DETAILS
<b>Location &amp; Context:</b> Located in Greenville, SC, home to around 37,000 households, with a median home value of \$439,000 and a median household income of about \$168,000
<b>Year Built:</b> 2009, with latest extension in 2024
<b>Scale:</b> 28 Miles of trails, with several branch trails
<b>Key Amenities/Features:</b> mixed-use path (bike lane and shared lane), Restrooms, Parking, Water Fountains, Bridges
<b>Development &amp; Ownership Groups:</b> Greenville County
<b>Planning &amp; Design Team:</b> Studio Main; AECOM
<b>Initial Construction Budget:</b> \$2.7 million
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Responsibilities:</b> Greenville County Rec.
<b>Annual Operations Budget:</b> ~\$1.2 million
<b>Relevance to Pea Ridge:</b> explores increased connectivity



Source: Esri, Greenville News, Google Images

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## SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL: CONSTRUCTION & OPERATIONS

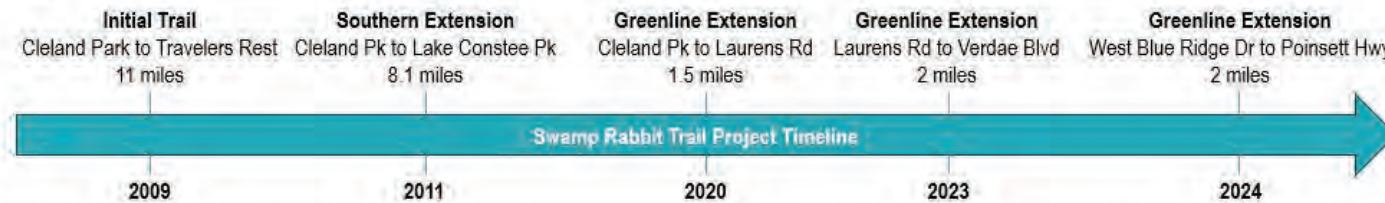
**The Swamp Rabbit Trail utilized existing infrastructure, diversified funding sources, and involved community volunteers in maintenance, strategies Pea Ridge could adopt to reduce costs and ensure long-term success**

The Swamp Rabbit Trail project cost approximately \$28 million in construction—about \$1 million per paved trail mile. This was funded primarily by the county and Prisma Health. With an operational cost of around \$1.2 million annually, the city covers most of the trail’s operational and maintenance expenses, particularly through hospitality tax funds. Key strategies used in the Swamp Rabbit Trail project that may help Pea Ridge minimize expenses include:

- **Utilization of Existing Infrastructure:** To avoid the costs, the project team worked with stakeholders along the trail, who allowed the use of their already existing parking facilities and restrooms. Pea Ridge can adopt this strategy to minimized expenses for new infrastructure.
- **Shift in Funding Focus:** Instead of exclusively relying on philanthropy groups for funding, the project broadened the focus to marketing groups who saw value in sponsoring public spaces due to the exposure and branding opportunities they provide. Similarly, Pea Ridge could target marketing groups for funding.
- **Community Involvement in Maintenance:** The project involved residents and businesses who contribute to upkeep, ensuring the trail remains well-maintained. Pea Ridge could encourage local volunteers to contribute to the upkeep of the trail, reducing ongoing operational costs.

**Swamp Rabbit Trail Construction Segments and Funding**  
Swamp Rabbit Trail; 2024

TRAIL ROUTE	APPROX. LENGTH (MILES)	EST. COST	FUNDING SOURCE
Cleveland Park to Travelers Rest	11	\$2.7M	Greenville County & Prisma Health
Cleveland Park to Lake Conestee Park	8.1	\$1.3M	Greenville County
Cleveland Park to Laurens Road	1.5	\$3M	Greenville County
Laurens Road to Verdae Boulevard (including bridge)	2	\$10M	Federal and local grants
West Blue Ridge Drive to Poinsett Highway (including bridge)	2	\$10M	Federal and local grants
Other	4	\$4M	Greenville County



Source: Greenville News; Greenville Greenways, Natural and Historic Resources; RCLCO (Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 13



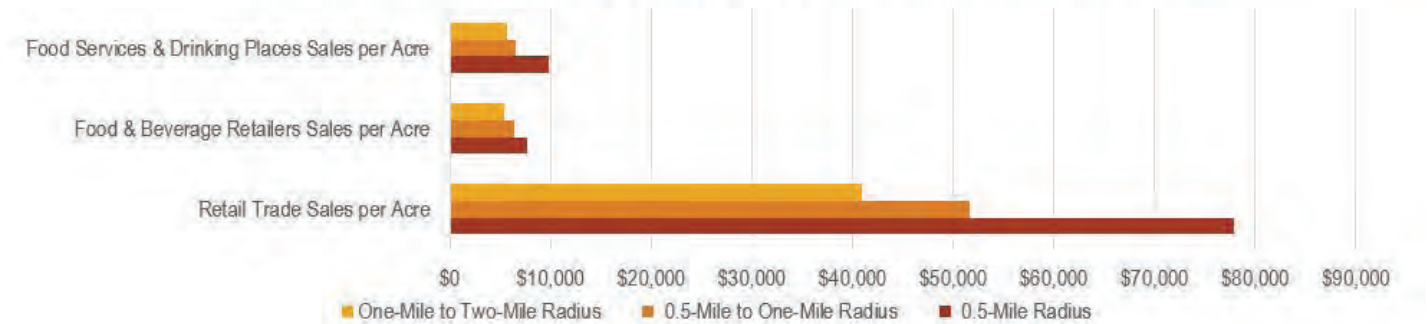
## SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL: IMPACT

**Proximity to the trail boosts retail activity, with sales highest in the immediate 0.5-mile radius**

- To assess the impact of the trail’s development on retail trade and food & beverage sales, RCLCO examined the areas surrounding the trail. The study focused on three radii from the trail: a 0.5-mile radius, a 0.5 to one-mile radius, and a one-mile to two-mile radius.
- Retail trade sales were highest within the 0.5-mile radius at about \$78,000 per acre. This surpasses the retail trades per acre in the 0.5 to one-mile radius and the one-mile to two-mile radius by 40.7% and 62.3% respectively. This suggests that proximity to the trail significantly boosts local retail activity, with increased foot traffic from trail users who seek convenience and immediate access to goods and services, greatly benefiting the surrounding retail stores.



**Annual Retail Trade and Food & Beverage Sales per Acre within 0.5-Mile, 1-Mile, and 2-Mile Radius of Trail**  
Swamp Rabbit Trail; 2024



Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates; Esri; Greenville Greenways, Natural and Historic Resources RCLCO (Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 14





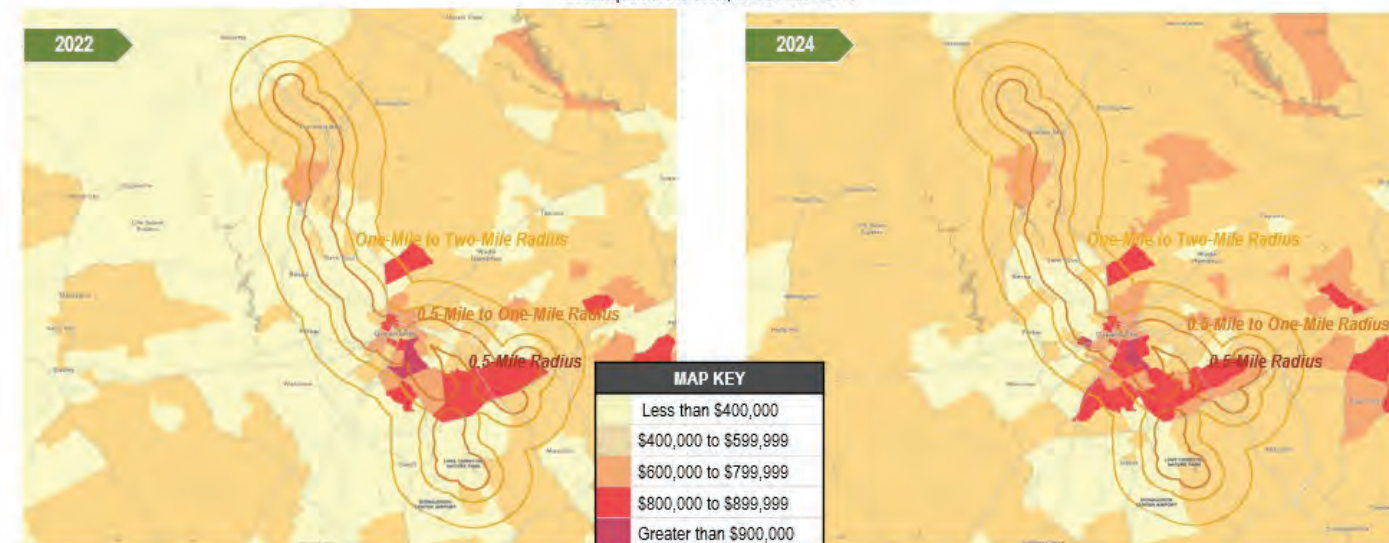
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## SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL: IMPACT

### The Swamp Rabbit Trail boosted nearby property values outpacing the city of Greenville

- ▶ To assess the impact of the trail's development on property values over time, RCLCO examined the median home values within a 0.5-mile radius, a 0.5 to one-mile radius, and a one-mile to two-mile radius from the trail. Within these areas, RCLCO compared median home values from 2022 to those in 2024. The 0.5-mile radius, 0.5 to one-mile radius and the one-mile to two-mile radius experienced increases in median home values by 37.4%, 33.3%, 32.6% respectively in 2024 compared to 2022. These rates of growth surpass the overall increase in Greenville city, which saw a 15.6% rise in median home values between 2022 and 2024.
- ▶ Moreover, RCLCO investigated the difference in average home values near the recent 2023 Green Line extension from Lauren's Road to Verdae Boulevard before its completion in 2022 and after its completion in 2024. For properties within a 0.5-mile buffer from the trail, the average home price increased from \$486,213 to \$546,393, representing a 12.4% rise in value. For the 0.5 to 1-mile buffer, the average price rose from \$506,086 to \$542,593, which translates to a 7.2% appreciation. These increases indicate that proximity to the trail likely boosts property values.

**Median Home Values Near Trail**  
Swamp Rabbit Trail, 2022 vs. 2024



Source: Redfin; ACS 5-Year Estimates; Esri; Greenville Greenways, Natural and Historic Resources; RCLCO  
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## SWAMP RABBIT TRAIL: IMPACT

### The Swamp Rabbit Trail enhanced local business growth, job creation, and tourism, driving millions in economic impact

- ▶ **Significant Business Growth and Economic Impact**
  - » In 2014, the total economic impact reached approximately \$14.3 million, with an average of 46,000 trail users annually. By 2023, the trail saw an impressive 767,900 users in a single year with 55% walking and 45% biking. The steady foot traffic has continued to support local businesses and generate new job opportunities.
  - » Four years after the first phase of the trail was completed, business respondents within 100ft from the trail heads reported sales and revenue increases ranging from 10% to 85%. This resulted in annual revenue increases of up to \$400,000 per business.
  - » The trail has also significantly driven real estate development. Steps away from the trail is Broadview Greenville, a condominium project established in 2024 with asking rents above \$1 million.
  - » The trail has had a measurable economic and demographic impact on Travelers Rest. The town's population grew by 70% between 2010 and 2020, from 4,570 to 7,788 residents, surpassing the overall growth rate of Greenville County (16%).
- ▶ **Increased Revenue through Tourism**
  - » In 2013, one-quarter of the total trail users were tourists, contributing \$6.7 million to the local economy.
  - » In 2023, the trail had visitors from 30 different states, with 26% of weekend users coming from out of state.
  - » Additionally, Greenville County received \$45 million from hospitality and accommodation tax, with \$30 million coming from the City of Greenville which houses the trail.



### The Swamp Rabbit Trail promotes eco-friendly transportation, healthier lifestyles, and strengthens community connectivity

- ▶ **Active Transportation and Healthier Lifestyle Shifts**
  - » In 2022, 9.7% of all trips on the Swamp Rabbit Trail were made by locals walking or biking to commute to work. This suggests that most people use the trail for exercise and leisure showcasing the trail's importance as part of Greenville's shift towards a healthier lifestyle.
  - » The trail encourages more eco-friendly forms of transportation like walking and biking, reducing vehicle emissions and traffic congestion in the surrounding area. This shift supports sustainability efforts by decreasing carbon footprints and promoting healthier air quality.
- ▶ **Connectivity**
  - » The trail enhances connectivity between Greenville and Travelers Rest, creating a dynamic community than roads alone could provide.
  - » New businesses along the trail such as Swamp Rabbit Café & Grocery enhance connectivity by providing key amenities that make the trail an integrated part of daily life for locals and visitors.



Source: Bike Walk Greenville; Google Images; Greenville Greenways, Natural and Historic Resources; Greenville News  
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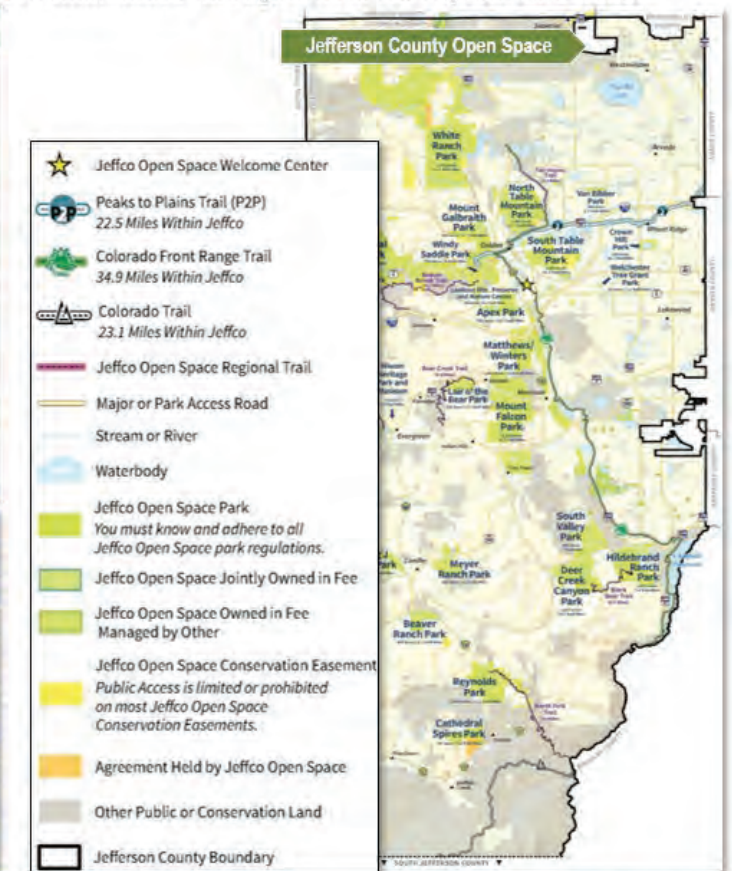
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Open Space: Jefferson County Open Space

JEFFCO OPEN SPACE: INTRODUCTION

Jeffco Open Space preserves natural areas and connects communities through a network of parks and trails

PROJECT DETAILS	
<b>Location &amp; Context:</b>	Located in Jefferson County, Colorado, home to 240,000 households with a median household income of approximately \$110,000 and a median home value of about \$600,000
<b>Year Built:</b>	1972 with latest land acquisition in 2024
<b>Scale:</b>	~57,000 acres, 252 miles of trail
<b>Key Amenities/Features:</b>	27 parks, 269+ miles of trail, restrooms
<b>Development &amp; Ownership Groups:</b>	Jefferson County
<b>Planning &amp; Design Team:</b>	In-house team
<b>Operations &amp; Maintenance Responsibilities:</b>	Jeffco Open Space
<b>Annual Operations Budget:</b>	~\$42,000,000 (2019-2023)
<b>Relevance to Pea Ridge:</b>	explores community engagement and environmental sustainability



Source: Esri; Greenville News; Google Images



# RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

## JEFFCO OPEN SPACE: CONSTRUCTION & OPERATIONS

### Jeffco Open Space funds are obtained through a half-cent sales tax, grants, and bonds - sources that Pea Ridge could utilize for its own conservation efforts

In about five decades, Jeffco Open Space has preserved over 57,000 acres of land including approximately 270 miles of trail and 27 parks. Jeffco Open Space's land preservation and park development projects are funded through a variety of sources, with the primary one being a half-cent sales tax that was established in 1972, the year Jeffco Open Space was established. Strategies employed by Jeffco Open Space to achieve this that Pea Ridge may utilize include:

- **Diversified Funding Sources:** Jeffco Open Space's primary funding comes from its sales tax, but it also seeks state and federal grants like GOCO (Great Outdoors Colorado). They also issued \$160 million in bonds in 1998 that sustained them for ten years and was repaid using sales tax revenue. Additionally, they maintain a reserve fund of approximately \$10 million to address unexpected challenges, such as natural disasters.
- **Land Acquisition Practices:** Jeffco Open Space engages in land acquisitions primarily from profiled families willing to sell or donate their properties for conservation. These transactions are often motivated by the landowners' desire to preserve natural spaces, otherwise, Jeffco Open Space commits to paying fair market value. Moreover, Jeffco Open Space is involved in several land exchanges as a strategy to expand its conservation efforts.
- **Community Involvement in Maintenance:** Jeffco Open Space has over 3,000 volunteers per year who assist with park maintenance, surveys, and public education, which helps reduce ongoing operational costs.

Revenue and Expenses by Type  
Jefferson County Open Space; 2019-2023

REVENUE TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Sales Tax	\$51.0M	\$54.5M	49.2M	\$49.2M	\$47.0M
Charges for Services	\$570K	\$596K	\$1M	\$979K	\$984K
Intergovernmental	\$253K	\$117K	\$1M	\$1.2M	\$1.2M
Transfer Revenue	\$192K	\$552K	\$98K	\$163K	\$233K
Investment Income	\$729K	\$223K	\$72K	\$123K	\$280K
Other Revenue	\$79K	\$64K	\$50K	\$130K	\$130K
Rental Income	\$20K	\$27K	\$26K	\$100K	\$119K
Fines & Forfeitures	\$28K	\$35K	\$11K	\$11K	\$11K
Licenses/Permits			\$9K	\$42K	\$11K
Donations	\$496	\$225K	\$2K	\$12K	\$12K
Sale of Capital Assets	\$5K	\$8K	\$1K	\$1K	\$1K
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$52.9M</b>	<b>\$56.4M</b>	<b>\$51.5M</b>	<b>\$52.0M</b>	<b>\$50.0M</b>

EXPENSE TYPE	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Intergovernmental	\$18.3M	\$19.6M	\$19.8M	\$19.8M	\$26.1M
Salaries/Benefits	\$9.4M	\$10.7M		\$15.9M	\$17.1M
Supplies	\$0.9M	\$0.8M	\$1.2M	\$1.2M	\$1.4M
Capital/Equipment	\$3.6M	\$11.2M		\$30.6M	\$31.2M
Interdepartmental	\$2.8M	\$2.9M	\$3.1M	\$3.6M	\$4.2M
Other Charges	\$15.1M	\$6.5M	\$2.9M	\$4.1M	\$4.4M
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$50.2M</b>	<b>\$51.8M</b>	<b>\$27.0M</b>	<b>\$75.1M</b>	<b>\$84.5M</b>



Source: Plan Jeffco; Jefferson County; Jefferson County Open Space; RCLCO (Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 19

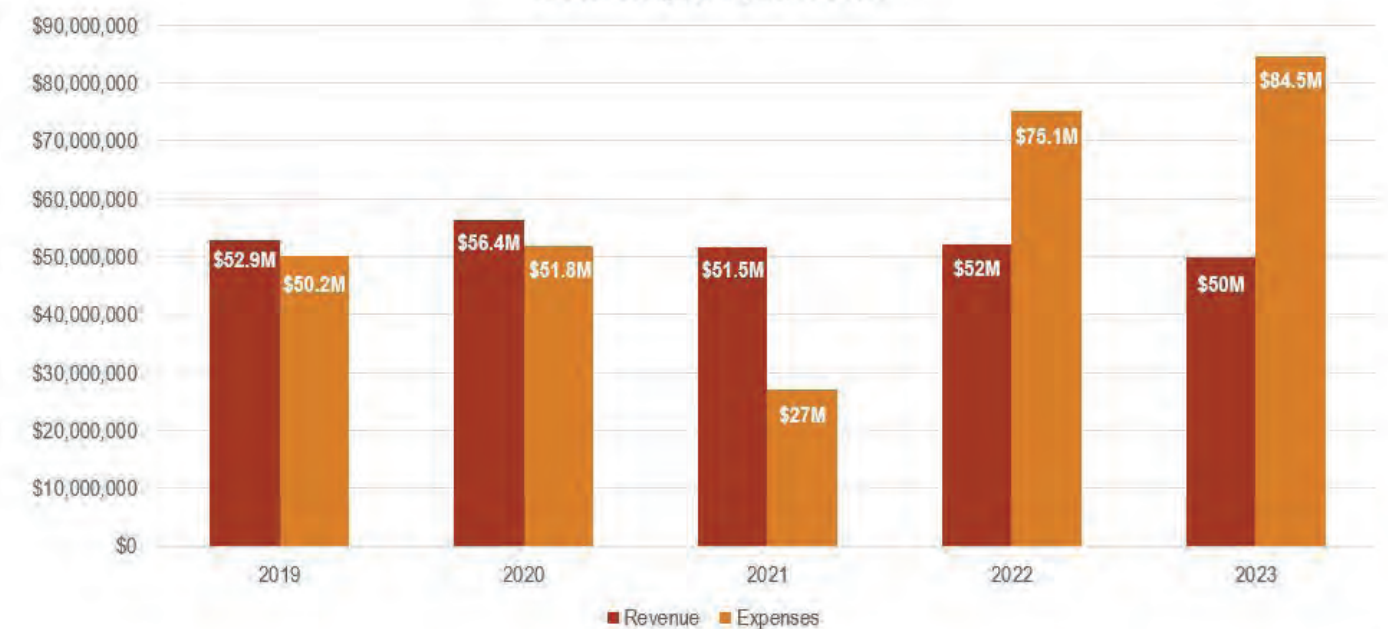


## JEFFCO OPEN SPACE: CONSTRUCTION & OPERATIONS

### Jeffco's revenue has held consistent over five years, while expenses fluctuated

- Jeffco's revenue has remained steady over the past five years at approximately \$52.56 million with the majority coming from a half-cent sales tax.
- Expenses, however, have fluctuated, with a low of \$27 million in 2021 and a high of \$84.5 million in 2023. The highest expenses are intergovernmental charges, including bond repayments, followed by salaries and benefits, and capital equipment costs, which are high due to their in-house teams.

Total Revenue and Expenses  
Jefferson County Open Space; 2019-2023



Source: Plan Jeffco; Jefferson County; Jefferson County Open Space; RCLCO (Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 20



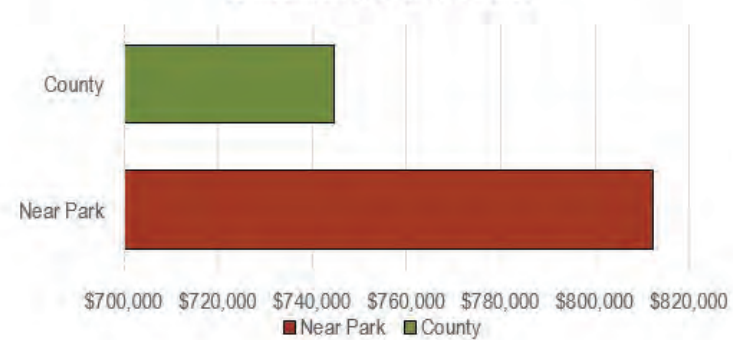
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JEFFCO OPEN SPACE: IMPACT

The average residential values near a recent Jeffco Open Space acquisition is significantly higher than those in the rest of the county

- ▶ To assess the impact of the Jeffco Open Space developments on property values over time, RCLCO sourced 2024 parcel data and compared the average value of residential properties within a two-mile radius of the Lair o' the Bear Park, which opened in 2023, to that in the rest of Jefferson County.
- ▶ The average residential value near the park is approximately \$810,000 while the county average is around \$745,000. This 8.7% difference indicates that the presence of the Lair o' the Bear Park may have contributed to a premium on property values in its vicinity.
- ▶ The increase in average property value within a two-mile radius of the park, as compared to the rest of Jefferson County, supports that proximity to open space developments like Jeffco Open Space have a positive impact on residential property market value.

Average Residential Value In County and Near Lair o' the Bear Park  
Jefferson County Open Space; 2024



Source: ArcGIS; Jefferson County; Jefferson County Open Space; RCLCO  
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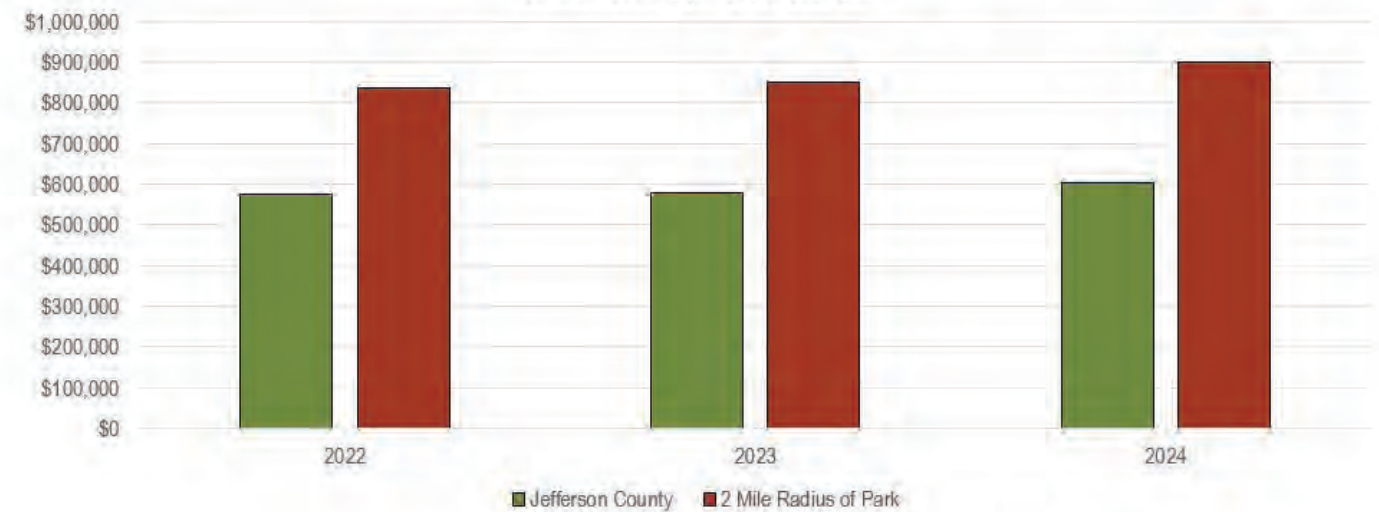


JEFFCO OPEN SPACE: IMPACT

The growth rate of property values was higher near the park as compared to the county

- ▶ To evaluate the impact of Jeffco Open Space developments on property values over time, RCLCO analyzed sales data to compare the growth rate of median sale prices within a two-mile radius of Lair o' the Bear Park to those across Jefferson County.
- ▶ In 2022, the median sale price near the park was approximately \$835,000, compared to about \$575,000 countywide. By 2024, this increased to around \$898,000 near the park and \$604,000 in the rest of the county. The growth rate near the park from midyear 2023 to midyear 2024 after its establishment was notably higher at 7.3%, compared to 4.9% countywide – a difference of 2.4%, which is significantly greater than the less than 1% growth difference observed from 2022 to 2023, prior to the park's development.
- ▶ The higher growth rate in property values near Lair o' the Bear Park highlights that Jeffco Open Space developments likely contribute to enhanced property value appreciation in surrounding areas compared to the broader county.

Median Residential Value In County and Near Lair o' the Bear Park  
Jefferson County Open Space; 2022-2024



Source: Redfin; Jefferson County Open Space; RCLCO  
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## JEFFCO OPEN SPACE: IMPACT

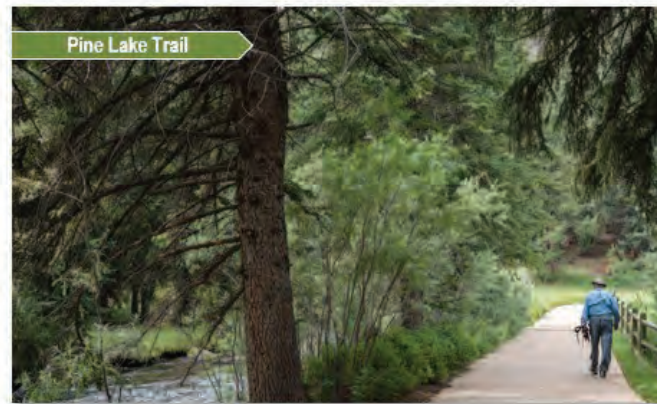
**Jeffco Open Space enhances the community through engagement, environmental education, and habitat restoration, benefiting millions of visitors annually**

► **Increased Park Visitation and Volunteer Engagement:**

- » Jeffco Open Space has seen a rise in park visitation, attracting an estimated seven million visitors per year. This surge reflects the community's growing appreciation for outdoor spaces and recreational opportunities such as hiking, walking, and biking.
- » Moreover, the park engages over 300,000 volunteers annually, highlighting the strong commitment of community members toward maintaining and enhancing the developments. In 2023 alone, volunteers dedicated approximately 53,000 hours.

► **Habitat Restoration and Environmental Health**

- » In 2023, Jeffco Open Space implemented 124,000 stewardship education contracts, demonstrating a commitment to environmental education and community involvement. These contracts aim to inform individuals about the importance of preserving natural habitats, promoting sustainable practices, and understanding the ecosystem's role within the park. These educational initiatives not only enhance public awareness but also encourage active participation in conservation efforts.
- » Jeffco Open Space makes significant strides in habitat restoration and environmental health management. In 2023, a total of 6.5 acres were restored to support native ecosystems, helping to preserve biodiversity within the park. Additionally, 4,990 acres were treated for noxious weeds, addressing invasive species that threaten the park's natural flora. Furthermore, 169,600 acres were treated for forest health. These restoration efforts contribute to a healthier environment, benefiting both wildlife and visitors.



Source: Google Images; Plan Jeffco; Jefferson County Open Space, RCLCO  
 (Draft) Pea Ridge Parks & Open Space Planning | R7-07984.0012 | 23



## Disclaimers

## RCLCO - (DRAFT) STRATEGIC ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH

### CRITICAL ASSUMPTIONS

Our conclusions are based on our analysis of the information available from our own sources and from the client as of the date of this report. We assume that the information is correct, complete, and reliable.

We made certain assumptions about the future performance of the global, national, and local economy and real estate market, and on other factors similarly outside either our control or that of the client. We analyzed trends and the information available to us in drawing these conclusions. However, given the fluid and dynamic nature of the economy and real estate markets, as well as the uncertainty surrounding particularly the near-term future, it is critical to monitor the economy and markets continuously and to revisit the aforementioned conclusions periodically to ensure that they are reflective of changing market conditions.

We assume that the economy and real estate markets will experience a period of slower growth in the next 12 to 24 months, and then return to a stable and moderate rate in 2025 and beyond. However, stable and moderate growth patterns are historically not sustainable over extended periods of time, the economy is cyclical, and real estate markets are typically highly sensitive to business cycles. Further, it is very difficult to predict when inflection points in economic and real cycles will occur.

With the above in mind, we assume that the long-term average absorption rates and price changes will be as projected, realizing that most of the time performance will be either above or below said average rates.

Our analysis does not consider the potential impact of future economic shocks on the national and/or local economy, and does not consider the potential benefits from major "booms" that may occur. Similarly, the analysis does not reflect the residual impact on the real estate market and the competitive environment of such a shock or boom. Also, it is important to note that it is difficult to predict changing consumer and market psychology.

As such, we recommend the close monitoring of the economy and the marketplace, and updating this analysis as appropriate.

Further, the project and investment economics should be "stress tested" to ensure that potential fluctuations in revenue and cost assumptions resulting from alternative scenarios regarding the economy and real estate market conditions will not cause failure.

In addition, we assume that the following will occur in accordance with current expectations:

- ▶ Economic, employment, and household growth
- ▶ Other forecasts of trends and demographic and economic patterns, including consumer confidence levels
- ▶ The cost of development and construction
- ▶ Tax laws (i.e., property and income tax rates, deductibility of mortgage interest, and so forth)
- ▶ Availability and cost of capital and mortgage financing for real estate developers, owners and buyers
- ▶ Competitive projects will be developed as planned (active and future) and that a reasonable stream of supply offerings will satisfy real estate demand
- ▶ Major public works projects occur and are completed as planned

Should any of the above change, this analysis should be updated, with the conclusions reviewed accordingly (and possibly revised).



### GENERAL LIMITING CONDITIONS

Reasonable efforts have been made to ensure that the data contained in this study reflect accurate and timely information and are believed to be reliable. This study is based on estimates, assumptions, and other information developed by RCLCO from its independent research effort, general knowledge of the industry, and consultations with the client and its representatives. No responsibility is assumed for inaccuracies in reporting by the client, its agent, and representatives or in any other data source used in preparing or presenting this study. This report is based on information that to our knowledge was current as of the date of this report, and RCLCO has not undertaken any update of its research effort since such date.

Our report may contain prospective financial information, estimates, or opinions that represent our view of reasonable expectations at a particular time, but such information, estimates, or opinions are not offered as predictions or assurances that a particular level of income or profit will be achieved, that particular events will occur, or that a particular price will be offered or accepted. Actual results achieved during the period covered by our prospective financial analysis may vary from those described in our report, and the variations may be material. Therefore, no warranty or representation is made by RCLCO that any of the projected values or results contained in this study will be achieved.

Possession of this study does not carry with it the right of publication thereof or to use the name of "Robert Charles Lesser & Co." or "RCLCO" in any manner without first obtaining the prior written consent of RCLCO. No abstracting, excerpting, or summarization of this study may be made without first obtaining the prior written consent of RCLCO. This report is not to be used in conjunction with any public or private offering of securities or other similar purpose where it may be relied upon to any degree by any person other than the client without first obtaining the prior written consent of RCLCO. This study may not be used for any purpose other than that for which it is prepared or for which prior written consent has first been obtained from RCLCO.



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ADVISORS

# ADDITIONAL FUNDING

## ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING MECHANISMS

Program Name	USDOT Table Ref	Funding Agency	Min	Max	Split	Infra Notes	Other Notes	LINK
Climate Pollution Reduction Grants	n/a	USEPA	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 500,000,000	No match or cost-sharing required	Infrastructure projects to facilitate public transit, micro-mobility, car sharing, bicycle, and pedestrian modes; bikeshare and bike storage/parking facilities Projects must be ID'd in Climate Priority Action Plan (dev. 2023 by NWARPC) Bentonville in conversations with NWARPC for implementation projects	Policies/incentive programs to reduce vehicle trips or travel and expand transit use: transit fare subsidies, bicycle facilities, complete streets, bike share programs, electric bicycle subsidies, public transit subsidies, updated building and zoning codes to encourage walkable, bikeable, and transit-oriented development	<a href="#">Climate Pollution Reduction Grants   US EPA</a>
Surface Transportation Block Grant Program	STBG	NWARPC			80 / 20	Multimodal improvement projects incl. surface replacement, curb and gutter replacement, sidewalk and ADA improvements, bicycle facilities including bike lanes and shared bike/pedestrian paths, traffic signal upgrades, and drainage improvements.	Projects must follow ARDOT LPA guidelines: <a href="https://www.ardot.gov/divisions/local-programs/local-public-agency-project-manual/">https://www.ardot.gov/divisions/local-programs/local-public-agency-project-manual/</a> New eligibility incl. "Projects to enhance travel and tourism"	<a href="#">Public-Notice_FY2025-Funding_publish-2024-01-05.pdf (nwarpc.org)</a>
Transportation Alternatives Program	TAP	NWARPC	\$ 20,000	\$ 500,000	80 / 20	On- and off-road trail and non-motorized transportation infrastructure; Rail to trail projects; Safe Routes to School	Minimum does not apply to non-infrastructure applications, e.g. Safe Routes to School, plans, or vulnerable road user (VRU) assessments	<a href="#">Public-Notice_FY2025-Funding_publish-2024-01-05.pdf (nwarpc.org)</a>
Carbon Reduction Program	CRP	NWARPC	\$125,000.00		80 / 20	Planning, design, and construction of on-road and off-road trail facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other nonmotorized transportation	Need to coordinate with MPO - NWARPC made Project selection check list for the 2023 application available in the Application document for reference	<a href="#">Public-Notice_FY2025-Funding_publish-2024-01-05.pdf (nwarpc.org)</a>
Recreational Trails Program	RTP	ARDOT			80 / 20	Trail planning - motorized and non motorized trails  NEW NOTE: The main priority in allocating funding is for the construction of new trails and for major maintenance of existing trails.	Confirming if city is eligible to apply through statewide program	<a href="https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title23-section206&amp;num=0&amp;edition=prelim#effectivedate-amendment-note">https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=granuleid:USC-prelim-title23-section206&amp;num=0&amp;edition=prelim#effectivedate-amendment-note</a>
Transportation Alternatives Program and Rec Trails Program (ARDOT)	TAP	ARDOT	\$ 20,000	\$ 500,000	80 / 20	On- and off-road trail and non-motorized transportation infrastructure; Rail to trail projects; Safe Routes to School	Minimum does not apply to non-infrastructure applications, e.g. Safe Routes to School, plans, or vulnerable road user (VRU) assessments	<a href="#">Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) - Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT.gov)</a>
Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program (ATIIP)	ATIIP	FHWA	\$ 100,000	\$ 15,000,000		Construction of active transportation infrastructure for an AT network or spine (\$15M max)	Planning and design for active transportation networks and spines (\$100K min)	<a href="#">ATIIP - Bicycle and Pedestrian Program - Environment - FHWA (dot.gov)</a>



Safe Streets and Roads for All	SS4A	USDOT - Office of the Secretary	~ \$100,000 (planning) ~ \$2.5M (implement.)	~ \$2.5M (planning) ~ \$25M (implement.)	80 / 20	Implementation of safety projects that address fatal and serious injury crashes and systemic needs identified in an adopted Comprehensive Safety Action Plan	Planning grants can include quick build, semi-permanent, or temporary demonstration projects; Programmatic activities eligible; Bentonville adopted the regional Safety Action Plan in 2023, and a City SAP is in progress through NWARPC	<a href="#">Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program   US Department of Transportation</a>
State of Arkansas Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	n/a	ADPS - Division of Emergency Mgmt		\$ 300,000	75 / 25	Eligible uses include bridge and low-water crossing replacement, critical infrastructure retrofits to reduce natural hazard risk, and bank stabilization	Locations/structures must have been subject to multiple instances of damage/loss due to disasters May require a current FEMA-approved Mitigation Plan	<a href="#">State of Ark. Hazard Mitigation Grant Program</a>
National Endowment for the Arts Our Town Grant Program (Creative Placemaking)	n/a	NEA	\$ 25,000	\$ 150,000	50 / 50 minimum required match	Planning and design that incorporates arts and culture - E.g., Fayetteville received \$25k in 2018 for artist facilitated neighborhood planning	Requires partnership with nonprofit or higher ed organization	<a href="#">OUR TOWN   National Endowment for the Arts</a>
ARDOT Local Bridge Program	BRI	ARDOT			90 / 10	Repair/improve existing local bridges on National Bridge Inventory - priority to sub-standard	Eligibility limited to Off-System bridges (not on Federal-aid Highway System) \$4M annual allocation	<a href="#">Local Bridge Program - ARDOT</a>
Arkansas Highway Safety Office Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grants	n/a	AHSO					Funded by NHTSA state grant Overtime and equipment for enforcement by Bentonville Police Dept. (speeding, impaired driving, etc.) are eligible for reimbursement	<a href="#">Grants   Arkansas Highway Safety Office (tzdarkansas.org)</a>
Infrastructure for Rebuilding America	INFRA					Corridor improvement projects - adding lanes, improving turn lanes, and adding connections to local transit, bike and pedestrian networks or multimodal pathway for pedestrians and bicyclists	Grant program funding will be made available under the MPDG combined Notice of Funding Opportunity	INFRA- <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/grants/infra-grant-program">https://www.transportation.gov/grants/infra-grant-program</a>  MPDG How to apply - <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-how-apply">https://www.transportation.gov/grants/mpdg-how-apply</a>
Transit Oriented Development Planning	TOD	FTA			80 / 20	Multimodal connectivity and accessibility, improved transit access for pedestrian and bicycle traffic, enable mixed-use development near transit stations.	Possible partnership opportunity with Ozark Regional Transit - recipient must be an existing FTA formula fund recipient	<a href="#">Transit-Oriented Development   FTA (dot.gov)</a>

Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART)	SMART	USDOT - Office of the Secretary	\$ 250,000			Demonstration projects focused on advanced smart community technologies and systems in order to improve transportation efficiency and safety.	Connected vehicles, systemic counts and data collection, traffic signals, etc.	<a href="#">Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART) Grants Program   US Department of Transportation</a>	
Advanced Transportation Technology and Innovation (ATTAIN)	n/a	FHWA	\$12,000,000		80 / 20	Integrated corridor management systems; Signal improvements; Advanced mobility access and on-demand transportation service technologies; dynamic ridesharing; shared-use mobility applications	Can be linked to the Regional Congestion Management Process; Eligible activities include: Operations and Maintenance; Technology Demonstrations and Deployment; Climate and Sustainability; Accessibility	<a href="#">Advanced Transportation Technologies and Innovative Mobility Deployment   US Department of Transportation</a>	
Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Discretionary Program	RAISE	USDOT - Office of the Secretary	\$ 5,000,000	\$ 25,000,000	80 / 20	Shared use trail networks (see 2023 awards to Bryant and Russellville), transit, and multimodal infrastructure are eligible; Projects should have a significant local or regional impact and increase mobility and community connectivity.	Planning grants (no \$ min); Evaluation criteria include environmental sustainability, quality of life, and economic competitiveness and opportunity including tourism, partnership and collaboration, and innovation.	<a href="#">RAISE Discretionary Grants   US Department of Transportation</a>	
Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 through FY 2026 Bridge Investment Program, Planning and Bridge Project Grants	BRI		\$ 50,000	\$ 80,000,000	80 / 20	Road and standalone bike/ped bridge projects (\$2.5M min to \$100M max total project budget)	Planning grants (\$50K min) for planning, feasibility analysis, and revenue forecasting of a project that would subsequently be eligible to apply for BIP funding	<a href="#">grants.gov/search-results-detail/351567</a>	
Assistance to Firefighters Grants	n/a	FEMA				Vehicle purchase and upgrades		<a href="#">Assistance to Firefighters Grants   FEMA.gov</a>	
Promoting Resilient Operations for Transformative, Efficient, and Cost-Saving Transportation (PROTECT) Discretionary Program	PROT	FHWA	\$ 100,000		80 / 20 (Up to 90 / 10 for priority projects ID'd in a Resilience Improvement Plan)	Discretionary competitive grants for climate-related resilience improvements of surface transportation system, re: climate change, flooding, extreme weather, and other natural disasters	Includes sub-allocation for resilience planning for surface transportation	<a href="#">Discretionary - PROTECT - Environment - FHWA (dot.gov)</a>	
Reconnecting Communities Pilot Grant Program & Neighborhood Access & Equity Grant Program	RCN	USDOT - Office of the Secretary			80 / 20 *	Removal, retrofit, or mitigation of transportation facilities, like highways or rail lines, that create barriers to community connectivity, mobility, access, or economic development. Reconnecting activities include linear parks and trails, roadway redesigns and complete streets conversions.	Includes both planning grants, and capital construction grants. * RCP grant funding may not exceed 50% of the total project cost for capital construction projects. Other federal funds may be used to bring the total federal share to 80%.	<a href="#">Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Grant Program   US Department of Transportation</a>	
The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA-credit assistance)	TIFIA	USDOT - Office of the Secretary	\$ 10,000,000	\$100,000,000		Financing for 33% to 49% of project cost, depending on project type	Eligible projects for low-interest financing include: Transit Vehicles and Facilities, Pedestrian Bicycle Infrastructure Networks, Transit-Oriented Development	Projects must have eligible costs reasonably anticipated to total at least \$50 million (\$10 million for rural infrastructure projects) to be considered for TIFIA credit instruments,	<a href="#">Program Overview   Build America (transportation.gov)</a>
Railroad Rehabilitation & Improvement Financing	RRIF	USDOT				Can be used to finance transit-oriented development (TOD) projects	Low-interest financing instruments	<a href="#">Railroad Rehabilitation &amp; Improvement Financing (RRIF)   Build America (transportation.gov)</a>	



# IMPLEMENTATION

## COMPLETE LIST OF ALL ACTIONS

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD	TIMING
<b>PRINCIPLE 1: ENHANCE CONNECTIVITY</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 1.1: ESTABLISH A CONNECTIVITY POLICY AND PLANNING INITIATIVE</b>		
1.1.a. Adopt Vision Zero Policies	Planning Department	Ongoing
1.1.b. Design Complete Streets	Planning Department	Ongoing
1.1.c. Develop an Active Transportation Plan	Active Transportation Department	Short-Term
<b>STRATEGY 1.2: ADOPT A SAFE STREETS DESIGN FRAMEWORK</b>		
1.2.a Foster a Strong Sense of Place through Complete Streets and Placemaking	Planning Department	Ongoing
1.2.b Implement Traffic Calming Measures to Promote Safe Speeds	Planning Department	Short-Term
1.2.c Design Safe and Accessible Intersections for All Users	Planning Department	Ongoing
1.2.d. Enhance Street Crossings for Safe and Accessible Pedestrian Movement	Planning Department	Short-Term
<b>STRATEGY 1.3: ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY IN CREATING INCLUSIVE, CONNECTED STREETS</b>		
1.3.a Engage the Community in Creating Inclusive, Connected Streets	Planning Department	Ongoing
<b>PRINCIPLE 2: PRIORITIZE SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 2.1: DEVELOP AN INTEGRATED ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY POLICY FRAMEWORK</b>		
2.1.a Adopt Vision Zero and Complete Streets Policies	Planning Department	Short-Term
2.1.b Implement Public Right of Way Guidelines	Planning Department	Short-Term
2.1.c Establish ADA Transition Plan	Planning Department	Short-Term
2.1.d Safe Routes to School	Planning Department	Short-Term
<b>STRATEGY 2.2: ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT</b>		
2.2.a Create Accessible Pedestrian Zone	Planning Department	Ongoing
2.2.b. Enhance Intersection and Street Crossings	Planning Department	Short-Term
2.2.c. Install Accessible Amenities	Planning Department	Ongoing
2.2.d Design Inclusive Playground	Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
<b>STRATEGY 2.3: INTRODUCE COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR SAFE, ACCESSIBLE TRAVEL</b>		
2.3.a Introduce Community Education and Engagement for Safe, Accessible Travel	Planning Department	Ongoing

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD	TIMING
<b>PRINCIPLE 3: PROVIDE DIVERSE RECREATIONAL SPACES</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 3.1: PURSUE STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION</b>		
3.1.a Gap Analysis for Land Needs	Planning Department	Short-Term
3.1.b Collaborate for Land Opportunities	Planning Department	Long-Term
<b>STRATEGY 3.2: ENSURE EQUITABLE AND STANDARDIZED ACCESS TO RECREATION SPACES</b>		
3.2.a Align with Nationally Recognized Recreational and Park Guidelines and Best Practices	Parks and Recreation Department	Ongoing
3.2.b. Expand Neighborhood and Pocket Parks	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
3.2.c Create Flexible, Multi-Purpose Spaces	Parks and Recreation Department	Ongoing
<b>STRATEGY 3.3: INCORPORATE PASSIVE RECREATION AREAS</b>		
3.3.a Integrate Passive Recreation into Existing Parks	Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
3.3.b Install Viewing Platforms and Wildlife Observation Points	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
3.3.c Implement Sensory Gardens and Trails	Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
3.3.d Develop Seasonal Programming for Passive Area	Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term
<b>STRATEGY 3.4 DESIGNATE SPECIALIZED RECREATION ZONES</b>		
3.4.a Community Input and Market Research	Planning Department	Ongoing
3.4.b Leverage NRPA Guidelines for Specialized Activities	Planning Department	Long-Term
<b>STRATEGY 3.5: ENSURE NEW DEVELOPMENT INCLUDES SUFFICIENT AND ADEQUATE GREEN SPACE</b>		
3.5.a Establish Green Space Requirements and Standards	Planning Department	Short-Term
3.5.b Incentivize Enhanced Green Space and Connectivity	Planing Department	Short-Term
<b>STRATEGY 3.6: ENHANCE PARK PROGRAMMING TO INCREASE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</b>		
3.6.a Provide a Range of Affordable Recreation Opportunities	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
3.6.b Identify, Establish and Enhance Partnerships	Parks and Recreation Department	Ongoing
3.6.c Continue and Enhance Collaboration with Pea Ridge School District For Joint-Use Spaces	Parks and Recreation Department	Short-Term

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD	TIMING
<b>PRINCIPLE 4: PRESERVE CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 4.1: PROTECT AGRICULTURAL LAND TO PRESERVE PEA RIDGE'S RURAL CHARACTER AND HERITAGE</b>		
4.1.a Adopt Agricultural Zoning Policies with Agricultural Buffers	Planning Department/City Council	Medium-Term
4.1.b Promote Agricultural Easements	Planning Department	Long-Term
<b>STRATEGY 4.2: CONSERVE THE TREE CANOPY TO PREVENT EROSION, STABILIZE SOILS. AND SUPPORT WILDLIFE</b>		
4.2.a Protect Key Tree Canopy Areas	Planning Department	Long-Term
4.2.b Re-vegetate Riparian Zones	Parks and Recreation Department	Long-Term
<b>STRATEGY 4.3: IMPLEMENT FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT TO REDUCE FLOOD RISKS AND PROTECT NATURAL WATERWAYS</b>		
4.3.a Adopt Stream Buffer Ordinances and Streamside Protection Zones	Planning Department/City Council	Medium-Term
4.3.b Enhance Riparian Corridors through Reforestation and Vegetation	Planning Department	Ongoing
4.3.c Coordinate with Federal and State Agencies for Best Practices	Planning Department	Medium-Term
4.3.d Enhance Development Oversight and Land Use Restrictions in Floodplains	Planning Department	Short-Term
4.3.e. Implement Low Impact Development (LID) and Green Infrastructure	Planning Department	Short-Term

PRINCIPLE/STRATEGY/ACTION	LEAD	TIMING
<b>PRINCIPLE 5: FOSTER COMMUNITY IDENTITY</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 5.1: DEVELOP COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES IN PARKS</b>		
5.1.a Create Central Gathering Pavilions	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
5.1.b Designate Flexible Event Lawns	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
5.1.c Create Youth-Oriented Gathering Areas	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
<b>STRATEGY 5.2: INCORPORATE PUBLIC ART AND CULTURAL INSTALLATIONS</b>		
5.2.a Introduce Public Art Reflecting Local Culture	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
5.2.b Partner with Local Art Organizations	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
5.2.c Encourage and Promote the Integration of Public Art	Planning Department	Ongoing
<b>PRINCIPLE 6: SUPPORT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</b>		
<b>STRATEGY 6.1: POSITION THE PARKS AS TOURISM DESTINATIONS</b>		
6.1.a Enhance Infrastructure to Support Regional Outdoor Recreation	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
6.1.b Promote Pea Ridge as a Gateway for Regional Outdoor Events	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
<b>STRATEGY 6.2: INTEGRATE LOCAL BUSINESS NEAR PARKS AND TRAILS</b>		
6.2.a Encourage the enhancement and development of parks to collocated with Neighborhood-Scale Commercial and Retail Spaces	Planning Department	Long-Term
6.2.b Facilitate Food Truck and Pop-Up Services in Parks	Planning Department	Shot-Term
<b>STRATEGY 6.3: ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LIFESTYLES TO PROMOTE HEALTH AND REDUCE HEALTHCARE COSTS</b>		
6.3.a Expand Fitness Programs in Parks	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term
6.3.b Install Outdoor Fitness Equipment	Parks and Recreation Department	Medium-Term

