6 Parks, Recreation and Trails

Introduction

Murray City is very fortunate to have a vast variety and quantity of recreation resources within its own boundaries, as well as other regional and nearby recreation opportunities. With two golf courses, the Jordan River Parkway, numerous parks, a new recreation center and swimming pool, and a comprehensive recreation program, it is one of the best-served communities in the Salt Lake Valley.

In July 1994, Murray City completed its *Murray City Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan.* It is an excellent and well documented plan, incorporating an extensive public involvement process that included a public opinion survey, public meetings, focus groups with user interests, advisory board input, and other means of gathering information and incorporating it into the Plan. This Plan updates and compliments much of the information generated in the 1994 version.

During the development of this plan, little additional information was received from the general public. Murray City residents are generally pleased with the facilities they have access to, and the programs offered. The only information received about additional facilities concerns a community theater space for local productions, additional meeting space for community groups, more sports fields for the extensive sports programming occurring in Murray City, and development of urban trails.

Parks

Existing Parks

Murray City includes about 275 acres of parkland, most of which consists of parks that serve neighborhoods. Several are located adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway, which is an additional resource to the community. As described in Table 6-1, parks in Murray City are organized by type, function and size.

Mini-Parks

Mini-parks are generally less than one acre in size approximately.

- **Valley Center Park** is located at 85 West American Avenue and contains just over one acre (1.2 acres). It includes playground equipment and open grass play areas.

Neighborhood Parks

Murray City contains 12 neighborhood parks, which range in size from just over 2 acres (2.3) to almost 50 acres (47.7).

- **Arrowhead Park** is adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway and contains 19.4 acres. It includes restrooms, lawn play areas, picnic tables, and a canoe launch.
- **Kennecott Environmental Center** is adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway and includes 2.3 acres, a Nature Center, and trails which are available to students in the Murray and Granite School Districts and others for learning about wetlands and natural systems.
- **Walden Park** is adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway at 5425 South Murray Parkway Avenue, and contains 16.3 acres. It includes a pavilion (100 persons), a playground, restrooms, a sand volleyball court, multi-use asphalt trails, and equestrian trails associated with the Jordan River Parkway.
- **Germania Park** is about 47.7 acres in size. Located adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway at 5234 South Murray Parkway Avenue, it includes a picnic pavilion (100 persons), a playground, restrooms, basketball court, a volleyball court, a canoe launch, asphalt and equestrian trails associated with the Jordan River Parkway, and large open grass play areas.
- **Hidden Village Park** is 4.5 acres in size and located at 5430 South 555 West. It contains tennis courts (3), barbecue grills, horseshoe pits, basketball court, a fitness trail, a sand volley ball court, a playground, picnic pavilion, softball/soccer field, restroom, and parking.
- **Riverview Park**, owned by Salt Lake County, contains approximately 13.4 acres, and is located at 5844 South 700 West. The park includes tennis courts, a picnic pavilion, playground, horseshoe pits, volley ball facilities, basketball courts, and restrooms.
- **Cottonwood Grove Park** is just over 20 acres in size (21.9 acres), and is adjacent to the regional resource of Jordan River Parkway. It includes a trailhead, parking lot, and natural areas.
- **Willow Pond Park** is 27.9 acres in size, and is adjacent to Jordan River Parkway. It includes a four-acre pond with fish cleaning station, basketball courts (2), a pavilion, soccer fields (2), playgrounds (3), volleyballs courts, a baseball field and concession, restrooms, gazebo, open grass areas, and asphalt walking paths.

Table 6-1
Summary of Murray City Parks

Mini Parks	**Size in Acres**
Valley Park	1.2
Neighborhood Parks	
Arrowhead Park	19.4
Environmental Center Park	2.3
Walden Park	16.3
Germania Park	47.7
Hidden Village Park	4.5
Riverview Park (County)	13.4
Cottonwood Grove Park	21.9
Willow Woods Park	27.9
Winchester Park	15.7
Grant Park	8.2
Southwood Park	5.2
Woodstock Meadows	9.5
County Ice Center	18.0
Community Parks	
Murray City Park	63.4
Total Murray City Parks	274.6

- **Winchester Park** is 15.7 acres in size and is adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway at 1250 West Winchester Street. It contains a pavilion (100 persons), playground, restrooms, asphalt trail, canoe launch, and open grass play areas.
- **Grant Park** is 8.2 acres in size and is located at 6150 South Main Street. The park has a pavilion (50 persons), a four-diamond baseball complex, concession stand, playground, restrooms, softball field, barbecue grills, and ample open grass play areas. The Heritage Center is also located in this park.
- **Southwood Park** is located at 6150 South 725 East, and includes 5 acres. It includes a picnic pavilion, playground, restrooms, soccer/softball fields, tennis courts (3), and sand volleyball.
- **Woodstock Meadows Park** is located at approximately 900 East and 5600 South. It includes 9.5 acres, most of which is a wetland area. The park also includes some open lawn area for play, as well as a playground structure, restrooms, a pavilion, and trails that meander through the wetland. Woodstock Meadows Park is county-owned.

Community Parks

Murray City includes one community park as described below.

- **Murray City Park**, which is 63.4 acres in size, is the center-piece of Murray City Parks. It includes picnic pavilions (5 – with capacities that vary, up to 300 persons), playground equipment (4), restrooms (4), basketball courts, soccer/softball/baseball fields, volleyball courts (4), picnic tables, a fitness trail (2.5 miles) and additional facilities including ice skating, concessions, a rose garden, arboretum, and amphitheater (700 seats, stage with lighting and sound, storage, restroom). Much of the original park site, the west edge of the park, was established in the 1940s. The larger eastern portion was added in the 1970s. Murray Park is the location of the new Park Center recreation center, which includes a swimming pool and other indoor recreation facilities.
- **County Ice Center Park** is located adjacent to Murray Park. It includes approximately 18 acres, 10 acres of which is devoted to athletic fields for youth and children's soccer and rugby. The facilities are County owned and managed.

Other Resources

In addition to developed public parks, Murray City has several other park-like recreation resources and open spaces that are important to the image and livability of the City. These include the open play fields at schools, golf courses, Jordan River Parkway open lands, and others. While these resources are not included in the analysis of park need, they do provide additional opportunities for children and adults to access open lawn areas for informal recreation opportunities. A more detailed description of these resources follows.

Schools

School fields are important neighborhood resources, and are used extensively for recreation programs sponsored by Murray City. All elementary schools and junior high schools provide such opportunities. Murray City High School facilities are not included, as most of the facilities are not available to the general public. Table 6-2 indicates estimated acres in open space and facilities available in various schools.

Jordan River Parkway

The Parkway extends throughout the city from north to south, and is developed with trails, trail heads, and adjacent neighborhood parks. It is a valuable resource to the community, and serves as a regional bicycle/pedestrian, and in some places, equestrian trail system. It includes six trailheads, and numerous canoe launching sites. The Parkway is fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and it is frequently used for scheduled recreation activities. The section through Murray City is paved and extends for about five miles.

Table 6-2
Available Open Space in School Yards

	Size in Acres	Description
Elementary Schools		
Grant	6.0	2 soccer fields, 3 playgrounds, 4 basketball courts
Horizon	6.0	3 soccer fields, 2 playgrounds, 7 basketball courts, 3 backstops
Liberty	4.0	1 soccer field, 3 playgrounds, 4 basketball courts, 2 backstops
Longview	5.0	1 soccer field, 2 playgrounds, 4 basketball courts, 2 backstops
McMillan	6.0	1 soccer field, 2 playgrounds, 6 basketball courts, 4 backstops
Parkside	4.5	2 playgrounds, 10 basketball courts, 3 backstops
Viewmont	6.0	3 soccer fields, 3 playgrounds, 8 basketball courts, 3 backstops
Twin Peaks	5.0	
Junior High Schools		
Hillcrest	7.0	1 softball field, 3 backstops
Riverview	12.0	5 softball fields
Total School Acres	**61.5**	

Wheeler Historic Farm and South Cottonwood Regional Park

Wheeler Farm was established in 1886, purchased by Salt Lake County in 1969, and is listed on both the Utah and National Register of Historic Places. The 75 acres at 6351 south 900 East includes both the farm and the regional park. It is owned and managed by Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation. Admission is free to the entire acreage, however, there is a fee for certain activities such as the Historic Farmhouse tour, wagon rides and farm chores, birthday parties, and summer day camps. The Farm offers activities throughout the year, with special events occurring at holidays. There are no developed facilities on the South Cottonwood Regional Park portion of the property; there is however, ample open lawn area for free play and scattered picnic tables.

Golf Courses

Murray City enjoys two golf courses totalling over 280 acres. Mike Riley Golf Course includes 130 acres and is owned and managed by Salt Lake County. This course contains nine holes of regulation play and nine holes of par 3 play. Murray Parkway Golf Course is a championship course with 18 holes of play. It is approximately 150 acres in size and is located adjacent to the Jordan River Parkway.

Murray City Cemetery

The cemetery is located at 5490 South Vine Street on 28 acres. It includes an office, maintenance area, and parking.

Summary

In addition to the approximate 275 acres of developed parks that serve neighborhoods and the community at large, Murray City has numerous other recreation resources and facilities that serve recreational needs, such as schools. Parks, schools, and other facilities mentioned are shown on Map 6–1 Park and Recreation Facilities

In determining a need for new park land, it is important to determine priorities and overall goals. In Murray City, an important goal expressed in the 1994 Plan and reemphasized here is the need to maintain neighborhood access to parks, to focus on parks that serve neighborhoods, and which provide the kind of services and facilities that residents desire in close proximity to their homes. The Park Needs Analysis that follows addresses a ratio of park land to population. It is complemented by a Parkland Distribution Analysis, which in many cases is the more important criteria, as it specifically addresses proximity of parks to neighborhoods.

Park Needs Analysis

A Park Needs Analysis typically looks at existing acreages of parkland compared to current and projected populations. In determining parks need, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) previously recommended the use of a population ratio method (acres of parkland per 1,000 persons), modified to accommodate local preferences. NRPA went on to suggest that a total park system should represent 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed open space per 1000 population. (Recreation, Park and Open Space Standards and Guidelines, 1987.) In recent years, NRPA has found that such a guideline is not always appropriate, and now recommends a detailed analysis of the community as a means of determining need. (Park, Recreation, Open Space and Greenway Guidelines, 1995.) The chart comparing parkland to population is provided for purposes of comparison with other communities and to provide a general overview of a relationship between population and park resources.

School grounds and church play fields have not been included in the park needs analysis, nor have golf courses, the cemetery, Wheeler Farm, and other open spaces that are not necessarily used as public parks. These facilities are a resource to the community to be sure, but are not considered part of the Murray City park system.

Table 6-3 indicates the total current (2002) and projected (2020) population and the total existing park acres. It also compares the previous NRPA low guideline (6.25 acres per 1000 population), NRPA high guideline (10.5 acres per 1000 population), and current Murray City parkland status (6.9 acres per 1000 population.) The numbers in italics represent the difference in what NRPA recommended on the high and low end.

In order to maintain its current ratio of park acres to population, Murray City will need 55 (approximately) acres of developed parks to meet future 2020 needs. ***Murray City should strive to maintain a ratio of parkland to population that is the status quo – about 6.9 acres per 1000 population.***

Table 6-3
Comparison of NRPA Guideline and Murray City Status Quo

Year	Population	Park Acres	Acres/1000 Population	NRPA 6.25ac/1000	NRPA 10.5ac/1000	MC Status 6.9/1000
2002	44,787	274.6	6.9	280	470	0
				-5	*-196*	
2020	51,448	274.6	5.3	321	540	55
				-47	*-265*	

Comparison of Murray City Parkland Goal and Other Local Communities

The goal of approximately 6.9 acres of parkland per 1000 population is further compared to other Salt Lake Valley and Utah communities. Table 6-4 indicates the adopted goals of other communities, which ranges from 2.8 acres to 10.7 acres. However, many of the communities note that they are less concerned with a parkland to population ratio than in providing parks conveniently located in neighborhoods, especially those that are not already served by parks.

Table 6-4
Comparison of Murray City Parkland/Population Ratio/Status to Other Local Communities

COMMUNITY	ACRES/POPULATION RATIO
West Valley City	2.8/1000 – Represents an additional 420 acres for 2020 population, but is recognized as well below the need and ultimate target of 7.5/1000)
Salt Lake City	4.3/1000
Woods Cross City	6.0/1000
West Jordan City	6.0/1000
Sandy City	6.5/1000
Taylorsville	6.5/1000
Murray City	**6.9/1000**
South Ogden City	8.0/1000
Logan City	10.7/1000
Midvale	None – Policy to focus on new parks in neighborhoods where there are none.
South Jordan	None – Has a master plan showing locations of new parks, but no target ration for parks.

Parkland Distribution and Service Area Analysis

It is important to have adequate park acreage, but it is also important for residents to have convenient access to parks. Map 6-1 uses NRPA's smallest recommended service radii to identify resulting gaps in access to parks: one-quarter mile for mini-parks, one-half mile for neighborhood parks, and one mile for community parks. There are a few small gaps in Murray, which are relatively minor in most cases, and are described below.

- The recently annexed eastern portion of the city – east of 900 East.
- The south central area, in the vicinity of Fashion Boulevard and between Winchester Avenue and 5900 South. In this area, McMillan and Longview Elementary Schools are likely filling some need.
- The southwest area, where there is an existing, rather isolated, neighborhood south of Winchester Street.
- The northeast area, where Murray City Park serves most of the area, but a smaller neighborhood park would also be appropriate.
- The TRAX station at 4500 South, which is recommended for mixed-use and should include a park to serve residential uses, and other open space land.

- The TRAX station just south of Vine Street adjacent to the new IHC Hospital and associated development will also include a mixed-use component and should include a park and other open spaces.

Recommendations

Based on this analysis, Murray City residential areas are fairly-well served with public parks and the City has a good ratio of parkland to population. There are however, a few developed neighborhoods that could be better served today, and those gaps should be filled whenever possible. In some cases, particularly in the new annexation areas east of 900 East, there are few locations for potential parks. Where redevelopment may take place, future needs are based on future land use expectations. Map 6-1 also shows proposed locations for new parks to serve existing and proposed residential neighborhoods. A minimum of 2.5 acres is recommended, as in several of these locations it will be difficult to acquire and/or reserve 10 acres for park land, which is the goal otherwise.

Recreation Programs and Facilities

Existing Facilities

In the 1994 *Parks and Recreation Comprehensive General Plan* document, several standards are adopted that address the number of facilities desired for a specified amount of population. Table 6-5 indicates the type of facility for which a standard has been established, the existing supply, the stated standard expressed as a ratio of 1 facility per x population. Based on that standard, the number of facilities needed to meet current 2002, and the amount required to meet future 2020 need are also indicated. Most of the facilities in Chart 6-5 occur in parks.

Table 6-5
Facility Standards and Current and Projected Need

Facility Type	Existing Supply	Murray Standard*	2002 Need	2020 Need
Tennis Courts	6	1/2400	11	15
Softball/baseball (youth-under 12 yrs.)	8	1/5000	0	2
Softball/baseball (over 13 years)	4	1/8800	1	2
Gymnasium	5	1/7000	1	2
Multi-Use Fields	16	1/3000	0	1
Swimming Pools	2	1/20000	0	1
Golf Courses	2	1/50000	0	0
Volleyball (outdoor)	8	1/4500	1	3
Picnic Shelters	16	1/3200	0	0
Playgrounds	17	1/2400	0	4
*As established in the 1994 Murray City Park and Recreation Comprehensive General Plan.				

According to this analysis Murray City is adequately served by golf courses and picnic shelters now and in the future; but Murray City has a current and/or future need for tennis courts, softball/baseball fields for youth under 12 years of age, softball/baseball fields for youth and adults over 13 years of age, gymnasiums, multi-use fields, swimming pools, volleyball courts, and playgrounds.

However, based on actual tennis court usage, Parks and Recreation Department staff recommends changing the current Murray City standard for tennis courts to 1 tennis court per 7500 persons (1/7500). With this update in standards based on actual use, Murray City is adequately supplied with tennis courts at the current time, but may need an additional court by 2020.

Other Resources

In addition to facilities that occur in parks, other resources also provided recreation opportunities.

Golf Courses

Murray City has two excellent golf courses. Murray Parkway Golf Course (city-owned) is located at 6345 South Riverside Drive on 150 acres. It is an 18 hold championship course, with driving range, putting greens (2), café, pro shop, and parking. Mick Riley Golf Courts is county-owned and located at 421 East Vine Street on 93 acres. The course contains 9 holes of regulation play and 9 holes of par 3 play. It includes a driving range, cart rentals, pro shop, and café.

Ken Rice Ball Park

This ball park on 4 acres includes baseball diamond, concession stand, restrooms, and grandstand seating. The ball park is located within Murray City Park.

Salt Lake County Ice Center

The Ice Center is located at 5201 South Murray Park Lane and is operated by Salt Lake County. It was built as a training facility for the 2002 Winter Olympic Games, and offers programs to the general public in both ice hockey and figure skating.

Park Center in Murray Park

This new recreation center located in Murray Park opened fall 2002. It includes an 8-lane competition pool, leisure pool, gymnasium, aerobic, cycling, cardio, and weight rooms, drop-off nursery, and running track. Fitness and weight training classes are anticipated. The facility offers a variety of individual and family memberships for residents of Murray and others.

Heritage Center Senior Citizen Center

The Heritage Center serves senior citizens, and is located at 6150 South in a 15,586 square foot building adjacent to Grant Park. It includes a reception area, ceramic room, quilting room, TV room, conference room (2), lunch room, kitchen, pool room, card room, restrooms, offices, storage, and parking. The Heritage Center serves daily lunches, provides space for health clinics and transportation to and from the center, and organizes numerous activities and events including exercise classes, bingo, ceramics, billiards, computer lab and classes, golf, excursions, and special seasonal events.

Existing Recreation Programs

Murray City offers a variety of recreation programs for all age groups. Unlike many areas in the Salt Lake Valley, Murray City provides its own recreation programs and does not rely on Salt Lake County. Table 6 -6 indicates various age groups and recreation programs offered.

Table 6-6
Recreation Programs by Age Group

Children (3 – 6 years)	Youth (7 – 18 years)	Adults
• Smart Start – basic motor skills • Hoops 101 – basketball • Football 101 • Soccer 101	• Basketball - Girls and boys Jr. Jazz; girls and boys High School Jr. Jazz, Top Flite and Oregon Prep competitive leagues for girls and boys; hot shots (summer), fall high school; NBA 2 Ball. • T-ball – girls and boys. • Softball – girls senior, coach pitch, boys coach pitch. • Baseball – boys, Babe Ruth. • Volleyball - girls • Youth track • Recreation camps • Sports camps • Roller hockey • Tennis • Soccer – boys and girls. • Art camp • Craft camp • Drama camp • Band camp	• Basketball - Men's open, men's 30 and over, women's league, Murray High Alumni tournament. • Softball – Men's league, women's league, coed leagues. • Volleyball – Women's, metro games, coed. • Tennis • Golf – Men's leagues, Alumni golf tournament.

Special Events

In addition to the regular programs offered, several special events and activities are offered including the Haunted Trail, Fun Days, Fish Daze, 3 on 3 Snowman Classic, Fall Slammer, Summer Servicer, Punt, Pass & Kick; Major League Skills, Easter Egg Hunt, and 5K Race,

Cultural Programs

The Murray Arts Advisory Board and Murray City offer a broad variety of cultural activities and events. In the past they have staged talent shows for all age groups, drama and band camps, Bluegrass Festival, a juried art show, band and symphony concerts, arts and crafts fairs and competitions, dance and arts classes, and numerous seasonal crafts and visual and performing arts events. Other cultural programs include art and literary competitions, performances by the Missoula Children's Theater, ballet productions, and a history film festival featuring films produced by local school children. Murray City is represented by its own band, symphony, chorus, and ballet company.

Recreation Program and Facility Recommendations

Murray City is doing an excellent job of meeting the cultural and performing arts needs of its community. In 2002, Murray City conducted a community wide arts survey, which revealed a strong interest in the arts by city residents and strong support for existing programs. However, the survey also expressed a need by 67 percent of those surveyed for a community theater and common rooms for community events and functions. Murray City has since identified a site adjacent to the new Park Center in Murray Park, and plans to construct a theater with common room space as soon as funding is available.

In addition to the theater and common rooms, there is still a need for additional sport and play fields for the many programs that Murray City offers. Even though this need does not show up on Table 6-5 where the number of current facilities is compared to the Murray City standard, it is still evident to those involved in sports programming that there is not enough space for practices and games. Therefore, whenever new parks are developed, they should include open fields for sports activities.

Urban Trails

This aspect of the plan is an update of the Urban Trails Plan completed and adopted in 1999. It will define urban trails, document existing conditions in Murray, provide urban trail recommendations, present different funding resources, and provide goals, objectives and policies for current and future trail implementation.

Urban trails are linear routes through an urbanized area that are established primarily for the use of bicyclists and pedestrians for transportation and recreation purposes. It does not distinguish between uses, as transportation and recreation are both important and viable uses for trails. A good example of an urban trail facility is the Jordan River Trail. The trail serves a transportation role by providing a north/south linear corridor link through the city of Murray. Simultaneously, it provides a recreation resource for bicyclists, joggers, roller bladders, and in some sections equestrian users.

The street system of Murray generally follows the grid used throughout the Salt Lake Valley. The system includes a range of facilities from the I-15 freeway to neighborhood cul-de-sacs and all types in-between. The Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) owns and maintains several roads in Murray including I-15, I-215, State Street (US-89), 900 East (SR-71), 5300 South (SR-173) and 4500 South (SR-266). These roads also carry the most traffic in and through Murray.

Table 6-7 shows a comparison of walking and biking to work with cities in Utah and the state as a whole. It shows that Murray is below the state average in both categories. It can also be observed that the farther from the central city (Salt Lake City) the fewer walkers and cyclists. Hopefully, with the eventual implementation of this Plan, Murray will meet or exceed the state average for walking and biking to work or other destinations.

Table 6-7
Comparison of Murray to Other Utah Cities
Percent of Workers Traveling to Work By Walking or Bicycling*

Place of Residence	Percent Walk to Work	Percent Bicycle to Work
Murray	2.36	0.34
Utah State Total	2.76	0.57
Sandy	0.64	0.39
Salt Lake City	4.91	1.48
South Salt Lake City	3.93	0.57
Moab	9.55	3.37
Provo	12.84	1.92
* 2000 Census		

The street system of Murray will serve as the backbone of the Urban Trails Plan. Streets are categorized by use and function. Local streets serve land uses such as houses and stores. These "feed" into collectors, which still serve land uses, but tend to have better connectivity and carry more traffic. Collectors feed into arterials which carry traffic longer distances at higher speeds with fewer interruptions. Arterials are generally not conducive to urban trails.

Existing Urban Trail Facilities

There are currently very few existing urban trail facilities. The Jordan River Parkway is the only significant facility in the City. It runs nearly the length of the City from I-215 north to 4800 South. Most parts of Murray have adequate sidewalk facilities. In areas where no sidewalks exist, the lack of sidewalks may reflect that some residents of Murray like the rural feel, allowing natural pathways to be formed instead of concrete sidewalks.

Related Documents

Murray City Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan

Chapter 7 of the 1994 Parks and Recreation Comprehensive General Plan addresses "Trails for Murray". It identifies the Jordan River Parkway trail as the only significant trail in the City, and recommends development of two more trails that are separated from vehicular traffic: one along Little Cottonwood Creek, and another on the northern border of Murray along Big Cottonwood Creek.

There is also a series of policies which relate to trails and trail planning. It discusses design and layout, access to public transportation, the need to serve a variety of users, and recommendations. All of the recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Plan were considered in the development of this Urban Trails Plan.

Salt Lake County Trails Master Plan

This Plan, adopted in 1994, was prepared by the Salt Lake County Parks and Recreation Department. One of the trails the Plan discusses extensively is the location and description of the Jordan River Trail throughout the Salt Lake Valley. This is a multi-jurisdictional trail which will ultimately connect Utah Lake in Utah County with the Great Salt Lake in Salt Lake County. The Plan also has a discussion of the trail alignments associated with the UTA TRAX on the former Union Pacific rail line running through the heart of the Valley.

Wasatch Front Regional Council (WFRC) Draft Bicycle Plan

The WFRC is responsible for regional transportation planning for Salt Lake, Davis, and Weber Counties. Traditionally their planning focus has been on highways and transit. But increasingly WFRC is also planning for non-motorized transportation. WFRC has developed a plan for an extensive regional trail system that coordinates all existing and proposed bicycle plans for cities, counties, canal companies, UTA, UDOT, and others and synthesizes them into one regional plan.

Summary of Trail Opportunities

Murray City has numerous constraints to trail development, specifically the many major transportation corridors that present barriers to mobility, particularly for people and bicycles. Although Murray is an established urban area, there are new developments underway which effect potential urban trails.

TRAX and the Jordan River provide good urban trail opportunities because they are free of automobile traffic and provide a good north/south corridor. Murray City has three TRAX stops, and each will have bicycle amenities. Trains allow bicycles on-board, even during the peak periods, although cyclists are required to use the last car. Pedestrian linkages within and to the stations are needed to support good transit use. The TRAX right-of-way, in some instances, can have a dual use for both the trains and a trail; however, there are places where space is limited due to structure width on bridges.

Additional opportunities are found in new development at 5300 South and State, where a walkable and transit friendly development is achievable. Big and Little Cottonwood Creeks offer outstanding opportunities for trail development, and a proposed trail along Little Cottonwood Creek will run adjacent to the new hospital development.

Roads with adequate right-of-way and pavement width make excellent bicycle routes. The roads are already established, they go where people want to go, and they are generally well-maintained.

New trails should be connected and linked to destinations within Murray City, as well as to a larger regional network, and they should be located in safe places where conflicts between people and bicycles, and vehicular traffic are minimized.

Recommended Urban Trail Facilities

Map 6–2 shows the proposed urban trail system for Murray City. The plan avoids areas of high congestion and interchanges, it links neighborhoods and destinations, and it integrates both existing trails and accommodates linkages to present and future regional trails. .A summary of each route, including the opportunities and constraints that exist along each route, is provided in Table 6-8.

Types of Urban Trails Proposed

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Guide for the Development of Bicycle Facilities (1999) defines four basic types of bicycle facilities. Standard guidelines and cross sections for bicycle facilities are provided in the appendix.

- Shared Roadways, in which bicycles and vehicles share the same paved surface.
- Signed Shared Roadways, in which bicycles and vehicles share the same paved surface, but the route is signed to indicate that bicycles should be expected within the right-of-way.
- Bicycle Lanes, in which bicycles and vehicles share the same paved surface, but the area designated for bikes is identified by striping and/or symbols.
- Shared Use Paths, in which bicycles, pedestrians, and others use a path separated from the roadway. It is typically 8 to 12 feet wide, such as the Jordan River Parkway.

Table 6-8
Description of Proposed Routes

Route	Length (mi.)	Description	Constraints	Recommended Facility Type
Big Cottonwood Creek	2.3	East/west Connection along the north border of Murray City. The creek is partially in Salt Lake County. Preferred alignment unknown, should be determined with further study.	Must cross I-15. Acquisition of right of way could be difficult and should be started as soon as possible.	Separated shared use path.

Route	Length (mi.)	Description	Constraints	Recommended Facility Type
4800 South	2.3	East/west connection along 4800 South.	Will have to give extra attention to the Light Rail and I-15 crossings.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway.
Vine Street	3.3	Route begins at 900 East and ends at Jordan River Parkway.	This route is narrow in certain sections and has poor sight distance in areas east of I-15.	Signed shared roadway.
Little Cottonwood Creek	4.8	Route follows Little Cottonwood Creek. The side of the bank or desired configuration is unknown and should be determined with further study. Connects Jordan River Parkway and Wheeler Farm.	Acquisition of right of way could be difficult and should be started as soon as possible.	Separated shared use path.
5900 South	3.5	Route serves as an east/west backbone through most of Murray, stretching from 1300 East to Jordan River Parkway.	The intersection of 5900 South and State Street is very busy and will require added safety measures.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway
Winchester Street	3.7	Located in the southwestern section of Murray and connects the Jordan River Parkway with Wheeler Farm.	The road is narrow where it crosses under I15.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway. Some opportunity may exist for separated bike path.
700 West	4.1	Runs the length of the Murray city limits along 700 West.	Traffic speeds and volumes on 700 West are variable and will require different treatments at different areas of the route.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway, or combination.
Light Rail/Main Street Alignment	3.7	Runs the length of Murray city limits along the Light Rail line from the south border to 5300 South, and the uses the new Main Street/Cottonwood alignment from 5300 South to the north boundary of the city.	The City will have to work very closely with the Utah Transit Authority to build the trail. Additionally, the construction of the trail north of the intersection of the Light Rail line and 5300 South should be closely coordinated with road development plans.	Separated shared use path and Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway
5600 South to Fashion Boulevard	2.2	The route begins on 5600 South and connects to Fashion Boulevard, then connects to the existing overpass at I-215.	The route makes several 'jogs' that may be difficult for cyclists to follow. The I-215 overpass is not wide enough for bicycles; it will need to be walked across.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway
900 East	2.7	Runs from the north boundary of Murray City limits to Winchester Street where it terminates.	There is little shoulder in the section of road between 4800 South and 5600 South.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway
1300 East	3.2	North south connection partially in Murray City.		Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway.
6400 South	1.1	East west connection into new annexed area.	Residential neighborhood.	Striped bicycle lane or signed shared roadway.

Auxiliary Facilities

Incentives should be provided to businesses, downtown areas, transit stations, and other destinations to provide adequate bicycle parking and auxiliary facilities. These will further encourage more walking and cycling trips.

Funding Options and Opportunities – Parks and Recreation

Monies for park upgrades and new parks can come from a number of sources including development interests, impact fees, general revenues, and other sources. Funding parks and recreation projects is the most challenging aspect of the plan.

Private and Public Partnerships

Cities and private developers may cooperate on a facility that services the public, yet is also attractive to an entrepreneur. These partnerships can be effective funding methods for special use sports facilities like baseball complexes or soccer complexes; but are not successful when the objective is to develop neighborhood and community parks that provide facilities such as playgrounds, informal playing fields, and other recreational opportunities that are generally available to the public free of charge. A recreation or swimming complex is also potentially attractive as a private/public partnership.

Private Fundraising: While not addressed as a specific strategy for individual recreation facilities, it is not uncommon for public monies to be leveraged by private donations. Examples in the Salt Lake Valley include the Sorenson Recreation Center in Glendale and the Steiner Aquatic Center in Salt Lake City. Private funds will most likely be attracted to high-profile facilities such as a swimming complex or a cultural facility, and generally require aggressive promotion and management on behalf of the local park and recreation department or city administration.

Service Organizations: Many service organizations and corporations have funds available for park and recreation facilities. Recently, Salt Lake City and local and international Rotary Clubs combined resources to develop an accessible playground in Liberty Park, that was dedicated at the opening of the 2002 Paralympic Winter Games. Other organizations such as Home Depot, Kiwanis Clubs, and United Way are often willing to partner with local communities in the development of playground and other park and recreation equipment and facilities.

Joint Development

Joint development opportunities may also occur between municipalities and counties, and among agencies or departments within a municipality or county. These opportunities should be explored whenever possible in

order to maximize recreation opportunities and minimize costs. In order to make these kinds of opportunities happen there must be on-going and constant communication between people, governments, business interests and others.

Development Contributions
Development contributions are a means for requiring, as a condition of development approval, a builder or developer to provide something to the City for the development of public facilities. Exactions can range from impact fees to land dedications for public improvements.

Park and Recreation Impact Fees
Impact fees are especially useful in areas of rapid growth, and may have little relevance to Murray City, which is primarily built-out. The purpose of impact fees is to require new development to pay its fair share of the costs of providing services. Impact fees cannot be used to fund development of facilities that represent a current deficit.

Dedications
The dedication of land for parks has long been an accepted development requirement and is another valuable tool for implementing park development. The City can require the dedication or, if larger-sized parcels are desired, can offer development "bonuses" such as increased density of development in exchange for the dedication of land to the City for parks. In some cases, the developer may also be responsible for park improvements, which may also be maintained by a Homeowner's Association. In such cases, it is important to make a determination as to whether the parkland is private or public, and that the desired and appropriate facilities are provided.

Cluster-style Development Patterns
Cluster-style patterns of development allow density to be concentrated on a portion of the property in order to reserve a sensitive or valued part of the property that may be used for public parks, trails, or left in natural open space. In this case there is no net loss of density or increase in density. However, a density bonus may also be offered to a developer as an incentive to develop a cluster or conservation subdivision pattern. In this way, land can be set aside for parks with little if any land cost to the City. Such a policy would be a condition of approval between the developer and the City.

City Funding - General Fund or Bonding
Due to the large amounts needed to fund parks development, bonding is a reasonable approach. The City can fund parks directly from its general fund or can bond for park development and spread the cost over many years. Repayment of the bonds comes from general City revenue sources such as property and sales tax, or other earmarked tax revenue. Tax revenue collected for special purposes may be allocated to park development.

Bonding associated with plan implementation should be kept as low as possible; however, for large developments such as a sports complex, swimming/water park complex, or large land acquisition priorities, bonding is likely to be the best option.

Special Taxes
Tax revenue collected for special purposes may be earmarked for park development. In Sandy City, Utah for instance, the room tax applied to hotel and motel rooms in the city is earmarked for parks, recreation, and trails development.

Redevelopment Agency Funds
As new redevelopment areas are identified, RDA funds can be used for the development of public spaces and infrastructure. Open spaces, plazas, trails and other "green infrastructure" elements are eligible for funding with RDA monies and are an excellent use of funds to create image and establish quality in a development.

Community Development Block Grants
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) can be used for park development in areas of the city that qualify as low or moderate-income areas. CDBG funds may be used to upgrade parks, provide new park equipment, and improve accessibility as part of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA).

User Fees
Many communities charge leagues and sports organizations to use public facilities in order to recover some of the costs of upkeep and maintenance. A similar situation occurs with concessions.

State and Federal Programs
Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery Program (UPARR): This program, administered by the National Park Service, provides grants for the rehabilitation and enhancement of existing parks and recreation areas in communities. The program provides matching funds and technical assistance to economically distressed urban communities for the rehabilitation of critically needed recreation facilities. It also encourages local funding and commitment to the operations and maintenance of recreation programs, sites, and facilities.

Three types of grants are available. ***Rehabilitation Grants*** are used for remodeling, rebuilding, or expanding existing outdoor or indoor recreation areas. ***Innovation Grants*** are for projects that demonstrate innovate and cost-effective ways to enhance local park and recreation opportunities. ***Planning Grants*** provide funds for the development of a Recovery Action Plan, which must be on file with the National Park Service in order to receive funds.

Although Murray City is not listed as an eligible jurisdiction (only Ogden and Provo are eligible in Utah), the program does allocate up to 15 percent of program funds annually to local governments that do not meet eligibility criteria. For example, Salt Lake City, which is not an eligible jurisdiction, has received $435,000 in federal funds (not including city match) for improvements to both Fairmont and Pioneer Parks.

Land and Water Conservation Fund: This Federal money is made available to States, and in Utah is administered by the Utah State Division of Parks and Recreation. Funds are matched with local funds for acquisition of park and recreation lands, redevelopment of older recreation facilities, trails, improvements to accessibility, and other recreation programs and facilities that provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for youth, adults, senior citizens, and persons with physical and mental disabilities.

Funding Options and Opportunities – Urban Trails

Funding for urban trails projects comes from a variety of sources, all of which should be explored and utilized. Below is a listing of possible sources.

Surface Transportation Program (STP)/ National Highway System (NHS)
Although this federal funding source is traditionally used for highway improvements, bicycle and pedestrian facilities are eligible activities. The purpose of these funds is generally to reduce traffic congestion and to

improve regional transportation routes. UDOT programs the NHS funds and some statewide STP funds. A fixed percentage of STP is directly allocated to the WFRC for local programming.

Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CM/AQ)
Salt Lake County is non-attainment for ozone and PM10. As such, it receives CMAQ funding. The purpose of these funds is to reduce congestion and air pollution, often by reducing motor vehicle dependency. The WFRC programs these funds. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities have been built all over the nation using these funds. The projects must show a direct link to improving air quality or reducing congestion.

Transportation Enhancement Funds
TEA-21, or the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, provides federal funding through two major programs, the Surface Transportation Program, and the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement. Through the Surface Transportation Program, Murray City can apply directly for funds to pay for projects and programs that are transportation related with an emphasis on reducing auto trips, enhancing safety and providing intermodal connections.

This is a competitive program, with state agencies, counties and cities all competing on a yearly basis for approximately $3 million in annual funds. There is no allocation of funds based on population. Potential sponsors must develop a detailed application with documented public support for the project. The project must stand on its own merits against all other proposals in the state. There are usually three to five times more funding requests than there are available funds.

Once selected, the project must go through the Federal-aid funding process, which involves environmental clearance, a local match, and meet other guidelines as if the project were a highway project.

Murray City has successfully used these funds in the past for part of the Jordan River Parkway.

State Resources
The state makes transportation funding available through several sources to local governments for projects. The sources of revenue include motor fuel taxes, special fuel taxes, vehicle registration fees and drivers license fees. The Utah Department of Transportation provides some funding for projects through their enhancement funds, made available to state roadways.

Goals and Policies

Goal: **To serve the recreation needs of all residents, regardless of age or ability.**

Policy: Monitor residents regarding programs and facilities to continue to address a broad spectrum of interests.

Implementation Measure: Periodically survey residents in order to provide a variety of programs and facilities to address the needs of multiple age groups and interests.

Implementation Measure: As new parks are developed, provide for additional open spaces for field sports, which can be used both for practice and for play.

Goal: **To maintain parkland service levels.**

Policy: Adopt a citywide goal of 6.9-acres (minimum) of parkland per one thousand persons, which represents the status quo in 2002.

Policy: Residents should have convenient, close-to-home access to public parks as represented in the service area minimums.

Implementation Measure: Reserve and acquire or identify suitable parkland ahead of development.

Implementation Measure: Maintain a distribution of parks that provides access to all residents, and where all residents are within the service area of one of more of these parks.

Implementation Measure: Maintain a development review process to require large residential and/or mixed-use projects ensure that parklands are provided to residents.

Implementation Measure: Coordinate with developers to achieve desired parks.

Goal: **Ensure parklands and park facilities are a positive reflection of the community.**

Policy: Maintain existing parks and facilities in good repair and condition.

Implementation Measure: Routinely inspect all playground equipment for wear and vandalism to determine compliance with the current CPSC handbook and the current ASTM standards for safety.

Implementation Measure: Implement a program to evaluate water requirements in parks and open spaces, and modify park landscapes to be more water and energy conserving, where possible.

Goal: **Ensure that recreation facilities and programs are provided for in the future.**

Policy: Maintain the current Facility Standards as adopted in 1984, with the exception of the standard for tennis courts, which should be changed to 1/7500.

Implementation Measure: As new parks are developed, examine the need for recreation facilities and determine new facilities appropriate to the parks and neighborhoods.

Goal: **Provide Murray City residents with recreation facilities that accommodate a variety of cultural opportunities and programs.**

Policy: Pursue funding for a community theater space, which includes space for community meetings and group gatherings.

Implementation Measure: Work with Murray City Arts Advisory Board to explore available funding sources and partnership opportunities.

Implementation Measure: Identify a site which is large enough to include the community theater, as well as community rooms for gathering and functions.

Goal: **Provide Murray City residents with a coordinated and integrated network of multi-purpose trails and pedestrian pathways.**

Policy: Embrace the establishment of a coordinated and integrated trail system.

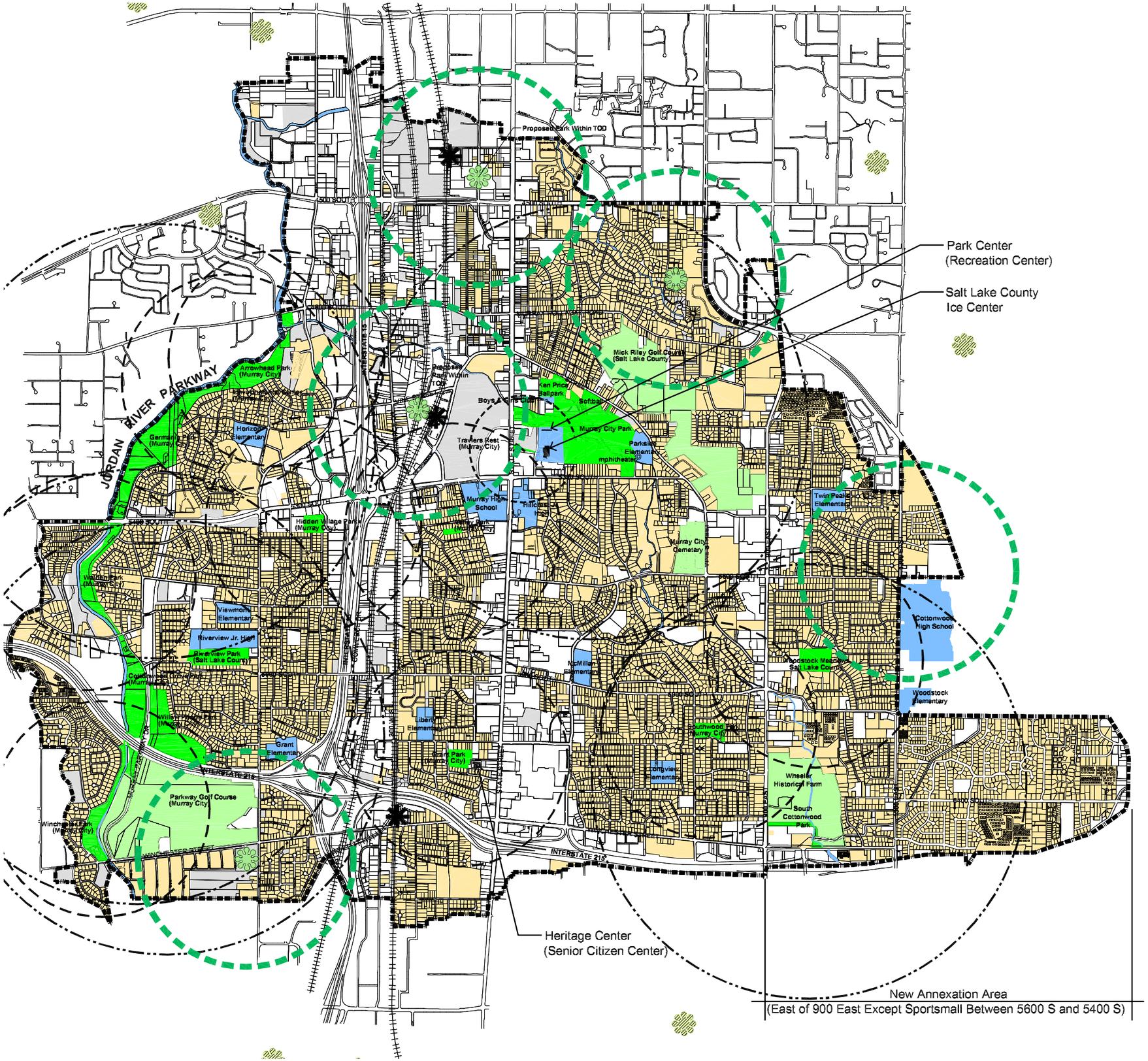
Implementation Measure: Designate and convert the major street system as the pedestrian trail system.

Implementation Measure: Establish a fully coordinated and linked system of Shared Use Paths.

Implementation Measure: Prioritize and coordinate the implementation of trail improvements.

Murray City General Plan Revision/Update

Parks & Recreation Facilities



Existing Parks (included in Needs Analysis)
Open Space (golf courses, Wheeler Farm, cemetery)
Schools
Residential Landuse
Vacant Land

Mini Park, 0.25 mile radius
Neighborhood Park, 0.5 mile radius
Community Park, 1.0 mile radius

Proposed Neighborhood Park
Proposed Neighborhood Park, 0.5 mile radius

Parks in Adjacent Communities

UTA Trax Station
Rail Line
Municipal Boundary

0' 600' 1200' 2400'

NORTH

Map 6-1

APRIL 2003

MURRAY PUBLIC SERVICES

LANDMARK DESIGN INCORPORATED

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE AND LAND PLANNING

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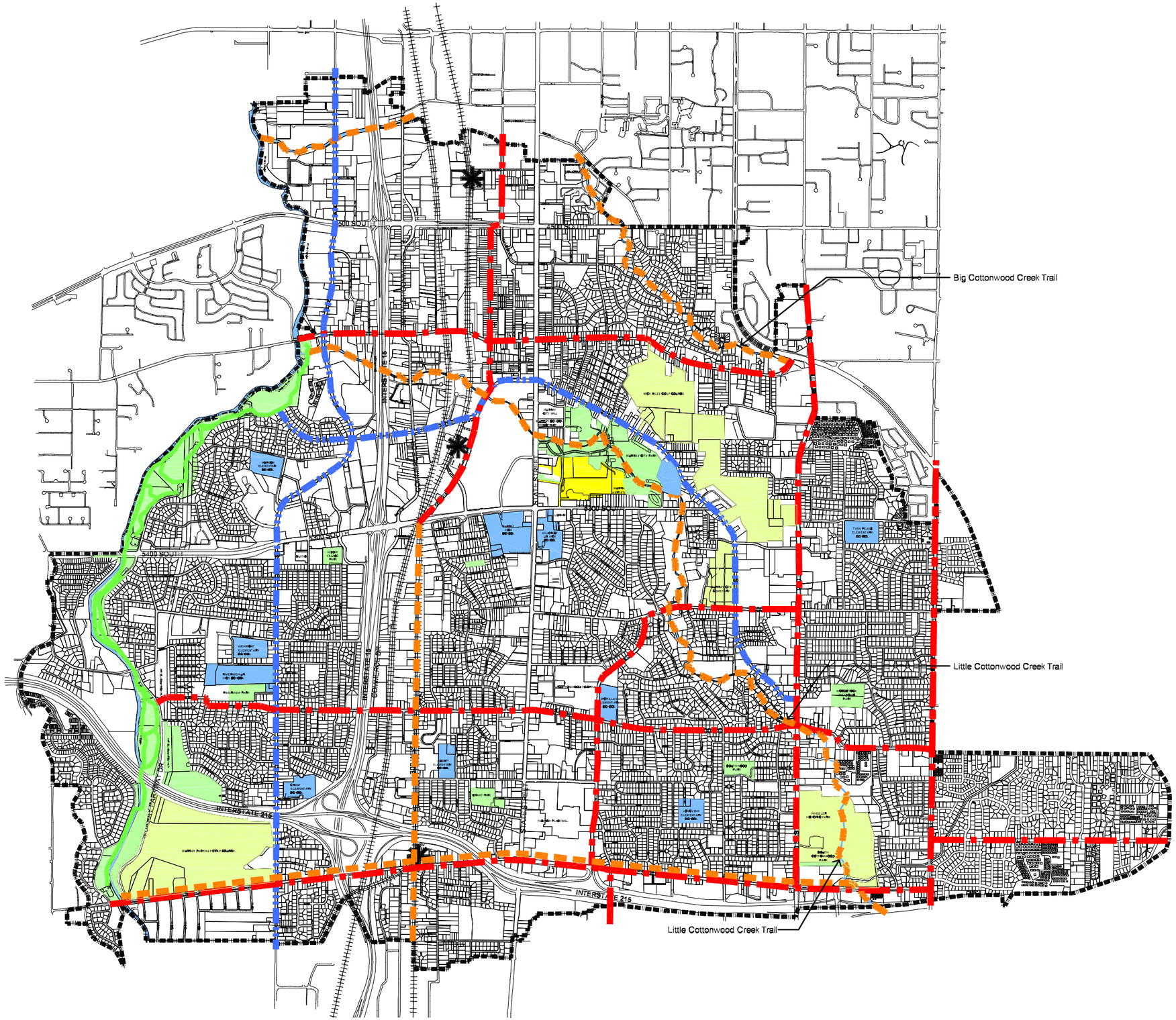
Murray City General Plan Revision/Update

Trails Plan



- Separated Shared Use Trail
- Striped Bicycle Lane or Signed Shared Roadway
- Signed Shared Roadway
- Existing Trail
- Existing Park
- Open Space (Golf courses, Wheeler Farm, Cemetery)
- School
- Recreation Center
- UTA Trax Station
- Rail Line
- Municipal Boundary

0' 600' 1200' 2400'

NORTH

Map 6-2

APRIL 2003

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