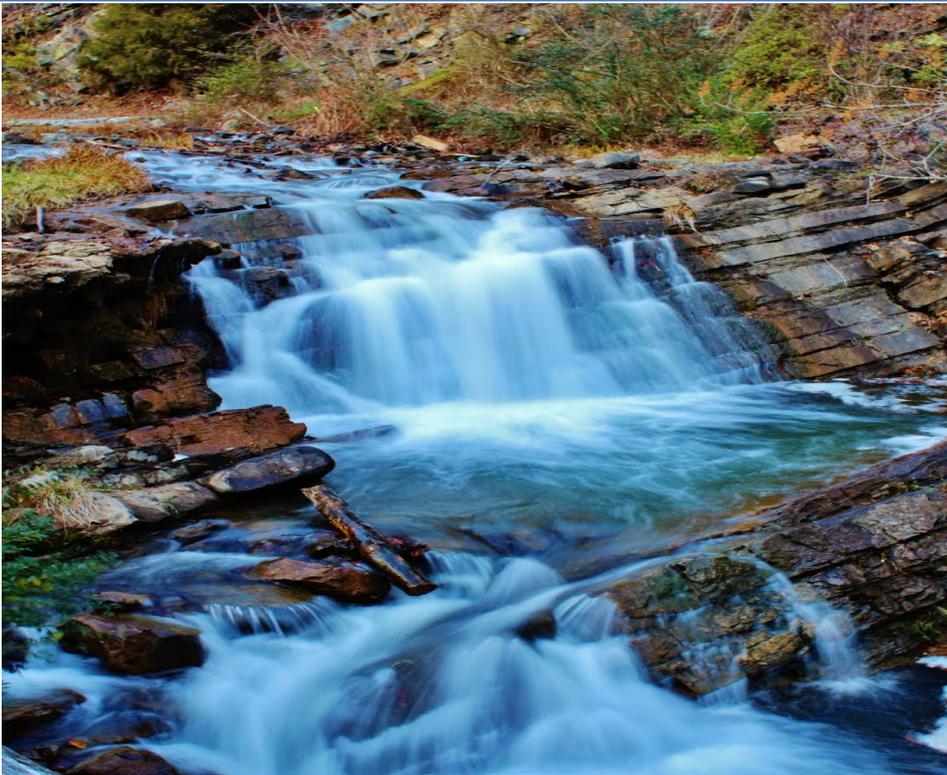




2014

## Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan



Endorsed: February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2015

City of Bristol, Tennessee

Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan

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# Chapter 1: Introduction

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The Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan marks an exciting milestone for the City of Bristol in the evolution of its park system. Though the City of Bristol has been investing in and providing stewardship of parks and greenways since its establishment as a City, this document is the first-ever comprehensive plan for parks. The purpose of this long range master plan is to properly meet the park and recreation needs of the citizens of Bristol for the future as well as the present. The City of Bristol will advance the community's vision of the park system by:

- Documenting the existing system and the planning process;
- Presenting a Park System Concept that implements the vision and builds on Bristol's past efforts;
- Identifying future park and facility needs as Bristol grows and evolves;
- Providing recommendation for each existing park and major facility;
- Discussing approaches to operating and sustaining the system;
- Providing criteria to prioritize recommendations and projects in the coming years; and
- Presenting an implementation plan.

While reading this comprehensive park and recreation plan you may find yourself asking a very important question. What is "recreation planning"? It is a process that determines the essential recreation needs of the people – who they are, where they live and what they want. Planning is the most important step in establishing a recreation delivery system to meet the needs of a community.

The development of a comprehensive recreation plan serves as:

- A guide to the orderly development of existing areas.
- A guide to the selection and development of new areas and facilities to meet existing and future needs.
- A guide for a comprehensive program to serve all ages and interests, all hours of the day and all seasons of the year.
- A guide to assure the maximum functional use of each recreation facility.
- A practical plan for immediate and long range action with respect to programs, park areas, open space, facilities and finances.

- A tool to justify the financing and development of programs and facilities through local budgets and various grant opportunities.
- A guide to assure the maximum benefit for each dollar spent for administration, land, personnel, program activities and construction.
- A tool for avoiding duplication and overlap of service areas and facilities.
- An itinerary for preparation of construction plans that ensures each development is a component of a larger, comprehensive plan.
- A guide that expedites development where labor, materials and funds are available.
- A guide for zoning appropriate sites for parks, parkways, and recreation areas.
- A tool for promoting effective programs for better health, better learning, better training and better living for all citizens.

The Parks and Recreation Department provides recreational needs not only for the citizens of Bristol, Tennessee, but also services members of surrounding communities such as Sullivan County, which has no department of recreation, Washington County and Bristol, Virginia. It is important to the viability of the Bristol community that a comprehensive recreation plan is developed to ensure the community is well-served now and is prepared for future recreation and open space needs.

## Community Information

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Bristol, Tennessee lies in the Ridge and Valley Province of northeastern Tennessee. The ridge and valley topography has had, and will continue to have, a profound effect on land development, which has occurred primarily on the flat to moderately hilly portions of the city. Topography continues to influence the location decisions related to land development in Bristol. Previous studies by the City of Bristol have indicated that approximately 5,420 acres (thirteen percent of the total land area) in the Bristol area (mainly including the Beaver Creek Knobs and Whitetop Knobs) have extreme slopes and very limited opportunities for development. Surrounded by the Holston Mountains and blessed with a peaceful country setting, the City of Bristol is set to offer its residents many opportunities to improve their quality of life.

### *Location and Size*

Bristol, Tennessee is located in Sullivan County in the northeastern corner of the state and currently has almost 32 square miles of land area. The area within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB) for the City of Bristol includes approximately thirty-five square miles of land in

unincorporated Sullivan County. The City of Bristol and the land within the UGB form the sixty-five square mile study area for this Parks and Recreation Plan.

The Virginia/Tennessee state line is located in the center of State Street. According to information from the Greater Bristol Chamber of Commerce, in 1881, the center of Main Street (now State Street) was designated as the State Line by the respective city councils. In 1903, Tennessee ceded to Virginia the land needed to move the line into the middle of the street. During the same year the line was accepted by the Virginia General Assembly and by consent of the U.S. Congress. Presently, along State Street, metal plates following the centerline mark the exact boundary between these two famous cities that straddle the border. Both Bristol's, along with Kingsport and Johnson City, Tennessee serve as the main anchors of the region known as the Tri-Cities.

## Regional Location Map



The City of Bristol has direct access to the interstate system. Interstate 81 follows the west boundary of the city running southwest to northeast. U.S. Highway 11W enters the city’s west border and continues on northeast. U.S. Highway 11E enters Bristol at its south boundary and joins 11W to form U.S. Highway 11 running east. U.S. Highway 421 comes in from the southeast and continues on a northwest course. These highways all provide excellent transportation corridors for tourists and commuters. Bristol is within a day’s drive of more than 70 percent of the U.S. population.

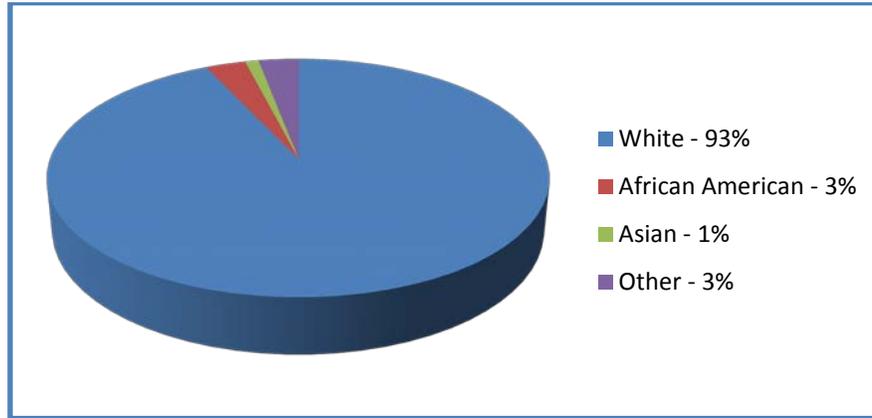
### *Population Characteristics Within the City Limits (2010 US Census)*

The following is a summary of the findings on the analysis of ethnicity, education, income and population for the City of Bristol, Tennessee.

## Ethnicity

The racial composition of Bristol is predominately white, with 93% of the population comprising this category. African Americans make up more than 3% of the population; followed by other races that comprise 4% of the current population.

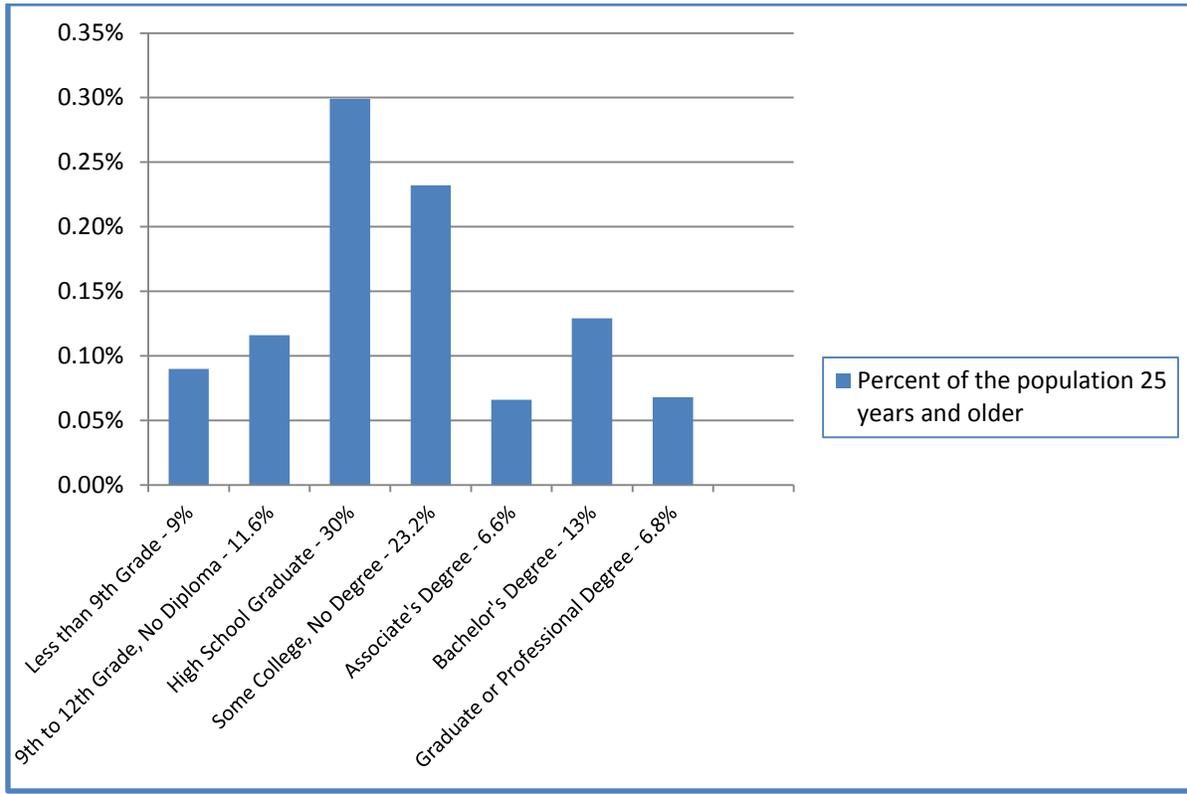
**Ethnicity: Percent of Total Population**



## Educational Attainment of the Population 25 Years and Older

In 2010, 30% of citizens in the City of Bristol, twenty-five years and older, have at most a high school diploma. At the County Level, it is just over 34% and for the State of Tennessee, the figure is 33%. The percentage of the population 25 years and older graduating with an associate's degree is 6.6%, a bachelor's degree is 13%, and a graduate or professional degree is 6.8%. The City of Bristol barely fell below the State average on these categories, with the State having 6% with associate degrees, 15% with bachelor degrees, and 8% with graduate or professional degrees.

## Educational Attainment



### Income in 2010

According to the 2010 Census, Tennessee's median household income (based on a three year average) ranked 47<sup>th</sup> among the 50 states and District of Columbia. The median household income for Bristol was \$35,320; Sullivan County was \$40,572; Tennessee was \$43,989. The United States median household income from 2007-2011 was \$52,762.

Category	Bristol	Sullivan County	Tennessee
Median Household Income	\$35,320	\$40,572	\$43,989
Per Capita Personal Income	\$22,141	\$23,536	\$24,197
Median Family Income	\$46,533	\$51,914	\$54,332

### City of Bristol Household Income in 2010

Range	Number of Households	Percent
Less than \$10,000	1,232	10.5%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	1,074	9.2%

\$15,000 to \$24,999	1,963	16.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	1,521	13.0%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	2,102	18.0%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	1,681	14.4%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	986	8.4%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	711	6.1%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	142	1.2%
\$200,000 or more	294	2.5%

### Total Population

The total population in Bristol is almost divided equally between the two genders, with 52.4% of the population being female and 47.6% being male. The median age is 42 years old. While 75% of the population is 21 years or older, only 18% of the population is 65 years and older.

### Total Population in 2010

Age	Amount	Percent
0-4	1,442	5.4%
5-9	1,514	5.7%
10-14	1,562	5.8%
15-19	1,766	6.6%
20-24	1,551	5.8%
25-29	1,447	5.4%
30-34	1,560	5.8%
35-39	1,751	6.6%
40-44	1,737	6.5%
45-49	1,992	7.5%
50-54	1,933	7.2%
55-59	1,902	7.1%
60-64	1,707	6.4%
65-69	1,327	5.0%
70-74	1,076	4.0%
75-79	924	3.5%
80-84	833	3.1%
85 +	678	2.5%
<b>Total Population = 26,702</b>		

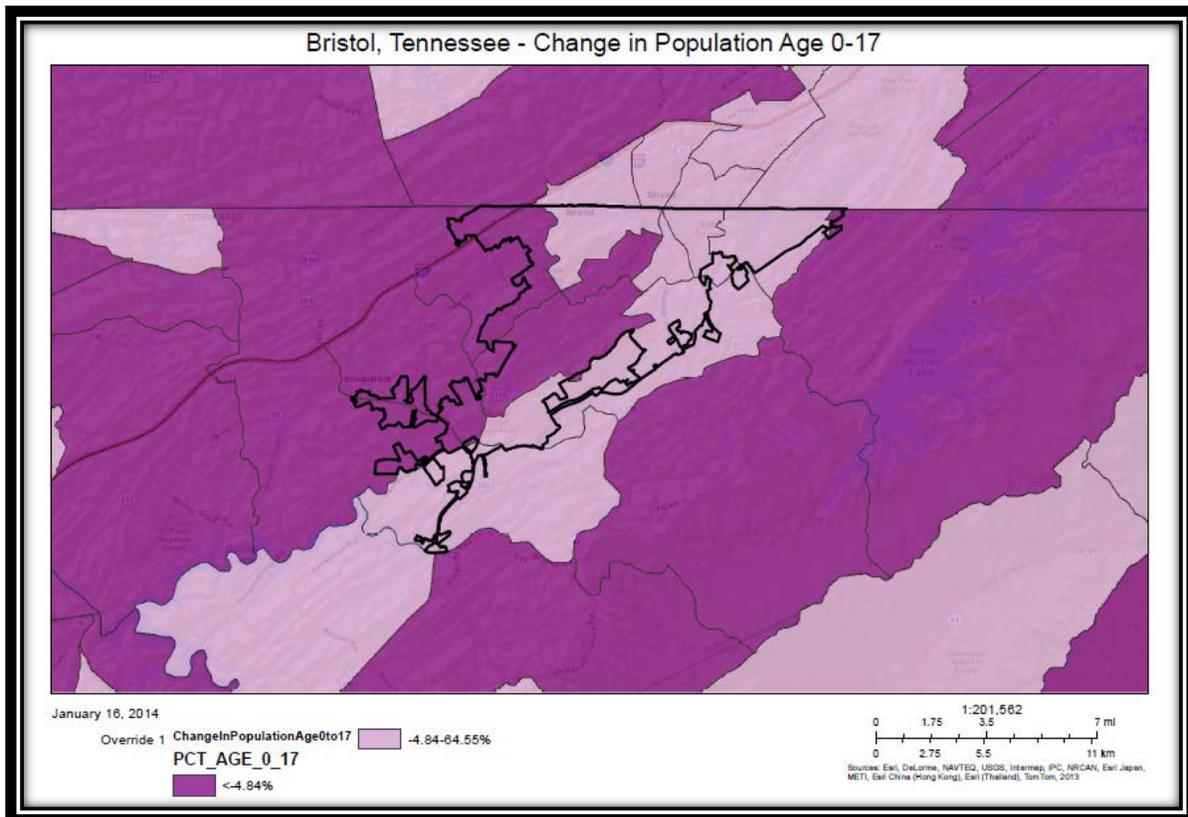
## Population Projections

In June of 2009, The University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research conducted a study on the population projections for every County and City in the State of Tennessee. The following table displays data from the year 2000 through 2030. As shown, the City of Bristol and Sullivan County gradually decrease in population in each five year increment. As for the State of Tennessee, it is forecasted a sharp increase during every five year increment.

Year	Bristol, TN	Sullivan County, TN	Tennessee
2000	24,821	153,048	5,689,283
2005	25,065	152,092	5,989,309
2010	24,865	150,962	6,229,564
2015	24,616	149,343	6,600,486
2020	24,366	147,465	6,860,231
2025	24,182	145,737	7,130,776
2030	23,908	143,378	7,397,302

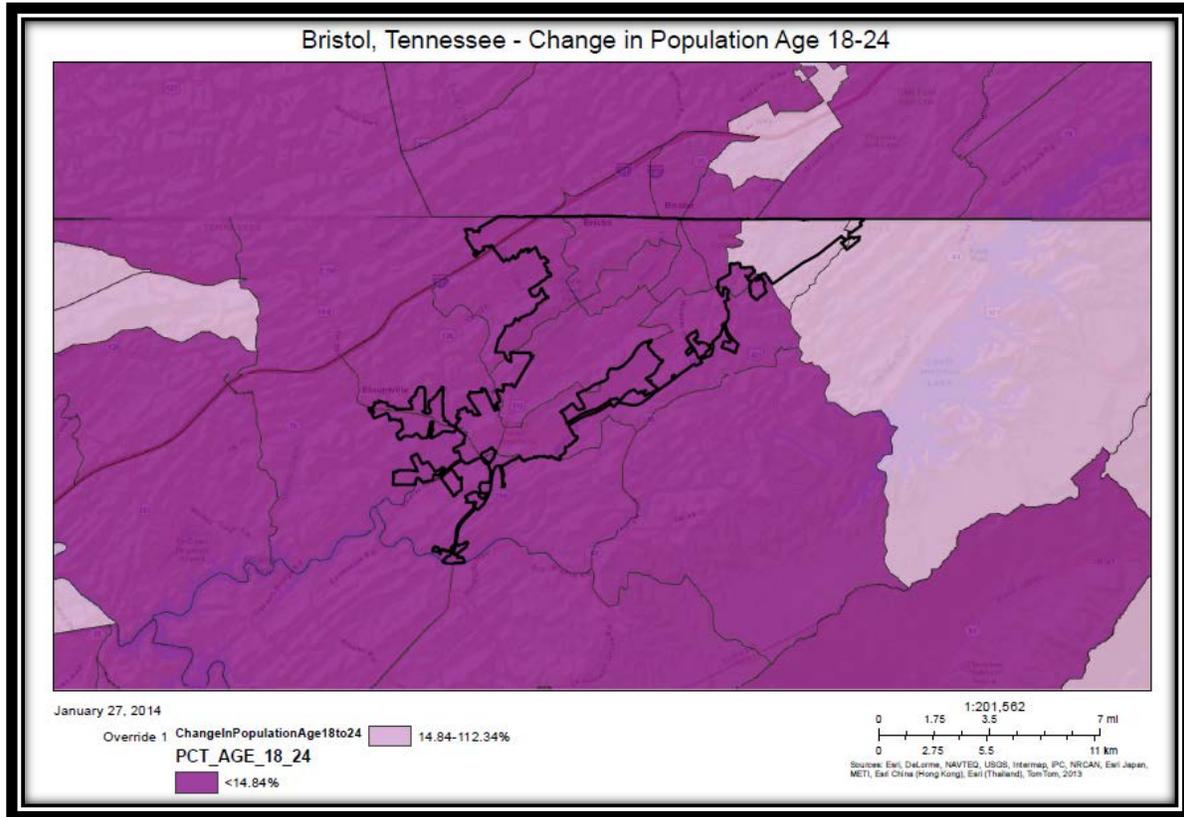
## Change in Population Age 0-17

The image below shows the change in Bristol’s population age 0-17. The changes show that an increase primarily occurred in the northern, eastern and southern regions of the City.



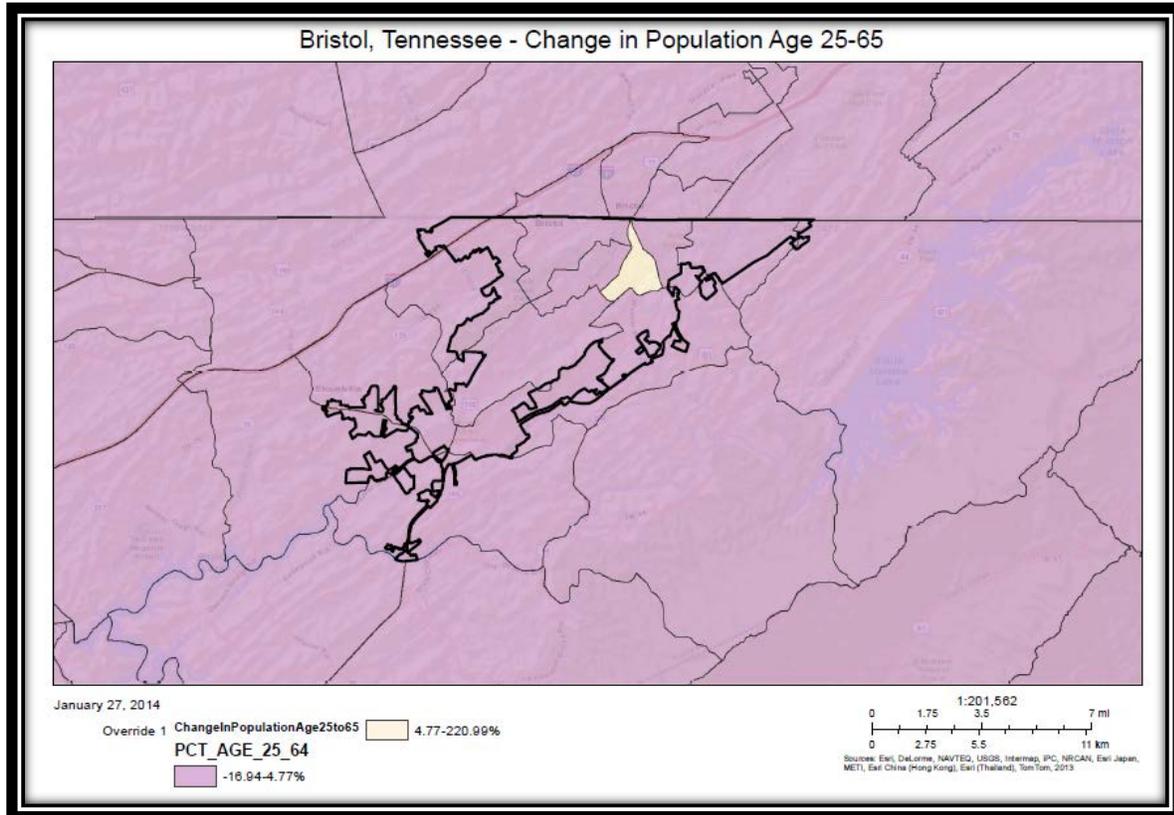
## Change in Population Age 18-24

The image below shows the change in Bristol's population age 18-24. The changes show that an increase primarily occurred in the northeastern region of the City.



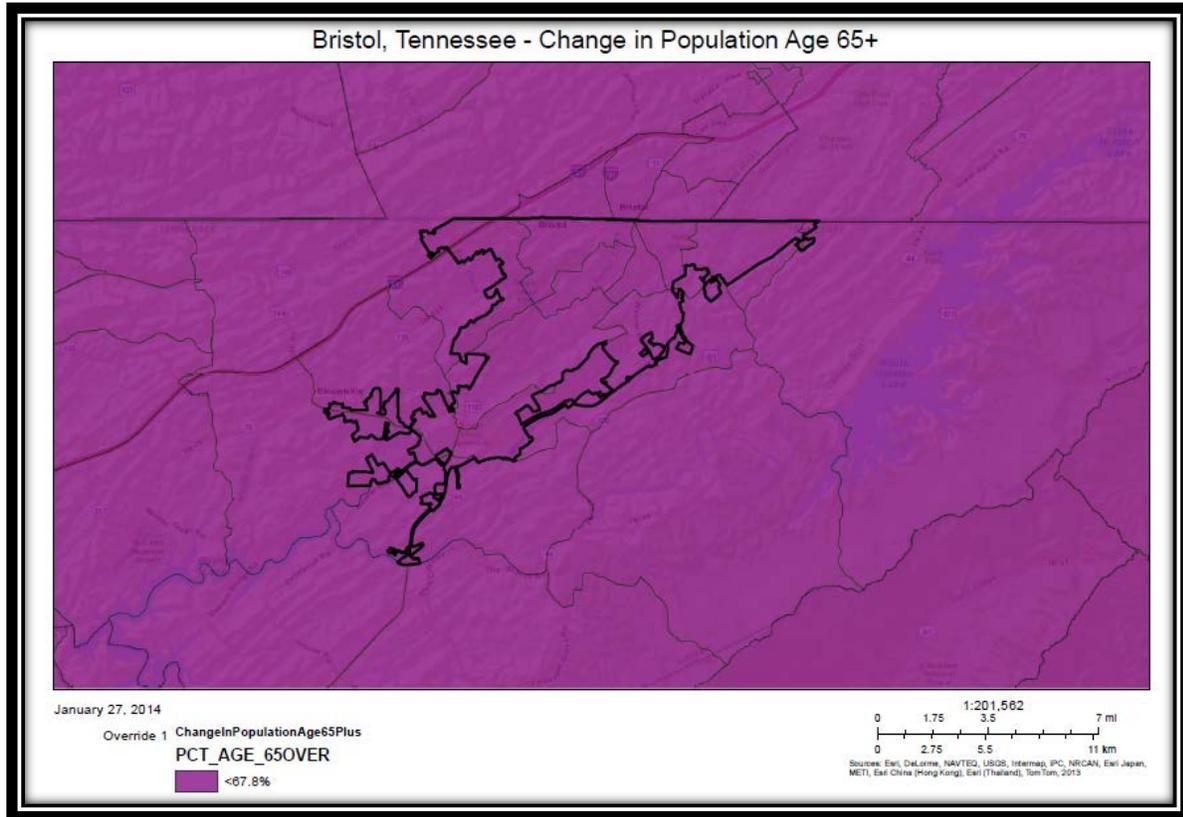
## Change in Population Age 25-65

The image below shows the change in Bristol's population age 25-65. The changes show that an increase primarily occurred in a small region in the center of the City.



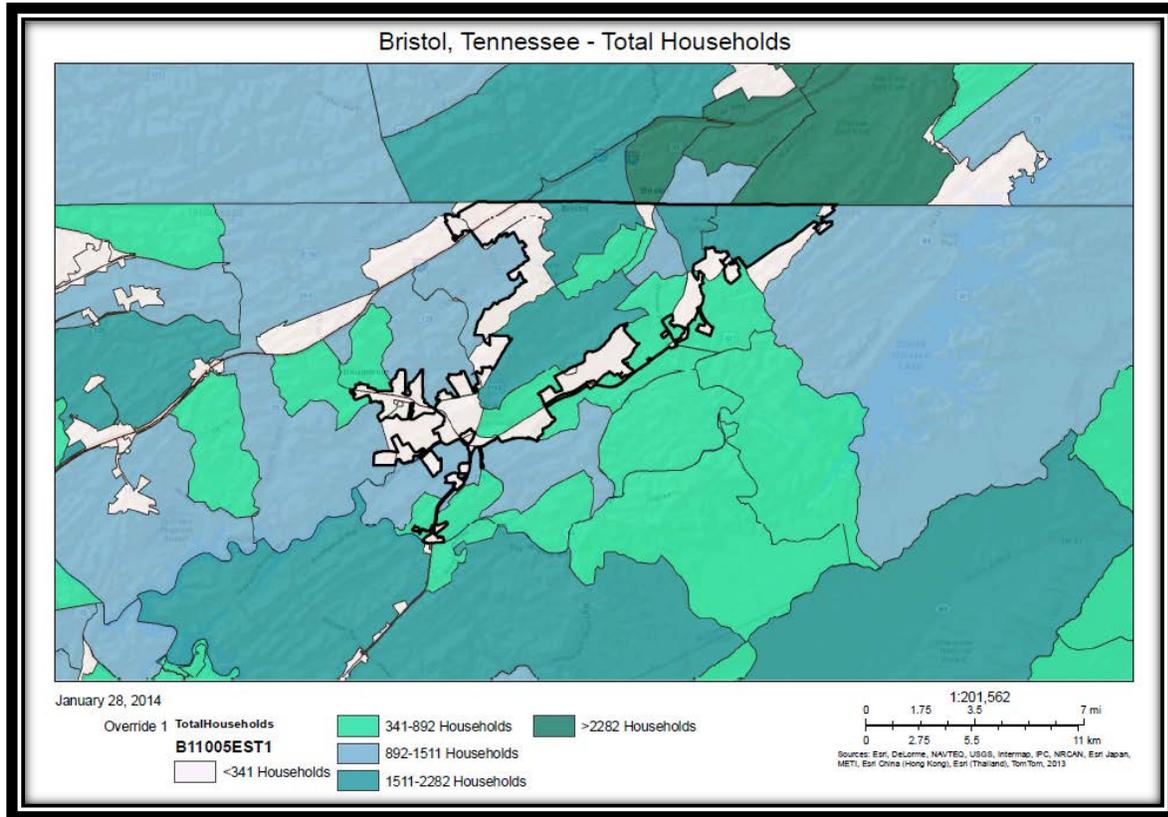
## Change in Population Age 65+

The image below shows the change in Bristol's population age 65+. The image shows that the City of Bristol is seeing a decline in the population age 65+ throughout the entire City.



## Total Households

The image below shows the change in Bristol's total households. The image illustrates that Bristol is seeing the largest increase in households around the northeastern, central, and downtown sections of the City.



## Existing Land Use

A survey of the current land use for each parcel in the study area was conducted during the months of October and November 2002. The term “land use” describes what type of development is on the land, such as houses, parks, offices, store or factories. The land use survey was an examination of existing land development patterns to serve as a starting point for the development of future plan alternatives. The results of the survey are described below and shown on Figure 1-7: Existing Land Use (applied to the 2005 city limits).

The following land use classifications were used for both the City of Bristol and the Urban Growth Area.

**Agricultural** – Included areas used for crop production, livestock, dairy farms, grazing pastures, forestry, or land with agricultural structures.

**Commercial** – Included uses related to the provision of products and services for profit, such as retail stores, gas stations, restaurants and mini-storage facilities.

**Community Facilities** – Areas with public or quasi-public functions, such as government offices, schools, churches, cemeteries, hospitals, meeting halls, libraries, museums and convention centers.

**Industrial** – Uses involved in the processing, manufacturing or distribution of materials or products.

**Manufactured Housing** – Factory-built dwelling units, including mobile homes and manufactured homes either on individual lots or within a subdivision or mobile home park.

**Multi-family Residential** – Included structures containing two or more dwelling units, including duplexes; single-family dwelling conversions; townhouses; condominiums; and apartments.

**Office** – Buildings in which the primary use was the conduct of a business where professional or medical services were provided, such as accounting, engineering, legal services and real estate brokers.

**Parks and Recreation** – This category included public or private parks and other outdoor recreation areas such as golf courses.

**Right-of-way** – This category included public road (federal, state, or local) and alley rights-of-way as well as the right-of-way of the Norfolk Southern Railway.

**Single-family Residential** – This category included detached, site-built houses on individual lots, regardless of the size of the dwelling unit or the lot.

**Utilities** – These uses included wireless communication towers, radio towers, electrical substations, telephone switching stations, pump stations, easements for electrical power lines, and other such transmission facilities.

**Vacant or Undeveloped** – This category consisted of vacant lots in developed areas and wooded areas not associated with agriculture or recreation.

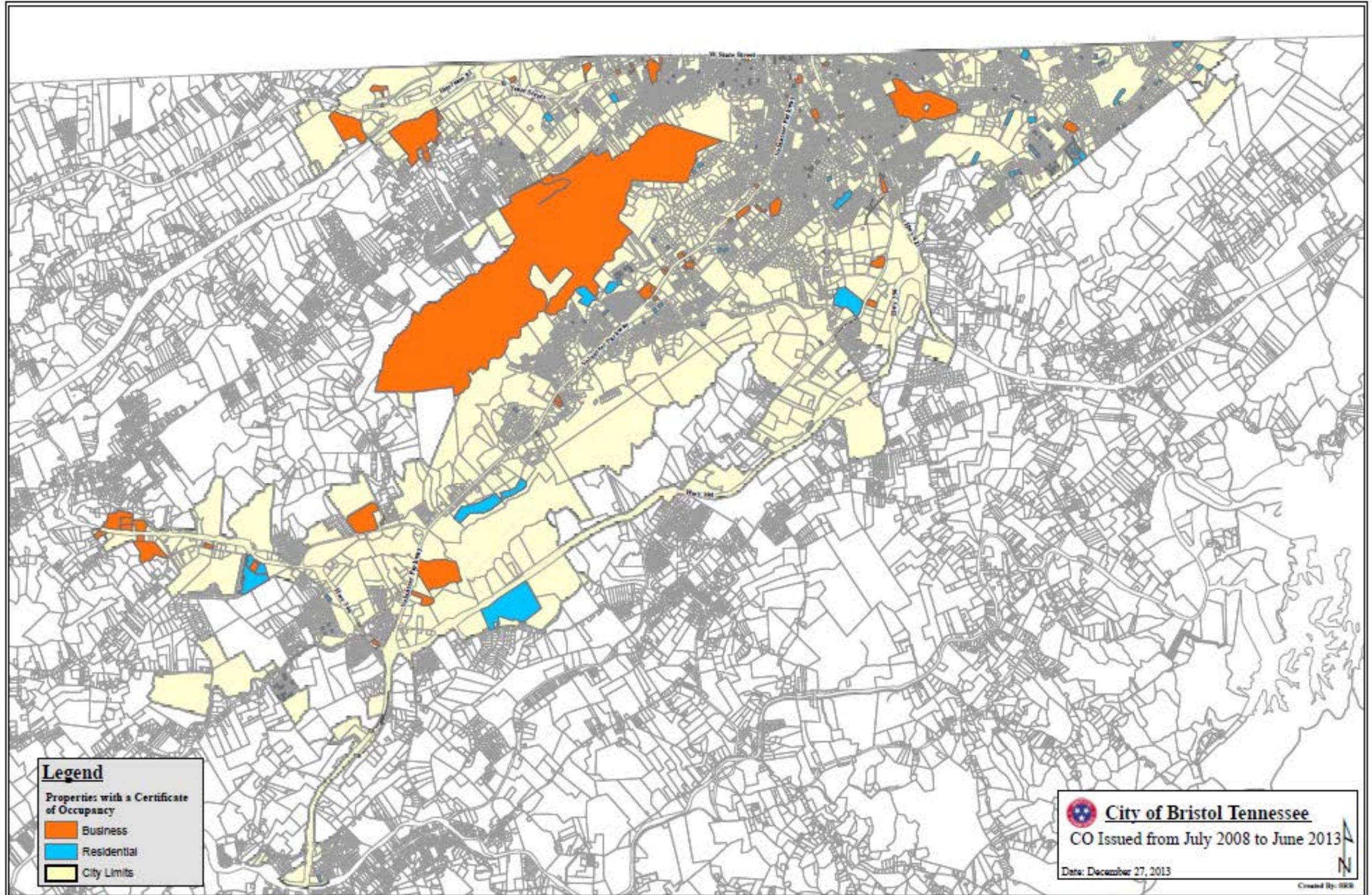
### Existing Land Use

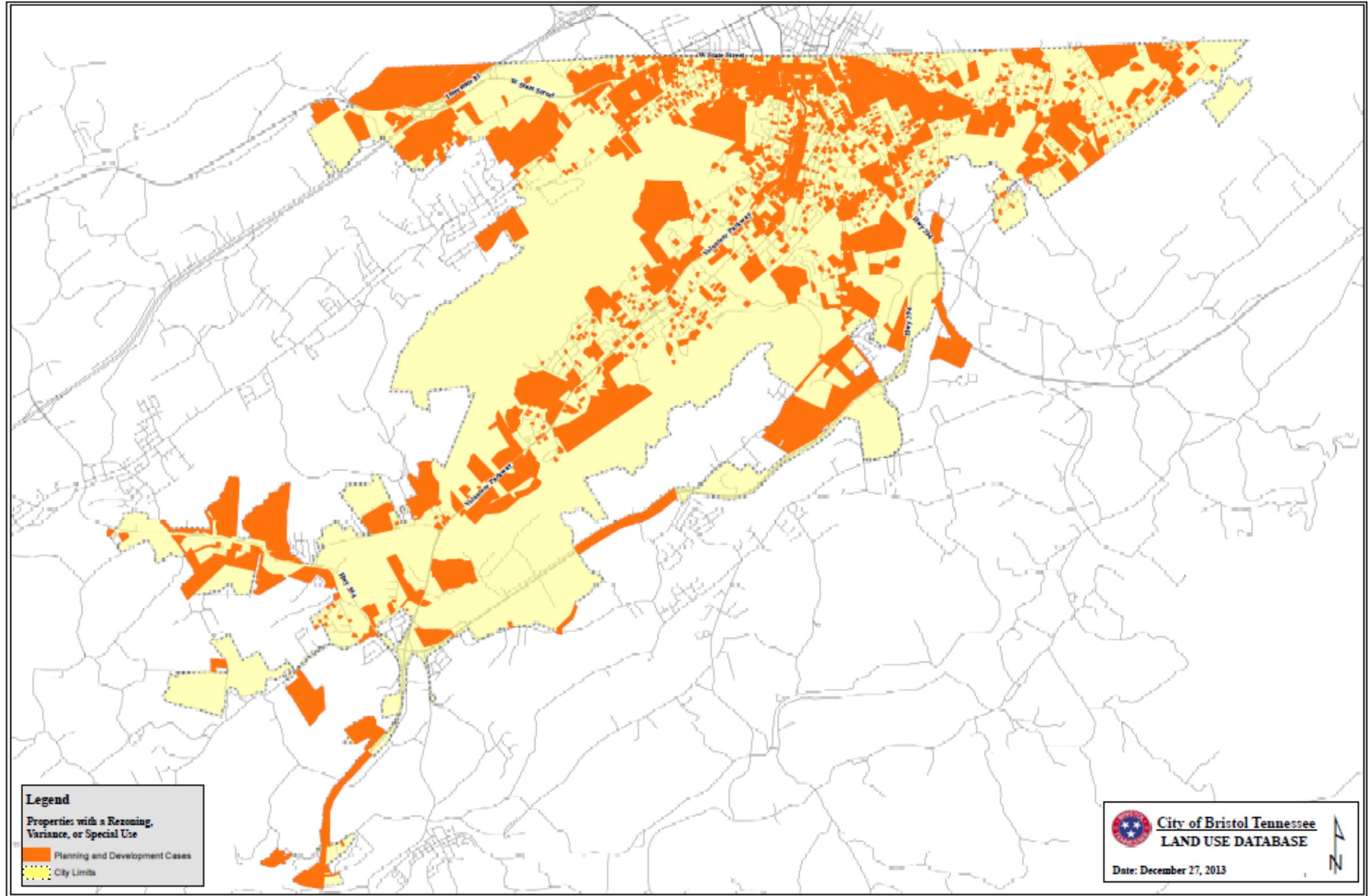
Existing Land Use	Total Acres	% of Land
Vacant or undeveloped	3,874	19.03
Agricultural	2,640	12.97
Single-family Residential	4,446	21.84
Multi-family Residential	296	1.45
Manufactured Housing	158	0.78
Commercial	1,641	8.06

Office	62	0.30
Community Facilities	1,700	8.35
Utilities	36	0.18
Industrial	772	3.79
Parks and Recreation	2,299	11.30
Right-of-way	2,429	11.93
TOTAL=	20,353	100.00

### *Certificate of Occupancy and Land Use Database Information*

Below there are maps of the City of Bristol’s certificate of occupancy history (Page 15) and their land use database information (Page 16). A certificate of occupancy is issued by the City when a construction project is completed, whether it is for business or residential. This map helps the City keep track of construction throughout the region and is a good indicator of areas that are receiving a significant amount of attention. The second map, land use database, is a map that shows all planning and development cases throughout the City. These cases represent a piece of property that has received a rezoning, variance, or special use. This map is equally important in displaying areas of the community that are receiving a significant amount of attention.





# Parks and Recreation

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Bristol, Tennessee's first Park and Recreation Plan was prepared in 1958. A Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee was established in 1961 to create a Parks and Recreation Department to provide recreation services to the entire community. The 1958 plan made the following recommendations:

1. That the City establish a park board with funds to hire a full-time, trained and experienced director and that the board be charged with the responsibility of developing and carrying out a year-round recreation program and improving existing recreation areas.
2. That the City secures additional recreation space in the study area inside the corporate limits in at least the minimum amounts noted in the report.
3. That the City give consideration to securing combined school and recreation sites in the urban fringe while such sites were still available.
4. That the City proceed with the development of a city park to include a municipal swimming pool and a municipal golf course on the property under lease from the state (known as Watauga State Park at that time and what is now Steele Creek Park).

A later plan, completed in 1974, pays homage to Bristol's quantity and diversity of recreational amenities. This plan notes that three large lakes and two smaller ones, of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), are within one hour's drive from Bristol and they provide boating, fishing, picnicking, water skiing, water fowl hunting and aesthetic opportunities. The plan also calls attention to two nearby National Forests, a State Park and several golf courses. More importantly, the 1974 plan acknowledges both the establishment of the Parks and Recreation Department and the variety of facilities and activities/programs being provided. The document notes that recreational facilities for the citizens of Bristol, Tennessee and the surrounding area consist of ten "active-passive" parks, four passive parks, two swimming pools, ten tennis courts, five baseball fields, and five softball fields. The wide array of programs (softball, football, basketball, baseball, playgrounds, tennis, swimming, day camp, hiking, golf, community education, and special city-wide events) was noted.

The Bristol Parks and Recreation Department has continued to grow and provide amenities for the citizens. As a result of that growth, the department was split in 1987 into two divisions, Parks and Recreation and Municipal Property Maintenance. The department was reorganized again in 1991 to combine Parks and Recreation and Municipal Property Maintenance as the Department of Leisure Services. A recent reorganization renamed the organization the Bristol Tennessee Parks and Recreation Department. Current practice is to include parks and recreation in the community efforts of comprehensive planning.

Today, the Department of Parks and Recreation provides and maintains over 2,300 acres of park lands and facilities. Programming includes athletics, cultural arts, natural opportunities, health and fitness, seniors programs, as well as educational opportunities. The Department cosponsors several programs and events with other agencies, including the Paramount Theater and Bristol, Virginia Parks and Recreation Departments. In 1997, the Department received the Governor’s Award of Excellence in Parks and Recreation, which recognizes the efforts of park and recreation staff and their programming improvements over the previous year. The Department has been awarded capital improvement grants from several entities including state and federal agencies.

The Department receives direction from a legally constituted ten member Advisory Commission. The basic functions of the Commission are:

- to recommend properties to be purchased, leased, and/or developed as parks;
- to be an advisory body responsible for providing guidelines and direction in meeting the recreation needs of the citizens of Bristol, Tennessee; and
- to suggest any policy and procedure changes pertaining to the Director’s responsibilities or operation.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission is composed of ten citizens of the City of Bristol, including one high school student. The nine citizen members are appointed by city council for three year terms and are voting members. The Department Director serves in an ex-officio capacity.

Jim Goodwin presently serves as Chairman. The following is a current list of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission members:

David Akard	Susi Chandler	Chris Connally
Erin Hyde	Karen Combs	Chris Estep
Sherry Willinger	Jason Booher	Jim Goodwin
	Nelson Lundberg (student)	

Terry Napier has served as the Director of Parks and Recreation in a full-time capacity since August 2007. Prior to this, Mr. Napier served as the Administrative Lieutenant for the Bristol Police Department, beginning his career in 1991. He is a member of the National Recreation and Parks Association and the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association. He also serves as the East Tennessee representative to the State Famers Market Association.

In 1998, the Parks and Recreation Technical Advisory Service (PARTAS) and the Recreation Planning Section of the Recreation Resources Division of the State of Tennessee Department of

Environment and Conservation (TDEC) prepared an assessment of the Department of Leisure Services. This assessment provided recommendations for improving the current level of services. The following is a list of recommendations for open space, land development and facilities per park:

#### **Anderson Park**

- With the location of Anderson Park centrally placed in the city, the installation of lighting would be an excellent addition to this site.

#### **Avoca Park**

- Additional parking is recommended.
- Bathrooms should be brought up to current ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.
- Several utility lines were noted above ground. PARTAS recommends the underground installation of all utility lines in park boundaries.

#### **Barker Park**

- The construction of a walking trail might benefit residents of this small, neighborhood park.

#### **Cedar Valley**

- As in Barker Park, the addition of a walking trail or possibly a fitness trail would benefit the neighborhood residents.

#### **Clay Park**

- Renovation or repair of the roof is required on one of the small pavilions.

#### **Wes Davis Park**

- ADA access needs improvement.
- Missing toddler swing should be replaced.

#### **DeFriece Park**

- Several S-hooks need replacement on the swingset.
- ADA accessibility must be improved.
- Tall slide should be removed. According to the current CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) guidelines on playground safety, the steps are too narrow, the transfer section has little protection against falls and there is inadequate use zone at the end of the slide.

- Two end swings are beginning to decay.
- Pole on swingset should be replaced due to structural damage.
- Erosion problems around pond must be addressed.

### **Holsten View Park**

- Missing swing should be replaced.
- Swing seats beginning to decay.
- Placement of utility lines should be underground.
- Netting around batting cage needs to be tied down.
- ADA access to Little League field must be improved.
- Center straps are recommended for tennis courts.
- Replace park benches in dugouts with appropriate type of bench.

### **Jersey Park**

- Park should be maintained as open space for further development.

### **Little Creek Park**

- Large hole on site should be filled.
- Utility lines should be installed underground.
- Small section of surplus railroad track should be removed.
- Safety guardrail recommended between park boundary and drop-off to creek.

### **Multi-Purpose Park**

- Parking should not be allowed on soccer fields if wet.

### **Oakwood Park**

- One swing seat beginning to decay.
- Evidence of automobile traffic through park boundaries (park has been constructed over an existing open alley).
- Trash can needs replacement.
- Installation of safety barriers would restrict the intrusion of motorized traffic and also aid in children's safety. At the present time, there are no barriers between the park and the street.

### **Orchard Street**

- Park benches require painting.

## **Patterson Park**

- Swingset should be moved further away from trees, inadequate usage zone.
- Slide needs painting, steps too narrow, inadequate fall zone, top transfer point needs safety support to guard against possible falls.
- Safety surface needs leveling, too thick in some areas.
- Holes need to be filled.
- Several swing seats beginning to decay and S-hooks need replacements.
- Safety surface should be replaced, currently it is comprised of inappropriate spare tree mulch.
- Toddler swing needs painting, S-hooks need to be replaced, and swing seat is too low.
- Rocking animals need painting.
- Center straps required on tennis courts.

## **Rooster Front Park**

- Excellent aesthetics at this park site.
- Older playground needs renovation.
- Several swing seats beginning to decay; S-hooks need replacement.
- Center straps required on tennis courts.
- Safety of park site would benefit tremendously from the addition of a two-rail wooden fence from the beginning of the park to the first bridge. At current time, no barriers are present to keep children away from swift-moving creek.

## **Rotary Ballfield**

- Utility lines should be installed underground.
- Entry/exit to park facility inadequate, while parking is available across the street, additional parking required. Access to park currently requires visitors to cross well-travelled city street.
- Bathroom concession stand is too close to playing field. People walking from the stands to the bathroom/concessions building are directly in the path of home-side foul balls. Safety barriers should be constructed to insure adequate protection of visitors.
- Old playground equipment should be replaced or removed and additional safety surfacing is needed.
- Swingset has four swings per bay. CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) guidelines specify two swings per bay.

## **Slater Community Center**

- Lounge- Drop ceiling to cover lighting and air ducts would increase aesthetics of the room.

- Weight Room- Repair or remove the three missing light fixtures. Relocated the barbell rack to allow better access to the weights (possibly relocate stationary bicycles).
- Cafeteria- Drop ceiling could be incorporated in this room as well to increase aesthetics. Access to kitchen area should be restricted; during inspection, this area was unlocked. Air conditioning equipment should be enclosed. Wires for speaker system should be relocated and hidden.
- Gymnasium- Gym floor requires refinishing.
- Auditorium- ADA access was above average although signs for access point to the wrong entrance.
- Upstairs bathrooms- No ADA access to stalls.
- Fire exits- Extremely steep. No apparent ADA fire escape from top floor.

### **Steele Creek Park**

- Excellent aesthetics and natural surrounding are showcased in grand fashion.
- Inadequate number of speed limit signs. PARTAS recommends that several speed limit signs should be added.
- Possible removal of the \$1 admission fee should be studied. This fee could be added to the Nature Center instead. It is unusual to incorporate an admission fee at a facility where free parking is available approximately five feet from the open park boundary. Positive public relations may be increased with this change.
- Nature Center- Hours need to be clearly posted on outside of building (possibly on facility sign).
- Mill Creek- Trash should be removed from stream.
- Boat house- Slight erosion problems in back must be addressed. Fee schedule for all rentals should be posted on-site.
- Shelter B playground- Inadequate safety surfacing (more material needed), ADA access needs improvement. One slide is extremely high, possible fall hazard. Possible pinch/crush point on wooden bridge. Erosion along creek bank may eventually lead to destruction of walking trail.
- Civitan playground- Safety surface requires more material. Toddler swing should be installed away from regular swingset. One swing too low, check overall height on all swings (24" from ground to swing seat recommended). Use zone must be widened to appropriate CPSC (Consumer Product Safety Commission) recommendations.
- F Shelter- Possible pinch/crush points on wooden bridge. More safety surfacing required. Roof on playground structure needs patching. ADA access to bridge over creek needs improvement.
- Practice field- Swings too low, should be increased to 24" from seat to ground. Swingset requires wider use zone sides. Safety surface needs replacement under swing seats.

## **Western Little League**

- Bleachers would benefit from renovation/painting.
- Trash in and around facility should be removed on a more frequent basis.
- Additional parking is highly recommended.
- Metal netting at the entrance to the dugouts should be replaced.

## ***Community Facilities***

There are 1,700 acres (8.35 percent) of community facilities scattered throughout the City of Bristol. Land uses in this category include the Bristol Regional Medical Center, City of Bristol property exclusive of parks and utilities, cemeteries, King University, National Guard Armory, landfill, wastewater treatment plant, private recreational facilities, public and private school facilities and many churches and other places of worship located throughout the community. It will be important to analyze the relative proximity of major community facilities to the population, as it is distributed within the city. While it is a significant benefit for the quality of life in Bristol, the range of community facilities represents a major budget commitment for capital improvements and for ongoing operation and maintenance.

## ***Parks and Recreation***

This land use category was the fifth largest in the city, consisting of 2,299 acres or 11.3 percent of the total land use. These areas are mainly located within or near residential developments. The largest use in this category is the 2,214-acre Steele Creek Park.

According to the City Department of Parks and Recreation, the oldest park facility in their inventory is Anderson Park, which was established in 1888. Located at Edgemont Avenue and Anderson Street near downtown Bristol, it is the setting for summer concerts. The newest facility is the 60-acre Whitetop Creek Park that was developed in the southern portion of the city in response to growth in that area. It will be important to monitor the amount of public use of existing park and recreation services and facilities, and to balance the annual revenue required to the public demand for the facilities.

# **Community Ownership**

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Citizen participation in the study is necessary to identify local needs and problems received by the community at large. From citizen participation, goals and objectives addressing the recognized needs and problems are identified. Part of this process for the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan was the selection by the City of Bristol of the Parks and Recreation Committee to serve on a Steering Committee for the project. The role of the Committee was to provide feedback and local information to the project team and to guide the focus areas of the study. The Steering Committee met for the first time on January 2, 2014. The purpose of the

meeting was to give the Committee members an orientation session on the project, to discuss their roles and responsibilities and to prepare for the next phase of the project. A second meeting was held on February 6, 2014, to present the recreational analysis and the results of a community survey.

On April 22, 2014, a public meeting was held at a lodge located at Steele Creek Park to provide opportunities for the Parks and Recreation Commission, Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center & Park, Planning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals to participate in developing the Comprehensive Park, Recreation and Greenways Plan. Approximately fifteen citizens attended the meetings. The project team presented the completed work to date and encouraged comments on parks and recreation opportunities. The project team also gave the attendees the survey results, as well as participation in break-out sessions to provide detailed feedback on Bristol's parks and recreation. In addition, the project team and City staff set up an area on the City's website for interested persons to read about the study, view maps, submit comments, and contact the project team.

### ***Community Survey Results: Examination of Issues and Opportunities***

A community survey form was distributed to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the kick-off meeting for the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan that took place on January 2, 2014. Forms were later distributed by City staff to the members who were not in attendance at the meeting. In January 2014, the surveys were distributed to the community in an array of methods. The survey was posted on the City of Bristol's website, given to Tennessee High School students, Citizens Municipal Academy graduates, Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center & Park, and paper copies were placed at the front desk of City Hall. Once the results started coming in, the survey created a milestone for the City of Bristol by becoming the first survey to receive over seventy (70) responses on just the first day.

The survey asked general questions about the Bristol community and asked respondents to identify strong points about their parks and recreational areas as well as areas for improvement. Respondents were also asked to provide comments on specific parks and recreation issues, such as facilities, recreational fields and the overall condition of the parks.

Respondents were asked to complete the survey forms independently (not as a group). However, the responses are relatively consistent in most categories and have provided initial direction and an idea of some focus areas for the study. The questions are listed below and discussed in greater detail in Chapter 2.

### ***City of Bristol Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey 2014***

**Do you live in the City of Bristol Tennessee?      Yes \_\_\_\_\_      No \_\_\_\_\_**

**How long have you lived in Bristol?**

Under 1 yr	1-5 yrs	6-10 yrs	11-15 yrs	16 + yrs

**Which age group are you in?**

Under 20 yrs	20-29 yrs	30-39 yrs	40-54 yrs	55 + yrs

**Do you have children?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**If yes, how many in each age group?**

1-5 yrs	6-9 yrs	10-13 yrs	14-18 yrs

**How important to you are the following?**

Facilities	High Priority	Medium Priority	Low Priority	Not Needed
Preserving rivers, ponds, streams, wetlands				
Preserving scenic areas & views				
Preserving and maintaining historic features				
Preserving and enhancing wildlife habitats				
Providing adequate recreation facilities				
Providing access to open space land & trails				
Purchasing sites for conservation				
Purchasing sites for recreation				

**How often do you visit or use Bristol’s recreational resources?**

Facilities	Weekly	Monthly	Few Times Yearly	Never	Activity
Steele Creek Park					
Steele Creek Golf Course					
Whitetop Creek Park					
Slater Community Center					
Wes Davis Greenway					
Haynesfield Pool					
Steele Creek Disc Golf Course					
Steele Creek Train					
Bark Park (Dog Park)					

**Do you feel Bristol has an adequate number of:**

Facilities	Highly Agree	Disagree	Explain if you disagree
Neighborhood playgrounds			
Ballfields			
Hiking, walking or biking trails			
Basketball			
Tennis courts			
Rental Shelters			

Picnic areas			
Fishing areas			
Skate parks			
Swimming areas			
Paddleboat/Canoe rentals			

**How often do you or a member of your family visit the following locations and what activity brings you to that facility (if applicable, list more than one):**

Facilities	Weekly	Monthly	Few Times Yearly	Never	Activity
Anderson Park					
Avoca Ball Park & Fields					
Bark Park (Dog Park)					
Cedar Valley Park					
Charlie Robinette Park					
Clay Park					
Downtown Center					
DeFriece Park					
Fairmount Park					
Food City Park					
Haynesfield Park					
Haynesfield Pool					
Holston View Park/Fields					
Jersey Park					
Kings Meadow					
Mark Vance Memorial Trail					
Music Park					
Oakwood Park					
Patterson Park					
Rooster Front Park					
Rotary Bicentennial Park					
Rotary Field					
Skate Park					
Slater Community Center					
Slater Park					
Steele Creek Park					
Steele Creek Golf Course					
Wes Davis Greenway					
Western Little League Field					
Whitetop Creek Park					
Windsor Park					

**Please check all activities that you participated in over the past two years either in Bristol or out of town:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Boating	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf	<input type="checkbox"/> Swimming	<input type="checkbox"/> Walking
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Fishing	Biking	Ice Skating	Museum Visits
Hiking	Picnicking	Gymnastics	Historic Site Visits
Camping	Wildlife Viewing	Skiing	Dance
Horseback Riding	Fitness Training	Music	Other:

**Do you consider the fees you pay for the following activities services a good buy?**

	Yes	No
Lodge Rental		
Youth/Adult Athletic Activities		
Train/Boats		
Senior Trips		
Slater Room Rentals		
Field Rentals		
Recreation Classes		
Golf Course		

**Are you familiar with the State Street Farmer’s Market?** Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

**If yes, how did you first learn about the market?**

Billboard	Newspaper Article	Event/Activity Calendar	Radio	Friend
Driving By	Newspaper Ad	Television	Internet	Flyer/Poster

**How often do you visit the Market?**

Each day open	Every other week	Only on Saturdays	Only once	4 or 5 times
Once a week	Once a month	Only on Wednesdays	2 or 3 times	Never

**From which of the following categories of Market vendors do you typically shop?**

Vegetables	Meat	Cut flowers	Potted plants	Beverages
Fruit	Crafts	Baked Goods	Jewelry	Fresh Eggs

**What is your overall impression of the City of Bristol Tennessee’s Recreation Activities?**

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**Optional:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

# Classifications for Parks, Open Space, Greenways, and Pathways

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The following classifications are intended to be used as guidelines at the local level. The classifications for parks, recreation areas, and open spaces expand upon past classifications to take into consideration local community needs. The key area of change in this regard is the inclusion of park-school sites, athletic fields, private park/recreation facility, natural resource area/preserve, and greenways classifications. The parks, open space and pathways classifications are:

## *Mini-Park*

A mini-park is the smallest park classification and is used to address limited or isolate recreational needs. Examples include:

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

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

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

Although the past classification of a mini-park was oriented toward active recreation, the new classification, vest-pocket park, has a broader application that includes both active and passive uses. An example of passive uses includes picnic areas, arbors, and sitting areas.

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

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

**Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines:** Servicing a specific recreation need, ease of access from the surrounding area, and linkage to the community pathway system are key concerns when selecting a site.

The site itself should exhibit the physical characteristics appropriate for its intended uses. It should have well-drained and suitable soils with positive drainage. The desirable amount of topographical change and vegetation is dependent upon intended uses. Usually, these sites are fairly level. Vegetation (natural or planted) should be used to enhance its aesthetic qualities rather than impede development. Ideally, it should also have adjacency to other park system components, most notably greenways and the trail system.

**Development Parameters/Recreation Activity Menus:** Customer input through the customer input process should be the primary determinant of the development program for a vest-pocket park. Although these parks often included elements similar to that of a neighborhood park, there are no specific criteria to guide development of facilities. Given their size, they are typically not intended to be used for programmed activities.

Parking is typically not required. Site lighting should be used for security and safety.

### *Neighborhood Park*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## *School-Park*

**General Description:** By combining the resources of two public agencies, the school-park classification allows for expanding the recreation, social, and educational opportunities available to the community in an efficient and cost effective manner.

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

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

**Site Criteria:** The optimum size of a school-park site is dependent upon its intended use. The size criteria established for a neighborhood park and community park classification should be used as appropriate. The school lands, including the building or special use facilities, should not be considered in LOS (level of service).

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

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

Establishing a clearly defined joint-use agreement between involved agencies is critical to making school park relationships workable. This is particularly important with respect to acquisition development, maintenance, liability, use, and programming of facilities issues.

Different populations in a larger service area challenge planners to fashion the proper recreation activity menu to meet local needs.

### *Community Park*

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

**Location Criteria:** A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods. Although its service area should be 0.5 to 3.0 miles in radius, the quality of the natural resource base should play a significant role in site selection. The site should be serviced by arterial and collector streets and be easily accessible from throughout its service area by way of interconnecting trails and/or neighborhood streets. While community parks should be strategically sited throughout the community, their locations can be significantly impacted by other types of parks. Most notable among these are school-parks, natural resource areas, and regional parks – each of which may provide some of the same recreational opportunities provided in community parks. The level of service these other parks provide should be used, in part, as justification for or against a community park in a specific area.

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

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

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

Depending upon their individual character and use, lakes, ponds, and rivers may be associated with either community parks or natural resource areas. Although largely a matter of semantics, community park and natural resource area classifications differ in that the former is generally

more developed for recreational use than the latter. Land within a flood plain should only be considered if the facilities are above the 100 year flood elevation. Land below that elevation would typically fall within the natural resource area classification.

**Development Parameters Recreation Activities Menu:** Neighborhood and community input through the customer input process should be the primary determinant of development program for a community park. As with a neighborhood park, the guidelines presented in this document should be used as a framework to guide program development and ensure consistency with other park system components. They should not be used as an impediment to creative and unique design outcomes.

As stated, community parks are typically developed for both active and passive uses. Although active recreation facilities are intended to be used in an informal and unstructured manner, reserved and programmed use is compatible and acceptable. However, community parks are not intended to be used extensively for programmed adult athletic use and tournaments.

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

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

### *Sports Complex*

**General Description:** The sports complex classification consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities at larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community. This allows for:

- Economies of scale and higher quality facilities.
- Improved management/scheduling.
- Improved control of facility use.
- Greater control of negative impacts to neighborhood and community parks, such as overuse, noise, traffic congestion, parking, and domination of facilities by those outside the neighborhood.

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

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

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

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

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

Sports complexes are intended for programmed athletic use, such as adult organized softball, soccer and sports tournaments. Sports complexes increase tourism, drawing both tournament

participants and spectators. A menu of potential facilities includes ball fields, soccer fields, football fields, outdoor and indoor skating rinks, tennis courts, play structures, hard-courts, and volleyball courts. Internal trails should provide access to all facilities as well as connection to the pathway system. Group picnic areas and shelter should also be considered. Support facilities include multipurpose buildings, restrooms, and common space.

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

### *Special Use Park*

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

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

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

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

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

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

### *Private Park/Recreation Facility*

**General Description:** The private park/recreation facility is a new classification that recognizes the contribution of private providers to the community park recreation system. It also encourages greater cooperation between the private and public sector toward meeting growing park and recreation needs. The characteristics of private parks and private recreation facilities are as follows:

- Private parks such as swimming pools, tennis courts, and celebration buildings are generally within a residential area developed for the exclusive use of residents and are maintained through a neighborhood association. They are not, however, a complete substitute for public recreation space.
- Private recreation facilities are for-profit enterprises, such as health and fitness clubs, golf courses, water parks, amusement parks, country clubs and sports facilities.

In either case, they can be an entirely private (i.e. for the exclusive use of residents or members) or a public-private venture (i.e. local residents receive special rates and privileges). In many instances, private facilities can fill certain voids which the public sector cannot. This frees up limited public funds to meet high priority needs for land and facilities. The contribution that private parks/recreation facilities make in meeting community park and recreation needs must be determined on a case by case basis.

**Location Criteria:** For the most part, the location of private parks/recreation facilities will be determined by a developer or private enterprise, with the city often providing input on the final location at the time of development. Where planning efforts coincide, attempts should be made to coordinate the needs of the private party with that of the city. This allows for the greatest degree of service to the community in the most cost effective manner. Service areas for private parks depend on the type of use.

**Size Criteria:** The optimal size of a private park/recreation facility site is dependent upon its intended use. The size criteria established for other park classifications should be used as appropriate for private parks in a residential setting. Given the inherent variability, there are no established site size standards for private recreation facilities.

**Site Selection Criteria/Guidelines:** Again, intended use will determine site selection. The criteria established for other park classifications should be used to determine how a private park

should function. The key factor is that the site exhibits the physical characteristics appropriate for intended uses.

**Development Parameters/Recreation Activities Menu:** For private parks and recreation areas, the criteria established for other park classifications should be used to determine how a site is developed. Establishing clearly defined joint-use agreements between the city and private party is critical to making a public-private relationship workable. This is particularly important with respect to development fees, user charges, and programming policies.

### *Natural Resource Areas/Preserve/Open Lands*

**General Description:** Natural resource areas are lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes (small patches of land left over after a disturbance), open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering. These lands consist of:

- Individual sites exhibiting natural resources.
- Lands that are unsuitable for development but offer natural resource potential. (Examples include parcels with steep slopes and natural vegetation, drainage-ways and ravines, surface water management areas (man-made ponding areas), and utility easements.)
- Protected lands, such as wetlands/lowlands and shorelines along waterways, lakes, and ponds.

The objective with all of these lands is to enhance the livability and character of a community by preserving as many of its natural amenities as possible. This can be accomplished in a number of ways:

- Setting aside specific natural resource areas for preservation purposes through the Natural Resource Area/Preserve classification.
- Carefully and insightfully regulating development to preserve natural resources and open space.
- Working with other natural resource agencies, such as the Corps of Engineers, local watershed districts, special zoning districts (such as Bristol's Planned Residential District - PRD) forest preserve districts, floodplain and wetland districts, etc. to protect natural resources and ecosystems.

Examples of these types of resources include:

- Geological features
- Functioning ecosystem
- Maintain biodiversity
- Aquifer recharge
- Watershed
- Protection of rare, threatened or endangered species

- Forests/woodlands
- Wildlife habitat

The intertwining of parks, greenways, trails, and natural resource areas is what legitimizes the concept of the city-park, the integration of the human element with that of the natural environment that surrounds them

**Location Criteria:** Resource availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining location.

**Size Criteria:** As with location, resource availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining size. The practical limit of acreage set aside under this classification lies in resource quality, availability, community development considerations, and acquisition costs. Through an array of creative real estate strategies, many acres can be preserved as community open lands. Often blighted lands such as abandoned waterfront sites, industrial sites, quarries, and abandoned landfills, have potential to be converted from community liabilities to community open land resources. Reclaimed wetlands and wetland banks fall into this category.

**Size Selection Criteria/Guideline:** Resource quality is the primary determinant when it comes to selecting a site for preservation. Sites that exhibit unique natural resources or remnant landscapes of the region should be of the highest priority. How they can be integrated into the park system is an important challenge and requires creative policy and design. Many of these areas serve as recreation connectors and habitat corridors. Outlots and undevelopable/protected lands should be selected on the basis of enhancing the character of the community, buffering, and providing linkages with other park components protecting natural systems and processes.

**Development Parameters/Recreation Activity Menu:** Although natural resources areas are resource rather than user based, they can provide some passive recreational opportunities. Most notable are nature viewing and study. They can also function as greenways. Development should be kept to a level that preserves the integrity of the resource.

## *Greenways*

**General Description:** Greenways serve a number of important functions:

- They tie park components together to form a cohesive park, recreation, and open space system.
- They emphasize harmony with the natural environment.
- They allow for uninterrupted and safe pedestrian movement between parks throughout the community.
- They provide people with a resource based outdoor recreational opportunity and experience.
- They can enhance property values.

In many respects, greenways and natural resource areas have much in common. Both preserve natural resources and mediate between larger habitat areas, open space, and corridors for wildlife. The primary distinction between the two is that greenways emphasize use (i.e. park trails) to a greater extent than natural resource areas.

**Location Criteria:** Land availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining location. “Natural” greenways generally follow suitable natural resource areas (as defined under the natural resource area classification). “Man-made” greenways are corridors that are built as part of development projects or during renovation of old development areas. Man-made greenways include residential subdivision, revitalized river fronts, abandoned railroad beds, old industrial sites, safe power line rights-of-way, pipeline easements, collector parkway rights-of-way, etc. Some boulevards and many parkways can also be considered man-made greenways if they exhibit a park-like quality and provide off-street trail opportunities. Cities such as Bristol have had success in turning old “paper alleys” into greenway connectors. Since greenways are the preferred way to get people from their homes and into the parks, adjacency to development areas and parks is important. The location of greenways is integral to the trail system plan and, in some cases, they can also be considered light traffic facilities.

**Corridor Width Criteria:** As with location, resource availability and opportunity are the primary factors determining the width of the greenway corridor. Although corridor width can be as little as 25 feet in a subdivision, 50 feet is usually considered the minimum. Widths over 200 feet are considered optimal.

**Site Selection Criteria/Guideline:** Resource availability in conjunction with the trail system plan are the primary determinants when it comes to selecting land for greenways. Natural corridors are most desirable, but man-made corridors can also be very appealing if designed properly. Greenways can be developed for a number of different modes of recreational travel. Most notable are hiking, walking, jogging, bicycling, and in-line skating. They can also be developed for cross-country skiing and horseback riding. Canoeing is another possibility, where the greenway includes a navigable creek or stream. In a boulevard or parkway setting, automobiles can be accommodated.

### ***Park Trails (Types I, II, and III)***

**General Description:** Park trails are multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. They are the most desirable type of trail because they:

- Emphasize harmony with the natural environment.
- Allow for relatively uninterrupted pedestrian movement to and through the city’s park system and development areas, including, where possible, through commercial and industrial parks.

- Effectively tie the various parks and recreation areas together to form a comprehensive park and trail system.
- Protect users from urban development and associated vehicular traffic.

**Development Parameters:** Important steps in developing park trails are:

- Preparing a comprehensive park and trail system plan that clearly defines the routing of park trails, especially those within greenways.
- Acquiring the desired land or establishing trail easements at an early stage of community development.
- Establishing appropriate development policies (backed by city ordinance or other land development regulations) requiring land developers to incorporate greenways and park trail corridors into their development plans in accordance with the trail system plan.
- Establishing design standards that define how park trails are to be built. Trail design should coincide with standards adopted by local and state departments of transportation and AASHTO (American Association of State Highway Transportation Organizations), as appropriate. All trails should comply with ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) design criteria.

In previously developed cities, abandoned railroad beds, run-down waterfronts, utility rights-of-way, and scenic/historic routes provide the greatest opportunity for park trails.

**Types of Trails:** There are three types of trail under the park trail classification:

- Type I trails are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians and bicyclists/in-line skaters. An example would be a trail around an intercity lake or along a riverfront.
- Type II trails are more suited to lighter use patterns, such as from a housing subdivision to a natural resource area.
- Type III are suited for areas requiring minimum impact, such as nature preserves.

**Commuter Linkages:** Park trails can certainly be used for bicycle commuting purposes. The type of trail used and its design should reflect the anticipated magnitude of commuter use. On the high end, Type I trails as shown may not be adequate to safely accommodate a “bicycle freeway” type of use. In such a case, wider or directional trails may be appropriate.

### ***Connector Trails (Types I, and II)***

**General Description:** The significant difference between connector and park trails lies largely in their location. Park trails emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment within a park-like setting, while connector trails or recreation connectors emphasize safe travel for pedestrians and bicyclist to and from parks and around the community. In general, connector trails are located within existing road rights-of-way and utility easements or along artificial

drainage-ways. The two classes of connector trails illustrated are intended to accommodate walkers, horseback riders, bicyclists, and in-line skaters.

**Development Parameters:** Important steps in developing connector trails are:

- Preparing a comprehensive park and trail system plan that clearly defines the routing of connector trails.
- Establishing trail rights-of-way and easements at an early stage of community development.
- Establishing design standards that define how connector trails are to be built. Trail design should coincide with standards adopted by local and state departments of transportation and AASHTA, as appropriate.

**Types of Trails:** There are two types of trails under the connector trail classification:

- Type I trails are used in situations where use patterns dictate separate paths for pedestrians, bicyclists and, if necessary, in-line skaters. An example would be a trail within the shoulder of the right-of-way of a collector street or parkway.
- Type II trails are suited to lighter use patterns, such as a link between a parkway or thoroughfare and a nearby housing development.

**Commuter Linkages:** Connector trails can be used for bicycle commuting purposes. The type of trail used and its design should reflect the anticipated magnitude of commuter use. As with Type I park trails, Type I connector trails may not be adequate to safely accommodate a “bicycle freeway” type of use. In such a case, wider or directional trails may be appropriate.

### ***Bikeways (Bike Routes and Lanes)***

**General Description:** Bikeways are paved segments of roadways that serve to safely separate bicyclist from traffic. They come in the form of bike routes and bike lanes. The distinction between the two is a matter of exclusivity. While bike routes are essentially paved shoulders or segments of the roadway that serve to separate bicyclists from traffic, bike lanes are designed portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclists.

It is important to recognize that bikeways serve distinct user groups, including:

- Commuters – those who use their bicycle as a means to get from point A to B as expeditiously as possible. Their trips can be viewed as substitutes for vehicle trips when planning light transportation ways.
- Fitness enthusiasts – those who cycle for fitness as well as recreation.
- Competitive athletes – those who bicycle competitively.

The needs of these user groups are distinctly different from those using park or connector trails for recreational purposes. The distinction is that of speed. At speeds in excess of 10 to 15 mph,

the safety of a typical trail user (and bicyclist) becomes important. Although some commuter type trails are specifically designed to accommodate higher speeds, the vast majority of recreation-type trails are not. Given this, it is important that the inherent differences in user groups be recognized and that trails not used as direct substitutes for bikeways (or vice-versa). Bikeways should be planned as stand-alone systems that connect to the off-street trail system.

**Development Parameters:** Important steps in developing bikeways are:

- Preparing a comprehensive park and trail system plan that clearly defines the routing of bikeways.
- Establishing design standards that define how bikeways are to be built. Design should coincide with standards adopted by local and state departments of transportation and AASHTO, as appropriate.

**Types of Bikeways:** As stated, there are two types of bikeways: bike routes and bike lanes. Whether a bike route or bike lane is used depends on application and opportunity. Bike lanes should be used in situations where traffic volumes are heavy enough to warrant clear separation between bicycles and vehicles. Although an adequate right-of-way may not always be available in existing transportation systems, proper planning in evolving systems will preclude this from happening in the future.

Bike routes (paved shoulders) should be used in all other situations.

**Commuter Linkages:** Bikeways play a large role in bicycle commuter networks and should be designed with this type of use in mind. The bikeway system should be extensive enough to allow for reasonable movement within the city and connection to routes outside the city. Bikeways should be considered along all collector, minor arterial, and (on a limited basis) major arterial roads. Naturally, their development should coincide with new road construction and upgrading. Signage is also important.

### *All-Terrain Bike and Equestrian Trails*

**General Description:** All-terrain bike, cross country ski, and equestrian trails are similar to park trails in that they emphasize a strong relationship with the natural environment, although for somewhat different reasons. They are most often located within natural resource areas, greenways, community parks and special use facilities, such as golf courses. Since regional and state parks often develop and maintain these types of trails, the need for them at the local level is often limited. The following defines some of the considerations with respect to each trail type.

**All-Terrain (Mountain) Bike Trails:** Although relatively new on the recreation scene, off-road mountain biking has become a very popular activity that appeals to a wide range of age groups with varying levels of skill. Given its relative infancy, trail standards to meet these needs continue to evolve. This evolution, unfortunately, has not been without conflict – most of which

center around the potentially negative impacts of mountain biking on the environment. Uncontrolled and undisciplined use of established trails poses the biggest impediment to mountain biking’s acceptance. There can be serious conflicts and safety problems if equestrian riders, hikers, and bicyclists use the same trails. It is through trial and error and sharing of information between agencies that standards will emerge. In the interim, trail design should coincide with the standards being developed by regional park agencies and state resource agencies, which seem to be leading the way in addressing the issue.

**Equestrian Trails:** Equestrian trails are usually grass or woodchip surfaced. Trail length varies considerably, with loops extending out 10 miles or more. There is no specific standard for how many miles of trail should be developed within a given community. Trail design should coincide with standards adopted by regional park agencies and state resource agencies.

**Parks, Open Space, and Pathways Classification Table**

<b>Parks and Open Space Classifications</b>			
<b>Classification</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Location Criteria</b>	<b>Size Criteria</b>
Mini-Park	Used to address limited, isolated or unique recreational needs.	Less than a ¼ mile distance in residential setting.	Between 2500 sq. ft. and one acre in size.
Neighborhood Park	Neighborhood park remains the basic unit of the park system and serves as the recreational and social focus of the neighborhood. Focus is on informal active and passive recreation.	¼ to ½ mile distance and uninterrupted by non-residential roads and other physical barriers.	5 acres is considered minimum size. 7 to 10 acres is optimal.
School-Park	Depending on circumstances, combining parks with school sites can fulfill the space requirements for other classes of parks, such as neighborhood, community, sports complex, and special use.	Determined by location of school district property.	Variable – depends on function.
Community Park	Serves broader purpose than neighborhood park. Focus is on meeting community-based	Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves two or more	As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually

<p>Large Urban Park</p>	<p>recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.</p> <p>Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. Focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces.</p>	<p>neighborhoods and ½ to 3 mile distance.</p> <p>Determined by the quality and suitability of the site. Usually serves the entire community.</p>	<p>between 20 and 50 acres.</p> <p>As needed to accommodate desired uses. Usually a minimum of 50 acres, with 75 or more acres being optimal.</p>
<p>Natural Resource Areas/Preserves/Open Lands</p>	<p>Lands set aside for preservation of significant natural resources, remnant landscapes, open space, and visual aesthetics/buffering.</p>	<p>Resource availability and opportunity.</p>	<p>Variable.</p>
<p>Greenways</p>	<p>Effectively tie park system components together to form a continuous park environment.</p>	<p>Resource availability and opportunity.</p>	<p>Minimum width of 50 feet with widths over 200 feet being optimal.</p>
<p>Sports Complex</p>	<p>Consolidates heavily programmed athletic fields and associated facilities to larger and fewer sites strategically located throughout the community.</p>	<p>Strategically located community-wide facilities.</p>	<p>Determined by projected demand. Usually a minimum of 40 acres, with 80 to 150 acres being optimal.</p>
<p>Special Use</p>	<p>Covers a broad range of parks and recreation facilities oriented toward single-purpose use.</p>	<p>Variable – dependent on specific use.</p>	<p>Variable.</p>

Private Park/Recreation Facility	Parks and recreation facilities that are privately owned yet contribute to the public park and recreation system.	Variable – dependent on specific use.	Variable.
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**Pathway Classifications**

<b>Size Criteria</b>	<b>General Description</b>	<b>Description of Each Type</b>
Park Trail	Multipurpose trails located within greenways, parks, and natural resource areas. Focus is on recreational value and harmony with natural environment.	<p>Type I: separate/single-purposed hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclists / in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type II: Multipurpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians and bicyclist / in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type III: Nature trails for pedestrians. May be hard- or soft surfaced.</p>
Connector Trails	Multipurpose trails that emphasize safe travel for pedestrians to and from parks and around the community. Focus is as much on transportation as it is on recreation.	<p>Type I: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclist / in-line skaters.</p> <p>Type II: Separate/single-purpose hard-surfaced trails for pedestrians or bicyclist / in-line skaters. <u>Typically located within road r.o.w.</u></p>
Bikeways	Paved segments of	Bike Route: Designated

	roadways that serve as a means to safely separate bicyclists from vehicular traffic.	portions of the roadway for the preferential or exclusive use of bicyclist.
All-Terrain Bike Trail	Off-road trail for all-terrain (mountain) bikes.	Bike Lane: Shared portions of the roadway that provide separation between motor vehicles and bicyclist, such as paved shoulders.  Single-purpose loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas.
Equestrian Trail	Trails developed for horseback riding.	Loop trails usually located in larger parks and natural resource areas. Sometimes developed as multipurpose with hiking and all-terrain biking where conflicts can be controlled.



*“The nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.”*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*





## Food City Park



Food City Park is a mini-park located at 531 Oakwood Street. Food City Park is located in-between the Food City on Virginia Avenue and Necessary Oil Company on Georgia Avenue. It is a 1.6 acre park that was acquired by the City in 1980 after being donated to the City by the Reiss Viking Corporation. The park was developed and named in honor of Wes Davis with funding donated by Food City. In 1997 the park was renamed Food City Park, with the Greenway on Volunteer Parkway being dedicated as the Wes Davis Greenway. This park consists of a basketball court measuring 45 ft. x 74 ft., one 8 ft. picnic table, one trash receptacle, and a water

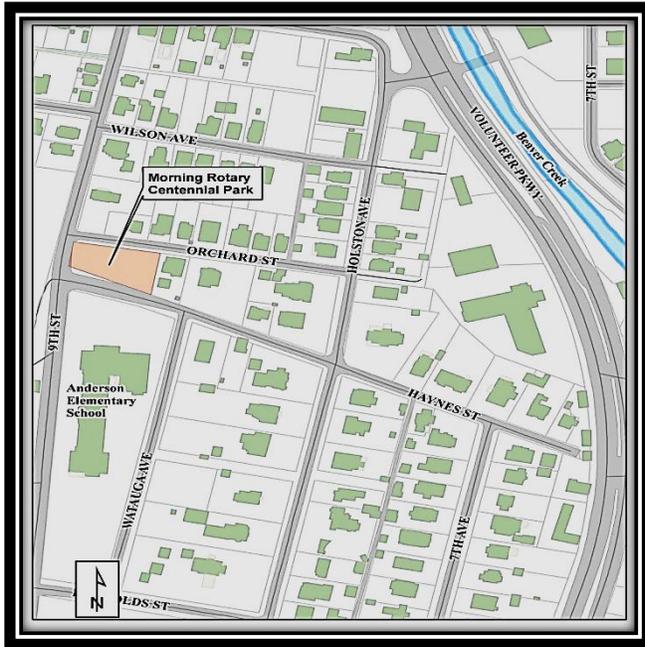
fountain. In the past the park had a large wooden play structure, but the structure was removed due to its deteriorated condition. There is a paved parking lot measuring 45 ft. x 175 ft. which includes 15 regular parking spaces and 2 handicapped parking spaces.

## King Meadows



Kings Meadow is a small neighborhood green space located at 108 Clay Street encompassing .15 acres. The site is level with no trees, no amenities, and no identification sign. Due to the small size, the park is extremely limited. Therefore, the park should remain as a passive green space with the addition of a few minor amenities.

## Morning Rotary Centennial Park



Morning Rotary Centennial is a ½ acre mini-park located at 832 Orchard St. It is bordered on the west by 9<sup>th</sup> Street and the south by Haynes Street. This park is located just to the north of Anderson Elementary School. Morning Rotary Centennial Park is equipped with a 44' x 69' basketball court that was created by a joint project between the City and the Bristol Morning Rotary Club. This was a project of the Weed and Seed Program. The park opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 21, 2005. The park has a small picnic area equipped with two coated expanded metal tables. There is ample green space and several young trees. There is a drinking fountain, 3

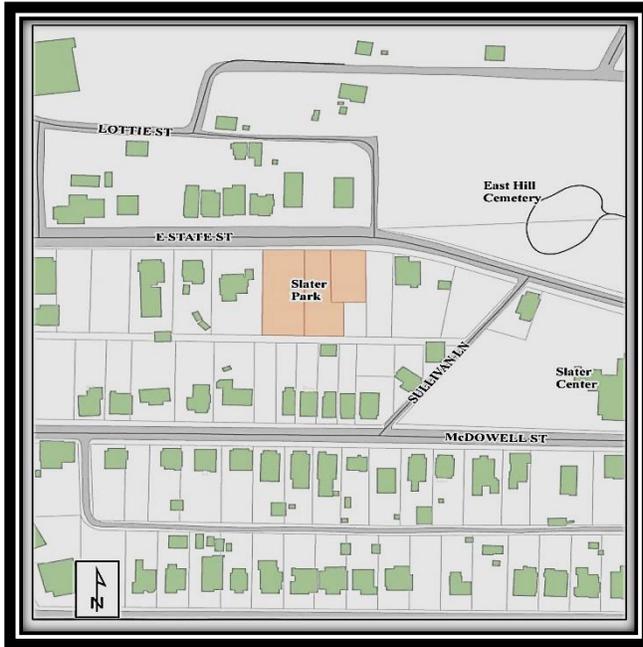
benches, a grill, and 2 trash receptacles. All of these are currently in good condition.

## Oakwood Park



Oakwood Park is located in a residential area, and is across the street from a large empty commercial lot. It is .12 acres in size and is located at 810 Oakwood Street. It is bordered on the east by Valley Drive. This park consists of a two seat swing set and one large mature tree. In the past Oakwood Park had a basketball goal but it was in the driveway of an adjoining property owner, so it was removed.

## Slater Park



Slater Park is a small mini-park encompassing .66 acres located at 128 East State Street. The park was developed in 1996. The park consists of two 45 ft. x 66 ft. asphalt basketball courts and a regulation horseshoe pit. This makes Slater Park a popular outdoor basketball facility in the spring and summer. The court was sealed and repainted several years ago for an Eagle Scout project. The parking area measures 36 ft. x 76 ft. and can accommodate 8 vehicles. The park also contains a metal sign mounted in a cedar shadow box, 1 trash receptacle and 1 yard hydrant.

## Windsor Park

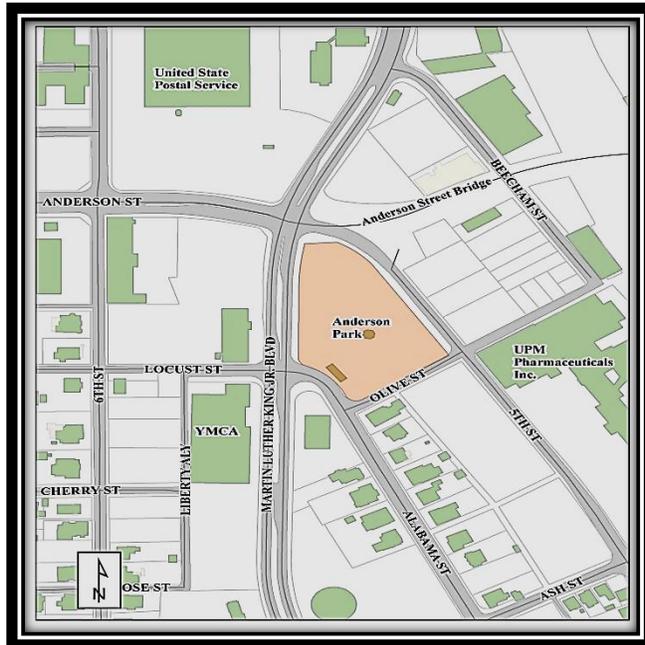


Windsor Park is a .17 acre mini-park located at 1024 Windsor Avenue. During the planning process for the Morning Rotary Park, a second location in the Weed and Seed area was identified for a park. This second location was a vacant lot owned by the Windsor Ave Presbyterian Church and located beside of their parking lot. The Bristol Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership group had an interest in developing the park as their group project. This group, along with Keep Bristol Beautiful, the Chamber of Commerce, Weed and Seed and the City of Bristol joined together to complete the park project. The park was completed in the spring of 2004. The property ownership is maintained by the church with the city securing a long

term lease for the lot as well as use of the parking lot. The Bristol Youth Leadership group selected the type and colors for the playground equipment as well as the layouts, with city staff conducting the construction and installation. The park hosts a small play structure rated for children 2-5 years old. There is one picnic table and one trash receptacle, both are in good condition. The play area is enclosed by a white plastic fence. The play structure in in good condition but is starting to fade and show wear.

## Neighborhood Park

### Anderson Park



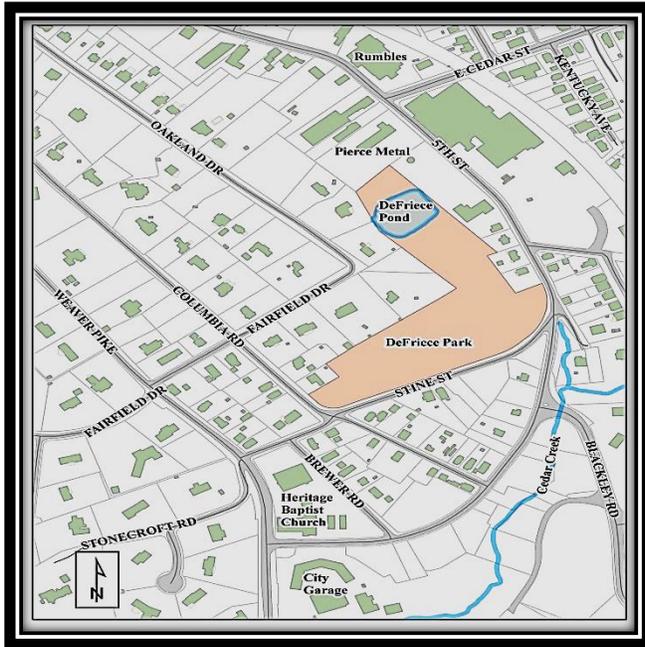
This park is located at 341 Martin Luther King Boulevard. It is 2.38 acres and is used daily by the locals for picnicking and walking during their lunch hour. This land was originally part of Kings Meadows, the farm of Rev. James King. His father acquired the land in 1814 from the Shelby Family. The area that became the park was the former cow lot behind the Joseph R. Anderson home. At his death in 1888, Mr. Anderson had placed in his will this clause:

“I devise that the lot in front of the Pickens and Dr. Dickey’s house be reserved as a public square provided the corporation will use the same,

ornament it, keep it enclosed as a public square perpetually. If this is not done, it reverts back to the heirs.”

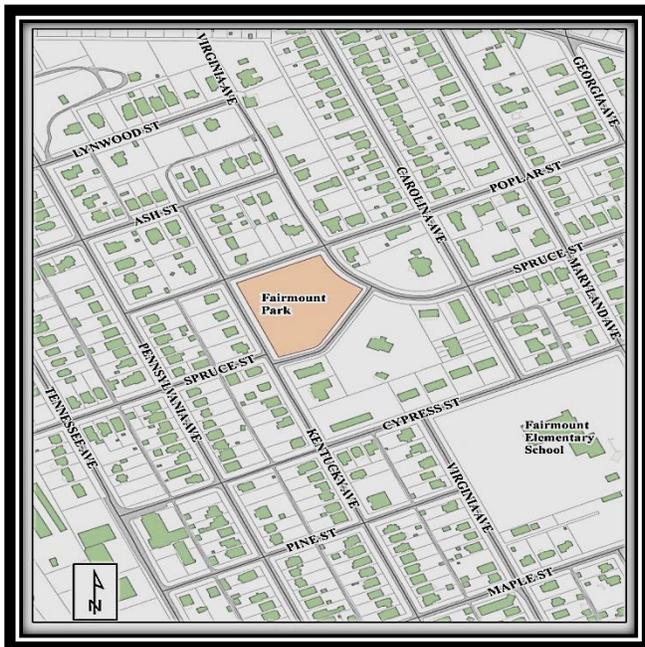
This park is an integral part of the City’s downtown area. It hosts many activities throughout the summer and is rented quite often for weddings and church gatherings. There is a playground for 5-12 year olds and a two bay swing with one belt seat and one handicapped accessible seat. This playground also has a small fire truck for children to play on. There is a 22 ft. octagon shaped gazebo with benches, lights and electricity. Along with an open air 30ft. x 15ft. stage with lighting and electricity. The park is crisscrossed with 785 linear feet of concrete sidewalk and 1300 linear feet of concrete sidewalk on the entire perimeter. There are 5 recycled trash can holders and 4 wood and metal benches along these paths. The park has 5 wood and metal constructed picnic tables, with two of these tables having checkered boards drawn on them for people to play board games. There are also 5 fiberglass doggie clean-up bag stations for those who walk their dogs. The park also has two concrete four square game boards built next to the playground, along with tetherball. It has a large 70” x 43” double sided fiberglass sign identifying its location. There is parking in the cul-de-sac next to the park which has 9 spaces and one handicapped accessible space.

## DeFriece Park



DeFriece Park is a 9.13 acre park located at 101 Stine Street. The park is bordered by 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Stine Street and Columbia Road. The park is primarily green space with a gravel parking lot on 5<sup>th</sup> Street and a small paved parking area on Stine Street. There is a small spring feed pond in the northeast section of the park. There is a small play structure (ages 5-12) and swing-set near the paved parking area, with an old see-saw located nearby. There is a 30 x 60 basketball court on the lower section of the park near the gravel parking lot on 5<sup>th</sup> Street. The court is made up of asphalt and has two goals. The park currently contains two picnic tables. DeFriece Park has an arboretum with a number of mature oak trees.

## Fairmount Park



Fairmount Park is a neighborhood park located at 301 Spruce Street. This 2.57 acre park is commonly referred to as Barker Park and was donated to the City by the Barker family in 1937. This passive park has a number of mature trees and 3 concrete no back benches. Deed restrictions prohibit any other use other than passive and it named the park as Fairmount Park. In 2011, 4 additional benches were installed in the park. These benches are made of recycled plastics and have backs. Due to citizen complaints, four boxes, for plastic bag containers and four trash receptacles were installed to encourage park users to clean up after their dogs.

## George Spinks Field (Western Little League)



George Spinks Field sits on 2.51 acres of land with the majority of it being dedicated to a 200 ft. lighted little league baseball field. This property was acquired by the city in 1958 and as has served as the home of Little League Baseball ever since. Most of the structures were originally built by volunteers. This field has a two story score tower which measures 112 ft. x 18 ft. with meeting rooms, storage room and a restroom. It has a 40 ft. x 30 ft. concession stand with two 5 ft. x 6 ft. single fixture restrooms for men and women. A drinking fountain is attached to this building. A 20 ft. x 30 ft. concrete slab is attached next to the concession stand that was once a covered pavilion. There is also a 32 ft. x 18 ft.

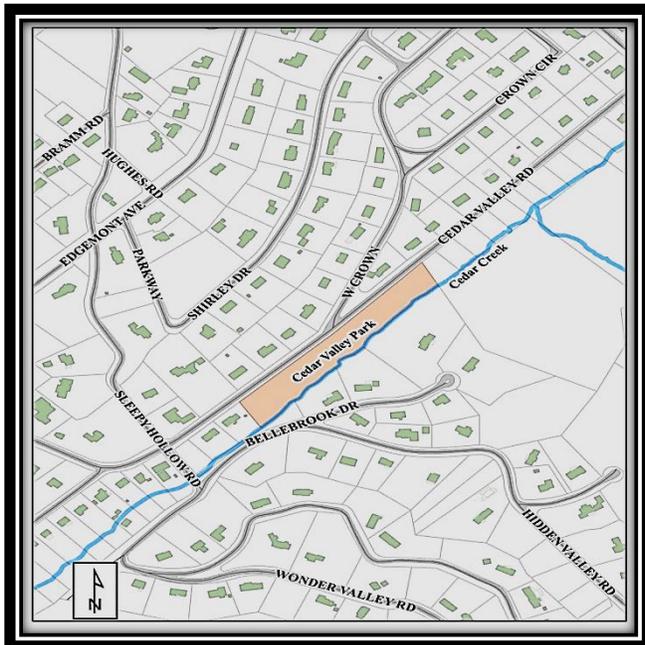
covered observation deck in center field. The grandstands consist of one 27 ft. five tier aluminum bleacher, which will seat 54 patrons, and one 21 ft. five tier aluminum bleacher, which will seat 42 patrons. The grandstands set on concrete pads, located on both the first and third base sides. There are a total of two 6 ft. x 21 ft. concrete block sunken dug outs situated on the first and third base sides. Wooden players benches are in both dug outs. Both sides have a 55 ft. x 12 ft. bullpen for pitchers to warm up and there is a 60 ft. x 12 ft. batting cage located outside the fence on the third base side. There are six plastic trash cans and 3 wooden 6 ft. picnic tables. There are two areas for parking. The first base side is gravel and measures 40 ft. x 115 ft. with no lines for parking. The third base side is asphalt and measures 45 ft. x 120 ft. with no lines for parking.

## Haynesfield Park



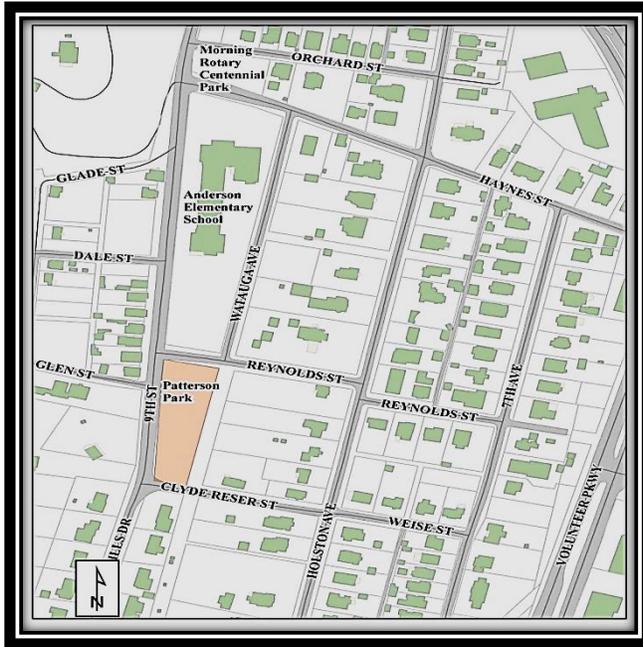
Haynesfield Park is one of the oldest parks in the city. It is located at 2100 Edgemont Avenue and is bordered by three streets. It is bordered on the west by Lavender Lane, on the east by Arnold Road, and on the south by Edgemont Avenue. It is a 5.29 acre neighborhood park which has an abundant amount of trees and green space. This park has a double lighted tennis court with each court measuring 36 ft. x 78 ft. The tennis courts are equipped with a timer on the lights and the courts are completely surrounded by chain link fence. There is one 6 ft. picnic table, 3 trash cans, and a drinking fountain. The parking area measures 120 ft. x 20 ft. and consists of 9 regular parking spaces.

## Cedar Valley



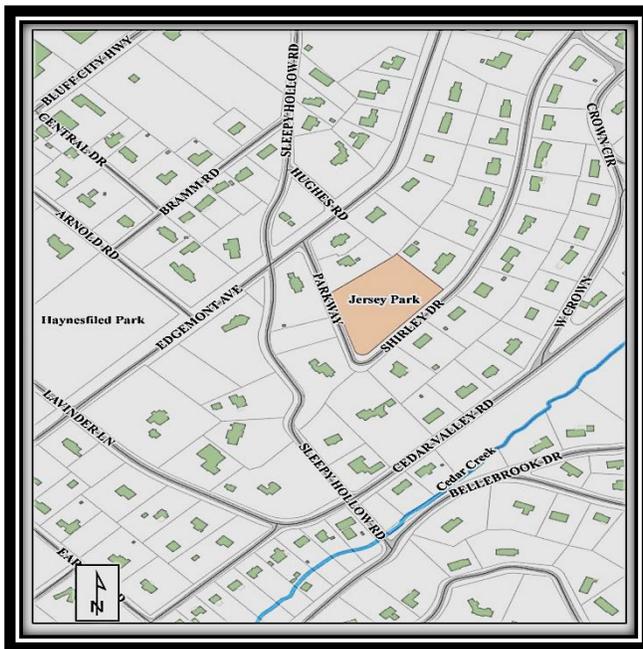
Cedar Valley Park is a passive neighborhood park located at 405 Cedar Valley Road. It consists of 3.29 acres of flood plain. It is bordered on one side by Cedar Creek. At one time, this park contained an exercise course but over time it deteriorated and was removed. This park should remain as a passive park/green space. There is no parking and the park only serves the immediate community surrounding it.

## Patterson Park



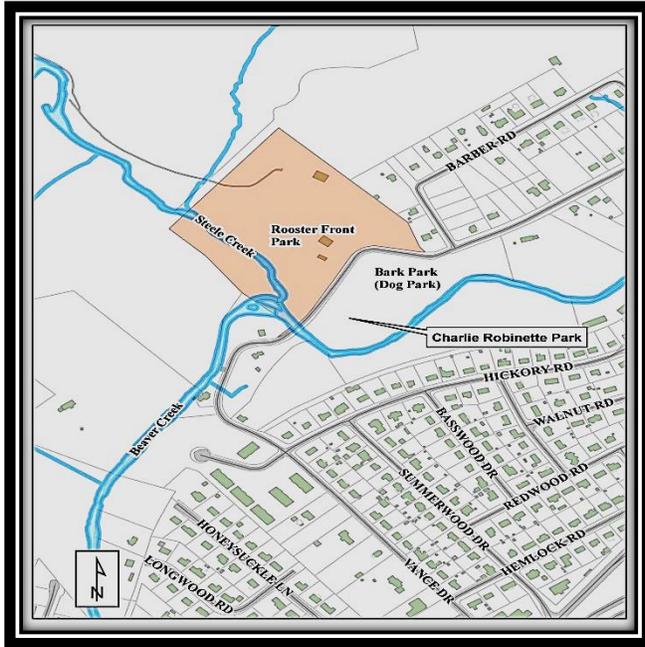
Patterson Park is a 1.6 acre Neighborhood Park located on the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> Street and Reynolds Street. This park is located in the block south of Anderson Elementary School. The park consists of two 36' x 78' tennis courts, a play structure and a small parking area. The tennis courts are used by the community on a regular basis. The play structure is fairly small but it receives a lot of use from the surrounding community, it is rated for 5-12 year olds.

## Jersey Park



Jersey Park is located at 256 Shirley Drive. This passive 2.26 acre park is undeveloped and provides a beautiful community green-space. The site contains a number of mature trees and has large rock outcroppings throughout. The rocky conditions would make development in this park very difficult.

## Rooster Front Park at Steele Creek Park



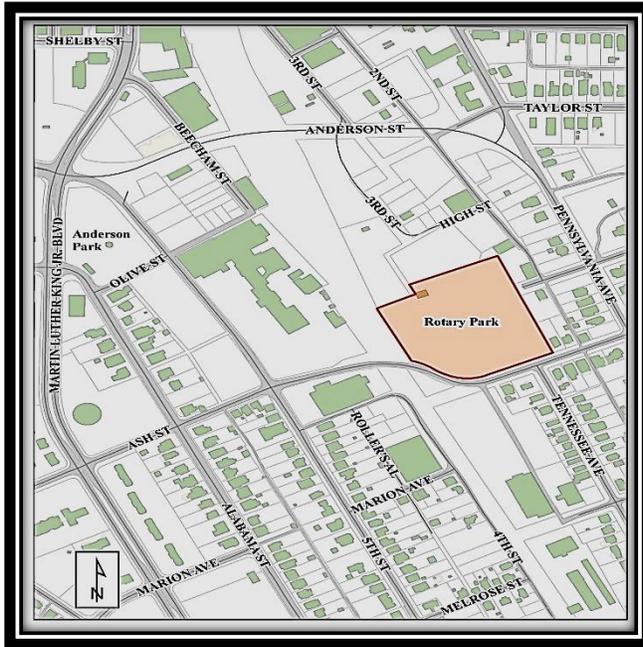
This park is located at 1160 Vance Drive. It is actually part of Steele Creek Park but it is located on the opposite side of the main entrance. It is 3.6 acres in size and is a very popular park year round. This park is built on land that is believed to have been the home of Colonel James King's first Iron Works (Circa 1784). This area later became the City of Bristol's waste water treatment plant. The section known as Rooster Front Park was filled in and leveled by long time Public Works Superintendent, Charlie Robinett. He believed that this area would be a perfect fit for a public park.

There is an 18ft. x 24ft. shelter with two 15ft. aluminum picnic tables, one of which is handicap accessible. This shelter is

equipped with water, power and lights. There is a playground located next to the shelter and it is rated for 5-12 year olds and has a two bay swing set with belt seats. Other activities in this park include a regulation size tennis court and a 71ft. x 74ft. basketball court. There are two separate areas for picnicking. One is above the basketball court and includes an 8ft. table, grill and trash receptacle. The second picnic area is accessible by a bridge and is located on the other side of the creek, just off the trail. This area includes two picnic tables, grills and a trash receptacle. This area is aesthetically pleasing seeing that it is located directly beside the creek.

There is an 8ft. x 8ft. information kiosk at the trail head for the south side of Steele Creek Park. The trail within this park contains 360 linear feet of an asphalt paved trail and 550 linear feet of gravel trail. These trails are the lead-ins for the hiking trails on the south side of Steele Creek Park. There is a stretching station at the beginning of the main trail and there are 3'9" x 5' fiberglass informational signs on all of the hiking trails. This park is identified with a 48" x 70" double sided fiberglass sign. The parking area is asphalt paved and can accommodate 28 vehicles with two spaces being handicapped accessible. This park also has a drinking fountain, yard hydrant and three trash receptacles.

## Rotary Park



Rotary Park is located at 401 Ash Street and is comprised of 5.35 acres of land. This park has been the home of softball and baseball in the Bristol since the 50's. Over the years it has been used for football and many other Parks & Recreation activities. The park has gone through a number of renovations over the years with the latest being in 2011/2012. This last renovation was a joint effort between the Parks & Recreation Department and the City School System. The school system was looking for a permanent home for the Tennessee High School and Vance Middle School girls' softball program and the close proximity to the two schools made Rotary Park an idea location. The

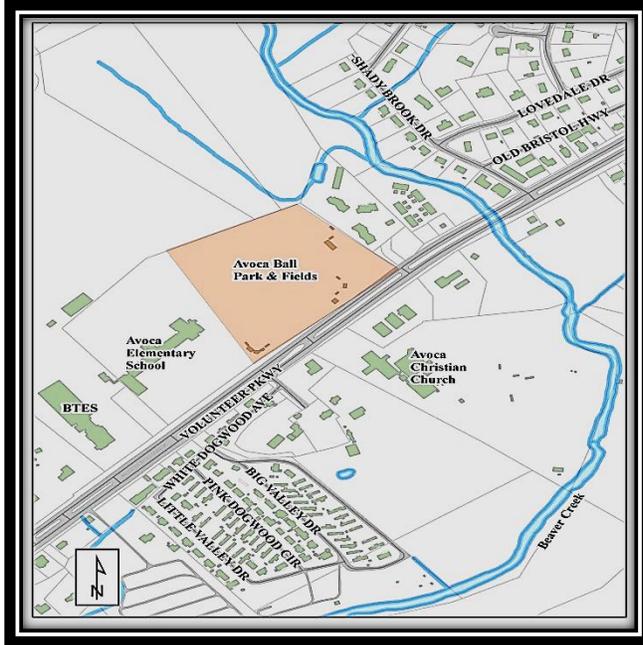
renovations included the construction of two 185ft. softball fields, a locker-room/field house, score tower/concessions building and renovations to an old structure for use as a maintenance building with additional restrooms. A new playground structure for 5-12 year olds was added and it included a two bay swing set with four belt seats. This area is bordered by timbers with twelve inches of mulch installed.

The two new fields are lighted with an energy efficient lighting system. Both fields are surrounded by 530 linear feet of 8ft. nine gauge chain link fence, 100 linear feet of 6ft. chain link fence and a 60ft.x30ft. back-stop. Each field has a total of 21 lights, two 21ft. aluminum bleachers, a 5ft. x 10ft. score board and a public address system. The high school field has a 55ft. x 24ft. field house complete with lockers, restrooms and an office. This building is connected to the high school field dugout. The score tower for the fields is a two story structure. On the first floor are men's and women's restrooms, a 15ft.x12ft. concession area and a storage room. The second floor has two 9ft. x 9 ft. score keeper's rooms. The building has separate units for heat and air on each floor.

The tools and equipment needed for the maintenance of the fields are kept in a separate building. This building (24ft. x 32ft.) was the original restrooms and storage for the old ball fields. It was renovated in order to allow mowers and groomers to be pulled into the building through a garage door and be secured. The restrooms in this building were left intact. Parking consists of 36 spaces and 2 ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) spaces at field level. There is also a 90ft. x 100ft. gravel parking area behind the fields for players, coaches, and umpires.

## Community Park

### Avoca Park



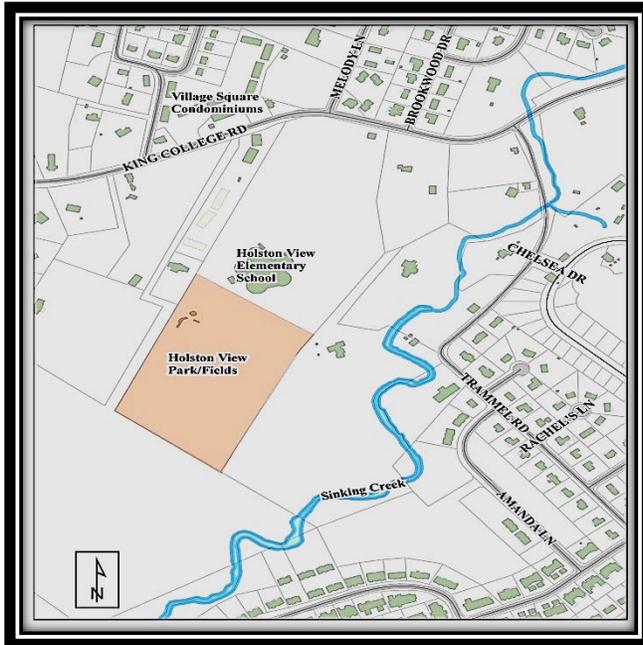
The Avoca Ball Park is located 2432 Volunteer Parkway. This 14.6 acre park was purchased from the Sullivan County Board of Education in December 1978. The park included two baseball fields at that time. Currently there are three baseball fields, a large green space and a paved parking area. Some facility improvements were completed in 1979.

This park is currently the home of the Avoca Baseball League (Babe Ruth / Cal Ripken). The larger field (A) located nearest to the school is also the home field for Vance Middle School Baseball. Both Avoca Baseball and Bristol Little League use this field for the older divisions. The field size is 300ft, equipped with dugouts

constructed of block. There is a two story score-tower / concession structure as well as a two story structure containing a storage room below and meeting room above. This field is equipped with a separate restroom building.

Field B is a standard little league field at 200ft, with dugouts constructed of block. This field includes a two story score-tower/concession stand, with restrooms and storage located in a second building. Field C is a 150ft field primarily used for T-Ball, and it is equipped with dugouts constructed of block. There is a storage building located behind the backstop that serves as the score-tower. There is a 100ft x 50ft paved parking area that serves all three fields. Grass areas are used for additional parking. All three fields are surrounded by chain-link fence, and the backstops are made up of chain-link fence.

## Holston View Park



Holston View Park is located at 1840 King College Road, directly behind Holston View Elementary School. This 13 acre park includes two lighted tennis courts, two lighted basketball courts, and a 4 seat swing set. The park also has three baseball fields and a soccer field. The baseball fields are currently used by Bristol Little League. The primary baseball field is a lighted regulation little league baseball field at a size of 200ft. There is two story building located on the baseball field, the upstairs section includes the score tower and meeting room with the downstairs section being used as storage. The middle field is also a 200ft. and it is primarily used for t-ball and softball but it does not have lighting. This field is not equipped with a score-tower and the

dugouts are constructed of chin-link fence. The lower field is a 230ft. softball field without lighting. The dugouts for this field are constructed of chain-link and there is not a score tower. The soccer field serves more as a multi-purpose field with baseball and softball teams practicing here, as well as the Jr. Viking Football League. Holston View Park contains a chain-link batting cage and dugouts made of block construction. There is a block/brick building that contains the concession stand and restrooms.

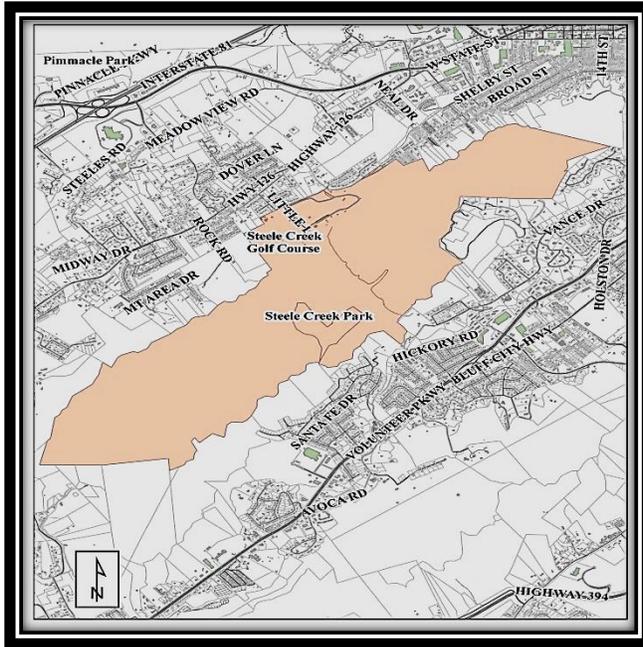
## Pinnacle Park

Within the City of Bristol, Tennessee is an enormous commercial development under construction, known as The Pinnacle. When the development is complete, it will include a moderate-sized community park owned by the City of Bristol. The park will be named Pinnacle Park and will include a large man-made lake that is outlined by a beautifully landscaped walkway. The lake will include a small waterfall feature and will be landscaped with trees that are native to the Appalachian region. The lake will be equipped with a fishing pier and a bubbler fountain. The walkway will include an observation plaza, multiple observation points and a boardwalk.



## Large Urban Park

### Steele Creek Park (Stacy Grayson Memorial)



Steele Creek Park is a regional park encompassing more than 2,200 acres. The park's main entrance is located at 4 Little Lane. The park was originally planned as a state park (Watauga) dating back prior to 1936. The planned state park was abandoned in 1945 and the property that had been purchased by the department of the interior was deeded to the State of Tennessee. In 1961, Mayor Stacy Grayson announced plans to construct a park at Steele Creek. A 99 year lease was approved by the State and later the property was deeded to the City. Steele Creek Park opened to the public on June 6, 1964.

Many changes have occurred over the years but many of the original features have remained Steele Creek. As you enter the park you drive under the original gateway. The Lodge and several of the shelters were present in 1964. There park currently contains nine rental shelters, twenty picnic tables, and the lodge with a main room/kitchen, party room and conference room. Steele Creek contains a 52 acre lake, with the primary use area of the park encompassing approximately 75 acres.

There is a large multi-use field located just inside the gate. The field contains one set of soccer goals and is equipped with a backstop in one corner. This area is frequently used by local soccer teams, baseball teams and softball teams for practice. Large events such as the Easter Egg Extravaganza are also held here. There is a nine-hole disk golf course with ever tee being equipped with two concrete tee pads. This allows the course to be played as an 18-hole course. The course is bordered by a 1 mile exercise trail that is composed of a mulch bed. The trail has three exercise stations strategically placed throughout the course.

The Rotary Shelter is a 62ft x 26ft open air shelter. The shelter has lights, water, a drinking fountain, yard hydrant and barbeque grill. There are 8 12ft picnic tables under the shelter. Adjacently located to the Rotary Shelter is a sand volleyball court. A gravel parking lot containing 175 parking spaces is shared between the Rotary Shelter and Shelter A. The shelter was recently renovated in 2012.

Shelter A is a 24ft x 18ft open air shelter that contains two 12ft picnic tables, lights, water and a barbeque grill. Parking for this shelter is shared with the Rotary Shelter. The shelter was recently renovated in 212. Shelter B is a 24ft x 18ft open air shelter that contains three 12ft picnic tables,

lights, water, a barbeque grill and drinking fountain. This shelter is served by a parking lot that contains 55 parking spaces. The shelter was recently renovated in 2009. There is a large playground area adjacently located to Shelter B. There are two play structure (age 2-5 and age 5-12), two swing sets, and a log roll. The area is surrounded by a split rail fence and contains two benches and three trash receptacles. Shelter C is a 24ft x 18ft open air shelter. It contains three 8ft picnic tables, lights, water and a barbeque grill. Parking for this shelter consists of two small roadside parking areas of which one is paved and the other is grasspave with a total of 17 spaces. The shelter was recently renovated in 2012.

The VFW Shelter is one of the original park structures. This shelter is an open air structure at 32ft x 16ft and contains four 12ft picnic tables and two 15ft picnic tables. The shelter has lights, water, four trash receptacles, and a barbeque grill. The shelter is surrounded on two sides by a block retaining wall, with steps leading down form the playground area. Parking for this shelter is shared with Shelter B. The shelter was recently renovated in 2011.

The Civitan Shelter is an open air shelter measuring 62ft x 20ft. This shelter is an original park structure and was the former golf pro shop. The structure was renovated in 1990 by the Bristol Civitan Club. The shelter has four accessible picnic tables and a serving counter. The shelter has restrooms located on the east end of the building. This shelter is equipped with a 4 bay swing-set, a barbeque grill, drinking fountain, and a horse-shoe pit. There are six additional picnic tables outside the shelter. The shelter is furnished with a large paved parking area that contains 45 parking spaces. The shelter and restrooms were recently renovated in 2011.

Shelter D is a 24ft x 18ft open air shelter. It has two 15ft picnic tables, lights, water and a barbeque grill. There are three parking spaces beside the shelter and another 10 alongside the road. Shelter F is a 24ft x 18ft open air shelter. There are two 15ft picnic tables, lights, water and a barbeque grill. Shelter G is a 30ft. x 50ft. picnic shelter with restrooms. There are three 15ft. aluminum picnic tables, with one of them being wheelchair accessible. This shelter has lights, power, a yard hydrant, a drinking fountain and a grill. There is a play structure (5-12 years old) located nearby. There is one large play structure and a four bay swing set. There is also a horse-shoe pit and large green space beside Shelter G. Parking for Shelters D, F, and G are available across the creek at the Dogwood Circle parking area.

Steele Creek Park also features a two story (2,600 sq. ft.) Nature Center with a diverse array of live animal exhibits and displays showcasing the natural history of the park. The wood structure was built by park maintenance staff using materials form the park. The Nature Center is open 7 days a week and offers a variety of educational programs, guided tours and hikes. Located around the Nature Center is a wildflower garden and bird viewing area.

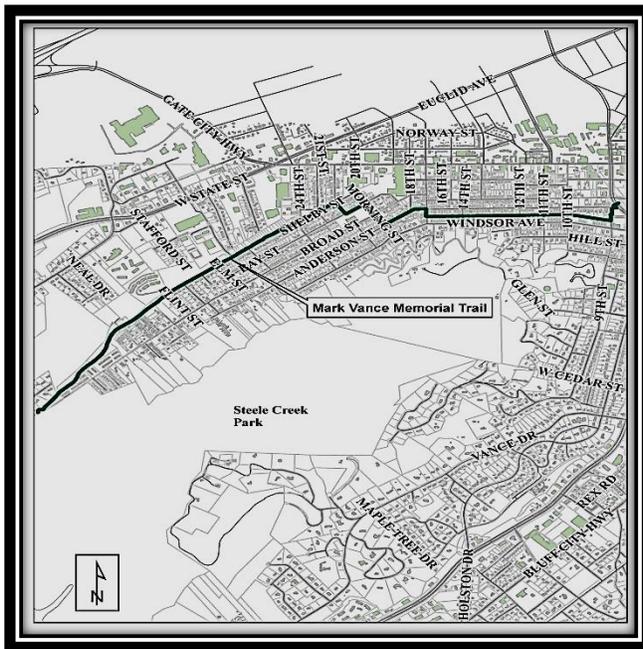
The most popular activity at the park is the Steele Creek Express with more than 18,000 riders per year. This 24 gauge train dates back to the park opening in 1964. The train and track were completely renovated in 2007/2008 and continues to operate from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The train depot is a small wood structure built by the Tennessee High School Shop Class. This serves as the ticket window and concession stand for the Steele Creek Express. The train tunnel is a 10ft x 80ft block and wooden structure that serves as storage for the train when it is not in use.

The Steele Creek Boat House is a 20ft x 8ft wooden building that serves as operation and storage for paddle boat rentals. There are nine docks for the paddle boats. These docks are constructed of wood walkways with wood pillars. The park is also home of the Steele Creek Pavilion. This 25ft x 48ft Amphitheater serves as a music platform and is used as a location of many weddings throughout the year. The pavilion is constructed of wood and is positioned over the lake on wooden posts. There are eighteen 12ft benches that serve as the primary seating area for the pavilion.

Another favorite activity of park guests is the many walking/hiking/bike trails entwined throughout Steele Creek Park. The half mile paved trail leading from Dogwood Circle follows Steel Creek, then Mill Creek and ends at the Mill Creek Parking Area. Just across the bridge is the start of the Lakeside Trail. This two mile gravel trail follows the edge of the lake past Steele Creek Dam, ending at Rooster Front Park. There are over 24 miles of trails that make up the knob trail system. These 20 trails range in difficulty from easy to difficult. The trails span from end to end of Steele Creek Park.

## Greenways

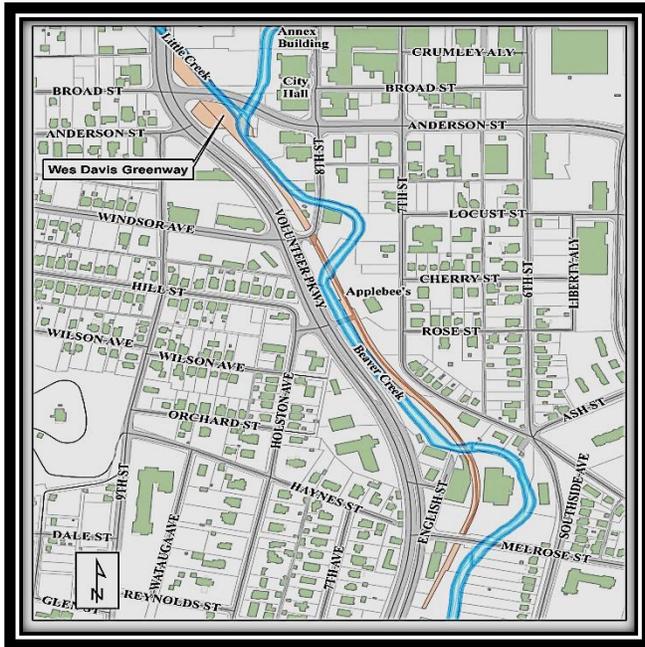
### Mark Vance Memorial Greenway



Originally built as the Cross Town Trail, the Greenway was renamed in honor of Officer Mark Vance who was killed in the line of duty. This trail was completed in November 2003 with funding assistance from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). Mark Vance Memorial Greenway is made up of 7,385 linear feet of paved trail and it extends from the Mill Creek area of Steele Creek Park to Volunteer Parkway where it connects with the Wes Davis Greenway. The primary Greenway from Mill Creek to 24<sup>th</sup> St is a separate paved walkway. The greenway is furnished with lighting from Mill Creek to Shelby St. From 24<sup>th</sup> St. to Volunteer

Parkway, the Greenway is made up of sidewalks, alleyways and streets.

## Wes Davis Greenway



The City of Bristol received a transportation enhancement grant from the State of Tennessee in 1996 to construct a pedestrian and bike trail from Anderson Street to Melrose Street. The 2,800 linear feet of trail is built on a former rail bed and was dedicated in honor of long time city leader Wes Davis.

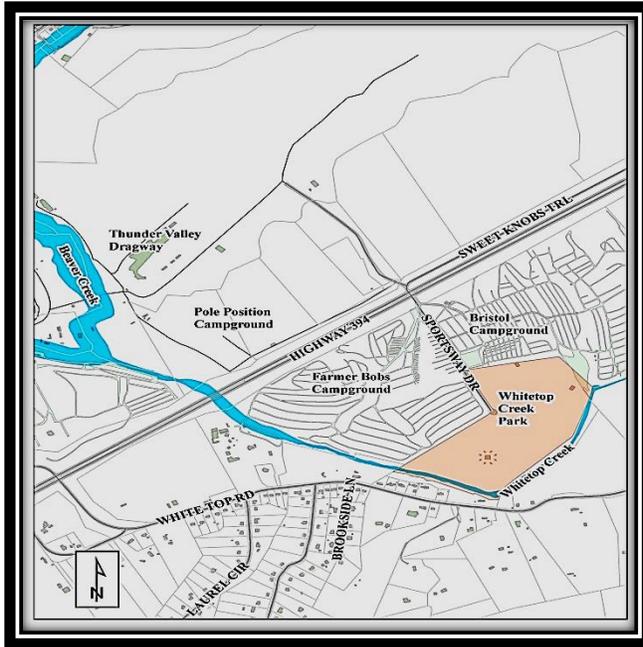
Along this trail are two foot bridges which cross over Beaver creek. The northern bridge is an old railroad trestle which measures 120' long x 14' wide. This trestle was updated with new foot boards and a handrail. The other bridge is a 7' x 109' steadfast steel and wooden bridge that was

bought to replace an old trestle that had been removed. It is illuminated by 32, five globe old style lights. The lights are constructed of cast aluminum with plastic globes on concrete pillars. Located along the trail are two expanded metal plastic coated benches with backs and 2 twenty gallon expanded metal plastic coated trash cans.

The original Pullman passenger train car named after Bristol is on display at the Wes Davis Greenway, located at the intersection of Volunteer Parkway and Anderson Street. This car is 85 feet long and 10 feet wide. The exterior was removed and the metal infrastructure was repaired in the 1990's. There is also a Norfolk-Southern caboose on display. The signage for the Greenway consists of a 15'9" x 3'9" metal reproduction of the train engine that pulled the Bristol car. The identification sign for the Greenway is a wooden 16' x 2' sign which sits in a block flower bed illuminated by two spotlights and two single globe old style, cast aluminum pole lights. There is a small sitting area paying tribute to Wes Davis, with two benches and a plaque.

## Sports Complex

### Whitetop Creek Park



Whitetop Creek Park is a 55.8 acre park located off of Highway 394 across from the Bristol Dragway (Thunder Valley). It was developed as a softball/soccer field complex to provide sport fields for in-house activities as well as tournament rentals. Park planning began in 1993 and the park opened to the public in 2001. During this period a number of state grants were awarded and community sponsorships were obtained to complete the project.

The park consists of four softball fields in a circular pattern around a four-sided score tower. Two fields have a 300ft. fence, while the other two fields have a 325ft. fence. When the outfield fence needs to be shorter, a portable break-away fence is

installed at the required distance, which ranges from 180ft. to 220ft. There are four portable pitching mounds so that the fields can be used for youth baseball tournaments. The fields are equipped with lights so that they can be used at night time. The score tower is a two story structure which houses men's and women's restrooms on the first floor along with a concession stand and storage rooms. The second floor houses an office and an individual score keeper's room for each field. This building was constructed with a lift in order to make it handicapped accessible.

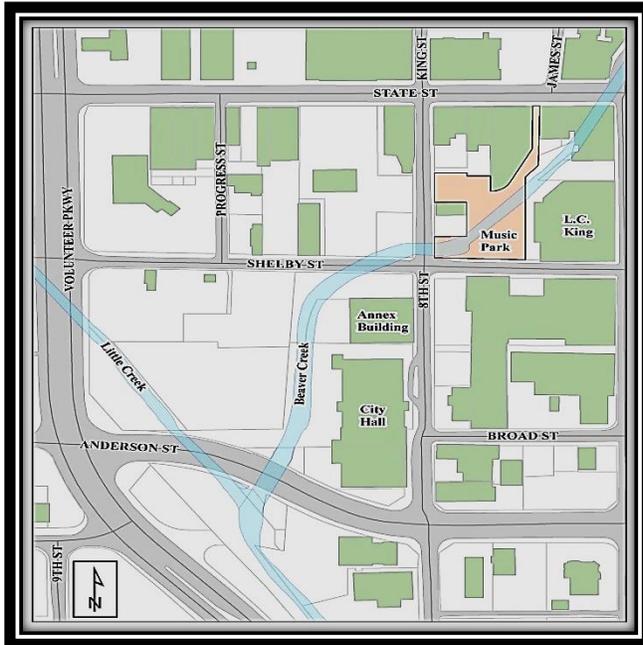
Whitetop Creek Park also consists of four soccer fields located on the upper tier. These fields are lighted for night time play. Men's, women's, and a family restroom are located in a building which serves all four soccer fields. It also houses storage rooms and eventually a concession stand. These fields were poorly constructed and are now being renovated to include irrigation, topsoil and new grass. A multi-purpose field is also available to be used for soccer, football, softball, baseball, or volleyball tournaments. This field contains a backstop in one corner, a skinned infield, and no lighting. Whitetop Creek Park has a one mile walking trail around the perimeter of the park and includes interpretive signage. There is a pavilion with men's, women's, and family restrooms. Next to the pavilion is a playground for 5-12 year olds, a two bay swing set with three belt seats and one tot seat, and a paved regulation basketball court.

A 1.5 acre pond is located behind the softball fields. It was built with the idea of using it and the adjacent creek for irrigation. After further investigation, it was discovered that the volume of water in the pond would not sufficiently provide enough water for the fields. There is also a wetland with a short boardwalk located beside the multipurpose field. This park has its own maintenance shop to store and maintain supplies and equipment needed to keep the ball fields in

proper operational shape. It has an office, a bathroom with a shower, and a large bay area to work on equipment or anything else used at the park.

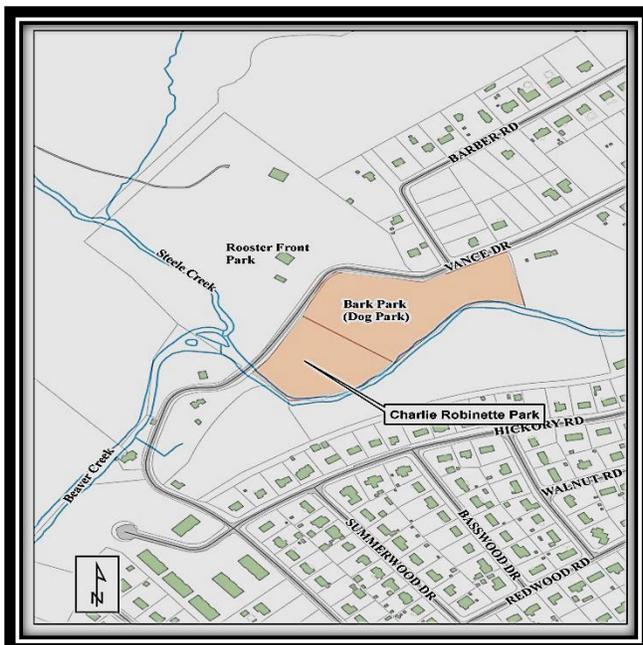
### *Special Use Park*

#### **Beaver Creek Plaza (Music Park)**



Beaver Creek Plaza is a .18 acre park located at 719 Shelby Street. The park was built by the Corp of Engineers as part of the Beaver Creek Flood Prevention Plan. There are three outdoor musical instruments installed in the park. These include: a set of 7 chimes of various lengths, a Pegasus (a large metallophone made with twenty-three resonated aluminum bars in the key of C major and A minor), and a set of 5 tuned drums that are played by hand. There are 6, six foot metal benches, 2 thirty gallon metal trash can holders and two metal flower pot holders. The area is illuminated by three single globe lights. The creek side is

bordered by a black wrought iron fence on one side and by a split rail fence on the other side. The area of use is mostly concrete while the rest of the park is landscaped in low growing monkey grass, shrubs, and trees



#### **Charlie Robinette Park / Bark Park**

Charlie Robinette Park is an 8.16 acre park located at 1155 Vance Drive. This park is constructed on the site of the old waste water treatment plant. Planning for this park began in 2008, with construction starting in late 2009. The park opened to the public on April 10, 2010. The park includes a pavilion with restrooms, a large green space, a walking trail, and a dog park.

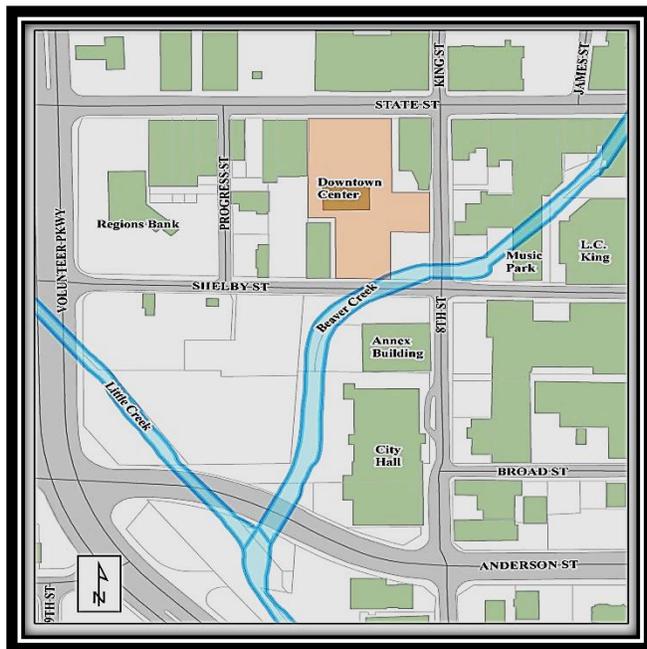
During the construction, a number of names for the park were discussed. Ultimately, City Council named the park in memory of Charlie Robinette who served the city form more than 40 years in the Public Works

Department. Mr. Robinette was instrumental in the construction of Rooster Front Park located across the street from this location.

This park has a 30ft. x 50ft. picnic shelter with restrooms. The shelter includes three 15ft. aluminum picnic tables, with one being wheelchair accessible. This shelter contains lights, power, a yard hydrant, a drinking fountain and a grill. There are three recycled trash can holders at this shelter with three more located along the trail. This park has a tetherball court and a 175ft. x 280ft. multi-use field next to the shelter. There is an asphalt paved parking lot with room for 29 vehicles, with two of the slots being handicapped accessible. The Lakeside Trail from Steele Creek Park continues into Charlie Robinette Park, along a swift flowing creek, to a cul-de-sac for an additional 1320 linear feet.

Charlie Robinette Park contains Bark Park, which is the city's first dog park. Bark Park is located on the upper tier of Charlie Robinette Park. The dog park was completed in the fall of 2009. There are two sections to the dog park; an area for larger dogs and an area for smaller dogs. The two sections are surrounded by more than 1,000ft of chain-link fence. Both areas have drinking fountains that are equipped with a dog bowl at the bottom. There are eight park benches, and eight trash receptacles. At each receptacle is a box with dog waste collection bags. Bark Park has a separate paved parking area with 15 parking spaces. Four of the large trees at this location were relocated from the Central School site when the building was razed. The large dog area has a paved trail leading out of the back and connecting with the lakeside walking trail.

### **Bristol Downtown Center and Transit Station**

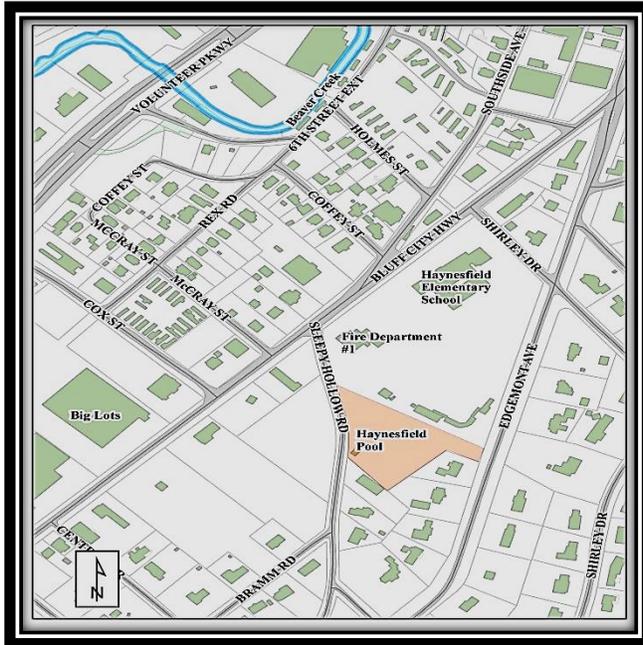


The Downtown Center is located at 810 State Street. This facility was completed in 2004 and serves a number of functions. The building (74ft x 46ft) that is located in the center of the property houses restrooms, a concession stand and a lounge. The facilities primary function is to serve as the Transit Hub for the Bristol Tennessee and Bristol Virginia Public Transit System. Secondary uses are the State Street Farmer's Market and weekly concert series. The park is available for rental and is a primary stage location for the Rhythm and Roots Reunion.

Ten 14ft umbrellas line the sidewalks on each side of the building providing shade and shelter. There is a 30ft x16ft stage located in front of the Country Music

Mural. There are 40 parking spaces available as well as on street parking. There are six metal benches located at the Downtown Center and a large information kiosk situated on the State Street side of the building.

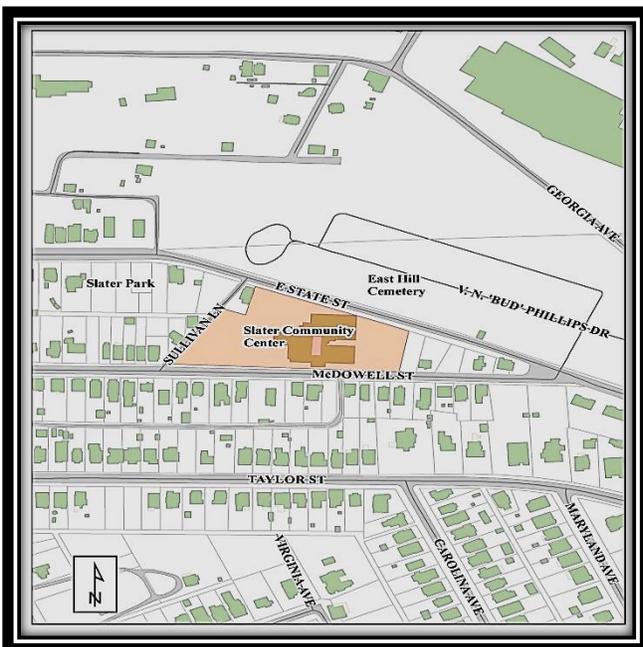
## Haynesfield Pool



Haynesfield Pool, built in 1964, is a 600,000 gallon public pool located at 327 Sleepy Hollow Road. The fenced facility includes 1.75 acres with a main pool size of 43ft x 16ft, having a 38ft x 38ft diving well. There is also a 20ft x 20ft baby pool. The bath-house / entry building is 70ft x 24ft and contains an office, restrooms, showers and counter area. There is also a 16ft x 10ft concession building. The main pool is serviced by a 21ft x 20ft pump house containing the primary pump system, two sand filters, and a chlorine injector system. This system was installed in 1996. The baby pool has a separate pump, filter, and chlorine system, adjacent to the pool,

housed in a 5ft x 5ft shed. Recent changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) have required the installation of entry steps and a power lift. The pool is serviced by a 136ft x 49ft parking area. The majority of the parking area is partially paved, with 25% remaining as a grassy

slope. Pool attendance has decreased each year. Thus, staff has been creative in adding rental chairs and umbrellas to offset the loss in gate fees. Swim lessons continue to be very popular each season and the pool has been very successful in hosting pool parties. A dog swim is held each summer after the regular pool season has ended.



## Slater Community Center

The Slater Community Center is located at 325 McDowell Street and encompasses 3.75 acres. The 70,100 sq. ft. building was originally constructed to serve as the segregated high school. Over the years the building has served many functions. The

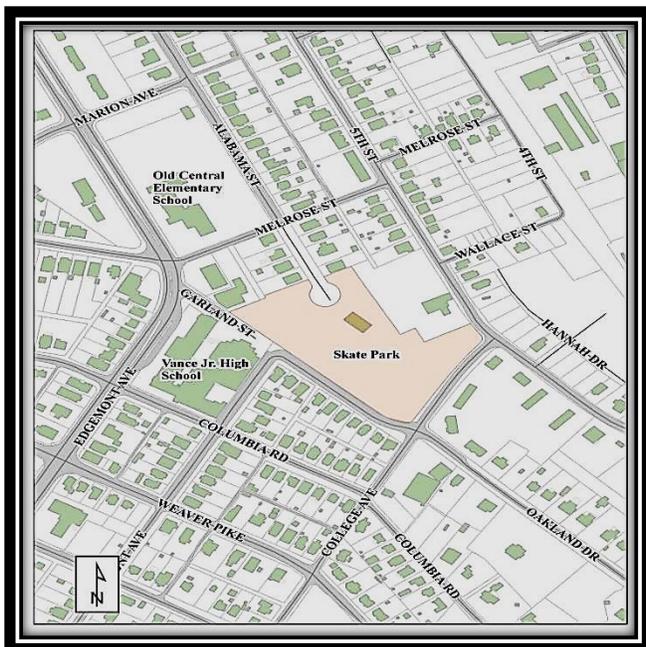
Bristol Sullivan Technical School was housed here for many years. In 1982, the building was occupied by the Parks & Recreation Department and would serve as offices and a Community Center. Over the next three years the building underwent numerous renovations. One key renovation project was the installation of air conditioners with duct work throughout the building in order to keep it cool during the summer months. The Slater Center is heated by steam using a gas fired boiler. The building had an elevator installed to make it Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible. The parking areas can accommodate 150 vehicles, with 9 spaces reserved for the handicapped. The building continues to serve the community with a mix of uses.

The first floor of the Slater Center hosts our Senior Program division. This floor is furnished with two cardio rooms, a weight room, a billiards room, cafeteria classroom, 64ft. x 84ft. gym, storage areas, Nautilus room, restrooms, auditorium and offices. The cafeteria serves as a gathering place for the seniors and includes three computer stations. The cafeteria is also used for classes, public meetings/events and is available for rental. The cafeteria is equipped with a kitchen that includes a commercial over, ice machine, commercial two door refrigerator, chest freezer and a commercial coffee maker. The billiards room that is located on the first floor has three eight foot pool tables.

The 64ft x 84ft gym also serves many functions of the community. During the daytime it is primarily used for senior exercise programs with most days consisting of a pick-up basketball game around lunch. Regular dances and social events are also held in the gym. Our youth basketball uses the space for both practice and Saturday games. The 208 seat Auditorium hosts the City Council meeting each month. Other board meetings, classes and training events are hosted here as well. The gym and auditorium are also available for public rental.

The second floor contains a computer lab, conference room, yoga room, three classrooms, and the Parks & Recreation Administrative Offices. The basement is split into two separate areas. One area houses the Police Departments Training Center and Community Police Offices.

This area includes offices, a classroom and Use of Force Scenario Room. A large unfinished area has been converted using movable walls to serve as a “Simulation Shoot House.” The employee fitness center is also located on this side of the building along with additional storage rooms. The other area in the basement houses the spin cycle room with 11 spin cycles, the athletic equipment storage rooms, a single stall restroom and a storage room for paper and cleaning supplies for the City’s parks.



### Skate Park

The Skate Park is located at 700 College Avenue and was opened to the public on March 26, 1999. The park was built at its

current location after more than a year of meetings with a local group of parents and kids requesting a skate park. The park is an asphalt paved area that is fenced in and gated so that it can be secured when it is not open to the public. Skate Park includes 10 pieces of skate boarding equipment. The oldest pieces are the quarter pipe and the grind rails. The grind rails have been there since the park was built and the quarter pipes are second generation equipment. The other eight pieces of equipment were bought to imitate an urban scene with a picnic table and road barricades that can be used to grind on.

### Steele Creek Park Golf Course



The Steele Creek Golf Course encompasses 65 acres and is located at the main entrance of Steele Creek Park. The nine-hole course provides 2,779 yards of golf. The course is often described by golfers as beautiful but challenging. In addition to the course we have a 300ft driving range, practice green and chipping area. The course consists of a golf shop that is a two story (3,200 sq. ft.) building with a full basement. The main floor contains a sales area, restrooms, snack bar and lounge. The building is equipped with an additional restroom accessed from the outside. The basement is used to store/charge our 24 golf carts. The greens, t-boxes and fairways are irrigated using a

pump system to pull water from Steele Creek Lake. There are there emergency shelters located strategically throughout the course. The park contains a maintenance shop for the storage and upkeep of materials used throughout the golf course. The course is served by a separate large parking lot that consists of 100 parking spaces that is accessed by a separate gated entrance beside the main park entrance.

*Park Amenities Chart*

City Park	Type of Park	Total Acreage	Walking	Playground	Picnic	Golf	Disc Golf	Basketball	Football	Volleyball	Soccer	Baseball	Softball	Tennis	Swimming	Water Sports	Hiking	Camping
Anderson Park	Neighborhood Park	2.38	✓	✓														
Avoca Park	Community Park	14.6										✓						
Beaver Creek Plaza (Music Park)	Special Use Park	.18																
Bristol Downtown Center	Special Use Park	1.18																
Cedar Valley	Neighborhood Park	3.29																
Charlie Robinette/Bark Park	Special Use Park	8.16	✓		✓													
Clay Park	Mini-Park	.84			✓													
DeFriece Park	Neighborhood Park	9.13		✓	✓			✓										
Fairmount Park	Neighborhood Park	2.57																
Food City Park	Mini-Park	1.6			✓			✓										
George Spinks Field (Western Little League)	Neighborhood Park	2.51			✓							✓						
Haynesfield Park	Neighborhood Park	5.29			✓									✓				
Haynesfield Pool	Special Use Park	1.75													✓			
Holston View Park	Community Park	13	✓	✓				✓				✓		✓				
Jersey Park	Neighborhood Park	2.26																
King Meadows	Mini-Park	.15																
Mark Vance Memorial Greenway	Greenway	7,385 Linear Feet	✓															
Morning Rotary	Mini-Park	.5			✓													

Centennial Park																		
Oakwood Park	Mini-Park	.12			✓													
Patterson Park	Neighborhood Park	1.6		✓									✓					
Pinnacle Park	Community Park		✓													✓		
Rooster Front Park	Neighborhood Park	3.6	✓	✓	✓			✓					✓					
Rotary Park	Neighborhood Park	5.35		✓														
Skate Park	Special Use Park	5.35																
Slater Community Center	Special Use Park	3.75						✓										
Slater Park	Mini-Park	.66						✓										
Steele Creek Park	Large Urban Park	2,200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	
Steele Creek Park Golf Course	Special Use Park	65				✓												
Wes Davis Greenway	Greenway	2,800 Linear Feet	✓															
Windsor Park	Mini-Park	.17			✓													
Whitetop Creek Park	Sports Complex	55.8	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					



*“Our Task must be to free ourselves....by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and it’s beauty.”*

*-Albert Einstein*



# Chapter 3: Leagues and Programs

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Private and City leagues/programs are an integral component of a City's Parks and Recreation Department. Since these programs and leagues are used by a common group of individuals, they can become over looked due to their constant use. However, it is easy for the individuals of the city who do not use these leagues and programs to have no knowledge of their existence. This chapter lists these leagues and programs by activity, organization and downtown art opportunities in hopes that citizens will learn and participate in new activities throughout the city.

## Opportunities In and Around the Bristol Region

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### *By Activity*

The following is a list of leagues and programs categorized by their specific activity.

#### **Youth Athletics**

- Youth Basketball – Bristol TN/VA Parks and Recreation Departments, Upward, Tennessee Avenue Christian Association (TACA), Chinquapin Church, Volunteer Baptist, and YMCA
- Youth Football – NFL Flag Football – Bristol TN Parks and Recreation, Bristol VA Parks and Recreation Departments, Boys and Girls Club (coming in 2015), Jr Viking League, YMCA (Flag Only)
- Youth Baseball – Bristol TN Little League, Bristol VA Little League, Avoca Baseball
- Youth Softball – Bristol TN Parks and Recreation Department, Bristol TN/VA Little Leagues
- Youth Soccer – Bristol Soccer Association (TN/VA), YMCA, Upward, TACA, Chinquapin Church, FCDallas Tri
- Youth Volleyball – Northeast Tennessee Volleyball Club (NETVC), Tri-Extreme Velocity, Sullivan County School System (by school)

#### **Adult Athletics**

- Basketball – Bristol VA Parks and Recreation Department (18 and up, 50 and up), YMCA (3 on 3)
- Softball – Bristol TN/VA Parks and Recreation Department (16 & up)
- Volleyball – Senior Volleyball (practicing at Virginia Middle School gym)

#### **Dance/Cheer/Tumbling**

- Bristol Dance Academy, Bristol, TN

- Bristol Ballet, Bristol, VA
- Champion Elite Cheer & Tumbling, Bristol VA (cheer, tumbling, rentals)
- Bristol VA Parks and Recreation – youth tumbling, ballet and hip hop
- Jr Viking Cheerleading – cheer for Jr Viking football team
- Watts’ Dance Studio, Bristol, TN and Elizabethton - ballet, tap, jazz, pointe, tumbling

### **Arts/Theatre/Music/Language**

- Theater Bristol, TN – open to all ages
- Barter Theater, VA – open to all ages
- King University Theater, TN – King University Students
- Kindermusick – Abington, VA – Highlands Center for Ballet Arts
- Bristol Public Library/Avoca Library – youth and adult book clubs; children library hour
- Bristol VA Parks and Recreation – calligraphy, pottery, drawing, acrylic painting, photography, & cake decorating
- Several downtown Bristol TN/VA venues – Blowfish Emporium, Kil’n Time Ceramic Studio, & One of a King Gallery

### **Golf Courses**

- Steele Creek Golf Course & Driving Range, Bristol, TN (Public)
- Clear Creek Golf Club, Bristol, VA (Public)
- Cedars Golf Course, Bristol, TN (Public)
- The Country Club of Bristol, TN (Semi-Private)
- Putt-Putt, Bristol, TN (Public)
- Tri-Cities Golf Club, Blountville, TN (Public)
- Big Hollow Par III, Blountville, TN (Public)

### **Swimming**

- Haynesfield Aquatic Facility, City of Bristol, TN (Public)
- YMCA Bristol TN/VA – indoor lap and exercise pool (TN); outdoor pool (VA)
- Bristol VA Parks and Recreation – outdoor pool at Sugar Hollow (private rentals only)
- The County Club of Bristol (Private)

## Tennis

- Bristol TN/VA Parks and Recreation – National Junior Tennis League (NJTL) summer program
- Tennis Center, Bristol, TN (Private)
- The Country Club of Bristol (Private)

### *By Organization*

The following is a list of leagues and programs categorized by organizations.

**Boys and Girls Club** – Currently have three locations – Bristol TN/VA, Bluff City, & Abington, VA. They offer the following activities and programs: after school programming for children in school, summer program (from last day of school year through July), game room activities, special events, basketball, field trips, flag football, quick SMART tennis, swimming (summer only at YMCA outdoor pool and Coomes Center), soccer, volleyball, art activities, teen programs, community service opportunities, computer classes, tutoring, homework help, drawing classes, & painting classes.

**Bristol Ballet** – Offers the following activities and programs: school calendar classes of pre-ballet to pointe (ages 4 and up) & creative movement (3 year olds). The Bristol Ballet performs several times per year and offers various summer camps that participate in the A&E Districts *Who Art You?* Camp in Downtown Bristol each summer.

**Bristol Dance Academy** – Located in Bristol, TN and offers the following activities and programs: pre-ballet (Age 4). For ages 4 and up they offer hip hop, jazz, clogging, tumbling, lyrical, and performances.

**Bristol TN/VA Lacrosse Club** – Participation is open to children in the Bristol and surrounding communities of southwest Virginia and northeast Tennessee. The lacrosse rules follow that for males but girls are welcome. The lacrosse club is open to children born on or after January 1, 1999.

**Bristol Public Library/Avoca Library** – Offers special areas of interest for children, teens and literacy, along with many special events like movies, genealogy workshops, reading programs, lectures, author talks, and adult education classes.

**Bristol Racquet and Tennis Club** – Located in Bristol, Tennessee, this club offers six outdoor courts (four hydro clay courts and two hard), four indoor courts, a pro-shop, tennis lessons, tournament play and professional on staff.

**Bristol Virginia Parks and Recreation** – Offers youth football, basketball for ages 8-12, youth tumbling, ballet, hip-hop, adult basketball/softball, senior basketball/softball, art opportunities,

special events, facility rental, pool rental, camping, senior citizen activities, show choir, dog park, music and movies in the park.

Girls Incorporated of Bristol – Offers a vast array of programs for girls only ages 6-18. Hosts of a 10 week summer program for \$150.00 per girl. Have before and after school programs, a gym, playground and field on site.

Northeast Tennessee Volleyball Club (NETVC) – This club is a non-profit organization sanctioned by the Southern Region of USA volleyball. They meet at the Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) and offer a fall league program that for ages 7-12 co-ed, with practices during the week. They also offer a travel league for girls, ages 10-18 years old.

Paramount Center for the Arts – Host performances from the Wurlitzer organ to Broadway productions and the Paramount Center currently participates in the A&E Districts *Who Art You?* Camp in Downton Bristol each summer. Other common performances at the Paramount Center range from big band and symphony to ballet and clogging, from children’s choruses and concert choirs to mountain music and rock and roll.

The Country Club of Bristol – This is a private club that offers tennis, golf and swimming.

Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy – This is a private Christian school with grades K-12 and summer programs for grades K-6. The academy offers upward basketball/cheerleading, boys and girls basketball/volleyball, and soccer (playing in the Bristol Soccer Association) .

Theater Bristol – Located in Bristol, TN, the theater serves as the local community theatre offering several productions annually.

Upward sports programs in the Bristol area – Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy, Chinquapin Church, Volunteer Baptist Church, with sports programs being offered in basketball, soccer and cheerleading.

Velocity Sports – This sports facility offers sport instruction, performance guidance, clinics for youth, adult boot camp/fitness, batting cages with machines, indoor turf area, weight room, two full size basketball/volleyball courts, parent lounge, and a rental facility. Velocity sports also offers Tri Extreme Velocity, which is a traveling volleyball team, ages 10-18, with hopes of offering league play in 2015. Velocity also has 2 boys travel basketball teams they currently sponsor.

Watts Dance Studio (Bristol TN and Elizabethton) – Offers ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, hip-hop, and tumbling, all for ages 3 to adult.

Young Men’s Christian Association (YMCA) – Bristol TN/VA – Offers aquatics for youth and adults, exercise classes for youth and adults, babysitting, teen club, and youth/adult athletics.

Young Women’s Christian Association (YWCA) – Bristol TN – Their moto is empowering, nurturing and transforming girls and women. They offer a wide array of classes/ events for young women, exercise classes, host annual events, and operates a child care facility on site.

### ***Art Opportunities in Downtown Bristol:***

The following is a list of art opportunities located in downtown Bristol TN/VA.

Benjamin Walls Gallery – Fine Art Gallery that has won 6 International Awards, a two-time exhibitor at the Natural History Museum and a four-time exhibitor at the Smithsonian.

Blowfish Emporium – Art Galley that showcases an array of art in various medium from over 30 local and regional artisans.

Kil’n Time Ceramics Studio – Offers ready-to-paint ceramics, fused glass and make-your-own mosaics.

One of a Kind Gallery – Offers classes for adults and children in pottery, drawing, watercolor, oils, acrylics, pastel, and batik. They gallery also offers Kids’ Art Camps during the summer, and participates in the A&E Districts *Who Art You? Camp* in downtown Bristol each summer.

Art in Public Places – a community are project organized and implemented by the Art in Public Places Board with the cooperation of the Bristol, Tennessee, and Bristol, Virginia city governments.



*“The more successfully a city mingles everyday diversity of uses and users in its everyday streets, the more successfully, casually (and economically) its people thereby enliven and support well-located parks that can thus give back grace and delight to their neighborhoods instead of vacuity.”*

*-Jane Jacobs, [The Death and Life of Great American Cities](#)*



# Chapter 4: Level of Service

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One of the most crucial components of the Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan was the creation of the level of service maps, data from community surveys, and data from community meetings. The level of service maps are a vital component to park plans because they represent the physical coverage areas of parks inside the entire community. These maps can show areas that are underserved and areas that are over served. Community surveys and community meetings are just as important since they provide feedback from members of the public on the Parks & Recreation System.

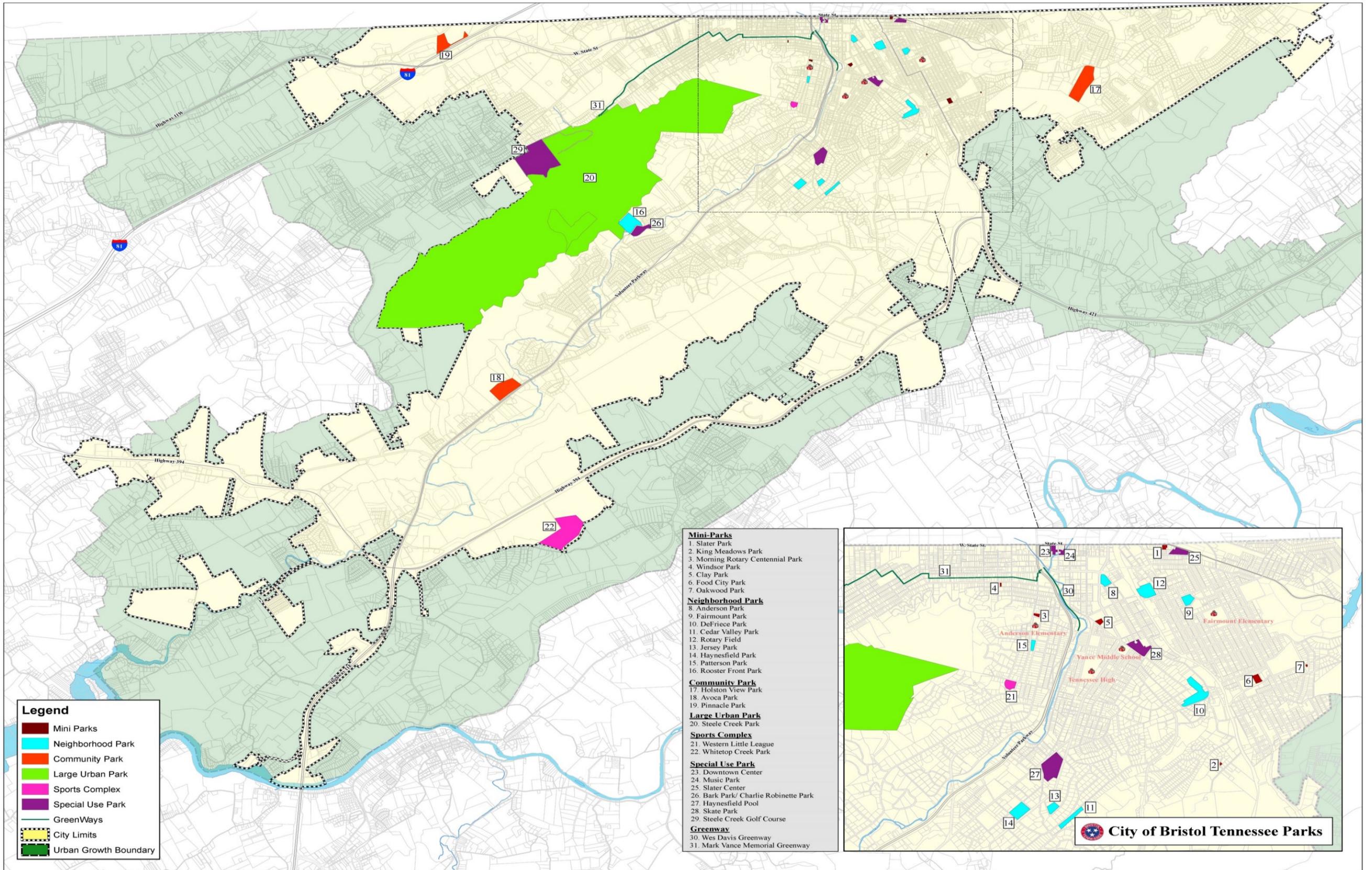
## Level of Service Maps and Park Location Maps

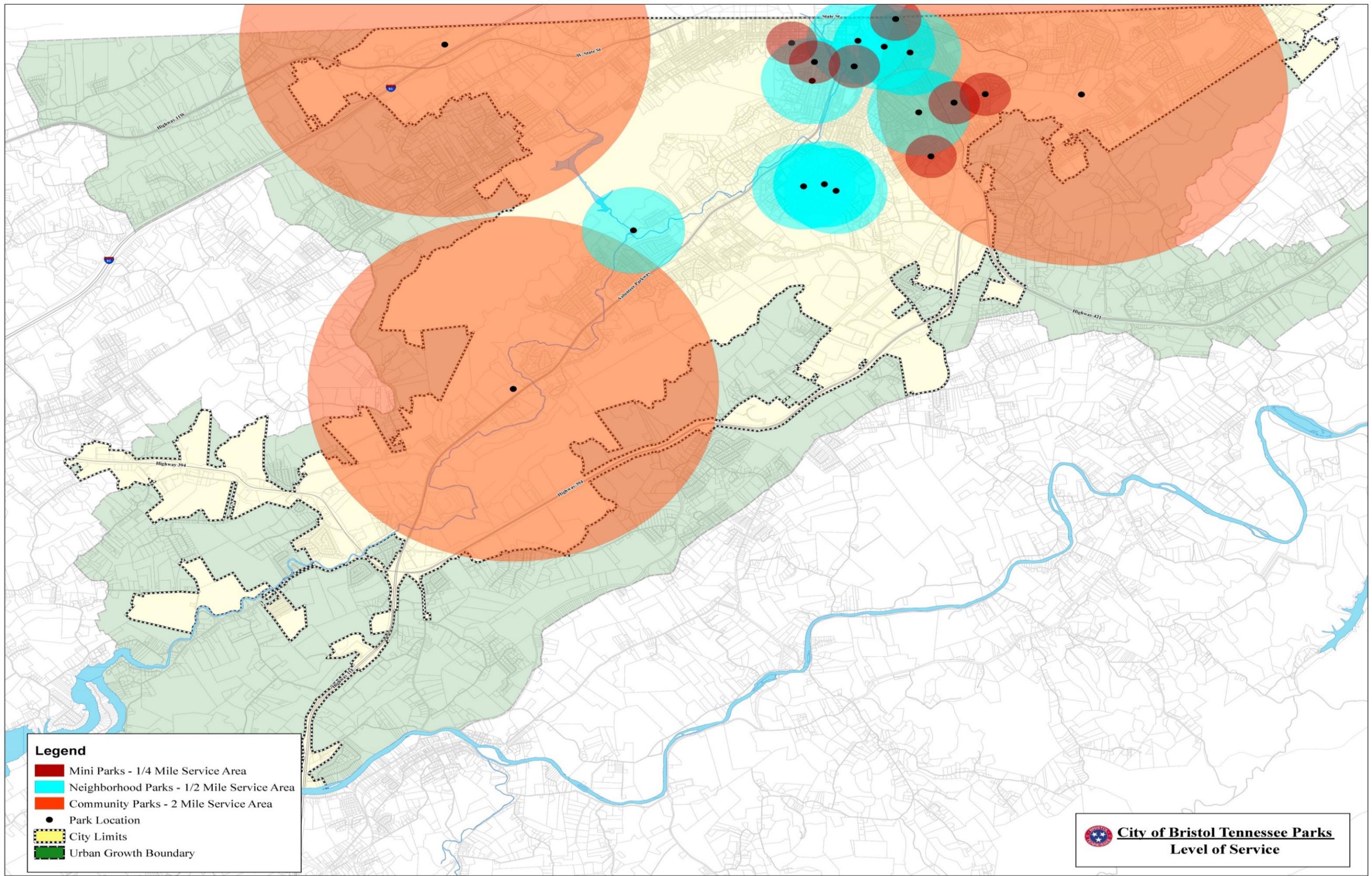
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The following pages contain level of service maps and park location maps for the entire City of Bristol, Tennessee. The park coverage map is broken into four categories: mini parks (1/4 mile service area), neighborhood parks (1/2 mile service area), community parks (2 mile service area) and parks that service the entire community. Within the coverage and location maps it can be seen that the City is in need of parks and recreational facilities throughout the southern, eastern and western portions of the city. These maps also provide detail on areas that are over serviced, such as the inner City section of Bristol. While looking at the level of service coverage maps below, there are four areas that seem to be underserved in regards of mini parks and neighborhood parks. The following four areas are the underserved neighborhoods within the City of Bristol:

1. The northwestern section of the City from West State Street to Interstate 81
2. The northeastern section of the City from King College to the Country Club of Bristol
3. Section of the City surrounding Vance Tank Road from Rooster Front Park to Volunteer Parkway
4. The entire southern portion of the City from the intersection of Bluff City Highway and Volunteer Parkway to the furthest extents of the City limits toward Blountville and Bluff City

The outlined service gaps mentioned above and the recreational needs of the City of Bristol will be further discussed in Chapter 5, Community Gaps & Needs.

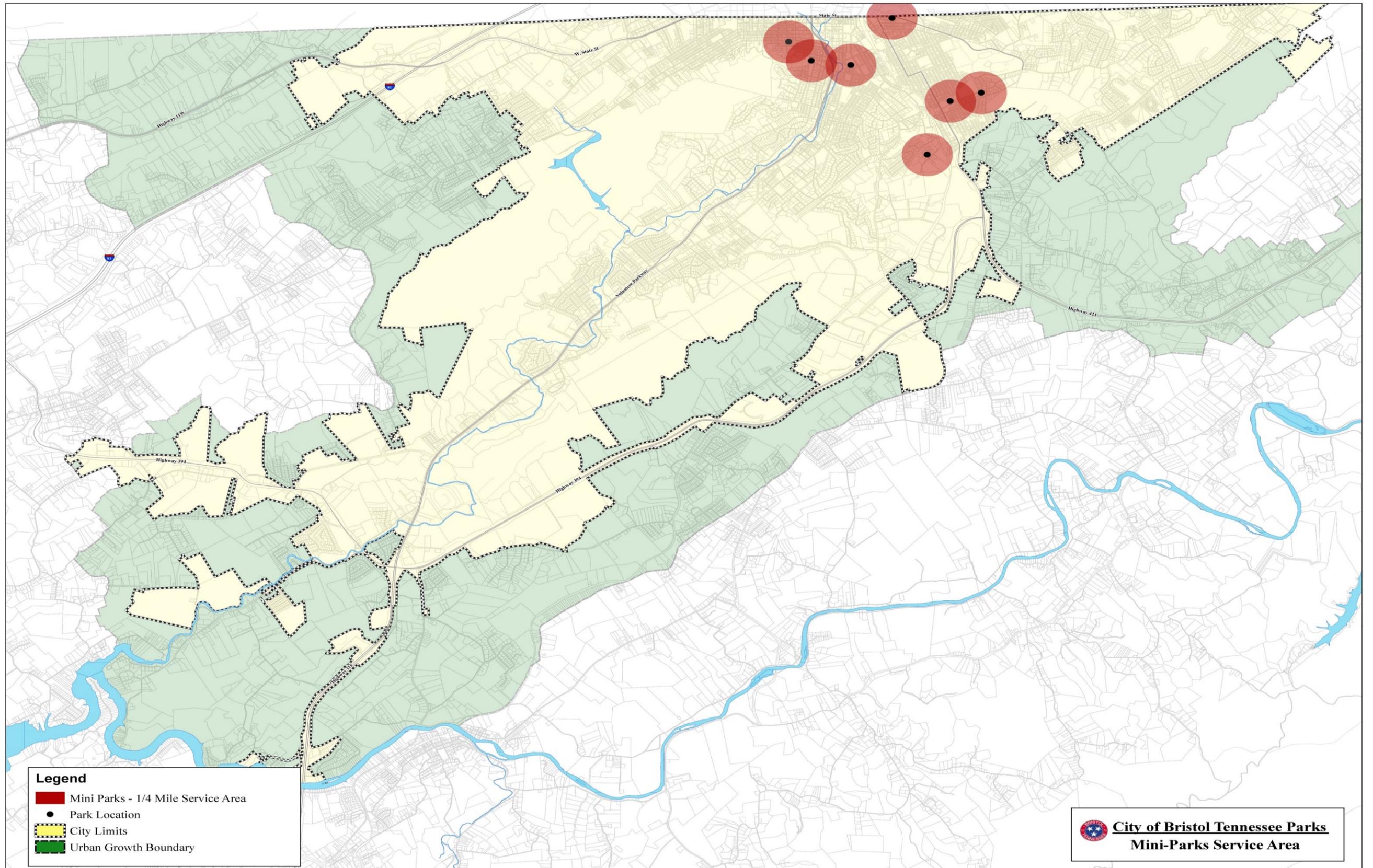


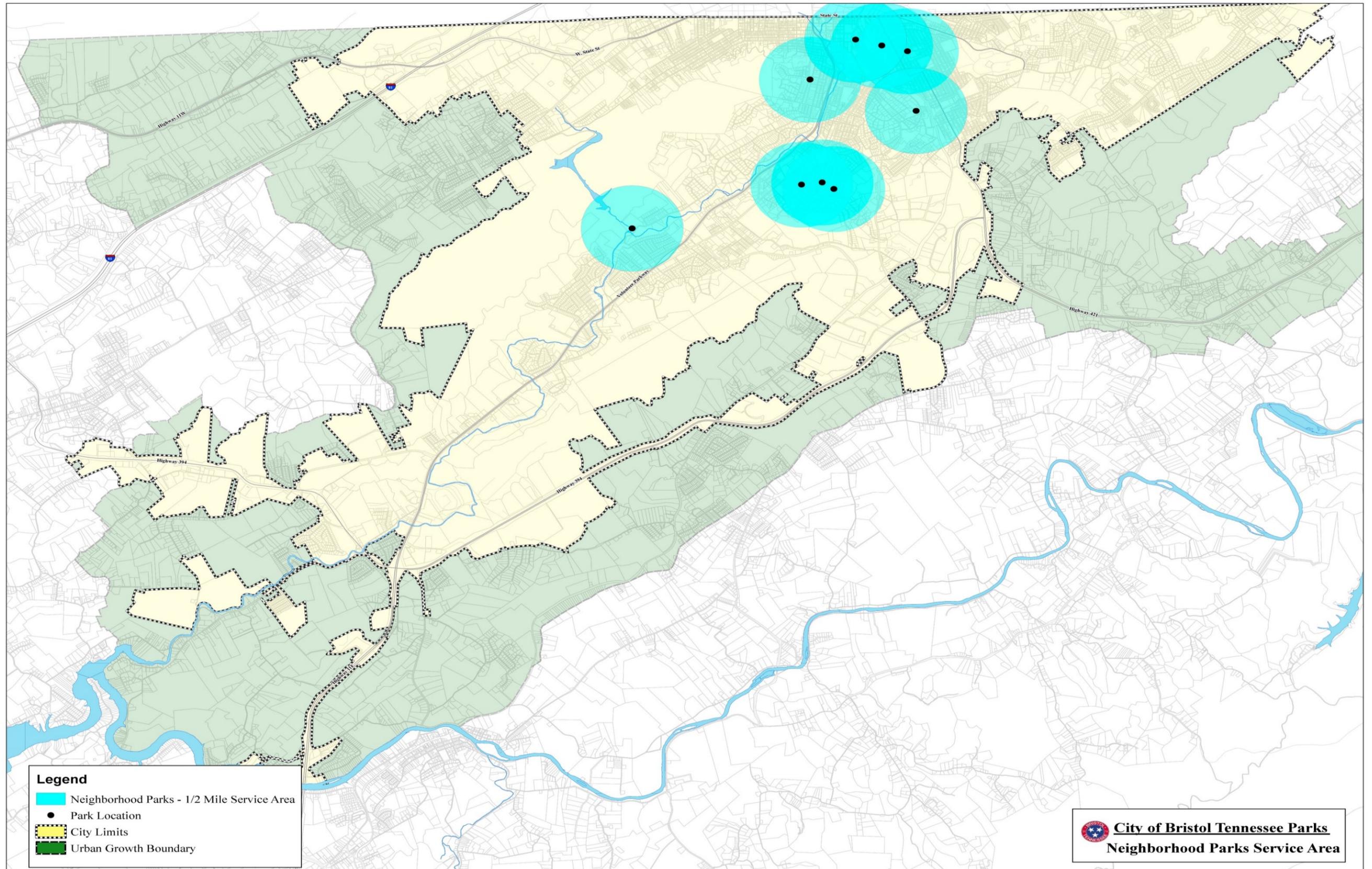


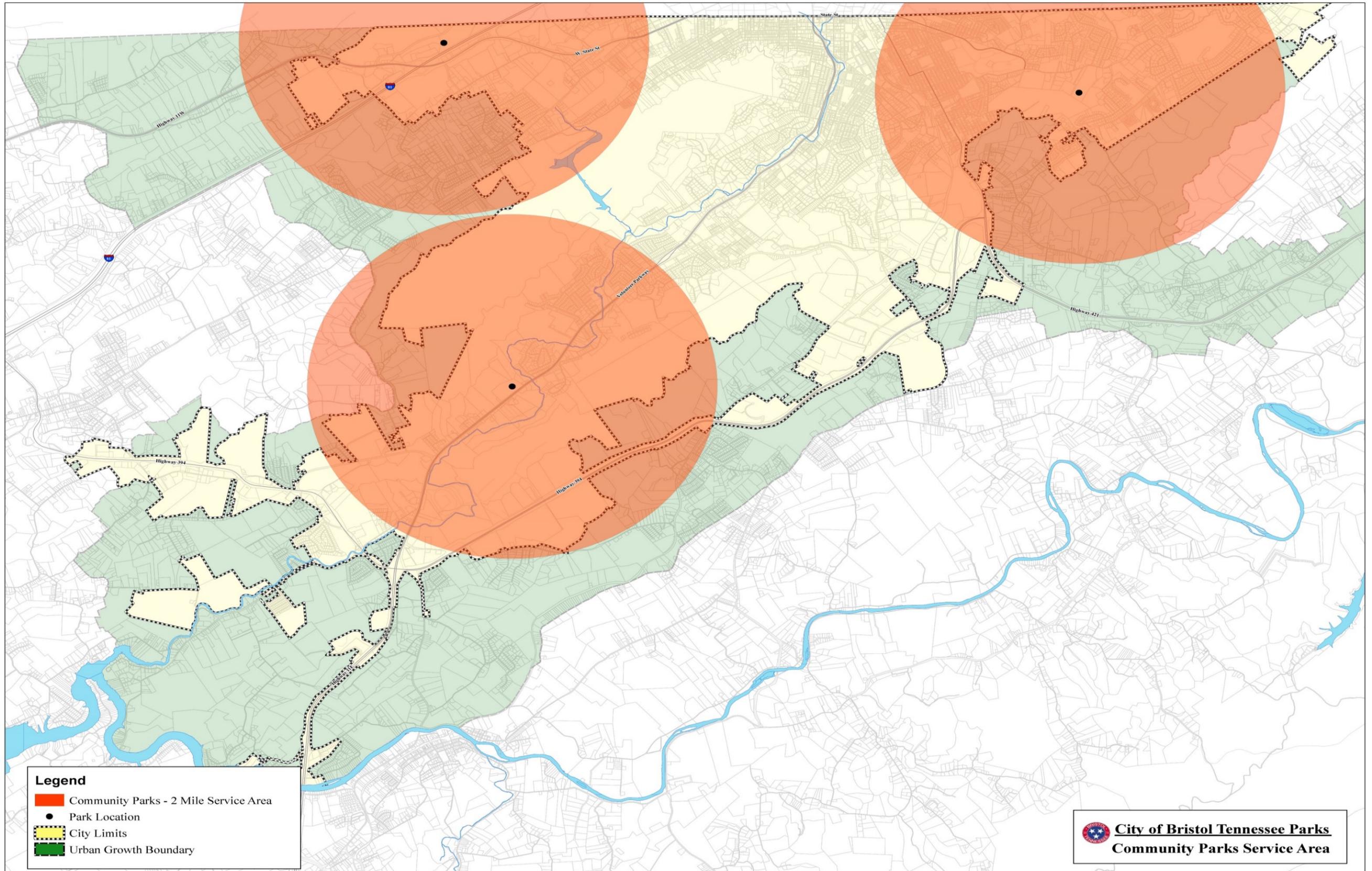
**Legend**

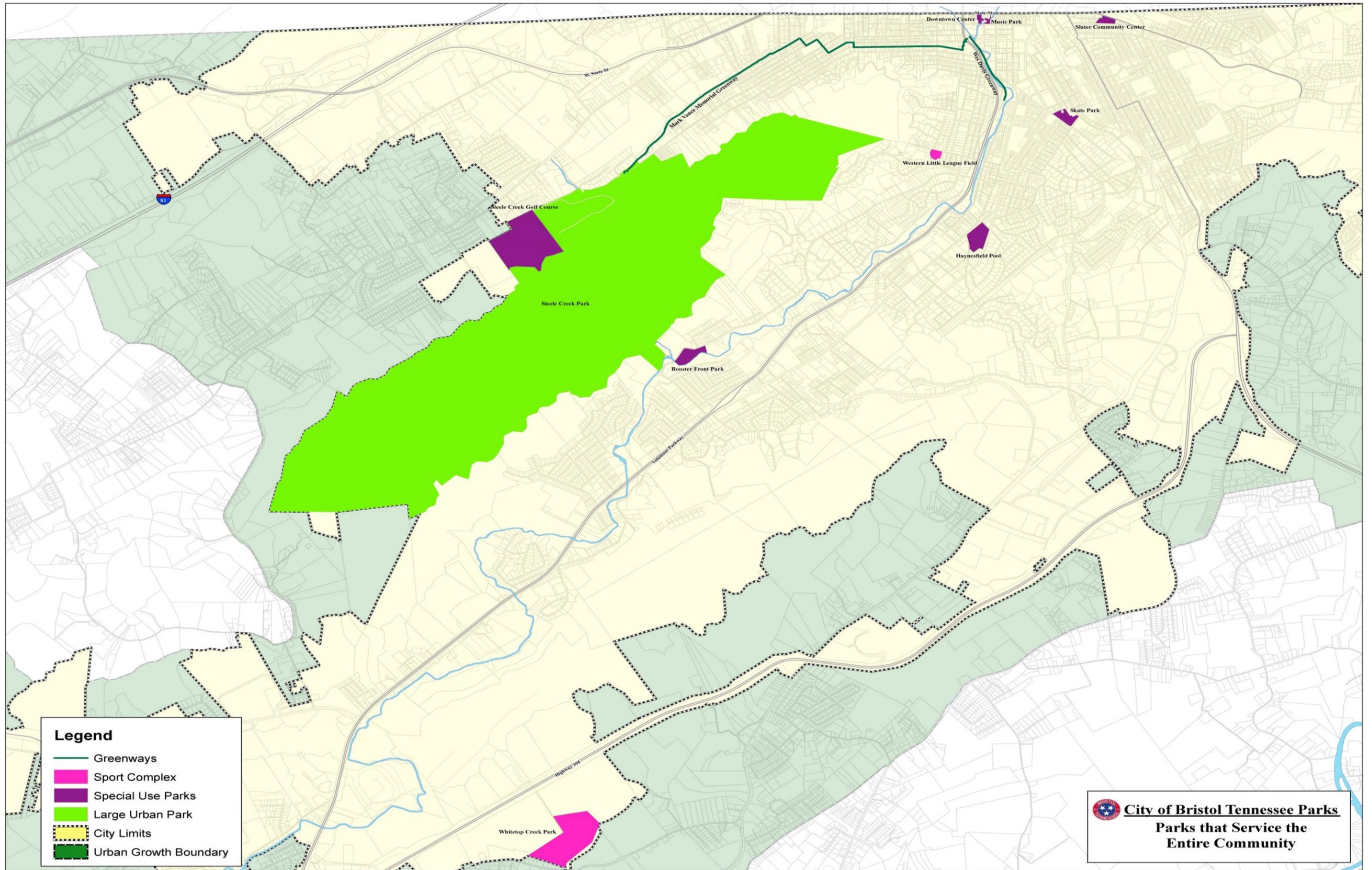
- Mini Parks - 1/4 Mile Service Area
- Neighborhood Parks - 1/2 Mile Service Area
- Community Parks - 2 Mile Service Area
- Park Location
- City Limits
- Urban Growth Boundary

**City of Bristol Tennessee Parks**  
 Level of Service









# Community Assessment of Parks and Recreation Facilities

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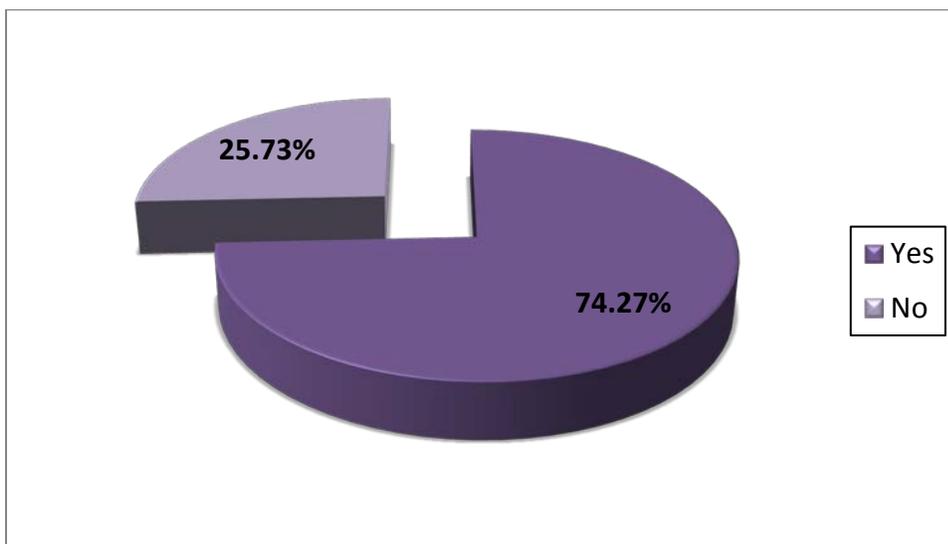
A community survey form was distributed to the Parks and Recreation Commission at the kick-off meeting for the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan that took place on January 2, 2014. Forms were later distributed by City staff to the members who were not in attendance at the meeting. In January 2014, the surveys were distributed to the community in an array of methods. The survey was posted on the City of Bristol’s website, given to Tennessee High School students, Citizens Municipal Academy graduates, Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center & Park, and paper copies were placed at the front desk of City Hall. Once the results started coming in, the survey created a milestone for the City of Bristol by becoming the first survey to receive over seventy (70) responses on just the first day.

The survey asked general questions about the Bristol community and asked respondents to identify strong points about their parks and recreational areas as well as areas for improvement. Respondents were also asked to provide comments on specific parks and recreation issues, such as facilities, recreational fields and the overall condition of the parks.

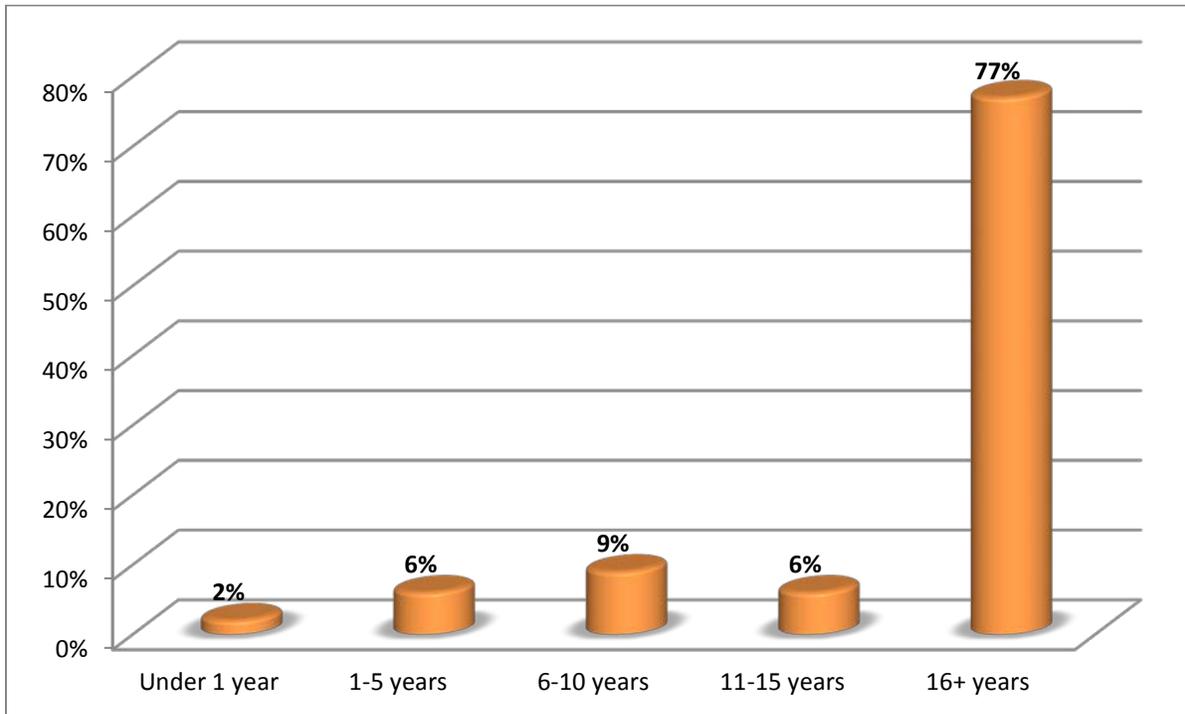
Respondents were asked to complete the survey forms independently (not as a group). However, the responses are relatively consistent in most categories and have provided initial direction and an idea of some focus areas for the study. The compiled responses to the community survey, student survey and combination of both, are given below.

## *Community Survey Results*

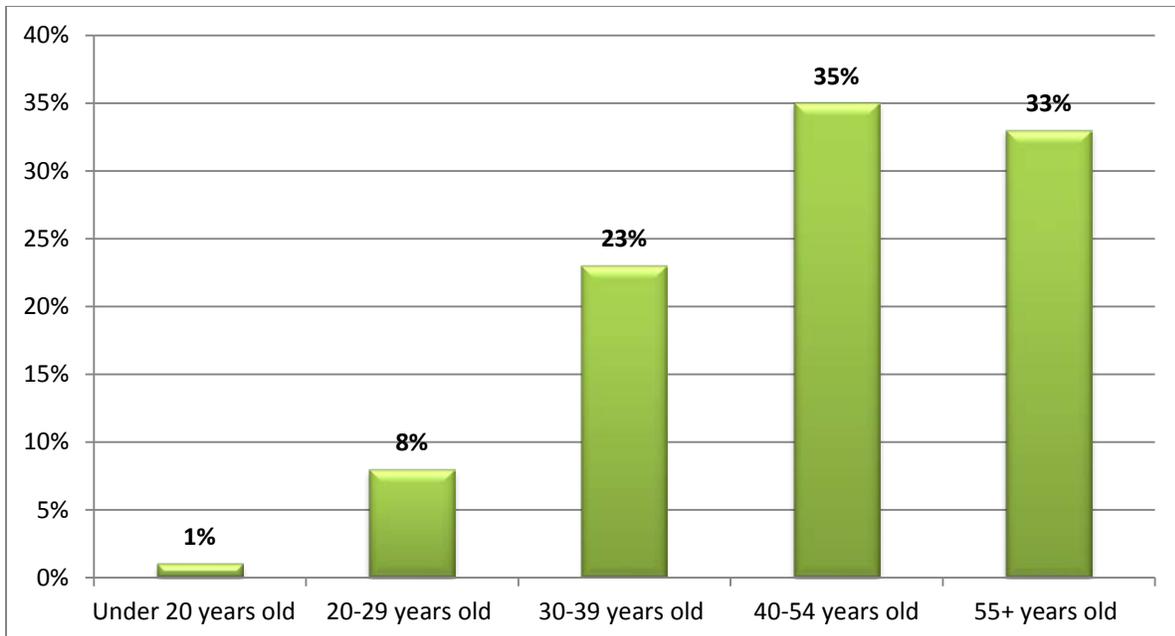
### **1) Do you live in the city of Bristol Tennessee?**



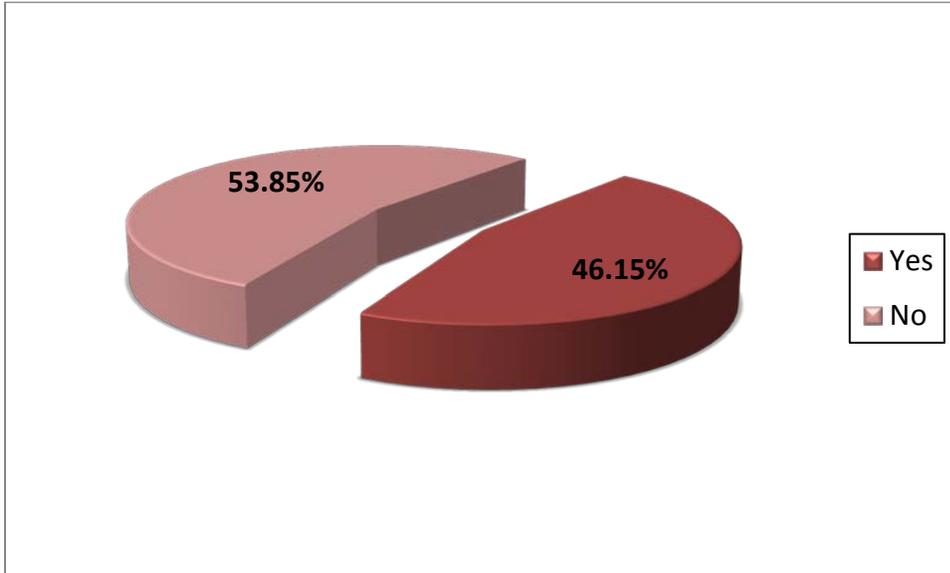
## 2) How long have you lived in Bristol?



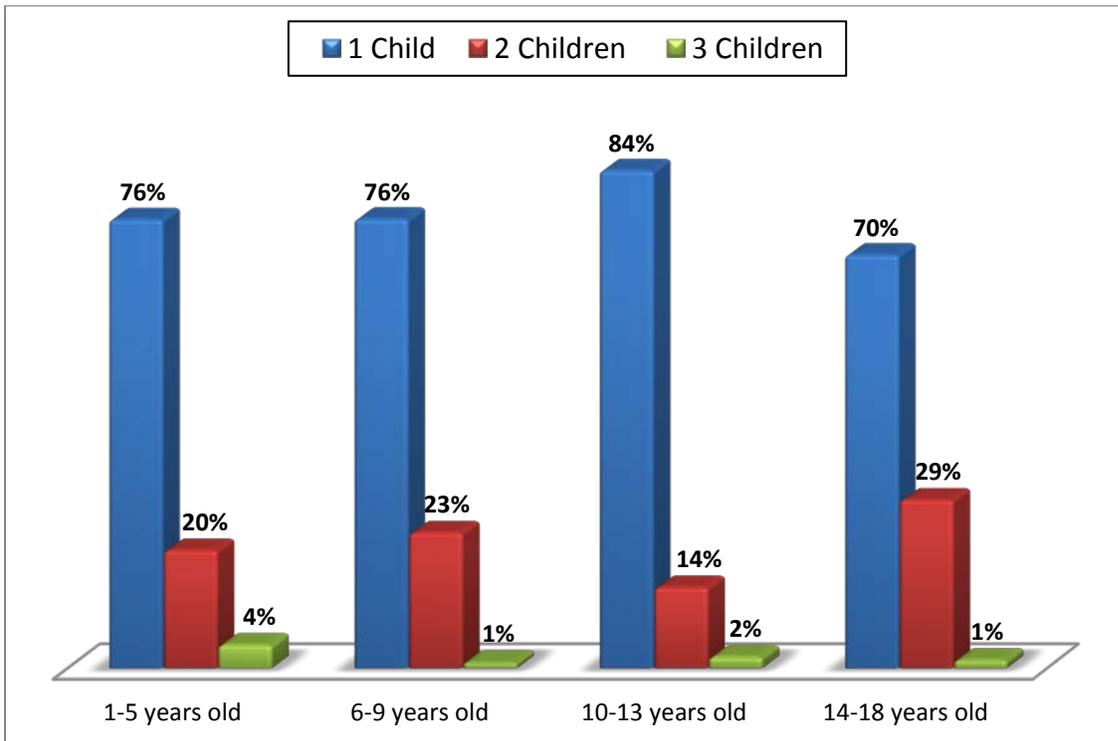
## 3) Which age group are you in?



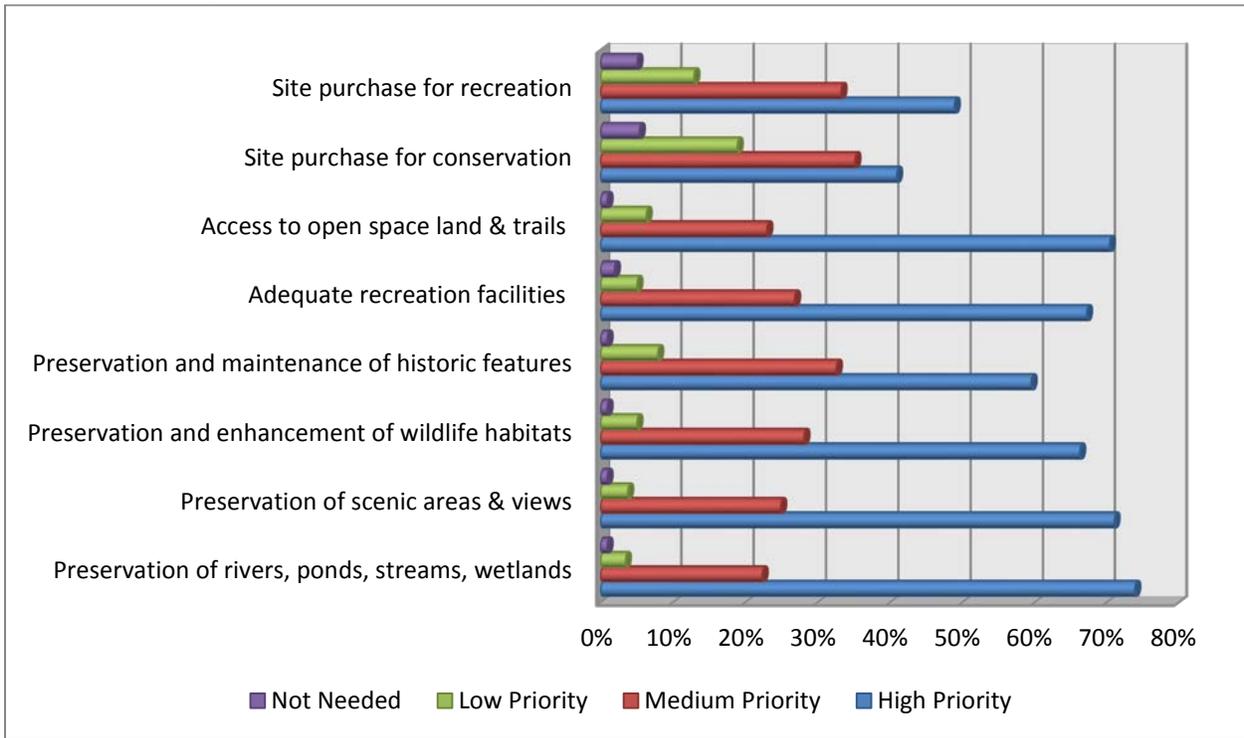
4) Are there children in your household?



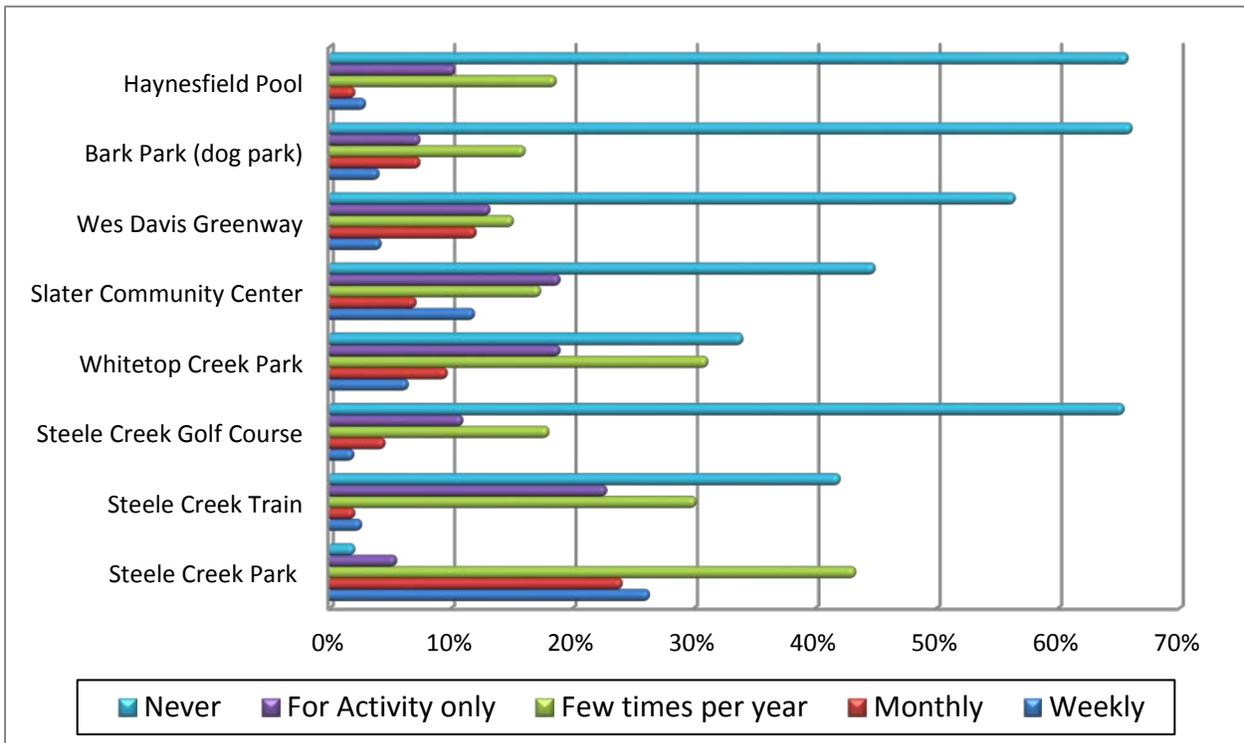
5) Select the number of children in your household for each of the following age groups:



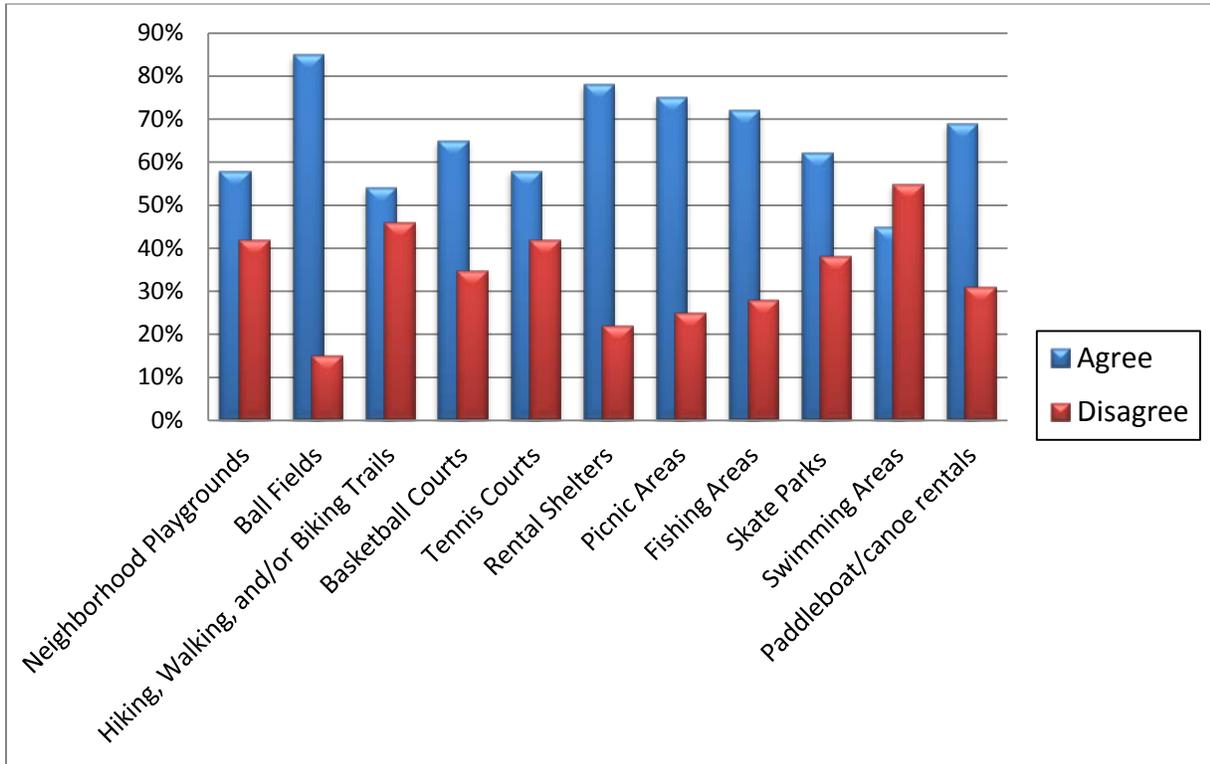
**6) How important are the following to you:**



**7) How often do you visit or use Bristol's recreational resources?**



**8) Do you feel Bristol has an adequate number of:**



**9) How often do you or a member of your family, visit the following?**

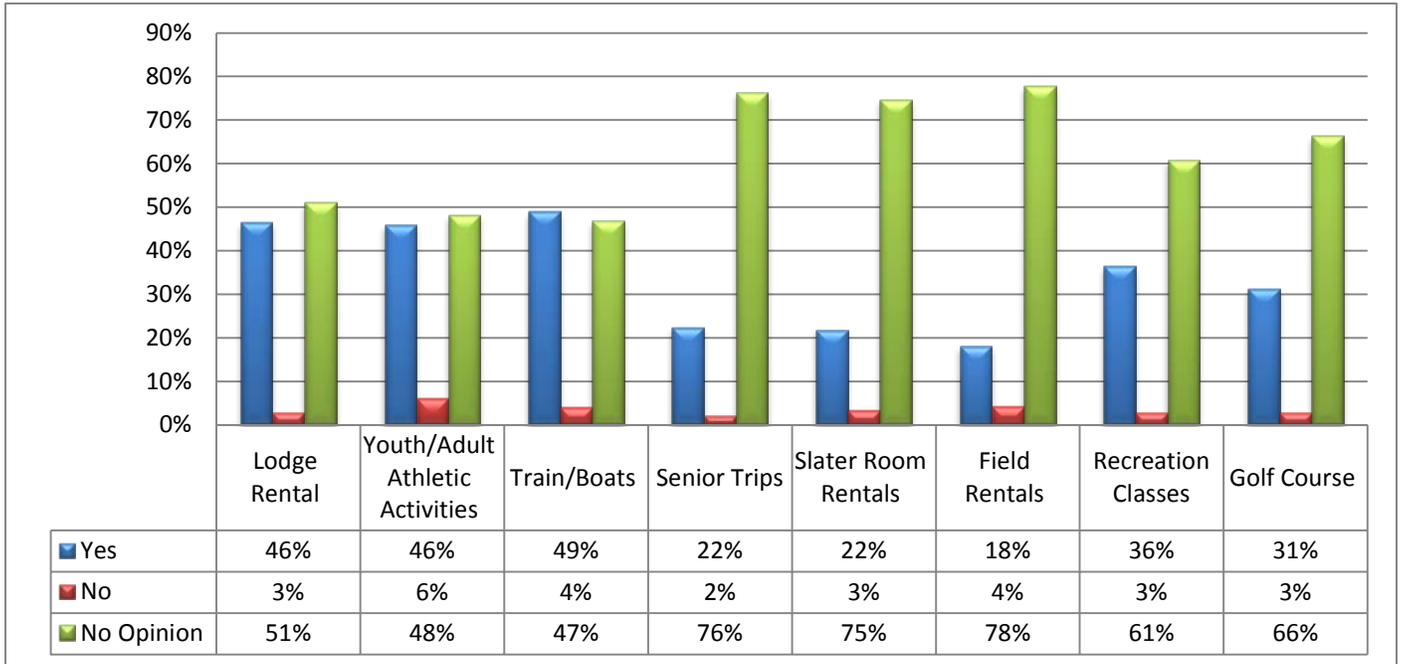
	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Never
Anderson Park	4%	9%	49%	38%
Avoca Ball Park & Field	7%	4%	25%	64%
Bark Park (dog park)	3%	8%	24%	65%
Cedar Valley	1%	3%	10%	86%
Charlie Robinette Park	3%	4%	23%	70%
Clay Park	0.73%	0.37%	5%	94%
Downtown Center	10%	17%	42%	31%
DeFriece Park	3%	4%	27%	66%
Fairmount Park	3%	5%	18%	74%
Food City Park	2%	1%	13%	84%
Haynesfield Park	3%	5%	26%	66%
Haynesfield Pool	3%	3%	30%	64%
Holston View Park/Fields	5%	5%	27%	62%
Jersey Park	0.37%	0.37%	6%	93%
Kings Meadow	0.37%	0.73%	6%	93%
Mark Vance Memorial Trail	4%	10%	18%	68%

<b>Music Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Oakwood Park</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0.73%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Patterson Park</b>	<b>0.73%</b>	<b>0.73%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Rooster Front Park</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Rotary Bicentennial Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Rotary Field</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>71%</b>
<b>Skate Park</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Slater Community Center</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<b>Slater Park</b>	<b>0.73%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Steele Creek Park</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>4%</b>
<b>Steele Creek Golf Course</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Wes Davis Greenway</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Western Little League Field</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Whitetop Creek Park</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>Windsor Park</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>93%</b>

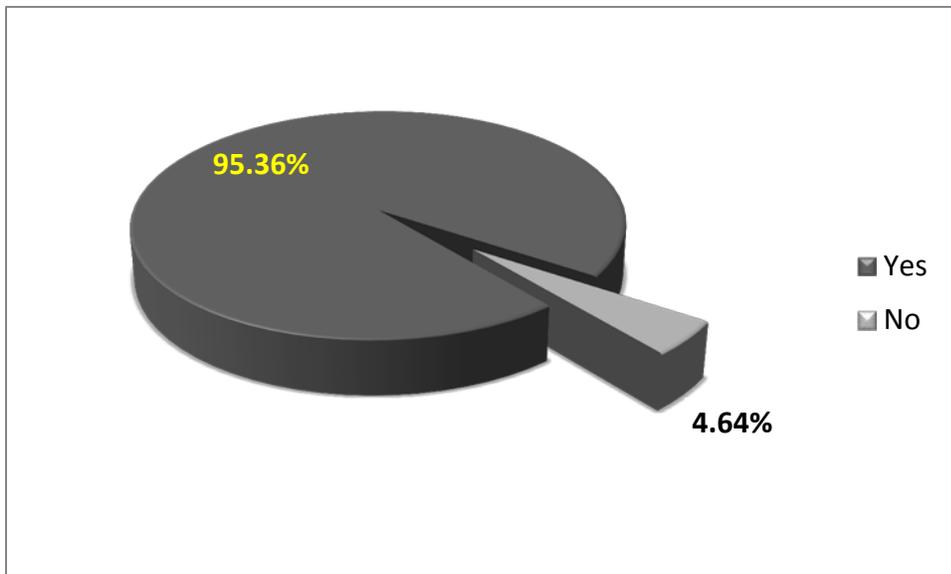
**10) In the past 2 years have you participated in:**

<b>Walking</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Picnicking</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Hiking</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Biking</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Wildlife Viewing</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Swimming</b>	<b>53%</b>
<b>Fitness Training</b>	<b>51%</b>
<b>Historic Site Visits</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Boating</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Museum Visits</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Camping</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Golfing</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Ice Skating</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Skiing</b>	<b>12%</b>
<b>Dance</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Horseback Riding</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Gymnastics</b>	<b>7%</b>

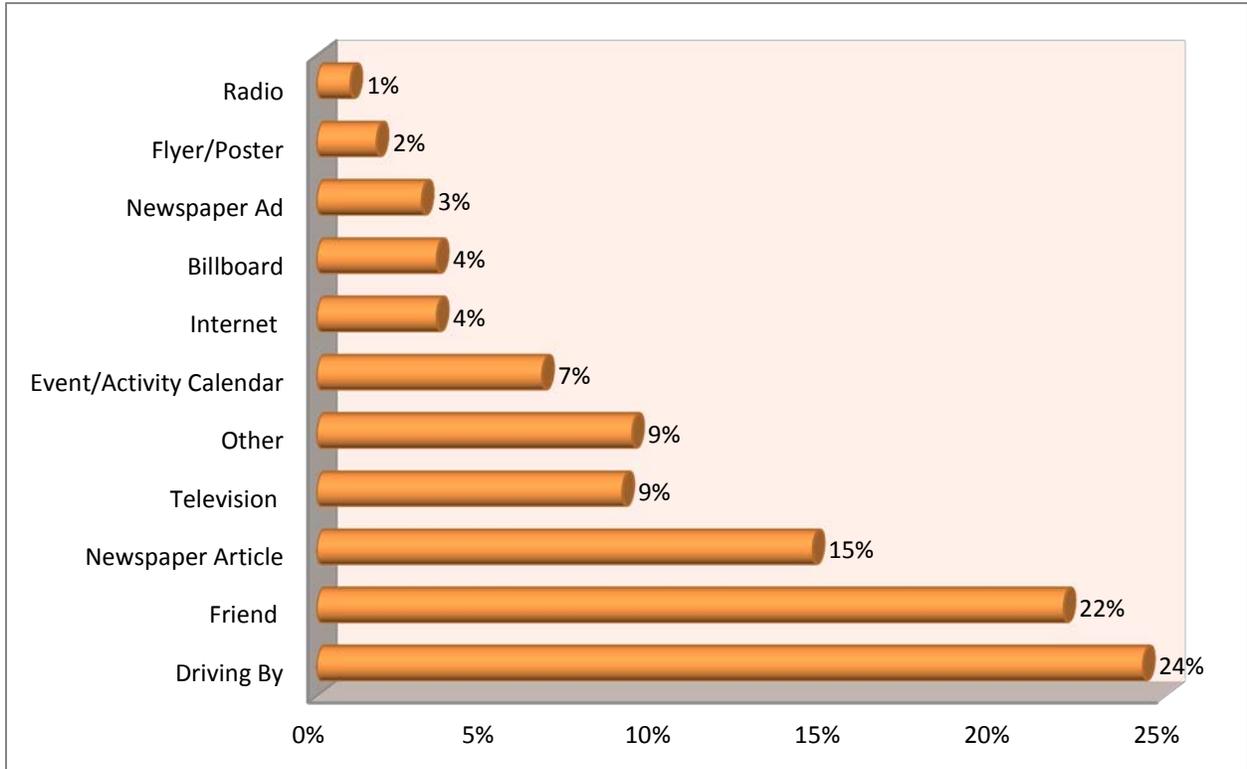
**11) Do you consider the fees you pay for the following activities/services in Bristol Tennessee a good buy?**



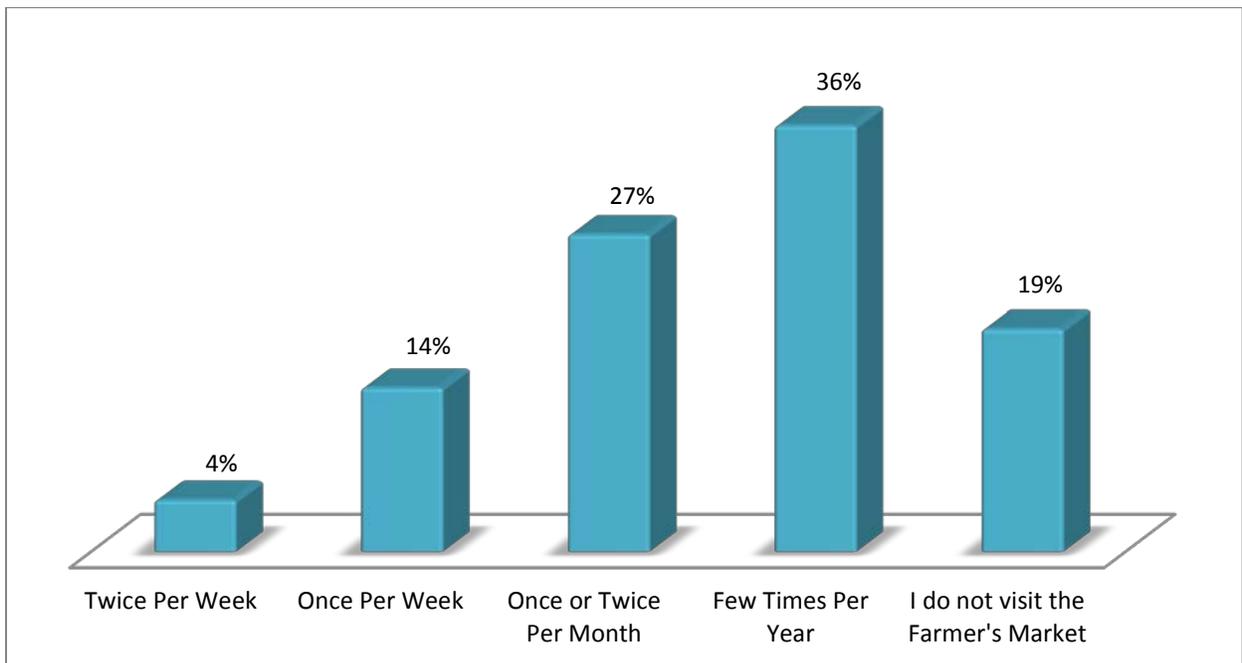
**12) Are you familiar with the State Street Farmer’s Market?**



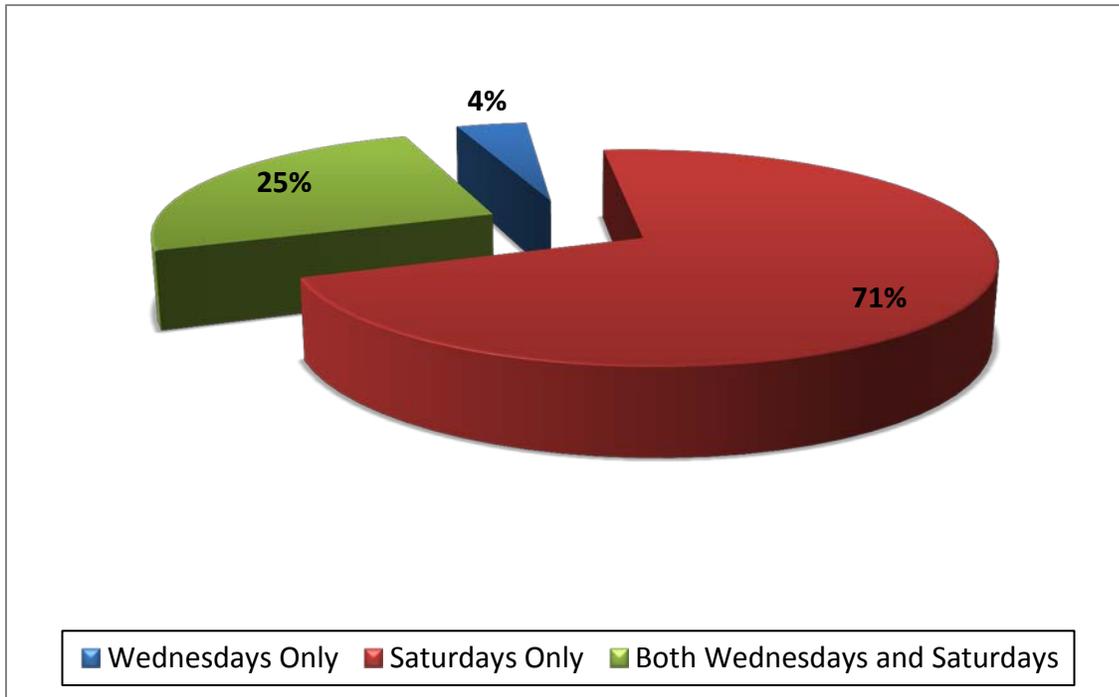
**13) If yes, how did you first learn about the State Street Farmer’s Market?**



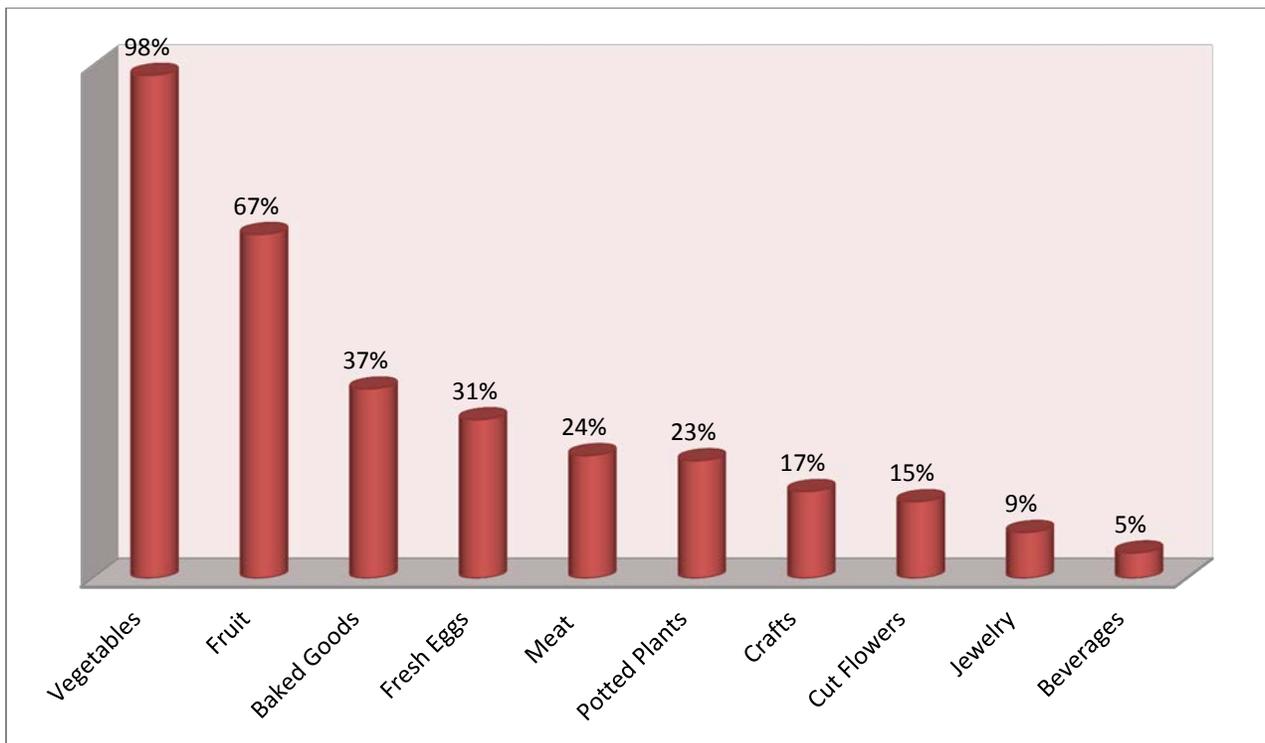
**14) How often do you visit the State Street Farmer’s Market?**



**15) On which days do you visit the Farmer's Market?**

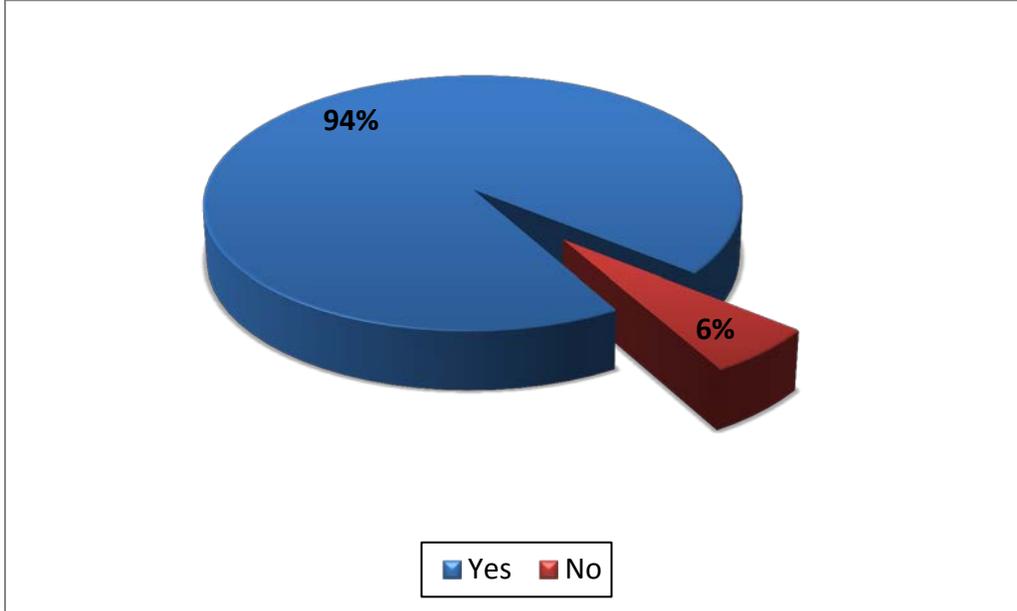


**16) Which vendors do you typically shop while at the Farmer's Market?**

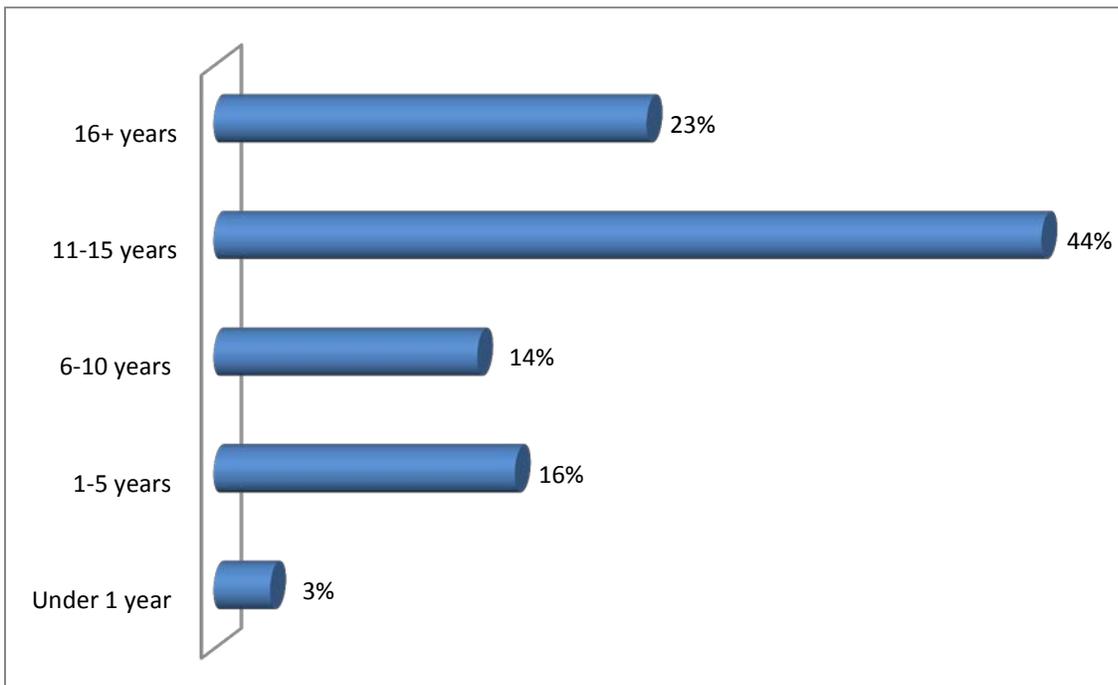


## Student Survey Results

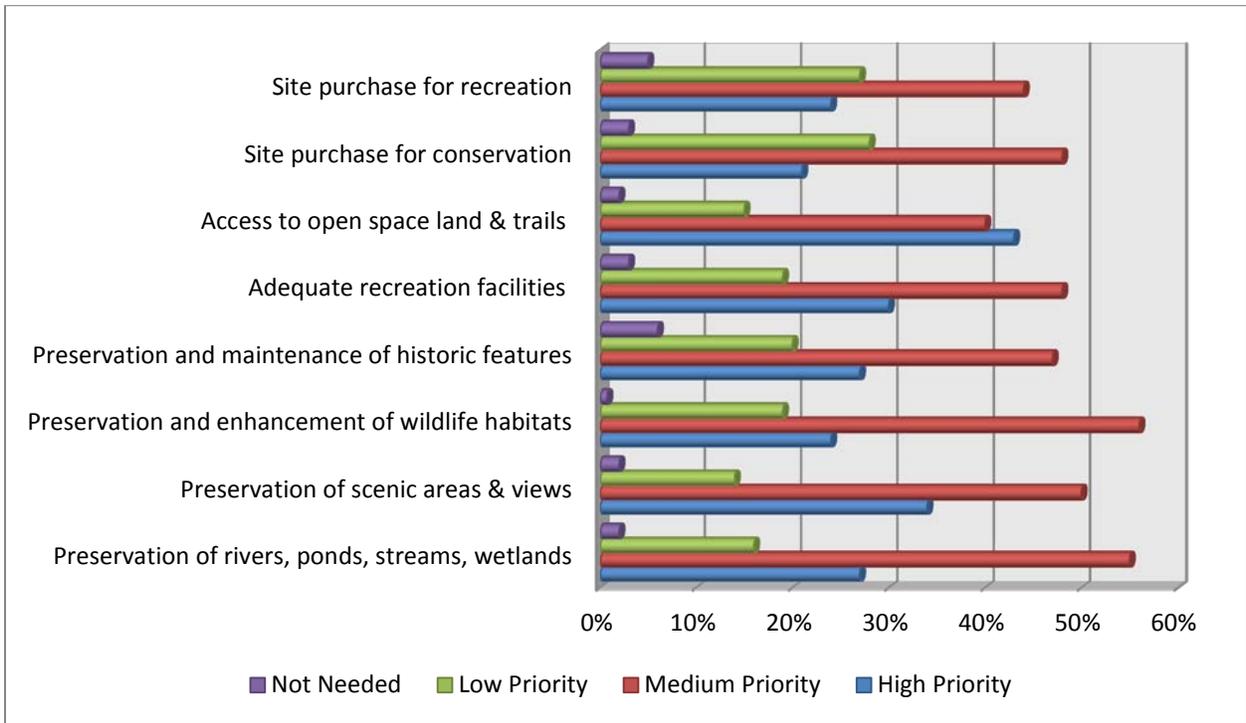
### 1) Do you live in the city of Bristol Tennessee?



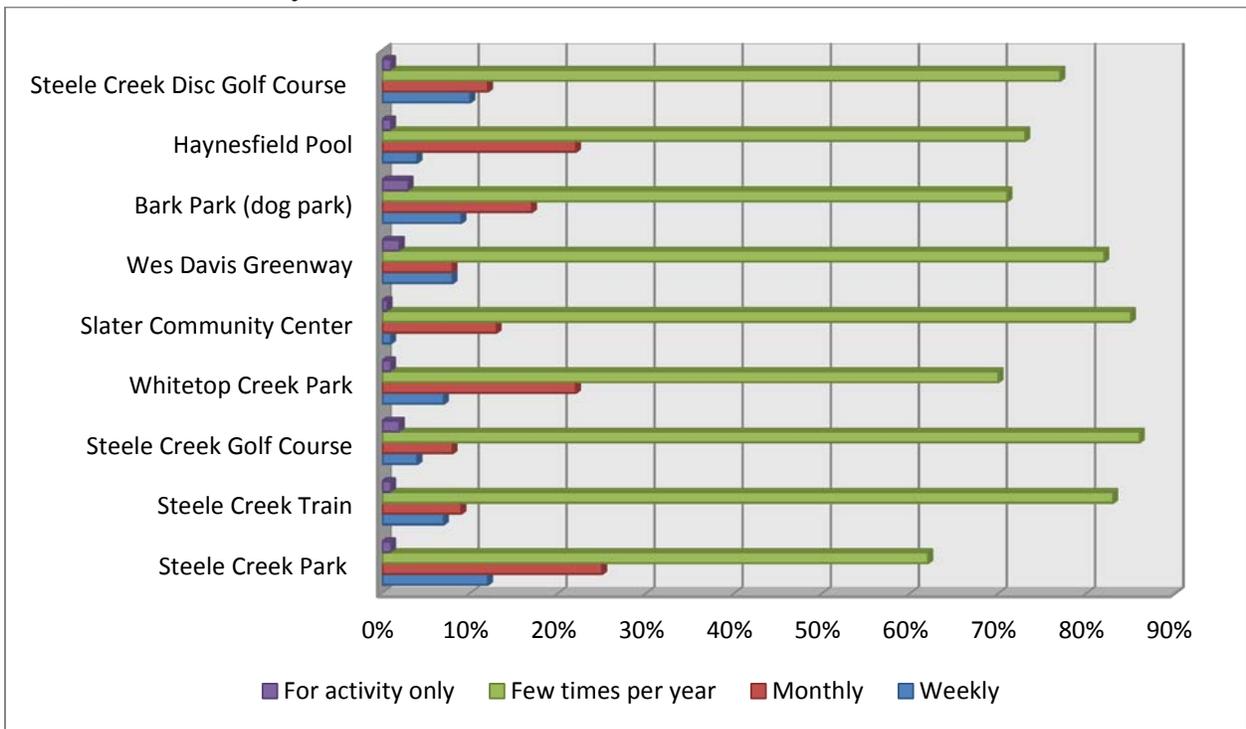
### 2) How long have you lived in Bristol?



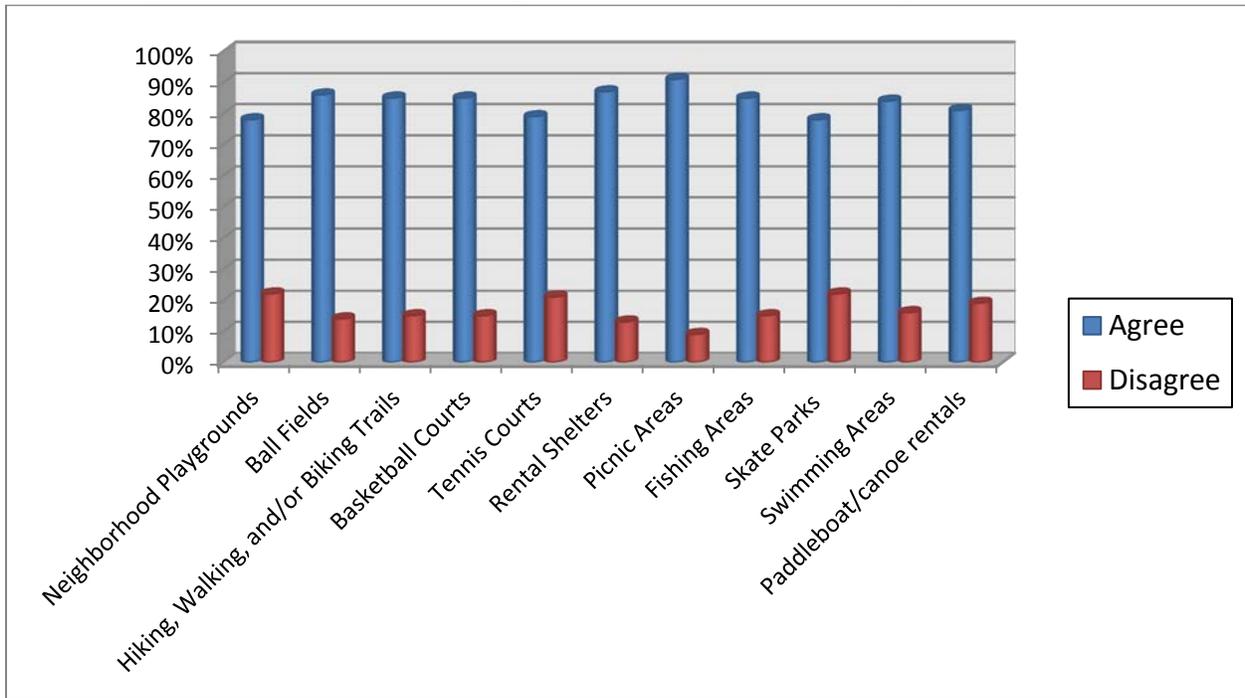
**3) How important are the following?**



**4) How often do you visit or use Bristol's recreational resources?**



5) Do you feel Bristol has an adequate number of the following?



6) How often do you or a member of your family, visit the following?

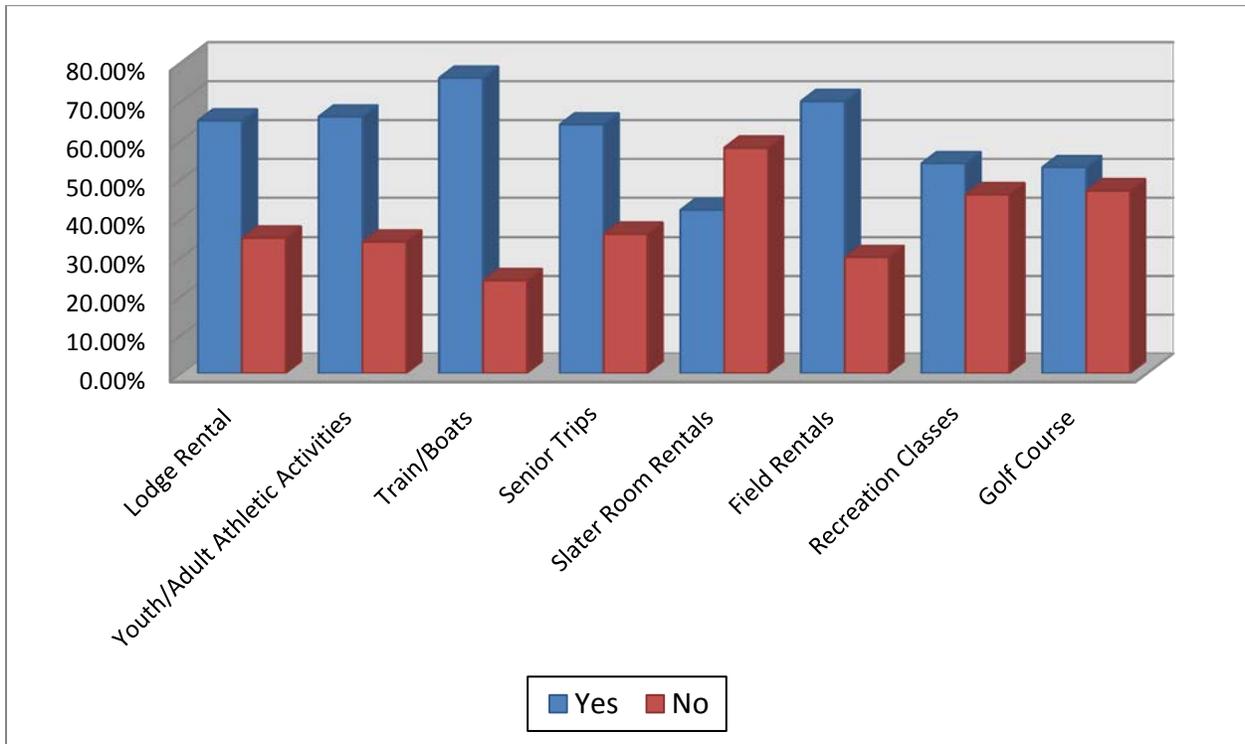
	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Never
Anderson Park	2%	7%	33%	58%
Avoca Ball Park & Field	1%	6%	31%	62%
Bark Park (dog park)	2%	11%	26%	61%
Cedar Valley	1%	2%	13%	84%
Charlie Robinette Park	1%	1%	12%	86%
Clay Park	1%	2%	12%	85%
Downtown Center	4%	8%	22%	66%
DeFriece Park	4%	6%	12%	78%
Fairmount Park	2%	1%	30%	67%
Food City Park	5%	2%	24%	69%
Haynesfield Park	1%	9%	30%	60%
Haynesfield Pool	5%	6%	35%	54%
Holston View Park/Fields	2%	5%	35%	58%
Jersey Park	0%	2%	10%	88%
Kings Meadow	1%	1%	9%	88%
Mark Vance Memorial Trail	1%	2%	15%	82%
Music Park	2%	2%	14%	82%
Oakwood Park	1%	2%	5%	92%
Patterson Park	1%	2%	6%	92%

<b>Rooster Front Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>68%</b>
<b>Rotary Bicentennial Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Rotary Field</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Skate Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>81%</b>
<b>Slater Community Center</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>76%</b>
<b>Slater Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Steele Creek Park</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Steele Creek Golf Course</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>64%</b>
<b>Wes Davis Greenway</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>82%</b>
<b>Western Little League Field</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Whitetop Creek Park</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>58%</b>
<b>Windsor Park</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>82%</b>

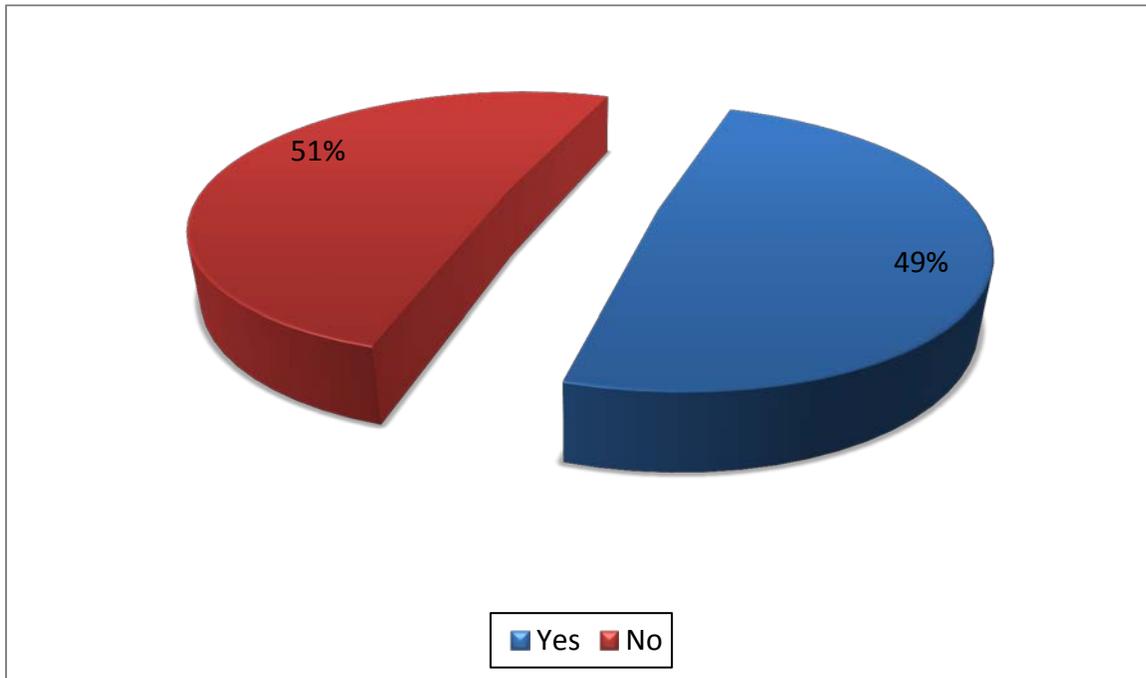
**7) In the past two years have you participated in the following?**

<b>Walking</b>	<b>86%</b>
<b>Boating</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Fishing</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Swimming</b>	<b>69%</b>
<b>Hiking</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>Music</b>	<b>57%</b>
<b>Camping</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Picnicking</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Biking</b>	<b>46%</b>
<b>Ice Skating</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Fitness Training</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Wildlife Viewing</b>	<b>36%</b>
<b>Golfing</b>	<b>34%</b>
<b>Museum Visits</b>	<b>31%</b>
<b>Dance</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Horseback Riding</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Historic Site Visits</b>	<b>21%</b>
<b>Skiing</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Gymnastics</b>	<b>18%</b>
<b>Other</b>	<b>4%</b>

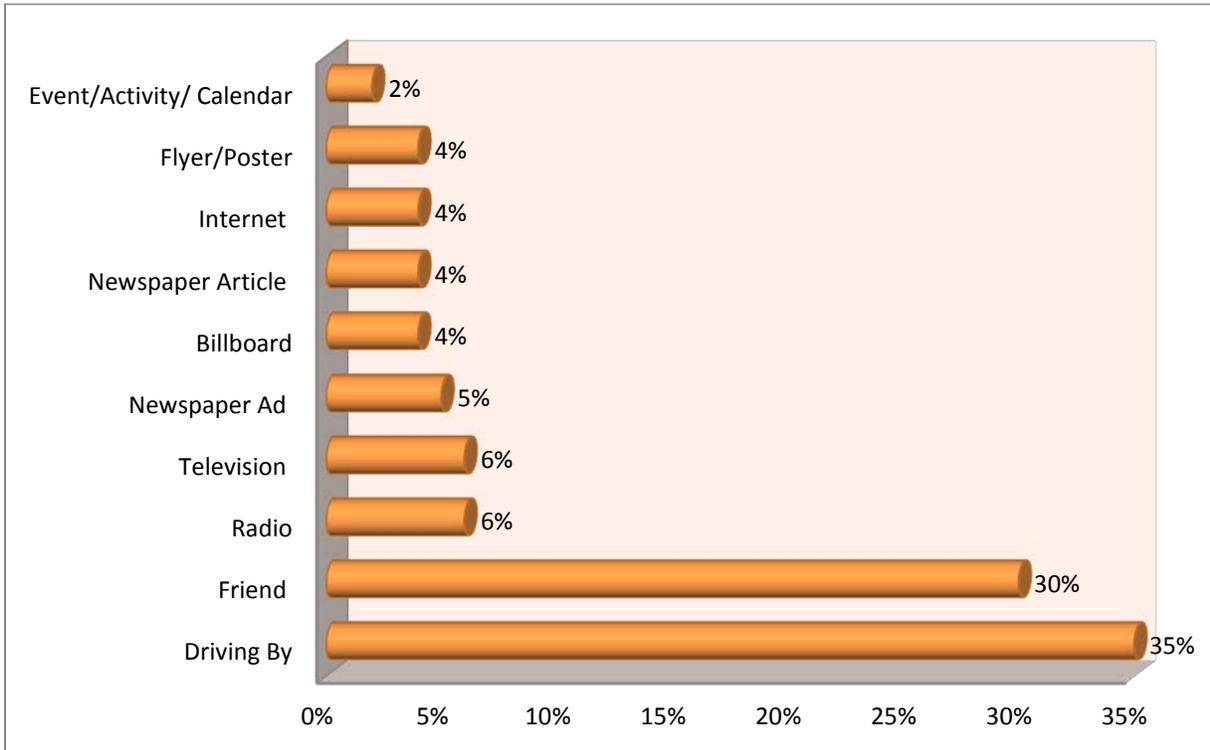
**8) Do you consider the fees you pay for the following activities/services in Bristol Tennessee a good buy?**



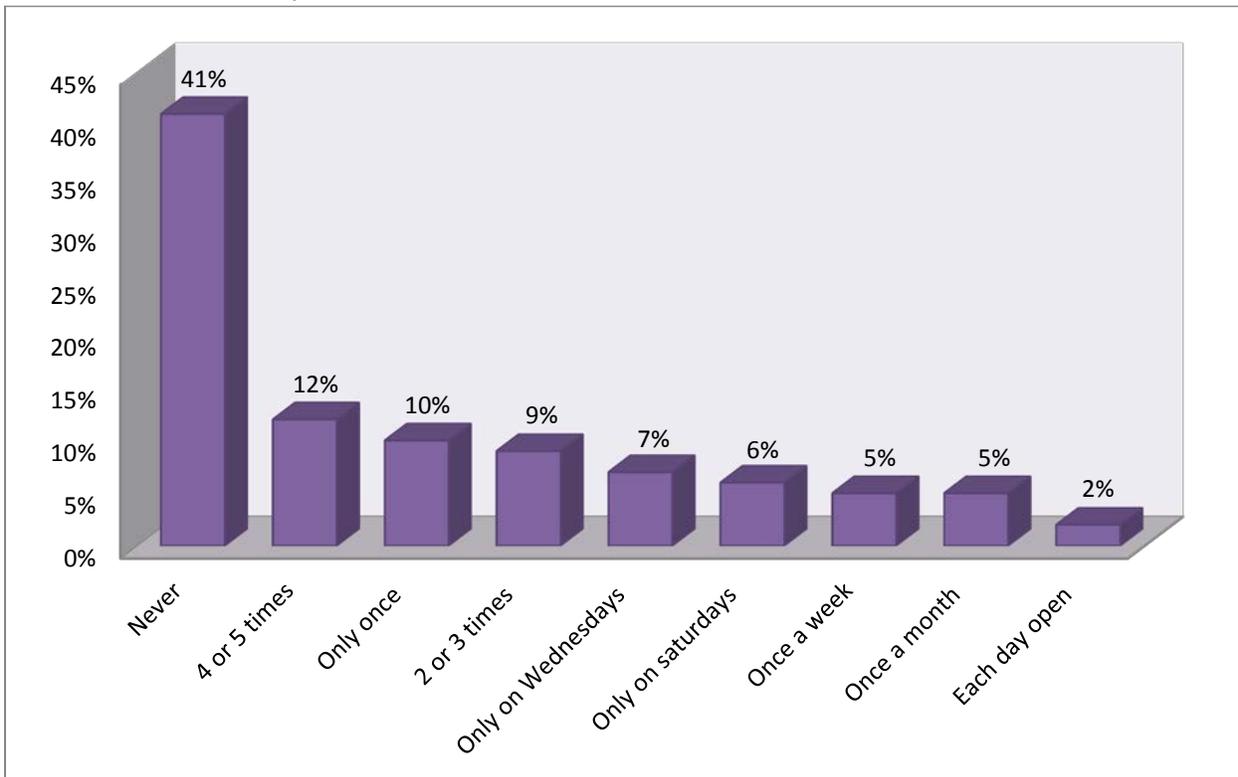
**9) Are you familiar with the State Street Farmer's Market?**



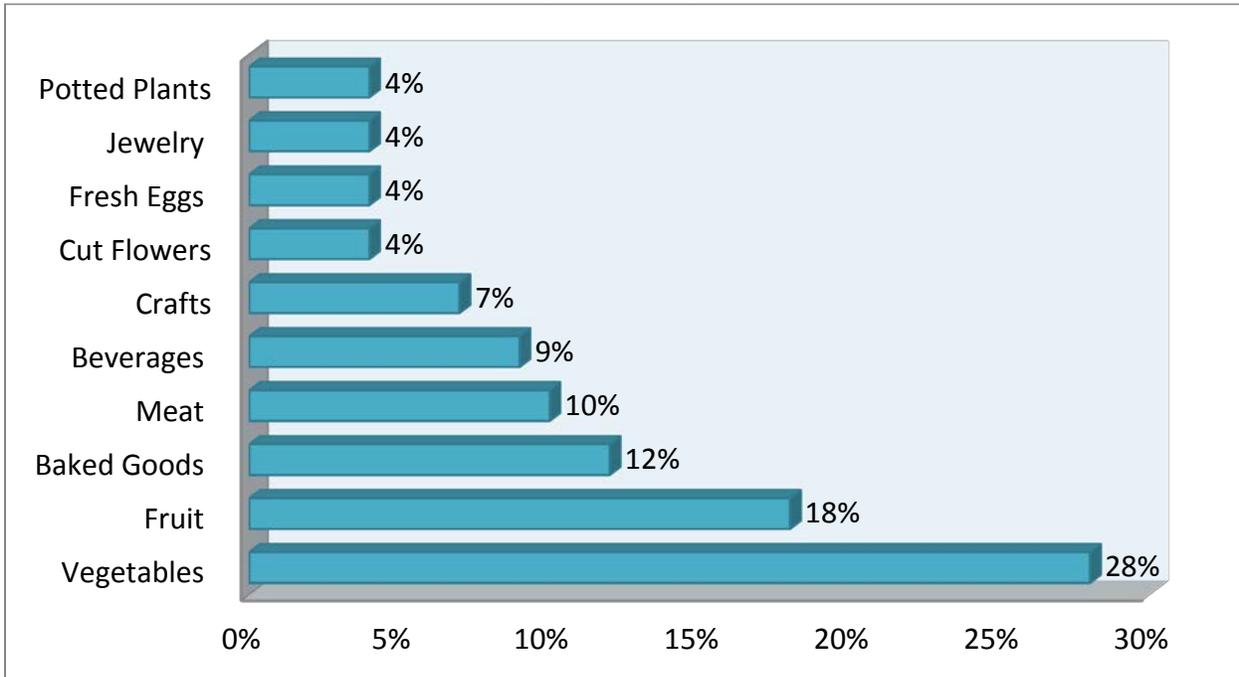
**10) If yes, how did you first learn about the State Street Farmer’s Market?**



**11) How often do you visit the market?**

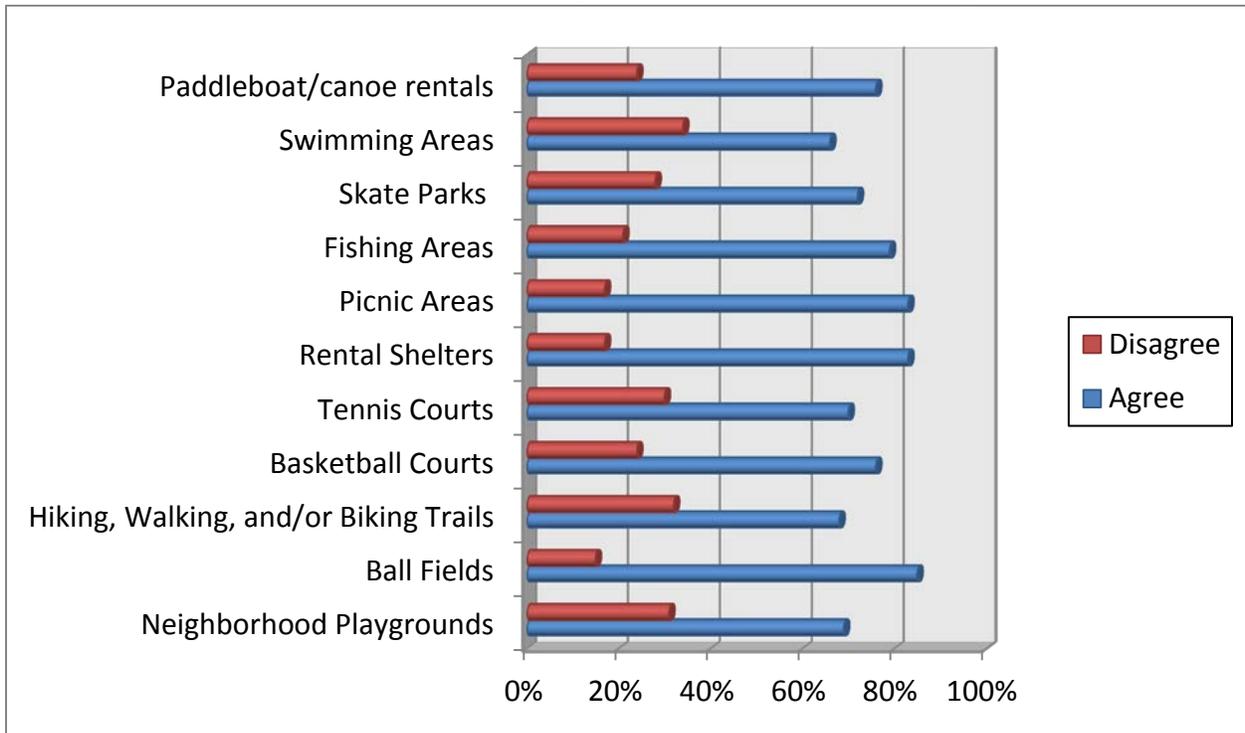


**12) Which market vendors do you typically shop from?**



*Combination of Community & Student Survey Results*

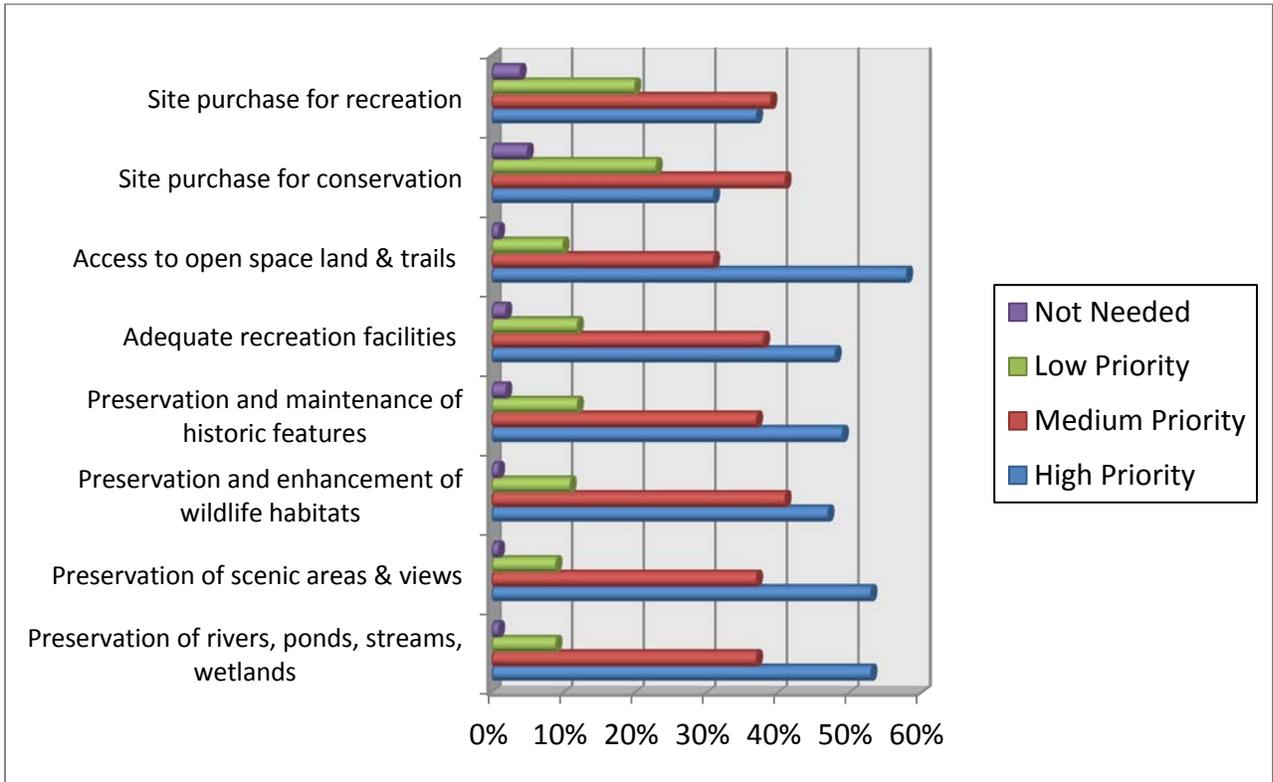
**1) Do you feel that Bristol has an adequate number of the following?**



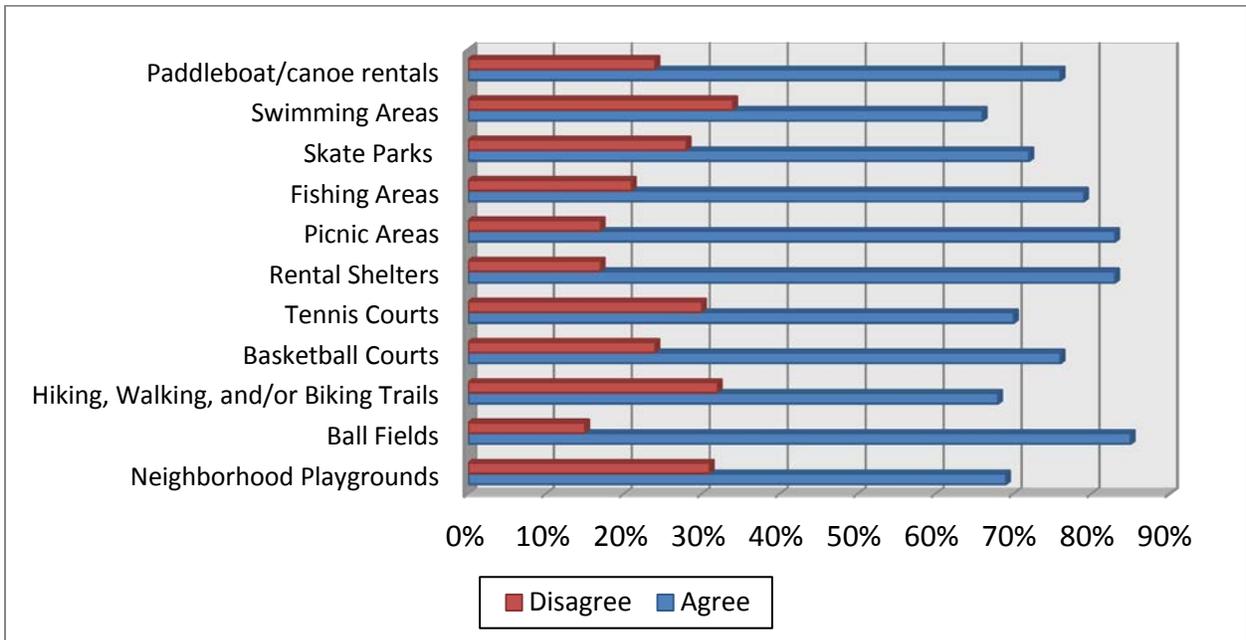
2) How often do you or a family member visit the following?

	Weekly	Monthly	Few times per year	Never
Anderson Park	2%	8%	41%	49%
Avoca Ball Park & Field	4%	5%	29%	62%
Bark Park (dog park)	3%	10%	24%	63%
Cedar Valley	1%	3%	11%	85%
Charlie Robinette Park	2%	2%	18%	78%
Clay Park	1%	1%	8%	90%
Downtown Center	7%	13%	32%	48%
DeFriece Park	3%	5%	19%	73%
Fairmount Park	3%	3%	24%	70%
Food City Park	3%	2%	18%	77%
Haynesfield Park	2%	8%	28%	62%
Haynesfield Pool	4%	5%	32%	59%
Holston View Park/Fields	4%	5%	31%	60%
Jersey Park	1%	1%	8%	91%
Kings Meadow	1%	1%	8%	90%
Mark Vance Memorial Trail	3%	6%	16%	75%
Music Park	3%	6%	16%	75%
Oakwood Park	1%	1%	5%	93%
Patterson Park	1%	1%	6%	92%
Rooster Front Park	10%	15%	30%	45%
Rotary Bicentennial Park	2%	3%	15%	80%
Rotary Field	1%	5%	19%	75%
Skate Park	2%	3%	11%	84%
Slater Community Center	7%	7%	26%	60%
Slater Park	1%	4%	11%	84%
Steele Creek Park	19%	23%	35%	23%
Steele Creek Golf Course	2%	7%	25%	66%
Wes Davis Greenway	4%	6%	18%	72%
Western Little League Field	2%	5%	17%	76%
Whitetop Creek Park	8%	13%	29%	50%
Windsor Park	1%	4%	8%	87%

**3) How important are the following?**



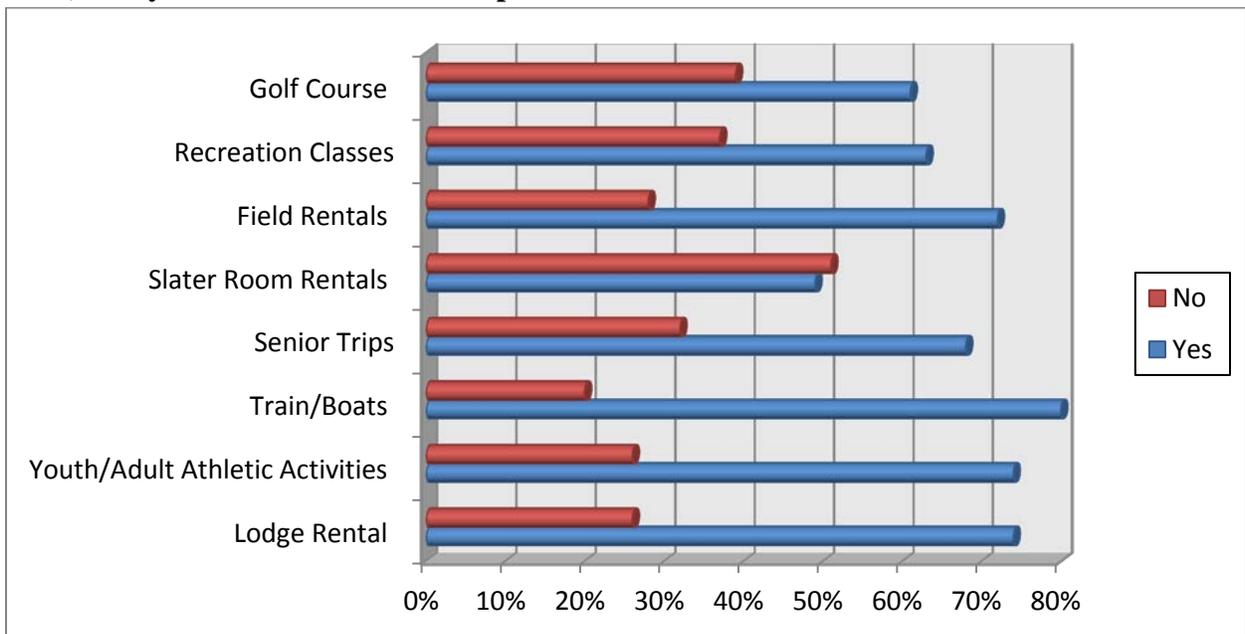
**4) Do you feel Bristol has an adequate number of the following?**



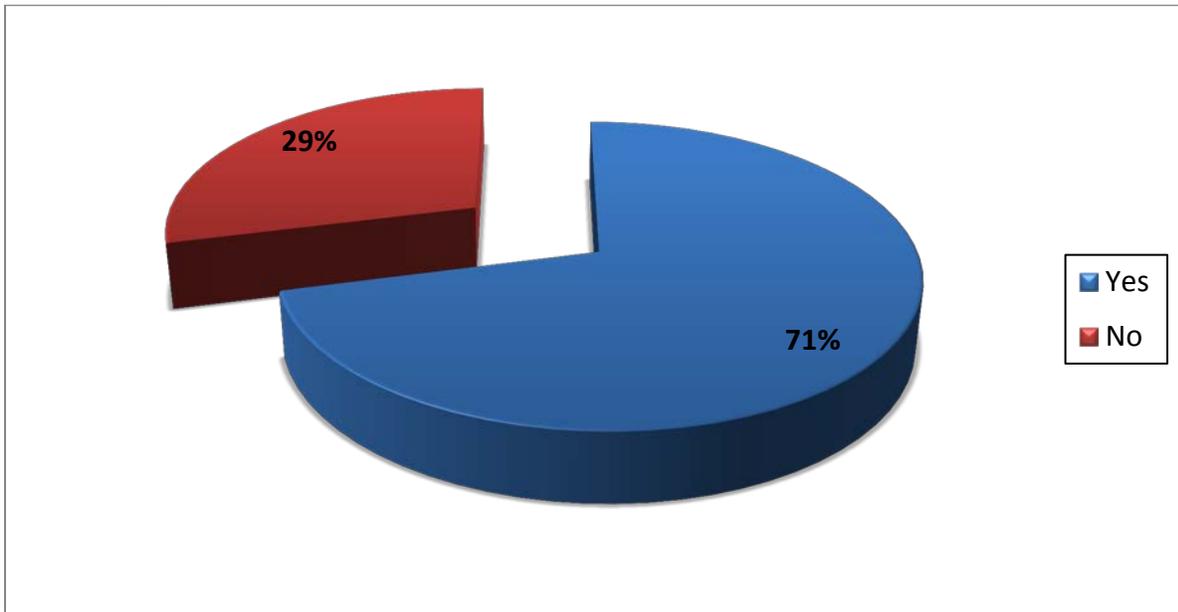
5) In the past two years have you participated in the following?

Walking	88%
Hiking	69%
Boating	62%
Swimming	60%
Picnicking	59%
Music	55%
Fishing	55%
Biking	50%
Wildlife Viewing	45%
Camping	44%
Fitness Training	43%
Museum Visits	35%
Golfing	34%
Historic Site Visits	33%
Ice Skating	26%
Dance	18%
Horseback Riding	17%
Skiing	16%
Other	13%
Gymnastics	12%

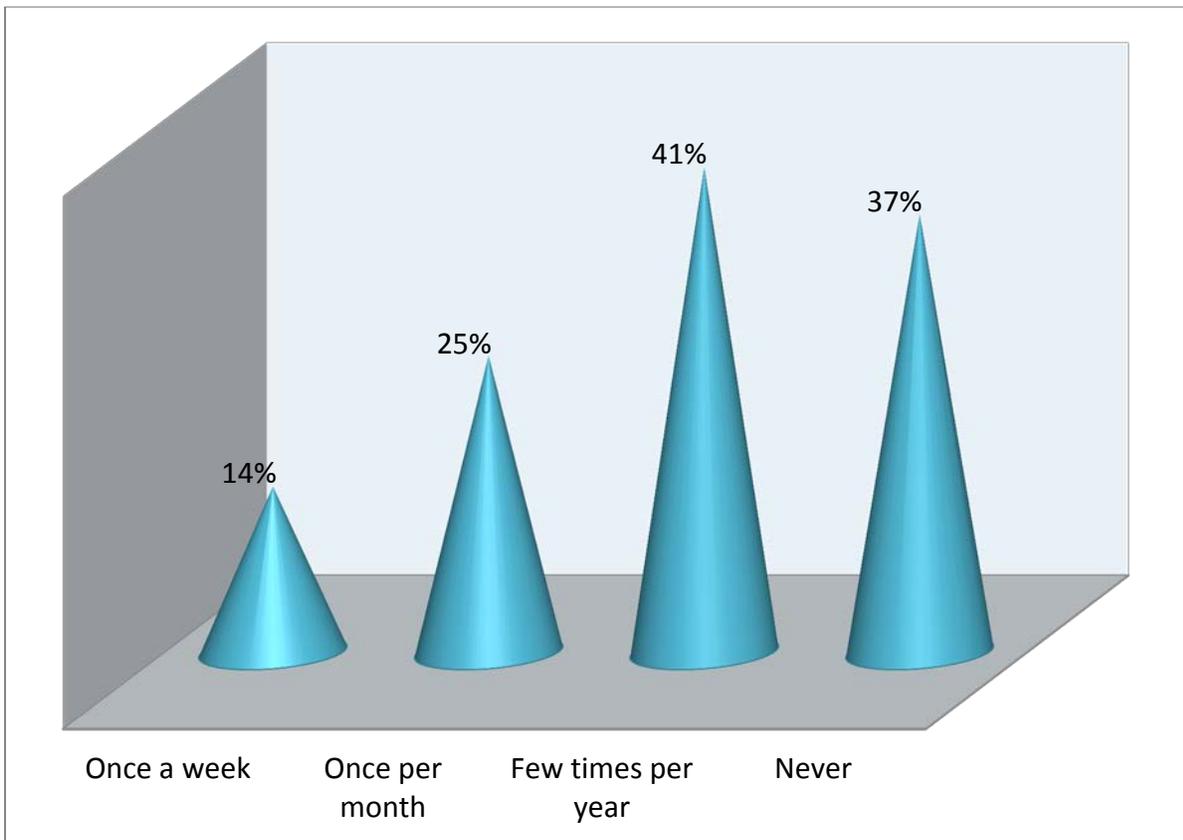
6) Do you consider the fees acceptable?



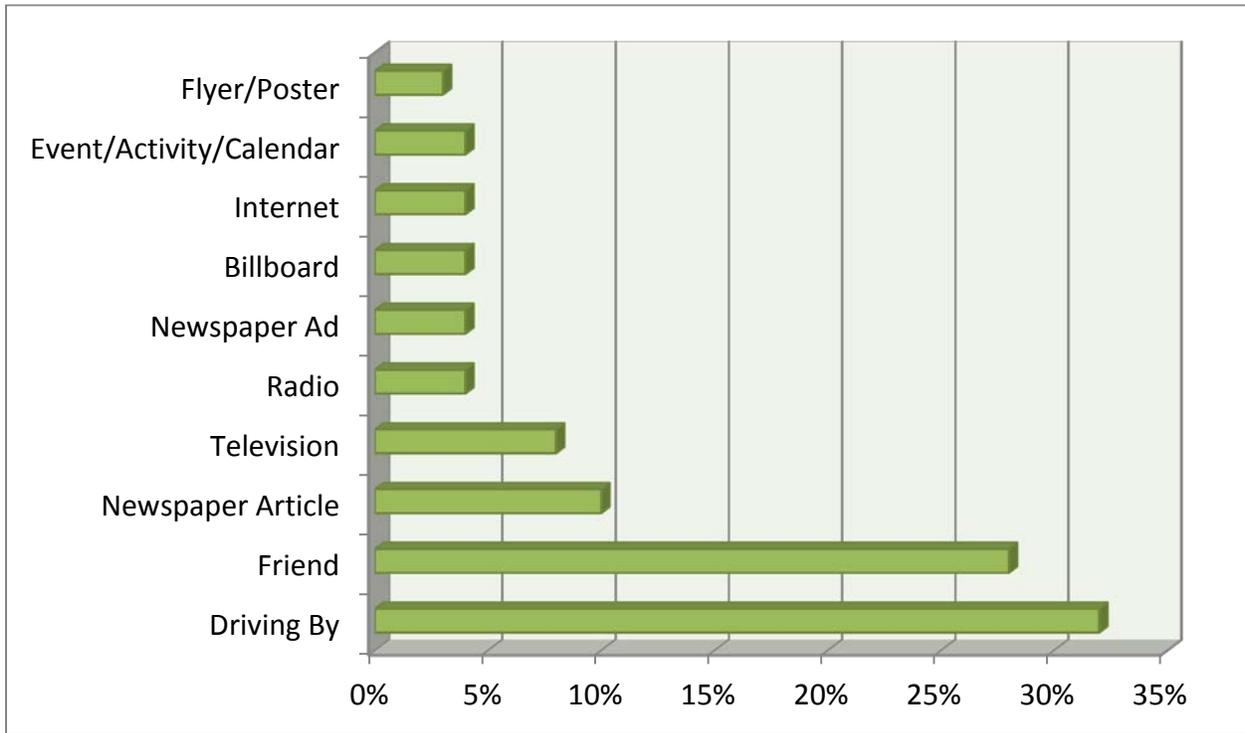
**7) Are you familiar with the State Street Farmer's Market?**



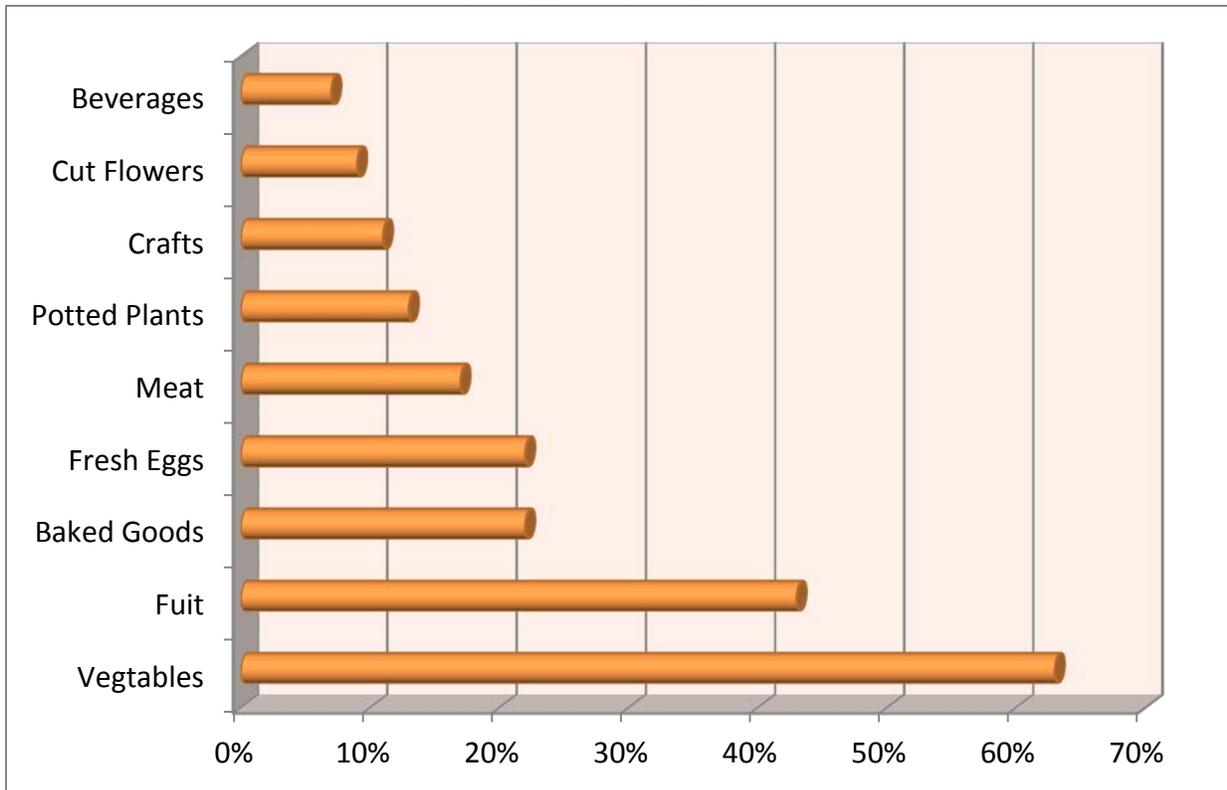
**8) How often do you visit the market?**



**9) If yes, how did you first learn about the market?**



**10) Which market vendors do you typically shop from?**



# Community Meetings

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On April 22, 2014, a public meeting was held at a lodge located in Steele Creek Park to provide opportunities for the Parks and Recreation Commission, Friends of Steele Creek Nature Center & Park, Planning Commission, and the Board of Zoning Appeals to participate in developing the Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan. Approximately fifteen citizens attended the meetings. The project team presented the completed work to date and encouraged comments on parks and recreation opportunities. The project team also gave the attendees the survey results, as well as participation in break-out sessions to provide detailed feedback on Bristol's parks and recreation. In addition, the project team and City staff set up an area on the City's website for interested persons to read about the study, view maps, submit comments, and contact the project team.

Following the community meeting with the various boards and commissions listed above, City staff conducted three community meetings for the citizens of Bristol to attend. These meetings provided citizens an opportunity to discuss their thoughts on current parks and recreation facilities, as well as provide information on the development of the Comprehensive Park & Recreation Plan. The following is a list of comments and suggestions made by the public at the community meetings.

- Locate more public parks at public buildings
- The City needs more basketball courts
- The City should located condemned property in neighborhoods for parks, ball fields and tennis courts
- Possibly work with local churches more often to utilize their parking lots or property for basketball/playgrounds
- Survey the entire City for vacant properties that could be suitable for parks and recreation activities
- Look at old subdivision with undeveloped lots that are not suitable for homes but could be utilized for parks and recreation activities
- Look at large sections of right-of-way in the City that could potentially be added to nearby property and turned into a park
- Look at constructing an Olympic sized swimming pool to replace Haynesfield pool. Inside of Steele Creek Park could be a possible location of pool
- Properties that are located in floodplain areas (that are basically undevelopable from a residential/commercial standpoint) should be located and evaluated for future parks
- City needs more biking paths that have their own dedicated biking lane, instead of using City streets
- Farmers Market needs more parking and more vendor variety
- Look at locating a new park around Bristol Motor Speedway

- Recreation areas are needed for organized participation as well as leisure participation
- City is in need of more open spaces for diverse use
- At 50 years of age, Haynesfield Pool is not aesthetically attractive and it is not large enough in length for exercise or training. It has limited parking and is oriented towards youth rather than adults. As an outdoor facility the pool only has two months per year of use. Ideally, Bristol needs a multi-use, year round recreational facility that includes aquatics.
- Should certain parks with low to no use be specifically repurposed or sold with revenues to be reinvested in other parks
- City would benefit from more sidewalks and greenways
- New subdivisions built inside the City should be required to have sidewalks
- Abandoned properties, empty lots and confiscated properties should be looked at for possible parks
- Look into the possibility of a multi-purpose community center/recreational complex
- Talk with the Police Department about areas of the community that could benefit from a park to help improve the community
- The City needs a splash-pad park and an aquatics center
- New park ideas amenities included zip-lines, sand boxes, pickle-ball and volleyball
- Look into the possibility of adding more Frisbee golf holes at Steele Creek Park or opening a new Frisbee golf course
- Felt the community would utilize more greenways if they were available
- Felt the community would rent bicycles, if available through the City, on the new greenways
- Would like to see the current skate park moved and improved upon
- Would like the City to look into preserving waterways throughout the City and possibly add viewing decks onto these waterways
- City would benefit greatly from a new tennis complex



*“One may lack words to express the impact of beauty but no one who has felt it remains untouched. It is renewal, enlargement, and intensification. The parks preserve it permanently in the inheritance of the American citizens.”*

*– Bernard DeVoto*



# Chapter 5: Community Gaps & Needs

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The main goal of the Park & Recreation Plan was to locate the service gaps in the community and learn what the recreational needs of the citizens truly are. This chapter will do just that by building off what was learned in Chapter 4. This section of the Park & Recreation Plan will focus in on the four underserved areas that were discussed in Chapter 4. Once these areas are explained, it is important to look at other needs that may have an impact on the Parks & Recreation system in the near future. These other needs would be information gained from the community surveys and community meetings as well as demographic and social trends that can have a bearing on Park and Recreational needs.

## Community Gaps

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Within the coverage and location maps it can be seen that the City is in need of parks and recreational facilities throughout the southern, northeastern, northwestern, and central portions of the city. These maps also provide detail on areas that are over-served, such as the inner City section of Bristol. While looking at the level of service coverage maps below, there are four areas that seem to be underserved in regards of mini parks and neighborhood parks. The following four areas are the underserved neighborhoods within the City of Bristol:

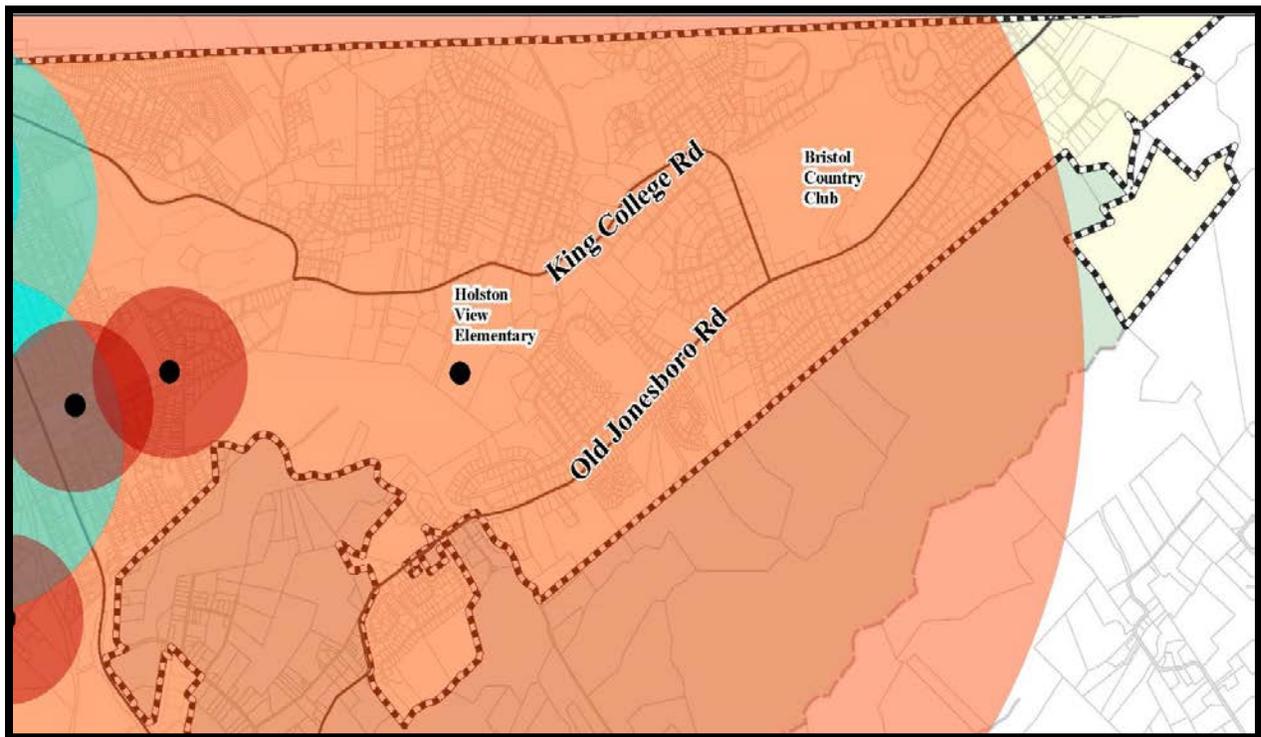
1. The northwestern section of the City from West State Street to Interstate 81
2. The northeastern section of the City from King College to the Country Club of Bristol
3. Central section of the City surrounding Vance Tank Road from Rooster Front Park to Volunteer Parkway, and surrounding Raytheon Road
4. The entire southern portion of the City from the intersection of Avoca Road and Volunteer Parkway to the furthest extents of the City limits toward Blountville and Bluff City

### *Northwestern Section*



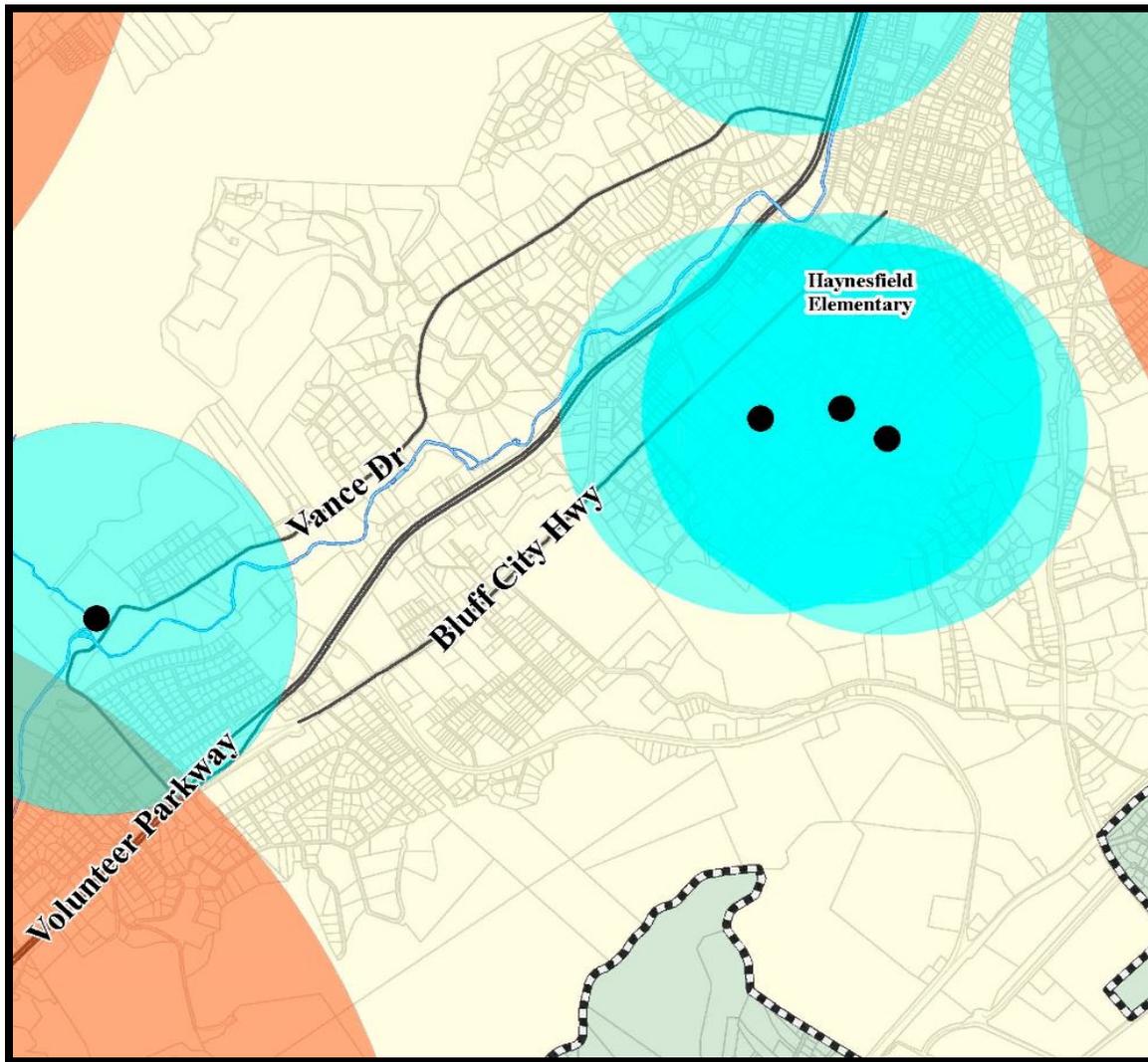
As shown above, the northwestern portion of the City is underserved in regards to neighborhood and mini-parks. The only park that services this area is Pinnacle Park, and it was just recently constructed. One of the most populated regions in this area (around Windsor Avenue, Anderson Street, Broad Street & Shelby Street) is completely lacking coverage from any of the surrounding mini-parks, neighborhood parks and community parks. Since part of this area is serviced by a community park (Pinnacle Park), there needs to be additions of mini-parks, neighborhood parks and special use parks. This is especially needed in and around the previously mentioned streets due to the lack of coverage by existing parks and recreation facilities.

### *Northeastern Section*



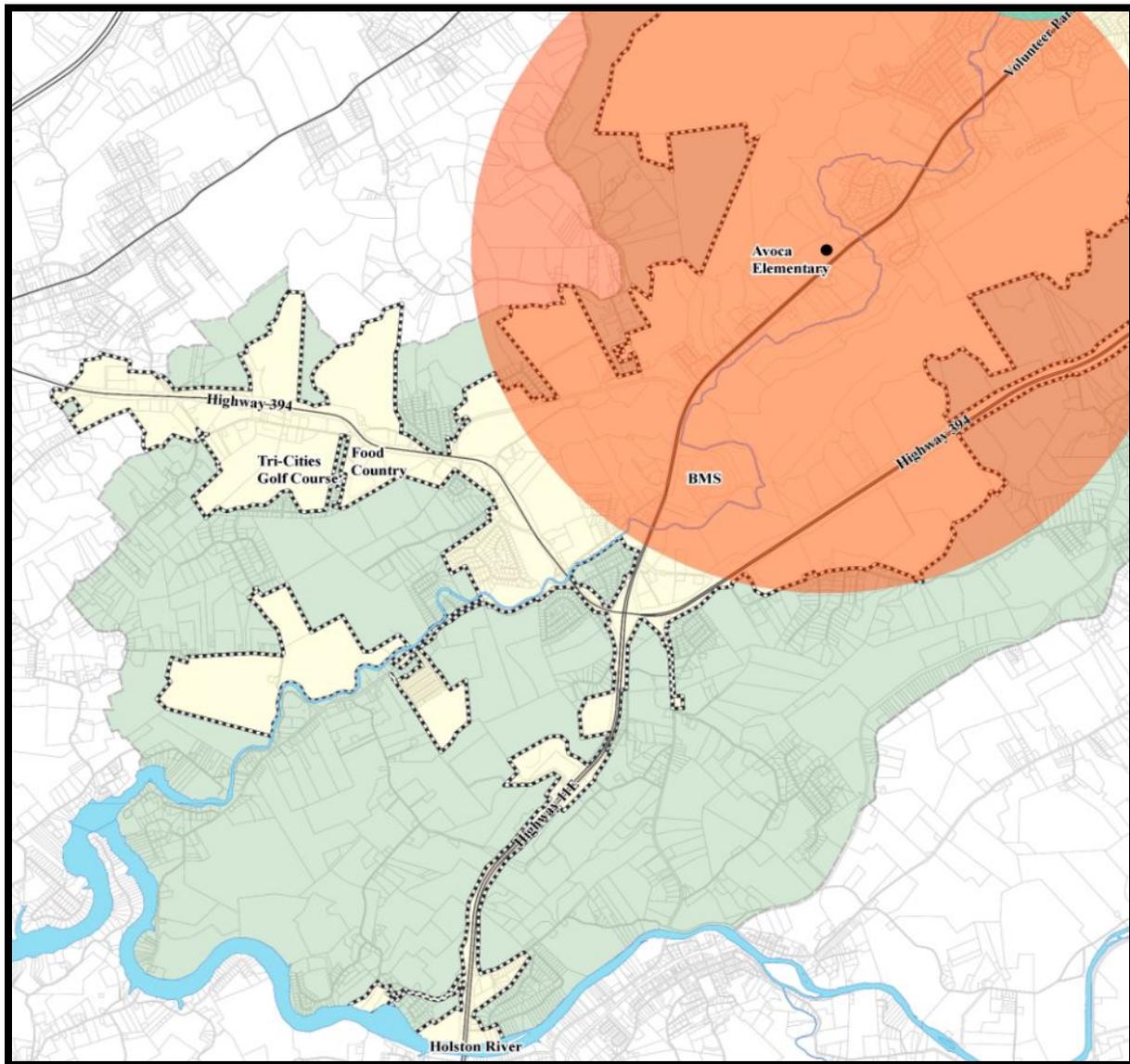
As shown above, the northeastern section of the City is lacking recreational facilities much like the northwestern section. The main park that services this region is Holston View Park and this park is considered a community park. This area is a heavily populated community within the City of Bristol. Since this region is so large, it is in need of mini-parks, neighborhood parks and special use parks.

## Central Section



As shown above, the central section of the City is in need of recreation facilities around the Vance Tank Road region and Raytheon Road region. There are four neighborhood parks nearby but their service area is not large enough to cover the area in question. Judging from the image, there seems to be an oversaturation of neighborhood parks near Haynesfield Elementary School. The central section of the City could benefit from an addition of mini-parks, neighborhood parks, special use parks and possibly the relocation of a park in an oversaturated region. Also, there could be some benefit in an addition of a community park within the central section of the City.

## *Southern Section*



As shown above, the entire southern section of the city is in need of recreational facilities from the intersection of Avoca Road with Volunteer Parkway to the extents of the City limits toward Blountville and Bluff City. The only recreational facility serving this region is Avoca Park and it is considered a community park. This region of the City is in desperate need of mini-parks, neighborhood parks, special use parks and possibly the addition of a new community park.

# Community Meetings and Survey Data

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The most important data gathered throughout the creation of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan was gained through survey data and community meetings. Each of these processes was a crucial step in obtaining information from the citizens of Bristol about their feelings on the Park and Recreation programs and opportunities. After the information was gathered and studied, there were multiple themes of a common desire exposed from the data. Some of the most important items to the citizens of Bristol were preservation of scenic areas & views, preservation of rivers, ponds, stream & wetlands, and access to open space land & trails. As far as park services, the most desired services were: swimming areas, walking trails, basketball courts, skate parks, biking trails, hiking trails, neighborhood playgrounds and tennis courts. Out of the participants surveyed, 89% of them are regular walkers, 69% are regular hikers, 60% are regular swimmers and 50% are regular bikers.

The information gathered by the community surveys meshes perfectly with the information gained by the community meetings. The services that were desired the most at the community meetings were: basketball courts, new swimming pool/aquatics center, splash pad, more bicycle paths/lanes, community center/recreational complex, 18 hole Frisbee golf course, new or renovated skate park, and a new tennis complex. When comparing this information and the information gained by the community surveys, you will start to see a common theme start to develop within the desired services from the community.

Perhaps the most intriguing information gained from the community meetings was ideas on how the City should find land for new recreational services. This was highly sought after information due to the extreme topography within the City. The City contains two large mountainous regions that make development of parks and recreational services difficult for a large portion of the City. Therefore, the flatter properties inside the valleys of the City are ideal for the building of new park and recreational facilities but they can be extremely hard to come by. So, the following suggestions made at the community meetings about potential property within the City were crucial for the Park and Recreation Plan:

- The City should located condemned property in neighborhoods for parks, ball fields and tennis courts
- Survey the entire City for vacant properties that could be suitable for parks and recreation activities focusing on under-served areas
- Look at old subdivision with undeveloped lots that are not suitable for homes but could be utilized for parks and recreation activities
- Properties that are located in floodplain areas (that are basically undevelopable from a residential/commercial standpoint) should be located and evaluated for future parks
- Abandoned properties and empty lots should be looked at for possible parks

All of the ideas listed above on how to find possible sites for future park and recreational properties are viable. With the majority of community meetings it was difficult to get the community members active with in-depth thought on the topic at hand but these meetings were anything but normal. Looking at condemned, vacant, abandoned, and undevelopable lots within the City are wonderful ideas. Also, looking at flood prone properties within the City is a particularly viable idea because the majority of these properties are undevelopable from a residential/commercial standpoint. Locating and securing these properties could help fill in the need for mini and neighborhood parks as shown in the community gaps in the previous section.

## Demographic & Social Trends

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Because local communities must plan today for tomorrow's park and recreation sites and facilities, they must be able to anticipate trends and respond to likely shifts in demand. Significant changes in demographics signal parallel changes in demand. In addition, social trends such as work habitats, leisure time, health concerns and other factors will influence future demand. The net effect of the changes is an increasing demand for a greater variety of facilities and activities. These trends should be considered in preparing and adjusting the local standards to anticipate future needs.

### *Demographic Trends*

#### **Increasing State Population**

Population growth is the primary factor that drives growth in recreational demand. Although temporarily slowed by a weak economy early in the millennium, population growth is expected to rebound as the economy rebounds. According to a study by The University of Tennessee Center for Business and Economic Research in 2009, the total state population is projected to grow by 15.7 percent from 6,229,564 in 2010 to about 7,397,302 in 2030. The population growth in the Tri-Cities region of Northeast Tennessee will see a slight increase between now and 2030.

#### **Aging of the Baby-Boomers**

Perhaps the most significant trend affecting park planning is the aging of the baby-boomers. This leading edge of the baby-boomers began to turn 65 around 2010. By 2030, the over 65 group will represent 18 percent of the City of Bristol's population. Although they are aging, the baby-boomers may be healthier and will remain active longer than past generations of elderly. Even so, demand for facilities and programs targeted to senior citizens will increase. The number of working age adults between 45 and 64 will peak in 2017. The preretirement and the active retired seniors are likely to increase the overall demand on recreational facilities and services.

## **More School-Aged Children as “Baby-Boom Echo” Generation Become Parents**

At the same time, the baby boom “echo”, the children of the baby-boomers, will have its effect as they reach childbearing age. The 5 to 17 school-aged group has remained relatively stable through 2010 but this number should steadily increase in numbers through 2030. As a result, there will be less surplus space in the schools and at school recreational facilities. There will also be shifts in the types of facilities needed. This could place a strain on the community gaps mentioned earlier and give cause for an even larger need in more mini and neighborhood parks within these regions.

In addition to shifts in the type of demand for facilities, increased levels of violent crime have been associated with increased numbers of youth in the past. Parks may experience increased vandalism and safety concerns. Many communities have begun looking at the need for recreation programs for “at risk” youth which may more constructively channel their energy. Use of parks by a growing homeless population has become an issue in many communities. These trends argue for significant changes in design, facilities, and programs provided. For instance, Portland, Oregon is seeking to design vandalism-proof restroom and other facilities. Such effort better serves the community than to simply close such facilities to public use. Perhaps the best way to improve a sense of personal security and reduce the temptation of vandalism is to (1) incorporate designs that keep activity areas open to views from adjacent roads and residential areas (while still maintaining some areas with at least an illusion of privacy) and (2) program activities that attract many users throughout the day and evening.

## ***Social Trends***

### **Need for Increased Physical Activity**

According to the 1999-2000 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 64 percent of U.S. adults over the age of 20 are either overweight or obese and nearly one-third of U.S. adults are obese. One common theme attributing to this pandemic is the increased drive of a technologically advanced society. Increasingly, Americans are choosing to travel by car instead of walking or biking. The television, computer, cell phones, video games, and movies are claiming an increasing proportion of American leisure time.

According to *Physical Activity and Health: A Report of the Surgeon General*, low levels of activity is a major factor contributing to the high prevalence of obesity in the United States. Only 15 percent of U.S. adults engage regularly (three times a week for at least 20 minutes) in vigorous physical activity during leisure time and approximately 22 percent of adults engage regularly (five times a week for at least 30 minutes) in sustained physical activity of any intensity during leisure time. In other words, almost two-thirds of American adults do not get the recommended level of physical activity. Twenty-five percent report no physical activity at all in their leisure time. Only about one-half of U.S. young people (age 12-21 years) regularly

participate in vigorous physical activity and approximately one-fourth of young people walk, bicycle, or engage in light to moderate activity every day.

While this may signal decreased participation and demand in recreational activity, it is not sustainable trend. Obesity increases risk for a number of serious conditions including heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure, and some forms of cancer. The prevalence of overweight and obese people has major economic consequences in the form of escalating health care costs – both direct and indirect. Recreation is an important factor in maintaining health and containing these costs. The publicity surrounding these reports is creating renewed interest in regular exercise programs, in workplace wellness programs, and in the health insurance industry.

### **Trend Toward Infill Development**

Local growth management policies will also trend to encourage infill or existing undeveloped parcels, which will increase demand for park and recreation opportunities within urban growth areas. “Empty nester” boomers, whose children are grown, and smaller households have been fueling the market for urban living. Rising fuel costs may reinforce the interest in living closer to employment centers. Rising energy costs have occurred in the early part of this century in the wake of Middle East conflict. If this trend continues, it may discourage vacation travel to distant recreation destination and increase demand for close-to-home recreation opportunity. All of these trends will contribute to the increased demand for infill development. This trend echoes the ideas of community members previously mentioned from the community meetings.

The trend toward infill development also reverberates some of the goals of the City’s Future Land Use Plan and Policy. The purpose of the Future Land Use Plan is to guide the future growth of the community in a manner that embraces the Vision Statement of the City of Bristol “to be a vibrant, caring, diverse community, committed to excellence, where our heritage and natural beauty are celebrated, our citizens are engaged, and our leadership visionary.” Within the Land Use Plan, Policy 6 seems to capture the true nature of infill development by stating its goal is: encourage the redevelopment of underutilized land and buildings to capitalize on existing infrastructure and services. Two main objectives of this Policy that support infill development are:

- Encourage redevelopment of underutilized buildings and properties
- Encourage infill development which will be compatible with the neighboring development and utilizes existing supporting infrastructure

In order for the Parks and Recreation Department to grow and support the future needs of the community, infill development must play a vital role in the department’s vision for the future.

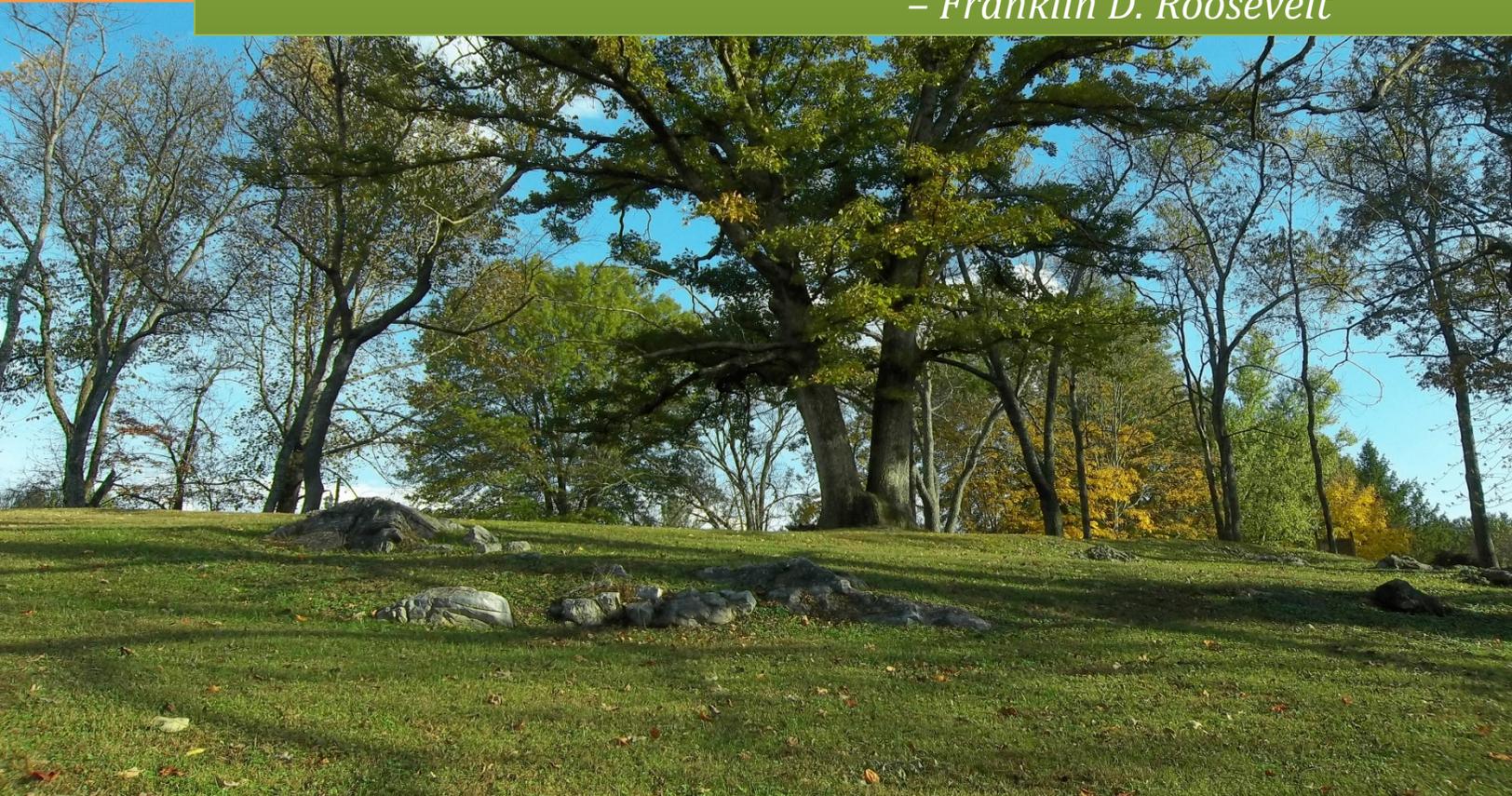
### **Potential Increase in Non-Peak Hour Use**

Increased conditions of traffic congestion, communication technology, and other factors are stimulating increasingly varied work schedules and commute patterns. More people can be expected to use parks during non-peak hours in the future. Road congestion may also create increased need for close-to-home recreation opportunities. At the same time, there may be an increasing need for safe, pleasant pedestrian and bicycle routes between residential and recreational facilities. Retiring baby-boomers will likely also contribute to that trend, especially after 2010.



*“The scenery and the wildlife are native. The fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people, that it is in a process of making for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. The parks stand as the outward symbol of the great human principle.”*

*– Franklin D. Roosevelt*



# Chapter 6: Park & Facility Recommendations

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With service gaps identified we can make recommendations for existing and future parks and facilities. This chapter presents recommendations to meet park and facility needs and achieve the City's vision for the future of its park system.

## Recommendations for Existing Parks and Facilities

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The following will be a breakdown of recommendations for each park within the City of Bristol based on park category. The parks and recreation facilities were broken into seven sections for the Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Plan. Each section is classified by their respective park types as discussed in Chapter 1: mini-park, neighborhood park, community park, large urban park, sports complexes, special use parks, and greenways.

### *Mini-Park*

#### **Clay Park**

The park is in good condition, including the gazebo. However, there are a few aspects of the park in need of updating. The park sign, trash receptacles and benches should be replaced. All trees and bushes located throughout the park need to be pruned. The picnic table should have the wood slates replaced with aluminum. The park could be enhanced for evening use by adding lighting around the circular walk. The neighboring residents have requested the installation of a horse-shoe pit.

#### **Food City Park**

This park is in need of some serious updates. One possible option would be the installation of fencing throughout the park in order to turn it into a new dog park. If this park is to be used as a mini-park with a playground, it should be located in a better suited location. During the Fairmount Neighborhood Meeting it was indicated that the park was seldom used and that it should not be updated.

#### **King Meadows**

Due to the small size of this park, we are limited to what can be done. This park should remain as a passive green space with the addition of a bench, trash receptacle, dog box and ornamental trees.

### **Morning Rotary Centennial Park**

The landscaping is in need of updating, including the pruning of trees and bushes as necessary. Also, the grounds maintenance should include fertilization and aeration. The park sign should be updated and one table needs to be replaced. The other amenities are in good condition.

### **Oakwood Park**

Both Oakwood and Food City Park should be eliminated and replaced. These parks could be replaced by a new park that is properly located in an underserved region of the City.

### **Slater Park**

The park sign needs to be replaced and a new drinking fountain installed. The horseshoe pits are in need of cleaning with the addition of fresh sand. The split rail fence on the west side of the property should be repaired or replaced. A picnic table and trash receptacle should be added. The basketball court and parking lot have been resurfaced and lined.

### **Windsor Park**

The park is in good condition. However, the grass areas are in need of more topsoil and re-seeding. The playground is in good condition and should be included in the system-wide replacement cycle.

### ***Neighborhood Park***

#### **Anderson Park**

The park is in good condition. The addition of lighting along the interior walks should be considered including an electrical system upgrade. Several of the mature trees in the park have been removed in the past five years due to decay. The remaining trees need to be monitored and a tree replacement plan be implemented. With the addition of the playground and the popularity of the rentals, parking is often an issue. The vacant property at the cul-de-sac could be purchased for additional parking. A lease option should be investigated for the parking lot across Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard.

#### **DeFriece Park**

The drain pipe/overflow from the pond needs to be replaced. The pond should have a fountain installed to increase oxygen and reduce algae growth. One or more picnic tables should be added to the shaded area behind the pond and possibly a picnic shelter. The pond could be a stocked fishing pond, creating a new fishing experience within the City.

Trash receptacles, benches and other amenities should be updated or added throughout the park. The recycling containers need to be relocated to a more appropriate location. A perimeter walking trail and perimeter fencing could be added to enhance the park. A restroom/shelter

facility should be considered as the park continues to develop. The lower parking area is in need of paving.

The old see-saw should be removed and replaced with current playground equipment. Outdoor exercise equipment could be located around the perimeter trail to add additional exercise opportunities. The playground is in good repair and should be included in the system-wide replacement cycle.

The addition of wildflower/nature areas should be added to increase the appeal of the park. The Arboretum needs to be updated, and maintained. New signage for the arboretum is needed and certification should be obtained.

### **Fairmount Park**

A number of trees have been damaged in the past during inclement weather events. All trees should be inspected and removed if deemed unsafe. It is recommended that 10- 20 new trees be planted to replace the damaged trees. A sidewalk around the parks perimeter should be considered. The lower grass area is in need of tilling, leveling and re-seeding.

### **George Spinks Field (Western Little League)**

The concession stand and restrooms require a complete renovation. The batting cage frame needs to be rebuilt with new netting installed. Consideration should be given to paving the gravel parking area. The chain link fence is in good condition except for the backstop, which needs to be replaced. The player's benches in the dugouts need to be replaced with new aluminum benches. The drinking fountain is extremely antiquated and should be replaced. There has been great debate about replacing the sunken dugouts due to their age.

### **Haynesfield Park**

The overall condition of the tennis courts is poor. The tennis court is cracking and is in need of replacement or removal. If removed, a tennis court and basketball court could replace the existing courts. A play structure, picnic tables and other amenities could be added to enhance the park. The parking area should be redesigned in a way that allows it to be gated after hours. The drinking fountain is nothing more than a bubbler head on a pipe and is in desperate need of replacement.

### **Cedar Valley**

This park should remain as a passive park/green space. There is no parking and it only serves the immediate neighborhood. A new sign is needed.

### **Patterson Park**

The overall condition of the tennis courts is poor. The courts paved surface has a number of cracks. The chain-link fence surrounding the courts is rusted and in need of replacement. These courts are used by the community on a regular basis. The play structure is rated for 5-12 year

olds and receives a large amount of use throughout the year. The overall condition of the play structure is good but wear is starting to show. The playground should be included in the system-wide replacement cycle. The park sign and both trash receptacles are in need of replacement. The park contains one bench that is in good condition.

### **Jersey Park**

The rocky conditions would make development in this park difficult. However, it is recommended that one if not two, picnic sites be added to the site. Benches and trash receptacles should also be added. The southeast corner could possibly allow for the construction of a play structure. The park sign is in need of replacement.

### **Rooster Front Park at Steele Creek Park**

This section of the Park is in good condition. The picnic area near the creek needs to have a concrete pad installed and the bridge approach needs to be improved. The parking lot needs to have gates installed and stormwater from the roadway should be channeled away from the shelter.

There is a large level piece of property beside the park that also was part of the old wastewater operation. This property has great potential for additional ball fields, a BMX Track or other recreational opportunities.

### **Rotary Field**

The park is in excellent condition. Work continues on the grass playing surface to level out a few low areas that allow water to pool. A row of trees need to be planted on the east side of the park. The gravel access road from 4<sup>th</sup> Street is in need of some improvements and the rear entrance to the overflow parking area needs to be paved.

*Community Park*

**Avoca Park**



Field A

The playing surface on field A is in need of an update. The field is currently in need of leveling, involving the temporary removal of fencing and a significant amount of grading. Currently the

fencing is in good condition but it could use some minor maintenance. The storage/restroom building has had some recent updates. The score-tower/concession building is in need of a complete renovation inside and out. All electrical components are in need of updating, including new lighting. The awning at the concession stand needs replaced and the structure painted.

### Field B

The playing surface on field B is in need of an update. Field b has a history of drainage issues in the outfield, making spring use difficult. Drain tiles should be added to help negate the issues. The perimeter fencing and backstop are in need of replacement. All three structures (score-tower/concession stand, restrooms and storage) are in need of an update. The siding, windows and door are in need of replacement. \_All electrical components are in need of updating, including new lighting. The deck between the score-tower and meeting room needs to be replaced. The concession stand and restrooms need remodeled. All three structures require a fresh coat of paint. The batting cage needs to be removed and replaced. The drinking fountains and trash receptacles require replacement.

### Field C

The playing surface on field C is in need of an update. The field is currently in need of leveling, involving the temporary removal of fencing and a significant amount of grading. Currently a portable building meets the need as a score-tower, but a permanent structure should be considered in the future that includes restrooms.

### Parking

Parking has been an issue at the park for years. Recently the entry road and parking area were paved. However, additional parking needs to be built. A second tier, green parking areas should be added, with the addition of a third green parking area beyond field C. Vehicular access would need to be restricted from the green space by adding an entrance gate.

### **Holston View Park**

The tennis and basketball courts were recently repainted and are in good condition. The chain-link fencing around the courts will need to be replaced in the near future. The lighting at the park is sufficient.

The primary field is in very good condition. The infield, backstop and fencing was replaced in 2013. Topsoil needs to be added to the outfield. The bleacher areas need to be leveled and new concrete pads installed. All trash receptacles should be replaced with the addition of new picnic tables and a new drinking fountain.

The score tower exterior was renovated in 2013, with minor repairs to the interior. However, interior renovations should be completed in the near future.

The concession/restroom building interior is in poor condition. The concession area is in need of a complete renovation. The restrooms are in need of updating and minor repairs are needed on the exterior of the building.

The middle and lower fields are in good condition. Both should have lights installed in the future as well as a small score tower that could provide needed equipment storage. The addition of restrooms for this area would be of great benefit. There is a limited amount of parking for the park, although additional parking does exist around the school.

## *Large Urban Park*

### **Steele Creek Park (Stacy Grayson Memorial)**

The general condition of the park is good. Many of the structures are new or have been recently renovated. Plans are in place to renovate and expand the Nature Center. Future plans are also in place to relocate the boat-house and docks.

Current issues at the park involve erosion. Plans are in place to install a wall along the old beach area to prevent further erosion. This will allow the area to be leveled and used for other activities. Several other shoreline areas are in need of improvements to prevent further erosion. Drainage around the roadway and parking areas needs to be addressed. Rain gardens should be installed to assist with runoff and erosion. Once these areas are repaired and controlled, the perimeter road and parking areas should be repaved.

Staff continues to make progress repairing the knob trail system. During repair, the trails are being widened to allow staff access by all-terrain vehicles (ATV). This allows staff to reach more areas in less time and facilitates the movement of materials.

Additional parking is needed along the lakeside. This can be accomplished by adding two more grass-pave parking areas. Using the grass-pave method creates the use of sturdy parking areas while maintaining the grass.

## *Sports Complex*

### **Whitetop Creek Park**

The condition of the softball and baseball fields is good. There is a drainage issue from the parking area above the fields that creates erosion during heavy rains. One scoreboard needs to be replaced as soon as possible and the other three should be replaced in the following years. The field fencing was replaced over the last four years and is in good condition.

The soccer fields are built on an area primarily composed of slate with an insufficient amount of topsoil to maintain a healthy grass playing surface. In the fiscal (FY) year of 2013, two of the fields were renovated. This included the addition of an irrigation system, new topsoil and Bermuda grass. In FY14, the remaining two fields were renovated to include irrigation, topsoil and grass. It is anticipated that all four fields will be in great condition for play by mid-summer

2014. Staff will also complete renovations to the soccer field-house which will include converting a storage area to a concession stand during FY14.

The pavilion, playground and basketball court are in good condition. There is an area near the playground that collects water and needs to be filled to allow water to properly runoff. Small sections of the walking trail have been paved and are about 75% complete. The remaining unpaved portion should be paved when funding is available.

The maintenance shop is in good repair. The driveway needs to be paved and a fence installed around the shop to allow storage that cannot be accessed by the public. An area needs to be dedicated to store infield clay and sand in order to properly maintain the softball fields.

The paved parking areas area also in good condition, but the majority of the concrete curbing is damaged or missing. The missing sections create stormwater runoff issues, which creates damage to the softball fields. The curbing should be replaced with the installation of additional basins and drain pipes.

### ***Special Use Park***

#### **Beaver Creek Plaza (Music Park)**

This park and features are all in good condition. A sign should be added so that the public is more aware that it is a public park.

#### **Charlie Robinette Park / Bark Park**

Charlie Robinette Park is in very good condition. 50 loads of topsoil will be spread to level it and provide a better growing medium for grass. Plans include adding a backstop for baseball/softball. The gravel trail needs a fresh coat of rock and leveling. Several small trees that were planted during the park construction need to be replaced.

The dog park is in good condition. Additional trees should be planted for future shade. Shade structures should be installed at some of the bench locations. Dog play structures would enhance the park use. A small water feature has also been requested.

#### **Bristol Downtown Center and Transit Station**

The park is in good condition. Six of the umbrellas have been replaced and plans are in place to continue replacement of the remaining four. A removable roof structure was added to the stage several years ago. The cover tarp of the roof structure will need to be replaced in the immediate future.

#### **Haynesfield Pool**

The general condition of both pools and the bath-house is poor. The concrete pool walls have softened and deteriorated over the years. The coping and concrete surfaces around the pool are also in need of replacement. Much of the underground piping has been patched and in need of

replacement including a broken main drain pipe located under the diving well. The entire pool has to be painted each spring and due to the deteriorating concrete, the paint chips and peels throughout the season.

The bath house/entry building is also in poor condition. The roof of the building leaks and there is visible deterioration within the blocks and concrete of the walls.

The parking area is inadequate. The majority of our customers park at Haynesfield School. Due to the close proximity of the fire station and the school, there tends to be a large amount of congestion even with low attendance numbers at the park.

It is recommended that the pool be replaced at a new location. Our current pool attendance is tied directly to the school systems summer break. Once the summer break ends, pool attendance is greatly reduced. A new pool within an enclosed aquatics center at a different location should be explored. An enclosed pool would allow year round programming. A splash pad and other features could be added either during construction of the park or later.

### **Slater Center**

The building is good condition. The roof has been recently replaced and an energy efficiency program installed with new lights, windows, suspended ceilings and a computer based control system for the heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning system (HVAC).

Many of the rooms have been renovated in the past five years with the spin room being completed in 2014. The gym floor was recently resurfaced with thought of the billiards room needing to be remodeled in the near future. An adjoining lot was recently purchased with plans to expand the parking lot.

### **Skate Park**

The location and size of the skate park are not ideal. The quarter pipes need to be replaced in the near future. The park has been plagued by vandalism and a disregard for the rules since its opening. The close proximity to the school and football field has created issues in the past. It is recommended that the skate park be rebuilt at a new location and in a manner that allows it to be controlled and operated by staff with a user fee to offset the staff cost. Relocating the skate park will ensure that the new park is built with the proper amenities that is desired by the skating community.

## *Greenways*

### **Mark Vance Memorial Greenway**

All benches and trash receptacles along the route are in good condition. Additional benches and receptacles could be added to make the greenway more user friendly.

## Wes Davis Greenway

This Greenway and all amenities included are in good condition. There are several sections of split rail fencing that are in need of replacement. There are also some erosion issues behind the train cars that should be closely monitored in the future.

## Recommendations for New Parks and Facilities

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The following is a breakdown of recommendations for new and enhanced parks and facilities throughout the City of Bristol with an enhanced focus on the four areas with service gaps.

Throughout the plan development process, community member expressed the need for more variety, focusing on opportunities for youth, exercise, health and ways to experience nature.

Based on the needs that came out of the community meetings and community survey's, new and existing parks should be designed to offer recreational variety, creating experiences with a wide-range of benefits. New facilities should include both traditional facilities such as play areas, swimming parks and sports fields, as well as alternative options such as splash pads and dog parks.

### *Expand Places to Play for Children*

**Add new and varied play areas and equipment.** New and rebuilt play areas should be distinct from nearby play areas, and should offer more attractive play and seating areas for caregivers. Where two play areas are in close proximity, consider investing in a single, more interesting playground rather than keeping both. Also consider moving one of the playgrounds to an area of the city that is underserved and falls into one of the service gaps. More types of equipment, including climbers, spinner, and swings, should be incorporated.

### *Add New Sports Fields*

**Add sports fields in mini and neighborhood parks.** New informal fields should be added throughout the City, and should be considered wherever adequate level ground is available. Informal fields should be designed into new mini and neighborhoods parks, and added to existing parks to fill coverage gaps. When adding new sports fields, a new tennis court complex and baseball quad should be considered.

### *Improve Opportunities to Experience Nature*

**Integrate natural processes.** Reveal and enhance nature and natural process through the use of native plants and by using stormwater management as a functional and aesthetic park feature.

**Add nature play elements.** Develop nature play areas where appropriate to allow children and all ages to interact with nature.

**Provide interpretive signage.** Provide signage and facilities to support environmental education and interpretation, including information on wildlife in developed parks and natural areas, particularly at points of interest such as trailheads, waterfront site, viewpoints, and sensitive areas.

**Increase access.** Build pathways within existing parks and natural areas to increase access to and interaction with natural areas, where appropriate.

### *Develop New Outdoor Facilities*

**Identify locations to add community gardens.** Identify additional opportunities for community garden sites within the park system and in conjunction with other public facilities. All sites should have a minimum of six hours of sunlight during the growing season, water service, and parking for gardeners. Maintenance access is also needed to bring in mulch, compost, and other materials each year.

**Add skate parks and skate elements.** Consider adding another skate park as a new special use park or within a new neighborhood or community park. Also consider moving the current skate park to a new location with new skate elements. Skate spots could be placed in current parks as a nice option for a new park element.

**Add splash pads.** Splash pads should be considered for inclusion in neighborhood, community, large urban, or special use parks. This feature could easily be added to an existing park or a new mini or neighborhood park could be constructed in one of the service gap regions with a splash pad element.

**Build a bike track, bike skills course or BMX track.** Consider adding a bike pump track, bike skills course or BMX track in an underused portion of an existing neighborhood or community park. Adding one of these courses in other regions of the community with limited access to trails could be a viable option. These facilities are equipped with dirt tracks that are of low cost and relatively easy to build and maintain. Pump tracks build bike handling skills while providing a great way to exercise.

**Consider adding a disc golf course.** Consider adding an 18-hole disc golf course in a community, large urban, or sports complex park. This could be accomplished by adding a new course in one of the service gap regions or adding the course in an existing park. This could be accomplished the best by working in conjunction with local disc golf advocates to establish the best location.

**Consider adding additional dog parks.** Bark Park located at Charlie Robinette Park has become a very popular park. There should be additional dog parks added throughout the City, especially in underserved regions.

## *Consider New Indoor facilities*

**Design a new indoor community center.** Consider adding a new community recreation center with a large gymnasium and sufficient space for classroom activities. This could be accomplished by building a new center but a more financially sound idea could be the renovation of an abandoned school within the City. The property should be large enough to possibly house other recreational facilities, as well as adequate parking for community members.

**Design a new farmers market space.** The State Street Farmers Market has operated in the Downtown Center since 1999 but due to the increased use yearly, it has outgrown its current location. A building to house the market would be ideal, but at the least a permanent covered area should be sought.

**Expanded Nature Center.** The Nature Center located in Steele Creek Park is in need of additional space to further the mission and cause of the Nature Center. This expansion could help expand the animal exhibits, creation of a lab, and installation of an elevator to ensure complete accessibility of the facility. The plans for the expansion are complete, it should now be added to the priority list and funding aligned.

**Auxiliary Gym.** Currently the Parks and Recreation Department is in need of additional gym space. In the past, Park and Recreation programs have relied on local school gyms to fill the need of gym space. However, schools are continuing to grow and add athletic/school activities in their gyms, which had drastically limited the gym use by the Parks and Recreation Department.

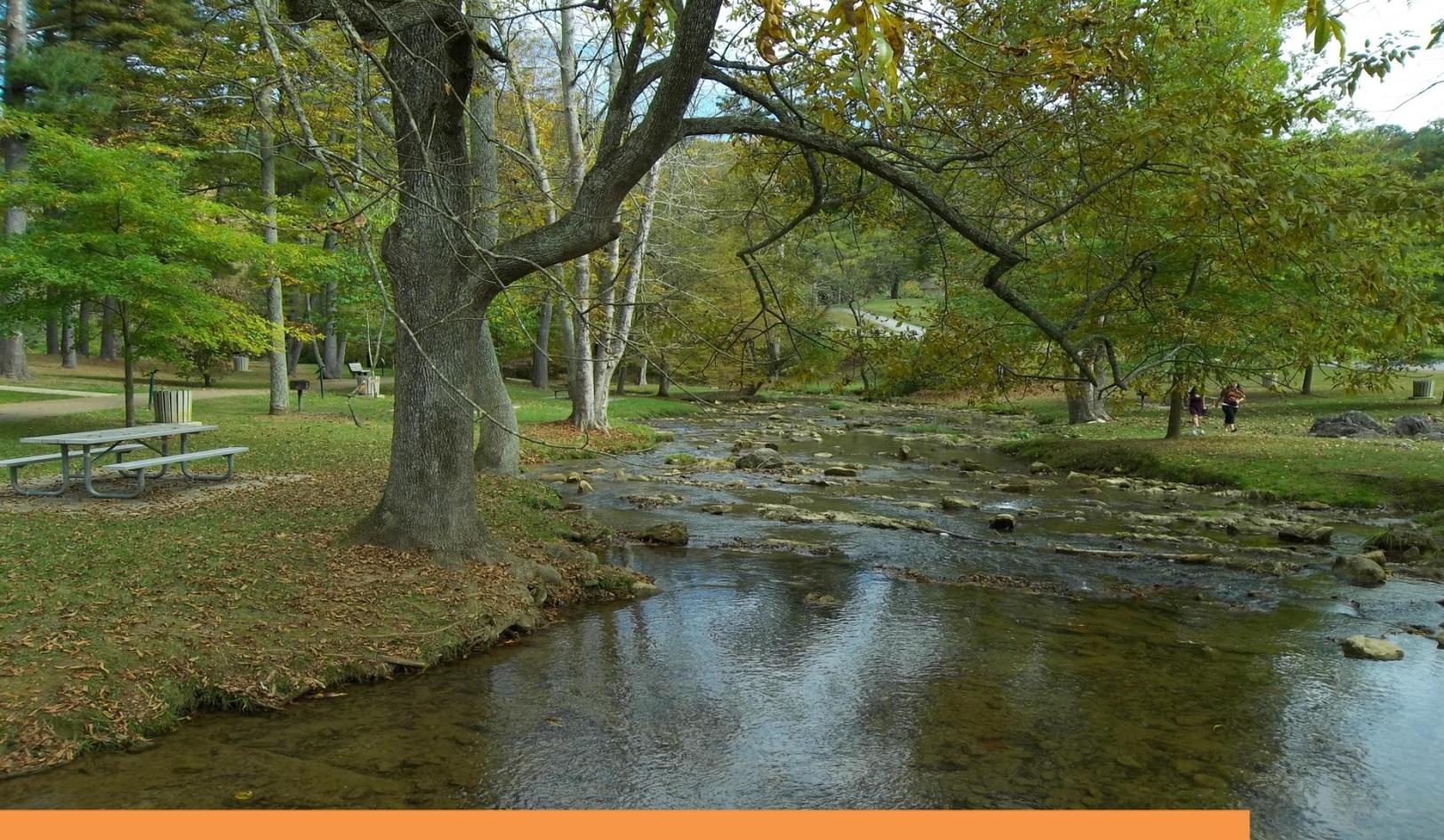
## *Improve Aquatics Facilities*

**Replacement of current swimming facility and new aquatics center.** Since the current swimming facility is 50 years old and in poor condition, the City is in need of a new swimming facility. Since the construction of another standard pool limits the availability of use during the warm months of the year, consideration should be placed toward a new aquatics center. This would allow the center to be used throughout the year.

**Add splash pads.** Consider the addition of splash pads within existing parks or inside of new parks. These should each be different in design and potentially serve different age groups.

## *Create Additional Park and Recreation Plans*

Throughout the planning process of developing the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan the need for an additional Comprehensive Trails and Greenways Plan was revealed. Trails and greenways were found to be an important topic within the community that is in need of detailed attention that could not be properly provided in the Parks Master Plan. Therefore, it is recommended that staff create a detailed Comprehensive Trails and Greenways Plan that will work in harmony with the Parks Master Plan.



*“The nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired, in value.” – Theodore Roosevelt*



# Chapter 7: Plan Implementation

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This chapter outlines the strategies and level of investment necessary to achieve the City's envisioned future park system. It presents the list of capital projects needed to improve existing system assets and the new sites and facilities that will be necessary to accommodate future growth. Included are a joint facility use agreement, prioritization criteria, implementation steps and a funding strategy for carrying out the plan.

## Capital Projects List

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The capital projects list presents the projects needed to fulfill the system-wide goals and vision. The following will be a list of the capital projects that were gained from Chapter 6. The following list is comprised of large capital projects, playground replacement schedule, playground additions, drinking fountain needs, park bench needs, aluminum bleacher needs and trash receptacle needs. All monetary figures are estimates based on current calculation at the current market rates. However, these rates are subject to change based on fluctuations within the market, as well as other unseen economic factors.

### **Tennis Court Complex**

With the demolition of Central School, the tennis courts were also removed. These courts not only served as the home courts for the Tennessee High School Tennis Team, but also as community courts.

A project is in place to build a new 8 court complex at the old school property.  
Expected Cost: \$750,000

Initial funding of \$250,000 was provided by the School System and the City. An additional \$250,000 has been provided from the private sector. One \$10,000 grant has also been received and another \$10,000 is pending.

### **Splash Pad / Spray Park**

The addition of a splash pad has been discussed for several years. A splash pad provides a water attraction for all ages and does not require staff/lifeguard supervision. The choice location would be Steele Creek Park.

Expected cost: \$125,000 - \$150,000

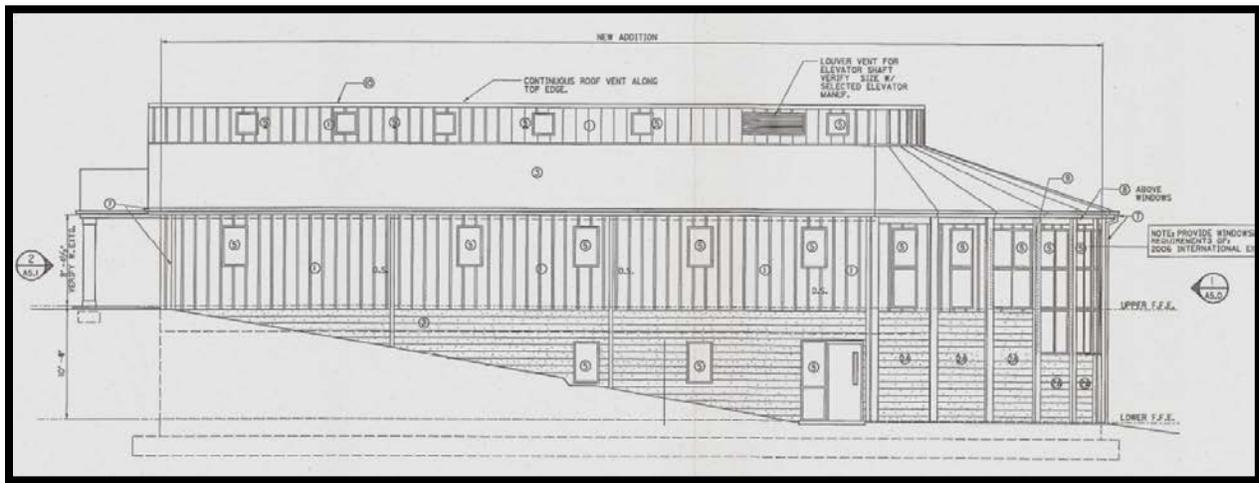
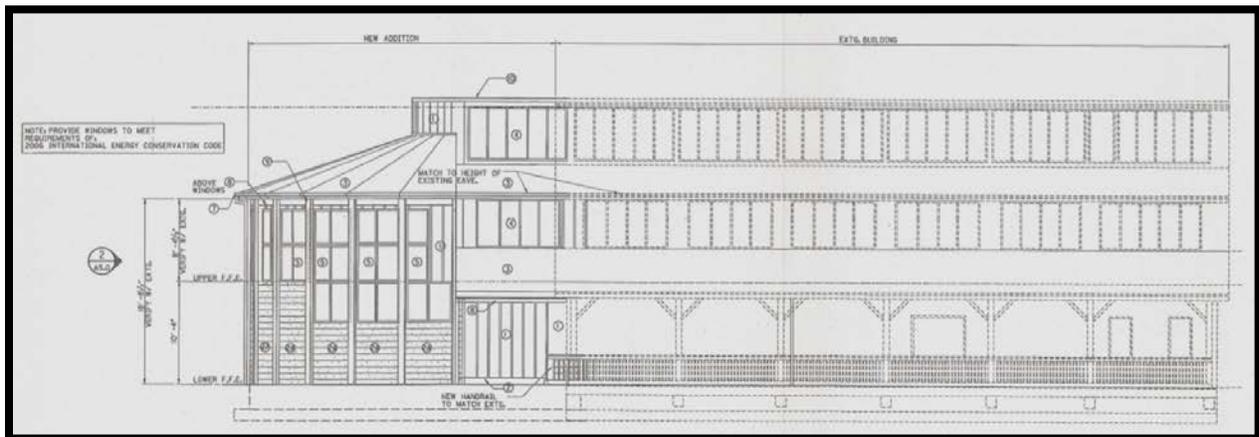
Staff is currently working with the Junior League of Bristol to provide funding for the Splash Pad. The Jr League is planning to conduct a fundraising campaign in 2015 with plans for raising \$100,000.

## Nature Center Expansion

The Nature Center located in Steele Creek Park is a 2,600 square foot educational facility that contains live native animals, and interpretive exhibits. The two story multi-use building was constructed in 1989. The Center provides education, research and conservation for school groups, community groups and daily visitors.

In 2009, staff had plans completed to construct an addition onto the Center. The addition would have more than doubled the square footage of the facility and provided an opportunity to expand the native animals and interpretive exhibits. The additional space would have also included a lab to allow more in depth educational programming. The plans included an elevator that would have ensured the entire facility was accessible by everyone. Currently, the lower floor of the Nature Center is not accessible by handicap or wheelchair bound citizens. However, funding for the additional was never approved.

In 2014, City Council approved a \$2 vehicle entry fee for Steele Creek Park. This new revenue would provide the funding over time to complete the Nature Center Addition.



## **Swimming Pool / Aquatics Center**

The current swim facility is 50 years old and is in poor condition. Staff continues to make yearly repairs that allow the facility to open. Major failures within the facility should be expected at any time. There has been great debate in regards to replacing the pool. A standard pool has less than three months of usability each year. Constructing an aquatics center would allow the pool to be used year round.

Construction cost would vary depending on the type of facility to be built.

Multiple funding sources would be explored. State and federal recreation grants could provide a portion of the funding.

## **Farmers Market Space**

The State Street Farmers Market has operated at the Downtown Center since 1999. Each year the popularity of the market has grown. The vendor numbers have continued to increase and the market is now out of usable space. While the open-air concept has its advantages, it also has a number of disadvantages. One of the largest disadvantages is that the market is ultimately controlled by the weather. Using an area that is designated for parking at all other times requires 100% set-up and tear down for each market.

At a minimum, a permanent covered area should be sought. Although this does not eliminate the issue with hot or cold temperatures, it does provide a dry location and some wind reduction. Although, an indoor farmers market would be the best option. Understanding that the market is limited to a set number of days, a space should be built or purchased that allows the space to have other recreational and community applications.

State and federal recreation grants as well as Department of Agriculture grants could be sought for partial funding.

## **Community Center**

A functional Community Center would enhance and expand the recreational opportunities that could be provided. Having a community center would give the Parks and Recreation Department a central point of operation for all activities and would allow better control and organization. Gym space and room space is always in short supply and a community center would provide these necessities.

An abandoned school building should be considered as a future community center. A gymnasium would not only provide much needed space for basketball, volleyball, pickleball and other court sports, but would also allow the department to program many other activities. The gym would be large enough to accommodate small concerts and other community events.

A cafeteria could have a small stage that would be ideal for small lectures and other classes. The kitchen area could be used as a community kitchen and as a catering kitchen for events in the

center. There could be a multitude of classrooms, a library, and band/chorus rooms that would greatly enhance our offerings.

Vacant acreage on a school campus could serve many uses. This could be the location of a new pool/aquatics center, auxiliary gyms, farmers market or other recreational facilities. A community garden could be expanded and be combined with classes in the community kitchen. A school site contains ample parking for a community center and it could be well located within the City.

The cost associated with constructing a new building would be great. Renovating an existing structure could be completed at a much lower cost. Many of these updates could be completed over time as new grant opportunities become available and from operations and capital improvement funds. State and Federal grants could be sought and bonds could be used to complete the renovations. Private funding opportunities could also be leveraged.

### **Auxiliary Gym**

An auxiliary gym(s) is needed on a daily basis. Park and Recreation programs have always depended on school gyms for programming. As schools have added athletic activities and school activities, gym space is becoming very difficult to find. An auxiliary gym could serve many other uses to include the farmers market and other community events/activities. It would allow Parks and Recreation to expand court sports to include more youth activities and adult activities that currently cannot be offered.

### **Mini & Neighborhood Parks**

The park and recreation review process revealed the need for additional mini & neighborhood parks around the city. The population on the east side of the city has continued to increase over the years and is underserved by parks.

The current park located on Oakwood Street is in a poor location and the Food City Park is underused because of its location behind Food City. It is recommended that a new park be constructed to replace both of these facilities. The Food City Park would serve the community best as a Dog Park.

Additional property should be sought east of Holston View School to establish an additional park within the northeastern region of the City. There should also be consideration given about possible park locations within the other service gap locations throughout the city (northwestern section, central section, & southern section).

### **BMX Track (Bicycles)**

BMX Tacks were popular in the 1970's and are quickly making a comeback throughout the world. BMX Racing was recently included in the 2012 Olympic Games. BMX racing is a family

activity with riders of all ages participating. Bicycling is a great cardio activity that helps promote health and wellness.

State and Federal grants as well as private funding could be used to construct the track. Much of the cost is related to dirt and grading. This work can be completed in-house at a reduced cost.

### **Dog Park**

The Bark Park located at Charlie Robinette Park has been extremely popular and highly used since opening day. An additional park located in the eastern portion of the city is needed. If property is available, the primary cost is for fencing. Upkeep cost is minimal.

A private partnership could be obtained for the construction of a new dog park.

### **Disc Golf Course (18-hole)**

Disc golf play continues to grow throughout the country. The 9-hole course at Steele Creek Park has become a favorite course in the region. The addition of an 18-hole course in the City would be very popular and provide opportunity for additional daily play as well as tournaments.

Available space is the key to constructing an 18-hole course. Equipment cost would be less than \$10,000. Sponsorships could be obtained to cover the cost of the baskets and signage.

### **Baseball Quad**

The City currently operates seven baseball fields, of which only four are lighted. Three are located at Holston View Park, one at George Spinks Field (Western) and three at Avoca. There are currently two baseball leagues using the facilities as well as Vance Middle School. All of these facilities are aging and in need of major upgrades.

The Parks and Recreation Department currently maintains four sets of restrooms, four concession stands, and three press box/score towers for baseball. Building a quad facility would reduce the structures needed and reduce the overall maintenance cost. Additionally having all the fields located at one location would reduce man-hours needed and equipment. Two of the current fields used are for tee-ball. A small t-ball field could be located beside the quad.

Again, available property would be the key component to building a new baseball quad. Fencing and most structures could be constructed in-house. This would also free-up the Avoca Park property that could be better used as commercial property. Other areas of cost saving could be created with less maintenance cost and facility up-keep.

State and Federal Recreation grants as well as private funds could be leveraged to construct the facility.

## DeFriece Park Enhancements

DeFriece Park is a 9 acre park located at 5<sup>th</sup> and Stine Street. The park is primarily green space containing several mature oak trees. There park also contains a spring fed pond and an un-certified arboretum.

Staff has met several times with the Massengill DeFriece Foundation to discuss possible enhancements to the park. The foundation is still considering that funding. Suggested enhancements include:

- Increasing the number of trees in the arboretum and obtaining certification
- Constructing a picnic shelter with restrooms
- Increasing the size of the basketball court to two courts
- Paving the gravel parking area and constructing a new entrance
- Cleaning out the pond and adding fountains
- Reconstructing the pond with a retaining wall to reduce erosion of the banks
- Stocking the pond for youth fishing
- Replacing the pond outflow and drain pipes
- Update the landscaping by adding gardens
- Add a perimeter walking trail
- Add additional picnic sites
- Add exercise station along walking trail
- Replace/repair the monument
- Add additional play structures

Primary funding would come from the foundation. Additional funds would be sought through grants and the general fund.

## Comprehensive Trails and Greenways Plan

The Parks Master Plan unveiled the need for an additional plan, the Comprehensive Trails and Greenways Plan. Trails and greenways were found to be an important topic within the community that is in need of detailed attention that could not be properly provided in the Parks Master Plan.

This plan can be completed internally by a joint partnership between the Parks and Recreation Department and the Economic and Community Development Department.

## *Playground Schedule*

Playgrounds	Installed	Replace	Estimated Cost
Steele Creek Park Shelter B			
• 2-5 year olds	<b>1993</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>\$9,547</b>
• 5-12 year olds	<b>2001</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>\$11,787</b>
• Tot Swings	<b>2013</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>\$2,435</b>

• <b>Belt Swings</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>\$2,435</b>
Steele Creek Park Shelter G			
• <b>5-12 year olds</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>2002</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Civitan Shelter			
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>As Necessary</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>
Windsor Park			
• <b>2-5 year olds</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>\$4,912</b>
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>Unknown</b>		<b>\$1,000</b>
Rooster Front Park			
• <b>5-12 year olds</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>\$14,833</b>
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
DeFriece Park			
• <b>5-12 year olds</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>\$14,690</b>
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>As Necessary</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Patterson Park			
• <b>5-12 year olds</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>\$9,547</b>
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>\$1,965</b>
Whitetop Creek Park			
• <b>5-12 year olds</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>\$19,804</b>
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>1999</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Oakwood Park			
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>As Necessary</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
Holston View Park			
• <b>Swings</b>	<b>Unknown</b>	<b>As Necessary</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>
Anderson Park			

• 5-12 year olds	2010	2025	\$50,000
• Swings	2010	2025	\$1,000
• Fire truck	2010	2025	\$5,550
Skateboard Park			
• Skate Barrier (2)	2009	2024	\$1,292
• Skate table	Unknown	As Necessary	\$1,748
• Grind box with ledge	Unknown	As Necessary	\$1,862
• Manual pad	Unknown	As Necessary	\$988
• 2” curved jump launch	Unknown	As Necessary	\$1,825
• 2”straight jump launch	Unknown	As Necessary	\$2,088
Rotary Park			
• 5-12 year olds	2013	2028	\$9,925
• Swings	2013	2028	\$2,000

### *Playground Additions*

<b>Food City Park / Oakwood Replacement Park</b>	2015/16	\$20,000.00
<b>Replacement Park (Oakwood &amp; Food City)</b>	When Attainable	\$40,000
<b>New Neighborhood Park (East)</b>	When Attainable	\$40,000
<b>Charlie Robinette Park</b>	2016/17	\$15,000
<b>Haynesfield Park</b>	When Attainable	\$15,000
<b>DeFriece Park</b>	When Attainable	\$15,000

### *Drinking Fountain Needs*

Park	Amount	Estimated Unit Cost	Estimated Total Cost
Steele Creek Park	3	\$2,000	\$6,000
	2	\$3,500	\$7,000
DeFriece Park	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
Rooster Front Park	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
Fairview Park	2	\$2,000	\$4,000

<b>George Spinks Field</b>	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
<b>Avoca Park</b>	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
<b>Anderson Park</b>	1	\$4,000	\$4,000
<b>Slater Park</b>	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Haynesfield Park</b>	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Patterson Park</b>	1	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Whitetop Creek Park</b>	1	\$1,500	\$1,500
	1	\$4,000	\$4,000

***Park Bench Needs***

<b>Park</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Estimated Unit Cost</b>	<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>
<b>Steele Creek Park</b>	8	\$400	\$4,000
<b>Rooster Front Park</b>	2	\$400	\$800
<b>DeFriece Park</b>	6	\$400	\$2,400
<b>Anderson Park</b>	4	\$1,000	\$1,000
<b>Other Parks</b>	10	\$400	\$4,000

***Aluminum Bleacher Needs***

<b>Park</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Estimated Unit Cost</b>	<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>
<b>Avoca Park</b>	4	\$7,000	\$28,000
<b>Holston View Park</b>	4	\$7,000	\$28,000
<b>Steele Creek Park</b>	2	\$5,000	\$10,000

## *Trash Receptacle Needs*

Park	Amount	Estimated Unit Cost	Estimated Total Cost
All Parks	30	\$200	\$6,000
	20	\$400	\$8,000

## Joint Facility Use Agreement

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The Parks & Recreation Department and the Bristol Tennessee School system have maintained a good working relationship over the years for joint facility use. However, no formal agreement exists between the parties. The City has provided softball fields, soccer fields, baseball fields and unrestricted access to City parks for school activities. In turn, the schools have allowed the Parks and Recreation Department to use gymnasiums for our programs.

With the limited budgets, the departments have looked at new ways to work together for facility development. This has been the case with the development of Rotary Field. Two new softball fields were constructed by the City and the school system constructed a field house for the school teams. Tennessee High School and Vance Middle School teams have 1<sup>st</sup> priority use of the fields during their regular season and the Parks and Recreation department uses the fields for our youth softball program. The fields are open to the public at all other times.

Final plans are in place to build a new tennis court facility at the old Central School Site. This is another joint project with the schools. The 8-court facility will serve as home courts for Tennessee High School and Vance Middle School teams. The courts will be open for public use and Parks and Recreation programming when not scheduled by the school teams. This project has also leveraged financial support from the community.

There are numerous other current and future opportunities for the Parks and Recreation Department and School System to join together on new projects that serve everyone's needs. This partnership has the ability to reduce costs by constructing one facility to serve both the schools needs and the community.

The Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association strongly encourage a joint facility use agreement between School Systems and Park and Recreation Departments. The Association provides a tool kit to assist in the development of the agreement. A joint facility use agreement can be a successful development tool that the City of Bristol should consider investing in.

## Project Prioritization Criteria

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Each project recommended in the Capital Projects List will serve to fulfill part of the vision of the City's future park system. Because the number of projects and total costs exceed the City's resources, projects should be ranked and prioritized based on a set of evaluative criteria.

The comments obtained during public outreach for this Park and Recreation Plan helped determine general community priorities and preferences. Using this feedback, prioritization criteria have been developed to help identify priority projects to implement when funding is available. The criteria should be used as discussion topics when reviewing the merits of individual projects, or when funding or other resources present themselves. Projects that more closely meet the intent of these criteria should rise to the top of the list, while those that do not should be moved to lower in the queue and considered at a later date, or when additional resources are made available. Projects should be prioritized if they:

- **Fill gaps in park and recreation needs.** Projects that fill gaps in the existing system should be given a higher priority, based on the service gaps presented in this Parks Plan.
- **Increased recreational variety and enhance park experiences.** Projects that add variety to existing parks and that create new and enhanced recreational opportunities should be given a higher priority.
- **Connect parks and greenways.** Projects that improve safe connections between parks and link greenway should be prioritized.
- **Promote active living, health and wellness.** Projects that will encourage and sustain health lifestyles and active living should be given a high priority.
- **Improve operations and maintenance efficiency.** Projects that improve maintenance efficiency or that will reduce life-cycle costs should be given a high priority.
- **Make use of alternative funding tools and/or partnerships.** Projects that have potential to be funded through grants, donations or partner contributions should receive higher priority than projects without other funding opportunities.
- **Provide maximum return on investment.** Projects that provide the most benefit for the least amount of resources should be prioritized. Alternatively, projects that are costlier, meet a localized need, or serve fewer users should be assigned a lower priority.
- **Further existing priorities or recommendations.** Projects that have already been identified as having support by the community should be given a high priority.

## Implementation Steps

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There are several implementation steps that will turn recommendations to actions, while providing the City with the tools and information needed to build and sustain the future park system. These strategies respond to the recommendations outlined in previous chapters,

developed to achieve the plan concept goals. Together, all implementation steps will be necessary to maximize the City's ability to implement the Parks Plan. The strategy for implementing the Parks Plan is based on the following five-step approach.

1. **Prioritize “quick wins” (low cost, high impact projects) to make immediate progress on plan implementation.** An example of a few potential quick wins to pursue in the near future include:
  - Replacement of playground equipment throughout the park system.
  - Addition of new park equipment throughout the park system.
  - Replace drinking fountains throughout the park system.
  - Replace benches and bleacher throughout the park system.
  - Replace trash receptacles throughout the park system.
  - Acquire and develop a neighborhood park in the northeastern section of the City.
  - Develop a tennis complex at the former Central School site.
  - Develop a new dog park.
  - Develop a Trails and Greenways Plan.
  - Complete some of the DeFriece Park enhancements.
2. **Maximize exposure and use of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan.** Once adopted, the Park System Master Plan will be the single most important tool for achieving the desired system. However, it will be up to City staff, Council member, decision makers, residents and advocates to keep the Parks Plan and its recommendations moving forward. The Parks Plan should serve as a reference when discussing new development projects and function as an inspirational resource when advocating for new park projects. The Parks and Recreation Commission should annually review the list of capital projects and recommendations and should measure success, basing goals and objectives on unfunded projects and untouched recommendations.
3. **Prioritize projects and update the list annually.** The Capital Projects List provides the recommended park and recreation improvement projects that will create the desired future system. Using the prioritization criteria listed in this chapter, the City should periodically review the capital projects and rank each project according to how well it meets the identified criteria. Each year, as conditions, preferences and funding opportunities change, the City should readdress the project list and re-prioritize the project queue.
4. **Add prioritized park projects to the Parks and Recreation Fiscal Year Goals and Objectives.** Within the annual Fiscal Year Goals and Objectives for the Parks and Recreation Department, there should be additions each year from the recommendations of

the Parks Master Plan. Also, large projects need to be included inside of the City's Capital Improvement Program as necessary.

5. **Monitor plan implementation and update as needed.** Similar to the Capital Projects List updates, parks staff should periodically monitor how well the Parks Plan is being implemented and whether needs are changing, and decide if new strategies are needed to keep the Parks Plan implementation moving forward. Community events, online questionnaires and a suggestions box at public buildings are some of the ways the City can solicit feedback on needed refinements and/or updates to the Parks Plan. On an annual basis, the Parks and Recreation Commission should convene to measure the status of Parks Plan recommendations, making adjustments to the Capital Projects List as needed.

## Funding Strategy

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Existing sources of revenue to pay for parks and recreation services are the City's General Fund and local grant opportunities. However, long-term reliance on these sources is unsustainable and unreliable for supporting needed improvements and additions to the park system. Finding adequate funding to pay for the desired park system requires a strategic approach, maximizing use of existing sources and leveraging new and alternative resources and partnerships. The funding strategy includes resources that can be leveraged for capital projects and park system operations maintenance, and comprises strategies to:

- Maximize use of General Fund;
- Leverage partnerships and community support;
- Increase potential of private contributions; and
- Target grant opportunities.

### *Maximize use of General Fund*

The City's past budgeting system does a great job of tracking the performance of different City divisions. As in the case with many divisions, a large percentage of the Parks and Recreation Department budget stems from the City's General Fund. Maximizing how resources from this fund are used will free-up funding for other needs and help offset the need to draw on other sources of funding. General Fund support can be used for capital projects and park system operations and maintenance.

The City should implement a comprehensive set of strategies to achieve this end, drawing on recommendations contained in the Parks Plan. Some of these strategies include:

- Implementing a Maintenance Plan;
- Improving work and cost tracking;

- Revising maintenance effectiveness measures;
- Leveraging partnerships and volunteerism;
- Prioritizing maintenance resources; and
- Prioritizing projects that reduce operating costs.

### ***Leverage Partnerships and Community Support***

Volunteer labor is a great way to extend limited resources. Property owners, advocacy groups, school groups, homeowners’ and neighborhood associations and businesses are all potential partners that can help build and care for the park system. While some projects require design and construction expertise, unskilled labor can be used for some types of construction, routine and periodic maintenance, and even as volunteer program staff. Skilled labor should be allowed on certain projects where the City may lack the necessary expertise.

Some facilities such as bike pump tracks, disc golf courses and community gardens can be entirely designed, built and maintained by volunteers, clubs and advocacy groups. It is important that all volunteer projects will require City approval, management and oversight. As such, use of volunteer labor should be weighed against available City staff capacity for management. The recommended volunteer coordinator should be responsible for advertising and assisting with the coordination of volunteer projects with City staff.

### ***Increase Potential of Private Contributions***

Cash contributions from private organizations can add up when successfully managed. The program must be thoughtfully designed so that potential contributors can see the results of their donations. Options to purchase benches, playground equipment, trees and other items are great ways to show that donations are making a difference. The program should also be prepared for larger endowments for playgrounds, picnic structures or entire parks. The City should seek contributions from estates and trusts and have the resources needed to accommodate more complex transactions.

Donor-funded projects should be held to the same standards as all other projects. In general, donor-initiated projects should be prioritized, as well as those with strong political support and close alignment with the institutional mission. To encourage donations, the City can develop a gift catalogue with a menu of potential items that can be purchased. It will be important to consider existing policies regarding naming rights as part of this program.

### ***Target Grant Opportunities***

Grant funding is an effective way to fund park improvements, both for capital projects and system maintenance and operations. With public funding becoming increasingly tight in most jurisdictions, grants are also becoming more competitive. Most grants require a matching contribution, as well as staff time for project and funding oversight. The City should consider

targeting grant opportunities with a proven track record in funding parks and recreation facilities. With the completion and adoption of the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan, the City can now apply for State and Federal grant opportunities. Previously, the City was not able to apply for these grants because they require a Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan that details exactly what the needs of the community are. This ensures that the grant money will be properly spent on the specific project that it was intended for.

## Conclusion

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Residents of the City of Bristol are proud of their City's well-maintained parks and recreation facilities and expect that additions to the system will receive this same high level of care. Looking to the future, residents voiced the desire for a park system that is better distributed and more diverse. Improvements are needed in many existing parks, and new parks and facilities will be required to fulfill system-wide goals. Opportunities for youth of all ages and places and programs that promote healthy and active living will be part of this future vision.

To reach this vision, the City will have to keep the Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan progressing forward. The Comprehensive Park and Recreation Plan should be used as a resource and guide, as well as a source of inspiration for developers, potential supporters, City staff and decision makers. Creative and forward thinking policies will need to be adopted to allow recommendations to be achieved. New programs will require wide-ranging support, while completion of capital projects will require alternative sources of funding. Establishing new partnerships and building stronger relationships among park supporters will help bridge the gap between need and implementation.

It will also be crucial to check-in with the community and assess changing priorities and needs to keep the plan relevant and realistic. Above all, the City must communicate the importance and benefits of the park system to sustain the level of interest and support needed to fulfill the vision. By working toward a common vision, Bristol's park and recreation system will continue to be a source of pride for residents. Improvements to existing parks and additions to the system will create new and lasting experiences, reinforcing the role of the park system as the center community life.