



THOMPSON'S STATION

Parks and Recreation Master Plan



ADOPTION DRAFT

Kimley » Horn



SPECIAL THANKS

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Existing Town Plans.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Community Engagement.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Demographics and Trends Assessment</i>	<i>35</i>
<i>Benchmark Analysis.....</i>	<i>63</i>
<i>Facility Inventory and Analysis</i>	<i>71</i>
<i>Program Assessment.....</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>Maintenance and Operations Plan</i>	<i>87</i>
<i>Financial and Revenue Strategies.....</i>	<i>95</i>
<i>Connectivity Improvements</i>	<i>103</i>
<i>Implementation Plan.....</i>	<i>111</i>
<i>Conclusion.....</i>	<i>123</i>
<i>Appendix.....</i>	<i>127</i>



THOMPSON'S STATION *Parks and Recreation Master Plan*



SECTION 1

Introduction



INTRODUCTION

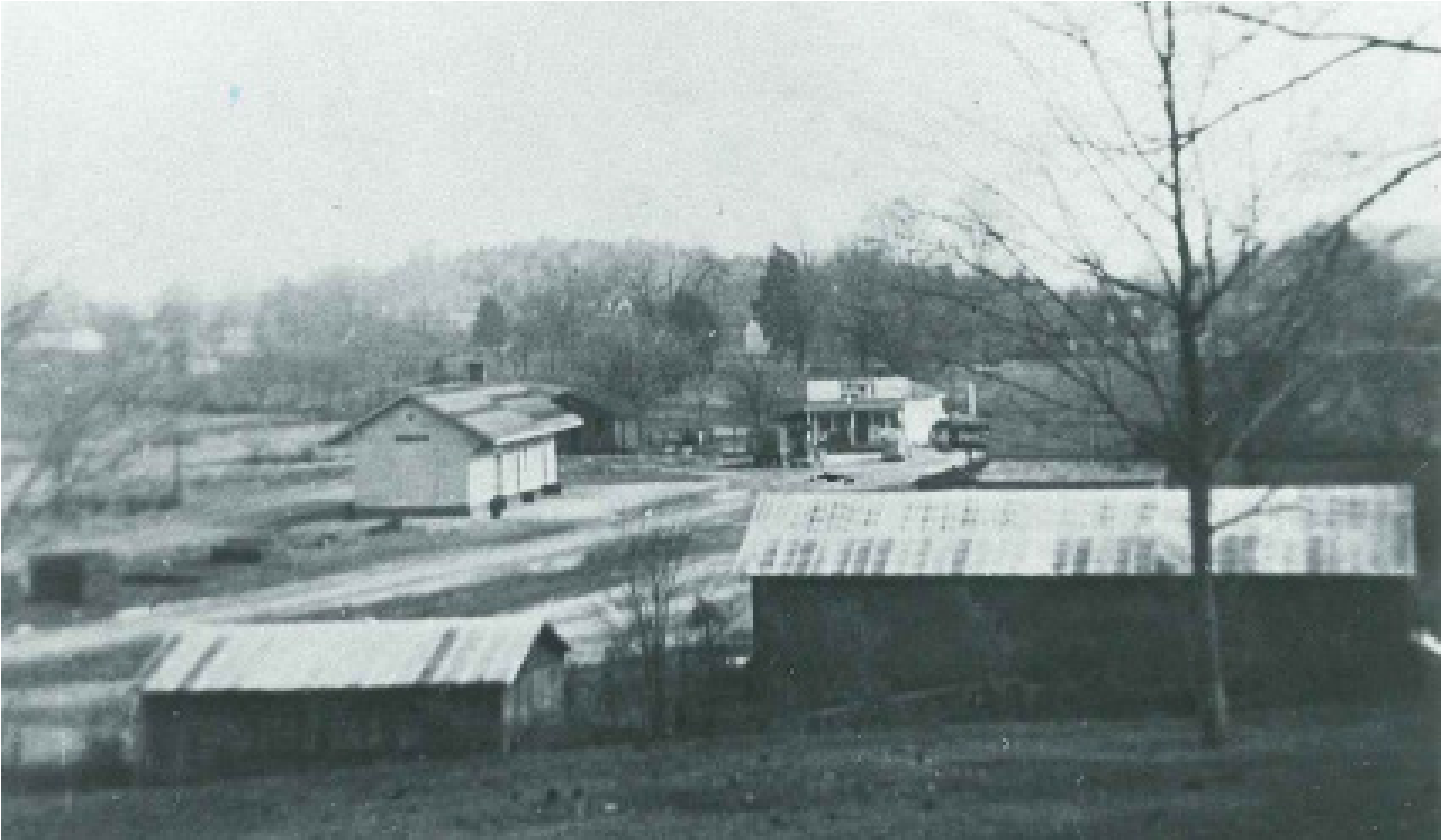
Overview

Thompson's Station has a rich historical character, including housing its first colonial settlers in 1780. Most notably, it was home to the Battle of Thompson's Station during the Civil War and is also home to its historic train station giving the Town its namesake and earning it a stop along the Tennessee's Great Train Trail. The Town officially became an incorporated community on August 15, 1990. Thompson's Station's picturesque landscape consists of rolling hills and pastoral countryside of middle Tennessee, providing scenic views around each winding turn. Despite rapid development and a steady growth in Middle Tennessee, Thompson's Station has successfully maintained its small town feel with the convenient access to big city amenities due to its close proximity to Spring Hill, Franklin, and Nashville.

The goal of this comprehensive parks and recreation master plan is to serve as a long-range strategy for decision making and financial investments for the creation, optimization, and maintenance of Thompson's Station's parks and recreation assets over the next 10 years. It is fundamental for the end goal to ensure the community, stakeholders, and the data align around a central vision as noted and outlined throughout this document.

In order to maintain the rich character of Thompson's Station's community while also meeting the needs of a growing and changing community, meaningful stakeholder engagement and public feedback was a vital step of the planning process. A demographic analysis was conducted to provide a comprehensive understanding of the residents within the Thompson's Station community. The data collected through the community engagement was paired with a thorough inventory of existing parks and recreation facilities to produce recommendations to build upon the assets Thompson's Station already offers. This master plan provides recommendations for existing facilities, programming, financial and budget strategies, staffing, new facilities, and aims to set realistic expectations for feasibly implementing.









SECTION 2

Existing Town Plans



SUMMARY OF EXISTING PLANS

The following plans were collected and reviewed to better understand the existing framework the Town has set, how these plans impact the parks and recreation system, and the foundation on which this Master Plan will build upon.

- All Aboard Comprehensive Plan
- Greenway Master Plan
- Preservation Park Master Plan

ALL ABOARD COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

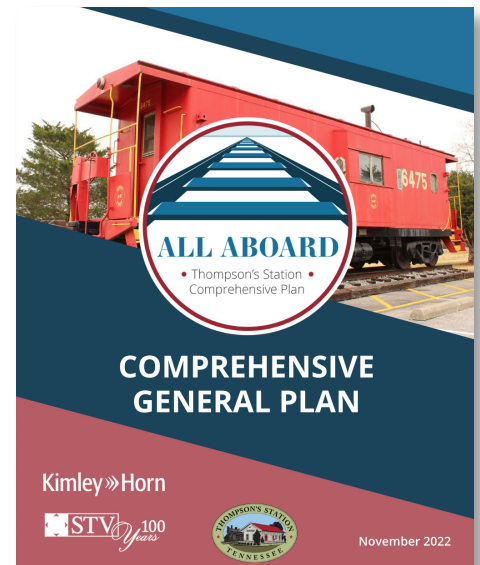
Overview

Adopted by the Town in 2022, the All Aboard Thompson's Station Comprehensive Plan is the community's collective vision and plan for how and where the Town will grow in the future. All Aboard Thompson's Station is one process resulting in two plans: the Comprehensive Plan and the Major Thoroughfare Plan. The overarching goal of All Aboard is to forecast, direct, and manage growth by providing a long term, holistic vision for land use, infrastructure, mobility, community character, and facilities. The plan analyzed community characteristics and facilitated community engagement in order to develop the growth framework and implementation plan for Thompson's Station.

Transportation and multimodal mobility, land use and community character, and community facilities are the three focus areas of All Aboard Thompson's Station's policy recommendations and implementation plan. Town leadership will refer to this plan to make informed, consistent decisions and by residents, business owners, and the development community to develop an understanding of the Town's long-term direction.

Vision Statement

The Town of Thompson's Station has cultivated a lasting identity as a rural, small-town community, despite Middle Tennessee's fast-paced growth both north and south of its borders. In the face of impending growth pressure, the All Aboard Comprehensive Plan will leverage the Town's unique characteristics and heritage to grow sustainably to ensure it will remain the place "where the country meets the town" for generations to come.



All Aboard Cover Page

Policy Recommendations

Transportation & Multimodal Mobility

“Thompson’s Station will prioritize fixing existing infrastructure and design future infrastructure so that it is thoughtfully coordinated with planned growth. The Town will enhance mobility and community connectivity through the design of sidewalks, trails, and greenways.” The Thoroughfare Plan includes typical sections recommendations for the roads that include a 10’ multi-use path.

Land Use & Community Character

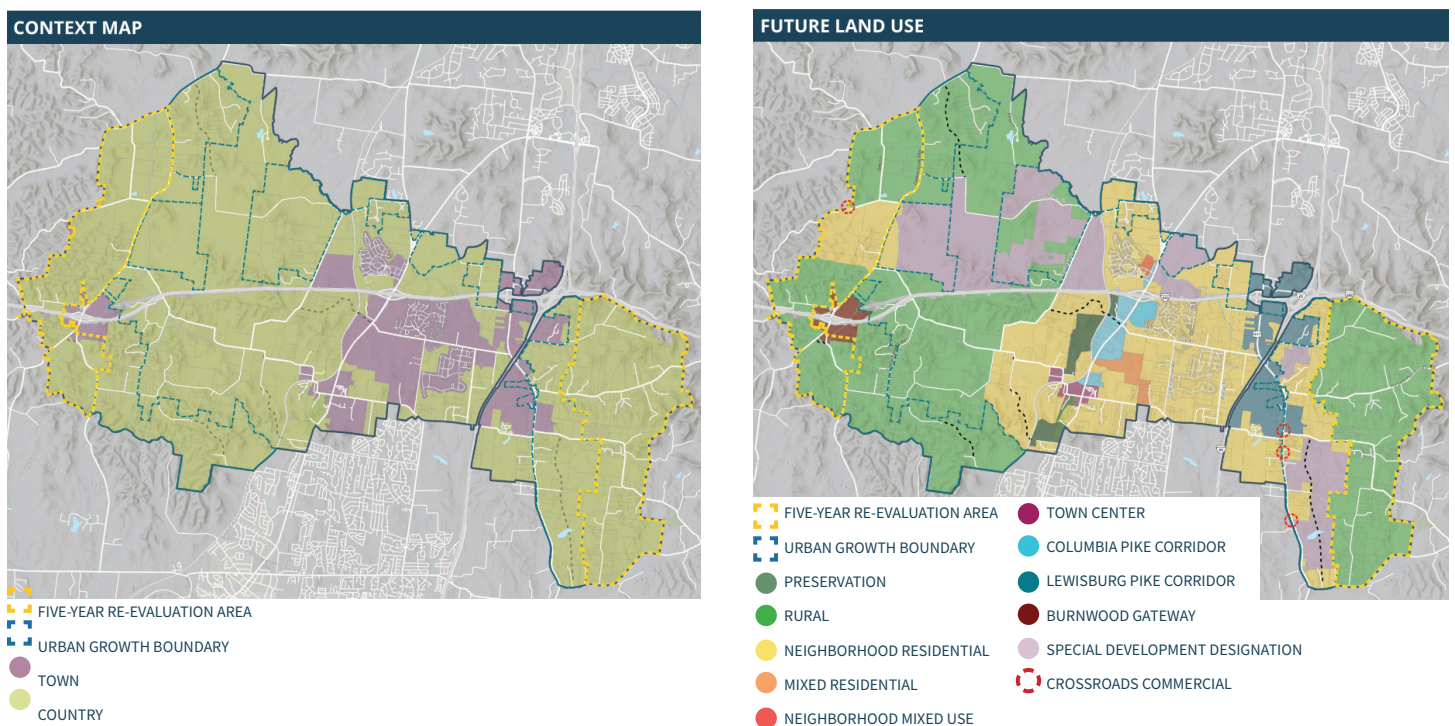
“Thompson’s Station will embrace a land use strategy that promotes sustainable growth and preserves its rural, small-town identity”.

Community Facilities

“Thompson’s Station will invest in community facilities to ensure access and availability to safe infrastructure, recreational and civic opportunities, schools, and all resources the community needs to thrive.”

Relevance to Parks Master Plan

The growth framework and implementation strategies of All Aboard Thompson’s Station Comprehensive Plan will help inform the decisions and recommendations of this comprehensive parks and recreation master plan. The Future Land Use map developed during the All Aboard process will help inform what land is available for future parkland, and the context map provides insight on future neighborhood development.



Context Map and Future Land Use Map from the All Aboard Comprehensive General Plan



GREENWAY MASTER PLAN

Overview

Thompson's Station has held a long-term vision for creating a walkable community with greenways connecting the major subdivisions and schools to the 300+ acres of parklands and to the Town Center in order to provide alternative means of transportation for Thompson's Station residents.



Thompson's Station Greenways Master Plan

The Town has utilized grants of various sizes to begin implementing the greenway master plan for the following phases.

Phase One

Completed in 2014, the first phase of the Thompson's Station greenway system was funded by a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant. The first phase extends from the western edge of Tollgate Village and runs south past the Nutro Dog Park to the CSX railroad undercrossing. This phase provides pedestrian connection to the Tollgate Village residential development, Independence High School, Nutro Dog Park, and Preservation Park.

Phase Two

The second phase of Thompson's Station greenway system is funded by an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant and is under design as of this report's publish date. The second phase will extend from the CSX railroad undercrossing through Preservation Park to connect at the existing parking lot.

Phase Three

The third phase of Thompson's Station greenway system is funded by a Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant and is under design as of this report's publish date. The third phase will begin at Nutro Dog Park, where phase one terminated, and will run southeast, crossing under Columbia Pike (US 31) in the existing box culvert. It then traverses along the existing stream east where it will run through the Fields of Canterbury residential neighborhood, the Avenue Downs residential neighborhood, and terminates on the east side of Thompson's Station Middle and Elementary Schools.

Phase Four

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant applications have been submitted for the fourth phase of the Thompson's Station Greenway system and not yet approved for funding as of this report's publish date. It is envisioned that phase four will begin at Thompson's Station Elementary School, traveling south to connect to the Bridgemore Village residential subdivision. It will then continue south to connect to Thompson's Station Road West, passing by residential, commercial, park space, restaurants, and the Thompson's Station Community Center and Town Hall. The greenway will connect to the entrance of the Whistle Stop Subdivision and finally terminate at the water tower trail on the northern edge of Heritage Park.

The Town is also utilizing local dollars to assist in funding the pedestrian connectivity throughout the community.

Clayton Arnold Connector

The Clayton Arnold Connector project is a sidewalk extension from the third phase of the greenway system. The sidewalk begins at the Otterham Drive entrance of Avenue Downs and runs south adjacent to Clayton Arnold Road where it terminates at the entrance to Thompson's Station Middle and Elementary Schools.

Relevance to Parks Master Plan

Developing a strong multimodal transportation system will offer effective transportation alternatives and provide many community benefits including making the Town a better place to live by preserving and creating open spaces, encouraging physical fitness and healthy lifestyles, creating new opportunities for outdoor recreation, influencing economic and community development, protecting the environment, and preserving culturally and historic valuable areas. Understanding the existing plans for greenway development in Thompson's Station helps inform the proposed connectivity map in this Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

Master Plan Goals and Objectives

“Preservation Park will remain dedicated to passive recreational activities such as hiking, walking, cycling, and equestrian use. Proposed elements for the park include an environmental education center, a small amphitheater, community gardens, an observation tower, a canopy walk, and numerous paved, mowed, or mulched trails. Opportunities to expand the current equestrian facilities include a cross country schooling area, outdoor arena, and loop trail.”

Preservation Park consists of two parcels, one of which is under a conservation easement with the Land Trust for Tennessee. This limits the development opportunities and uses compatible with the easement, however it is to be noted that the conservation easement at Preservation Park was amended in 2016 to include the proposed site elements highlighted in the southern parcel of the master plan. Limitations for the conservation easement within the park include:

- Prohibiting future development of paved surfaces.
- Minimization of land disturbances to those compatible with the current agricultural uses.

Key Points Relating to Parks Master Plan

Understanding the vision and goals of Preservation Park informs the recommendations made in this parks and recreation master plan. The Preservation Park Master Plan clearly defines guiding development principles for the park from extensive inventory and analysis and community engagement. It is of important note to understand the conservation easement and the potential development restrictions and opportunities outlined in the Preservation Park Master Plan.







SECTION 3

Community Engagement



PUBLIC SURVEY

One of the key strategies for public input was an online survey used to gather feedback from the community. The 17 questions in the survey were developed to gather data regarding perceptions, programming, and user trends across the community's parks and recreational facilities. Thompson's Station promoted awareness and participation for the survey through social media, email lists, and flyers and received 574 responses from mid-May to mid-June 2023.

The results summarized on the following pages reflect the feedback provided by the participants that completed the survey. The input they offered provided the master plan team with critical insights that were used to help the Town determine future focus areas, current shortcomings, and proposed improvements.

PARKS MASTER PLAN SURVEY



Help Thompson's Station plan for the future of our Parks System!

The Town's 1st Parks Master Plan process has started-
Now let us know what you think!



https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Thompsons-Station_MP

Public Survey Flyer



DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTIONS

- Provide the number of people in each age group present in your household.
- What ethnicity/race is represented in your household?
- Where do you live?
- How do you learn about community events?



FACILITY & AMENITY USAGE QUESTIONS

- How often does your household visit the listed Thompson’s Station parks and greenways?
- How often does your household visit other communities’ parks and greenways?
- Which facilities and amenities does your household utilize?



FUTURE FACILITY & AMENITY USAGE QUESTIONS

- Which activities/programs/events would you like Thompson’s Station to add?
- What type of athletic programming would your household utilize, if available?
- What type of facilities would you like Thompson’s Station to add or expand?



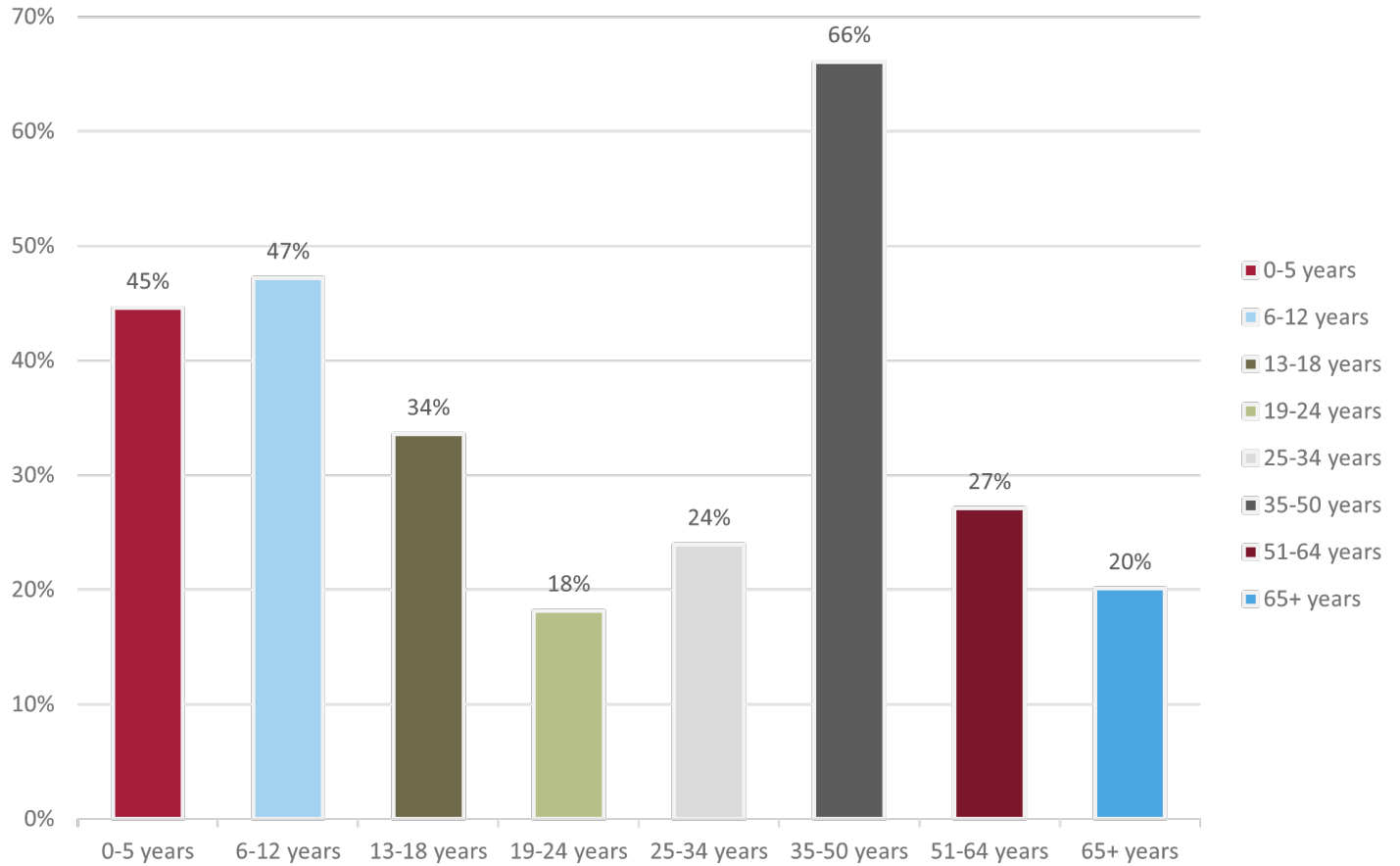
FACILITY & AMENITY USAGE PERCEPTION QUESTIONS

- What attracts you to the Thompson’s Station parks?
- What could the Town do to increase the number of times you visit a Thompson’s Station park or facility?
- What are the strengths of the parks in Thompson’s Station that we need to build on for this master plan?
- What are the weaknesses of the parks in Thompson’s Station that we need to suggest improving in this master plan?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being superior, how would you rate the parks and recreation facilities townwide?
- Based on your answer from the question above, where should the Town focus its resources to improving the Town’s parks?
- Do the Town’s recreation facilities have operational or maintenance issues that need to be addressed and improved upon?



Provide the number of people in each age group present in your household.

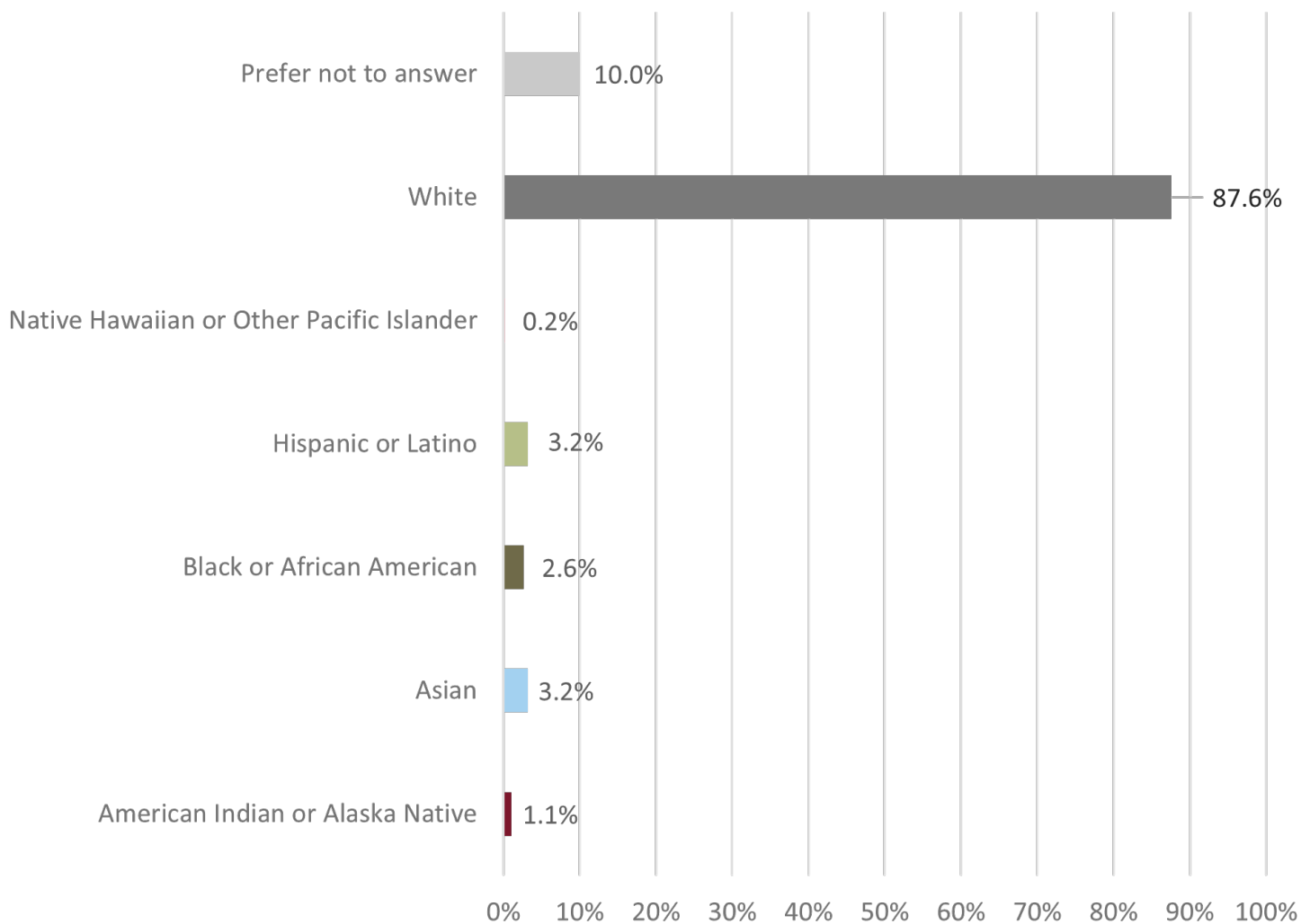
Participants were asked about the age groups in their individual homes. The two largest groups representing the respondents were 35-50 years of age and 6-12 years of age. The smallest group represented in the respondents' households was 19-24 years of age.





What ethnicity/race is represented in your household?

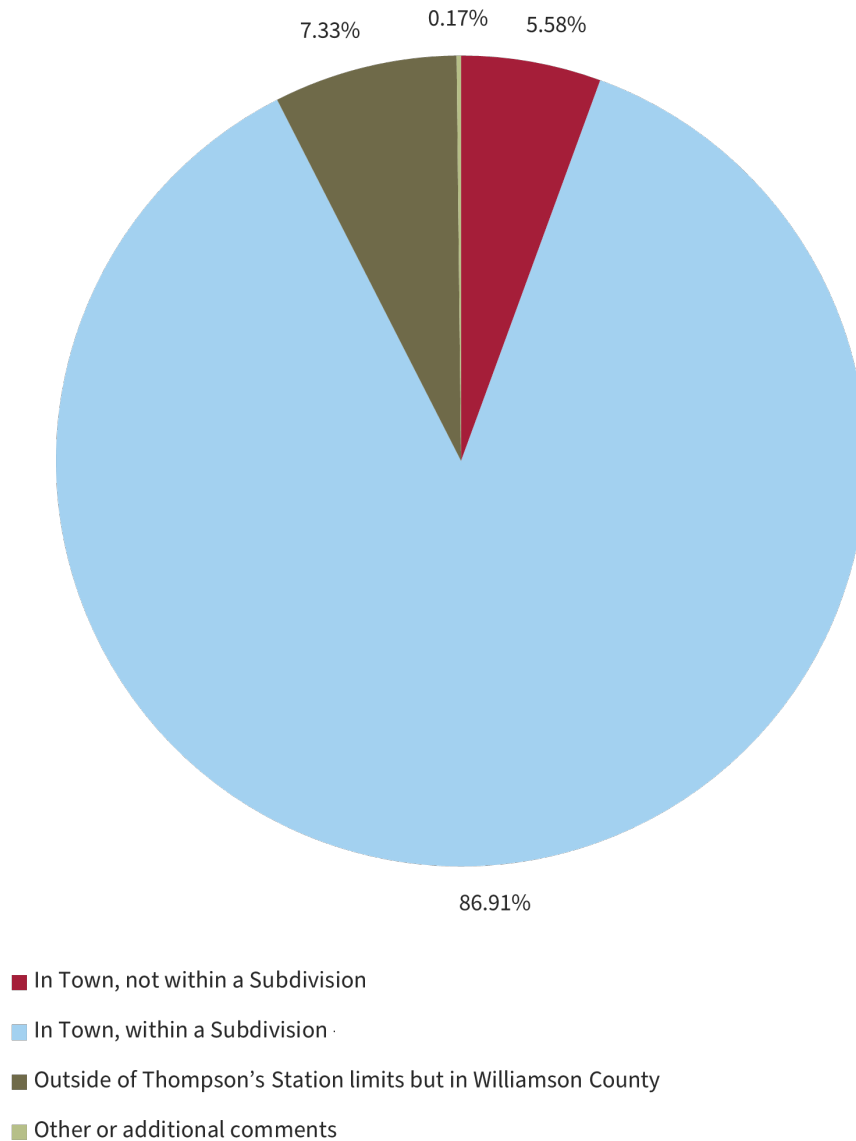
Survey respondents' households were 87.57% White, 3.15% Asian, 3.15% Hispanic or Latino, 2.63% Black or African American, 1.05% American Indian or Alaska Native, and 0.18% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. Approximately 9.98% of the respondents declined to share their ethnic identification.





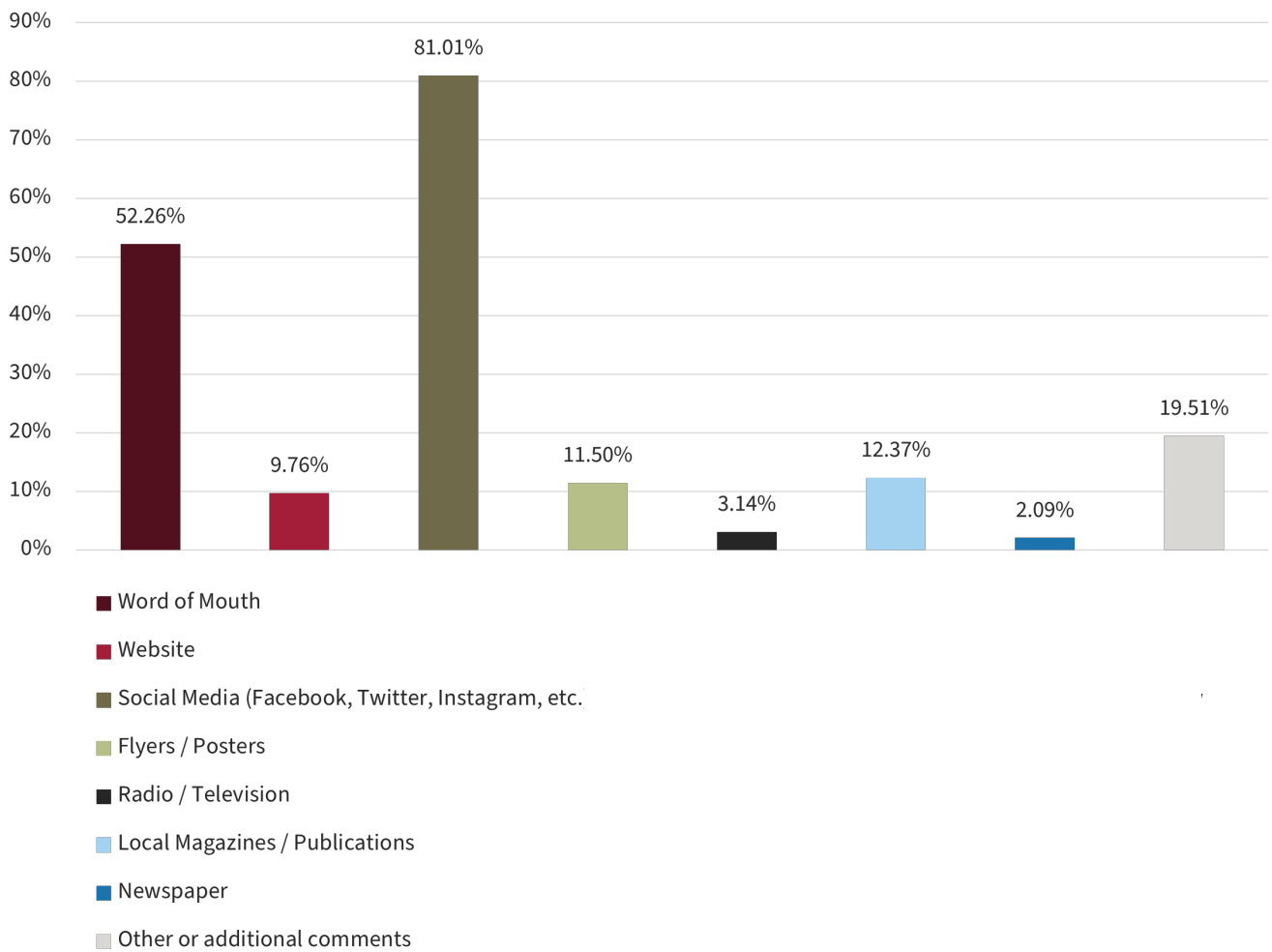
Where do you live?

Participants were asked to describe their location in Thompson's Station. 86.91% live in Town within a subdivision, 5.58% live in Town not within a subdivision, 7.33% live outside of Thompson's Station limits but within Williamson County, and 0.17% marked other or additional comments.



How do you learn about community events?

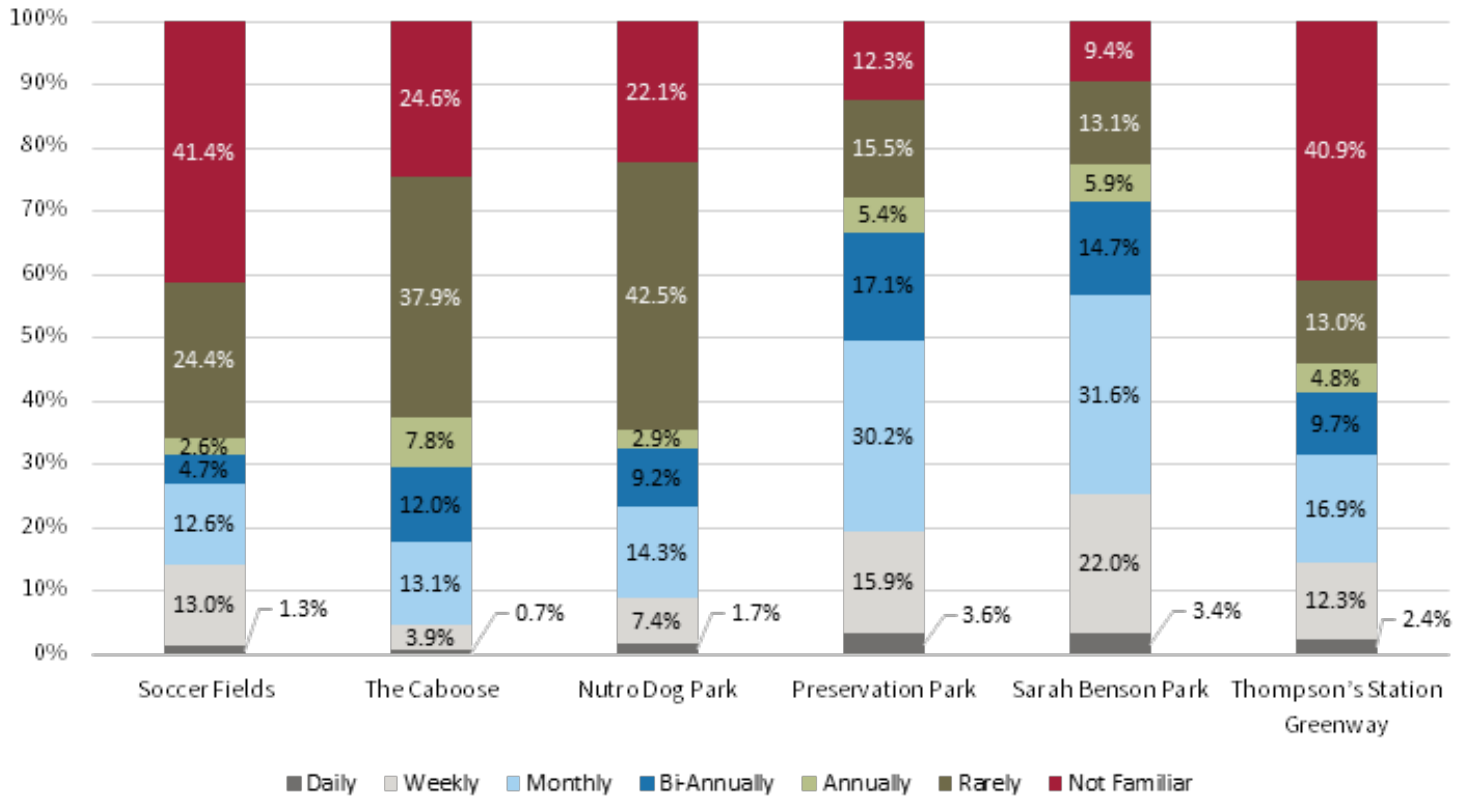
Survey participants were asked to share how they learn about community events. They were encouraged to select each of the avenues of engagement they utilize to learn more about community events. The figure below shows social media and word of mouth as being the most popular responses. In the comments, many expanded upon their answers and wrote in Facebook and Instagram as popular social media platforms for learning about community events. Many others wrote in the email list as their primary source of information about community events.





How often does your household visit the listed Thompson's Station parks and greenways?

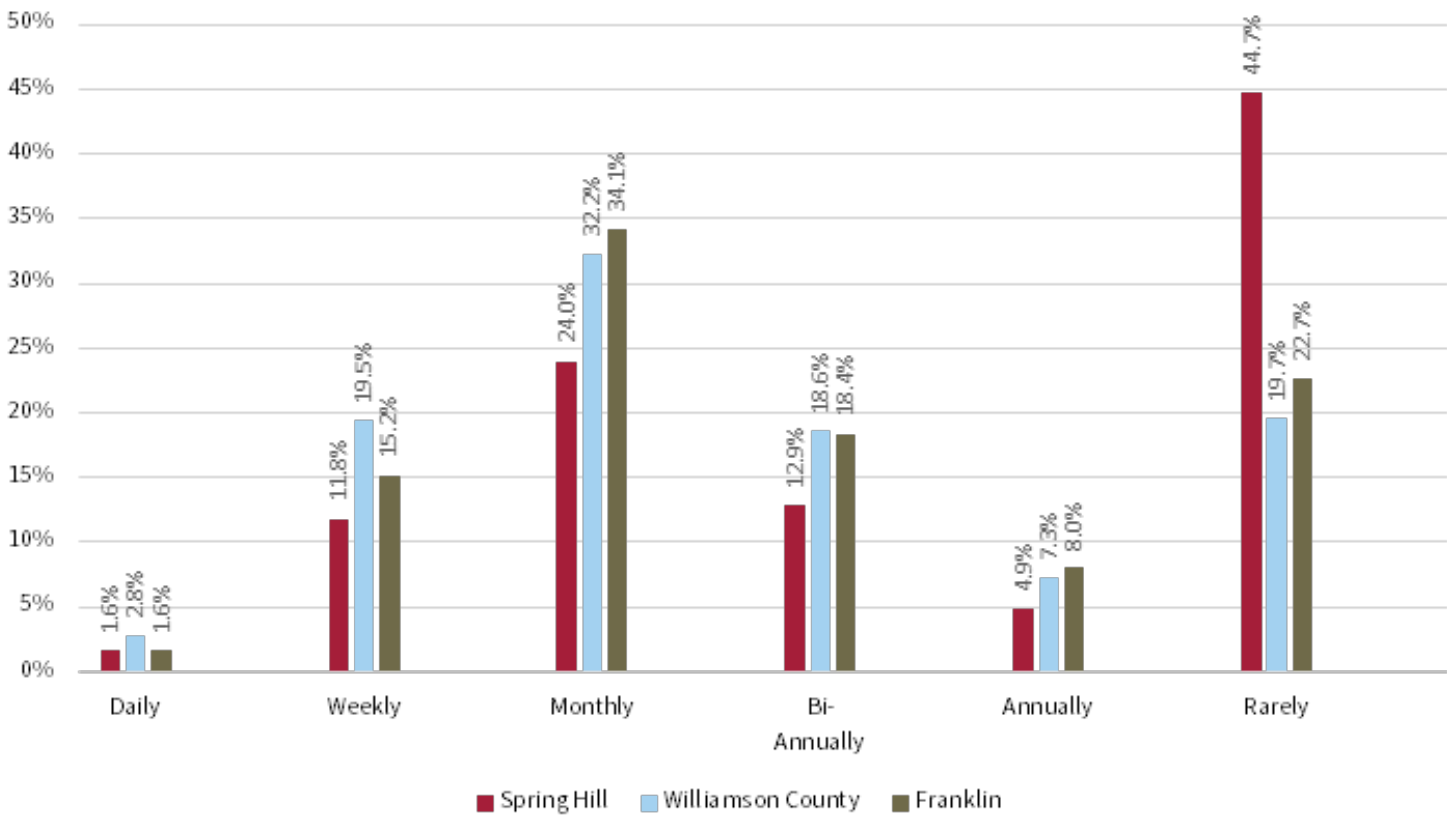
The most visited park is Sarah Benson, with almost 22% of respondents visiting weekly followed closely by Preservation Park. The least visited park is the Caboose, with around 4% visiting weekly.





How often does your household visit other communities' parks and greenways?

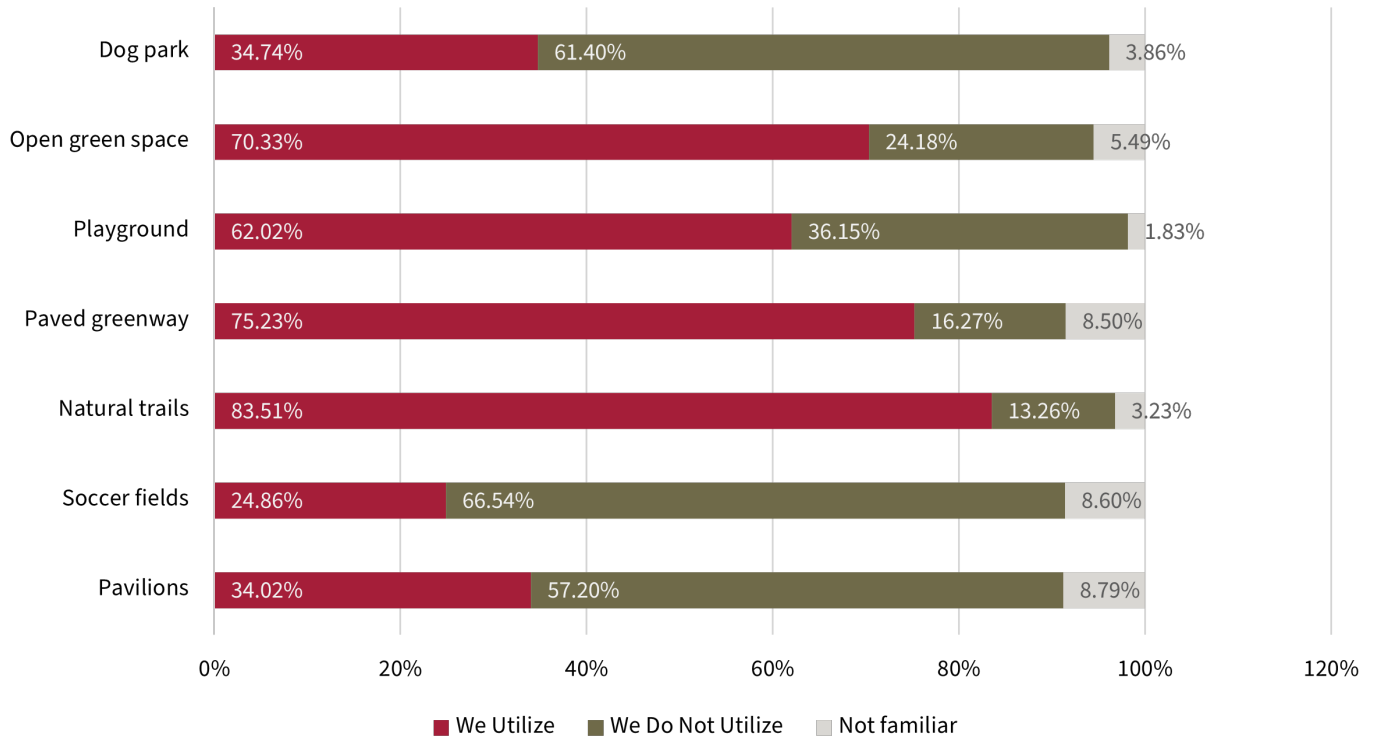
Survey respondents were asked how often they and their families visited certain parks within the surrounding communities. On a daily and weekly basis, Williamson County was reported as the most visited entity. On a monthly basis, Franklin was reported as the most frequently visited entity.





Which facilities and amenities does your household utilize?

The most utilized facilities and amenities that residents selected were natural trails (83.51%), paved greenway (75.23%), and open green space (70.33%). The least used facilities include the soccer fields (24.86%) and the dog park (34.74%).



Which activities/programs/events would you like Thompson’s Station to add?

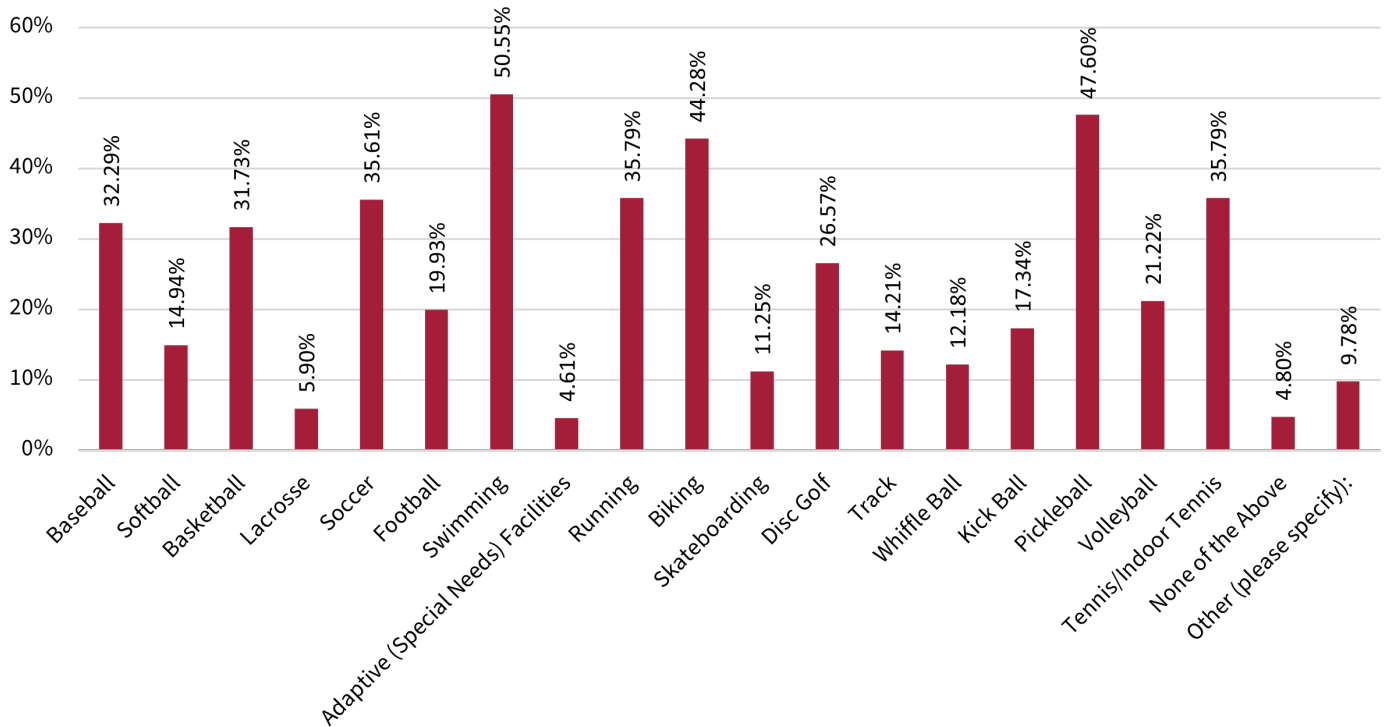
Respondents identified the type of facilities they would like to see added or expanded upon in Thompson’s Station. The most common response, with 54 entries, was concerts in the park, followed by more events in the park (44), farmers markets (19), and art fairs (15). Other noteworthy responses include food trucks (13), disc golf (12), and bike trails (10).





What type of athletic programming would your household utilize, if available?

Respondents were asked to select all the recreation facilities and programming their household would utilize if it were available. Swimming was selected most often followed by biking and pickleball as second and third. The least desired facilities were lacrosse and special needs facilities. Of the survey participants who wrote in an “other” response, 25% wrote-in golf and 11% wrote in indoor/outdoor hockey.



What type of facilities would you like Thompson’s Station to add or expand?

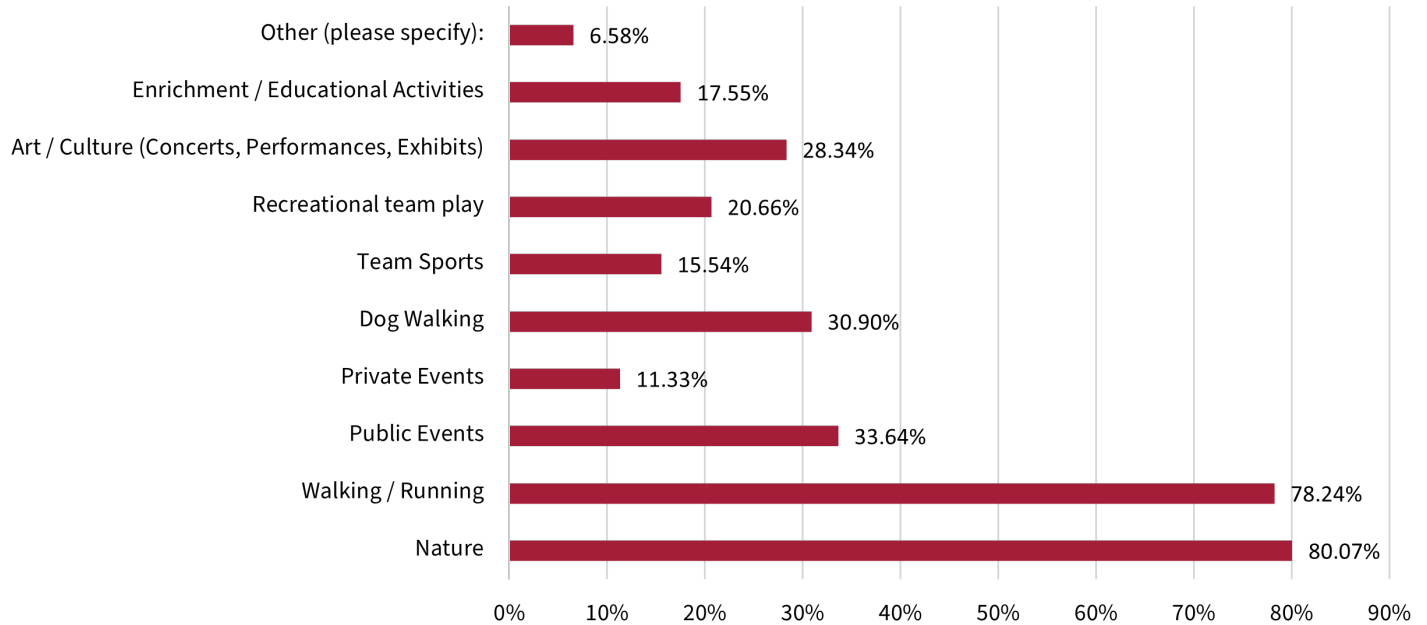
Respondents identified the type of facilities they would like to see added or expanded upon in Thompson’s Station. The most common responses being tennis courts, community pool, playgrounds, greenways, and splash pads. Other noteworthy responses include covered seating, pickleball courts, soccer fields, community recreation center, and a multi-sports facility.





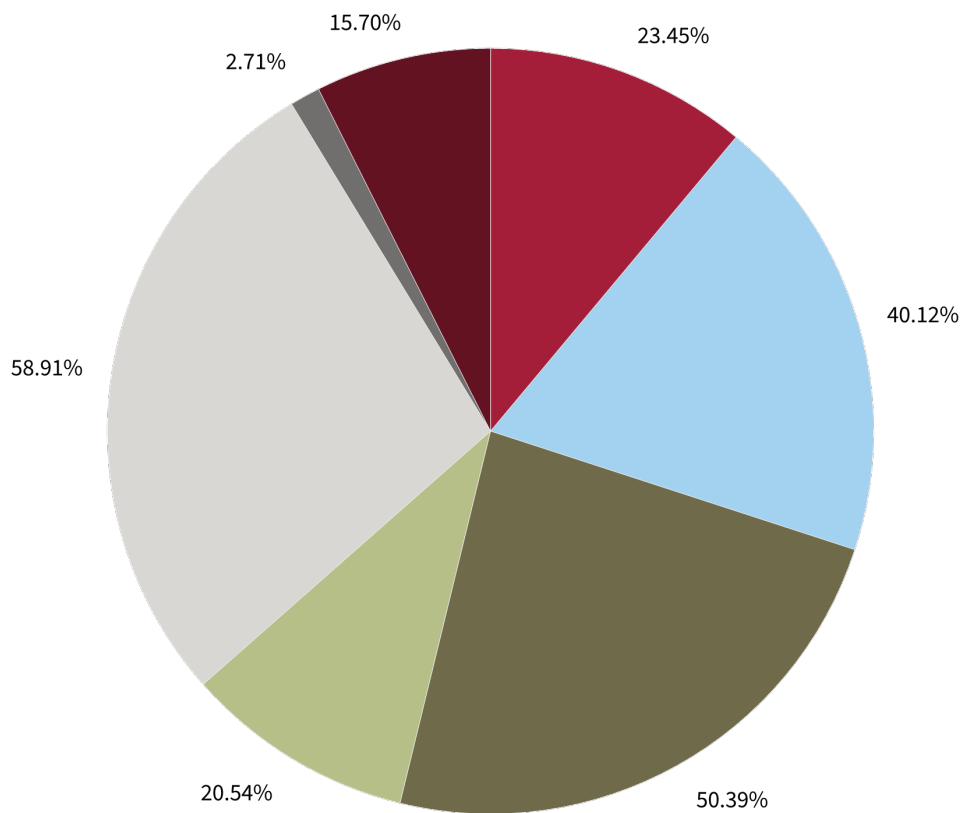
What attracts you to the Thompson's Station parks?

Residents were asked what attracts them to their local park or facility, with nature being the favorite at 80.07% and walking/running being a close second at 78.24%. The lowest attractions identified were private events at 11.33% and enrichment/educational activities at 17.55%. Playgrounds were the top attraction written in the other category.



What could the Town do to increase the number of times you visit a Thompson’s Station park or facility?

Survey respondents cited a wide variety of ways that the Town could increase the number of times they visit the parks and recreation facilities. The graph below shows the most frequent answer was to provide alternative ways to get to the park (58.91%). The next most common response was to provide facilities that interest the community (50.39%) and increase public knowledge of the parks (40.12%). Around 15.7% of respondents added an additional comment and the most common comments included were to increase safety, update existing facilities and amenities, and to increase community events held in parks.



- Locate public parks closer to my residence
- Increase public knowledge of the parks
- Provide facilities that interest us
- Increase maintenance and upkeep
- Provide alternative ways, such as greenways or sidewalks, to get to the park
- Adjust facility hours to better align with your availability. Please specify in the comment section below.
- Other or additional comments



What are the strengths of the parks in Thompson's Station that we need to build on for this master plan?

Survey participants identified several strengths of the parks and recreation system in Thompson's Station, including walking/hiking trails, green space, nature, and beauty being in the top of the comments. The word cloud below lists several other comments about the strengths of the Town's parks.



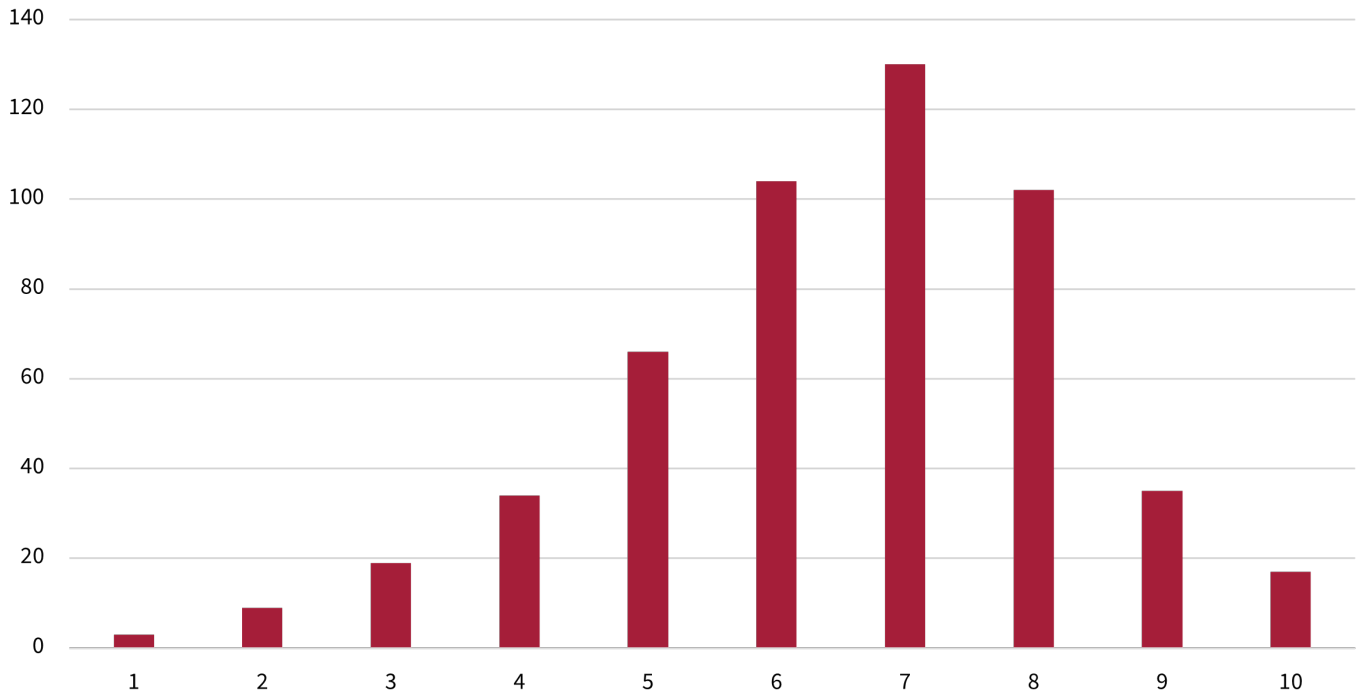
What are the weaknesses of the parks in Thompson's Station that we need to suggest improving in this master plan?

Respondents identified several weaknesses of the parks and recreation system in Thompson's Station, including limited playground options for a wide age range, lack of connectivity between parks and destinations around the Town, and lack of restrooms. A lack of parking and lack of shade were other common responses. The word cloud illustrates some of the more frequently mentioned weakness.



On a scale of 1 to 10 with 10 being superior, how would you rate the parks and recreation facilities townwide?

When asked to rate the Town’s park systems on a scale of 1 to 10, the most frequent rating was 7 out of 10 and the average rating was 6.5 out of 10. This suggests that the park and recreation facilities are perceived to be above average.



Based on your answer from the question above, where should the Town focus its resources to improving the Town’s parks?

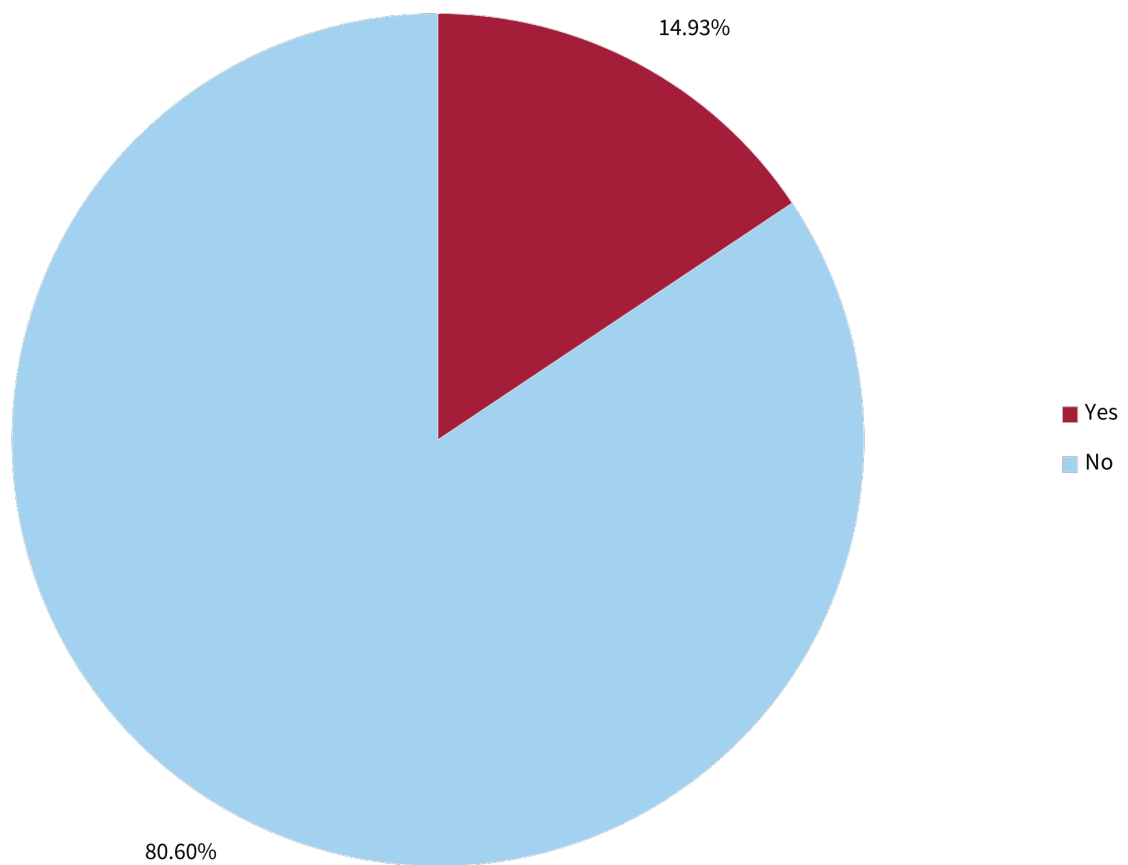
When asked where the Town should focus its resources, respondents mentioned restroom and park cleanliness, safety, and accessibility.

trash at parks
 accessibility
restroom cleanliness
 safety



Do the Town's recreation facilities have operational or maintenance issues that need to be addressed and improved upon?

We asked survey participants if they believed there are any issues with the park and recreation facilities that need to be addressed and 80.60% said no and 14.93% said yes. Respondents who answered yes were given the option to write a comment. With most of the comments pertaining to the restrooms or cleanliness of the facilities, another top comment was for more walkways and shade.



SWOT Analysis

The design team held an in-person meeting with the Parks Board on April 18th, 2023 and conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis. The SWOT analysis provides Thompson’s Station an opportunity to review internal factors (strengths and weaknesses) and external factors (opportunities and threats) that affect the town’s parks and recreation system. The strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats identified in the session are illustrated below.



STRENGTHS

- Small park system and developing department
- Existing large acreage
- Natural setting of parks
- The public perception of the parks is generally safe
- Centrally located
- Not overused
- Town support
- Greenway and pedestrian connectivity
- Proximity to county parks
- Growing affluent community
- Growing tax base
- Dog park
- Preservation Park, awarded for historic preservation by the Heritage Foundation of Williamson County and considered a “hidden gem” by the community
- Two degrees of separation from the surrounding area
- Small footprint
- Good maintenance department
- Slice of nature between developments



WEAKNESSES

- Small park system and developing department
- Restrictions on Preservation Park
- No park near Canterbury and Bridgemore residential developments
- No play or recreation opportunities for middle and high school age kids
- No sport courts
- No recreational athletic leagues, residents are required to go to neighboring entities
- Limited park capacity and no large event options
- Lack of parking availability
- Lack of water filling stations and restrooms
- General lack of infrastructure at the parks and recreational facilities
- Staff capacity
- No parks on the east or west side of town
- Lack of greenway connectivity running east and west
- Heavy reliance on volunteers
- Lack of functional fitness equipment
- Trails in Preservation Park need more attention
- Roads are not conducive for biking or equestrian use
- Accessibility restrictions (mobility, disabilities, and the aging population)
- Entrance to dog park



OPPORTUNITIES

- Adding a park near Canterbury and Bridgemore residential developments
- Disc golf
- Athletic leagues
- Active residents
- Donations from generous landowners
- Water feature at Sarah Benson, e.g., a splash pad
- Better communication and messaging about greenway connectivity
- Grass trails at Preservation Park
- Paving the gravel walking trail at Sarah Benson Park
- Friends Group
- Programming
- Pickleball
- Embrace mountain bikes
- New development ordinance to require a portion of the whole development area be dedicated to park space
- Acquire additional land for the First Bank Amphitheater
- Wifi connectivity at parks
- Focused branding for parks and greenways
- Social media presence and more up-to-date information on the Town website
- Events
- Upgrades at Sarah Benson Park
- Partnerships with County, leagues, etc.
- Adding a playground, restroom, and pavilion near the dog park
- Bike racks at parks and at greenway connection nodes
- More communication about park projects, activities, and events
- Utilization of Independence High School volunteer opportunities, Scout projects, and group activities
- Partner with local businesses
- USTA Spring Hill office
- Connect with HOA boards
- Overlay future parks with growth plan
- Variety of funding sources

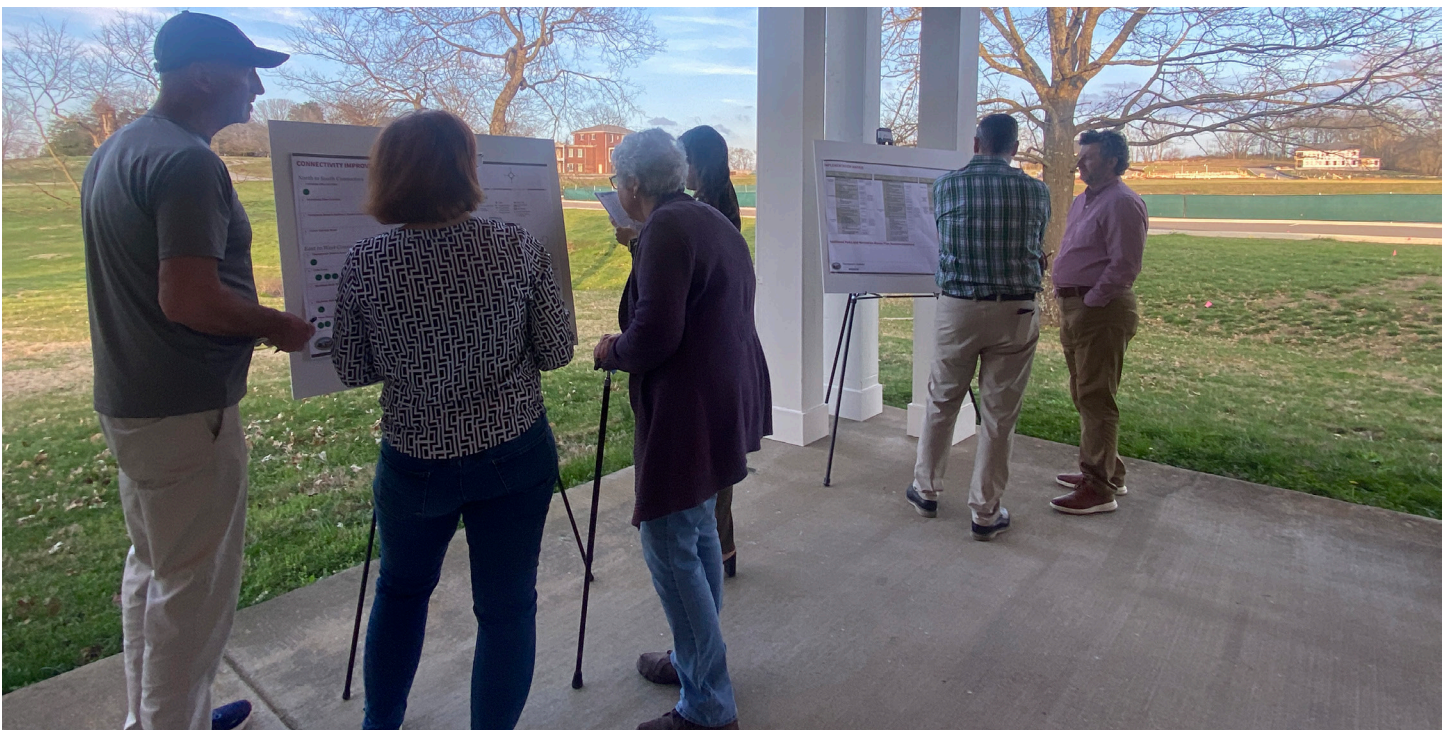


THREATS

- Private development
- Lack of lighting at athletic fields
- Outdated equipment
- Long list of wants
- Prior commitments to land
- Convenience center close to Sarah Benson
- Non-locals visiting parks
- Multiple user types on trails
- Lack of parking limits uses
- Revisit/re-read plan every year
- Economy
- Inflation

Public Meeting

The design team presented the proposed master plan recommendations to the public at an in-person meeting at the Town Hall on March 4, 2024. Community members provided their feedback through a dot-voting exercise and written feedback by using sticky notes and comment cards.







SECTION 4

*Demographics and Trends
Assessment*



DEMOGRAPHICS AND TRENDS ASSESSMENT

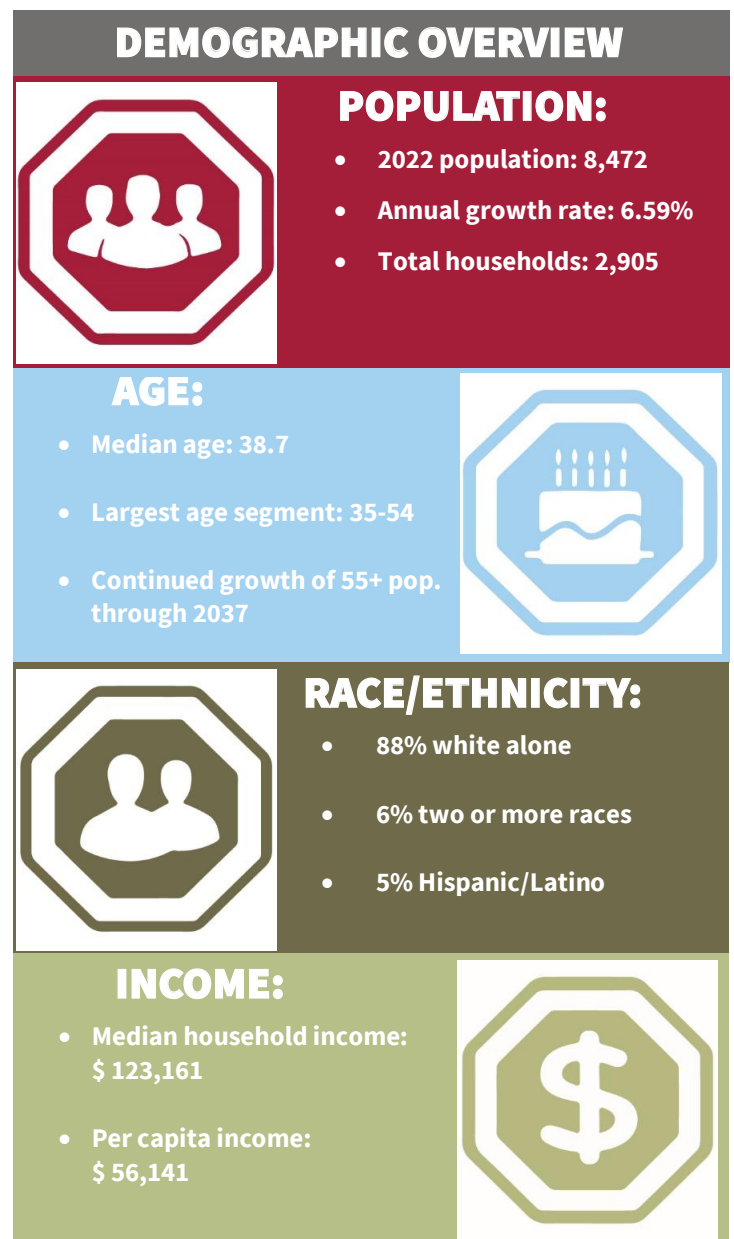
Introduction

A key component of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan is a demographics and recreation trends assessment. The purpose of this analysis is to provide the Town insight into the makeup of the population they serve and identify market trends in recreation. It also helps quantify the market in and around the Town of Thompson's Station, and assists in providing a better understanding of the types of parks, facilities, and services used to satisfy the needs of residents.

This analysis is two-fold; it aims to answer the who and the what. First, it assesses the demographic characteristics and population projections of Town residents to understand who they serve. Secondly, recreational trends are examined on a national and local level to understand what the population wants to do. Findings from this analysis establish a fundamental understanding that provide a basis for prioritizing the community need for parks, trails, facilities, and recreation programs.

Demographic Analysis

The demographic analysis describes the population within Thompson's Station. This assessment is reflective of the Town's total population and its key characteristics such as age, race, and income levels. It is important to note that future projections are based on historical patterns and unforeseen circumstances could have a significant bearing on the validity of the projected figures. The figure on this page provides an overview of Thompson's Station's populace based on current estimates of the 2022 population. A further analysis of each of these demographic characteristics can be found in this section.



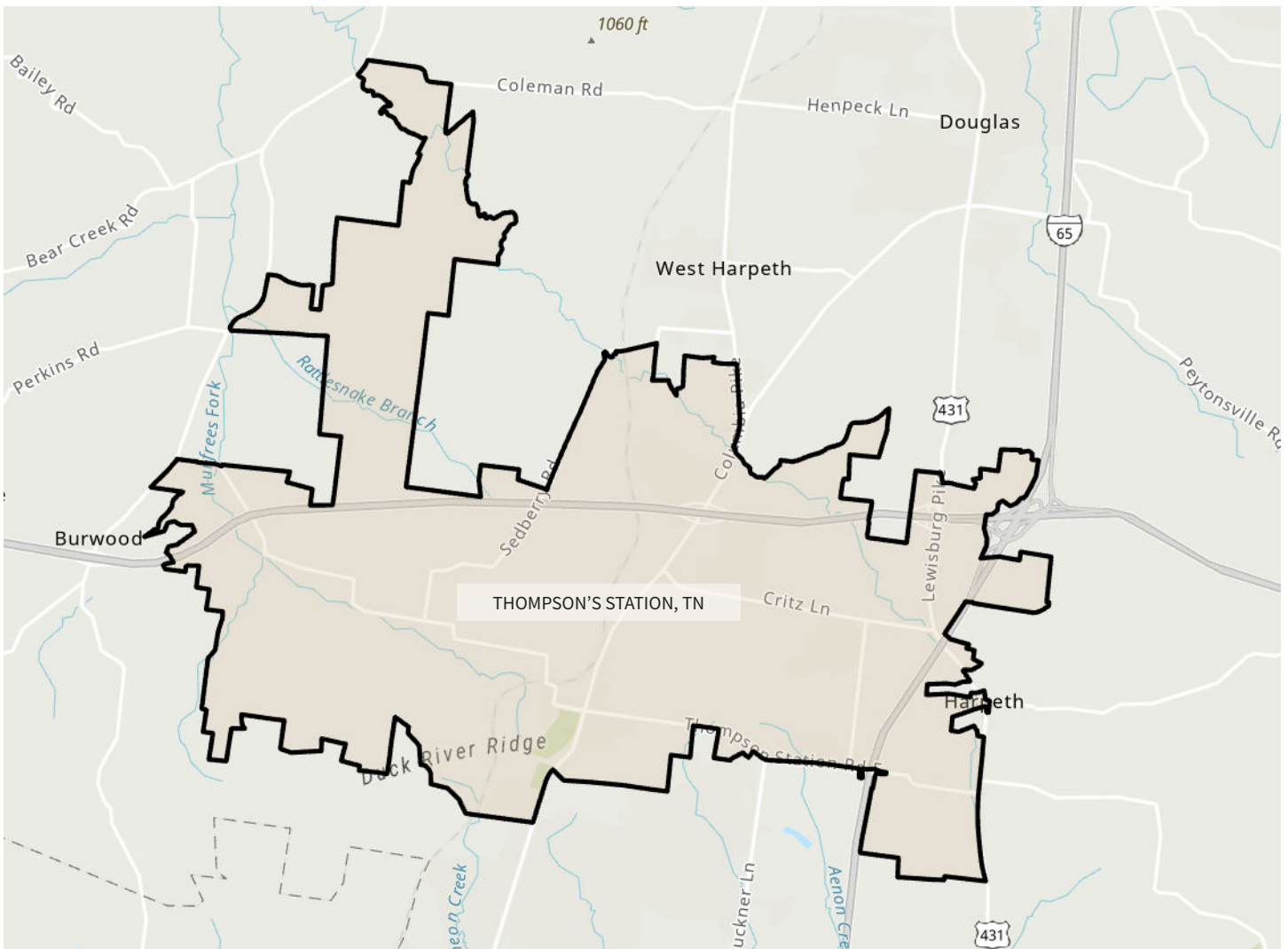
Demographic Overview of Thompson's Station

Methodology

Demographic data used for the analysis was obtained from U.S. Census Bureau and from Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI), the largest research and development organization dedicated to Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and specializing in population projections and market trends. All data was acquired in May 2023 and reflects actual numbers as reported in the 2020 Census. ESRI then estimates the current population (2022) as well as a 5-year projection (2027). PROS then utilized straight line linear regression to forecast demographic characteristics for 10 and 15-year projections (2032 and 2037).

Demographic Analysis Boundary

The Town boundaries shown below were utilized for the demographic analysis.



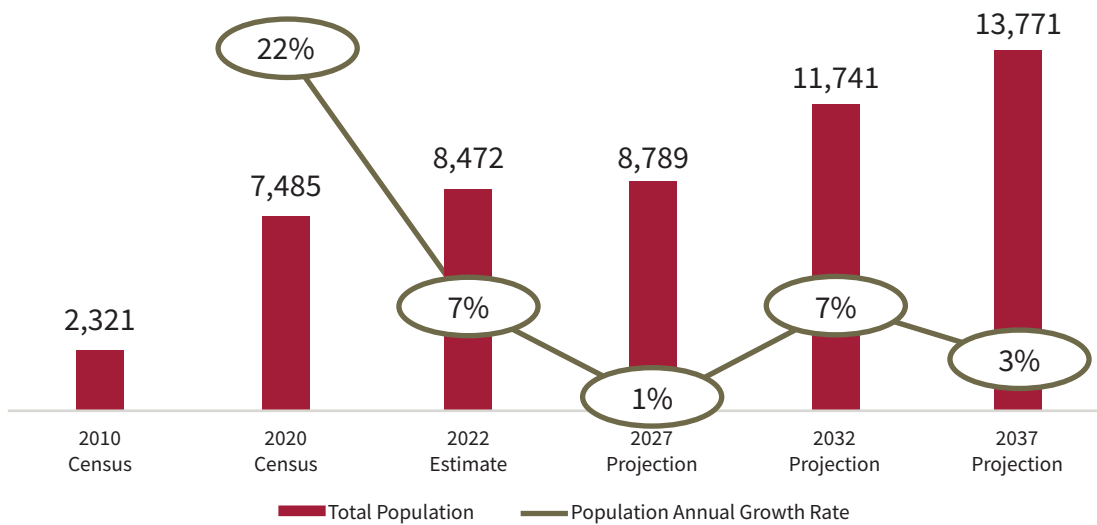
Service Area Boundary



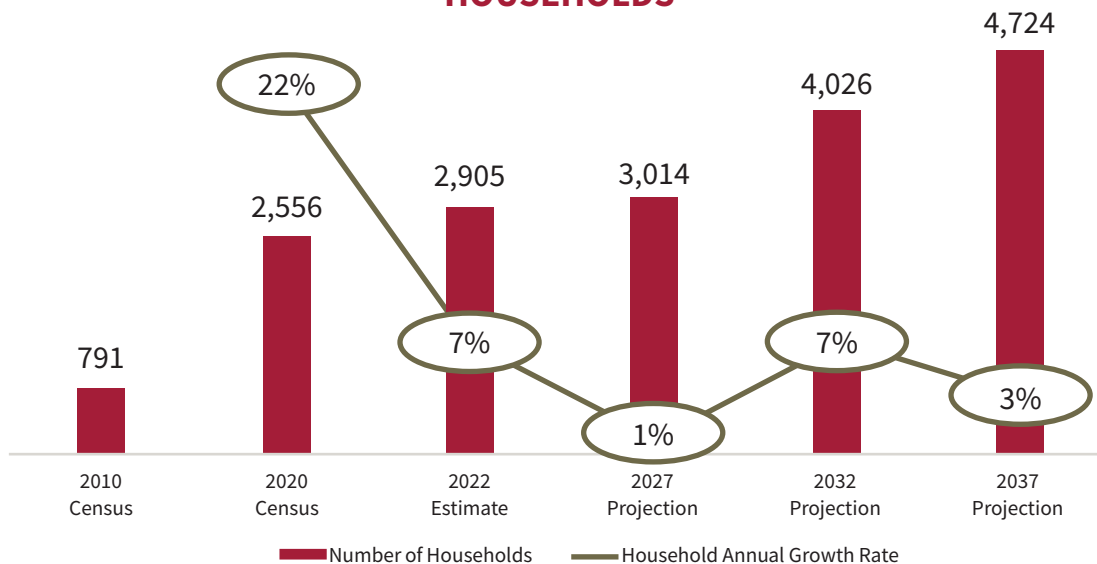
Population

Thompson's Station has seen a recent boom in yearly growth. The population had a huge increase from 2,321 in 2010 to an estimated 8,472 in 2022. The population is expected to continue to grow exponentially over the next 15 years, where it is projected to reach 13,771 residents by 2037, as shown in the graphic on this page. The total number of households has also grown at a fast rate, increasing from 791 in 2010 to an estimated 2,905 by 2022. By 2037, it is expected that there will be 4,724 households within the Town, a number that is likely to continually grow.

POPULATION



HOUSEHOLDS

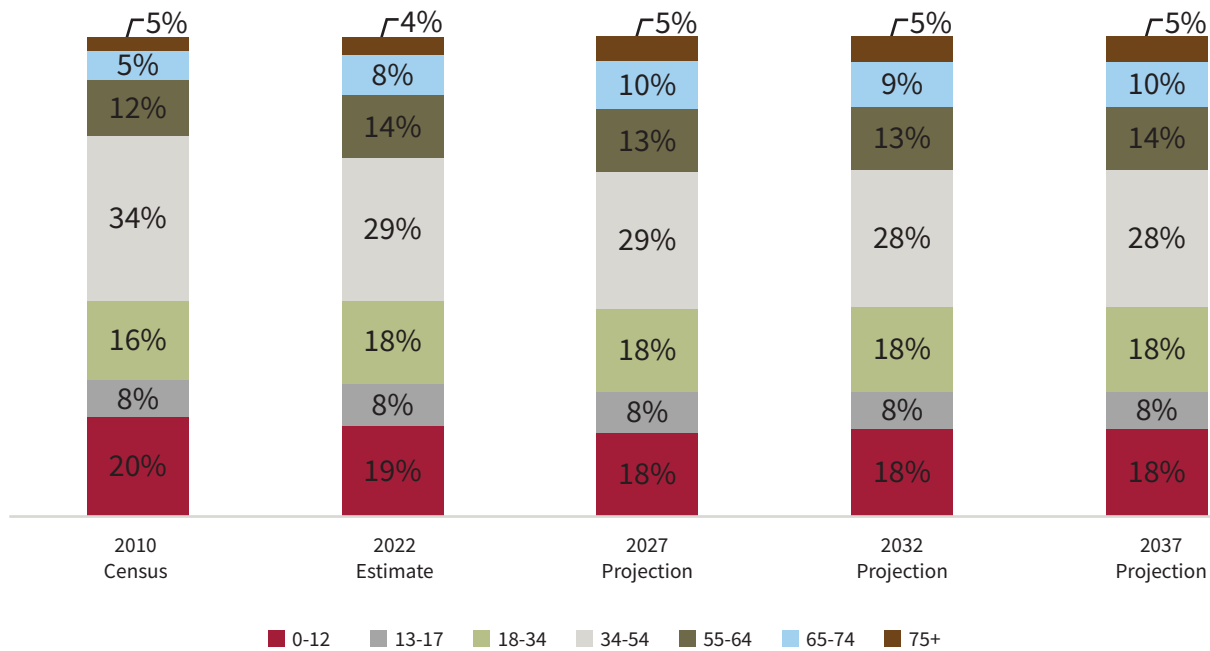




Age Segmentation

The largest age segments of the Town’s population are 0-12 (19%) ,18-34 (18%) and 35-54 (29%). There is a slight aging trend with people over the age of 55, increasing from making up 20% of the population in 2010 to making up 29% of the population by 2037. Overall, the population projects to slightly age over time, as younger populations will decrease in exchange for middle age and elderly populations increasing. The median age has gone up from 37.9 in 2010 to 38.7 in 2022, where it projects to continue to increase to 39.6 by 2027 as shown in the graphic below. Therefore, the amenities updated and developed for the Town should likely be designed to be accessible for the slow growing elderly population, while also remaining oriented for families with both old and young children.

POPULATION BY AGE SEGMENTS





Race and Ethnicity Definitions

The minimum categories for data on race and ethnicity for Federal statistics, program administrative reporting, and civil rights compliance reporting are defined as below. The Census 2010 data on race are not directly comparable with data from the 2000 Census and earlier censuses; therefore, caution must be used when interpreting changes in the racial composition of the U.S. population over time. The latest (Census 2010) definitions and nomenclature are used within this analysis.

- **American Indian** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment
- **Asian** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- **Black Alone** – This includes a person having origins in any of the black racial groups of Africa
- **Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands
- **White Alone** – This includes a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa
- **Hispanic or Latino** – This is an ethnic distinction, a subset of a race as defined by the Federal Government; this includes a person of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, South or Central American, or other Spanish culture or origin, regardless of race

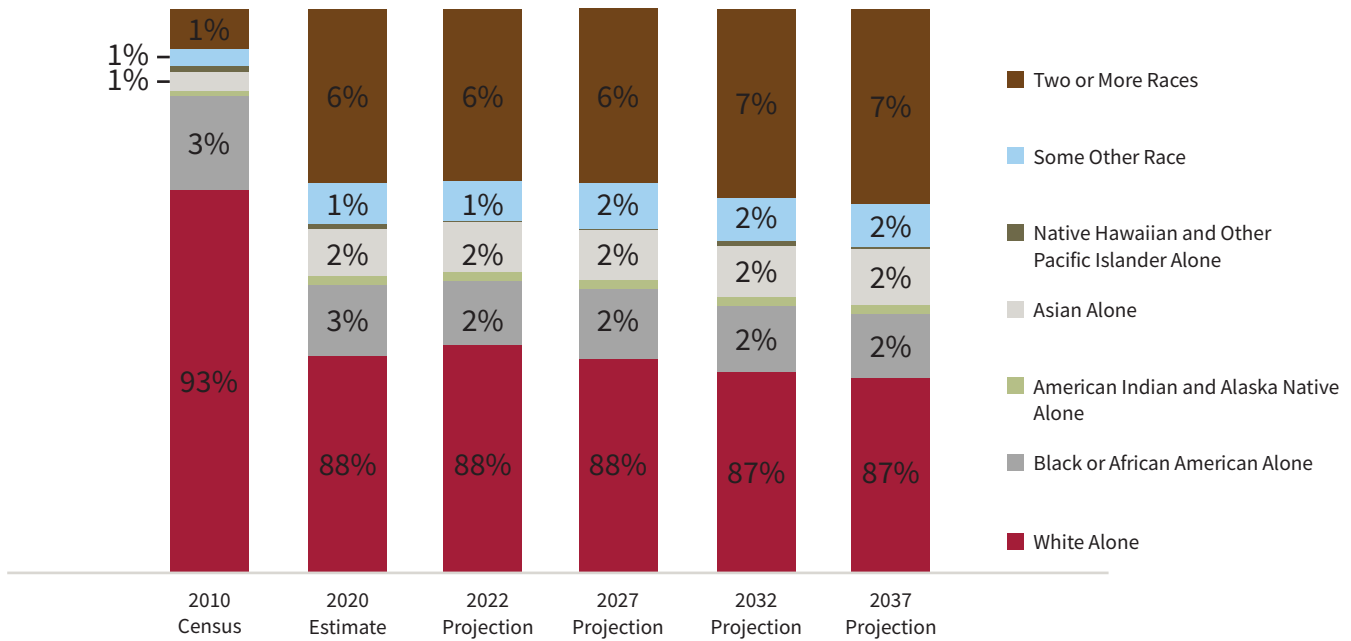
Please Note: The Census Bureau defines Race as a person's self-identification with one or more of the following social groups: White, Black, or African American, Asian, American Indian, and Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, or a combination of these. While Ethnicity is defined as whether a person is of Hispanic/Latino origin or not. For this reason, the Hispanic/Latino ethnicity is viewed separate from race throughout this demographic analysis.

Race

Analyzing race, Thompson's Station's current population is predominantly White Alone, as a 2022 estimate shows that 88% of the population falls into the White Alone category, with Two or More Races (6%) representing the second largest category and Black Alone (2%) representing the largest individual minority group. On the following page, the graphic shows predictions for 2037 expect the population to steadily become more diverse, with a decrease in the White Alone population, and minor increases to all other race categories. Understanding the current and projected race and ethnicity distribution in Thompson's Station is important for plan recommendations to ensure an equitable access to parks for all Thompson's Station residents.



RACE

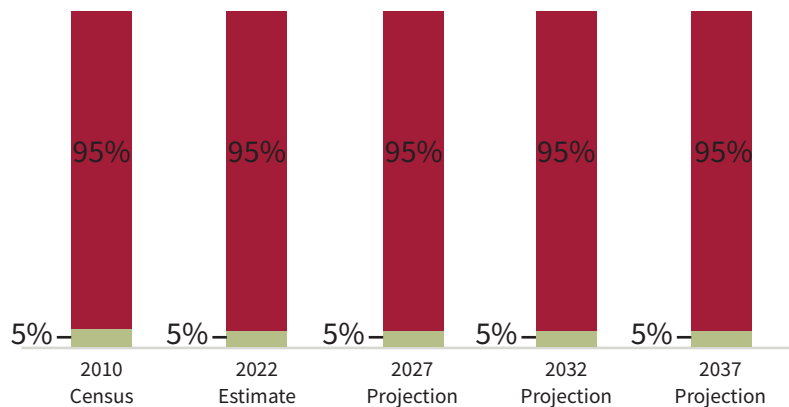


Ethnicity

The Town's population was also assessed based on Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, which by the Census Bureau definition is viewed independently from race. It is important to note that individuals who are Hispanic/Latino in ethnicity can also identify with any racial categories identified above.

Based on the current 2022 estimate, people of Hispanic/Latino origin represent 4.87% of the Town's population, which is below the national average (11% Hispanic/Latino). The Hispanic/Latino population has experienced a minor increase over time, shown in the graphic to the right, and is expected to continue growing to 5.27% of Thompson's Station's total population by 2037.

HISPANIC POPULATION

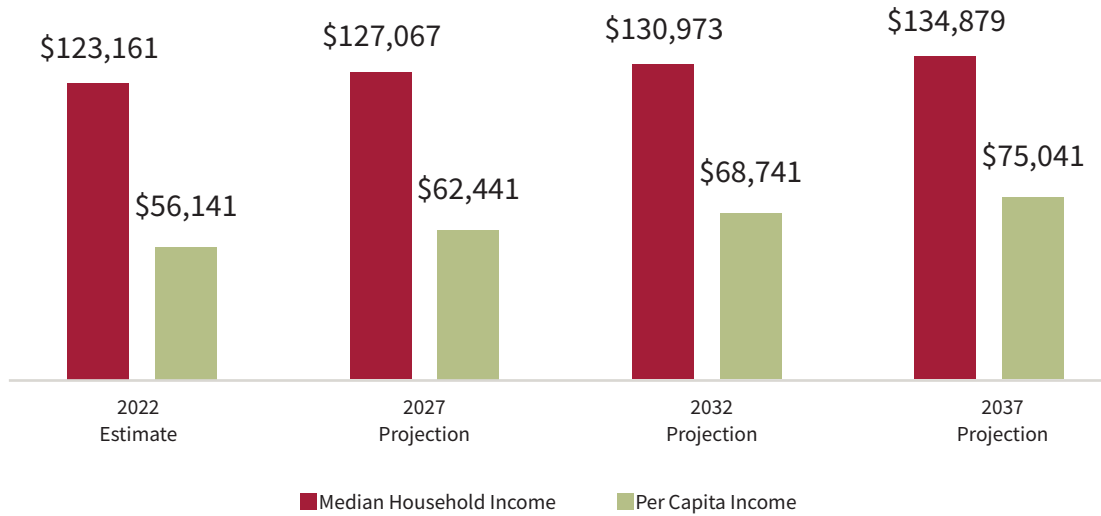




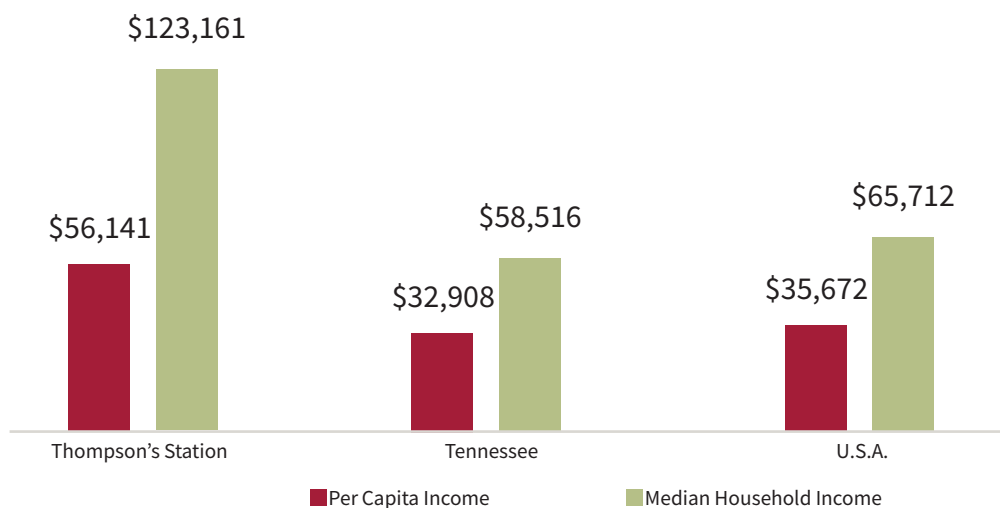
Income Characteristics

When comparing Town income, the per capita income is that earned by an individual while the median household income is based on the total income of everyone over the age of sixteen living within the same household. The Town's per capita income (\$56,141) and median household income (\$123,161) are both well above the state (\$32,908 and \$58,516) and national averages (\$35,672 and \$65,712). Thompson's Station projects to increase in both median household and per capita income, where the averages are expected to increase to \$75,041 and \$134,879 respectively by 2037. Displayed in the graphs below, these above average income characteristics should be taken into consideration when the Town is pricing out programs and calculating cost recovery goals.

COMPARATIVE INCOME CHARACTERISTICS



INCOME CHARACTERISTICS



Demographic Implications

While it is important not to generalize recreation needs and priorities based solely on demographics, the analysis suggests some potential implications for the Town of Thompson’s Station, Tennessee:

- The aging trend of the Town’s population indicates a need to focus on amenities and activities that appeal to older adults and elderly populations. Adding more recreational activities such as exercise classes or adult recreational leagues, may prove to be beneficial in keeping that population active. This is not a recommendation to not also focus on amenities and activities that serve youth, younger adults, and younger families, but just a highlight that broad age appeal will be important in Thompson’s Station moving into the future.
- Thompson’s Station’s above average median income and household income characteristics suggest potential disposable income at the individual and family level. The Town should be mindful of this when pricing out programs and events, and aware of the potential interaction that they can expect from a populace that has a higher-than-average income level.
- In comparison to the United States average (.74%), Thompson’s Station had a significantly high annual growth rate from 2020 to 2022 (6.59%). This boom in population growth will need to be considered when planning new amenities and offerings for the community, as well as the maintenance and upkeep of current offerings, as the Town will have to work to ensure that all facilities can handle the new higher levels of usage.
- Finally, the Town should ensure its diversifying population is reflected in its offerings, marketing/communications, and public outreach. With increasing diversity in both race and age, Thompson’s Station should remain prepared to change its parks and recreation offerings over time.





RECREATION TRENDS ANALYSIS

The trends analysis provides an understanding of national, regional, and local recreational trends as well as recreational interest by age segments. Trends data used for this analysis was obtained from Sports and Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA), National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (ESRI). All trend data is based on current and/or historical participation rates, statistically valid survey results, or NRPA Park Metrics.

National Trends in Recreation

Methodology

The Sports and Fitness Industry Association's (SFIA) Sports, Fitness and Leisure Activities Topline Participation Report 2023 was utilized in evaluating the following trends:

- National Recreation Participatory Trends
- Core vs. Casual Participation Trend



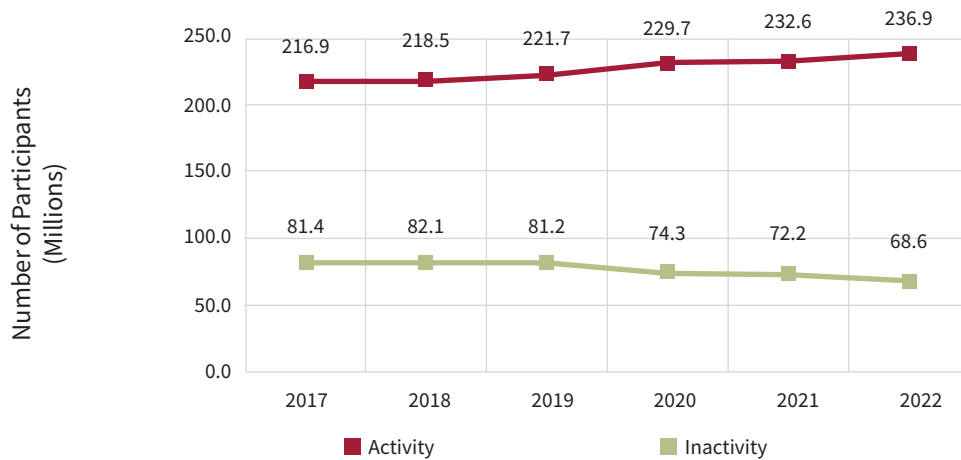
The study is based on findings from surveys conducted in 2022 by the Sports Marketing Surveys USA (SMS), resulting in a total of 18,000 online interviews. Surveys were administered to all genders, ages, income levels, regions, and ethnicities to allow for statistical accuracy of the national population. A sample size of 18,000 completed interviews is considered by SFIA to result in a high degree of statistical accuracy. A sport with a participation rate of five percent has a confidence interval of plus or minus 0.32 percentage points at a 95 percent confidence level. Using a weighting technique, survey results are applied to the total U.S. population figure of 305,439,858 people (ages six and older). The purpose of the report is to establish levels of activity and identify key participatory trends in recreation across the U.S. This study looked at 120 different sports/activities and subdivided them into various categories including: sports, fitness, outdoor activities, aquatics, etc.

Overall Participation

Approximately 236.9 million people ages six and over reported being active in 2022, which is a 1.9% increase from 2021 and the greatest number of active Americans in the last 6 years. This is an indicator that Americans are continuing to make physical activity more of a priority in their lives. Outdoor activities continue to thrive, recreation facilities reopened, fitness at home maintains popularity, and team sports are slowly reaching pre-pandemic participation levels. The chart on the next page depicts participation levels for active and inactive (those who engage in no physical activity) Americans over the past 6 years.



ACTIVITY AND INACTIVITY TREND

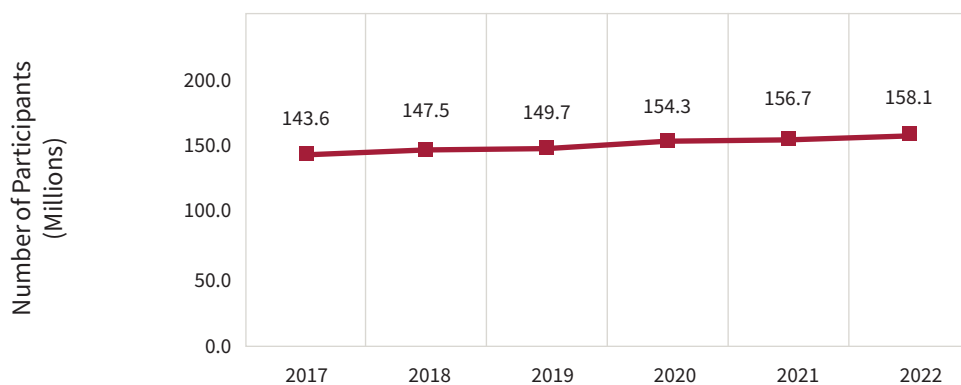


Core Vs. Casual Participation

In addition to overall participation rates, SFIA further categorizes active participants as either core or casual participants based on frequency of participation. Core participants have higher participatory frequency than casual participants. The thresholds that define casual versus core participation may vary based on the nature of each individual activity. For instance, core participants engage in most fitness activities more than fifty times per year, while for sports, the threshold for core participation is typically 13 times per year.

In each activity, core participants are more committed and tend to be less likely to switch to other activities or become inactive (engage in no physical activity) than casual participants. This may also explain why activities with more core participants tend to experience less pattern shifts in participation rates than those with larger groups of casual participants. Increasing for the fifth straight year, 158.1 million people were considered core participants in 2022.

TOTAL CORE PARTICIPANTS

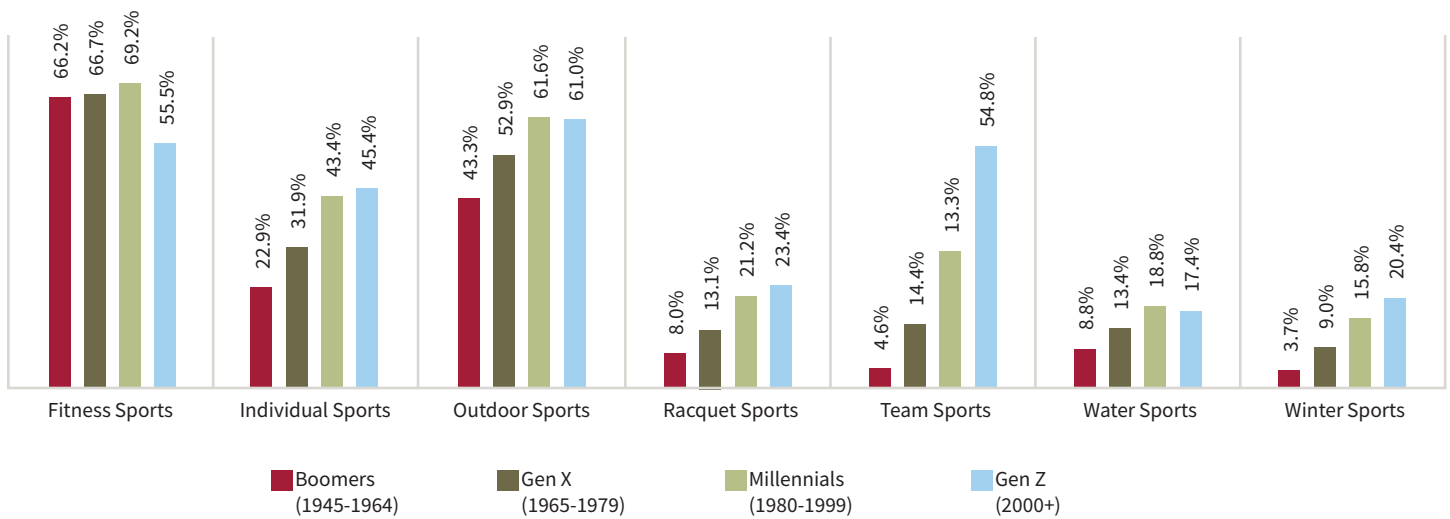




Participation By Generation

The following chart shows 2022 participation rates by generation. Fitness sports continue to be the go-to means of exercise for Boomers, Gen X, and Millennials. Over half of the Gen X, Millennials, and Gen Z generation participated in one type of outdoor activity. Team sports were heavily dominated by generation Gen Z and nearly a third of Gen X also participated in individual sports such as golf, trail running, triathlons, and bowling.

PARTICIPATION BY GENERATION



Highlights

Team sports are continuing to recover due to shutdowns during the pandemic. Team sports participation rate increased to 23.2% which is near 2019 participation levels. Pickleball continues to be the fastest growing sport in America by doubling its participation in 2022. Following the popularity of pickleball, every racquet sport also increased in total participation in 2022.

Additionally, trends showed that Americans practiced yoga, attended Pilates training, worked out with kettlebells, participated in indoor climbing, and hiked on outdoor trails. The waterways traffic had an increase of stand-up paddlers, kayaks, and jet skis. Gymnastics, swimming on a team, court volleyball, and fast-pitch softball benefited from the participation boom created from the Olympics.

Water sports had the largest gain in participation rates. Activities such as jet skiing, scuba diving, and boardsailing/windsurfing all contributed to the 7% increase. Outdoor sports continued to grow with 55% of the U.S. population participating. This rate remains higher than pre-pandemic levels with a 51% participation rate in 2019. The largest contributor to this gain was trail running, having a 45% increase over the last five years.

National Trends in General Sports

Participation Levels

The top sports most heavily participated in the United States were basketball (28.1 million), golf (25.6 million), and tennis (23.6 million) which have participation figures well more than the other activities within the general sports category. Baseball (15.5 million), and outdoor soccer (13.0 million) round out the top five.

The popularity of basketball, golf, and tennis can be attributed to the ability to compete with small number of participants, this coupled with an ability to be played outdoors and/or properly distanced helps explain their popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic. Basketball’s overall success can also be attributed to the limited amount of equipment needed to participate and the limited space requirements necessary, which make basketball the only traditional sport that can be played at most American dwellings as a driveway pickup game. Golf continues to benefit from its wide age segment appeal and is considered a life-long sport. In addition, target type game venues or golf entertainment venues have increased drastically (86.2%) as a 5-year trend, using golf entertainment (e.g., Top Golf) as a new alternative to breathe life back into the game of golf.



BASKETBALL
28.1 MILLION



GOLF
25.6 MILLION



TENNIS
23.6 MILLION



GOLF VENUE
15.5 MILLION



BASEBALL
15.5 MILLION

Five-Year Trend

Since 2017, pickleball (185.7%), golf - entertainment venues (86.2%), and tennis (33.4%) have shown the largest increase in participation. Similarly, basketball (20.3%) and outdoor soccer (9.2%) have also experienced significant growth. Based on the five-year trend from 2017-2022, the sports that are most rapidly declining in participation include ultimate frisbee (-31.5%), rugby (-28.1%), and roller hockey (-25.4%).

One-Year Trend

The most recent year shares some similarities with the five-year trends; with pickleball (85.7%) and golf - entertainment venues (25.7%) experiencing some of the greatest increases in participation this past year. Other top one-year increases include racquetball (8.0%), badminton (7.1%), and gymnastics.

Sports that have seen moderate 1-year increases, but 5-year decreases are racquetball (8.0%), gymnastics (7.1%), and court volleyball (4.2%). This could be a result of coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic and team program participation on the rise. Similar to their 5-year trend, rugby (-5.8%), roller hockey (-4.0%), and ultimate frisbee (-2.2%) have seen decreases in participation over the last year.



Core Vs. Casual Trends in General Sports

General sport activities, basketball, court volleyball, and slow pitch softball have a larger core participant base (participate 13+ times per year) than casual participant base (participate 1-12 times per year). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, most activities showed a decrease in their percentage of core participants. However, there were significant increases in the percentage of casual participation for basketball, baseball, pickleball, outdoor soccer, flag football, badminton, and indoor soccer in the past year. Please see Appendix A for the full Core vs. Casual Participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - General Sports					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2017	2021	2022	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Basketball	23,401	27,135	28,149	20.3%	3.7%
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	23,829	25,111	25,566	7.3%	1.8%
Tennis	17,683	22,617	23,595	33.4%	4.3%
Golf (Entertainment Venue)	8,345	12,362	15,540	86.2%	25.7%
Baseball	15,642	15,587	15,478	-1.0%	-0.7%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,924	12,556	13,018	9.2%	3.7%
Pickleball	3,132	4,819	8,949	185.7%	85.7%
Football (Flag)	6,551	6,889	7,104	8.4%	3.1%
Badminton	6,430	6,061	6,490	0.9%	7.1%
Volleyball (Court)	6,317	5,849	6,092	-3.6%	4.2%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,283	6,008	6,036	-17.1%	0.5%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,399	5,408	5,495	1.8%	1.6%
Football (Tackle)	5,224	5,228	5,436	4.1%	4.0%
Football (Touch)	5,629	4,884	4,843	-14.0%	-0.8%
Gymnastics	4,805	4,268	4,569	-4.9%	7.1%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	4,947	4,184	4,128	-16.6%	-1.3%
Track and Field	4,161	3,587	3,690	-11.3%	2.9%
Racquetball	3,526	3,260	3,521	-0.1%	8.0%
Cheerleading	3,816	3,465	3,507	-8.1%	1.2%
Ice Hockey	2,544	2,306	2,278	-10.5%	-1.2%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,309	2,088	2,146	-7.1%	2.8%
Ultimate Frisbee	3,126	2,190	2,142	-31.5%	-2.2%
Wrestling	1,896	1,937	2,036	7.4%	5.1%
Lacrosse	2,171	1,892	1,875	-13.6%	-0.9%
Roller Hockey	1,834	1,425	1,368	-25.4%	-4.0%
Squash	1,492	1,185	1,228	-17.7%	3.6%
Rugby	1,621	1,238	1,166	-28.1%	-5.8%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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National Trends in General Fitness

Participation Levels

Overall, national participatory trends in fitness have experienced growth in recent years. Many of these activities have become popular due to an increased interest among Americans to improve their health and enhance quality of life by engaging in an active lifestyle. The most popular general fitness activities in 2022 also were those that could be done at home or in a virtual class environment. The activities with the most participation was walking for fitness (114.8 million), treadmill (53.6 million), free weights (53.1 million), running/jogging (47.8 million), and yoga (33.6 million).



Five-Year Trend

Over the last five years (2017-2022), the activities growing at the highest rate were trail running (44.9%), yoga (23.0%), Pilates training (14.0%) and dance, step and choreographed exercise. Over the same period, the activities that have undergone the biggest decline in participation include group stationary cycling (-33.4%), cross-training style workout (-32.1%) and non-traditional/off road triathlons (-28.1%).

One-Year Trend

In the last year, fitness activities with the largest gains in participation were group-related activities, cardio kickboxing (8.5%), Pilates training (5.8%), and group stationary cycling (5.5%). This 1-year trend is another indicator that participants feel safe returning to group-related activities. Trail running (5.9%) also saw a moderate increase indicating trail connectivity to continue to be important for communities to provide. In the same span, fitness activities that had the largest decline in participation were cross-training style workout (-5.3%), bodyweight exercise (-2.6%) and running/jogging (-2.4%).



Core Vs. Casual Trends in General Fitness

Participants of walking for fitness are mostly core users (participating 50+ times) and have seen a 1.5% growth in the last five years. Please see Appendix A for the full core vs. casual participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - General Fitness					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2017	2021	2022	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Walking for Fitness	110,805	115,814	114,759	3.6%	-0.9%
Treadmill	52,966	53,627	53,589	1.2%	-0.1%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	52,217	52,636	53,140	1.8%	1.0%
Running/Jogging	50,770	48,977	47,816	-5.8%	-2.4%
Yoga	27,354	34,347	33,636	23.0%	-2.1%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	36,035	32,453	32,102	-10.9%	-1.1%
Weight/Resistant Machines	36,291	30,577	30,010	-17.3%	-1.9%
Free Weights (Barbells)	27,444	28,243	28,678	4.5%	1.5%
Elliptical Motion/Cross-Trainer	32,283	27,618	27,051	-16.2%	-2.1%
Dance, Step, & Choreographed Exercise	22,616	24,752	25,163	11.3%	1.7%
Bodyweight Exercise	24,454	22,629	22,034	-9.9%	-2.6%
High Impact/Intensity Training	21,476	21,973	21,821	1.6%	-0.7%
Trail Running	9,149	12,520	13,253	44.9%	5.9%
Rowing Machine	11,707	11,586	11,893	1.6%	2.6%
Stair Climbing Machine	14,948	11,786	11,677	-21.9%	-0.9%
Pilates Training	9,047	9,745	10,311	14.0%	5.8%
Cross-Training Style Workout	13,622	9,764	9,248	-32.1%	-5.3%
Martial Arts	5,838	6,186	6,355	8.9%	2.7%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	9,409	5,939	6,268	-33.4%	5.5%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,693	5,099	5,531	-17.4%	8.5%
Boxing for Fitness	5,157	5,237	5,472	6.1%	4.5%
Boot Camp Style Cross-Training	6,651	5,169	5,192	-21.9%	0.4%
Barre	3,436	3,659	3,803	10.7%	3.9%
Tai Chi	3,787	3,393	3,394	-10.4%	0.0%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,162	1,748	1,780	-17.7%	1.8%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,878	1,304	1,350	-28.1%	3.5%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	

National Trends in Outdoor/Adventure Recreation

Participation Levels

Results from the SFIA report demonstrate rapid growth in participation regarding outdoor/adventure recreation activities. Much like general fitness activities, these activities encourage an active lifestyle, can be performed individually, and are not as limited by time constraints. In 2022, the most popular activities, in terms of total participants include day hiking (59.5 million), road bicycling (43.6 million), freshwater fishing (41.8 million), camping (37.4 million), and wildlife viewing (20.6 million).



DAY HIKING

59.6 MILLION



ROAD BICYCLING

43.6 MILLION



FRESHWATER FISHING

41.8 MILLION



CAMPING

37.4 MILLION



WILDLIFE VIEWING

20.6 MILLION

Five-Year Trend

From 2017-2022, sport/bouldering (174.8%), camping (42.5%), skateboarding (41.3%), day hiking (32.7%), birdwatching (28.6%) has undergone large increases in participation. The five-year trend also shows activities such as indoor climbing (-51.4%), adventure racing (-32.2%) to be the only activities with double-digit decreases in participation.

One-Year Trend

The one-year trend shows most activities growing in participation from the previous year. The most rapid growth being in sport/boulder climbing (151.1%), BMX bicycling (8.3%), birdwatching (6.8%), and in-line roller skating (4.7%). Over the last year, the only activities that underwent decreases in participation were indoor climbing (-56.9%), adventure racing (-6.1%), and overnight backpacking (-0.9%).



Core Vs. Casual Trends In Outdoor/Adventure Recreation

Most outdoor activities have experienced participation growth in the last five-years. Although this is a positive trend, it should be noted that all outdoor activities participation, besides adventure racing, consist primarily of casual users. Please see Appendix A for the full core vs. casual participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2017	2021	2022	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Hiking (Day)	44,900	58,697	59,578	32.7%	1.5%
Bicycling (Road)	38,866	42,775	43,554	12.1%	1.8%
Fishing (Freshwater)	38,346	40,853	41,821	9.1%	2.4%
Camping	26,262	35,985	37,431	42.5%	4.0%
Wildlife Viewing (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	20,351	20,452	20,615	1.3%	0.8%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	16,159	16,371	16,840	4.2%	2.9%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	12,296	14,815	15,818	28.6%	6.8%
Fishing (Saltwater)	13,062	13,790	14,344	9.8%	4.0%
Backpacking Overnight	10,975	10,306	10,217	-6.9%	-0.9%
Skateboarding	6,382	8,747	9,019	41.3%	3.1%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,609	8,693	8,916	3.6%	2.6%
Fishing (Fly)	6,791	7,458	7,631	12.4%	2.3%
Archery	7,769	7,342	7,428	-4.4%	1.2%
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	2,103	2,301	5,778	174.8%	151.1%
Roller Skating, In-Line	5,268	4,940	5,173	-1.8%	4.7%
Bicycling (BMX)	3,413	3,861	4,181	22.5%	8.3%
Climbing (Indoor)	5,045	5,684	2,452	-51.4%	-56.9%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,527	2,374	2,452	-3.0%	3.3%
Adventure Racing	2,529	1,826	1,714	-32.2%	-6.1%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
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National Trends in Outdoor/Adventure Recreation

Participation Levels

Swimming is deemed a lifetime activity, which is why it continues to have such strong participation. In 2022, fitness swimming remained the overall leader in participation (26.3 million) amongst aquatic activities.



**FITNESS
SWIMMING**
43.6 MILLION



**AQUATIC
EXERCISE**
41.8 MILLION



**SWIMMING
ON A TEAM**
37.4 MILLION

Five-Year Trend

Assessing the five-year trend, fitness swimming (-3.2%) and swimming on a team (-3.4%) experienced moderate decreases due to the accessibility of facilities during COVID-19. While aquatic exercise (2.1%) saw a slight increase in participation during this same time period.

One-Year Trend

In 2022, all aquatic activities saw moderate increases in participation which can be asserted to facilities and programs returning to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. Swimming on a team (2.8%), aquatic exercise (2.7%) and fitness swimming (2.5%) saw moderate increases in participation.

Core Vs. Casual Trends in Aquatics

All activities in aquatic trends have undergone an increase in casual participation (1-49 times per year) over the last five years. Please see Appendix A for full the core vs. casual participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - Aquatics					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2017	2021	2022	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Swimming (Fitness)	27,135	25,620	26,272	-3.2%	2.5%
Aquatic Exercise	10,459	10,400	10,676	2.1%	2.7%
Swimming on a Team	3,007	2,824	2,904	-3.4%	2.8%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over					
Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	

National Trends in Water Sports/Activities

Participation Levels

The most popular water sports/activities based on total participants in 2022 were recreational kayaking (13.6 million), canoeing (9.5 million), and snorkeling (7.4 million). It should be noted that water activity participation tends to vary based on regional, seasonal, and environmental factors. A region with more water access and a warmer climate is more likely to have a higher participation rate in water activities than a region that has a long winter season or limited water access. Therefore, when assessing trends in water sports and activities, it is important to understand that fluctuations may be the result of environmental barriers which can influence water activity participation.



RECREATIONAL KAYAKING

13.6 MILLION



CANOEING

9.5 MILLION



SNORKELING

7.4 MILLION



JET SKIING

5.4 MILLION



STAND-UP PADDLING

3.8 MILLION

Five-Year Trend

Over the last five years, surfing (37.8%), recreational kayaking (28.7%), stand-up paddling (13.6%) and white-water kayaking (9.0%) were the fastest growing water activities. From 2017-2022, activities declining in participation were water skiing (-14.9%), snorkeling (-12.0%), boardsailing/windsurfing (-11.6%), and sea/touring kayaking (10.6%).

One-Year Trend

In 2022, water skiing (-0.6%) was the only water activity to see a decrease in participation. Activities which experienced the largest increases in participation in the most recent year include jet skiing (7.6%), scuba diving (7.4%), boardsailing/windsurfing (7.2%), and surfing (6.6%).

Core Vs. Casual Trends in Water Sports/Activities

As mentioned previously, regional, seasonal, and environmental limiting factors may influence the participation rate of water sport and activities. These factors may also explain why all water-based activities have drastically more casual participants than core participants, since frequencies of activities may be constrained by uncontrollable factors. Please see Appendix A for the full core vs. casual participation breakdown.

National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities					
Activity	Participation Levels			% Change	
	2017	2021	2022	5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
Kayaking (Recreational)	10,533	13,351	13,561	28.7%	1.6%
Canoeing	9,220	9,199	9,521	3.3%	3.5%
Snorkeling	8,384	7,316	7,376	-12.0%	0.8%
Jet Skiing	5,418	5,062	5,445	0.5%	7.6%
Stand-Up Paddling	3,325	3,739	3,777	13.6%	1.0%
Surfing	2,680	3,463	3,692	37.8%	6.6%
Sailing	3,974	3,463	3,632	-8.6%	4.9%
Rafting	3,479	3,383	3,595	3.3%	6.3%
Water Skiing	3,572	3,058	3,040	-14.9%	-0.6%
Wakeboarding	3,005	2,674	2,754	-8.4%	3.0%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,500	2,587	2,726	9.0%	5.4%
Scuba Diving	2,874	2,476	2,658	-7.5%	7.4%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,955	2,587	2,642	-10.6%	2.1%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,573	1,297	1,391	-11.6%	7.2%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
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Preservation Park - by Miriam Wiggins



Local Sport and Leisure Market Potential

The following charts show sport and leisure market potential data for Thompson's Station residents, as provided by ESRI. Market Potential Index (MPI) measures the probable demand for a product or service within the defined service areas. The MPI shows the likelihood that an adult resident will participate in certain activities when compared to the U.S. national average. The national average is 100; therefore, numbers below 100 would represent lower than average participation rates, and numbers above 100 would represent higher than average participation rates. The service area is compared to the national average in four (4) categories – general sports, fitness, outdoor activity, and commercial recreation.

It should be noted that MPI metrics are only one data point used to help determine community trends; thus, programmatic decisions should not be based solely on MPI metrics.

Overall, when analyzing the Town's MPIs, the data demonstrates above average market potential index (MPI) numbers in most areas, while displaying even higher potential in several more specific activities. For example, certain general sports (like golf and archery) scored well above the national average and relatively higher than the rest of the Town's sports. These MPI scores show that the Town's residents have a strong participation presence when it comes to certain recreational offerings, especially pertaining to general sports and fitness, but may have less interaction with activities like outdoor recreation. This becomes significant when the Town considers starting up new programs or building new facilities, giving them a strong tool to estimate resident attendance and participation.

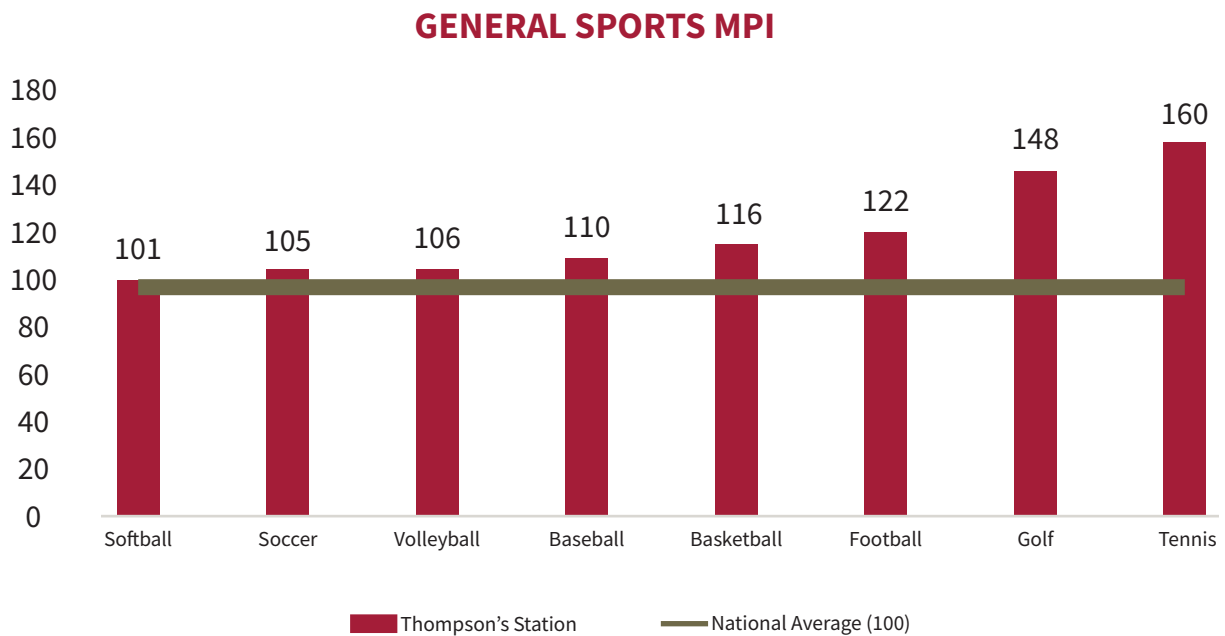
The following charts compare MPI scores for 45 sport and leisure activities that are prevalent for residents within the Town. The activities are categorized by activity type and listed in descending order, from highest to lowest MPI score. High index numbers (100+) are significant because they demonstrate that there is a greater likelihood that residents within the service area will actively participate in those offerings provided by the Town.





General Sports Market Potential

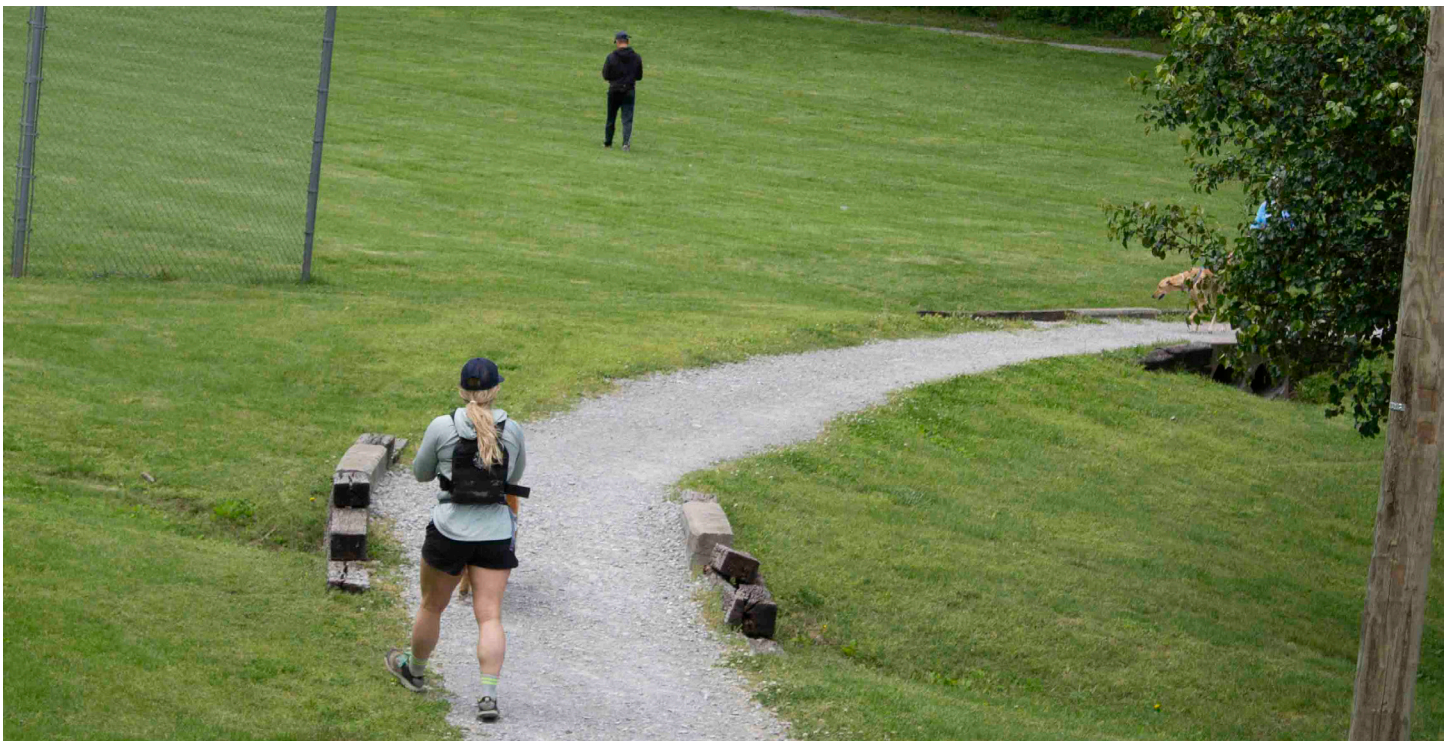
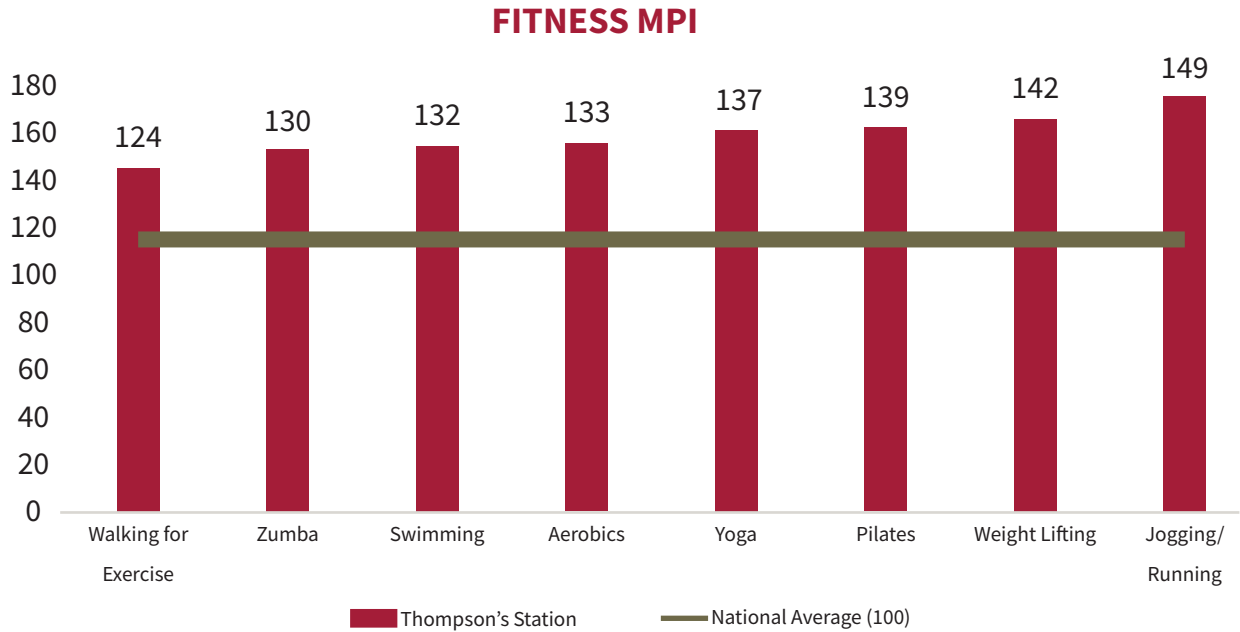
The general sports chart shows that all of the recorded sports are above the national average regarding MPI. The three highest scores belong to tennis (160), golf (148), and football (122), with softball being the lowest ranked sport at 101. With every score being above the national average, Thompson's Station likely has a high potential for general sports activities across all demographics and should ensure that their offerings reflect that.





Fitness Market Potential

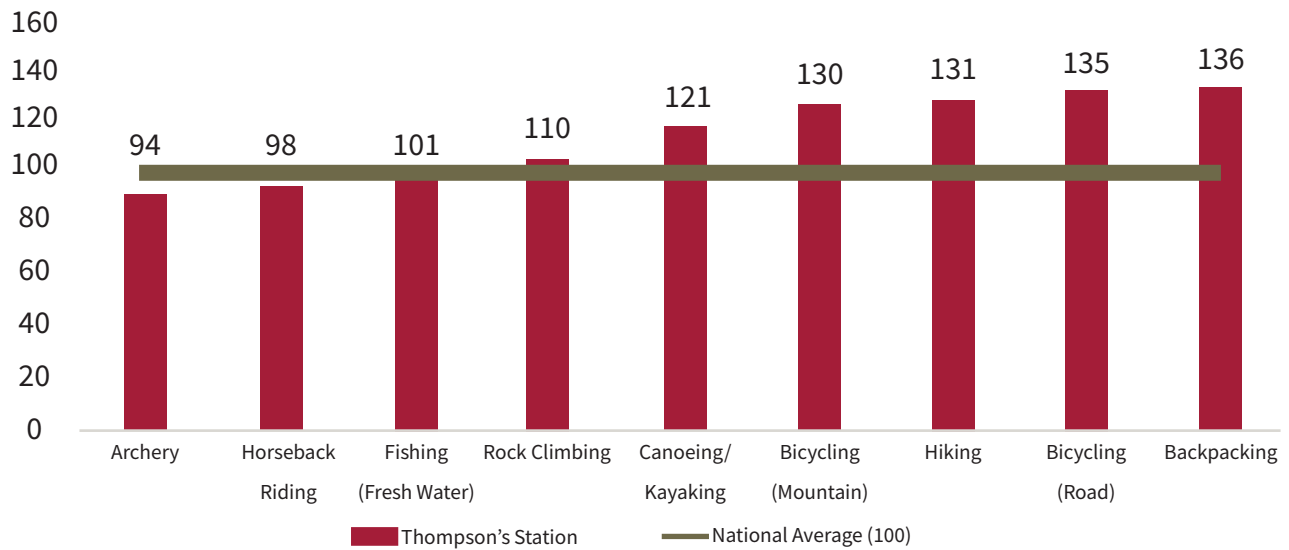
Assessing MPI scores for the fitness activity category reveals that the Town's fitness activities are all above the national average. Of these activities, jogging/running (149), weight lifting (142), and Pilates (139) ranked the highest. The lowest scored activities were swimming (132), zumba (130), and walking for exercise (124).



Outdoor Activity Market Potential

Overall, the outdoor activity MPI chart reflects that the Town is mostly above the national average for outdoor activities, with only two (archery and horseback riding) activities being below the national average. The most popular activities are backpacking (136), road biking (135), and hiking (131).

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY MPI



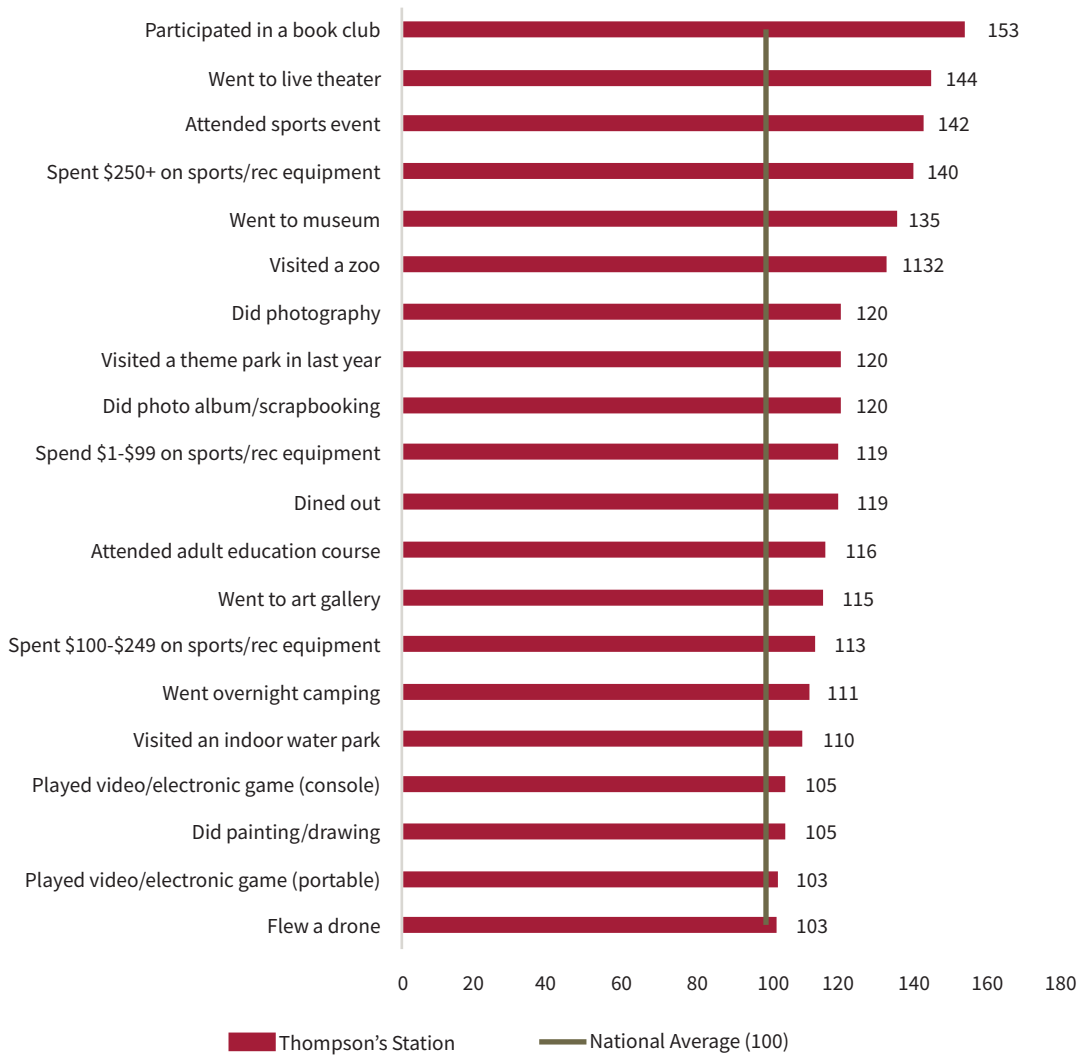


Commercial Recreation Market Potential

The Commercial Recreation category reveals that all the recorded Commercial Recreation activities noted in the image below are also above the national average. The most popular activity in the service area was participated in a book club, which scored a whopping 153. The type of activities that are popular in Thompson's Station are fairly diverse, with both art activities and more sports related activities having high scores. One thing to note is the high willingness to spend money on sports or recreational equipment, as the spent \$1-\$99 category scored at 119 and the spent \$250 category scored at 140. Paired with the other MPI ratings (general sports, fitness, and outdoor activity), these activities could signal potential target areas for new facilities, funding, or programs for the Town.

COMMERCIAL RECREATION MPI

(Last 12 months)



Thompson's Station National Average (100)







SECTION 5

Benchmark Analysis

BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

Methodology

PROS Consulting with assistance from Thompson's Station Public Works Department identified operating metrics to benchmark against comparable parks and recreation agencies. The goal of the analysis is to evaluate how the Department is positioned among peer agencies across the country. The benchmark assessment is organized into specific categories based on operational metrics and performance standards as available through the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) 2023 Agency Performance Review report. Across all metrics, data was collected on both the national average for all public parks and recreation departments, as well as for communities with a resident population less than 20,000.

It should be noted that Thompson's Station is unique in that there is no formal parks and recreation department because of the relative "newness" of the development of the community as a municipality. There are no dedicated staff to support the development and facilitation of recreational programs, nor for park or amenity maintenance. All parks-related maintenance functions of the Town are handled by the Public Works Department.



Park Acres

The following table provides a general overview of Thompson’s Station’s total inventory of parklands as compared to the national average and communities under 20,000 residents. When assessing level of service for park acres, Thompson’s Station ranks very high with a total of 272.4 acres, 151 of which are developed parklands. That equates to 17.82 acres of developed parkland for every 1,000 residents and 32.15 acres of total parkland for every 1,000 residents. This metric is 298% higher than the national average of 10.80 acres per 1,000 residents, and 247% higher than the average of small communities under 20,000 residents. Based on its current population, Thompson’s Station is rich in both developed and undeveloped parklands.

AGENCY	POPULATION	TOTAL DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL DEVELOPED ACRES	TOTAL ACRES OWNED OR MANAGED	TOTAL ACRES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
THOMPSON’S STATION	8,472	151	17.82	272	32.15
NATIONAL AVERAGE					10.80
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)					13

Trail Miles

The information in the table below depicts comparable levels of service on total amount of dedicated trails within a system. The level of service provided to the community can be determined, which is expressed as trail miles for every 1,000 residents, by comparing the total trail mileage to the population of the service area. Thompson’s Station has a total of 8.5 miles of dedicated trails, which equates to approximately one mile per 1,000 residents. The national average of total number of trails in a community is 15 miles. However, the average number of trail miles in communities under 20,000 residents is only five miles. Therefore, while Thompson’s Station is at 56% of the national average, it is at 170% of communities in similar size.

AGENCY	POPULATION	TOTAL TRAIL MILES	TRAIL MILES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS
THOMPSON’S STATION	8,472	8.5	1
NATIONAL AVERAGE		15	
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)		5	
BEST PRACTICE = 0.25-0.5 TRAIL MILES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS			



Staffing

This section compares staffing levels for each system by comparing full-time equivalents (FTEs) to total population. Total FTEs per 10,000 residents is a key performance metric that assesses how well each system is equipped, in terms of human resources, to serve its jurisdiction. In this operational area, Thompson's Station is far below both the national average and the average of communities with 20,000 or less residents. Thompson's Station only has the total equivalent of 1.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, equating to only 1.8 FTEs per 10,000 residents. This is of course because Thompson's Station does not have any dedicated parks and recreation employees, and these traditional functions, namely park maintenance, are handled as a portion of the workload of existing public works employees. Thompson's Station's staffing level is 20% of the national average of 8.9 FTEs per 10,000 residents and 16% of the average of communities with 20,000 or less residents (11.5 FTEs per 10,000 residents).

AGENCY	POPULATION	TOTAL FTES	FTES PER 10,000 RESIDENTS
THOMPSON'S STATION	8,472	1.5	1.8
NATIONAL AVERAGE		51.5	8.9
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)		11.3	11.5

Operating Expense per Capita

Dividing the annual operational budget by each service area's population allows for a comparison of how much each agency is spending per resident. Thompson's Station's operating expense per capita metric is dramatically less than both the national average and the average of communities with 20,000 or less residents due to the lack of a formal parks and recreation department and subsequently having no dedicated parks and recreation employees. In the case of Thompson's Station, annual operating expense was calculated with the sum of dedicated budget resources for parks and recreation (materials/supplies, contracted services, etc.) and the proportion of public works employees' workload that is committed to park, amenity, and trail maintenance. This total annual operating expense equates to \$110,170 or approximately \$13 per resident each year. That is 14% of the national average of \$94.77 operational expense per resident, and only 11% of the average of communities with less than 20,000 residents (\$120.79).

AGENCY	POPULATION	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	OPERATING EXPENSE PER RESIDENT
THOMPSON'S STATION	8,472	\$110,170	\$13
NATIONAL AVERAGE		\$5,500,000	\$94.77
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)		\$1,200,000	\$120.79

Revenue per Capita

By comparing each agency’s annual non-tax revenue to the population, the annual revenue generated on a per resident basis can be determined. Similar to the explanation with operating expense per capita, without a formal parks and recreation department there is no portfolio of recreational programs and services that are fee-based and generate significant revenues. Earned revenues in Thompson’s Station are solely derived from facility usage and rental fees. Currently, Thompson’s Station generates \$99,487 annually in earned or non-tax revenues. That equates to \$11.74 per resident annually which is 54% of the national average of \$21.71 per resident. It is 37% of the average of communities with less than 20,000 residents at \$31.31 per resident per year. Incidentally, with the low level of operational expense Thompson’s Station does perform at a very high level of cost recovery, or the coverage of operational expenses by earned revenues. Thompson’s Station currently operates at approximately 90% cost recovery, which is very high.

AGENCY	POPULATION	TOTAL NON-TAX REVENUE	REVENUE PER RESIDENT
THOMPSON’S STATION	8,472	\$99,487	\$11.74
NATIONAL AVERAGE			\$21.71
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)			\$31.31

CIP Summary

Due to the volatility of Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budgets and availability of funding from year to year, the table below reveals the last three years of actual investment from 2020 through 2022. These figures were then utilized to show the average annual capital investment for Thompson’s Station as compared to the national average and that of communities less than 20,000 residents. Thompson’s Station CIP expenditures over the last three years has been elevating as a result of extensive greenway development projects to improve overall connectivity within the community. Over the last three years, Thompson’s Station has expended \$922,329 in CIP funds which is 46% of the national average of \$2,000,000, but 184% of similar sized smaller communities which on average spend \$500,000 in CIP funds.

AGENCY	CIP BUDGET 2020	CIP BUDGET 2021	CIP BUDGET 2022	AVG. ANNUAL CIP
THOMPSON’S STATION	\$965,000	\$705,000	\$1,096,988	\$922,329
NATIONAL AVERAGE				\$2,000,000
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)				\$500,000



Recreational Facilities

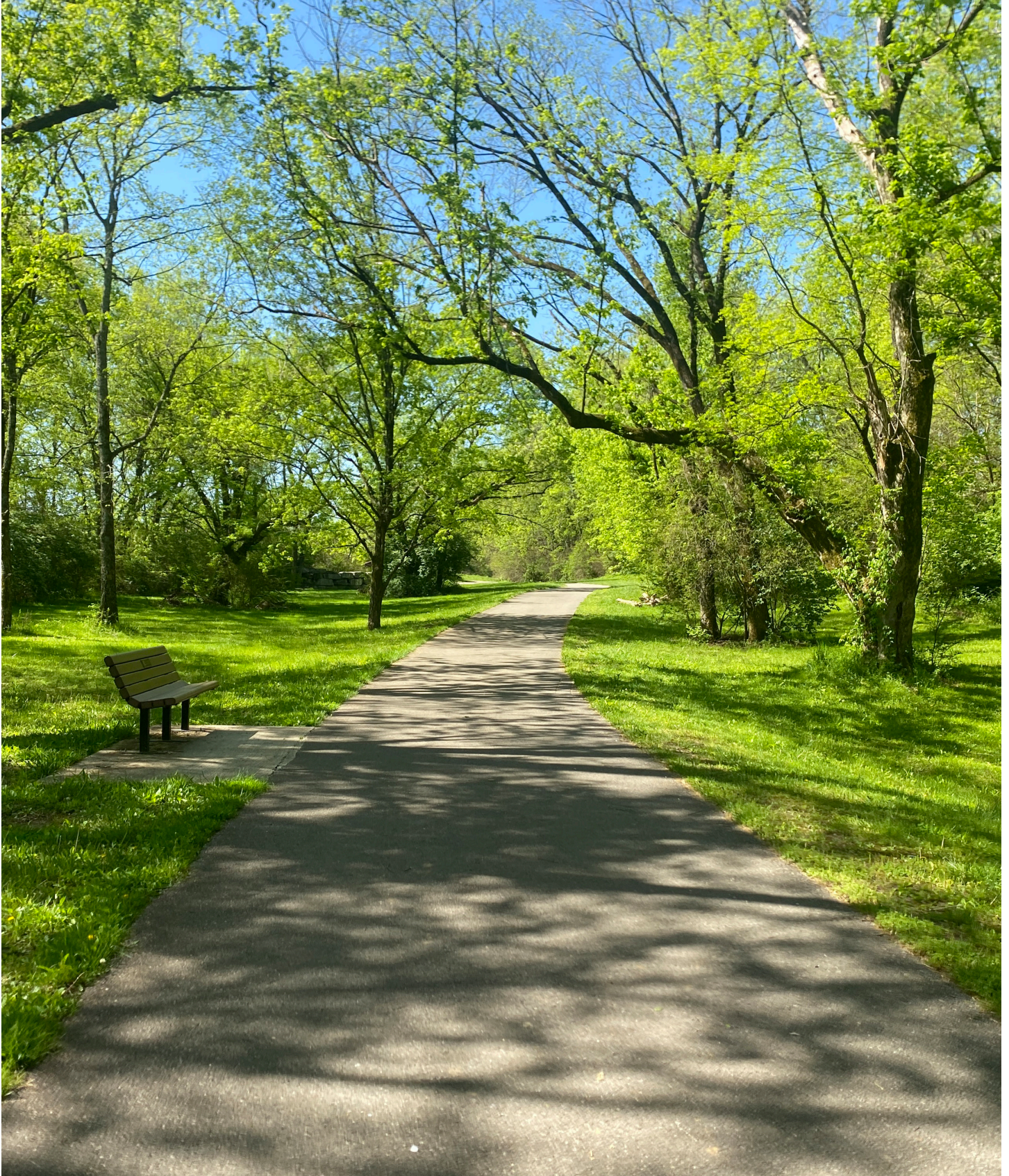
The final category in which Thompson’s Station was evaluated was in the number of different types of recreational facilities per resident available within the community. Thompson’s Station has a very small inventory of developed recreational facilities with only four rectangular sports fields (four small soccer fields), one playground, and four picnic shelters. The table below depicts the number of residents per each type of facility as compared to the national average and the average within communities with less than 20,000 residents.

AGENCY	POPULATION	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER DIAMOND SPORTS FIELDS	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER RECTANGULAR SPORTS FIELDS	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER OUTDOOR SPORTS FIELDS	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER PLAYGROUNDS	NUMBER OF RESIDENTS PER PICNIC SHELTERS/ PAVILIONS
THOMPSON'S STATION	8,472	0	2,118	0	8,472	2,118
NATIONAL AVERAGE		6,863	9,177	17,475	3,759	N/A
COMMUNITIES LESS THAN 20,000 RESIDENTS (MEDIAN)		3,114	3,859	5,093	2,014	N/A

Summary of Benchmark Findings

Given where Thompson’s Station is as a community in its lifecycle of developing parks and recreation facilities and services, it performs very well as a public service. It is rich in parklands and trails and spending significant CIP dollars in investing in future infrastructure particularly trails. As a result of not having dedicated parks and recreation staff at this time, the Town is able to keep its operating expenses relatively low creating the opportunity to a high level of cost recovery at 90%. As the community matures and becomes more built-out, it is recommended that additional recreational amenities be developed that could support community needs. This could include, but not be limited to additional sports fields (diamond, rectangular, or both), sport courts, and playgrounds.

Overall, the benchmark analysis reveals that Thompson’s Station has a strong foundation for building a legacy of parks and recreation in the community. As the community grows and places more demand on the Town for this public service, Town leadership will need to grow a dedicated department with dedicated parks and recreation employees. This would allow for the development and provision of more recreational programs and special events that would augment quality of life in the community, as well as potentially attract new residents and businesses.







SECTION 6

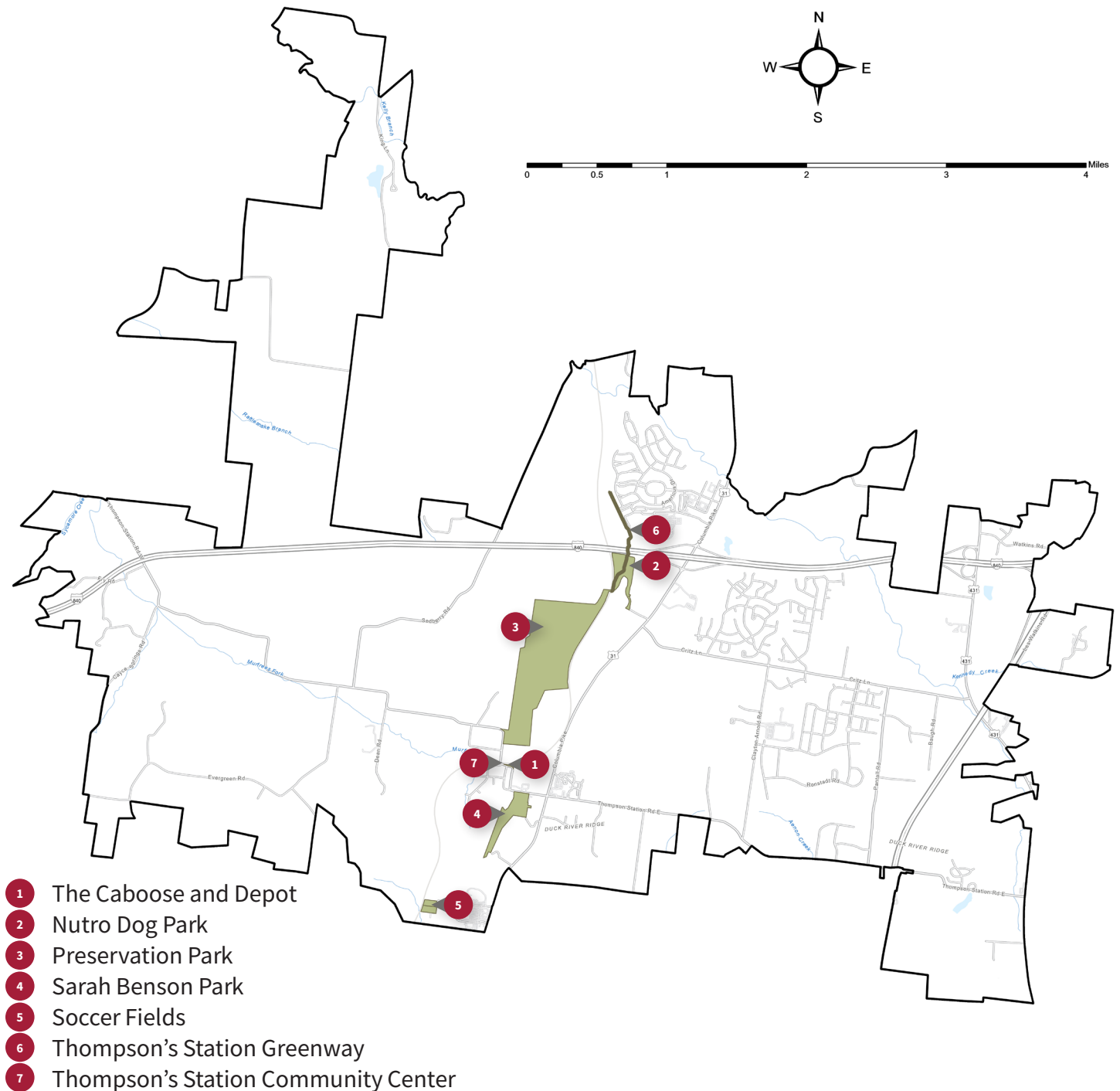
Facility Inventory and Analysis



EXISTING FACILITIES

Overview

In order to understand what the Town is currently providing, the consultant team and staff evaluated amenities and quality of offerings at each park location to document existing conditions. The consultant team performed an existing facility evaluation on the following facilities:



THE CABOOSE & DEPOT

1550 Thompson’s Station Road West | 0.4 Acres

The Town Caboose was installed in 1995, two years after completing work on the replica depot station. The Caboose was painted red with yellow L&N accents to acknowledge the L&N line (Louisville/Nashville) that originally ran on the tracks behind the Caboose.



AMENITIES	CONDITION
RED TRAIN CABOOSE	GOOD
EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE	GOOD
BENCHES	FAIR
TRASH RECEPTACLES	GOOD
DEPOT BUILDING	FAIR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Add covered picnic area for patrons to eat lunch outside
- Add safety signage
- Improve interior platform

Long-Term

- Implement Town Center Streetscape Plan for this area
- Evaluate if Depot should become part of the Caboose Park and provide a community facility

NUTRO DOG PARK

4559 Columbia Pike | 33.1 Acres

In 2014, Mars Petcare and Outdoor Encounter partnered with the Town to build Nutro Dog Park. The dog park only takes up four of the 33.1 acre parcel it sits on. The phase one of the greenway system can also be found on the same parcel.



AMENITY	CONDITION
ACCESS TO GREENWAY TRAIL	GOOD
COVERED SEATING	POOR
BENCHES	FAIR
FENCED IN AREA FOR LARGE AND SMALL DOGS	GOOD
TRASH RECEPTACLES	FAIR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Tighten the railing on the pedestrian bridge and replace some wood pieces
- Paint the fence surrounding the dog parks
- Replace the shade sails
- Reseed the grass
- Move the small dog park entrance closer to the main entrance
- Add dog watering stations

Long-Term

- Create a walking loop around the dog park
- Refurbish the arch sign
- Add more parking
- Remove arch sign on Highway 31 side
- Fix drainage issues

PRESERVATION PARK

1600 Thompson’s Station Road West | 206.7 Acres

Located in the heart of Thompson’s Station, a portion of the park has a preservation easement by the Land Trust for Tennessee to ensure its protection. Formerly a local grazing pasture, this property was once part of the Battle of Thompson’s Station, a battle in the Civil War. Preservation Park is a local scenic destination as it is predominantly in a natural state and offers some of the best natural public park space in the area. The local equine veterinarian leases a portion of the land for boarding horses that can be spotted during a visit to the park. In March 2016, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board adopted the Preservation Park Master Plan. The recommendations in this plan are meant to supersede the recommendations from the 2016 plan, as those recommendations are now out of date with the communities needs. When making future decisions for Preservation Park, the Town can refer to this plan to best serve the community’s needs as it encapsulates the current needs of the Town and community. Although the park currently houses equestrian stables, an overwhelming response in the public survey was a desire to preserve the park’s passive recreational use for pedestrians, not equestrian use.



AMENITY	CONDITION
PAVILION	GOOD
STORAGE SHED	FAIR
HORSE STABLES	GOOD
SCENIC LOOKOUT	GOOD
PARKING AREA	FAIR
PICNIC AREAS	GOOD
BENCHES	GOOD
RESTROOM BUILDING	GOOD
HIKING TRAILS	GOOD
TRASH RECEPTACLES	FAIR
POND	FAIR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Add more wayfinding signage with unified parks and greenways theme
- Upgrade parking lot area in conjunction with Greenway Phase 2 construction
- Add water fountains
- Add additional benches
- Add additional picnic tables
- Create trail maintenance standard operating procedure

Long-Term

- Remove fence line and scrub trees for better sight-lines and scenic view opportunities
- Create pedestrian access to existing pond and add amenities such as overlooks and fishing piers
- Build an education/nature center
- Build an observation area



SARAH BENSON PARK

1513 Thompson's Station Rd W | 26.7 Acres

Formerly known as Thompson's Station Park, Sarah Benson was re-named in 2017 to honor the late Alderwoman Sarah Benson who served on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for 25 years and had a strong desire to protect natural resources for future generations to enjoy. Sarah Benson is beloved by the community as a place to walk, gather, and play in nature, but is a bit dated and is in need of a refresh. The southern trails at Sarah Benson connect to the north side of Heritage Park.



AMENITY	CONDITION
BENCHES	GOOD
RESTROOM BUILDING	FAIR
HORSESHOE PIT	POOR
LADDER GOLF	FAIR
POND	POOR
PAVILIONS (UPPER AND LOWER)	GOOD
GRILLS	POOR
PICNIC AREAS	FAIR
PLAYGROUND	GOOD
STAGE	FAIR
WALKING/BIKING TRAILS	FAIR
EXERCISE EQUIPMENT	FAIR
BASEBALL BACKSTOP	POOR
TRASH RECEPTACLES	GOOD

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Create a master plan for Sarah Benson Park
- Add trail signage to gravel trails
- Remove horseshoe pit and ladder golf equipment
- Replace exercise equipment throughout the park
- Remove backstop at multi-purpose field
- Move Mars dog bone benches to the dog park
- Add safety surfacing to playground and fitness equipment
- Repave parking lot and road
- Expand and move parking to the same side of the road for playground safety
- Replace playground equipment with inclusive play equipment and move to parking lot side of the road for improved safety and access
- Expand sand play area at playground
- Add benches near playground
- Fence in playground equipment
- Create trail maintenance plan
- Add water fountains
- Add additional seating around the park
- Add additional shaded seating options
- Renovate buildings and create a unified aesthetic for the Thompson's Station Parks system

Long-Term

- Add pavilion at pond or fill in pond for other uses
- Add second entrance at gravel/gate and additional parking
- Add amenities for older kids such as a basketball court
- Remove bleachers and add amphitheater near stage
- Preserve the open greenspace at the front of the park for multi-purpose use such as rugby and frisbee
- Partner with Williamson County Parks to coordinate trail connections from Sarah Benson Park to Heritage Park

SOCCER FIELDS

4621 Thompson’s Ridge Road | 5.5 Acres

The soccer fields are used by Williamson County Soccer Association for practices and games and the varying field sizes suit any age group. The field location provides a scenic experience while providing easy access to the surrounding development, schools, and parks.



AMENITY	CONDITION
SOCCER FIELDS (LARGE, MEDIUM, AND SMALL)	FAIR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Close soccer fields

Long-Term

- Fund and construct a new park specifically designed for soccer and other outdoor activities



THOMPSON'S STATION GREENWAY

Western Edge of Tollgate Village to Nutro Dog Park | 1.06 Miles

Completed in 2014, the first phase of the Thompson's Station greenway system extends from the western edge of Tollgate Village and runs south past the Nutro Dog Park to the CSX railroad undercrossing. The first phase provides pedestrian connection to residential, educational, and park space. Phases two and three are under development and grants are being applied for to fund phase four.



AMENITY	CONDITION
TRASH RECEPTACLES	GOOD
BENCHES	GOOD
GREENWAY	GOOD

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Implement phases two and three of the greenway system
- Add more benches and seating options
- Add more trash receptacles along the greenway
- Create greenway user rules
- Create unified greenway/park signage and wayfinding

Long-Term

- Apply for future grant funding to expand the greenway system
- Implement the greenways as part of the Town's CIP budget process

THOMPSON’S STATION COMMUNITY CENTER

1555 Thompson’s Station Rd W | ±3,700 Square Feet

Thompson’s Station Community Center serves as a meeting place for local community events and rental space for functions. Located in the center of Town, across Thompson’s Station Road from the Caboose and Depot, the Community Center is currently the only indoor rental facility for the Town.



AMENITIES	CONDITION
EVENT SPACE	FAIR
RESTROOMS	FAIR

RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term

- Sell Community Center within next five years to allow for private redevelopment

Long-Term

- The Town should look to add a comparable park facility for indoor rentable space once the existing community center is sold





SECTION 7

Program Assessment



Overview

Programs offered through a parks and recreation department are generally defined as resources and services provided for purposes of leisure, entertainment, and recreational pursuits. Examples include recreation activity programs, athletic leagues, special events, arts programs, and environmental education programs. Oftentimes communities produce a significant portion of operating revenues generated from fees and charges associated with these programs, in addition to significant indirect revenues to local and regional economies from sports tournaments and special events such as arts, music, and holiday festivals. Parks and recreation programs also provide social, health, and environmental benefits for residents.

The key objective of this master plan is to create a guiding document for Thompson's Station's leaders to consult while they develop a Parks and Recreation Department. A portion of the future Parks and Recreation Department will need to be dedicated to creating and running recreational and social programs and events for the Town. It is recommended that Thompson's Station prioritize resource allocation for new programs, facilities, and services that will allow the Town to provide adequate recreational services to its residents.

Programs & Events

The Town currently offers one special event, an annual Christmas Tree lighting ceremony, which happens the 1st weekend of December and is a free event. There are no other programs that the Town currently provides.

According to the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Report, key programming activities offered nationwide by at least seven in 10 park and recreation agencies include themed special events, social recreational events, team sports, fitness enhancement classes, health and wellness education, individual sports, safety training, racquet sports, and aquatics. The top three programming types offered by agencies serving less than 20,000 residents include themed special events (offered 89% of agencies), social recreation events (88%), and team sports (86%). In order to provide comparable services to its residents, it is recommended that the Town focus its efforts on hiring more staff equipped to develop and manage the new recreation activity programs, athletic leagues, special events. Community input will be important throughout this process in order for the Town to offer programs and events that best suit their community.

Based on the demographic analysis of Thompson's Station, the age segment patterns show a large number of families with young children, with the three largest age segments being 0-12 (19%), 18-34 (18%), and 35-54 (29%). Due to the wide range of ages and abilities of residents in the community, Thompson's Station should focus on providing events for a wide range of ages and abilities.

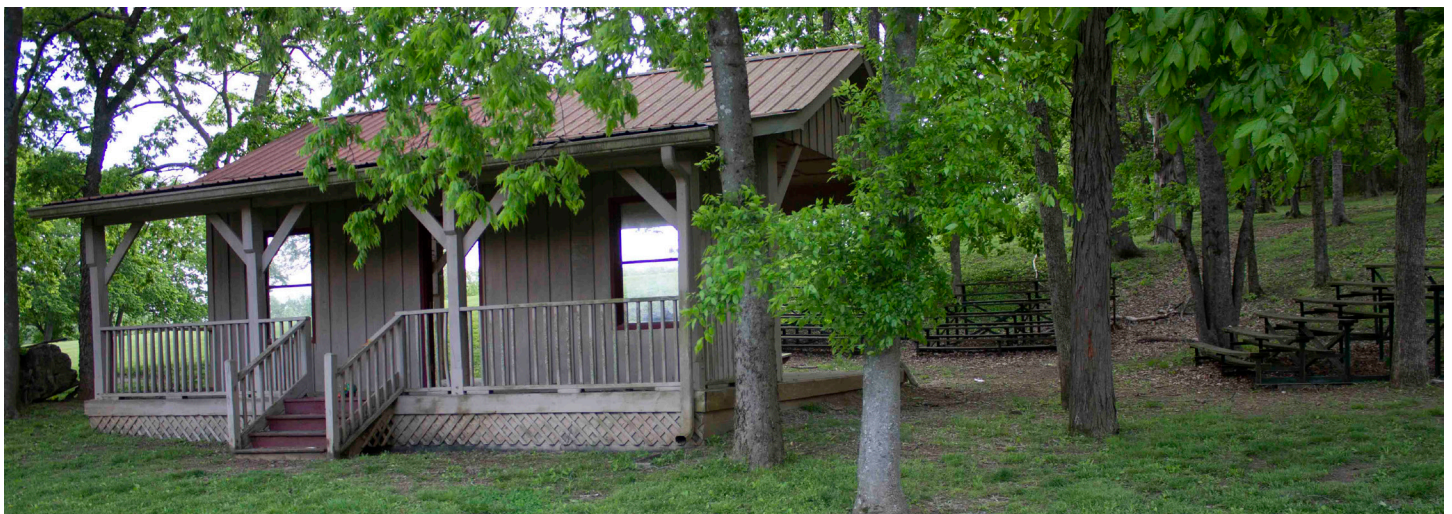
Community Feedback on Programs & Events

Thompson’s Station’s residents identified a strong desire for programs such as athletic leagues, special events, and arts programs in the public survey results. The Town currently lacks in recreational programming and special events; however, it has opportunities to build upon both its existing set of assets and resident’s strong desire for new recreational programs and events. When asked about what activities/programs/events Thompson’s Station residents would like the Town to add, the top results all revolved around more programming at the parks such as concerts, special events, farmers markets, and art fairs. When asked about what type of athletic programming residents would utilize, the top responses were swimming, biking, and pickleball. Additionally, disc golf, athletic leagues, pickleball, and partnership with County leagues were identified as opportunities during the SWOT analysis.

Athletic Leagues

According to the NRPA’s Youth Sports at Parks and Recreation Agencies document, there has been a sharp decline nationwide in the number of children playing team sports due to lack of access to youth sports. Thompson’s Station currently does not offer any athletic leagues, preventing their residents from accessing such leagues or causing residents to have to travel to the surrounding entities. However, there are numerous current leagues in Williamson County and Spring Hill that currently successfully serve Thompson’s Station residents. As Williamson County’s, Spring Hill’s, and Thompson’s Station’s populations continue to grow, the additional intake of residents from Thompson’s Station will start to put a strain on the surrounding entities resources. It was noted in stakeholder interviews that Bethesda and Spring Hill were already maxing out on capacity in their athletic leagues.

In order to prevent duplication of services, it is not recommended that Thompson’s Station create their own athletic leagues, however a desire to form a partnership with Williamson County to develop baseball, softball, and soccer leagues was identified in both the public survey results and stakeholder interviews. This would benefit Thompson’s Station’s residents in addition to help alleviate the strain on surrounding entities’ resources. It is advised that the Town conduct an annual review of athletic league offerings in the surrounding areas against the communities needs and determine if the Town should provide fields or courts to supplement the programming Williamson County does depending on current needs and future growth.





Economic Benefits of Adding Special Programming

According to the 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Report, registration fees for special programming are the largest source of non-tax revenue for most agencies. Agencies serving a population of less than 20,000 typically hold 30 fee-based programs per year. Partnerships and sponsorships from businesses in the community are additional resources the Town can utilize to help fund recreational and social events and leagues.



Summary

Currently, Thompson's Station does not have a designated Parks and Recreation Department, and all parks and recreational needs are handled by the Public Works Department. Thompson's Station will need to form an official Parks and Recreation Department whose role will include providing recreation programming and conduct townwide special events in order to meet the demand of the Town's growing population.

Once the staff is in place and the recreational programs and events are established, it is recommended that the Town compile an annual comprehensive inventory and analysis of the programs and events offered that includes community feedback. There are two data points to be tracked with each program – what is the target audience, and is the program either growing, mature, or declining? Additional staff and funding will be required to meet the outlined recommendations in this section.







SECTION 8

Maintenance and Operations Plan



OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS

The operational analysis for the provision of parks and recreation services in Thompson's Station is fairly limited given the nature of not having a formal parks and recreation department nor any dedicated staff. As a result, the predominant operational activities supporting parks and recreation in Thompson's Station is park maintenance. There is a small annual budget of \$18,997 (2023) that supports materials and supplies, additional contracted services, etc., but most of the Town's expense is based on existing public works employees and their allocation of time spent on park maintenance.

Annual Park Maintenance Hours

There are five public works employees that spend time throughout the year on park maintenance. These include:

1. Crew Leader
2. Maintenance 2 Crew Member (3)
3. Public Works Director

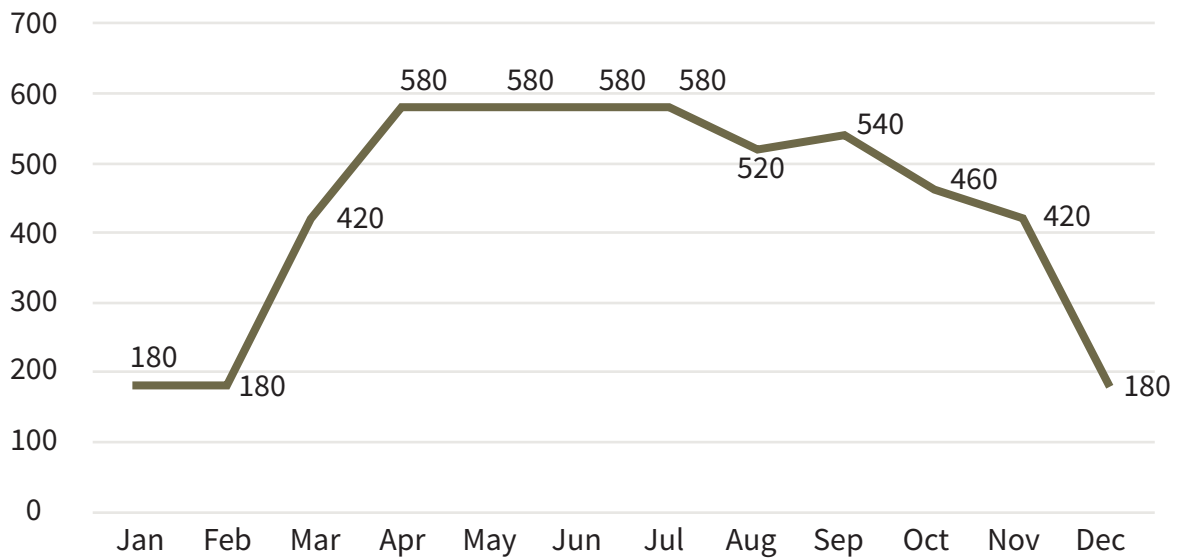
The table below details the estimated time spent each month by each of these employees on park maintenance, including their hourly wage rate. As seen in this table, there are a total of 5,220 labor hours currently allocated for park maintenance coming to a total cost of \$91,173.30 annually.

PERSONNEL / STAFF POSITION	ESTIMATED HOURS DEDICATED TO PARK OPERATIONS OR MAINTENANCE														TOTAL ANNUAL LABOR COSTS
	HOURLY RATE	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL	
CREW LEADER	\$18.28	40	40	100	140	140	140	140	125	130	110	100	40	1,245	\$22,758.60
MAINTENANCE 2	\$16.50	40	40	100	140	140	140	140	125	130	110	100	40	1,245	\$20,542.50
MAINTENANCE 2	\$16.50	40	40	100	140	140	140	140	125	130	110	100	40	1,245	\$20,542.50
MAINTENANCE 2	\$16.50	40	40	100	140	140	140	140	125	130	110	100	40	1,245	\$20,542.50
PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR	\$28.28	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	240	\$6,787.20
GRAND TOTAL ANNUAL LABOR HOURS														5,220	\$91,173.30

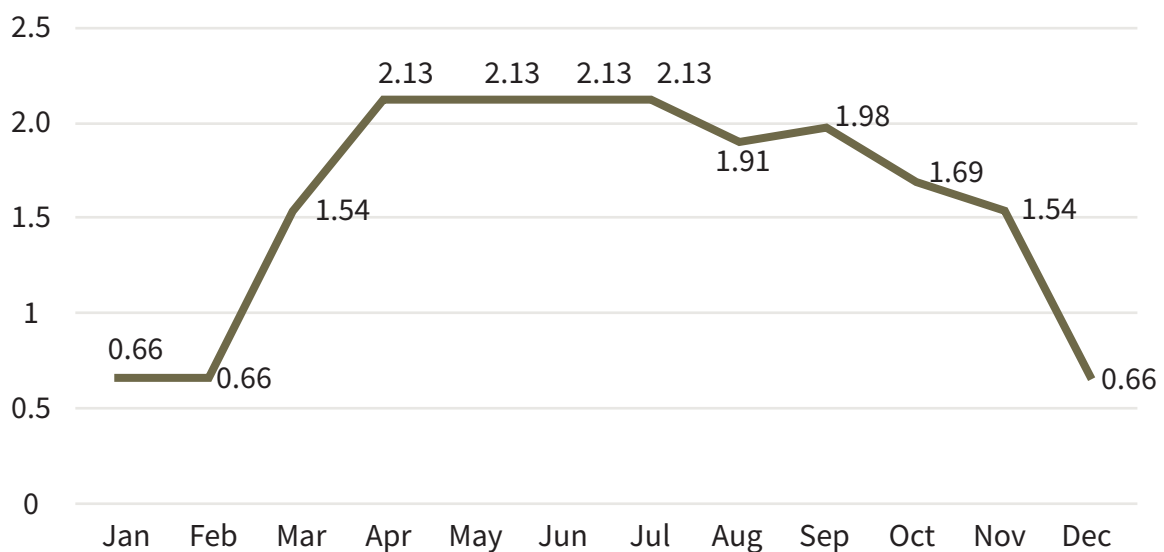


The graphs below and on the following page depict the total park maintenance labor hours by month and the park maintenance labor hours per acre by month. Note the peak months of April through July, the shoulder months of August through October, and the low months of January, February, and December.

TOTAL PARK MAINTENANCE HOURS BY MONTH



TOTAL PARK MAINTENANCE HOURS PER ACRE BY MONTH



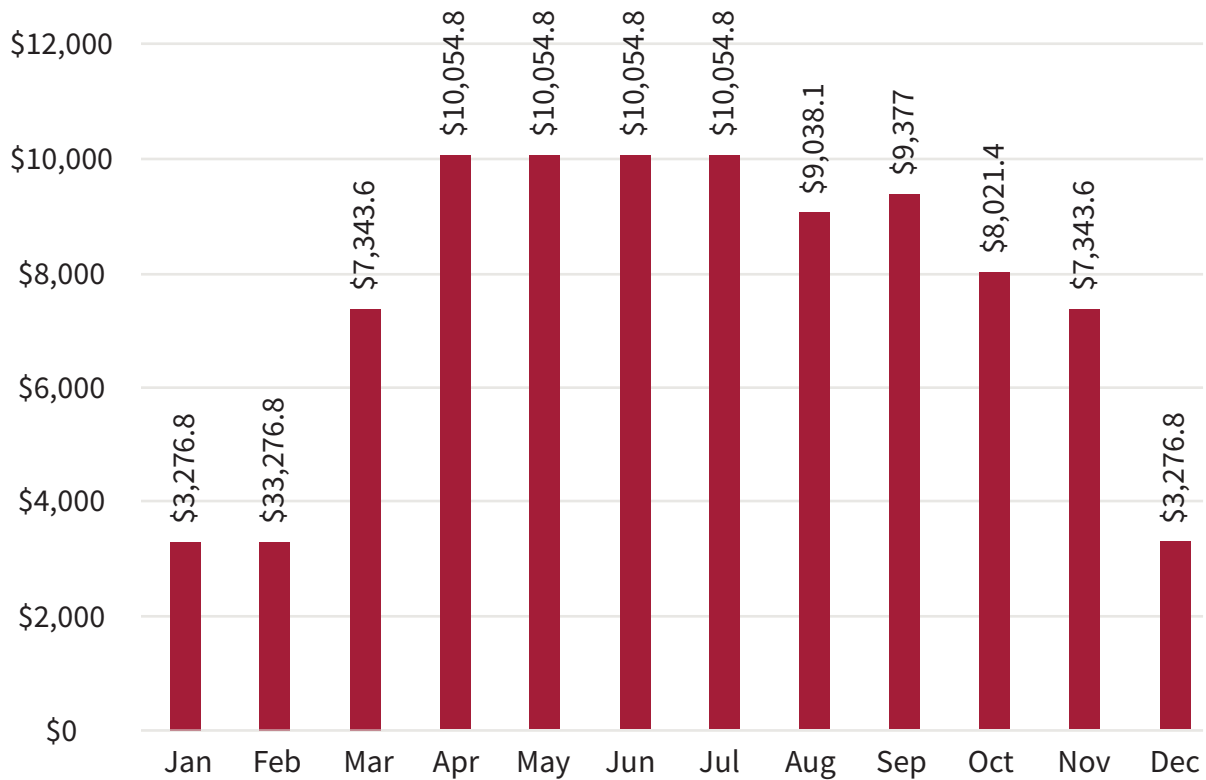
TOTAL ANNUAL PARK MAINTENANCE HOURS	5,220
TOTAL ANNUAL PARK MAINTENANCE HOURS PER ACRE	19.16



Annual Park Maintenance Costs

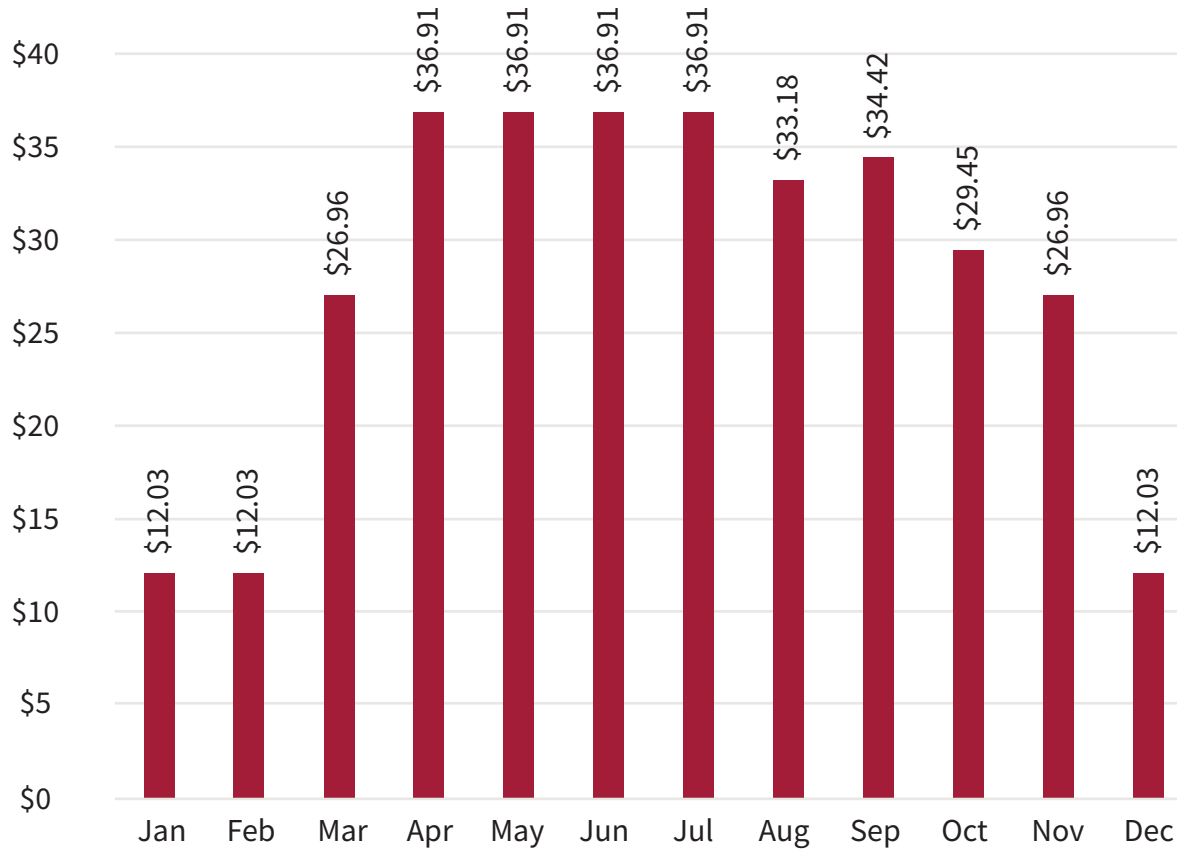
Utilizing the annual park maintenance hours and the wage rates of the employees allocating time to this service, monthly maintenance costs were calculated by month and per acre by month. In total, annual park maintenance costs are \$91,173.30. The graphs below and on the following page illustrate these metrics as allocated by month and as calculated per acre by month.

TOTAL PARK MAINTENANCE COSTS BY MONTH





PARK MAINTENANCE COST PER ACRE BY MONTH



TOTAL ANNUAL PARK MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$91,173.3
TOTAL ANNUAL PARK MAINTENANCE COSTS PER ACRE	\$334.7





Operations Analysis Recommendations

Based on the findings of this analysis and the known future that parks and recreation demands in Thompson's Station are likely to grow as the community grows, it is recommended to consider how future resources can be dedicated to parks and recreation based on the size of the park system. The total annual operational costs including material and supply budgets, etc., is \$110,170, which equates to \$404.44 per acre. This is all detailed in the table below.

TOTAL ANNUAL PARK MATERIALS COSTS	\$18,997
TOTAL ANNUAL PARK MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$91,173.3
GRAND TOTAL ANNUAL OPERATIONS COSTS	\$110,170.3
TOTAL ANNUAL PARK OPERATIONS COSTS PER ACRE	\$404.4

Initially, it is recommended that the first investment in a dedicated parks and recreation staff member be focused on programming and special events. This will help to further activate public spaces and recreational amenities as they are developed. When the Town is ready for this increased investment, it is recommended to be scaled at approximately \$75,000 annually. This should include the labor costs of this initial employee, as well as additional material budget support. Based on the current size of the parks system, that would equate to an increased total park operations cost of \$275.33 per acre, bringing the total operational cost per acre to approximately \$680. For example, for every additional 50 acres, it would result in an additional \$34,000 in recommended operational resources. It will be important for the Town to factor in inflation when utilizing this formula as these prices are a reflection of FY 2024. The table below details these statistics and recommendations.

	TOTAL ANNUAL PARK OPERATIONS COSTS PER ACRE	TOTAL ANNUAL PARK OPERATIONS COSTS
STATUS QUO / 2023	\$404.44	\$110,170.30
FUTURE RECOMMENDATION	\$680	\$185,232

This increased investment would increase the Town's annual expenditure on parks and recreation per capita from \$13.00 per resident to \$21.86 per resident at current population levels. It is important to note that it would only be expected the Town would consider this investment as the community grows so the cost per resident of annual operating expenses of \$185,232 would actually be less than this.

The Consultant Team recommends using a formula such as this (cost per acre) because it provides Town leadership and staff a tool to calculate best practice or desired operational budgets based on the size of the park system. As the park system grows in the future either in size or in complexity, using a formula like this can help to quantify and justify why and to what degree the annual operational budget should be adjusted in order to retain the ability to provide high quality parks and recreation amenities and services.







SECTION 9

Financial Revenue and Strategies



Park systems often rely on the same typical funding sources for their projects, programs, and capital improvements, as well as the ongoing financial support that their agency requires. Funding sources can change, however, regarding how they provide funding and what organizations they will support. Therefore, it is critical to continually evaluate new funding and revenue strategies that will support the system's operational and capital needs and opportunities. Currently, the Town generates revenue to fund parks and recreation operations through pavilion rental fees and property taxes. Additionally, the Town dedicates a portion of annual CIP funds to parks and recreation and applies for state grant funding.

Understanding the type of sources and opportunities available can be valuable to the sustainability of a park and recreation system. It is important to expand the range of sources where funding is obtained and develop a strategy to locate new sources. Developing new funding strategies, understanding new potential funding sources, and successfully obtaining new funding can be lengthy and time consuming, yet it can provide capital and operational dollars when normal funding channels change.

Successful Parks and Recreation Funding Options

The following three categories are examples of sources considered to be viable methods used in the parks and recreation industry today:

Dedicated Funding: These funds (often in the form of various tax options) are appropriated or set aside for a limited purpose.

Earned Income: Revenue generated by membership fees, facility rentals, program fees and other sources where the agency is paid for services or what they provide.

Financial Support: These monies are acquired by applying for grants, through foundation fundraising, corporations, organizations, as well as state and federal sources.



Dedicated Funding Sources

Taxable Bonds through Voter Approved Referenda are used primarily to support the development of large community-based projects like a community center, field house, signature park, trails system.

Transient Occupancy Tax from Hotels are used to help pay for recreation facilities that have a high level of tourism involved such as sport tournaments for youth and adults held in the Town and are used to help build and pay for the development and management of those facilities.

Land Value Captive Taxes such as a Tax Increment Finance Funds are used to help support community centers and field houses whereby businesses benefit from higher property values based on their location to these amenities and the difference between the existing property values and the new property value is used to fund the development until the development is paid off.

Local Improvement Districts or Business Improvement Districts are typically established in communities that are in a downtown business district. The BID district requires 60% of the owners to support the BID before it can be put into place and the money is used for improving the aesthetics such as streetscapes, flowers, sidewalk cleaning, signage, sidewalk furniture, hosting concerts and special events that attract people to spend time and money in the downtown area.

Developer Impact Fees are used to support neighborhood park development in the property near or in their development as a way of enticing new homeowners to move into the development. The developer pays the impact fee at the time of the permit like impact fees for roads, sewers, and general utilities based on the value of the homes that are being built.

Real-Estate Transfer Fees are established at usually 1% of the sale price of a home and is paid by the buyer to support ongoing park infrastructure in the area where the house is located.

Earned Income

Land Leases allow park system to lease prime property to developers for restaurants along trails or in parks, retail operations that benefit users in the park to support the ongoing operation of the park over a period of time.

Health Care/Hospital Partnerships are becoming a major partner for park and recreation agencies to help support the development of community centers that have health related amenities in them like fitness centers, therapy pools and walking tracks. Some health care providers put in rehab centers inside of the community center and pay the development cost associated with the ongoing building costs.

Fees for Services are typically used to support the operational cost and capital cost for parks and recreation programs and amenities which is occurring in Thompson's Station now.

Room Override Rates from hotels used for major tournaments. These revenues go back to the Town to help pay for the management and cost of hosting the tournament.

Establishment of a Park Foundation is an appropriate revenue source for the Department to consider especially in a college town. The Park Foundation typically raised money for park related improvements, programs for disadvantaged users and they support the development of new facilities that are needed in the Town.



Local Not-for-Profit Foundations Gifts usually help pay for specific music at special events or for helping to provide a running event in the Town or a sports tournament.

Capital Fee on top of an Access Fee to pay for a revenue producing facility need. This type of fee is usually associated with an amenity like a golf course where the users help to improve an irrigation system or improve cart paths because they benefit most from the capital fee. The fee is removed once the improvement is paid off.

Corporate Sponsorships help to pay for the operations of signature facilities like sports complexes, indoor community centers, ice rinks and they pay for an impression point usually in the \$0.35 to \$0.50 per impression point on an annual basis.

Naming Rights are used to help to capitalize a community center or special use facility and typically are good for 10 to 20 years before it is removed.

Public/ Not-for-Profit/ Private Partnerships are used to help offset operational costs or capital costs for community-based facilities like trails, nature centers, sport complexes, community centers, ice rinks, signature parks, special event sites that bring in and support a high level of users.

Licensing Fees for a signature park or event that others want to use to make money from can be applied to elements of a park from a user or business as it applies to products sold on site, music, advertising, and ongoing events to be held on site.

Outsource Operations to the private sector to save money where the cost is less costly to provide the same level of service. This can be in any form of service the system provides now from contracting with instructors, managing forestry operations, managing landscapes in the Town, care of park related equipment are a few examples.

Volunteerism is an indirect funding source used by many departments to support the operations of parks and recreation services. The time the volunteer gives can be used for in kind support matches on state and federal grants in lieu of money. Best practices agencies try to get 15% of the work force hours from volunteers.

Maintenance Endowments are established as new facilities are developed like all-weather turf to support replacement costs when the asset life is used up and need replaced.

User Fees are currently used to offset operational cost based on the private good that the service is providing to the user.

Entrance Fees (pools, community centers, parks)

- Daily Fees
- Non-Resident Fees
- Group Fees
- Prime Time and Non-Prime Time fees
- Group and Volume Fees
- Permit Fees
- Reservation Fees
- Catering Fees
- Food Truck Fees
- Ticket Sales
- Photography Fees
- Price by loyalty, length of stay and level of exclusivity

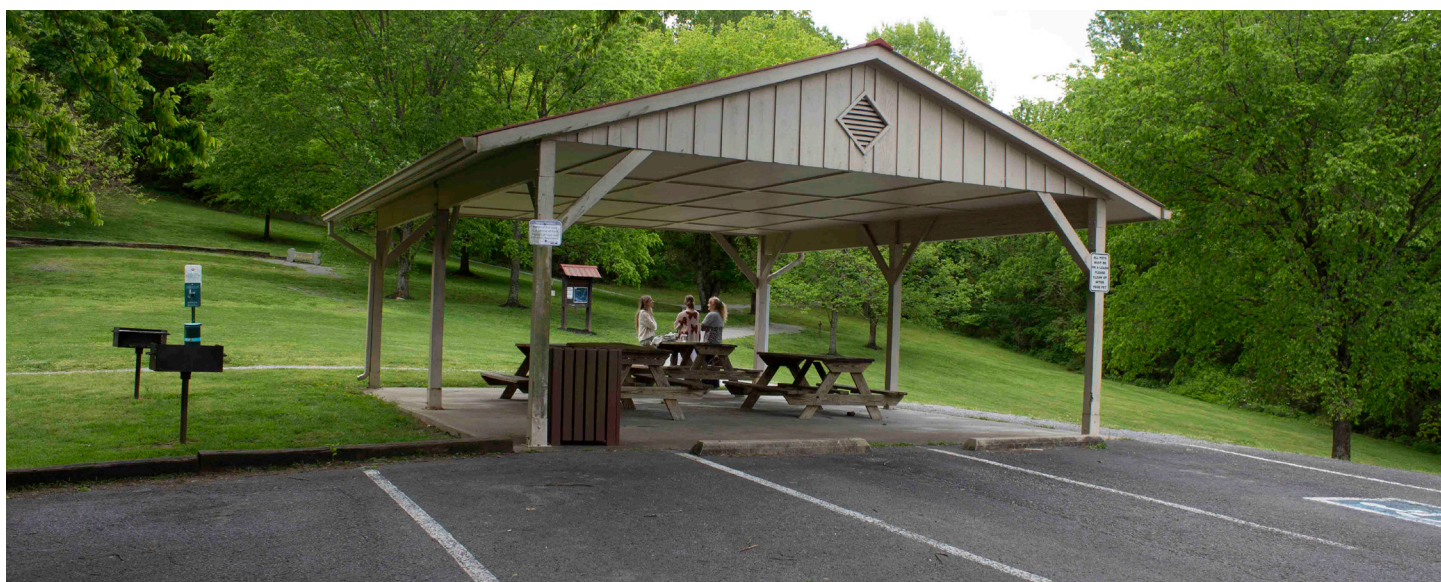
Financial Support

Land and Water Conservation Fund is the primary funding source for federal grants and requires a match from the local jurisdiction of 50%.

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) provides greenways and trails grants for park systems across the system.

Recreation Trails Funding Program for development of urban linkages, trail head and trailside facilities.

Private Donations can be sought to help develop community-based facilities like community centers, sports complexes, outdoor theatres, and nature education facilities.



Recommended Funding Options to Explore

Based on discussions with Thompson’s Station leadership in the master planning process, there are specific alternative funding recommendations that are more preferred for consideration over the next 10 years. These include, but are not limited to:

The expanded use of **Corporate Sponsorships** to support more facilities and programs beyond just special and community events as it is utilized currently. The value of these sponsorships can be developed based on annual “impressions” that are rooted in overall visitation and participation levels. That recommended value should be calculated on \$0.35 to \$0.50 per impression point on an annual basis. This could also be considered a form of **Advertising Sales** as well.

The development of a potential **Conservancy** as a private, not-for-profit partner is possible particularly in the management and maintenance of Preservation Park. This partner could not only assist to maintain the park, but also serve as a private sector fundraising partner with the Town for that dedicated purpose of ensuring the legacy and long-term integrity of the park. This could also evolve to a model of developing **Friends Groups** for either individual parks or the system as a whole. A great local example of this is the **Friends of Franklin Parks** and their success through the “Raise the Roofs” event for private sector fundraising to support local parks.



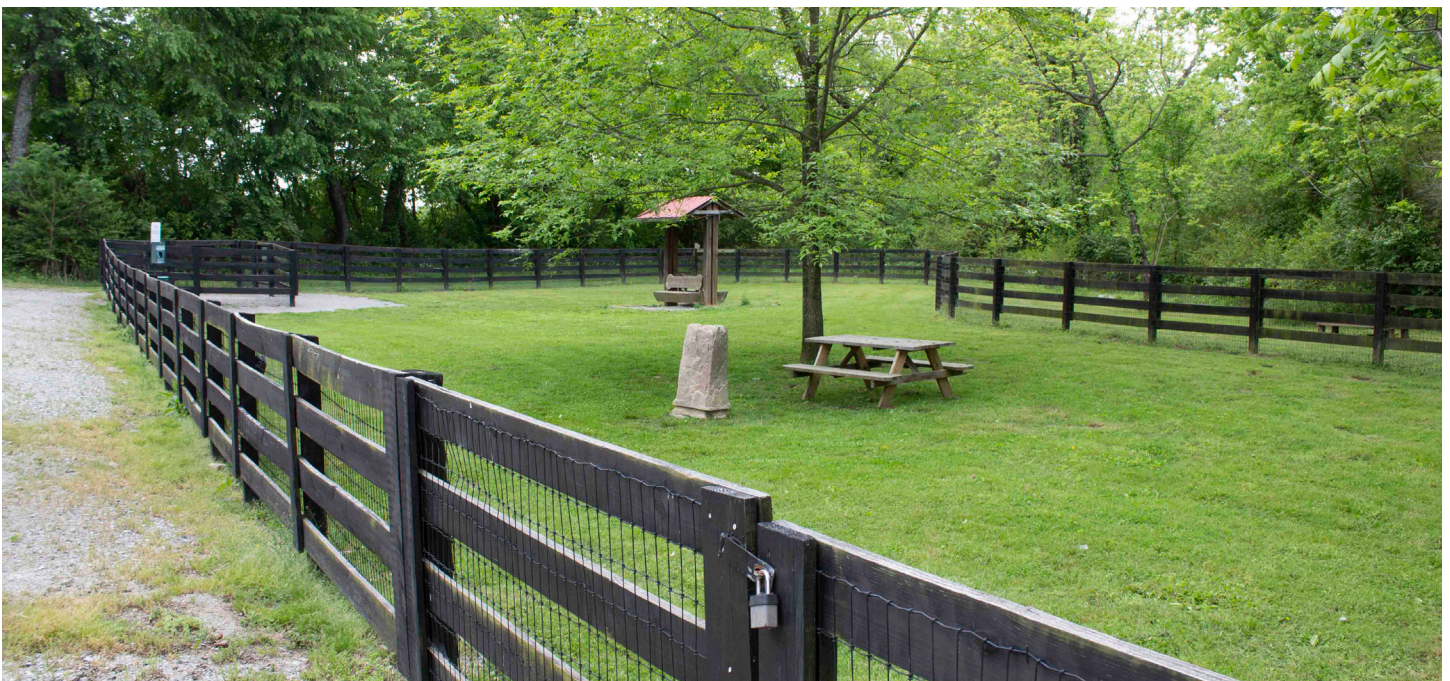
Engagement with the existing **Thompson's Station Community Association** can potentially lead to significant revenues generated from private sector philanthropy, as well as establish a reliable partner in the pursuit of institutional and governmental grants. A strong park-focused foundation and designated fund can raise money for park related improvements, programs for disadvantaged users and support the development of new facilities that are needed in the Town.

Expanded utilization of **Partnerships** that are joint development funding sources or operational funding sources between two separate agencies, such as two government entities, a non-profit and the Town, or a private business and the Town. Two partners jointly develop revenue producing park and recreation facilities and share risk, operational costs, responsibilities, and asset management, based on the strengths and weaknesses of each partner.

The utilization of a **Sales Tax** that is dedicated to funding parks and trails in Thompson's Station is highly recommended and preferred as this funding can be a significant contributor for most of the major park developments over the next 10 years.

Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) can be used with an established "TIF District" in which incremental increases in property taxes over a 20-25 year period is utilized to pay or reimburse initial development costs. Establishing a TIF district in areas that are anticipated to experience significant economic development and growth over the next 20 years can fund initial park/trail/greenway development that initially serves as a catalyst for that development. This could be particularly effective around any future development of major facilities or complexes.

A **Greenway Utility** is often used to finance acquisition of greenways and development of the greenways by selling the development rights underground for the fiber optic types of businesses. This creates more options to develop the infrastructure within a trail easement, but must include terms for notification, minimal impact to users, and replacing/repairing damage caused by utility company.



A **Public Improvement District (PID)** or **Special Improvement District** can support new developments when authorized by the Town Council and legally set up according to state law. This taxing district provides funds especially for the operation and maintenance of public amenities such as parks and major boulevards.

The current **Transient Tax** collected to support tourism and economic development could have a portion dedicated to parks and recreation needs. Thompson's Station Parks and Recreation facilities can be major drivers of regional and statewide tourism in the area through events, tournaments, and special programs. Dedicated hotel/motel tax funds could strongly support the needs of the system in continuing to do this well. The example of how this is done in Franklin, TN, could be a good model for Thompson's Station.

Catering Permits and Fees are licenses to allow caterers to work in the park system on a permit basis with a set fee or a percentage of food sales returning to the Town. Also, many cities have their own catering service and receive a percentage of dollars off the sale of their food. This could be something considered in the future with food trucks servicing special and community events. This also includes the use of **Private Concessionaires** for operating select facilities/amenities within certain parks or facilities.

Land Leases could be utilized where appropriate and include options where developers / agencies lease space from Town-owned land through a subordinate lease that pays out a set dollar amount plus a percentage of gross dollars for recreation enhancements. These could include a golf course, marina, restaurants, driving ranges, sports complexes, equestrian facilities, recreation centers and ice arenas. Similarly, **Leasebacks** are instances whereby a private individual or company builds a community center or sports complex and the revenue earned comes back to pay the development costs. These could be considered where appropriate as well.

BUILD Grants (Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development) of the U.S. Department of Transportation, formerly known as TIGER grants, can be sizeable federal funds that can be utilized for large development projects that involve transportation infrastructure. This intersects well with parks and recreation on the potential development of trails/greenways and blueways, or water trails.

Revenue Bonds are a category of municipal bond supported by the revenue from a specific project, such as a toll bridge, highway, or local stadium. Revenue bonds that finance income-producing projects are thus secured by a specified revenue source. Typically, revenue bonds can be issued by any government agency or fund that is managed in the manner of a business, such as entities having both operating revenues and expenses.

The **Interlocal Agreements** between the Town and the local school district, as well as Williamson County, should be evaluated to ensure they are updated, reflect current conditions and needs within the community, and support the partners equitably in the agreement.





SECTION 10

Connectivity Improvements



THOMPSON'S STATION CONNECTIVITY PLAN

Inventory & Analysis

Thompson's Station has a long-term vision for creating a walkable community by providing safe, accessible transportation and recreation opportunities through a connected network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A connected multimodal network provides a variety of benefits that collectively contribute to the Town's economic, environmental, and social health.

The design team and Town conducted an inventory and analysis study on the existing sidewalk and greenway system, utilizing existing master plans, community feedback, and stakeholder interviews to develop a plan for future development with the intention of building upon previous plans and recommendations to improve multimodal transportation in Thompson's Station. The proposed plan inventoried the existing facility locations, residential subdivisions, and schools, then compared those locations to existing greenway and sidewalk connections in addition to population density to help identify critical missing links. It was observed that almost all errands in Thompson's Station require a car due to a lack of existing pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure.

Based on survey responses, there is a desire from the community to create a connected network of shared use paths and bikeways to provide alternative travel to desired destinations in Thompson's Station. When survey participants were asked to cite ways that the Town could increase the number of times they visit the parks and recreational facilities, almost 60 percent said by providing alternative ways, such as greenways or sidewalks, to get to the parks. About three-fourths of respondents said their household utilizes paved greenways and over 80 percent said their household uses nature trails in Thompson's Station.

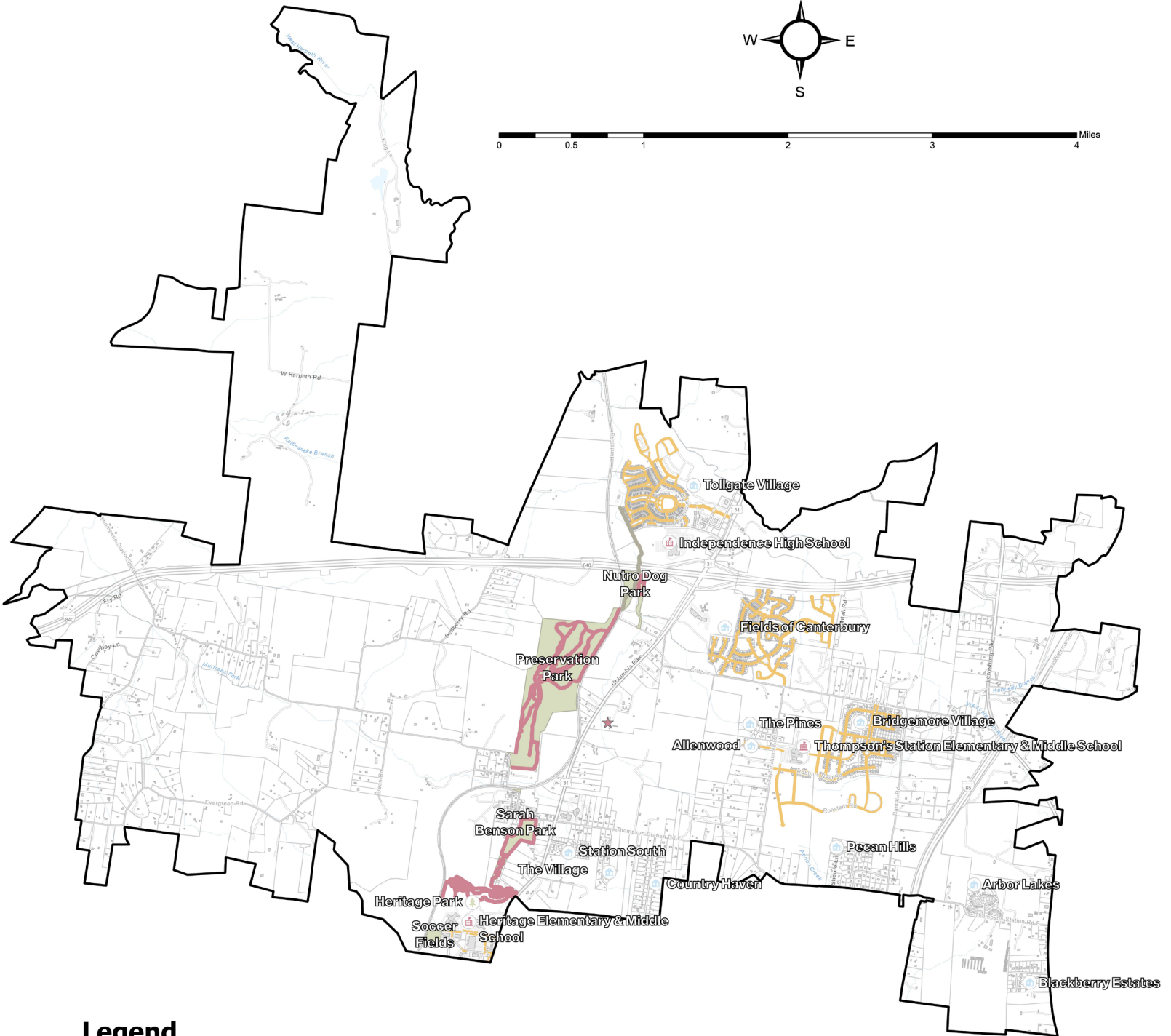
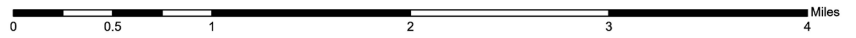
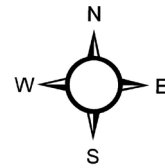
Thompson's Station has utilized grants of various sizes to begin implementing the greenway master plan for four phases of a comprehensive greenway system. Refer to Section One Existing Town Plans for a thorough look at the four phases of the greenway system.

The majority of Thompson's Stations parks and recreation facilities are aligned north to south parallel with Columbia Pike. The parks' locations have resulted in a lack of connectivity for residential neighborhoods located on the eastern and western sides of Thompson's Station, due to both the presence of Columbia Pike, a lack of east-west connectivity, and distance.

A majority of Thompson's Station's population, in the form of single family neighborhoods with lot sizes less than an acre, is located north of Interstate 840 or west of Columbia Pike, none of which have direct access to the Town's parks. In contrast, most of the greenway infrastructure does not extend beyond the central area west of Columbia Pike. The single family neighborhoods have sidewalk infrastructure, but it does not extend beyond the subdivision streets. The four outermost corners of Thompson's Station are completely inaccessible to the Town Center by pedestrians. The map on the following page provides proposed greenway and sidewalk connections throughout Thompson's Station.



Existing Conditions Map

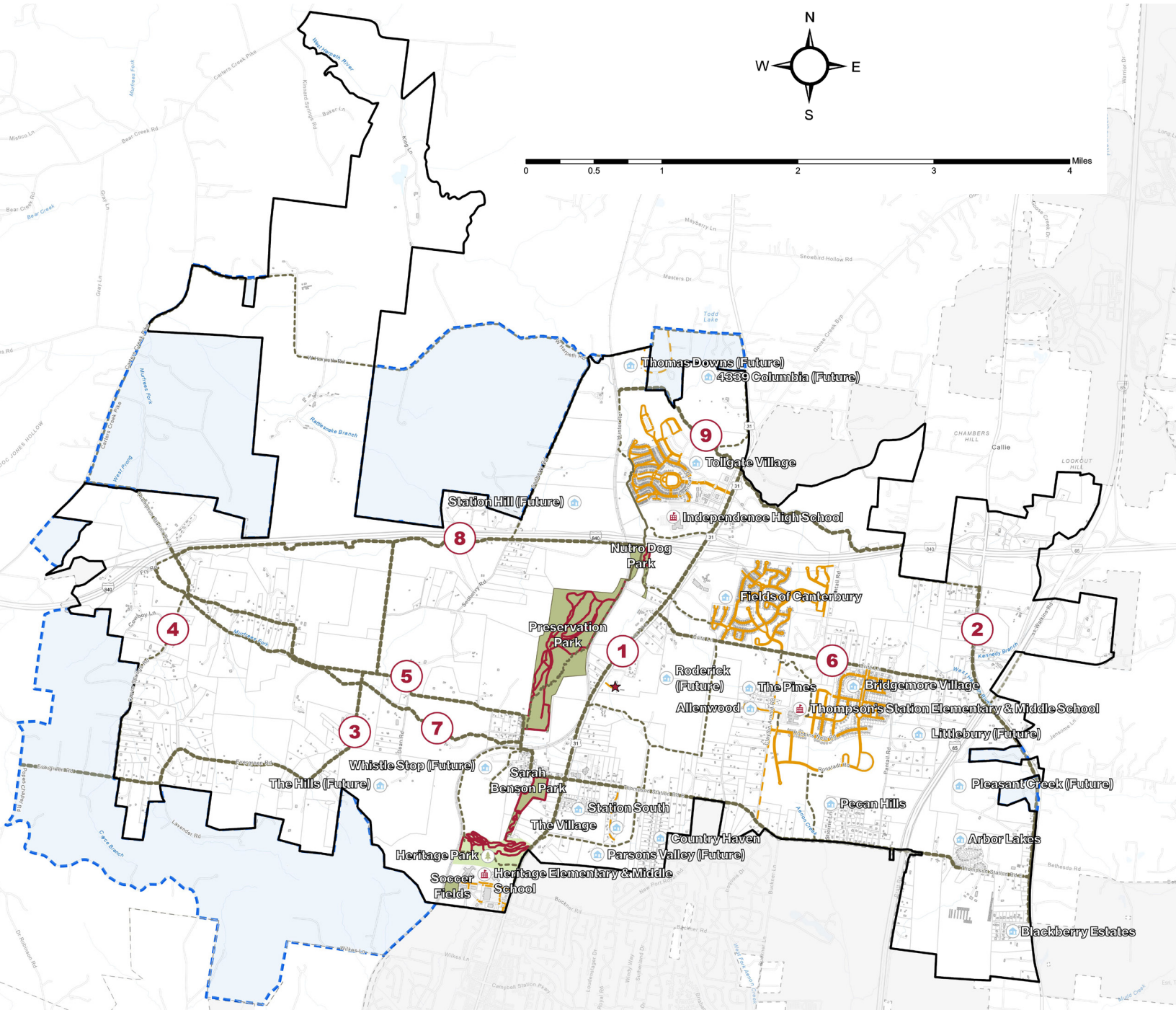


Legend

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Town Hall | Schools | TS Parks |
| Williamson County Parks | Existing Greenway | Town Boundary |
| Residential Developments | Existing Sidewalks | |
| | Existing Trails | |



Proposed Connectivity Map



Legend

- Town Hall
- Williamson County Parks
- Residential Developments
- Schools
- Proposed Greenways
- Town Urban Growth Boundary
- Existing Greenway
- Existing Sidewalks
- Proposed Sidewalks
- Existing Trails
- Thompson's Station Parks
- Town Boundary
- Railroad
- Wetlands
- Parcels
- Buildings
- Proposed Greenway Connections

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Key Connection Nodes and Loops

- Town Hall
- Parks
- Schools
- Existing and Future Residential Developments

North to South Connectors

1 Columbia Pike Corridor

Centrally located, this proposed connection utilizes the Columbia Pike corridor to fully connect the north and south sides of Town to the central pedestrian nodes. This connection was identified as a high priority connection in the All Aboard Comprehensive Plan and will utilize multiple pedestrian infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes, and improved bike facilities.

2 Lewisburg Pike Corridor

Running along the eastern side of Town, this proposed connection utilizes the Lewisburg Pike corridor to serve as a connection between the northeastern and southeastern corners of Town. Additionally, the utilization of the Lewisburg Pike provides potential connections to amenities and greenway systems of adjacent municipalities such as Franklin, Bethesda, and Spring Hill. This connection was identified as a high priority connection in the All Aboard Comprehensive Plan and will utilize multiple pedestrian infrastructure improvements such as sidewalks, multi-use paths, bike lanes, and improved bike facilities.

Evergreen Road to Sedberry Road Connector

- ### **3**
- This proposed connection is located on the western side of Town and is intended to create a full loop when connected to the 840, Thompson’s Station Road, and Murfrees Fork River Corridor proposed connections.

Cayce Springs Road

- ### **4**
- This proposed connection is located on the western side of Town, running north to south along Cayce Springs Road and provides connection points to the proposed Thompson’s Station Road, Murfrees Fork River Corridor, and an additional proposed greenway connection point starting at Cayce Branch River.



East to West Connectors

5 Thompson's Station Road

This proposed connection consists of sidewalks, bikeways, and greenways based on topographical, utility, and right-of-way constraints. This connection would connect residents living on the east and west side of Thompson's Station to the Town Center and the proposed Columbia Pike corridor.

6 Critz Lane

This proposed connection utilizes Critz Lane's central location to connect the third phase of the greenway system to Bridgemore Village residential neighborhood, Thompson's Station Middle School (through the Clayton Arnold Connector), and Lewisburg Pike corridor.

7 Murfrees Fork River Corridor

This proposed connection consists of a greenway running along the Murfrees Fork River Corridor within the river's floodplain. The Murfrees Fork River Corridor will connect residents on the west side of Town to central park amenities and the proposed Columbia Pike Corridor.

8 Highway 840 Right-of-Way

This proposed connection would consist of a greenway utilizing Highway 840's right-of-way that will connect residents on the west side of Town to central park amenities, downtown, Independence High School, and other residential neighborhoods.

9 West Harpeth River Corridor

This proposed connection consists of a greenway running along the West Harpeth River Corridor within the river's floodplain. The West Harpeth River Corridor will connect residents in between the Columbia Pike Corridor and Lewisburg Pike Corridor.

Based on the input at the public meeting on March 4, 2024, the greenway connectors listed above are ranked in high or low priority in the table below.

TRAIL #	CONNECTOR NAME	PRIORITY
1	COLUMBIA PIKE CORRIDOR	HIGH
2	LEWISBURG PIKE CORRIDOR	LOW
3	EVERGREEN ROAD TO SEDBERRY ROAD CONNECTOR	LOW
4	CAYCE SPRINGS ROAD	LOW
5	THOMPSON'S STATION ROAD	HIGH
6	CRITZ LANE	HIGH
7	MURFREES FORK RIVER CORRIDOR	LOW
8	HIGHWAY 840 RIGHT-OF-WAY	LOW
9	WEST HARPETH RIVER CORRIDOR	LOW

PEDESTRIAN IMPROVEMENT SUGGESTED GUIDELINES

Sidewalks

Sidewalks should be a minimum of five feet wide with a maximum cross-slope of no more than two percent. A buffer zone of two to four feet in local or collector streets, five to six feet in arterial or major streets, and up to eight feet in streets with heavy traffic is the preferred standard. If a sidewalk with buffer is not feasible due to topography or other site constraints, then a sidewalk along the back of curb with barrier protection is better than no facility.

Greenways

Greenways are traditionally paved or gravel multi-use paths along a strip of undeveloped land, in an urban area, preserved for recreational use. Greenway paths should be a minimum of 10 feet wide with a maximum cross-slope of no more than two percent. The maximum grade of a multi-use path shall be five percent.

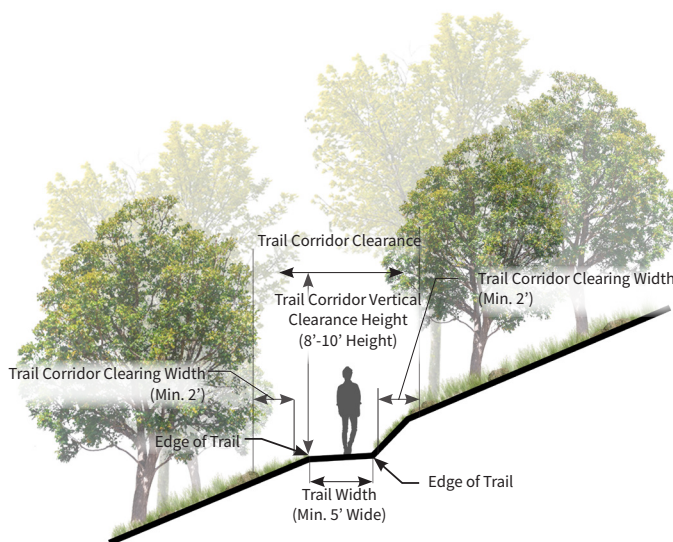
Nature Trails

Nature trails are traditionally unpaved paths through a forest, field, or mountain range used for hiking and seeing plants and animals. The nature trails in Thompson’s Station can predominantly be found at Sarah Benson and Preservation Park. Nature Trails are typically a natural surface like dirt or mulch and should be a minimum of five feet wide with a cleared area of at least two feet outside of that free from branches or other safety hazards. See graphic below for trail maintenance standards.

Signage, Wayfinding, and Park Elements Standards

Thompson’s Station’s unique aspects within the parks and surrounding area contributes to a sense of place. While Thompson’s Station population continues to grow, the Town should consider implementing a cohesive park signage and wayfinding system to strengthen the sense of place by encourage learning experiences and helping park and greenway users navigate the park system.

The Town should develop a comprehensive signage and wayfinding standard for the park system. The signage and wayfinding standards can include park maps, information or bulletin boards, educational signage, and directional signage with a standard logo, font, and color palette so that users know they are in a Town of Thompson’s Station park or greenway.







SECTION 11

Implementation Plan



Approach

This comprehensive parks and recreation master plan will serve as a working document for Thompson's Station to use while developing the Town's first Parks and Recreation Department. The goal of this comprehensive parks and recreation master plan is to examine Thompson's Station's existing assets' ability to meet the needs of the community and outline steps for closing the gap between the current level of service and where the Town should be compared to national and local standards as well as providing for the growing population. The implementation plan lays out strategies to improve the Town of Thompson's Station Parks and Recreation System by organizing recommendations based on priority, scope, and potential budget impacts. These recommendations will serve as a guide to help the department approach the implementation plan methodically and create realistic goals while also preserving Thompson's Station's identity and character.

Implementation of this plan will require more than recommendations and funding strategies; it will also require buy-in from the community and decision makers. The public survey feedback and stakeholder interviews highlighted a strong desire for more investment and expansion of Thompson's Station's existing parks and recreation facilities. This can be achieved through investing in a few short-term projects or "quick wins" with a 6- to 12-month implementation to build momentum for continued investment. Key stakeholders and the general public should be engaged at every step in the planning of these new facilities to ensure the facilities reflect the needs of the public and to increase future buy-in and ownership from the greater community. Additionally, the adoption and implementation of this plan makes the Town eligible for grant funding for parks and recreation related grants from the state.

The recommendations in this section are intended to address existing shortfalls within the Town's Parks and Recreation System based on current population levels. The overarching goal is to form a solid foundation for the Town by addressing the current deficiencies within the system, then moving onto growing staff, programming, and amenities.



EXISTING PARKS

Thompson’s Station’s current parks provide many passive and social recreation opportunities for the community. As with any capital, these parks require upgrades and expansion efforts to ensure that users continue to enjoy the facilities provided. After analyzing the existing parks and facilities, the following improvements and updates are overarching goals.

Priority Recommendations

- Develop a comprehensive signage and wayfinding standard for the park system
- Implement park activation strategies that bring people to parks such as concerts
- Develop a trail maintenance plan and standards
- Develop a master plan for Sarah Benson Park
- Implement greenway phases
- Close the existing soccer fields and determine a location best suited for new fields
- Add desired athletics amenities to fill a large gap in the system
- Create trail and greenway connections to surrounding municipalities park and recreation amenities
- Re-establish a partnership with Mars Petcare Company for future dog related park improvements
- Endeavor to utilize native plantings and remove invasive plant species throughout the parks





IMPLEMENTATION MATRIX FOR EXISTING FACILITIES

Facility	Priority	Scope	Potential Budget Impact	Potential Funding Source
Existing Facilities				
The Caboose and Depot	High	Add covered picnic area	\$25,000.00	LPRF Grant, Sponsorships, Partnerships
		Add safety signage	\$1,000.00	
		Improve interior platform	-	
	Low	Implement Town Center Streetscape Plan for this area	-	
Evaluate if Depot should become part of the Caboose Park and provide a community facility		-		
Nutro Dog Park	High	Repair pedestrian bridge railing and boards	\$10,000.00	LPRF Grant, RTP Grant, Sponsorships, Partnerships
		Paint fence surrounding the dog parks	\$2,000.00	
		Replace shade sails	\$15,000.00	
		Reseed the grass	\$5,000.00	
		Move the small dog park entrance closer to the main entrance	\$2,000.00	
		Add dog watering station	\$8,000.00	
	Low	Create a walking loop around the dog park	\$70,000.00	
		Refurbish the arch sign	\$1,500.00	
		Add more parking	\$50,000.00	
		Remove arch sign on Highway 31 side	-	
Fix drainage issues	\$30,000.00			
Preservation Park	High	Add more wayfinding signage with unified parks and greenways theme	\$10,000.00	LPRF Grant, Department of Health Grant, Sponsorships, Partnerships
		Upgrade parking lot area in conjunction with Greenway Phase 2 construction	\$25,000.00	
		Add water fountains	\$10,000.00	
		Add additional benches	\$6,000.00	
		Add additional picnic tables	\$10,000.00	
		Create trail maintenance plan	-	
	Low	Remove fence line and scrub trees for better sight-lines and scenic view opportunities	\$8,000.00	
		Create pedestrian access to existing pond	\$25,000.00	
		Add fishing piers to existing pond	\$75,000.00	
		Build an education/nature center	\$2,000,000.00	
Build an observation area	\$20,000.00			

Facility	Priority	Scope	Potential Budget Impact	Potential Funding Source
Existing Facilities				
Sarah Benson Park	High	Create master plan for Sarah Benson Park	-	LPRF Grant, Department of Health Grant, Project Diabetes Grant, Sponsorships, Partnerships
		Add trail signage to gravel trails	\$10,000.00	
		Remove horseshoe pit and ladder golf equipment	\$2,000.00	
		Replace exercise equipment throughout the park	\$50,000.00	
		Remove backstop at multi-purpose field	\$2,000.00	
		Move Mars dog bone benches to the dog park	\$2,000.00	
		Add safety surfacing to playground and fitness equipment	\$200,000.00	
		Repave parking lot and road	\$200,000.00	
		Expand and move parking to the same side of the road for playground safety	\$100,000.00	
		Replace playground equipment	\$300,000.00	
		Expand sand play area at playground	\$8,000.00	
		Add benches near playground	\$9,000.00	
		Fence in playground equipment	\$20,000.00	
		Create trail maintenance plan	-	
		Add water fountains	\$10,000.00	
	Add additional seating around the park	\$8,000.00		
	Add additional shaded seating options	\$8,000.00		
	Low	Add pavilion at pond or fill in pond for other uses	\$20,000.00	
		Add second entrance at gravel/gate and additional parking	\$25,000.00	
		Add amenities for older kids such as a basketball court	\$60,000.00	
Remove bleachers and add amphitheater near stage		\$300,000.00		
Preserve the open greenspace at the front of the park for multi-purpose use such as rugby and frisbee		-		
Partner with Williamson County Parks to coordinate trail connections from Sarah Benson Park to Heritage Park		-		



Facility	Priority	Scope	Potential Budget Impact	Potential Funding Source
Existing Facilities				
Soccer Fields	High	Close soccer fields	-	LPRF Grant, Department of Health Grant, Sponsorships, Partnerships
	Low	Fund and construct a new park specifically designed for soccer and other outdoor activities	\$500,000.00	
Thompson's Station Greenway	High	Implement phases two and three of the greenway system	-	LPRF Grant, TAP Grant, RTP Grant, Sponsorships, Partnerships
		Add more benches and seating options	\$8,000.00	
		Add more trash receptacles along the greenway	\$8,000.00	
		Create greenway user rules	-	
	Create unified greenway/park signage and wayfinding	\$10,000.00		
	Low	Apply for future grant funding to expand the greenway system	-	
Implement the greenways as part of the Town's CIP budget process		-		
Thompson's Station Community Center	High	Sell Community Center within next five years to allow for private redevelopment	-	N/A
	Low	The Town should look to add a comparable park facility for indoor rentable space once the existing community center is sold.	-	

PROGRAMMING

Based on the existing programming evaluation, public survey results, and stakeholder interviews, the following recommendations were developed to best serve the Town. These programming recommendations are meant to be implemented after a designated staff member for Parks and Recreation is hired.

Priority Recommendations

- Form a partnership with Williamson County Parks and Recreation to develop baseball, softball, and soccer leagues
- Form a partnership with Williamson County schools to expand the community's access to recreational amenities
- Improve social media presence to improve public knowledge of Thompson's Station parks and recreation facilities, programs, and events
- Introduce programming for a range of ages and abilities such as races, concerts, fairs, and farmers markets

MAINTENANCE AND OPERATIONS

Thompson's Station currently does not have a staff member dedicated to parks and recreation operations. Current park maintenance is handled by the Public Works Department. In order to keep up with the growing demands of recreation, it is recommended to implement the priorities below.

Priority Recommendations

- Hire a staff dedicated to parks and recreation who would primarily be focusing on programming and special events
- Grow a dedicated parks and recreation staff
- Apply for the TRIP grant to help fund a new Parks and Recreation Department staff position
- Buy new equipment to meet the maintenance demands and replace out-of-date equipment
- Implement the cost per acre formula for the Town's operational budget

FINANCIAL REVENUE AND STRATEGIES

Based on interviews with Thompson's Station's staff, the Town is open to exploring new financial revenue strategies for funding parks and recreation related operations. Currently, the Town generates revenue for parks and recreation through property taxes, rental fees, grant funding, and CIP budget. The recommendations below were developed after interviews with both the Town and key stakeholders in the community.

Priority Recommendations

- Explore the funding options recommended in the Financial Revenue and Strategies section of this Master Plan
- Continue to seek out grant funding for future parks and recreation projects
- Explore additional dedicated funding sources to supplement the current dedicated funding sources being utilized by the Town



NEW FACILITIES

Needs Assessment

Thompson's Station's parks and recreation facilities are primarily located along the central Columbia Pike corridor, therefore, the NRPA metric-based acreage benchmark alone, where the Town is out competing similar sized communities and the national average, is not a sufficient determination of Thompson's Station parks and recreation system's coverage and level of service. Regardless of the number of acres per person Thompson's Station is currently providing, there is a lack of accessibility to the parks system for residents living on the eastern and western sides of Thompson's Station. Pockets of the community without access to a park are considered underserved, and identifying these areas is vital to understanding where new parks should be created as well as where to enhance existing parks.

To determine the distribution of Thompson's Station's parks and recreation facilities, the consulting team used the following park classifications to assess the types of parks found in Thompson's Station and their level of service: mini, neighborhood, community, and special use. The park type classification utilized in the map on the following page are listed below.

Mini Park

Service area: 1/4 mile radius

Park size: 2,500 sf to one acre

Mini Parks in Thompson's Station: The Caboose

Neighborhood

Service area: 1/4 to 1/2 mile radius

Park size: five to 10 acres

Neighborhood Parks in Thompson's Station: none

Community

Service area: 1/2 to three mile radius

Park size: 25+ acres

Community Parks in Thompson's Station: Preservation Park and Sarah Benson Park

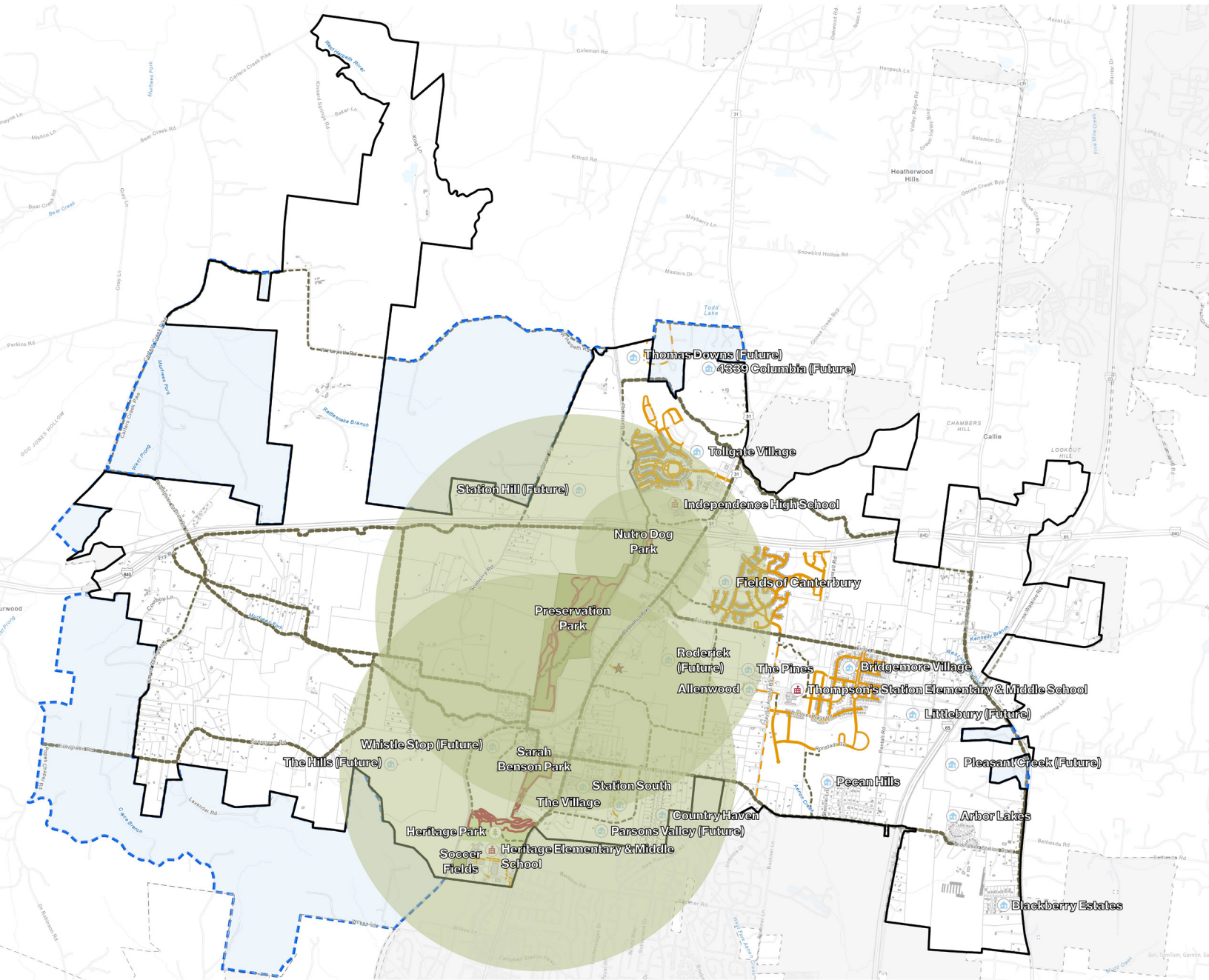
Special Use

Service area and park size vary with special use parks depending on the uses (e.g., marinas, golf course, disc golf course, baseball, softball, etc.)

Special Use Parks in Thompson's Station: Nutro Dog Park and Soccer Fields

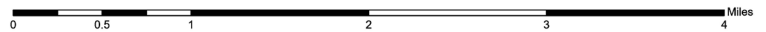
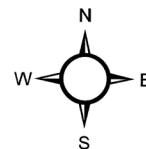


Existing Service Map



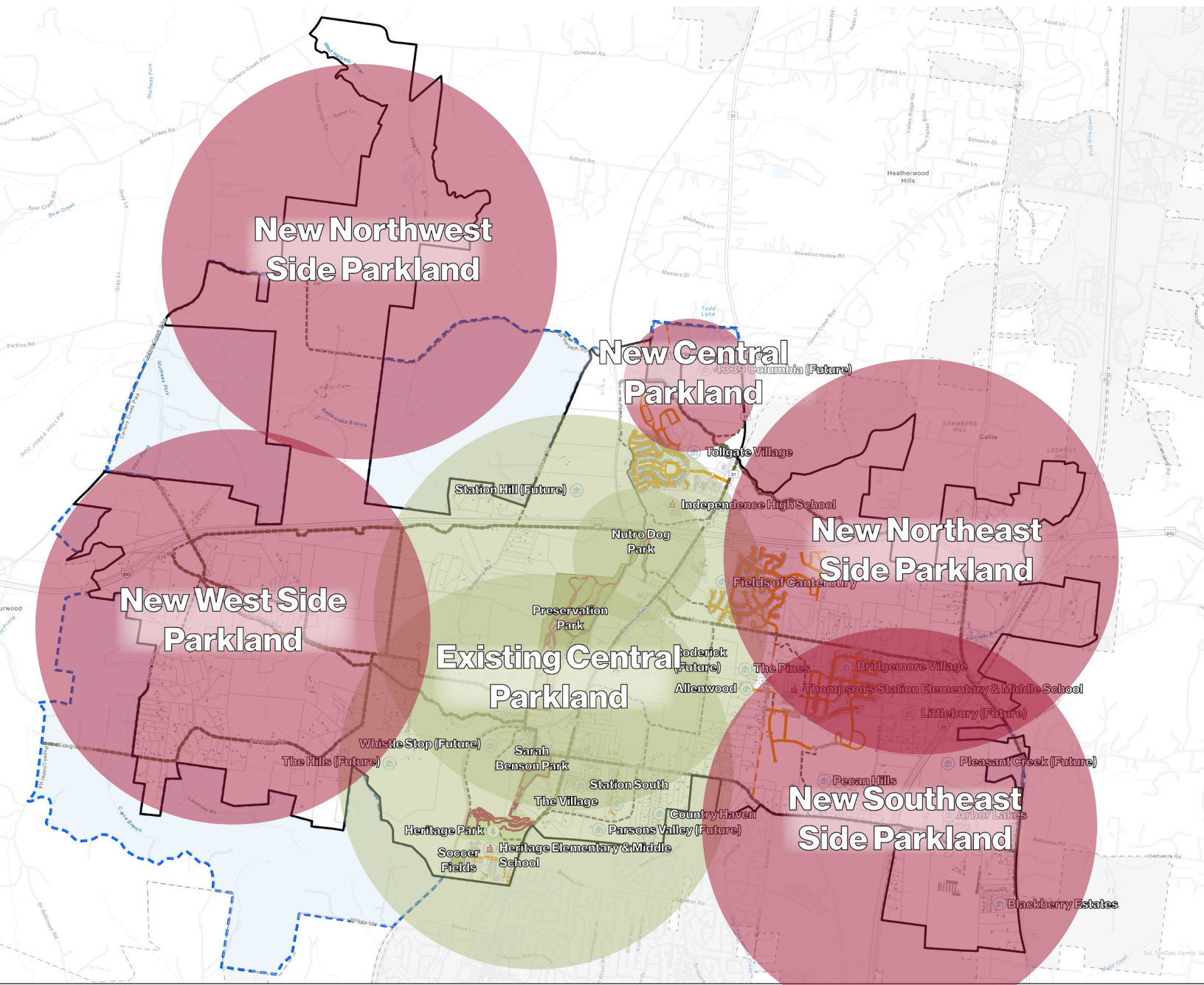
Legend

-  Town Hall
-  Williamson County Parks
-  Residential Developments
-  Schools
-  Proposed Greenways
-  Existing Greenway
-  Existing Sidewalks
-  Proposed Sidewalks
-  Existing Trails
-  Thompson's Station Parks
-  Town Urban Growth Boundary
-  Town Boundary
-  Existing Service Area



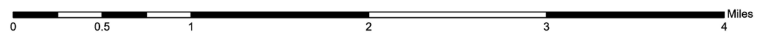
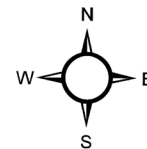


Future Parkland Map



Legend

- ★ Town Hall
- 🌳 Williamson County Parks
- 🏠 Residential Developments
- 🎓 Schools
- 🚶 Proposed Greenways
- 🟢 Existing Greenway
- 🟡 Existing Sidewalks
- 🟠 Proposed Sidewalks
- 🔴 Existing Trails
- 🟤 Thompson's Station Parks
- 🏠 Town Urban Growth Boundary
- 📏 Town Boundary
- 🟢 Existing Service Area
- 🟠 Future Service Area



New Parkland

Based on the service area map on the previous page, the areas west and east of the central corridor in Town are underserved. The northeast and south east quadrants are the most underserved in terms of existing sidewalks, parkland, and greenway access. It is recommended that Thompson’s Station add parkland and park and recreation amenities on the eastern and western sides of the Town to better serve the community.

In order to serve the existing residential developments on the eastern side of the Town, it is recommended that the Town enter a lease agreement with the existing residential subdivisions to create public parkland and amenities on existing open green space. Another resource the Town can utilize for additional parkland is enter a license agreement with TDOT to develop parkland in road right-of-ways. This method would be especially beneficial for adding mini park spaces along the proposed greenway connection points on the western side of the Town.

Priority Recommendations

- Enter into lease agreements and purchase new parks and recreation facilities, focusing on areas with low level of service currently, e.g., areas outside the main corridor
- Create a connective greenway system that links the Thompson’s Station park system to key destinations within Thompson’s Station community and to the surrounding municipalities
- Provide play structures for a wider range of ages in the parks
- Improve pedestrian and bicyclist safety by adding additional pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure and implementing safety measures throughout the park system
- Add splash pads or other outdoor water amenities to meet the high desire of swimming and water facilities requested in the public survey
- Construct a disc golf course in a location with compatible uses
- Determine locations best suited to add sports field facilities
- Coordinate with Williamson County on where new County parkland is planned to prevent duplication of services, for example, the new construction of Bethesda Park that will provide service to the residents on the southeast side of the Town
- Establish a dedicated park space requirement and process for private developments







SECTION 12

Conclusion



CONCLUSION

Overall, the current demands and expectations placed on the Town's parks and recreation system outweigh what is being provided largely because of a lack of staff due to the department's infancy. The purpose of this Master Plan is to help alleviate the imbalance of users and facilities by providing a realistic implementation plan based on Thompson's Station's current and future resources, partnerships, and funding scenarios that can be applied over the next 10 years to help future Thompson's Station keep pace with the growing population's needs.

The demographic analysis provided a thorough understanding of the residents within Thompson's Station's community. According to Census data, the population has greatly increased since the 2010 census and is projected to grow exponentially over the next 15 years. Thompson's Station's small town feel with big city convenience in addition to its proximity to Spring Hill and Franklin has made it a desirable place to visit and live. As the Town continues to grow, the demands and expectations placed on the community's parks and recreation system will also continue to grow.

In order to preserve Thompson's Station's identity and character while also meeting the needs of a growing and changing community, meaningful public engagement and community feedback was a very important part of the planning process. Interviews were held with key Town staff and stakeholders in which valuable input regarding existing and future park facilities was shared. Stakeholders across the Town were asked their opinion on Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) in the Town. Additionally, a 17 question online public survey was used to gather feedback from the community regarding perceptions, programming, and user trends across the community's park and recreational facilities. The top desired programs and events noted in the public survey responses were concerts in the parks, more events held in the parks, and art fairs. The top desired facilities to add or expand upon were tennis courts, community pool, playgrounds, greenways, and splashpads.

Although the Parks and Recreation Department is in its infancy, the Town has been able to stay competitive with the amount of parkland, trails, and spending CIP dollars compared to national averages and similar sized communities. Overall, the benchmark analysis reveals that Thompson's Station has a strong foundation for building a legacy of parks and recreation in the community. As the community grows and places more demand on the Town for this public service, Town leadership will need to consider when and how to implement a formal department with dedicated staff to these resources.

By developing this Master Plan, the Town has recognized the need to make key investments to support existing facilities and increase staffing to remain competitive with peer communities, both locally and across the country. This plan provides recommendations for how and where to focus those investments, which allows the Town to strategically expand and improve its parks and recreation system.







SECTION 13

Appendix



APPENDIX A - CORE VS. CASUAL PARTICIPATION TRENDS

National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - General Sports								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Basketball	23,401	100%	27,135	100%	28,149	100%	20.3%	3.7%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	8,546	37%	11,019	41%	13,000	46%	52.1%	18.0%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	14,856	63%	16,019	59%	15,149	54%	2.0%	-5.4%
Golf (9 or 18-Hole Course)	23,829	100%	25,111	100%	25,566	100%	7.3%	1.8%
Tennis	17,683	100%	22,617	100%	23,595	100%	33.4%	4.3%
Golf (Entertainment Venue)	8,345	100%	12,362	100%	15,540	100%	86.2%	25.7%
Baseball	15,642	100%	15,587	100%	15,478	100%	-1.0%	-0.7%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	6,405	41%	7,392	47%	7,908	51%	23.5%	7.0%
<i>Core (13+ times)</i>	9,238	59%	8,195	53%	7,570	49%	-18.1%	-7.6%
Soccer (Outdoor)	11,924	100%	12,556	100%	13,018	100%	9.2%	3.7%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	6,665	56%	7,586	60%	7,666	59%	15.0%	1.1%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	5,259	44%	4,970	40%	5,352	41%	1.8%	7.7%
Pickleball	3,132	100%	4,819	100%	8,949	100%	185.7%	85.7%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,923	61%	3,454	72%	6,647	74%	245.7%	92.4%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,210	39%	1,365	28%	2,302	26%	90.2%	68.6%
Football (Flag)	6,551	100%	6,889	100%	7,104	100%	8.4%	3.1%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,572	55%	4,137	60%	4,573	64%	28.0%	10.5%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	2,979	45%	2,752	40%	2,531	36%	-15.0%	-8.0%
<i>Core Age 6 to 17 (13+ times)</i>	1,565	24%	1,574	23%	1,552	22%	-0.8%	-1.4%
Badminton	6,430	100%	6,061	100%	6,490	100%	0.9%	7.1%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	4,564	71%	4,251	70%	4,636	71%	1.6%	9.1%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,867	29%	1,810	30%	1,855	29%	-0.6%	2.5%
Volleyball (Court)	6,317	100%	5,849	100%	6,092	100%	-3.6%	4.2%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,939	47%	2,465	42%	2,798	46%	-4.8%	13.5%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	3,378	53%	3,384	58%	3,293	54%	-2.5%	-2.7%
Softball (Slow Pitch)	7,283	100%	6,008	100%	6,036	100%	-17.1%	0.5%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,060	42%	2,729	45%	2,666	44%	-12.9%	-2.3%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	4,223	58%	3,279	55%	3,370	56%	-20.2%	2.8%
Soccer (Indoor)	5,399	100%	5,408	100%	5,495	100%	1.8%	1.6%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,657	49%	3,054	56%	3,144	57%	18.3%	2.9%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	2,742	51%	2,354	44%	2,351	43%	-14.3%	-0.1%
Football (Tackle)	5,224	100%	5,228	100%	5,436	100%	4.1%	4.0%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	2,145	41%	2,642	51%	3,120	57%	45.5%	18.1%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	3,078	59%	2,586	49%	2,316	43%	-24.8%	-10.4%
<i>Core Age 6 to 17 (26+ times)</i>	2,427	46%	2,110	40%	2,088	38%	-14.0%	-1.0%
Football (Touch)	5,629	100%	4,884	100%	4,843	100%	-14.0%	-0.8%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,332	59%	3,171	65%	3,201	66%	-3.9%	0.9%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	2,297	41%	1,713	35%	1,642	34%	-28.5%	-4.1%
Gymnastics	4,805	100%	4,268	100%	4,569	100%	-4.9%	7.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	3,139	65%	2,787	65%	3,095	68%	-1.4%	11.1%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	1,666	35%	1,482	35%	1,473	32%	-11.6%	-0.6%
Volleyball (Sand/Beach)	4,947	100%	4,184	100%	4,128	100%	-16.6%	-1.3%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,544	72%	2,918	70%	2,977	72%	-16.0%	2.0%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,403	28%	1,265	30%	1,152	28%	-17.9%	-8.9%
Track and Field	4,161	100%	3,587	100%	3,690	100%	-11.3%	2.9%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	2,040	49%	1,712	48%	1,896	51%	-7.1%	10.7%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	2,121	51%	1,875	52%	1,794	49%	-15.4%	-4.3%
Racquetball	3,526	100%	3,260	100%	3,521	100%	-0.1%	8.0%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,451	70%	2,270	70%	2,583	73%	5.4%	13.8%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,075	30%	990	30%	938	27%	-12.7%	-5.3%



National Core vs Casual Participatory Trends - General Sports								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Cheerleading	3,816	100%	3,465	100%	3,507	100%	-8.1%	1.2%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	2,164	57%	2,030	59%	2,092	60%	-3.3%	3.1%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	1,653	43%	1,435	41%	1,415	40%	-14.4%	-1.4%
Ice Hockey	2,544	100%	2,306	100%	2,278	100%	-10.5%	-1.2%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,227	48%	1,206	52%	1,209	53%	-1.5%	0.2%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,317	52%	1,101	48%	1,068	47%	-18.9%	-3.0%
Softball (Fast Pitch)	2,309	100%	2,088	100%	2,146	100%	-7.1%	2.8%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	1,077	47%	934	45%	1,002	47%	-7.0%	7.3%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	1,232	53%	1,154	55%	1,144	53%	-7.1%	-0.9%
Ultimate Frisbee	3,126	100%	2,190	100%	2,142	100%	-31.5%	-2.2%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,270	73%	1,441	66%	1,438	67%	-36.7%	-0.2%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	856	27%	749	34%	703	33%	-17.9%	-6.1%
Wrestling	1,896	100%	1,937	100%	2,036	100%	7.4%	5.1%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	1,179	62%	1,290	67%	1,452	71%	23.2%	12.6%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	717	38%	647	33%	585	29%	-18.4%	-9.6%
Lacrosse	2,171	100%	1,892	100%	1,875	100%	-13.6%	-0.9%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,142	53%	1,009	53%	999	53%	-12.5%	-1.0%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,030	47%	883	47%	876	47%	-15.0%	-0.8%
Roller Hockey	1,834	100%	1,425	100%	1,368	100%	-25.4%	-4.0%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	1,419	77%	1,088	76%	1,065	78%	-24.9%	-2.1%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	415	23%	337	24%	303	22%	-27.0%	-10.1%
Squash	1,492	100%	1,185	100%	1,228	100%	-17.7%	3.6%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,044	70%	720	61%	816	66%	-21.8%	13.3%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	447	30%	466	39%	413	34%	-7.6%	-11.4%
Rugby	1,621	100%	1,238	100%	1,166	100%	-28.1%	-5.8%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,097	68%	778	63%	758	65%	-30.9%	-2.6%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	524	32%	460	37%	408	35%	-22.1%	-11.3%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
Core vs Casual Distribution:	Evenly Divided between Core and Casual Participants (45-55%)	Moderate Amount of Participants (56-74%)	Majority Amount of Participants (75% or greater)	



National Participatory Trends - General Fitness								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Walking for Fitness	110,805	100%	115,814	100%	114,759	100%	3.6%	-0.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	35,326	32%	39,036	34%	38,115	33%	7.9%	-2.4%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	75,479	68%	76,778	66%	76,644	67%	1.5%	-0.2%
Treadmill	52,966	100%	53,627	100%	53,589	100%	1.2%	-0.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	24,444	46%	25,353	47%	26,401	49%	8.0%	4.1%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	28,523	54%	28,274	53%	27,189	51%	-4.7%	-3.8%
Free Weights (Dumbbells/Hand Weights)	52,217	100%	52,636	100%	53,140	100%	1.8%	1.0%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	18,866	36%	21,560	41%	22,428	42%	18.9%	4.0%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	33,351	64%	31,076	59%	30,712	58%	-7.9%	-1.2%
Running/Jogging	50,770	100%	48,977	100%	47,816	100%	-5.8%	-2.4%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	24,004	47%	23,441	48%	23,776	50%	-0.9%	1.4%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	26,766	53%	25,537	52%	24,040	50%	-10.2%	-5.9%
Yoga	27,354	100%	34,347	100%	33,636	100%	23.0%	-2.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	16,454	60%	20,110	59%	20,409	61%	24.0%	1.5%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	10,900	40%	14,237	41%	13,228	39%	21.4%	-7.1%
Stationary Cycling (Recumbent/Upright)	36,035	100%	32,453	100%	32,102	100%	-10.9%	-1.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	18,447	51%	15,124	47%	15,424	48%	-16.4%	2.0%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	17,588	49%	17,330	53%	16,678	52%	-5.2%	-3.8%
Weight/Resistant Machines	36,291	100%	30,577	100%	30,010	100%	-17.3%	-1.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	14,496	40%	11,953	39%	12,387	41%	-14.5%	3.6%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	21,795	60%	18,624	61%	17,623	59%	-19.1%	-5.4%
Free Weights (Barbells)	27,444	100%	28,243	100%	28,678	100%	4.5%	1.5%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	10,868	40%	12,649	45%	13,576	47%	24.9%	7.3%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	16,576	60%	15,595	55%	15,103	53%	-8.9%	-3.2%
Elliptical Motion/Cross-Trainer	32,283	100%	27,618	100%	27,051	100%	-16.2%	-2.1%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	15,854	49%	14,156	51%	14,968	55%	-5.6%	5.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	16,430	51%	13,461	49%	12,083	45%	-26.5%	-10.2%
Dance, Step, & Choreographed Exercise	22,616	100%	24,752	100%	25,163	100%	11.3%	1.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	14,867	66%	16,622	67%	17,096	68%	15.0%	2.9%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	7,748	34%	8,130	33%	8,067	32%	4.1%	-0.8%
Bodyweight Exercise	24,454	100%	22,629	100%	22,034	100%	-9.9%	-2.6%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	10,095	41%	9,915	44%	9,514	43%	-5.8%	-4.0%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	14,359	59%	12,714	56%	12,520	57%	-12.8%	-1.5%
High Impact/Intensity Training	21,476	100%	21,973	100%	21,821	100%	1.6%	-0.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	12,105	56%	12,490	57%	12,593	58%	4.0%	0.8%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	9,370	44%	9,483	43%	9,228	42%	-1.5%	-2.7%
Trail Running	9,149	100%	12,520	100%	13,253	100%	44.9%	5.9%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	7,085	77%	10,052	80%	10,792	81%	52.3%	7.4%
<i>Core (26+ times)</i>	2,064	23%	2,468	20%	2,461	19%	19.2%	-0.3%
Rowing Machine	11,707	100%	11,586	100%	11,893	100%	1.6%	2.6%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	7,276	62%	7,111	61%	7,875	66%	8.2%	10.7%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	4,431	38%	4,475	39%	4,017	34%	-9.3%	-10.2%
Stair Climbing Machine	14,948	100%	11,786	100%	11,677	100%	-21.9%	-0.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	9,501	64%	7,332	62%	7,569	65%	-20.3%	3.2%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	5,447	36%	4,453	38%	4,108	35%	-24.6%	-7.7%
Pilates Training	9,047	100%	9,745	100%	10,311	100%	14.0%	5.8%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	5,698	63%	6,611	68%	7,377	72%	29.5%	11.6%
<i>Core (50+ times)</i>	3,348	37%	3,133	32%	2,935	28%	-12.3%	-6.3%



National Participatory Trends - General Fitness								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Cross-Training Style Workout	13,622	100%	9,764	100%	9,248	100%	-32.1%	-5.3%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	6,890	51%	4,179	43%	4,281	46%	-37.9%	2.4%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	6,732	49%	5,585	57%	4,968	54%	-26.2%	-11.0%
Martial Arts	5,838	100%	6,186	100%	6,355	100%	8.9%	2.7%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,021	35%	2,728	44%	3,114	49%	54.1%	14.1%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	3,816	65%	3,458	56%	3,241	51%	-15.1%	-6.3%
Stationary Cycling (Group)	9,409	100%	5,939	100%	6,268	100%	-33.4%	5.5%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	6,023	64%	3,134	53%	3,925	63%	-34.8%	25.2%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	3,386	36%	2,805	47%	2,344	37%	-30.8%	-16.4%
Cardio Kickboxing	6,693	100%	5,099	100%	5,531	100%	-17.4%	8.5%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	4,671	70%	3,328	65%	3,958	72%	-15.3%	18.9%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	2,022	30%	1,771	35%	1,573	28%	-22.2%	-11.2%
Boxing for Fitness	5,157	100%	5,237	100%	5,472	100%	6.1%	4.5%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,738	53%	2,985	57%	3,383	62%	23.6%	13.3%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	2,419	47%	2,252	43%	2,089	38%	-13.6%	-7.2%
Boot Camp Style Cross-Training	6,651	100%	5,169	100%	5,192	100%	-21.9%	0.4%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	4,637	70%	3,461	67%	3,691	71%	-20.4%	6.6%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	2,014	30%	1,709	33%	1,500	29%	-25.5%	-12.2%
Barre	3,436	100%	3,659	100%	3,803	100%	10.7%	3.9%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	2,701	79%	2,822	77%	3,022	79%	11.9%	7.1%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	735	21%	837	23%	781	21%	6.3%	-6.7%
Tai Chi	3,787	100%	3,393	100%	3,394	100%	-10.4%	0.0%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	2,329	61%	2,001	59%	2,139	63%	-8.2%	6.9%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	1,458	39%	1,393	41%	1,255	37%	-13.9%	-9.9%
Triathlon (Traditional/Road)	2,162	100%	1,748	100%	1,780	100%	-17.7%	1.8%
Triathlon (Non-Traditional/Off Road)	1,878	100%	1,304	100%	1,350	100%	-28.1%	3.5%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
Core vs Casual Distribution:	Evenly Divided between Core and Casual Participants (45-55%)	Moderate Amount of Participants (56-74%)	Majority Amount of Participants (75% or greater)	



THOMPSON'S STATION Parks and Recreation Master Plan

National Participatory Trends - Outdoor / Adventure Recreation								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
#	%	#	%	#	%			
Hiking (Day)	44,900	100%	58,697	100%	59,578	100%	32.7%	1.5%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	35,068	78%	44,183	75%	44,154	74%	25.9%	-0.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	9,832	22%	14,514	25%	15,424	26%	56.9%	6.3%
Bicycling (Road)	38,866	100%	42,775	100%	43,554	100%	12.1%	1.8%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	20,212	52%	22,280	52%	23,278	53%	15.2%	4.5%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	18,654	48%	20,495	48%	20,276	47%	8.7%	-1.1%
Fishing (Freshwater)	38,346	100%	40,853	100%	41,821	100%	9.1%	2.4%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	19,977	52%	22,451	55%	23,430	56%	17.3%	4.4%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	18,369	48%	18,403	45%	18,391	44%	0.1%	-0.1%
Camping	26,262	100%	35,985	100%	37,431	100%	42.5%	4.0%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	19,854	76%	27,590	77%	28,459	76%	43.3%	3.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	6,409	24%	8,394	23%	8,972	24%	40.0%	6.9%
Wildlife Viewing (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	20,351	100%	20,452	100%	20,615	100%	1.3%	0.8%
Camping (Recreational Vehicle)	16,159	100%	16,371	100%	16,840	100%	4.2%	2.9%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	9,332	58%	9,688	59%	10,286	61%	10.2%	6.2%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	6,826	42%	6,683	41%	6,553	39%	-4.0%	-1.9%
Birdwatching (>1/4 mile of Vehicle/Home)	12,296	100%	14,815	100%	15,818	100%	28.6%	6.8%
Fishing (Saltwater)	13,062	100%	13,790	100%	14,344	100%	9.8%	4.0%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	7,625	58%	8,543	62%	9,151	64%	20.0%	7.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	5,437	42%	5,246	38%	5,192	36%	-4.5%	-1.0%
Backpacking Overnight	10,975	100%	10,306	100%	10,217	100%	-6.9%	-0.9%
Skateboarding	6,382	100%	8,747	100%	9,019	100%	41.3%	3.1%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	3,970	62%	6,181	71%	6,469	72%	62.9%	4.7%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	2,411	38%	2,566	29%	2,559	28%	6.1%	-0.3%
Bicycling (Mountain)	8,609	100%	8,693	100%	8,916	100%	3.6%	2.6%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	4,389	51%	4,517	52%	4,896	55%	11.6%	8.4%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	4,220	49%	4,176	48%	4,020	45%	-4.7%	-3.7%
Fishing (Fly)	6,791	100%	7,458	100%	7,631	100%	12.4%	2.3%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	4,448	65%	4,762	64%	4,993	65%	12.3%	4.9%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	2,344	35%	2,696	36%	2,638	35%	12.5%	-2.2%
Archery	7,769	100%	7,342	100%	7,428	100%	-4.4%	1.2%
<i>Casual (1-25 times)</i>	6,602	85%	6,054	82%	6,202	83%	-6.1%	2.4%
<i>Core(26+ times)</i>	1,167	15%	1,288	18%	1,227	17%	5.1%	-4.7%
Climbing (Sport/Boulder)	2,103	100%	2,301	100%	5,778	100%	174.8%	151.1%
Roller Skating, In-Line	5,268	100%	4,940	100%	5,173	100%	-1.8%	4.7%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	3,853	73%	3,525	71%	3,763	73%	-2.3%	6.8%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,415	27%	1,415	29%	1,410	27%	-0.4%	-0.4%
Bicycling (BMX)	3,413	100%	3,861	100%	4,181	100%	22.5%	8.3%
<i>Casual (1-12 times)</i>	2,039	60%	2,466	64%	2,792	67%	36.9%	13.2%
<i>Core(13+ times)</i>	1,374	40%	1,396	36%	1,389	33%	1.1%	-0.5%
Climbing (Indoor)	5,045	100%	5,684	100%	2,452	100%	-51.4%	-56.9%
Climbing (Traditional/Ice/Mountaineering)	2,527	100%	2,374	100%	2,452	100%	-3.0%	3.3%
Adventure Racing	2,529	100%	1,826	100%	1,714	100%	-32.2%	-6.1%
<i>Casual (1 time)</i>	899	36%	312	17%	236	14%	-73.7%	-24.4%
<i>Core(2+ times)</i>	1,630	64%	1,514	83%	1,478	86%	-9.3%	-2.4%

NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over

Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)	Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)	Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)	Large Decrease (less than -25%)
Core vs Casual Distribution:	Evenly Divided between Core and Casual Participants (45-55%)	Moderate Amount of Participants (56-74%)	Majority Amount of Participants (75% or greater)	



National Participatory Trends - Aquatics								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Swimming (Fitness)	27,135	100%	25,620	100%	26,272	100%	-3.2%	2.5%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	18,319	68%	17,598	69%	18,827	72%	2.8%	7.0%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	8,815	32%	8,022	31%	7,445	28%	-15.5%	-7.2%
Aquatic Exercise	10,459	100%	10,400	100%	10,676	100%	2.1%	2.7%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	7,222	69%	8,347	80%	8,626	81%	19.4%	3.3%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	3,237	31%	2,053	20%	2,050	19%	-36.7%	-0.1%
Swimming on a Team	3,007	100%	2,824	100%	2,904	100%	-3.4%	2.8%
<i>Casual (1-49 times)</i>	1,664	55%	1,708	60%	1,916	66%	15.1%	12.2%
<i>Core(50+ times)</i>	1,343	45%	1,116	40%	988	34%	-26.4%	-11.5%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution:	Evenly Divided between Core and Casual Participants (45-55%)		Moderate Amount of Participants (56-74%)		Majority Amount of Participants (75% or greater)			

National Participatory Trends - Water Sports / Activities								
Activity	Participation Levels						% Change	
	2017		2021		2022		5-Year Trend	1-Year Trend
	#	%	#	%	#	%		
Kayaking (Recreational)	10,533	100%	13,351	100%	13,561	100%	28.7%	1.6%
Canoeing	9,220	100%	9,199	100%	9,521	100%	3.3%	3.5%
Snorkeling	8,384	100%	7,316	100%	7,376	100%	-12.0%	0.8%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	6,721	80%	5,989	82%	6,005	81%	-10.7%	0.3%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,663	20%	1,326	18%	1,371	19%	-17.6%	3.4%
Jet Skiing	5,418	100%	5,062	100%	5,445	100%	0.5%	7.6%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	3,928	72%	3,780	75%	4,151	76%	5.7%	9.8%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,490	28%	1,281	25%	1,294	24%	-13.2%	1.0%
Stand-Up Paddling	3,325	100%	3,739	100%	3,777	100%	13.6%	1.0%
Surfing	2,680	100%	3,463	100%	3,692	100%	37.8%	6.6%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,705	64%	2,158	62%	2,444	66%	43.3%	13.3%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	975	36%	1,305	38%	1,248	34%	28.0%	-4.4%
Sailing	3,974	100%	3,463	100%	3,632	100%	-8.6%	4.9%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,720	68%	2,418	70%	2,633	72%	-3.2%	8.9%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	1,254	32%	1,045	30%	999	28%	-20.3%	-4.4%
Rafting	3,479	100%	3,383	100%	3,595	100%	3.3%	6.3%
Water Skiing	3,572	100%	3,058	100%	3,040	100%	-14.9%	-0.6%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,575	72%	2,209	72%	2,185	72%	-15.1%	-1.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	997	28%	849	28%	855	28%	-14.2%	0.7%
Wakeboarding	3,005	100%	2,674	100%	2,754	100%	-8.4%	3.0%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,101	70%	1,902	71%	2,075	75%	-1.2%	9.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	903	30%	772	29%	679	25%	-24.8%	-12.0%
Kayaking (White Water)	2,500	100%	2,587	100%	2,726	100%	9.0%	5.4%
Scuba Diving	2,874	100%	2,476	100%	2,658	100%	-7.5%	7.4%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	2,113	74%	1,795	72%	2,012	76%	-4.8%	12.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	761	26%	680	27%	646	24%	-15.1%	-5.0%
Kayaking (Sea/Touring)	2,955	100%	2,587	100%	2,642	100%	-10.6%	2.1%
Boardsailing/Windsurfing	1,573	100%	1,297	100%	1,391	100%	-11.6%	7.2%
<i>Casual (1-7 times)</i>	1,289	82%	1,002	77%	1,103	79%	-14.4%	10.1%
<i>Core(8+ times)</i>	284	18%	295	23%	288	21%	1.4%	-2.4%
NOTE: Participation figures are in 000's for the US population ages 6 and over								
Participation Growth/Decline:	Large Increase (greater than 25%)		Moderate Increase (0% to 25%)		Moderate Decrease (0% to -25%)		Large Decrease (less than -25%)	
Core vs Casual Distribution:	Evenly Divided between Core and Casual Participants (45-55%)		Moderate Amount of Participants (56-74%)		Majority Amount of Participants (75% or greater)			



APPENDIX B - PUBLIC MEETING SIGN IN SHEET ON MONDAY, MARCH 04, 2024

THOMPSON'S STATION PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – DRAFT PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING

1110 Fountain View Blvd, Thompson's Station, TN 37179 @ 4:30pm

	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
1	Karen Rippel Hill	2152 RAVENSCOURT, T.S.	410-490-6862	KRH@MYRIPPLES.ORG
2	Carli Smith	2591 Milton Ln. T.S.	615-906-1423	smith.carlianne@gmail.com
3	Sam McMillen	2150 Maytown Cir	307-903-4569	Sam.mcmullen@ymail.com
4	Tom Gregory	929 Hornsby Dr	615-476-7366	tgregory5987@bellsouth.net
5	JAMES GOLIAS	6045 SANMAR DR	615-418-5995	james_golias@hotmail.com
6	Gary Ross	2694 Paddock Pk. Dr	615-252-5955	rossgary92@gmail.com
7	Kris White	18775 Rd W	615-769-4020	kwhite@jmail.com
8	Don Baggett	1727 Lewisburg Pt	615-5733176	
9	B+D Duncan	1575 T.S. Rd. W	615-8187377	idenise658@gmail.com
10	Sam Till	2147 English Garden Way		Sam.till@gmail.com
11	Millie Halvorson	2708 Brenda St	615-305-3132	m.halvorson19@gmail.com
12	LANNY SIMMONS	3116 HAZELTON	615-597-3458	LANNY@SIMMONS.COM
13	Jim & Miss Hostetter	2702 Thompson St Rd E	630-551-5105	hostjim@gmail.com
14	Zach & Laura Panfil	1656 Hampshire Place	706-206-1644	ZL PANFIL@gmail.com
15	HARRY KING	3684 CONSTANT	615-400526	
16	Matthew Barker	1912 Evergreen	732-610-2824	
17	Mary Herring	2666 Thomp. St. Rd E	615-423-4818	herring.mary@gmail.com





THOMPSON'S STATION PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN – DRAFT PLAN

PUBLIC MEETING

1110 Fountain View Blvd, Thompson's Station, TN 37179 @ 4:30pm

	Name	Address	Telephone	Email
18	Bob Whinnor	3345 Somers Lane	406 8869	BWhinnor13@gmail.com
	Tom Wilson (Sue)	1554 Hampshire Place	2186080	
19	Walt + Charlotte Rowland	1552 Hampshire Pl.	951-917-4521	
20	Jaime Ewald	1901 Ridgeland	615-327-9198	
21	Derek Brunen	2017 Firka Way	615-491-3955	
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