



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting

Agenda

September 16, 2026 @ 5:30 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

welcome

Agendas and all backup material supporting each agenda item are accessible via the city's website at cityofwinterpark.org/meetings/ and include virtual meeting instructions.

decorum

As a courtesy to those present, please silence your mobile devices. If you must take a phone call, please excuse yourself and step outside.

Members of the public shall observe the same rules of propriety, decorum and good conduct applicable to members of the Board. Persons making remarks or exhibiting behavior that disrupts the orderly conduct of this meeting will be subject to removal from the meeting.

assistance & appeals

Persons with disabilities needing assistance to participate in any of these proceedings should contact the City Clerk's Office ([407-599-3277](tel:407-599-3277)) at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

"If a person decides to appeal any decision made by the Board with respect to any matter considered at this hearing, a record of the proceedings is needed to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based." (F.S. 286.0105).

board member compliance

Board/Committee members when acting within the scope of their public duties are subject to the Florida Sunshine Law (Ch. 286, F.S.), Florida Public Records Act (Ch. 119, F.S.) and state ethics laws (Ch. 112, F.S.). All discussions with any other board member(s) regarding public items that are likely to come before the board/committee must occur on the record during a public meeting. No member shall vote upon, and no appointed member shall attempt to influence, any item considered which would inure to the special private gain or loss of the member, any principal/parent/subsidiary retaining the member, or any relative or business associate of the member. Members must announce their conflict and file a written conflict disclosure with the City Clerk within 15 days of the meeting.

1. Call to Order**2. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Approval of the August 19, 2026 Minutes 2M

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker**4. Action Items**

- a. Nomination & Election of Chair and Vice-Chair 3M

5. Non-Action Items

- a. GAI Master Plan Presentation 30M
b. Howell Branch Rd. Stormwater Pond Improvements 30M

6. Staff Updates

- a. Project Update 5M
MLK Park Improvements:

- Sidewalk and Lighting Upgrades
- Community Playground

Cady Way:

- BDSC Pool
- Pickleball/Tennis Court Lighting

- b. Budget Update 5M
- Potential changes to department services
 - Paid Parking

7. Board Comments**8. Upcoming Agenda Items****9. Adjournment**



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Regular Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2026 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Commission Chambers
401 S. Park Avenue

Present

Leah Bonich, Thomas Sims, Ginny Enstad, Ellen Wolfson, Chris Sproles, Ashley Fraxedas

Absent

Lisa Tinker Marsh

Staff Present

Parks and Recreation Director Jason Seeley, Assistant Directors Cathleen Daus and Mike McCosker, Recreation Coordinator Kesha Thompson

1. Call to Order

- a. Board Orientation Videos

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. Approve the June 17, 2026, minutes.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Ellen Wolfson, to approve the June 17, 2026, minutes. Motion passes 6-0.

3. Public Comments (for items not on the agenda): Three minutes allowed for each speaker

4. Action Items

- a. Fee Schedule Discussion

Parks Director Jason Seeley presented the current proposed fee schedule along with staff recommendations. He explained that the objectives when setting fees are to remain comparable to similar municipalities, maintain consistency with the history of fee increases, and ensure fees appropriately support the needs of the community.

Staff Recommendations were:

- No changes to the athletic and aquatics fees.
- A 10% increase to the hourly rental rates for the Winter Park Country Club, Winter Park Farmers' Market, and Winter Park Community Center.
- Reducing the rate for the Rooftop Terrace and Tiedtke Amphitheater.
- Eliminating the continuous rental at the Winter Park Event Center.
- Establishing a resident rate for the Winter Park Tennis Center annual seasonal pass.

- A 10% increase in monthly Farmer's Market vendor rates and adding an electricity fee. Ms. Wolfson and Mrs. Bonich inquired about a resident rate for vendors.
- A 10% increase in Cemetery Fees. Mike Webb, Cemeteries Manager, presented information regarding availability of space at both cemeteries.

Motion made by Thomas Sims, seconded by Chris Sproles, to accept the staff recommendations, and direct staff to explore establishing a resident rate for Farmer's Market vendors. Motion passed 6-0.

5. Non-Action Items

a. Objectives & Goals

Staff will present the goals and objectives as part of the Master Plan presentation at the next meeting. Board members will continue to submit recommendations and objectives for consideration.

6. Staff Updates

Staff will present the 60% completion of the Howell Branch pond project at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

Current projects in every park, Kraft Azalea, still recovering from freeze, arboretum, villa view, upcoming projects in Dinky Dock with landscape, new pavilion and landscaping at Ward Park. Another section of the parking lot at the Dog Park, security lighting installed at MLK and the playground is progressing. All new landscaping at the Lake Island Hall benefit shop.

Park Ave Refresh, finishing up Phase 1 estimated to be finished by October. Staff will report back on lost parking spaces

Ms. Wolfson asked about leveling the sidewalk at the pavilion, do a temporary fix.

7. Board Comments

8. Upcoming Agenda Items

The Master Plan will be presented at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

9. Adjournment

Motion made by Mrs. Bonich, seconded by Mr. Sims, to adjourn.

Motion passes 6-0.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45pm

Approved by the Board on
/s/ Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

agenda item 4.a

item type

Action Items

meeting date

September 16, 2026

prepared by

Laura Halsey, Recreation Coordinator

approved by**subject**

Nomination & Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

motion | recommendation**background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

None



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

agenda item 5.a

item type

Non-Action Items

meeting date

September 16, 2026

prepared by

Cathleen Daus

approved by**subject**

GAI Master Plan Presentation

motion | recommendation**background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

1. 2026-09-16 GAI-Winter Park_PRAB Master Plan Presentation
2. 2026.09.09_GAI-DRAFT Winter Park PRMP - Technical Report (1)

City of Winter Park Parks & Recreation Master Plan



Agenda

- Summary of Public Input
- Draft Guiding Principles



Master Plan Purpose



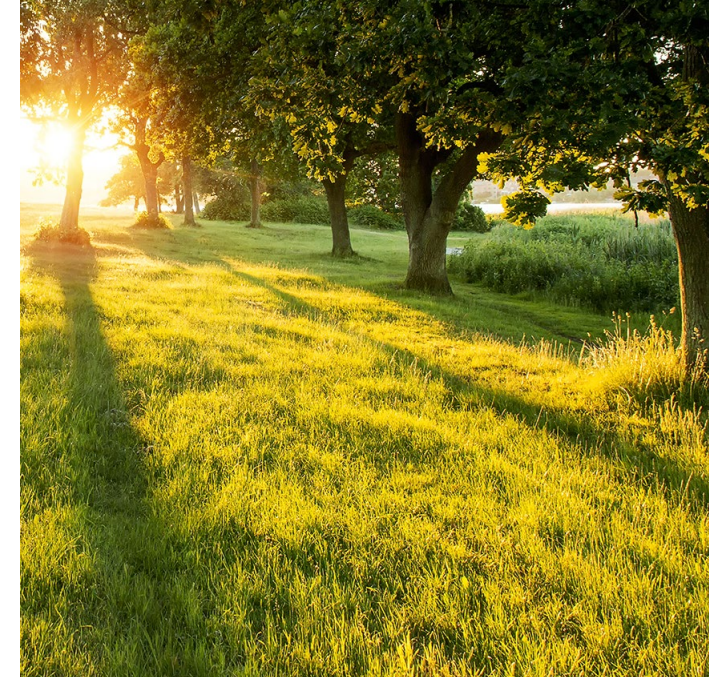
Understand Needs & Opportunities

Create a responsive parks and recreation system that meets the needs of the community



Blueprint for the Future

Create a 10-year vision for a future parks system that responds to a growing community



Improve, Sustain, and Enhance

Improve, sustain, and enhance the quality of life in Winter Park

Master Plan Process

1

Project Initiation

Document Review
Park Inventory

2

Needs Assessment and Framework

Public Input
Program Benchmarking
Emerging Themes

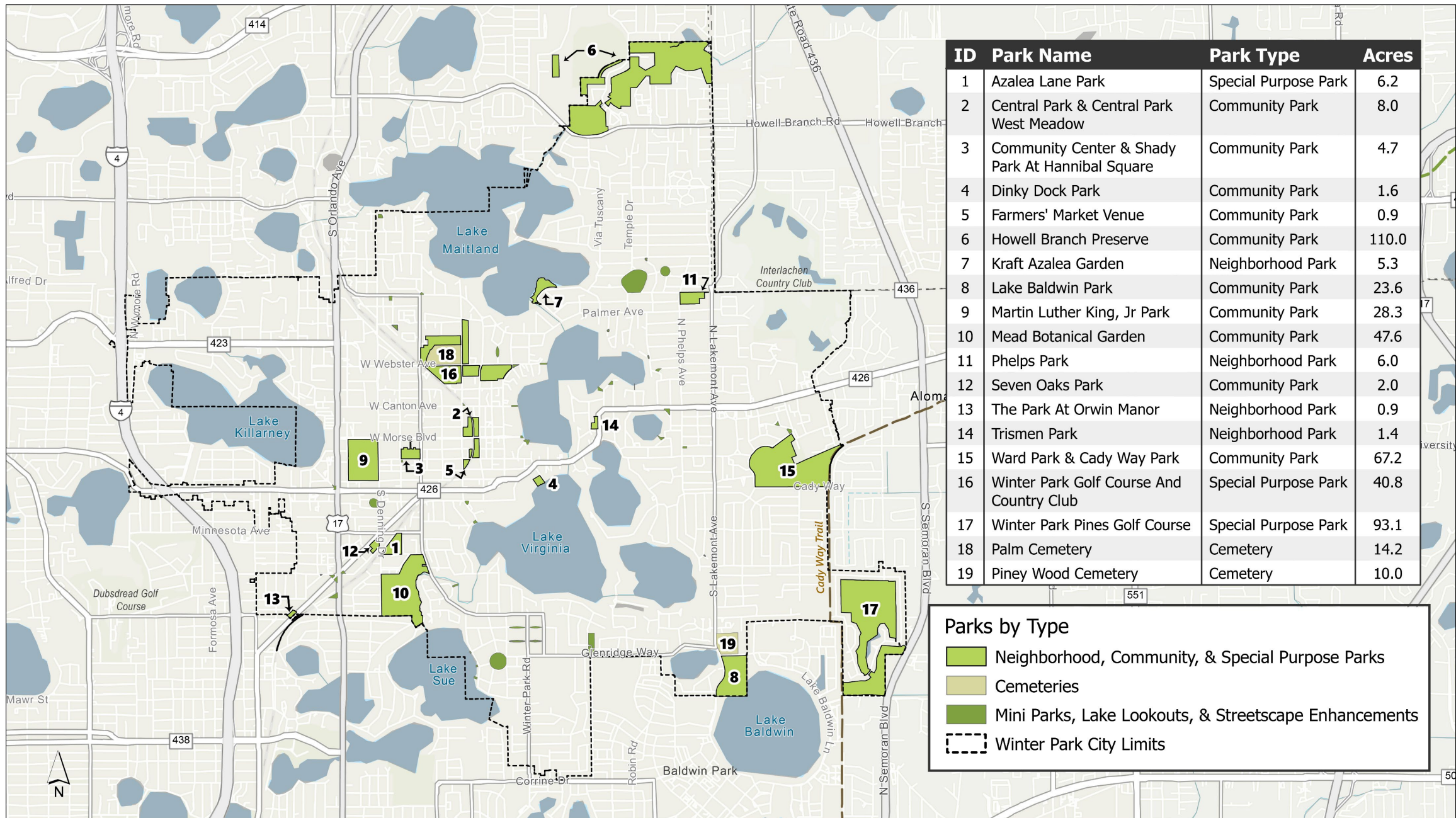
3

Recommendations and Implementations

Capital Improvements Plan
Implementation Strategy



The Park System



ID	Park Name	Park Type	Acres
1	Azalea Lane Park	Special Purpose Park	6.2
2	Central Park & Central Park West Meadow	Community Park	8.0
3	Community Center & Shady Park At Hannibal Square	Community Park	4.7
4	Dinky Dock Park	Community Park	1.6
5	Farmers' Market Venue	Community Park	0.9
6	Howell Branch Preserve	Community Park	110.0
7	Kraft Azalea Garden	Neighborhood Park	5.3
8	Lake Baldwin Park	Community Park	23.6
9	Martin Luther King, Jr Park	Community Park	28.3
10	Mead Botanical Garden	Community Park	47.6
11	Phelps Park	Neighborhood Park	6.0
12	Seven Oaks Park	Community Park	2.0
13	The Park At Orwin Manor	Neighborhood Park	0.9
14	Trismen Park	Neighborhood Park	1.4
15	Ward Park & Cady Way Park	Community Park	67.2
16	Winter Park Golf Course And Country Club	Special Purpose Park	40.8
17	Winter Park Pines Golf Course	Special Purpose Park	93.1
18	Palm Cemetery	Cemetery	14.2
19	Piney Wood Cemetery	Cemetery	10.0

Parks by Type

- Neighborhood, Community, & Special Purpose Parks
- Cemeteries
- Mini Parks, Lake Lookouts, & Streetscape Enhancements
- Winter Park City Limits

Public Input Results

Survey

1

STATISTICALLY VALID (INVITE) SURVEY

- Paper surveys and reminder postcards were mailed to a systematic random sample of residential addresses in Winter Park, with instructions to complete online through password protected website (1 response per household).



671

Invitation surveys completed
+/- 3.7% Margin of Error

2

OPEN LINK SURVEY

Later, the online survey was made available to all Winter Park stakeholders (e.g., commuters, residents of nearby communities).



580

Open link surveys completed

1,251

Total Surveys
Completed

5,000 Invitations Mailed

4,464 Successfully Delivered

Key Findings - Survey



Two samples were collected in the survey effort—the statistically valid Invite sample and the Open link sample—both of which had strong response rates. Together, they provide an excellent source of input on topics addressed throughout the survey. In general, responses from the Open link survey are similar to the Invite sample, a positive finding that indicates a broad consensus across the two groups.



Residents are generally familiar with the system, with higher engagement among Open link participants. Familiarity is moderate to high in the Invite sample (3.6 average), while the Open link reports stronger familiarity (4.0 average), reflecting a more engaged user group.



Use is anchored by core parks, trails, and community hubs. Central Park and the Library & Events Center lead in visitation, while trails and everyday park amenities (such as parking, restrooms, benches, etc.) are used by a majority of households. Only a small share (1-2%) report not using any of the listed amenities.

Key Findings - Survey



Residents are willing to travel and walk to access quality parks and facilities. Most residents are comfortable walking approximately 10–15 minutes, and while driving is the primary mode of access, a meaningful share also walk or bike—highlighting the importance of both proximity and connectivity.



Facilities and amenities are meeting needs, with some gaps in specific amenities. Core assets like parks, greenspace, and amenities perform well, though areas such as lakefront access and trails and pathways show lower ratings and present opportunities for improvement.



Programs are meeting community needs, with strong demand for community events and the Farmers Market. Satisfaction is highest for these offerings, which also rank as top priorities, reinforcing their role as central gathering and engagement points in the system.



Residents rely on multiple channels for information, but effectiveness is mixed. Word of mouth, the City website, and social media are widely used, while email stands out as the preferred method. Effectiveness ratings remain moderate, suggesting a need for clearer and more consistent communication.

Key Findings - Survey



Community priorities emphasize enhancing the existing system over expansion. Across facilities and amenities, residents more often prefer improving and maintaining what exists rather than adding new assets, reinforcing a focus on quality, upkeep, and long-term sustainability.



Future priorities are led by trails and natural areas. Trail connectivity and nature-based features rank highest, while programs fall into a secondary tier. Open link respondents place more emphasis on golf, lake access, and youth programs, while Invite respondents lean toward broader system improvements. Indoor facilities and some athletic amenities rank lower as investment priorities.



Respondents support partnerships and sponsorships but are cautious about higher costs. Alternative funding approaches receive the strongest support, while tax increases and higher fees generate more hesitation, particularly where they may impact participation.

Key Findings - Workshops



The strongest recurring theme was the need for additional trails and connectivity.



Providing shade along walking and biking routes was also identified as an important quality-of-life improvement. As well as enhancing the tree canopy.



Community input also emphasized the need for upgraded park amenities



Residents also highlighted the importance of nature and environmental restoration



Support for athletic facilities was seen for Diamond Athletic Fields and Athletic.

Key Findings – Pin Drop App



Love for Nature



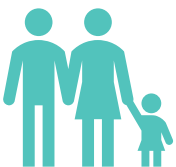
Desire for new amenities



Safety and Comfort Concerns



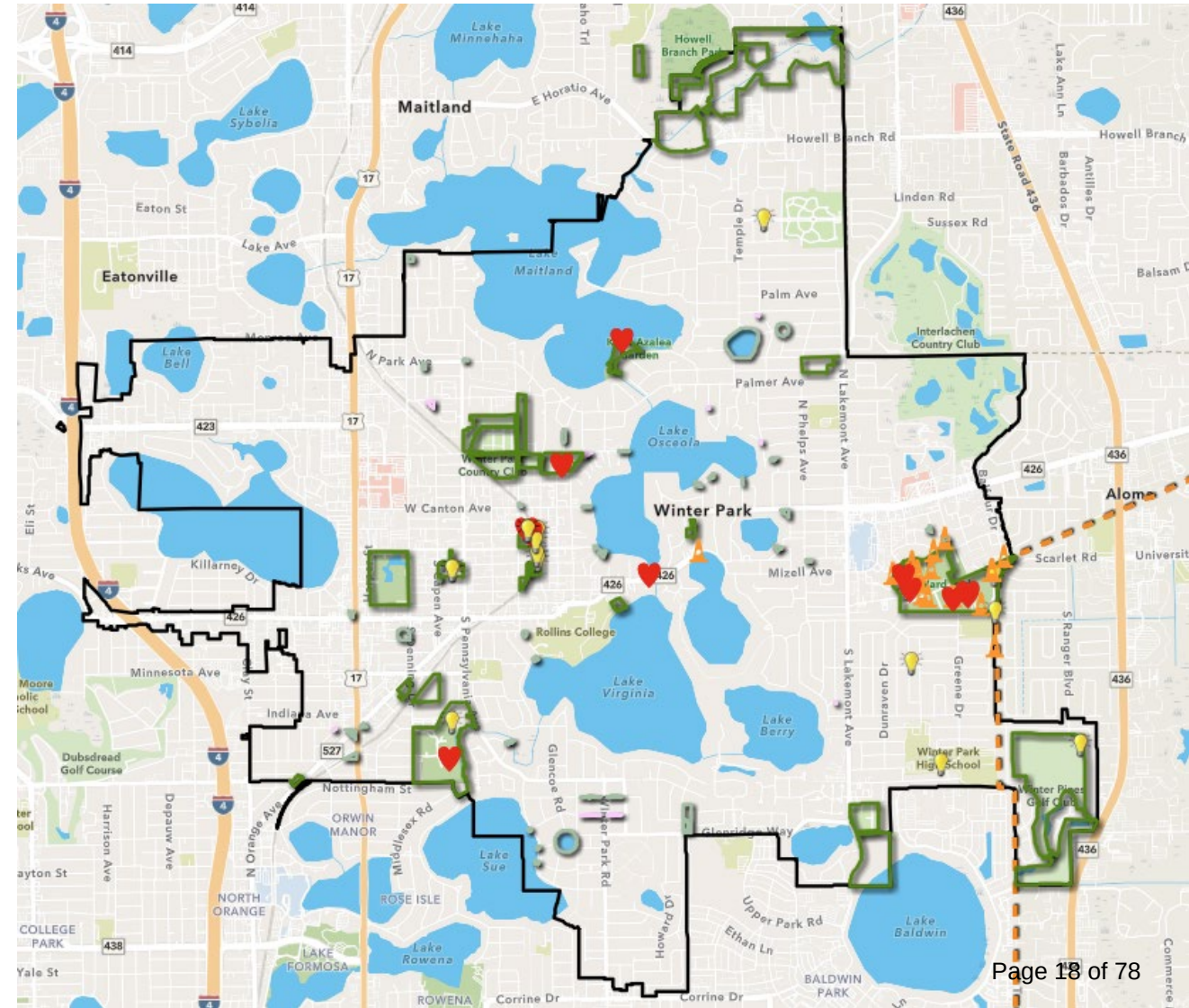
Access & Connectivity



Activities and Programming

Parks with comments:

- Central Park and West Meadows
- Community Center and Shady Park at Hannibal Square
- Kraft Azalea Garden
- Mead Botanical Garden
- Ward Park and Cady Way Park
- Winter Park Golf Course and Country Club
- Winter Park Pines Golf Course



Guiding Principles

Exceptional Quality Parks

Goal

Provide high-quality, accessible, and well-maintained park facilities and amenities that enhance Winter Park's unique character.

Big Move

Create Winter Park Parks Style Guide.

Objectives

- 1.1. Create a Winter Park Parks Style Guide.
- 1.2. Ensure key desired amenities are equitable throughout the parks system.
- 1.3. Provide comfortable spaces for all ages and abilities.
- 1.4. Continue support of the Parks and Recreation Department in enhancing parks and public spaces while delivering high-quality recreational programs and community events.



Connect People to Parks

Goal

Connect Winter Park residents to parks via comprehensive trail and pathway systems.

Big Move

Create a “sense of space” concept of a loop that connects Central Park/Winter Park Community Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Mead Botanical Garden, and Cady Way by utilizing marketing and wayfinding.

Objectives

2.1. Create a “sense of space” concept of a loop that connects Central Park/Winter Park Community Center, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, Mead Botanical Garden, and Cady Way by utilizing marketing and wayfinding.

2.2. Improve walkability and safe access to parks by enhancing pedestrian routes between neighborhoods, schools, and park amenities.



Provide Access to Natural System and Lakes

Goal

Conserve and enhance Winter Park's natural areas and lake resources while providing meaningful public access and recreational opportunities.

Big Move

Activate Howell Branch Preserve.

Objectives

3.1 Create a natural experience at Howell Branch Preserve.

3.2 Protect and preserve natural areas, habitats, and environmental resources within the parks system.

3.3 Expand opportunities for residents and visitors to access and enjoy lakes and waterfront areas.

3.4 Increase awareness and appreciation of natural resources through education and interpretive experiences.





Recommendations and Implications

Next Steps

- Capital Improvements Plan
- Grant Funding Strategy
- Implementation Strategy



Visit the website:
planwinterparkparks.com

City of Winter Park Parks & Recreation Master Plan

Winter Park

Every Park Exceptional



gai consultants®

COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS
GROUP.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

September 16, 2026
Page 24 of 78



Winter Park

Every Park Exceptional

City of Winter Park
Parks & Recreation Master Plan
Technical Report | September 2026



Acknowledgments

City Commission

Mayor Sheila DeCiccio
Commissioner Elizabeth Ingram, Seat 1
Commissioner Craig Russell, Seat 2
Commissioner Kris Cruzada, Seat 3
Commissioner Warren Lindsey, Seat 4

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Leah J. Bonich
Ginny Enstad
Ashley Fraxedes
Lawrence Lyman
Lisa Tinker Marsh
Anne Mooney
Thomas Sims
Christopher Sproles
Ellen Wolfson

City of Winter Park Residents

City of Winter Park Staff

Jason Seely, Director
Cathleen Daus, Assistant Director
Michael McCosker, Assistant Director
Josh Nye, Parks Services Manager
John Clarke, Recreation & Family Services Manager
Kesha Thompson, Recreation Coordinator
Mark Medley, GIS Manager



Contents

1. Planning Context

1.1 Introduction	7
1.2 Existing Conditions	8
Overview of the Inventory and Assessment Process	10
Azalea Lane Park and Tennis Center	16
Central Park and Central Park West Meadows	18
Community Center and Shady Park at Hannibal Square	20
Dinky Dock Park	22
Farmers Market Venue	24
Howell Branch Preserve	26
Kraft Azalea Garden	28
Lake Baldwin Park	30
Martin Luther King Jr. Park	32
Mead Botanical Garden	34
Phelps Park	36
Seven Oaks Park	38
The Park at Orwin Manor	40
Trismen Park	42
Ward Park and Cady Way Park	44
Winter Park Golf Course and Country Club	46
Winter Park Pines Golf Course	48
Palm Cemetery	50
Piney Wood Cemetery	52
1.3 Document Review	54
Previous Parks & Recreation Master Plans	54
2024 Comprehensive Plan Review	55
Other Relevant Plans	56
1.4 Demographics and Population	58
1.5 Trends Analysis	64
1.6 Benchmarking	68
2. Public Input	
2.1 Overview	73
Survey	74
Public Workshops	82
Meet a Planner Day	86
Digital Engagement	88
3. Master Plan Framework	
3.1 Level of Service (LOS)	93
Acreage-Based Analysis	93
Geographic Analysis	96



1. Planning Context

1.1 Introduction

Master Plan Context

Founded in the late 1800s as a winter resort destination, Winter Park was originally envisioned as a picturesque retreat centered on its lakes, tree-lined streets, and walkable neighborhoods. Early development was closely tied to the arrival of the South Florida Railroad and the influence of Northern industrialists who helped shape the City's civic framework, including parks, cultural institutions, and public gathering spaces. The establishment of Rollins College in 1885 further reinforced the city's identity as a place of learning, culture, and natural beauty.

Throughout the early and mid-20th century, Winter Park grew steadily while maintaining its emphasis on thoughtful planning and preservation. Signature spaces such as Central Park became defining elements of the community, serving as cultural and social hubs while anchoring the city's historic downtown. As neighborhoods expanded, parks and open spaces were integrated into the urban fabric, creating a system that includes active recreation with passive green space and lakefront access.

Winter Park's approach to parks and recreation has been supported by a consistent history of proactive planning. The 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan documented a diverse system of nearly 300 acres of park land and open space, identifying strong overall service coverage while noting possible future gaps in neighborhood parks as the population evolved. The 2018 Master Plan built on this foundation by emphasizing reinvestment in existing facilities, enhanced amenities, and updates to policies and standards to improve user experience.

Winter Park's park system has involved with intentional planning over time to remain integral to the City's identity and quality of life.

Master Plan Purpose

This 2026 Parks & Recreation Master Plan (PRMP) provides a blueprint for the future of the Winter Park Parks & Recreation Department based on data, feedback, and a consensus vision for the future. This plan is aspirational, but based on reality. It is meant to be a guide for deliberate investments and decisions, reflecting its comprehensive process that includes both broad public engagement and data-driven analysis.

Agency Overview

The Parks & Recreation Department is a nationally accredited agency through the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), administered by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and has maintained this distinction since 2010. As one of a select group of agencies nationwide to achieve CAPRA accreditation, the department has demonstrated excellence by meeting or exceeding nationally recognized best practices across the 10 required elements, including planning, administration, financial management, facility management, and programs and services.

The Department has adopted the citywide vision statement, "Be the best place to live, work, and play in Florida for today's residents and future generations." The Department's properties contribute to that vision as well as the Florida Recreation and Parks Association tagline, "It starts in Parks!"

Mission

Enhance the quality of life for your community by providing outstanding parks, recreational facilities, activities and service.

Vision

The Parks & Recreation Department has adopted the citywide vision statement, "Be the best place to live, work, and play in Florida for today's residents and future generations."

Awards and Accolades

The Parks & Recreation Department was named a finalist in the 2013 National Gold Medal Awards. This national award, from the American Academy for Parks and Recreation Administration in partnership with the National Recreation and Parks Association, recognizes excellence in parks and recreation management. Winter Park was one of four finalists nationwide in our category.



1.2 Existing Conditions

Overview of the Winter Park Parks System

Winter Park’s parks system offers a variety of public spaces that highlight the city’s recreational opportunities and overall quality of life. Together, these spaces serve residents and visitors by providing places for recreation, relaxation, social gathering, environmental stewardship, and community events. The system includes a range of park types, including neighborhood parks that support close-to-home recreation and everyday outdoor experiences; community parks that provide larger-scale recreational amenities and destinations serving residents from across the city; special purpose parks that offer focused amenities aligned with community interests, such as golf and tennis; and mini parks that provide convenient and opportunistic access to open space within residential areas. The system also includes lake lookouts that offer access to and views of Winter Park’s scenic chain of lakes, allowing residents and visitors to experience the city’s distinctive waterfront character. In addition, streetscape enhancements reflect the City’s commitment to landscaped corridors and attractive public spaces, helping to create pedestrian-friendly connections between destinations while expanding the community’s overall green infrastructure. Collectively, these parks, open spaces, and public realm enhancements form a cohesive system that supports Winter Park’s identity as a desirable community to live and visit.

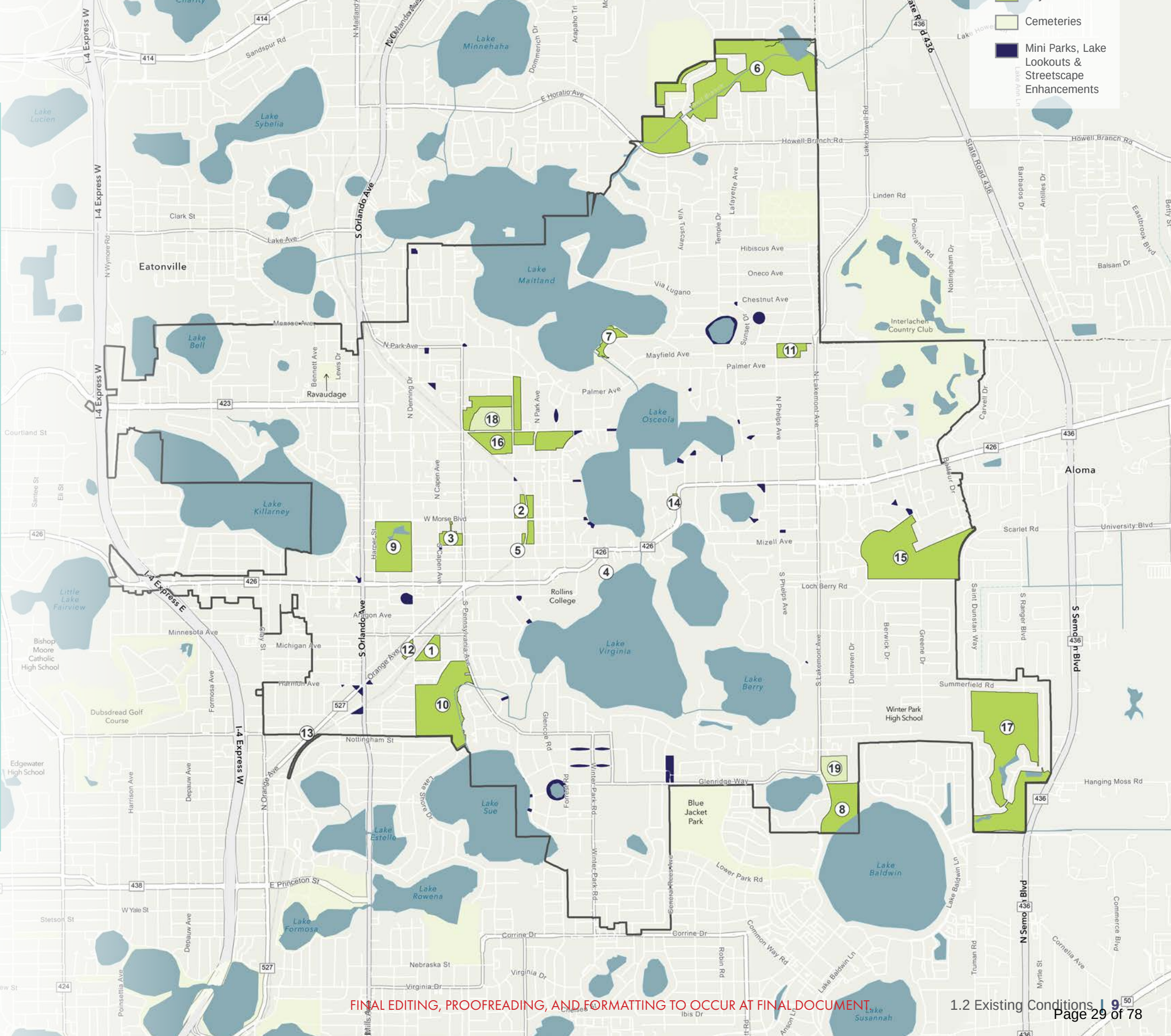
TABLE 1. PARK & FACILITY LIST

ID	Park /Facility Name	Park Type	Acres
1	Azalea Lane Park and Tennis Center	Special Purpose Park	6.2
2	Central Park and Central Park West Meadows	Community Park	8.0
3	Community Center and Shady Park at Hannibal Square	Community Park	4.7
4	Dinky Dock Park	Community Park	1.6
5	Farmers Market Venue	Community Park	0.85
6	Howell Branch Preserve	Community Park	110.0
7	Kraft Azalea Garden	Neighborhood Park	5.3
8	Lake Baldwin Park	Community Park	23.6
9	Martin Luther King Jr Park	Community Park	28.3
10	Mead Botanical Garden	Community Park	47.6
11	Phelps Park	Neighborhood Park	6.0
12	Seven Oaks Park	Community Park	2.0
13	The Park at Orwin Manor	Neighborhood Park	0.9
14	Trismen Park	Neighborhood Park	1.4
15	Ward Park and Cady Way Park	Community Park	67.3
16	Winter Park Golf Course and Country Club	Special Purpose Park	40.8
17	Winter Park Pines Golf Course	Special Purpose Park	93.1
18	Palm Cemetery	Cemetery	14.2
19	Piney Wood Cemetery	Cemetery	10.0

DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.

DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.

FIGURE 1. PARK SYSTEM MAP



Overview of the Inventory and Assessment Process

A comprehensive park inventory and evaluation are fundamental to understanding the existing conditions of the park & recreation system. Through on-site assessments, the project team can examine the condition of amenities with a level of detail that cannot be fully captured through aerial imagery or mapping. This process involves evaluating existing infrastructure to identify areas for enhancement and improvement within the current system. Findings from the evaluation will support the implementation of targeted and strategic recommendations aimed at optimizing park facilities and ensuring their long-term sustainability. Additionally, the park inventory provides an opportunity for the team to directly engage with park users and observe utilization. These insights help inform recommendations that align with community needs, which contributes to a more accessible, functional, and enjoyable park environment.

Park Scores

Methodology

The park rating system is a comparative evaluation tool that benchmarks the condition and quality of parks across a jurisdiction's park system. This sets a baseline of expectations within the City's own system and avoids comparison to other systems that may not be funded and/or maintained to the same level. By comparing inventory ratings within the same system, park improvements can be prioritized equitably to avoid under or over investment in one particular area of the city.

GIS Inventory

During the GIS inventory, information on existing amenities was gathered, such as activity amenities, passive amenities, buildings, furnishing, and signage. Items were individually rated as Exceeds Expectations (3-2.1), Meets Expectations (2.0), Below Expectations (1-1.9), or Functionally Obsolete (0). The GIS Asset Rating represents the average rating of the individual item categories included in the inventory.

The following provides a further explanation of each rating score.

- Exceeds Expectations (3.0-2.1) – Item is new and in great condition and/or may provide exceptional use, e.g., a new inclusive playground.

- Meets Expectations (2.0) – Item is in good condition and functions for its intended use; some signs of normal wear may be visible that do not affect functionality. It is expected that most items in the inventory will receive this rating.
- Below Expectations (1-1.9) – Item is almost past its useful life and may need replacement, but still provides intended function. Examples include older playgrounds showing signs of rust or uneven surfacing, or well-worn furnishings in need of replacement.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – This score is reserved for items that no longer provide a function and may be an active hazard in a park. This includes hazardous broken equipment and unmaintained fields no longer providing regular use.

Design and Ambiance Evaluation

The Design and Ambiance evaluation provides insight into the user experience of each park site, as well as context for current usage and factors contributing to that usage. Evaluation considerations are:

General Design

The General Design category generally summarizes the functionality of the park.

The following sub-categories determine this score:

Arrival

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Arrival is multimodal and safe. There are crosswalks connecting to surrounding shaded sidewalks and traffic calming measures prioritize pedestrian safety. Bike racks are available. Trail system connections may be present.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Arrival is safe. There are crosswalks leading directly from surrounding neighborhood into the park.
- Below Expectations (1) – Arrival is limited by incomplete sidewalks, missing crosswalks, or high-speed traffic.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – There is no safe pedestrian arrival to the site. Crossings are dangerous.

Spatial Organization

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Park layout is highly functional, intuitive, and well-organized, with amenities, circulation, and gathering spaces arranged to maximize usability and comfort.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Park layout is generally functional and easy to understand, with amenities appropriately located.
- Below Expectations (1) – Layout creates confusion, inefficiencies, or conflicts between uses; amenity placement could be improved.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Park layout is disorganized and significantly limits functionality and user experience.

Circulation & Wayfinding

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Circulation is clear and connects all amenities. When appropriate, wayfinding is present to aid in navigation and may include a park map or wayfinding signage.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Circulation is clear and intuitive to the user. All major amenities are connected via walkways. Wayfinding may not be present, but circulation patterns are legible to park users, and the park is easy to navigate.
- Below Expectations (1) – Circulation patterns are mostly functional, with some user conflicts or missing walkway infrastructure. Navigation is confusing and may be clarified with an improved circulation pattern and/or additional wayfinding.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Circulation is missing on the site and/or there are dangerous user conflicts.

Relevancy

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Amenities appear well used and relevant to current needs.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Amenities appear functional and adequately used.
- Below Expectations (1) – Some amenities appear underutilized, outdated, or in need of significant repairs, upgrades, or replacement.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Amenities appear unused, obsolete, unsafe, or no longer serve their intended purpose.

Things To Do

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – There is a variety of activities available for a wide range of user types including places for respite and places for fun. The park includes unique features that generate a draw for the community.
- Meets Expectations (2) – There are a variety of amenities available for various user types including places for respite and places for fun.
- Below Expectations (1) – There are few amenities available for use, and there may be an opportunity to either add new amenities or replace obsolete amenities to make the park more active.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – There are no amenities for park users.

Inclusivity

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Park provides a variety of amenities for all ages and abilities, follows principles of inclusive design, and fully ensures ADA-compliant access to these amenities when possible.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Park provides variety of experiences for all ages and abilities and meets ADA compliance.
- Below Expectations (1) – Park provides some ADA access to amenities. Minor improvements may enhance accessibility to the site.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Park does not meet basic ADA compliance requirements.

General Ambiance

The General Ambiance category generally summarizes the comfort of the park to determine if there factors that attract people or actively deter them from regular park use..

The following sub-categories determine this score:

Welcome

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Park entrance is well marked with a City entry sign. Additional landscaping or material selection creates an aesthetic curb appeal.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Park entrance is well marked with a City entry sign. The park looks well maintained, and there is good visibility into the site.
- Below Expectations (1) – Park entrance is not well marked; sign may be faded and worn or covered by vegetation. The park looks unwelcoming with poor landscaping, aggressive fencing, and/or limited visibility into the site.

- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Park entrance is not marked. The park user does not know the site is public space.

Safety

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Park provides excellent visibility throughout the site, with clear sightlines, appropriate lighting, and well-maintained landscaping that supports user safety and natural surveillance.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Most areas are visible and feel safe, with only minor visibility or landscaping concerns.
- Below Expectations (1) – Overgrown vegetation, poor plant placement, limited sightlines, or other design elements create potential safety concerns.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Significant visibility issues, unsafe conditions, and/or unmanaged vegetation substantially limit user safety and park usability. The park may contain signs of inappropriate use such as trash or drug paraphernalia. Park users are actively dissuaded from using the park.

Comfort

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Park is comfortable with plentiful shade and variety of seating types throughout. Additional comfort amenities like restrooms and water fountains are thoughtfully integrated into the site.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Park is well shaded throughout, and bench seating is available along pathways, and picnic tables serve as gathering spaces.
- Below Expectations (1) – Key park amenities, such as playgrounds, lack shade poorly shaded and/or seating.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Park has little to no tree canopy or shade and provides no seating, acting as an active deterrent to use.

Site Condition

Site Condition focuses on the overall condition of the park. This category evaluates the condition of the park to determine whether the park is well maintained and supports safe, enjoyable use. Consideration is also given to drainage, ecological concerns, ADA-related site conditions, and the presence of any critical safety issues.

Landscape

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Landscape goes above and beyond typical park user expectations. The park may include signature trees, flowering shrubs, or flower beds that receive a high level of care.

- Meets Expectations (2) – Landscape is healthy, well maintained, appropriately placed, and enhances the park experience. Little to no trimming, replacement, or landscape improvements are needed.
- Below Expectations (1) – Landscape is overgrown, declining, or poorly maintained. Noticeable trimming, pruning, or plant replacement is needed to improve appearance, safety, or functionality.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Landscape is severely overgrown, dead, invasive, or creates significant safety, visibility, or maintenance concerns requiring major rehabilitation. Trees may need to be removed and replaced for safety concerns.

Hardscape

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Hardscape is in excellent condition. Some specialty paving or treatments may be included. There are little to no signs of cracking or buckling.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Hardscape is in functional condition. While some cracking or buckling may be present, most of the hardscape is in good condition and no major safety issues are present. Small repairs may be necessary.
- Below Expectations (1) – Hardscape is still functional but shows signs of deterioration that affect usability such as consistent buckling, crumbling edges, or major pits. Portions of the hardscape may need to be removed and replaced to fix existing issues.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Hardscape is no longer functional and includes major safety issues throughout that require the removal and replacement of the system.

Infrastructure

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Park systems function as designed with no issues. More complex infrastructure systems, such as LID stormwater basins, may be present and in excellent condition.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Standard park systems function as intended. No issues observed.
- Below Expectations (1) – Minor park system issues are observed, such as some stormwater pooling or minor irrigation system issues. In waterfront parks, erosion may be a cause for concern.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – There are major park infrastructure issues that require overhauls to the system, such as flooding/drainage problems or erosion.

- Interior Roads/Parking - if applicable**
- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Roads and parking areas are in excellent condition, provide adequate capacity, include clearly marked ADA-accessible spaces and routes, and show no signs of drainage or flooding issues.
 - Meets Expectations (2) – Roads and parking areas are functional and generally well maintained, with only minor surface wear, accessibility, or drainage issues.
 - Below Expectations (1) – Noticeable pavement deterioration, ADA deficiencies, drainage concerns, standing water, or circulation issues impact usability and require improvement.
 - Functionally Obsolete (0) – Roads or parking areas are unsafe, severely deteriorated, frequently flooded, inaccessible, or substantially limit access to the park.

Fence - if applicable

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – Fencing is in excellent condition, fully functional, highly visible, and free of overgrown vegetation or maintenance concerns.
- Meets Expectations (2) – Fencing is generally in good condition and functional, with only minor repairs, cleaning, or vegetation management needed.
- Below Expectations (1) – Fencing shows signs of damage, deterioration, or is partially obscured by vegetation, requiring noticeable repair or maintenance.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Fencing is severely damaged, missing, nonfunctional, or heavily overgrown—limiting its intended purpose and creating safety or maintenance concerns.

Civic Pride

Civic Pride focuses on how well a park reflects community identity and fosters a sense of ownership among residents. This category observes whether the park has unique features that create a sense of place, supports social interaction and community gathering, demonstrates evidence of community stewardship through organized groups or volunteer efforts. It also captures feedback from users in real time gathered during site observations.

Sense of Place

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – The park has a distinct sense of place supported by strategies such as a consistent design theme, colors, or murals. Public art may be present.

- Meets Expectations (2) – The park feels like a City park, including clearly marked park signage and standard furnishings. Some community involvement is visible, such as memorial benches, scout projects, or sponsorship signs.
- Below Expectations (1) – The park has signage, but park boundaries are difficult to determine. There is no clear demarcation of where public space begins and ends.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – It is unclear to the park user that this is a public park.

Social Infrastructure

- Exceeds Expectations (3) – The park includes a variety of social spaces that are actively used by the community. These may include plazas, event lawns, picnic pavilions, and bench seating near hubs of activity such playgrounds and sports courts/fields. Social spaces are designed thoughtfully with users in mind to respond to general use patterns.
- Meets Expectations (2) – The park includes some social spaces, such as bench seating and picnic tables, which receive regular use.
- Below Expectations (1) – Social spaces are limited. Benches and picnic tables may not be accessible or worn.
- Functionally Obsolete (0) – Social infrastructure is missing or obsolete. Benches and picnic tables may be broken or unusable.

Calculating the Park Scores

Based on the GIS Asset and Park Design & Ambiance (D&A) scores are aggregated into an overall park score for each park. The GIS Asset Score averages the individual scores of park assets to summarize the general condition of inventoried items. The D&A Score consists of the averaged scores of each underlying category: General Design, General Ambiance, General Site Condition, and Civic Pride.

The overall park score takes into consideration both the GIS Asset Score, representing the existing condition of the individual amenities; as well as the D&A Score, representing the user experience of the park. Facility scores have been included within this overall park score. The Park/Facility Score Matrix in the following pages provides a summary of scores for each park and within the system.

Winter Park's Existing Conditions

The park inventory for the City of Winter Park was conducted by a team of landscape architects, planners, and City staff via comprehensive on-site evaluations of parks within the City. This assessment involved a two-pronged approach to ensure a thorough understanding of existing conditions. First, a GIS-based inventory was used to catalogue park amenities, documenting their current state. Second, a qualitative site review was preformed, which examined the overall design and ambiance of each park, considering elements such as functionality, accessibility, safety, and sustainability. By combining technical analysis with observational insights, this evaluation provides a well-rounded perspective on park infrastructure and guides recommendations for future improvements.

The table on the following page summarizes the overall score for each park and provides a detailed breakdown of both the GIS Asset Score and the Park D&A Score.

Palm Cemetery and Pineywood Cemetery are managed by the Cemeteries Division within the Parks and Recreation Department. While these properties are meaningful parts of the parks and recreation system, they do not provide the same function as the other parks within the system. While these properties were part of the site visit and inventory process, they were excluded from the evaluation and scoring process.

LEGEND

Below Expectations (0-1.9)

The park's condition is nearing the end of its useful life. It is still well maintained, and facilities are functional but should be considered for replacement sooner than others. Facilities may still be functional, but need attention or repairs.

Meets Expectations (2.0)

The park is in good shape. Facilities are working well.

Exceeds Expectations (2.1-3.0)

The park is in excellent condition. Facilities are either new have a unique attraction or wow factor.

TABLE 2. PARK SCORES

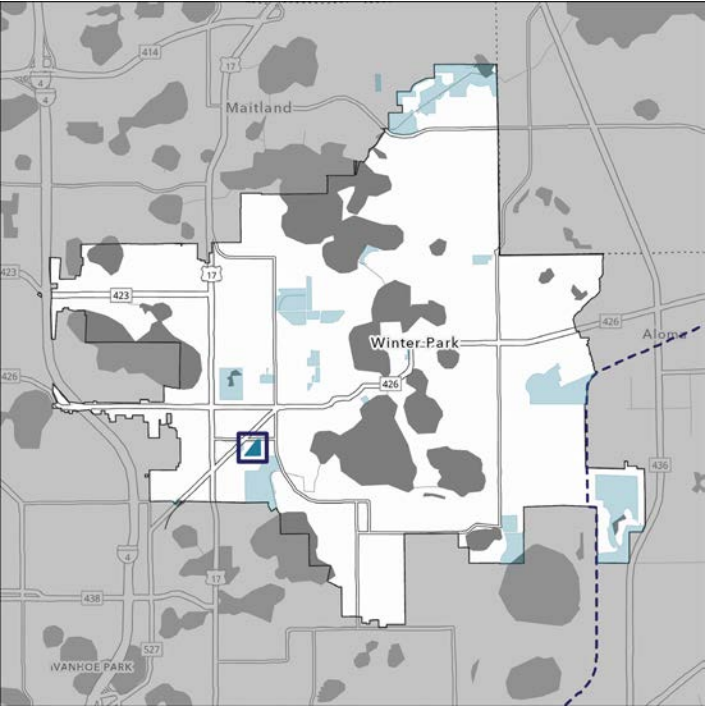
	Azalea Lane Park and Tennis Center	Central Park and Central Park West Meadows	Community Center & Shady Park at Hannibal Square	Dinky Dock Park	Farmers Market Venue	Howell Branch Preserve	Kraft Azalea Garden	Lake Baldwin Park	Martin Luther King Jr Park	Mead Botanical Garden	Phelps Park	Seven Oaks Park	The Park at Orwin Manor	Trismen Park	Ward Park & Cady Way Park	Winter Park Golf Course and Country Club	Winter Park Pines Golf Course
OVERALL PARK SCORE	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.0	2.3	1.7	2.1	2.1	2.4	2.3	2.2	2.8	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.4	2.2
GIS Asset Score	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.6	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0
Park D&A Score	2.4	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.6	1.7	2.7	2.4	2.8	2.6	2.4	3.0	2.1	1.8	2.2	2.9	2.4
GIS Assets	2.3	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.0	1.6	1.6	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.9	2.6	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0
Active Amenities	2.7		1.5	2.0		1.1		1.7	2.4		1.9		1.5		2.1	2.0	1.8
Passive Amenities		2.0	2.0	2.0		2.0	2.3	1.7	1.7	1.9	2.0	3.0			1.6	2.5	2.1
Buildings	2.0	2.7	2.1	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0				1.7	2.0	2.0
Furnishings	2.2	2.0	2.3	1.5	2.0	2.0	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	2.7	1.8	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.0
Signage	2.4	1.8	2.3	2.0	2.0	1.1	1.3	1.8	2.4	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.8	2.0	1.8	1.5	2.0
Park D&A																	
General Design	2.3	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.2	1.7	2.0	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.2	1.8	2.3	2.7	2.3
Arrival	2	3	3	2	3	1	2	3	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	2	2
Spatial Organization	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	2
Circulation & Wayfinding	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	1	3	2
Relevancy	3	3	3	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	3
Things to Do	3	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	2	1	3	3	3
Inclusivity	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
General Ambiance	2.0	2.7	2.7	2.0	2.7	1.3	3.0	2.3	2.7	2.7	2.3	3.0	2.0	1.7	2.3	3.0	2.0
Welcome	2	3	2	2	3	1	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	1	2	3	2
Safety	2	3	3	2	3	1	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	2
Comfort	2	2	3	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	3	2
General Site Condition	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.3	2.4	1.8	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.2	2.0	3.0	1.7	2.0	2.0	2.8	2.2
Landscape	2	3	2	2	2	1	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3
Hardscape	2	3	2	2	3	2	1	2	1	2	2	3	1	2	2	3	2
Infrastructure	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2
Interior Roads/Parking if applicable	2	2	2	3	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	3		2	2	3	2
Fencing if applicable			2		3	2		2		2	2			2	2		2
Civic Pride	3.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	3.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0
Sense of Place	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	3	3
Social Infrastructure	3	3	3	2	3	2	3	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	2	3	3

Azalea Lane Park and Tennis Center

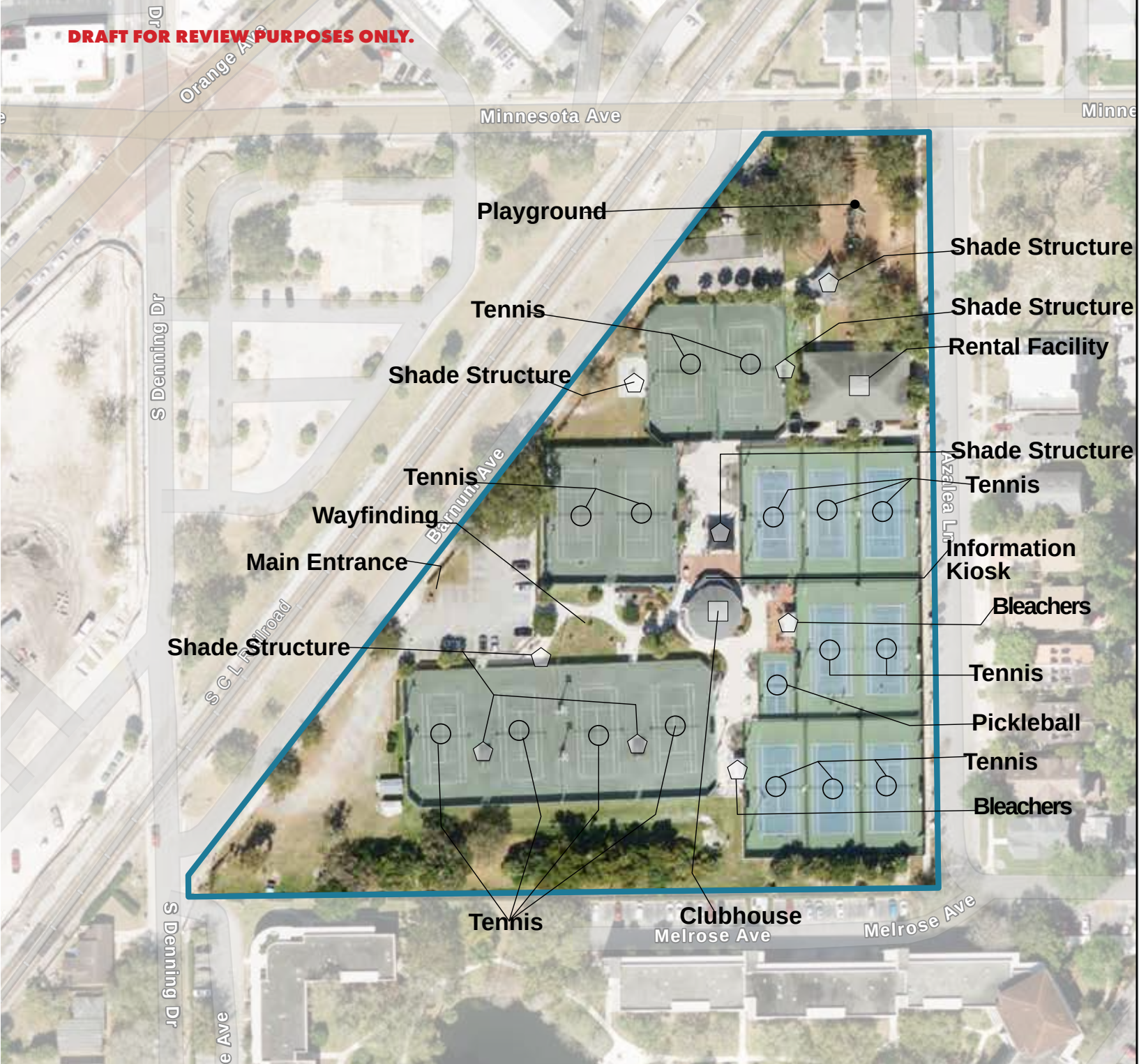
Current Site Conditions

Azalea Lane Park and Tennis Center functions as a highly accessible and well-designed recreational hub, with circulation patterns that make it easy for visitors to move throughout the site. The park's layout highlights tennis as the primary amenity, with a centrally located clubhouse that supports consistent, heavy use. The 16 courts, 8 newly resurfaced clay courts, and 8 hard-surface courts are well integrated into the overall design, with numerous benches and picnic tables surrounding them to support spectators and players. Beyond tennis, the playground area is also heavily used and thoughtfully organized, featuring a large main play structure, multiple swing sets, a tot lot, and additional picnic tables. Together, these elements create a functional and inclusive space that accommodates a wide range of users, from families with young children to active adults and seniors.

The park's general ambiance is welcoming and comfortable, with ample seating that encourages longer visits. Visibility throughout the site is strong, contributing to a sense of safety, and the open layout provides clear sightlines across active areas. Site conditions are in good shape, with intact infrastructure, and no major safety concerns noted. The combination of updated courts, walkways, and shaded areas enhances comfort and usability throughout the park. Civic pride is evident in the high level of activity, from tennis players to families at the playground, which demonstrates strong community engagement. The park's amenities and gathering spaces help foster a sense of place and support ongoing social interaction, reinforcing its role as a valued neighborhood asset.



Location	1045 & 1047 Azalea Lane
Type	Special Purpose Park
Acreage	6.2



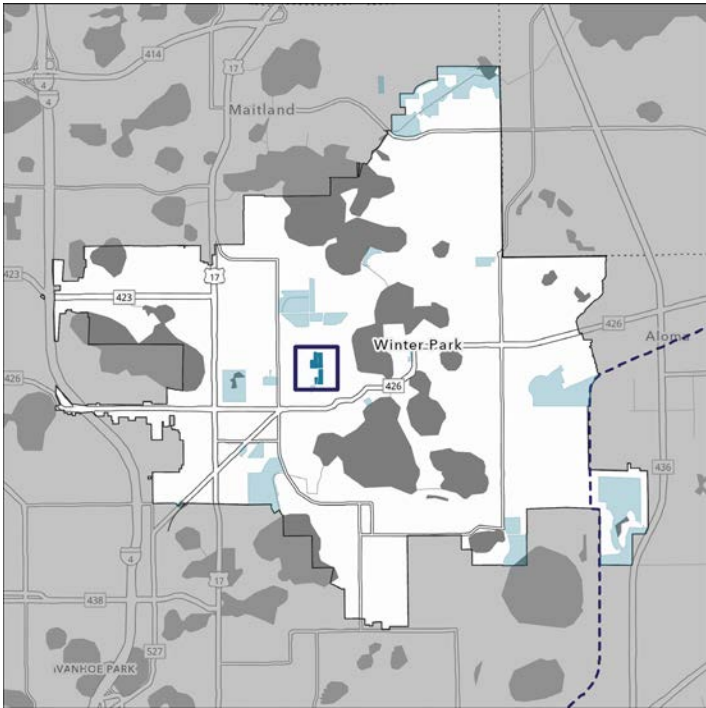
Central Park and Central Park West Meadows

Current Site Conditions

Central Park’s West Meadow serves as a large, flexible, and centrally located green space designed to support both passive recreation and programmed community events. The park is intentionally planned as a passive-use meadow, offering functional circulation and open access for pedestrians moving between the surrounding downtown areas and park amenities. Sidewalks and open lawn areas make the space easy to navigate for all ages, including elderly visitors and families with strollers. The West Meadow routinely hosts the relocated Winter Park Farmers’ Market, drawing visitors and consistent use of the space. The large lawn accommodates seating, vendor setups, and community activities, supporting a mix of things to do, from weekly markets to seasonal events like “Winter in the Park,” which feature lighting displays and holiday programming.

The general ambiance of the West Meadow is welcoming and open, with strong visibility across the lawn and natural surveillance from the surrounding urban edges, contributing to a feeling of safety. Comfort is enhanced by shaded areas from the trees within Central Park as a whole, and seating is added during events or through temporary installations. Civic pride is strongly reflected in the Meadow’s active programming, community turnout at the Farmers’ Market, and the City’s commitment to maintaining the space as a signature downtown gathering area. Regular events, crowds of residents, and the longstanding tradition of seasonal festivities strengthen its identity as a central community hub.

A future site plan has been provided for West Meadow, which includes a monument corner at W. Morse Blvd. and S. New York Ave. The plan includes a gateway element at the train-crossing intersection and a native plant path with rotary game tables along the path.



Location	150 N New York Ave
Type	Community Park
Acreage	8.0

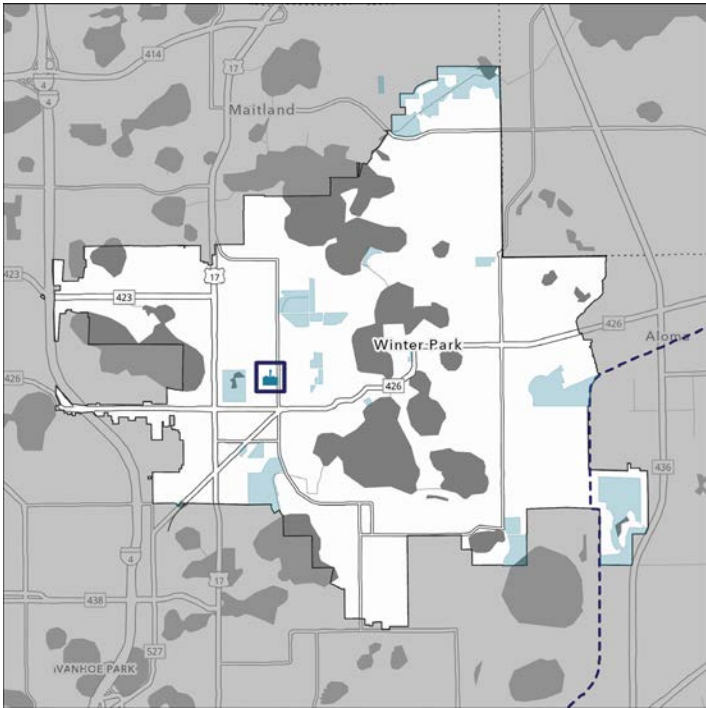


Community Center and Shady Park at Hannibal Square

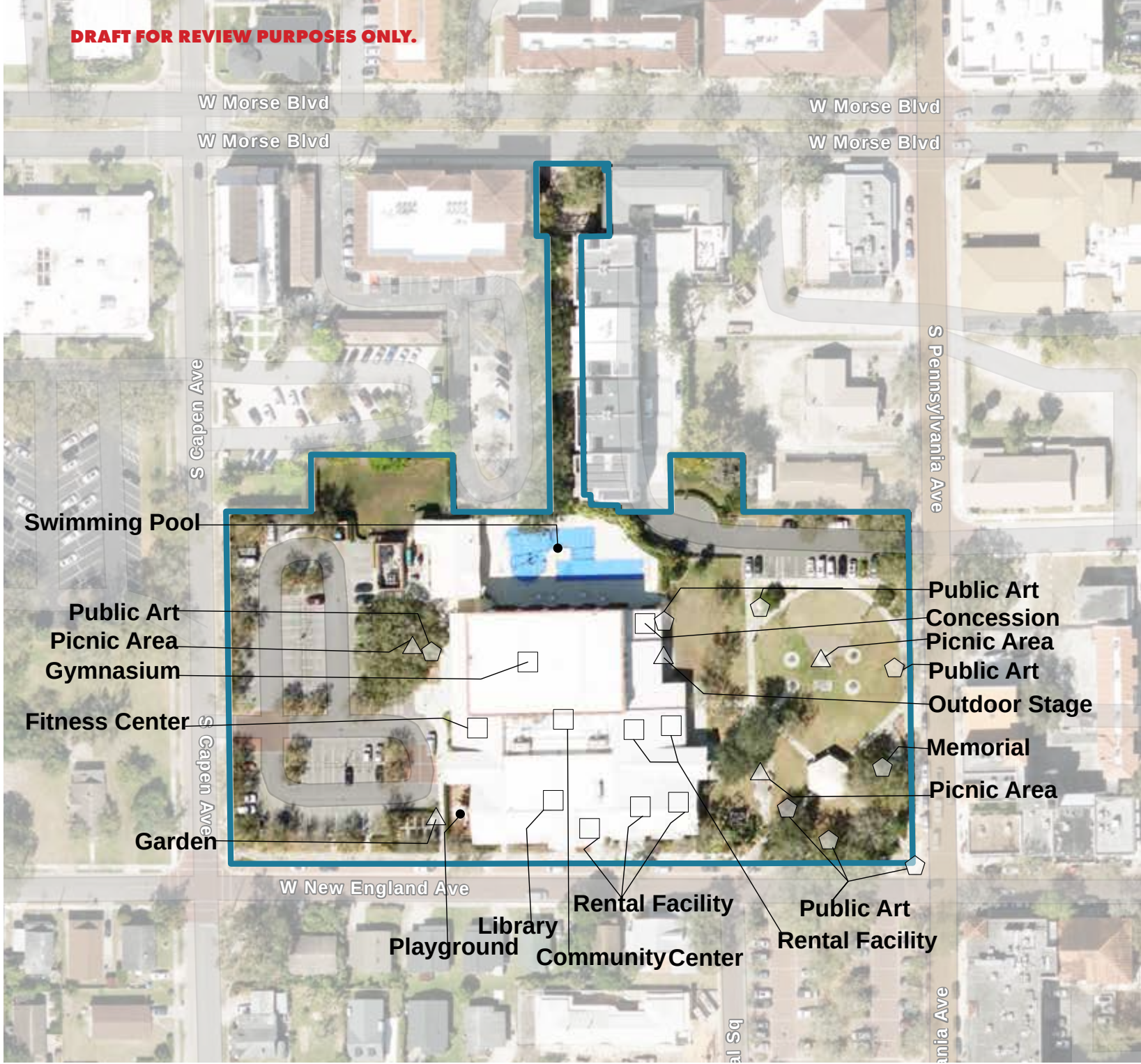
Current Site Conditions

Shady Park and the adjacent Community Center function as a combined civic space offering a wide range of indoor and outdoor amenities. The Community Center includes a gym, fitness center, classrooms, multipurpose rooms, and an outdoor pool. The Park provides an amphitheater, a pavilion with multiple picnic tables, and three additional picnic areas in the open lawn, one of which is ADA-accessible. The site incorporates a range of public art, including the memorial to the Four Hannibal Square Pioneers, the “Molecular Dog” sculpture, and a vibrant mural honoring community strength. From a general design standpoint, the park offers ADA accessible routes from the parking lot and surrounding sidewalks, and overall circulation connects most amenities effectively. Observed activity suggests that the park’s amenities are well used, with the pavilion occupied during the visit and steady foot traffic from dog walkers and nearby residents.

The park’s ambiance feels open, safe, and welcoming. The site offers good overall visibility. There was also considerable social activity in the area. Shady Park reflects strong civic pride through its public art, memorial elements, and its role as a gathering space for neighbors and primary users.



Location	721 W New England Ave
Type	Community Park
Acreage	4.7

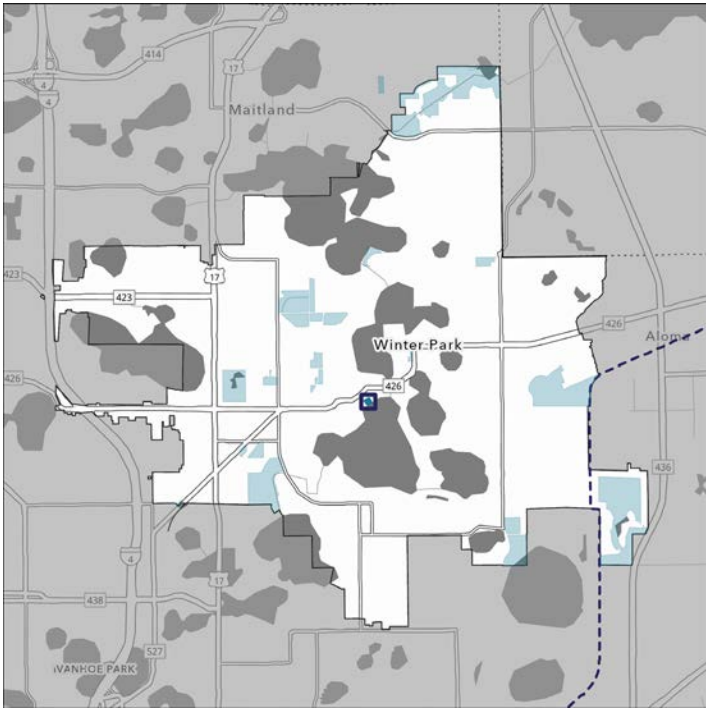


Dinky Dock Park

Current Site Conditions

Dinky Dock Park offers a simple, yet functional layout that supports a variety of recreational and waterfront activities. The park provides clear and logical access through its sidewalks and paths, allowing visitors to easily reach the boat ramp, ADA-accessible dock, picnic tables, benches, and restroom. Its amenities are relevant and well used, especially the boat launch and dock, which draws boaters, kayakers, and casual visitors. The mix of things to do, from launching watercraft to relaxing by the lake, creates a balanced experience for different user groups. The park is inclusive and navigable, offering accessible features and smooth circulation patterns that accommodate elderly visitors, families with strollers, and people with mobility devices.

The general ambiance of Dinky Dock is welcoming, enhanced by open views to the water and the presence of large, mature cypress trees that contribute both beauty and shade. Visibility throughout the site is strong, promoting a sense of safety, and seating is readily available along the shoreline for those looking to relax or enjoy the view. Civic pride is reflected in the park’s steady usage and the sense of community tied to the boat ramp and waterfront access. The combination of natural features, social activity, and clean facilities help reinforce the park’s role as an inviting and valued local destination.



Location	410 Ollie Ave
Type	Community Park
Acreage	1.6

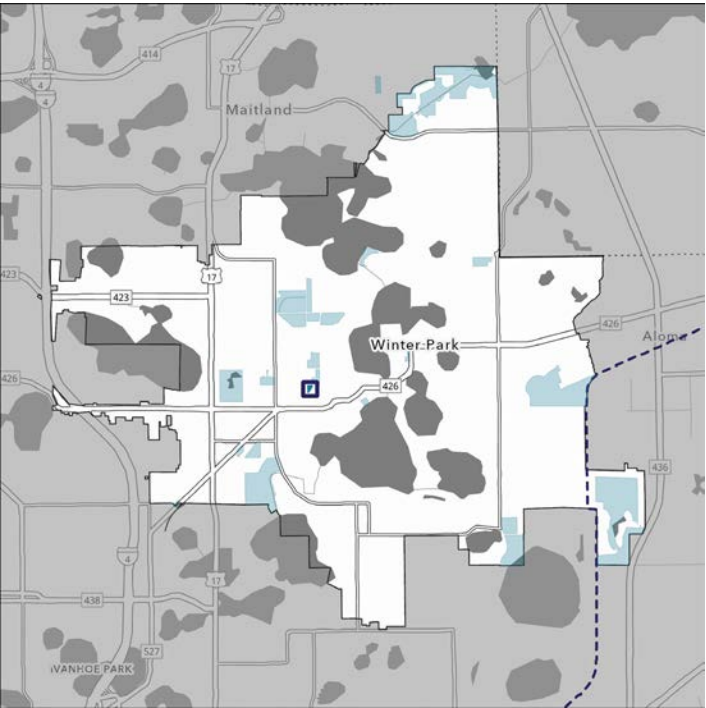


Farmers Market Venue

Current Site Conditions

The Winter Park Farmers Market building is a historically significant and highly functional community space, originally built as a train depot and still showcasing its unique brick walls and original wood sliding doors. Its design easily supports circulation throughout the building and adjoining parking areas, offering strong ADA accessibility and on-site parking that accommodates a wide range of users. As a popular venue for events, the building features updated and relevant amenities—including air-conditioning, a prep kitchen with commercial refrigeration, tables and chairs. Flexible indoor/outdoor seating options are available in its fenced parking lot, which can also be used for tented events. The building retains strong character, including the recognizable mural signage, and continues to serve as a meaningful, well-used venue for gatherings, community events, and private rentals. The site is also home to the Winter Park History Museum.

The ambiance around the Farmers Market building is welcoming, supported by its central location in Winter Park and its strong sense of place derived from its preserved historic architecture and community identity highlighted on the building's mural. The building's open layout and surrounding parking area provide clear visibility and natural surveillance, contributing to a safe environment for visitors. Civic pride is evident in its popularity as one of Winter Park's most sought-after event spaces. The venue is frequently celebrated for its historic charm. While the weekly Saturday Farmers Market has now moved to the West Meadows, the building's identity is still closely tied to the original depot building. Through its continued use, community engagement, and preserved character, the Farmers Market building remains a beloved landmark and gathering place within Winter Park.

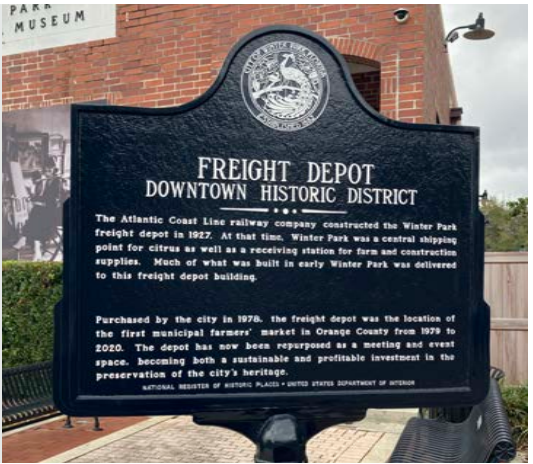


Location	200 West New England Ave
Type	Community Park
Acreage	0.85

DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.



DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.



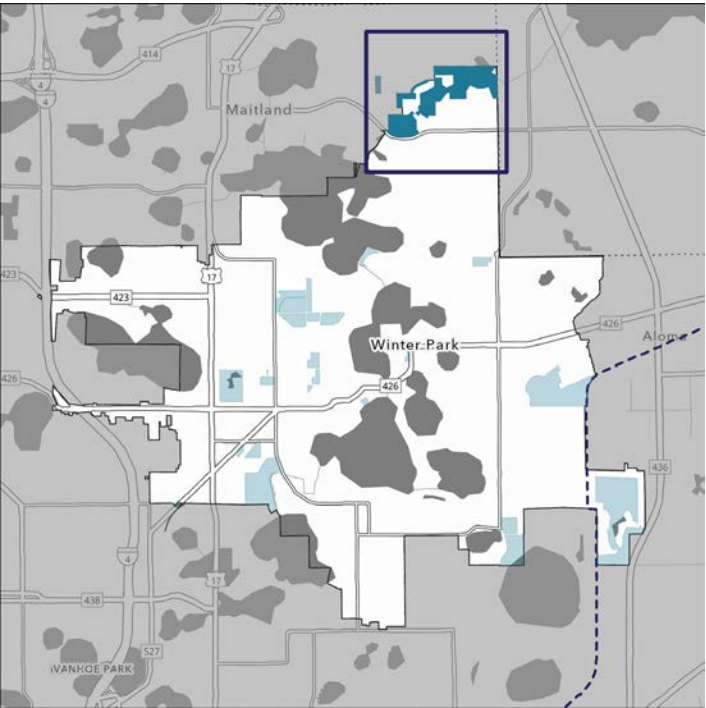
Howell Branch Preserve

Current Site Conditions

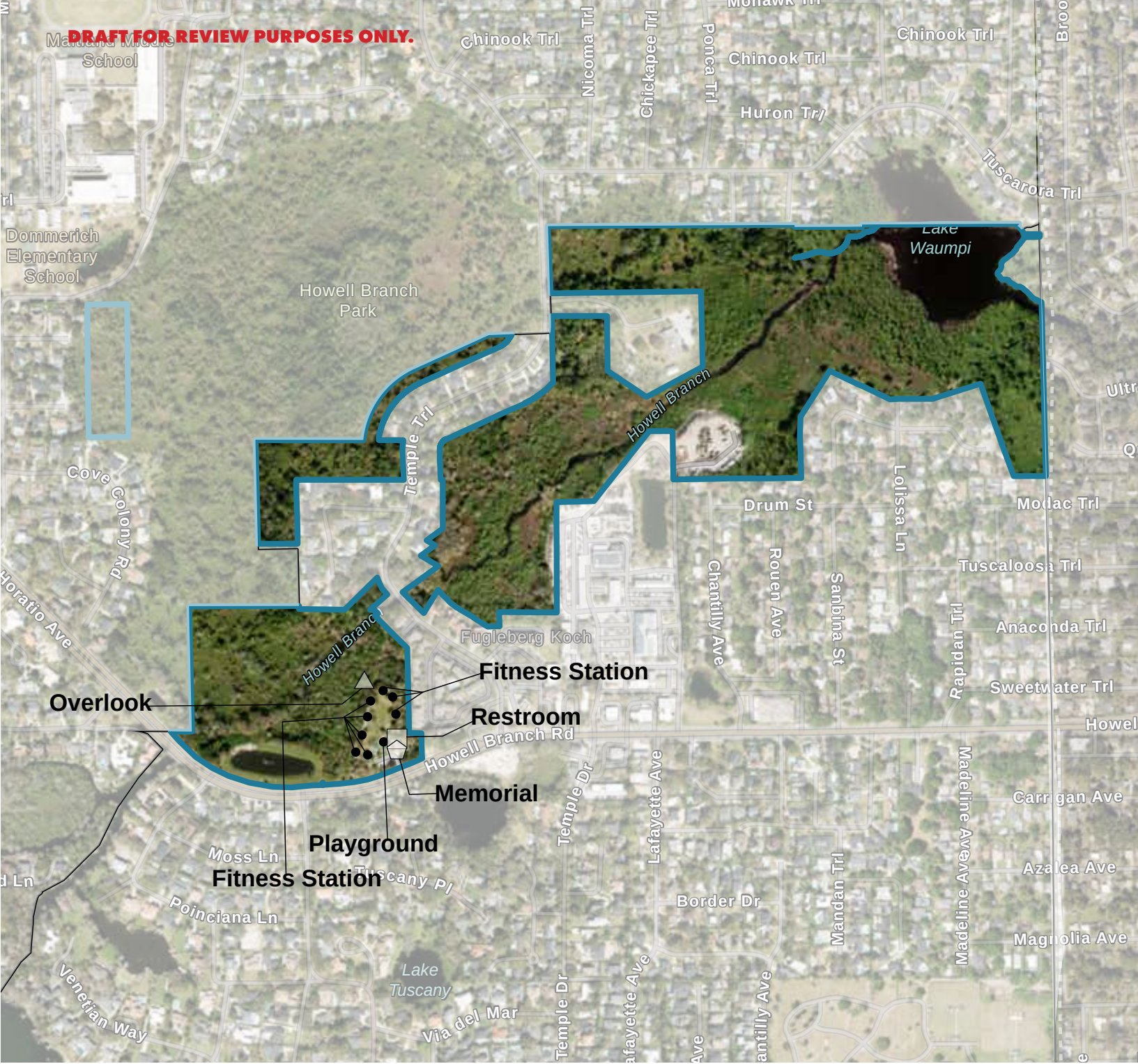
Howell Branch Preserve is a preserve park that includes neighborhood park amenities surrounded by wetlands and natural habitat. The park provides both pedestrian and intentional limited vehicular access, with a small parking area at the entrance. Spatial organization within the preserve is clear and legible, anchored by a simple loop walk that connects the primary amenities. Circulation is intuitive and allows access to the playground, fitness stations, observation deck, pavilion, and restrooms, supporting both active and passive recreation. Amenities include a playground, a fitness trail with exercise stations, and opportunities for nature observation via boardwalks and an observation deck overlooking wetlands. Overall, the park offers activities for both children and adults and functions as a neighborhood recreational space with a simple layout.

The preserve generally feels calm and welcoming, with good natural visibility across much of the site and “eyes on the park” provided by nearby neighborhoods. Vegetation near the restroom entrance creates Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) ambush points that should be addressed to improve visibility, perceived safety, and enhance the entry into the park. Amenities needing replacement soon include wayfinding and entrance signage. Shade is provided by tree canopy and pavilion structures, and seating is available near key amenities, supporting user comfort. As a nature-oriented park with an observation deck and wetland setting, Howell Branch Preserve has a sense of place rooted in its ecological context, while providing opportunities for expanded environmental education and interpretative signage. User patterns suggest it is primarily frequented by families, walkers, and fitness users, contributing to a local sense of community.

The 2023 Howell Branch Park Site Plan includes a pedestrian bridge and a loop trail. Access to the water is expanded via a canoe launch and a designated drop-off point, as well as a series of boardwalks over the weir, wetlands, and canopy. Additional overlooks create elevated routes through the park’s natural habitats. The plan includes a large pavilion, a smaller pavilion, an open lawn, and a discovery-focused playground supported by a sculpted play berm.



Location	1205 Howell Branch Rd.
Type	Community Park
Acreage	110.0

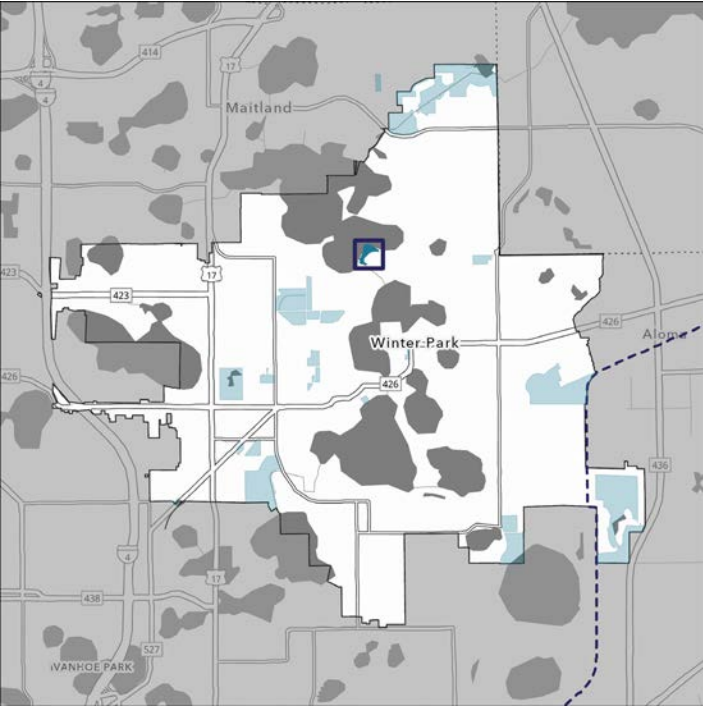


Kraft Azalea Garden

Current Site Conditions

Kraft Azalea Garden is a small, neighborhood-scaled passive park tucked into a residential area along the shores of Lake Maitland in Winter Park. Access is primarily provided via local streets, with marked crosswalks connecting nearby sidewalks to the park entrance and limited on-street parking—making it convenient for surrounding residents while reinforcing its neighborhood character. The park is organized around a simple central spine that guides visitors from the entrance to the lakefront, with a combination of paved walks and informal shell or natural paths branching off toward seating areas and viewpoints. Circulation generally makes sense for a passive garden setting, though the mix of surface types can limit ease of movement for strollers or mobility devices. Special care must be taken to ensure the shoreline is stabilized and prevent erosion into the site. Amenities are modest but highly relevant to community use, and include benches, a small dock, short walking trails, and the iconic Exedra monument. The amenities all of which support quiet activities such as strolling, picnicking, photography, and contemplation. The park is well used by locals and visitors alike, indicating strong relevancy, though pathway upgrades could improve overall inclusivity for users of all ages and abilities.

The overall ambiance of Kraft Azalea Garden is calm, scenic, and welcoming, supported by open sightlines, minimal fencing, and strong natural surveillance from adjacent homes and regular foot traffic. The park benefits from good visibility throughout, with generally clear lines of sight along paths and toward the water, contributing to a sense of safety. Comfort is a major strength: mature cypress trees and other canopy vegetation provide extensive shade, and seating is thoughtfully placed along paths and near the lakefront, particularly around the Exedra monument. Site conditions are generally good, with lush vegetation that reinforces the park's identity. From a civic pride standpoint, the Exedra monument and historic garden design create a strong sense of place, and the park is widely regarded as a “secret garden” cherished by the community. Regular use for small weddings, photography, and quiet gatherings reflects positive social activity and stewardship, even without a formal friends group—underscoring the park’s role as a valued and well-respected neighborhood open space.



Location	1365 Alabama Dr.
Type	Neighborhood Park
Acreage	5.3

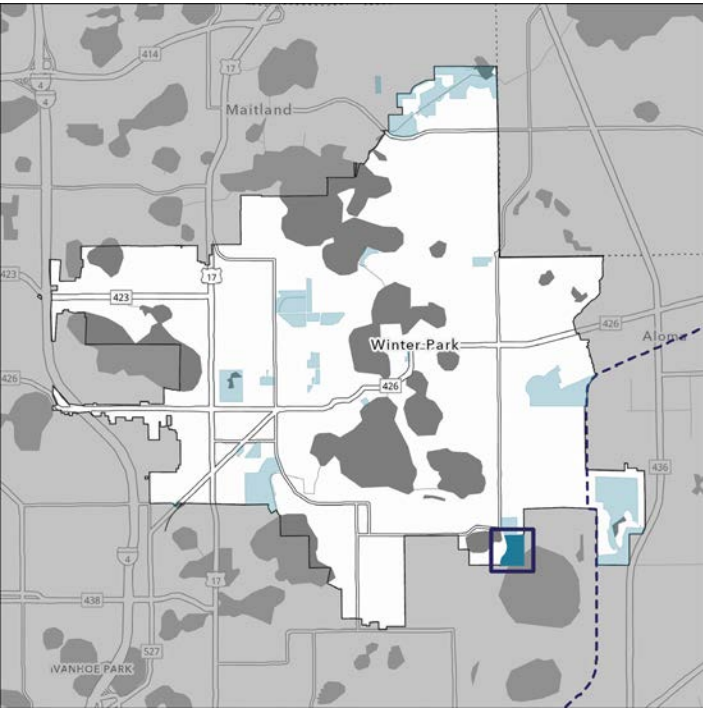


Lake Baldwin Park

Current Site Conditions

Lake Baldwin Park is a compact, neighborhood-serving waterfront park in Winter Park that offers a clear and legible spatial organization centered around Lake Baldwin and its popular dog park. Vehicular access is well defined, with a marked park entrance and adjacent surface parking. Pedestrian connectivity is well supported through existing sidewalks and crosswalks that link the park to surrounding residential areas. In addition, the park connects to an existing multi-use trail and is accessible via nearby transit stops. Internally, circulation is simple and intuitive, with minimal paths that connect the core amenities, dog park, playground, pavilion, beach frontage, and restroom, efficiently. The park’s amenities are highly relevant: the off-leash dog park is heavily used and widely recognized, while the playground receives moderate use and would benefit from equipment upgrades to broaden age range and play value. Overall, the mix of activities supports both active and passive use, including dog recreation, casual play, waterfront relaxation, and picnicking. While the park is ADA accessible at primary facilities, inclusivity could be strengthened through improved trails and pedestrian connections that better accommodate seniors, caregivers with strollers, and users with mobility limitations.

The general ambiance of Lake Baldwin Park is welcoming and relaxed, reinforced by good sightlines across open grassy areas and along the lake edge. While wooded zones create occasional visual screening, these areas feel appropriate to the natural character of the site rather than unsafe. Comfort is a key strength: mature shade trees, plentiful benches, a large and well-loved pavilion, restrooms, and dog-specific amenities (leash areas, wash stations, lake access) all encourage extended visits and social interaction. Vegetation appears healthy and intentional. Civic pride is especially evident through the strong stewardship of the dog park by the Friends of Winter Park Dog Park, a nonprofit group that partners with the City to maintain, program, and advocate for the space. Social activity is consistent, dominated by dog owners, families, and nearby residents, contributing to a strong sense of community ownership. While the park’s identity is largely defined by its dog-friendly character, subtle placemaking elements such as updated signage or modest art features could further strengthen its sense of place without detracting from its natural, informal charm.



Location	2000 S. Lakemont Ave.
Type	Community Park
Acreage	23.6



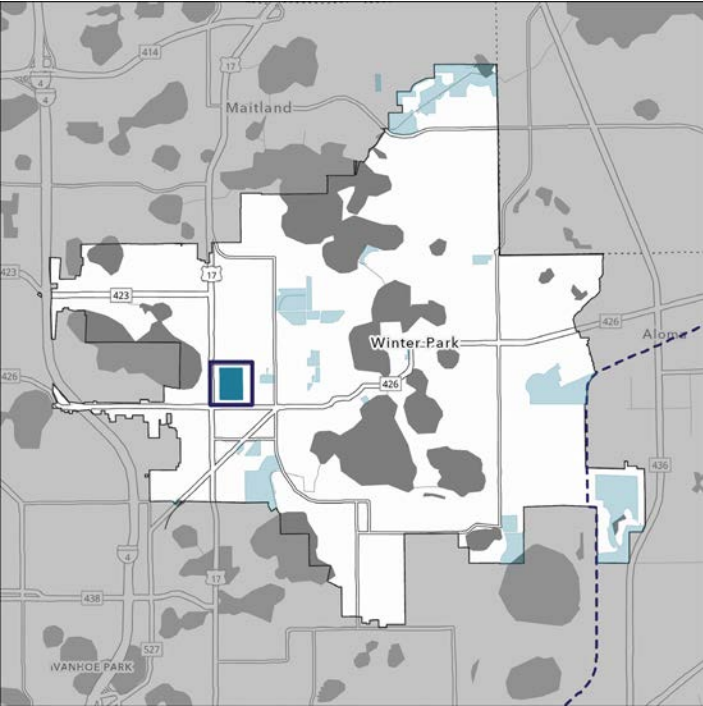
Martin Luther King Jr. Park

Current Site Conditions

MLK Park features a layout that facilitates easy access from the surrounding neighborhood, with sidewalks connected to its primary recreational areas. Internal circulation is intuitive, enabling visitors to move comfortably between the playground, fields, basketball courts, pickleball courts, a croquet court, open lawns, and lakeside spaces. Most amenities appear well used, highlighting the park's importance to the community. The park offers a balanced mix of activities, from areas dedicated to exercise and sports to quieter spots intended for relaxation. Its mostly flat terrain and wide walkways further support accessibility for older adults, families with strollers, and users with mobility needs.

The park feels open and welcoming, supported by strong visibility and steady foot traffic that gives a sense of safety. Mature trees provide shade in key areas, and seating options enhance comfort, although some areas would benefit from added tree canopy. Social activity remains consistent throughout the day, with walkers, families, and sports groups actively using the space—reflecting a well-loved and highly utilized park. Feedback from regular users emphasized a desire for additional shade and the possible addition of a barbecue grill area.

In 2022, the City of Winter Park completed a Conceptual Design for MLK Park, which addresses the issues identified during this site visit. The first phase of implementation began in 2025 with the replacement of the existing restroom building and pavilion. The plan also includes a full renovation of the playground, which is currently underway. The updated playground design blends the existing castle features with a series of new elements. Additions include a castle platform rising over a five-foot artificial-turf mound with roller slides, an open tube slide, climbing rocks, and a bridge that connects to the current playground structures. Other features include tunnel entries integrated into a sensory wall, a poured-in-place rubber pathway, trunk steps leading up a sodded mound, and a moat-themed splash pad area.



Location	1050 Morse Blvd
Type	Community Park
Acreage	28.3

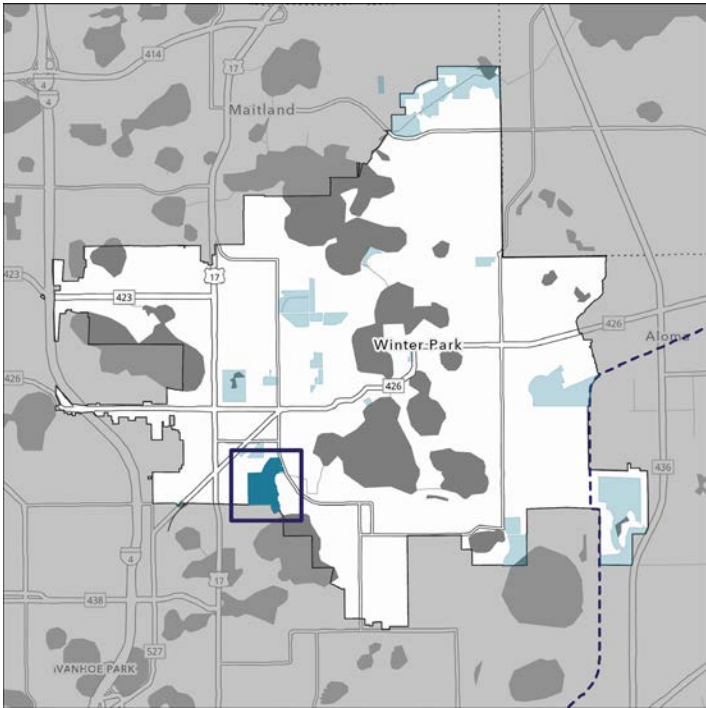


Mead Botanical Garden

Current Site Conditions

Mead Botanical Garden offers a rich blend of natural areas and functional public space, with a network of hiking trails, boardwalks, gardens, and water features that connect visitors to the surrounding landscape. The park's general design supports a mix of recreational and passive uses; its greenhouse, butterfly garden, pond habitat, and event-oriented spaces such as the amphitheater and wedding venue create diverse destinations throughout the site. Wayfinding signage helps guide visitors to key amenities, though the trail system shows signs of wear. Several paths have been washed out or eroded, indicating a need for stabilization and potentially improved drainage solutions to ensure long-term accessibility. While most areas remain functional and welcoming, some elements would benefit from updates to better support inclusivity, particularly for users with mobility limitations, strollers, or those who rely on consistent, stable walking surfaces.

The park's ambiance is shaped by its wooded canopy, open lawns, and shaded structures, offering a generally comfortable environment for exploration and relaxation. However, visibility and circulation vary by area, with certain trail segments feeling less defined due to erosion or natural overgrowth. Shade and informal seating are present, especially around gathering spaces like the rustic pavilion, though more formal seating near high-use zones could improve comfort. The restroom facility looks structurally sound. Civic pride remains evident through community use, educational programming, and habitat stewardship, contributing to a strong sense of place. Still, addressing circulation issues and updating aging infrastructure would help sustain the garden's role as a valued community destination.



Location	1300 S Denning Dr
Type	Community Park
Acreage	47.6

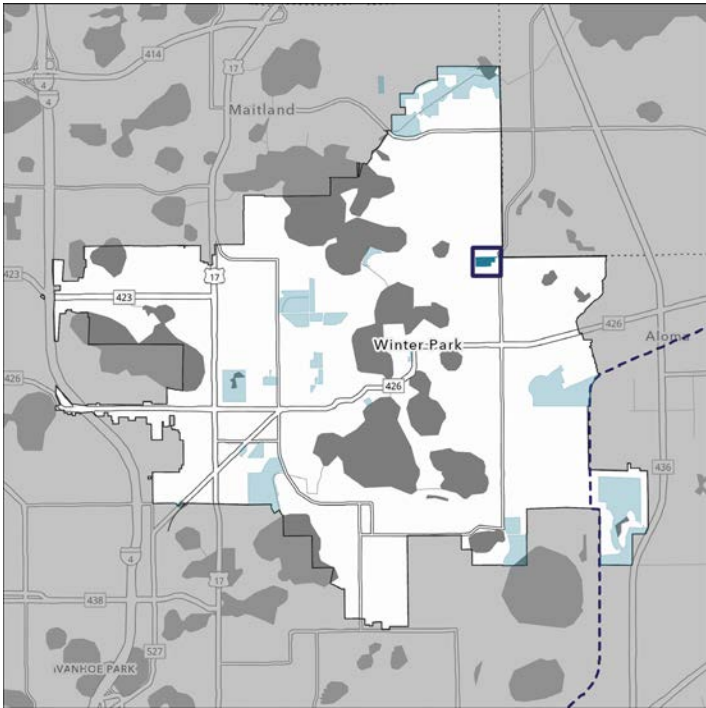


Phelps Park

Current Site Conditions

Phelps Park is a compact, highly functional neighborhood park that serves families and nearby residents, by offering a mix of active recreation and informal open space. The park is accessible by both sidewalks and a vehicular entry. While internal access works well, improved crosswalks and stronger pedestrian connections to surrounding residential streets would enhance neighborhood walkability and safety. Internally, circulation is clear and intuitive, with a sidewalk loop and connecting paths linking all major amenities—including the playground, basketball court, tennis courts, pickleball courts, picnic pavilions, and open lawn areas. The playground is a standout feature, offering distinct areas for different age groups and abilities, which supports varied and inclusive nature play. All facilities appeared to be actively used at the time of observation, indicating strong relevancy and no immediately obsolete amenities. Overall, the park successfully balances places for energetic play with flexible lawn space for relaxation and casual activity, making it usable by caregivers with strollers, older adults, and children of varying ages.

The general ambiance of Phelps Park is welcoming, lively, and comfortable, supported by good sightlines and a pedestrian-scale layout that promotes natural surveillance and safety. The park benefits from “eyes on the park,” with frequent use by families, teens, and adults participating in sports or supervising children, reinforcing a strong sense of security. Comfort is enhanced by mature tree canopy, shaded play areas, picnic tables, and covered pavilions that are well loved for gatherings and birthday parties. Civic pride is evident through consistent use, positive community reviews, and City investment in upgraded playground equipment and maintenance. While the park does not rely on iconic design elements or public art for identity, its strength lies in everyday social activity, family stewardship, and its reputation as a dependable, well-kept neighborhood gathering space.



Location	1206 N. Phelps Ave.
Type	Neighborhood Park
Acreage	6.0

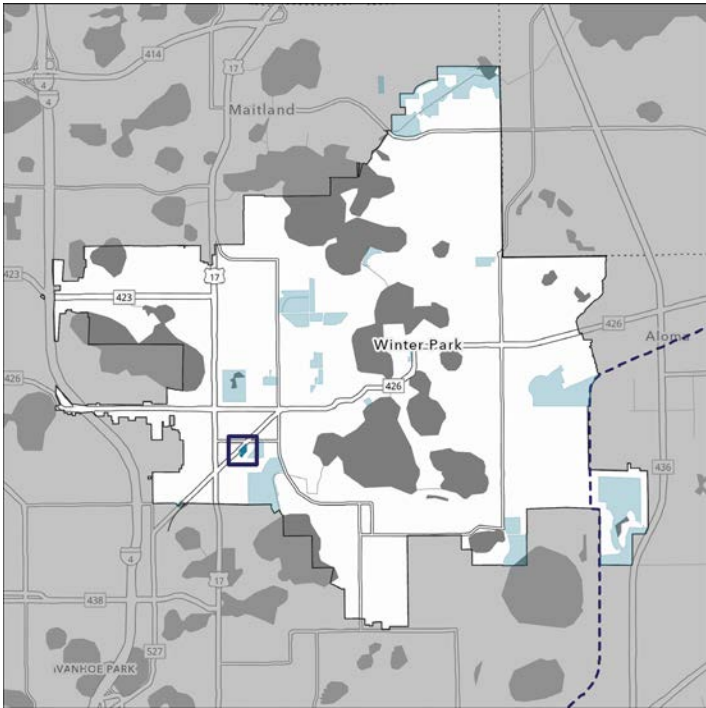


Seven Oaks Park

Current Site Conditions

Opened in 2025, Seven Oaks Park offers a thoughtfully organized and functional design that supports both daily movement and leisurely use. Its very wide, paved ADA-friendly walkways provide seamless access throughout the park and along Orange Avenue, where shade trellises and benches create an inviting edge for pedestrians and commuters. Circulation flows intuitively, connecting garden zones, art installations, the fountain, and the public restroom. The amenities feel relevant and well used, while the mix of shaded seating, open pathways, and visually engaging sculptures (Drop by John E. Bannon, Melt Piece by Maxwell Hartley, and Blue Mulberry by Lionel T. Dean) offer both places to pause and places to explore.

The general ambiance is welcoming and comfortable, even though the park is bordered on all sides by roads; clear sightlines, natural surveillance, and the openness of the design contribute to a strong sense of safety. Shade trellises, abundant benches, and thoughtfully placed vegetation enhance comfort without creating areas that feel overgrown or hidden. Overall site conditions appear well maintained; walkways are in excellent condition; and the park's infrastructure supports accessibility and stormwater needs. The presence of public art, active users, and a restroom facility contributes to a strong sense of civic identity, making the park feel like a valued neighborhood asset. The steady foot traffic and visible community presence reinforce social activity and suggest that the park is not only functional but embraced by the people who pass through and spend time there.



Location	1150 N Orange Ave
Type	Community Park
Acreage	2.0

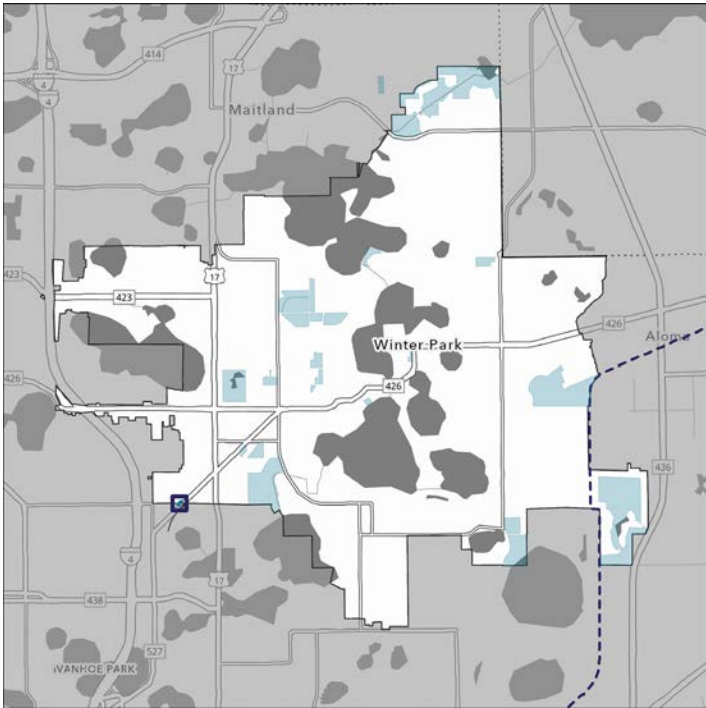


The Park at Orwin Manor

Current Site Conditions

Orwin Manor Park is a small neighborhood park with simple but functional set of amenities, including a playground, picnic tables, and a central brick plaza that recognizes community donors. Sidewalks connect directly into the park from the surrounding residential streets, offering intuitive access for nearby residents. Circulation within the park is straightforward, leading visitors naturally from the entry paths to the seating areas and playground. However, several of the concrete walkways show signs of cracking, uneven surfaces, and areas of wear—reducing accessibility, particularly for users with mobility needs, people pushing strollers, or older adults. Overall, the park provides spaces for both play and quiet gathering, but several design components would benefit from updates to ensure full inclusivity and long-term functionality.

The park’s ambiance is welcoming, with open clear sightlines and steady passive activity from nearby homes and passing walkers. Mature tree canopy contributes shade and comfort, and the brick donor plaza adds a meaningful sense of place tied to neighborhood involvement. The park retains a strong community identity, evident through the donor bricks and the care residents have invested in this space since 1994. Social use appears modest but steady.



Location	3201 N Orange Ave
Type	Neighborhood Park
Acreage	0.9

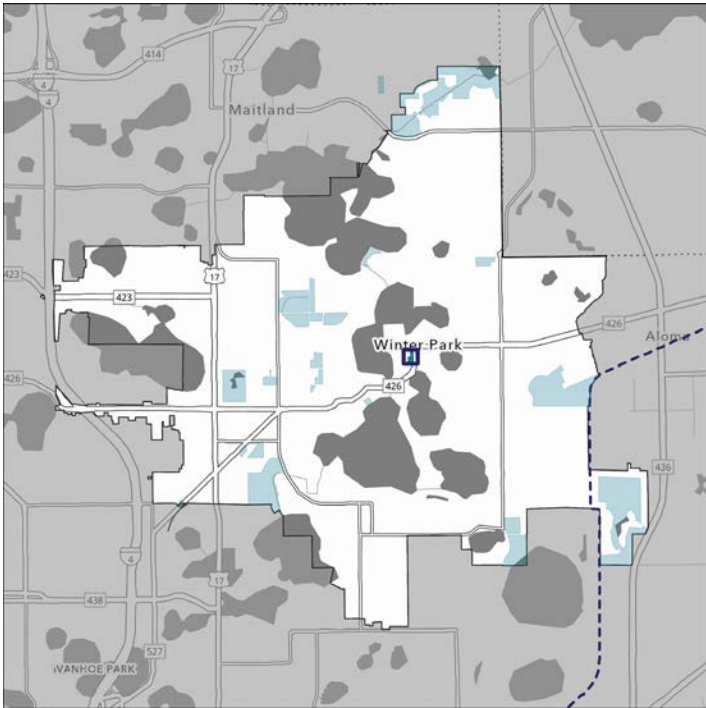


Trismen Park

Current Site Conditions

Trismen Park is a small, walkable neighborhood park that serves as a quiet, functional retreat for nearby residents. Its design includes two picnic tables and two benches, making it an ideal spot for neighbors to walk to and enjoy a simple, low-intensity outdoor experience. The park’s layout supports easy circulation, and its generous size naturally promotes inclusivity, allowing elderly visitors, families with strollers, and children to navigate the space comfortably. It has winding paths that attract walkers and runners, further emphasizing its role as a peaceful, accessible community space. The mature live oak trees with Spanish moss reinforce the sense of a quiet neighborhood refuge space.

The general ambiance of Trismen Park is welcoming and calm, supported by open sightlines, natural surveillance from surrounding homes, and well-maintained vegetation. The presence of large oak trees and abundant greenery adds shade and comfort, enhancing the park’s appeal as a place to sit, relax, or take a leisurely walk. Site conditions appear clean and well cared for, with no major infrastructure concerns noted in available sources. Community pride is reflected in user reviews describing the park as a “serene sanctuary” and a peaceful escape within Winter Park.



Location	231 Brewer Ave
Type	Neighborhood Park
Acreage	1.4

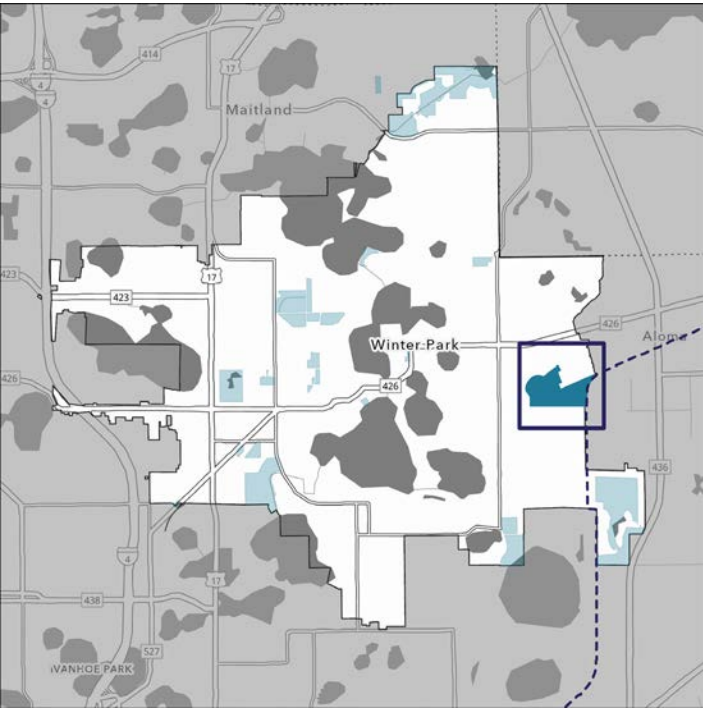


Ward Park and Cady Way Park

Current Site Conditions

Ward Park functions as a highly active, sports-oriented community park with strong neighborhood and regional connectivity. The site benefits from several access points and direct connections to the Cady Way Trail, a major multi-use corridor linking surrounding neighborhoods and recreational destinations—reinforcing its role as a community hub. The park accommodates a wide range of amenities, including organized athletic fields, pickleball courts, a sand volleyball court, basketball courts, tennis courts, an Olympic-sized pool, playgrounds, fitness and bike trails, and passive recreation spaces that receive heavy and consistent use, confirming their ongoing relevance. However, while the quantity and diversity of uses are a strength, the overall spatial organization is challenging to navigate. Amenities are dispersed without a clearly defined internal pedestrian loop or continuous sidewalk system, making circulation between the uses feel fragmented rather than intuitive. Improved wayfinding and providing a unifying walking loop would help integrate the active sports core with the northern, more neighborhood-oriented and passive areas—enhancing inclusivity for users such as older adults, families with strollers, and casual walkers.

In terms of ambiance, the park generally feels clean, well maintained, and welcoming, with mature canopy trees providing generous shade and a sense of comfort throughout much of the site. Benches, bleachers, and picnic areas support both spectators and casual park users, reinforcing opportunities to linger and socialize. Visibility and safety are mostly positive, given the scale and openness of the park; however, some adjacencies, such as the basketball court tucked behind the playground, create compromised sightlines that could be improved for better natural surveillance. Vegetation is healthy overall. Civic pride is evident in the park’s steady use by families, athletes, and trail users, as well as in the City’s investment in accessible playground equipment and multi-use trails that connect to the broader greenway network. While organized sports leagues and partnership with the high school clearly contribute to stewardship and social activity, there is an opportunity to further strengthen the park’s sense of place through cohesive identity elements, such as signage, gateways, or public art, to visually tie together its many components and reinforce it as a unified community destination.



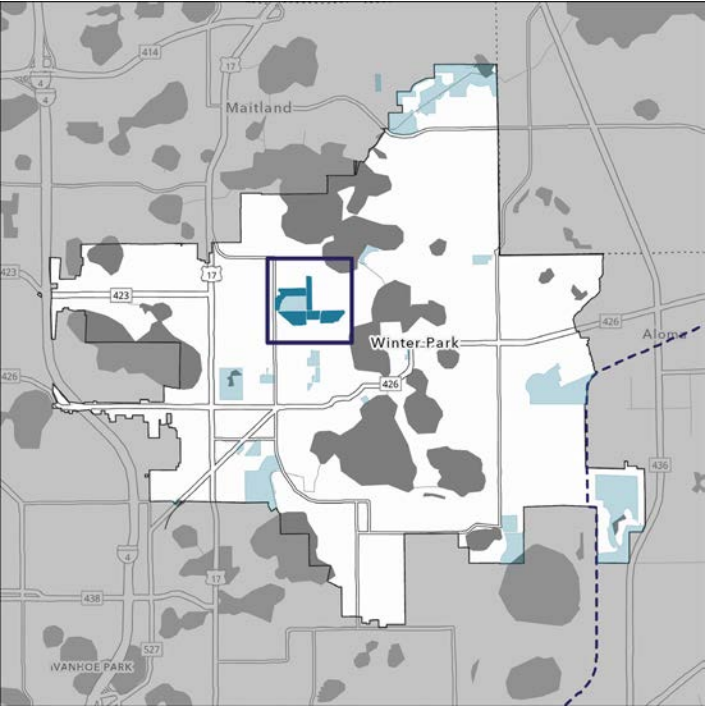
Location	250 Perth Lane
Type	Community Park
Acreage	67.3



Winter Park Golf Course and Country Club

Current Site Conditions

The Winter Park Golf Course and Country Club is a historic, 9-hole municipal golf facility centrally located within the Winter Park neighborhood. Established in 1914 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the course is recognized as one of the oldest and most unique short courses in Florida, functioning as both a recreational destination and a civic landmark. Access to the site is both vehicular and pedestrian, with well-marked entries and sidewalks connecting the course to surrounding residential streets, churches, and nearby downtown areas. The site is organized around centralized parking that serves both the golf course and country club functions, creating intuitive arrivals and efficient movement. Internal circulation for vehicles and pedestrians within the parking areas is clear and functional, while the course itself is primarily a walking experience, reinforcing its neighborhood scale and accessibility. The facility is actively used by the community, that offers daily public play, memberships, lessons, and tournaments. It also hosts special events, reinforcing the continued relevancy of its amenities. While the primary activity is golf, the course's compact layout and historic clubhouse also allows it to support social gatherings and civic events, broadening its functional value beyond sport alone.



Location	761 Old England Ave.
Type	Special Purpose Park
Acreage	40.8

The ambiance is welcoming and well cared for, with manicured entrances, clear signage, and strong visual connections throughout the site contributing to a sense of safety and ease of navigation. The open layout of the course, combined with adjacent streets and surrounding homes, provides high visibility and consistent “eyes on the course,” enhancing natural surveillance and overall user comfort. Shade trees and shaded seating areas near the clubhouse and along gathering points improve comfort for golfers and visitors alike, especially given Florida's climate. From a civic pride perspective, the course has a pronounced sense of place rooted in its historic clubhouse, legacy landscape, and recognition on the Florida Historic Golf Trail. Social activity spans a wide demographic, from longtime residents and retirees to younger golfers and event attendees, fostering a strong sense of community. Stewardship is evident through City of Winter Park management, active maintenance programs, and enthusiastic public support, positioning it as a recreational asset.

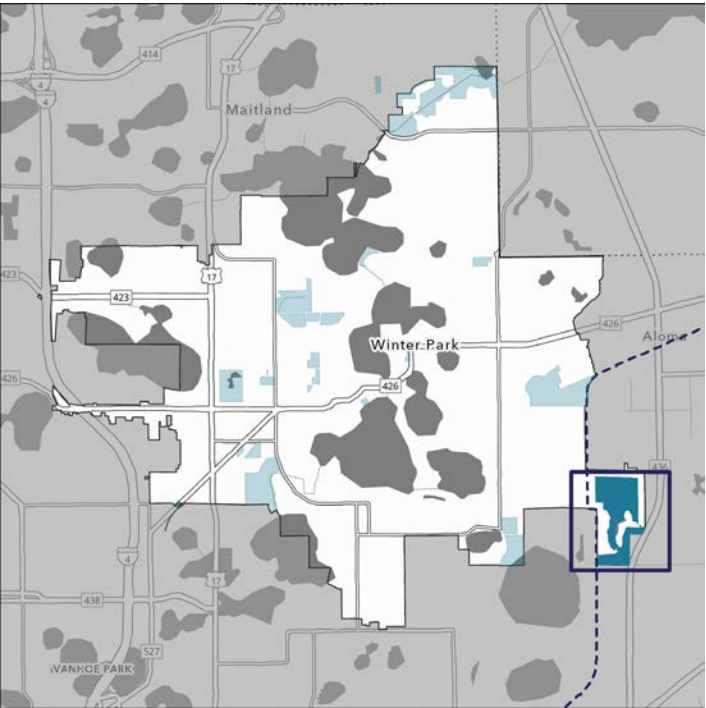


Winter Park Pines Golf Course

Current Site Conditions

Winter Park Pines Golf Course is an 18-hole, municipally operated golf facility embedded within a residential neighborhood. Vehicular access is provided through surrounding local streets, while pedestrian access is limited, with sidewalks terminating outside of the property. Spatial organization of the course is clear and logical overall, with a well-defined loop and intuitive course circulation that supports efficient movement between holes and practice areas. However, the entrance to the pro shop is somewhat counterintuitive for first time users, despite being familiar to the regulars. Circulation within the course is otherwise well laid out and supports high levels of users. In terms of relevancy, the course remains heavily used and well maintained, offering not only golf, but also a driving range, practice greens, a restaurant, and an event patio that expands its function beyond play alone. Overall, Winter Park Pines functions effectively as a recreational anchor for the surrounding community and continues to meet its intended purpose as an affordable, active public golf venue.

The general ambiance of Winter Park Pines Golf Course is welcoming and open, reinforced by visible entrance signage and clear lines of sight across much of the property. Natural surveillance is strong, due to consistent user presence and the open character of the course, contributing to a setting that feels safe and comfortable. Comfort amenities include mature trees that provide shade. Site conditions appear good overall, with maintained turf, functional infrastructure, and no critical safety issues. From a civic pride perspective, Winter Park Pines benefits from strong and consistent patronage by locals, seniors, and beginners, reflecting its role as a valued community asset. Its longevity since being established in 1968 and continued popularity help create a recognizable sense of place. Social activity is evident through daily play, instruction, events, and dining use.



Location	950 S. Ranger Blvd.
Type	Special Purpose Park
Acreage	93.1

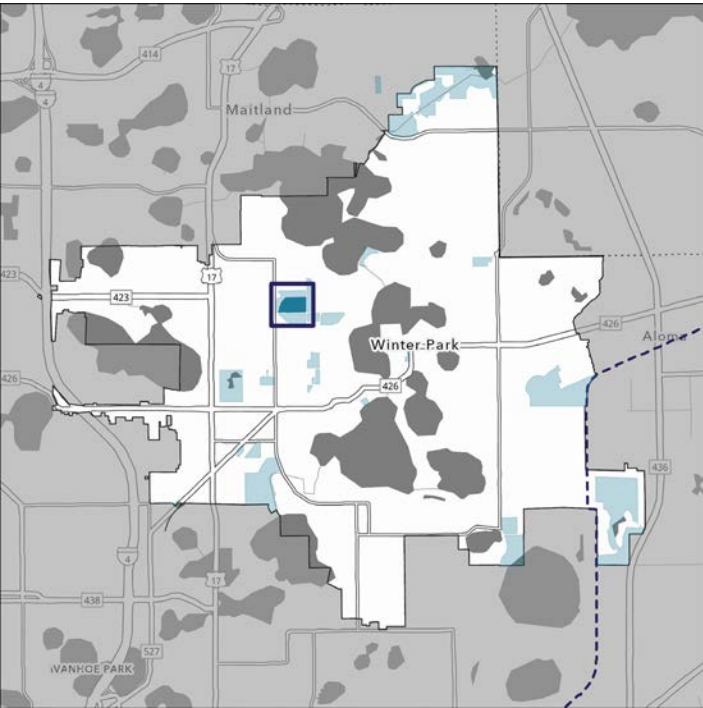


Palm Cemetery

Current Site Conditions

Palm Cemetery is a historic, contemplative civic space that has been in continuous use since its establishment in 1906, making it the City's oldest cemetery. The 17-acre site is owned and maintained by the City of Winter Park Parks & Recreation Department and serves as the final resting place for many of the City's founders, leaders, and notable residents, reinforcing its cultural and historical importance. Access to the cemetery is primarily vehicular, with entry points located along North New York Avenue, Tantum Avenue, and West Webster Avenue; pedestrian sidewalk connections are limited and do not function as a primary means of neighborhood access. Internal circulation is simple and legible, with paved drives and walking paths providing access to burial sections. Amenities are intentionally minimal and appropriate to the site's purpose, focusing on remembrance rather than recreation, and there are no obsolete features apparent. The cemetery supports quiet walking and individual reflection rather than programmed activity, and navigation is generally manageable with its intended function as a solemn memorial landscape.

The ambiance of Palm Cemetery is quiet, dignified, and reflective, offering a strong sense of calm within the surrounding urban context. Mature trees and landscaped grounds create a shaded, park-like environment that enhances comfort and supports extended visits, while the absence of recreational uses reinforces the cemetery's contemplative character. Safety and visibility are generally good, with clear sightlines along internal drives and paths and regular maintenance that prevents overgrown vegetation or visual barriers. There are no critical safety issues identified. While social activity is subdued and individual, the space is deeply valued by residents as a heritage landscape. Ongoing public management, historical documentation, and virtual tours provided by the City demonstrate a clear commitment to stewardship and preservation, underscoring the cemetery's significance as both a civic and cultural asset.



Location	1005 N. New York Ave.
Type	Cemetery
Acreage	14.2

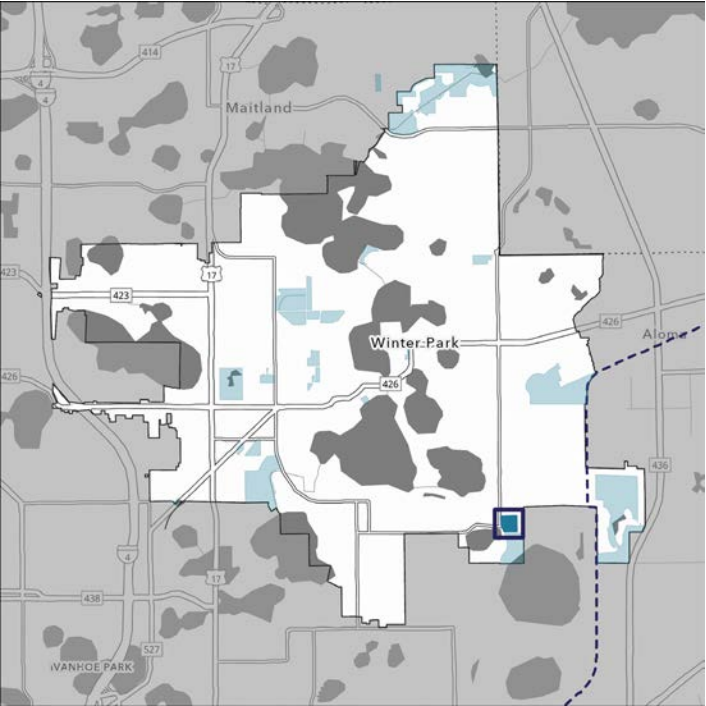


Piney Wood Cemetery

Current Site Conditions

Lake Piney Wood Cemetery is a small, quiet municipal cemetery owned and maintained by the City of Winter Park. Access is primarily vehicular, with entry points directly from the roadway and limited pedestrian infrastructure connecting to surrounding neighborhoods. Internal circulation is modest and functional for its purpose, consisting of flat lawn areas and narrow internal paths, but vertical and ADA supportive circulation elements are limited, which may present challenges for elderly visitors or those with mobility devices. The site is purpose specific, with no recreational amenities beyond memorial space, and use is appropriately focused on visitation, reflection, and maintenance rather than active programming. While the cemetery fulfills its intended role, its design offers few opportunities for broader inclusive amenities such as seating, shade structures, or clearly defined pedestrian paths that could enhance accessibility for families or caregivers accompanying visitors.

The overall ambiance of Piney Wood Cemetery is subdued and introspective but tends to feel detached rather than welcoming, especially for first time visitors. There are limited “eyes on the space,” minimal signage, and no clear visual or architectural cues that invite entry or orientation within the grounds. Comfort amenities are sparse, with little dedicated seating and few places to pause aside from grave markers themselves. Vegetation consists largely of mature trees and maintained turf, which contributes to a calm atmosphere. Civic pride is quiet and understated, expressed primarily through respectful upkeep by the city and continued use by families with historic ties to the site.



Location	1810 S. Lakemont Ave.
Type	Cemetery
Acreage	10.0



1.3 Document Review

Previous Parks & Recreation Master Plans

2008 City of Winter Park Parks and Recreation Master Plan (PRMP)

In 2008, Winter Park managed nearly 300 acres of park land across 55 properties, offering a diverse system of community parks, neighborhood parks, mini-parks, open spaces, and conservation areas. Community parks are intended to serve residents in a 3-mile radius and range from gathering places like Central Park, lake-access sites such as Dinky Dock, and recreation-focused complexes like Ward Park. Neighborhood parks, defined as parks under 5 acres, provided walk-to access for nearby residents, and the 37 mini-parks add small pockets of passive recreation throughout the city. The Parks & Recreation Department also maintained specialized facilities, including the Winter Park Golf Course, Tennis Center, and the Cady Way Trail.

As part of the PRMP, an assessment was conducted noting the following recurring needs: invasive plant removal, better wayfinding, improved maintenance, expanded parking, and shoreline stabilization. Winter Park applied a level-of-service standard of 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents, including 2 acres of community parks and 2 acres of neighborhood parks within that total. The City had a surplus in 2007; however, it was projected to show a deficit by 2013, particularly for neighborhood parks unless mini-parks were counted toward functional acreage. Community parks, however, were expected to maintain a substantial surplus.

In 2008, 92% of the City was within a park service area, leaving only small gaps at the City's edges where future acquisitions were recommended. Winter Park's system was also evaluated by comparison with surrounding jurisdictions, including Orange, Seminole, and Lake Counties, as well as nearby cities such as Maitland, Casselberry, and Winter Springs.

2018 City of Winter Park PRMP

The 2018 PRMP noted that Winter Park's Parks & Recreation Department managed 57 parks totaling about 395.5 acres across 5 functional categories; this included the additional acquisition of open space parks such as Cady Way Trail Space (3.7 acres), Pennsylvania Avenue Creek Lot (0.82 acres), Howell Creek Basin Lots (85.9 acres), and the additional Grove Mini-Park—all added since the 2008 PRMP. The level-of-service standard of 10 acres of park land per 1,000 residents remained unchanged from the 2008 Winter Park PRMP. The recommendations from the plan included repairing park facilities, replacing athletic fields with artificial turf, creating recreation standards, reviewing policies, and adding more parking. Community feedback emphasized the need for improved maintenance, more benches and tables, additional restrooms, more trees, and more drinking fountains.



2024 Comprehensive Plan Review

Recreation and Open Space Element

The Recreation and Open Space Element (ROSE) of the City of Winter Park Comprehensive Plan establishes a comprehensive framework to ensure the provision, maintenance, and enhancement of parks, green space, and recreational opportunities throughout the city. At its foundation, Goal 6-1 calls for the City to provide adequate recreation and green space by preserving and expanding a high-quality system of parks for current and future residents.

To implement this goal, Objective 6-1.1 and its supporting policies require the City to maintain a defined level of service of 10 acres of green space per 1,000 residents and commit to sustaining that standard over time.

Policy 6-1.1.1: "Provide Minimum Level of Service of 10 Acres of Green Space per 1,000 Residents. The City shall provide a minimum of ten (10) acres of publicly owned green space for each one thousand (1,000) residents. For the purpose of calculating this level of service, 'green space' shall be defined as publicly-owned passive or active recreational land and land left in its natural state for conservation purposes. This includes spaces such as: parks, community and botanical gardens, cemeteries, golf courses, and conservation land. Specifically excluded are the water area of city lakes, except for water surrounded by city green space and roadway landscaped median areas dedicated as park."

The ROSE outlines multiple mechanisms to achieve this, including developer contributions, impact fees, and land dedications (Policy 6-1.1.3), as well as maintaining a dedicated Park and Recreation Trust Fund. Additional policies emphasize equitable geographic distribution of neighborhood parks and coordination for joint park opportunities, such as the Howell Branch Preserve. The City also requires evaluation of recreation impacts during annexation and periodic updates to a Parks Master Plan to guide system improvements.

Goal 6-2 focuses on stewardship of Winter Park's natural assets, particularly its tree canopy and lakes, described as the "crown jewels" of the City's natural system. This goal emphasizes both resource protection and public access. Objective 6-2.1, promotes safe and sustainable lake recreation, including management of boating activity and aquatic vegetation, while maintaining public access points such as boat launches and beaches, and improving undeveloped shoreline areas. Land acquisition along water bodies is prioritized to expand access and conservation. The ROSE element also integrates land use and park planning. Objective 6-2.2 requires neighborhoods to be designed with accessible, walkable parks that serve as social focal points, supported by equitable distribution of park land citywide.

Policy 6-2.2.2: "Equitable Distribution of Park Land. The City shall emphasize future park acquisitions that equitably distribute park land throughout the City. All expenditures for parks and recreation land acquisition purposes shall be prioritized in accordance with the Parks and Recreation priority list for Community Parks (with a goal of two acres of Community Parks per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of ten acres) and Neighborhood Parks (with a goal of two acres of Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of ten acres), as such list may be amended by the Parks and Recreation Board from time to time."

The City further commits to inclusive and diverse recreational opportunities under Objective 6-2.5, including partnerships to expand facility access, provision of programs for varied populations, and compliance with ADA accessibility requirements. Recreation facilities and programs are to be aligned with community needs through regular updates to the Parks Master Plan. Cultural assets are also recognized through Objective 6-2.6, which promotes arts programming and preservation of cultural features within parks.

Goal 6-3 expands the City's vision by seeking to increase connections to nature through both public and private development. It emphasizes funding, system expansion, and connectivity. Objective 6-3.1, maintains and periodically updates recreation impact fees to ensure new development contributes its fair share and requires consistency between development regulations and LOS standards. The City also pursues state and regional funding opportunities.

Sustained maintenance funding is addressed in Objective 6-3.2, requiring ongoing fiscal support for park upkeep and periodic fee reviews. Capital improvements are governed by Objective 6-3.3, which ties park investments to the Comprehensive Plan's capital program.

Connectivity is a major theme under Objective 6-3.4, which promotes an interconnected system of parks, trails, and greenways. Policies call for linking parks via bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, supporting regional trail systems like the Cady Way Trail, expanding greenways along waterways, and integrating trail planning into the Parks Master Plan. Bicycle facilities and coordination with transportation planning are also required.

Finally, Goal 6-4 emphasizes sustainability and operational excellence in park management. Through Objective 6-4.1, the City commits to maintaining accreditation standards established by the National Recreation and Parks Association, ensuring best practices in park system management (Policy 6-4.1.1).

Other Relevant Plans

2024-2029 Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan

The Parks and Recreation Department's 2024–2029 Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening park quality, enhancing facilities, improving operations, and expanding community programming. The parks strategy centers on providing high-quality, accessible park space while protecting ecologically significant areas such as Mead Garden and Howell Branch Creek Preserve. Key objectives include improving existing parks, evaluating land for better use, reducing ecological impacts through restoration efforts, promoting stewardship, expanding greenway connections, and enhancing accessibility and safety. Facility and venue goals emphasize maintaining high service standards, increasing utilization of recreation spaces, and planning for long-term functionality. Operational priorities focus on strong organizational management, responsible financial stewardship, effective partnerships, and consistent customer service. The programming strategy aims to deliver diverse, accessible, and high-quality programs by strengthening program development and evaluation—aligning offerings with community needs, supporting health and wellness, and creating opportunities for education, advocacy, and volunteer engagement.

2024 CRA Plan Update

The 2024 CRA Plan Update extends the plan through 2037 and includes enhanced connectivity, safety, and public space investment within the CRA boundaries. Parks that are in the CRA include MLK Park, Community Park, the Farmers Market, Central Park, and the Winter Park Country Club. The focus of the plan is transportation safety. Capital projects aimed at improving multi-modal access between neighborhoods, employment areas, and major activity centers are recommended in the update.

Goals in the CRA Plan Update that impact parks and recreation:

- Goal 15 - evaluate and prioritize streetscaping, lighting, and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvements, including trail connections, crosswalk enhancements, sidewalk expansions, and other pedestrian-oriented upgrades
- Goal 20 - strengthen public spaces by identifying, maintaining, and upgrading amenities across CRA parks and City-owned properties, including developing inventories and maps of public spaces and amenities, incorporating placemaking and modernization projects into annual planning, and exploring opportunities for new green and open

spaces through land acquisition or removal of derelict structures. Biannual coordination with Parks & Recreation to prioritize improvements and for continued support of accessibility and visitor enhancements at key regional destinations such as Central Park, Martin Luther King Jr. Park, and Shady Park.

2023 Transportation Master Plan

The 2023 Transportation Master Plan includes strengthening Winter Park's connections to its parks and recreational assets by addressing the fragmented nature of the city's current pedestrian and bicycle network. Several areas offer comfortable walking and biking conditions; however, major roadways, congestion, and the chain of lakes create barriers that limit safe and continuous access to destinations such as downtown, major parks, and schools. The plan notes that although the City has invested in enhanced crossings, additional improvements are needed to create a cohesive, multimodal system that supports recreation, mobility, and community access.

To advance these goals, the plan identifies sidewalk gap-filling as a priority. It also introduces key shared-use path projects that support park connectivity, such as the St. Andrews Trail and the Tennis Center Trail. These projects are designed to improve access to recreational facilities while offering safer, more comfortable routes for people walking and bicycling.

A comprehensive wayfinding system is also highlighted as essential to unifying the city's multimodal network. The Plan recommends developing a city bike map and finalizing designated greenway routes to guide users toward the safest crossings. The public-facing tool would help residents and visitors navigate to parks, schools, and civic destinations without relying on cars, reducing congestion during peak hours and special events while enhancing the overall recreational experience.

2022 Sustainability Action Plan

The 2022 Sustainability Action Plan emphasizes expanding the urban tree canopy, increasing green space and conservation lands, and adding street trees within public rights-of-way. The plan also discusses maintaining strong lake water quality and broadening community awareness of tree care, pollution prevention, and the impacts of stormwater runoff. The plan calls for establishing no-smoking zones in parks and at city events, developing a comprehensive plan for Mead Botanical Garden, and advancing Parks and Recreation goals such as integrating pollinator gardens into

citywide landscapes, pursuing state and federal conservation grants, and expanding access to water-bottle filling stations at public facilities and parks.

2016 Vision Winter Park

The 2016 Vision Winter Park plan presents a community-driven roadmap that positions the city as a place where arts, culture, natural beauty, and lifelong learning thrive together. It emphasizes preserving Winter Park's cherished quality of life by protecting its historic character, sustaining its tree canopy and lakes, and fostering a healthy, family-friendly environment connected to nature. The vision calls for thoughtful, collaborative growth that respects the city's traditional scale while expanding housing diversity, enhancing walkability and bike ability, and strengthening parks and open spaces through sustainable design practices. It also furthers Winter Park's identity as a cultural destination by supporting arts institutions, integrating art throughout public spaces, and promoting creative partnerships and programming. The vision of the plan highlights the importance of lifelong learning by nurturing strong relationships among the City's educational institutions and creating environments that support future generations.

Key Takeaways

System Optimization Over Expansion

Winter Park is a built-out city with limited room to grow its park system. As a result, the 2026 PRMP should focus on maximizing the value of existing parks through targeted improvements, better use of space, and enhancements that respond directly to residents' needs.

Connectivity and Walkability

Connectivity is critical to how the system functions. Parks should be seamlessly linked to neighborhoods and destinations through safe, continuous networks of sidewalks, trails, and crossings, making them easy to access without reliance on a vehicle.

Sustainability and Resource Stewardship

The park system plays a dual role as both a recreational network and an environmental asset. Protecting lakes, preserving tree canopy, and integrating sustainable practices into design and maintenance should remain central to future planning efforts.

Community Identity and Placemaking

Winter Park's rich cultural identity is fundamental to its character and should, whenever possible, be incorporated into the placemaking of the parks system, reinforcing a sense of place and supporting arts, culture, and community gathering.

Safety and Accessibility

Safety and accessibility are key considerations for the 2026 PRMP, ensuring parks are welcoming, inclusive, and usable for all residents through thoughtful design, ADA compliance, and safe connections to surrounding neighborhoods.

1.4 Demographics and Population

Demographic characteristics play a significant role in shaping how residents and visitors use parks and recreation facilities. Changes over time in these characteristics also help inform future demand and usage of facilities. Developing a comprehensive demographic and socio-economic profile is particularly useful because it provides a clear understanding of the community's composition, allowing key insight to anticipate needs, identify service gaps, and allocate resources effectively. Key factors that influence this type of demand include population growth, age distribution, income levels, household composition, and consumer spending patterns.

This demographic profile examines both current conditions and historical trends within the City of Winter Park (“City”) and Orange County (“County”). The analysis highlights broader growth and capture patterns and evaluates how the City has compared to the County over the 16-year period from 2010 to 2025. Together, these current and historical trends inform projections of future population change and ultimately inform the planning, need, and demand for parks and recreational facilities throughout the City, as further detailed in the subsequent section.

Population

According to 2025 population estimates from the Esri Business Analyst, Census Population, the City had an estimated population of 30,914 residents, representing approximately 1.96% of the County's total population. Between 2010 and

TABLE 3. TOTAL POPULATION (2010-2025)

	City of Winter Park	Orange County	% of County
2010	27,901	1,145,956	2.4%
2020	29,828	1,429,908	2.1%
2025	30,914	1,576,911	2.0%
CAGR (2020-2025)	0.6%	1.7%	(1.1%)
CAGR (2010-2025)	0.6%	2.0%	(1.4%)

Source: Esri Business Analyst, Census Population. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths.

2025, the City experienced a Compound Annual Growth Rate (“CAGR”) of 0.6%, increasing by approximately 3,013 residents. In comparison, the County grew at a faster pace of 2.02% CAGR over the same period, adding nearly 430,955 residents to reach a total estimated population of 1,576,911 residents in 2025, as illustrated in Table 3 above.

Between 2010 and 2025, the City's population increased from 27,901 to 30,914 residents, representing a CAGR of approximately 0.6%. During the same period, Orange County grew from 1,145,956 to 1,576,911 residents, reflecting a

significantly higher CAGR of approximately 2.0%. As a result, Winter Park's share of the County population declined from 2.4% in 2010 to 2.0% in 2026.

This trend suggests that, while the City continues to experience steady population growth, it is growing at a slower rate than the County overall. Consequently, Winter Park is capturing a smaller share of regional population growth over time. Demand for parks, open space, and recreation services is, therefore, expected to continue increasing within the City, but likely at a more moderate pace than the County as a whole.

Age Distribution

As of 2025, Winter Park's population reflects a mature demographic profile compared to Orange County. Residents aged 65 years and older account for approximately 25.1% of the City's population, compared to 14.2% in Orange County, indicating that Winter Park has a substantially older population than the County overall. Since 2010, the City's 65+ population has increased from 19.9% to 25.1% of total population, driven primarily by growth in the 65-74 and 75-84 age cohorts.

Despite the aging trend, the City's largest population concentrations remain within the 25-44 age range, which accounts for approximately 23.6% of all residents in 2025. When combined with residents aged 45-54, the traditional working-age population (25-54) represents approximately

34.8% of the City's population, down from 36.7% in 2010. This gradual decline in working-age residents, coupled with growth among older adults, suggests an increasing need for age-friendly parks, recreation facilities, wellness programming, accessibility improvements, and passive recreation opportunities.

The City continues to maintain a relatively stable population of children and youth. Residents under age 19 account for 20.3% of the population. However, school-age populations (ages 5-14) have declined modestly since 2010, while the youngest cohort (ages 0-4) has remained relatively stable. These trends suggest that demand for youth-oriented

facilities and programming should remain important, although growth in these age groups is expected to occur more slowly than among older adults.

CAGR, adding 988 households over the 16 year period. In comparison, the County experienced a significantly higher household growth rate of 2.1% CAGR, adding approximately 154,039 households during this same period. The City's

TABLE 4. AGE DISTRIBUTION (2010-2025)

	City of Winter Park			Orange County		
	2010	2025	16-Year CAGR	2010	2025	16-Year CAGR
Total Population	27,901	30,914	0.6%	1,145,956	1,576,911	2.0%
Under 4	4.3%	4.1%	(0.2%)	6.5%	5.2%	(1.3%)
5 to 9	5.1%	4.7%	(0.4%)	6.4%	5.4%	(1.0%)
10 to 14	5.4%	4.6%	(0.8%)	6.5%	5.9%	(0.6%)
15 to 19	7.0%	6.9%	(0.1%)	7.7%	7.2%	(0.5%)
20 to 24	7.8%	7.1%	(0.7%)	9.2%	7.6%	(1.6%)
25 to 34	9.8%	11.7%	1.9%	15.5%	16.2%	0.7%
35 to 44	11.4%	11.9%	0.5%	14.4%	14.3%	(0.1%)
45 to 54	15.5%	11.2%	(4.3%)	14.1%	12.8%	(1.6%)
55 to 64	13.8%	12.8%	(1.0%)	10.0%	11.1%	1.1%
65 to 74	8.7%	12.6%	3.9%	5.4%	8.4%	3%
75 to 84	6.6%	8.6%	2.0%	3.1%	4.4%	1.3%
Over 85	4.6%	3.9%	(0.7%)	1.2%	1.4%	0.2%

Source: Esri Business Analyst, Census Population. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths.

Compared to Orange County, Winter Park's age distribution is noticeably older, with a larger share of residents approaching or already in retirement age, and a smaller share of residents in younger family-forming age groups. For the City's parks and recreation system, these demographic trends reinforce the importance of balancing investments across generations by maintaining youth and family-oriented facilities while expanding opportunities that support active aging, accessibility, wellness, social connection, and passive recreation.

Households

As of year-end 2025 data produced by the Census, the City had approximately 13,250 households. Between 2010 and 2025, the City's households experienced a 0.5%

TABLE 5. TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS (2010–2025)

	City of Winter Park	Orange County	% of County
2010	12,262	421,847	2.9%
2020	12,743	519,437	2.5%
2025	13,250	575,886	2.3%
CAGR (2020-2025)	0.8%	2.1%	(1.3%)
CAGR (2010-2025)	0.5%	2.1%	(1.6%)

Source: Esri Business Analyst, Census Population. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths.

Income Characteristics

Income is an important indicator of community characteristics because it influences household spending patterns, consumer demand, and the ability of residents to participate in recreational and community activities. The following analysis examines two key income metrics: median household income and per capita income. Median household income reflects the income level at which half of households earn more and half earn less, while per capita income measures average income earned per resident, providing insight into individual earning power within the community.

TABLE 6. TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS (2010–2025)

	City of Winter Park		Orange County	
	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
2025	\$115,646	\$85,439	\$83,626	\$58,334

Source: Esri Business Analyst, Census Population. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths.

As of 2025, the City of Winter Park reported a median household income of approximately \$115,646, compared to \$83,626 for Orange County. The City's median household income is approximately 38% higher than the County average, indicating a comparatively affluent residential population.

Similarly, Winter Park's per capita income of \$85,439 exceeds Orange County's \$58,334 by approximately 46%. This higher per capita income suggests that residents of Winter Park have greater individual earning power than the County average, which may be influenced by factors such as educational attainment, occupational composition, and household demographics.

Observations and Conclusions

The demographic and socioeconomic profile indicates that the City continues to experience steady growth; however, it is growing at a significantly slower pace than Orange County and capturing a gradually smaller share of regional population and household growth. Between 2010 and 2025, the City's population increased at a CAGR of approximately 0.6%, compared to 2.0% for the County, while household growth occurred at a CAGR of 0.5%, compared to 2.1% countywide. As a result, the City's share of the County population declined from 2.4% to 2.0%, and its share of County households decreased from 2.9% to 2.3%. Although these trends suggest moderate increases in demand for parks, facilities, and recreation programs, demand is expected to grow at a slower pace than the broader region.

At the same time, the City's population reflects a distinctly older demographic profile than Orange County. Residents aged 65 and older account for approximately 25.1% of the City's population, compared to 14.2% countywide, and this age cohort has grown substantially since 2010. Conversely,

the proportion of school-age children has declined modestly, while overall youth populations have remained relatively stable. These trends suggest a growing need for age-friendly parks and recreation opportunities, including low-impact fitness facilities, wellness and social programming, accessible recreational amenities, walking trails, shaded gathering spaces, passive recreation opportunities, and infrastructure that supports active aging.

Household characteristics further reinforce these findings. The City's average household size increased slightly from 2.14 persons per household in 2010 to 2.20 in 2025, but

remains notably smaller than the County average of 2.67. Smaller household sizes, combined with an aging population, suggest continued demand for flexible recreational spaces that support individual users, couples, older adults, and multigenerational households. Maintaining a balanced system that accommodates both active and passive recreational preferences will, therefore, remain important.

The City's economic profile indicates a relatively affluent and financially stable community. With a median household income of approximately \$115,646 and a per capita income of \$85,439, Winter Park substantially exceeds Orange County's median household income of \$83,626 and per capita income of \$58,334. These higher income levels suggest strong purchasing power and may support demand for high-quality parks, recreation facilities, cultural amenities, and specialized programming. At the same time, maintaining affordable and accessible recreation opportunities remains important to ensure that residents of all ages, income levels, and abilities can benefit from the City's parks and recreation system.

Collectively, these demographic and economic trends highlight the need for a strategically planned and adaptable parks and recreation system that balances investments across generations. While continued support for youth and family-oriented facilities remains important, greater emphasis should be placed on amenities and programming that address the needs of an aging population, promote health and wellness, encourage social connection, and enhance accessibility.

Projections

This section draws on City-provided population projections, combining these forecasts with the previously established demographic and socio-economic profile. By analyzing

historical population trends, age distribution patterns, and household data, this section also projects future household growth within the City over a 10-year period, from 2025 to 2035 (“projection period”). These projections are intended to inform long-term planning efforts by identifying potential shifts in demand for parks, recreation facilities, and related amenities, ensuring that future investments align with the needs of a growing and changing population.

Sources of Population Growth

Population growth stems from two primary sources: natural change, the difference between births and deaths, and net migration, which reflects the movement of people in and out of an area. While birth and death rates can shift over time, natural change tends to be relatively stable. In industrialized, urban economies, birth rates have generally declined, while improvements in healthcare, nutrition, and living conditions have reduced death rates. Together, these trends contribute to a modest and steady increase in population through natural growth.

However, because these underlying factors evolve slowly, changes in natural growth occur gradually. In contrast, migration patterns can shift rapidly from year to year. Historically, mobility within the U.S. has represented 10% to 25% of the U.S. total population change, with a notable concentration of movement toward specific states and regions such as Florida and other parts of the broader Southeast.

Population Projections

Considering national, state, and regional growth trends, population projections from the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, University of Florida Population and Household Projections, and Esri Business Analyst provide a basis for evaluating future demographic conditions. According to these projections, Orange County's population is expected to increase from 1,576,911 residents in 2025 to 1,774,972 residents by 2035, representing a compound annual growth rate (“CAGR”) of approximately 1.2% and a net gain of 198,061 residents

TABLE 7. PROJECTED TOTAL POPULATION (2025-2035)

	City of Winter Park	Orange County	% of County
2025	30,914	1,576,911	2.0%
2030	32,292	1,673,013	1.9%
2035	33,166	1,774,972	1.9%
CAGR (2025-2035)	0.7%	1.19%	(0.5%)
Net New Population	2,252	198,061	1.1%

Sources: Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse, Shimberg Center for Housing Studies, University of Florida. Population and Household Projections. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths. Esri Business Analyst, Census Population. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths.

over the 10 year period. For the City of Winter Park, the City's population is expected to increase from 30,914 residents in 2025 to 33,166 residents by 2035, representing a CAGR of approximately 0.7% and a net increase of 2,252 residents. While Winter Park is projected to continue growing throughout the planning period, its growth rate is anticipated to remain below that of Orange County overall.

As a result, the City's share of the County's total population is projected to decline slightly from approximately 2.0% in 2025 to 1.9% by 2035. Although the City's proportional share of the County population remains relatively stable, Winter Park is projected to capture approximately 1.1% of Orange County's net new population growth during the projection period. These trends suggest that the majority of future population growth within Orange County will occur outside Winter Park, reflecting broader countywide growth patterns and development activity. Table 7 illustrates the projected population growth for Orange County and the City of Winter Park from 2025 through 2035.

Further, using the City's population forecasts from Esri Business Analyst and projected age cohort distributions, this analysis forecasts Winter Park's future population by age group. Among all age cohorts, residents aged 25 to 54 are projected to experience the largest numerical increase, growing by approximately 986 residents between 2026 and 2035, and representing a CAGR of approximately 1.0%. The 80-years-and-older cohort is expected to grow at the fastest rate, increasing from approximately 2,540 residents in 2026 to 3,444 residents in 2035, corresponding to a CAGR of roughly 3.4% and a net increase of 904 residents. Meanwhile, the population aged 65 to 79 is projected to increase by approximately 530 residents, growing at a CAGR of 1.1% during the projection period.

While overall growth is expected across most age groups, the City's younger population is projected to remain relatively stable. Residents under 18 years of age are forecast to increase modestly from approximately 5,421 residents in 2026 to 5,515 residents by 2035, representing a CAGR of 0.2% and a net increase of 94 residents. In contrast,

the 18-24 and 55-64 age cohorts are projected to decline slightly over the forecast period. These trends indicate that Winter Park's population will continue to age, with much of the City's future growth occurring among older adults, particularly residents aged 80 and older. Table 8 illustrates the projected population by age cohort within the City from 2026 through 2035.

TABLE 8. PROJECTED TOTAL POPULATION BY AGE FOR THE CITY OF WINTER PARK (2025-2035)

	City of Winter Park					
	Under 18	18-24	25-54	55-64	65-79	80 +
2025	5,421	3,049	10,736	3,943	5,226	2,540
2030	5,473	2,955	11,274	3,866	5,514	3,008
2035	5,515	2,882	11,722	3,809	5,756	3,444
CAGR (2025-2045)	0.2%	(0.6%)	1.0%	(0.4%)	1.1%	3.4%
Net New Population	94	(167)	986	(137)	530	904

Source: Esri Business Analyst, Census Population. Note: Totals have been rounded to the nearest tenths.

Observations and Conclusions

The City's future parks and recreation needs will be shaped less by rapid population growth and more by ongoing demographic change. As the community continues to mature, recreational preferences are likely to shift toward amenities and programs that support wellness, lifelong recreation, social interaction, accessibility, and overall quality of life. At the same time, maintaining a balanced system that serves residents of all ages will remain important to preserving the broad community benefits provided by the parks and recreation system.

These trends suggest a growing need for flexible and adaptable park spaces capable of accommodating a wide range of recreational interests, from passive and informal activities to structured programs and community events. Investments in accessible infrastructure, multi-purpose facilities, trails, gathering spaces, and programming that encourages healthy and active lifestyles will position the system to respond effectively to changing community expectations over time.

Overall, the forecasts indicate that future planning efforts should prioritize flexibility, accessibility, and responsiveness to demographic trends. By aligning park investments, facility improvements, and program development with the community's evolving characteristics, the City can ensure that its parks and recreation system remains relevant, inclusive, and capable of supporting a high quality of life for current and future residents.



1.5 Trends Analysis

State of Florida Trends

The 2023 Florida Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) outlines several key trends shaping the future of outdoor recreation in the state. As Florida's population continues to grow, there is an increasing demand for diverse and accessible recreational opportunities.

Urban and Suburban Recreation Needs

With 90% of Floridians residing in urban and suburban areas, there is a heightened demand for accessible recreational facilities in these regions. Greenways and trails have emerged as the most desired outdoor recreation amenities among residents.

Health and Wellness Focus

Outdoor recreation is increasingly recognized for its role in promoting health and well-being. Enhanced access to recreational spaces is seen as a strategy to encourage physical activity and combat health issues such as obesity.

Conservation and Sustainable Development

Balancing the development of recreational facilities with the preservation of natural resources is a central theme. Efforts are being made to ensure that recreational development does not compromise Florida's unique ecosystem.

Environmental Educational Programs

Educational programs are being implemented to raise awareness about environmental stewardship and the benefits of outdoor recreation.

National Trends

Sports

The Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) publishes annual participation data across 126 sports, recreation, and fitness activities. The 2026 Topline Participation Report shows that U.S. inactivity has fallen below 20% for the first time ever, marking 7 consecutive years of decline. However, this improvement is uneven: teen inactivity rose 4.4% year-over-year, and the gender inactivity gap widened to 6.3 percentage points, with women remaining more inactive than men.

Pickleball remains the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. for the fifth straight year. SFIA's 2026 Pickleball Single Sport Report shows 24.3 million Americans played pickleball in 2025, up from 4.2 million in 2020, and more than a five-fold increase. Growth continues to be strong, driven by younger players (ages 13–24) and rising female participation, which

reached 42.9% of all players. CORE participants (those playing 8+ times/year) climbed to 7.5 million, reflecting deepening engagement.

The 2026 Topline data also highlights shifting category performance. Team sports led year-over-year growth, reversing several years of stagnation, while overall participation grew 1.2%, slower than the post-2020 average but still positive.

Several structural challenges remain. Although inactivity is at a historic low, 68% of Americans still fail to meet federal weekly activity guidelines, underscoring the gap between participation and meaningful physical activity. Teen inactivity and widening gender disparities are emerging as priority concerns for the industry.

SFIA's Soccer Spotlight: 2026 U.S. Participation Trends, Insights & Growth Drivers report shows that soccer participation in the U.S. has reached an all-time high heading into the 2026 FIFA World Cup. Unlike past cycles, where participation typically spikes after a World Cup, SFIA notes that the unique conditions of 2026 (summer timing, U.S. hosting matches, and strong domestic engagement) have accelerated participation before the tournament begins.

Growth is broad-based, but casual participation is expanding faster than CORE participation, indicating that millions of new or returning players are entering the sport. Adult participation, especially among those 35 and older, is rising rapidly, reflecting soccer's increasing appeal as a lifelong activity. Hispanic Americans continue to be the strongest drivers of both growth and engagement, consistent with long-term demographic trends.

SFIA highlights that while participation is at record levels, there remains significant room to deepen engagement. The gap between casual and CORE players suggests opportunities for clubs, leagues, and community programs to convert new players into more frequent participants. With matches hosted across the U.S. and peak playing season aligning with the World Cup, SFIA expects continued momentum throughout 2026.

Girls' flag football is rapidly emerging as one of the fastest-growing sports, fueled by major investment from the NFL and partner organizations ahead of its debut in the 2028 Summer Olympics. With the rise of women's soccer, lacrosse, and other field sports, flag football is poised for explosive growth from youth leagues to potential professional play. The NFL sees a major opportunity to expand both the sport and its already growing female fan base.

Experts describe the surge as an “absolute explosion,” noting that interest is especially strong among younger girls. Although the sport began decades ago as a small recreational program, its momentum today is driven by increased visibility of women in football, expanding school-based leagues, and targeted girl-centered programming offered by park and recreation agencies.

Initiatives like “She Belongs,” “Move Like a Girl Fest,” and other girl-focused sports events are helping introduce more youth to the game. Parks and recreation departments play a crucial role as the primary entry point for participation, offering accessible opportunities for girls to be active, build confidence, and experience team sports. Girls’ flag football is quickly becoming one of the top trends, shaping the future of youth athletics.

Park Design

Dog Parks

Dog ownership continues to rise, growing from 65 million to 68 million dogs in just 2 years. This surge is putting pressure on park and recreation agencies to build more dog parks, and to design them far more thoughtfully. Poorly planned parks often worsen issues like overcrowding, dog-to-dog conflict, and limited owner engagement.

Play Environments

There is a renewed focus on natural play environments. These spaces use logs, boulders, and native plantings to encourage imaginative, sensory-rich play while supporting physical and mental well-being. When woven into trails and pathways, natural play areas create immersive, restorative experiences that strengthen people's connection to the outdoors.

Multi-Generational

Park facilities are being redesigned for all ages, reflecting a major multi-generational shift. Playgrounds are going vertical with tower-style structures that keep older kids and tweens engaged in active play. Inclusivity is also advancing, with 2026 designs moving beyond basic Americans with Disability Act (ADA) compliance to create true social play spaces where children of all abilities interact together.

Inclusive Design

This broader commitment to inclusive design is reshaping entire park systems. Widened pathways support wheelchair users and people with mobility aids, while accessible seating offers comfort for visitors with limited mobility. Quiet zones provide relief for individuals with sensory processing needs, and clear wayfinding that incorporates multilingual signage and braille, helps all visitors navigate with confidence. These

thoughtful features enhance accessibility and strengthen social inclusion, ensuring parks function as welcoming, usable spaces for everyone in the community.

Pickleball

Pickleball's rapid expansion has brought a major challenge: noise. Communities are increasingly demanding acoustic studies before new courts are approved, and some cities now require minimum distances from homes. As pickleball continues to dominate the recreation landscape, its noise challenges push agencies to rethink where and how courts are built.

Sustainability in Park Design

Parks are increasingly embracing sustainability practices that strengthen environmental stewardship and long-term resilience. Stormwater management has become a visible design priority, with permeable surfaces, native plantings, and integrated stormwater features now common in new projects. Parks are being designed to double as flood-mitigation zones, using recessed ballfields, rain gardens, and other landscape features to temporarily hold stormwater and protect nearby homes. These approaches require precise grading and deep-rooted native plants, which not only manage water effectively but also reduce mowing needs and create habitats for pollinators.

Beyond stormwater strategies, sustainable park design emphasizes native landscapes that reduce reliance on irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides while supporting local wildlife. Many parks are also incorporating renewable or recycled materials into construction. Green roofs, permeable pavements, and other sustainable infrastructure help reduce runoff and mitigate urban heat. Together, these innovations reflect a national shift toward parks that function as recreational spaces, ecological assets, and climate-resilient community infrastructure.

Desire for Multi-Use Trails

Multi-use trails are becoming essential transportation infrastructure, not just recreational amenities. Communities increasingly prioritize walk- and bike-friendly routes that connect schools, transit, and neighborhoods. Trails deliver strong economic returns, proximity to trails raises property values, and connecting isolated paths into full networks can boost usage by up to 80%.

Programming and Events

Park and recreation agencies are leaning heavily into nonreligious special events and festivals, from pollinator celebrations to Halloween and farm-themed gatherings. Experiential programs are booming; for example, traditional hikes and bike rides are being reimaged as

night hikes, wildlife searches, fitness-plus-birding rides. Other programming, such as food-based activities (e.g., coffee tastings), are being reimagined into cultural food experiences.

Fitness programming continues to grow across all adult age groups. The “kidult” trend, is growing where kids games, programs and events are also for adults, not just kids. Multigenerational and intergenerational programs are also expanding, with creative offerings like children trick-or-treating alongside older adults in nursing homes.

Quiet, skill-based activities, such as sewing, crocheting, and knitting, are seeing a resurgence because they foster community, conversation, and shared learning. Intergenerational crafting programs are emerging as a surprisingly popular and meaningful form of recreation.

Sources

AssetWorks, “2026 Trends in Parks Operations and Recreation Asset Management,” AssetWorks, 2026, <https://www.assetworks.com/eam/blog/2026-trends-in-parks-operations-and-recreation-asset-management/>.

Richard J. Dolesh, “Top Trends in Parks and Recreation for 2026,” Parks & Recreation Magazine, January 2026, <https://www.nxtbook.com/nrpa/ParksRecreationMagazine/january-2026/index.php#/p/36>.

F.H. Paschen, 2026 Trends in Parks & Recreation Construction: How Public Spaces Are Evolving to Serve More (Chicago: F.H. Paschen, 2025), <https://www.fhpaschen.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2026-Trends-in-Parks-and-Rec-Construction-1.pdf>.

LaBella Associates, “Recreation Reimagined: Three Trends Shaping the Future of Parks and Play,” LaBella, n.d., <https://labellapc.com/insights/recreation-reimagined-three-trends-shaping-the-future-of-parks-and-play/>.

Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). SFIA Releases the 2026 Topline Participation Report, 2026, <https://sfia.org/resources/participation-hits-new-high-but-majority-of-americans-not-yet-meeting-recommended-guidelines-of-150-minutes-of-weekly-activity-sfia-2026-topline-report-finds>.

Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). SFIA Releases 2026 Pickleball Single Sport Report; Team Sports to Follow, June 4, 2026, <https://sfia.org/resources/sfia-releases-2026-pickleball-single-sport-report-team-sports-reports-to-follow>.

Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA). U.S. Soccer Participation Reaches Record High Ahead of World Cup, May 12, 2026, <https://sfia.org/resources/soccer-participation-in-u-s-reaches-record-high-ahead-of-2026-world-cup>.



Trend Analysis Key Takeaways

Trails and Greenways Are the Top Recreation Priority

Residents statewide identify trails as the most desired amenity, emphasizing the need for expanded, connected, and accessible trail networks.

Growing Emphasis on Health and Wellness

Outdoor recreation is increasingly used to support physical activity and combat chronic health issues, reinforcing the value of fitness programming and active-living initiatives.

Rapid Expansion of Girls’ Athletic Programs

National trends show rising participation among girls across multiple sports, driven by increased visibility, targeted programming, and expanding school-based opportunities.

Increasing Need for Dog Parks

Rising dog ownership is creating pressure for more dog parks.

Shift Toward Inclusive and Multigenerational Park Design

Park systems are moving beyond basic ADA compliance to create socially inclusive spaces, including widened pathways, sensory-friendly zones, and intergenerational play features.

Natural Play and Sustainable Design Are Expanding

Nature-based play areas, native landscaping, and stormwater-resilient features are becoming core design elements.

Growth in Experiential and Cultural Programming

Agencies are expanding special events, night-time nature activities, cultural food experiences, intergenerational programs, and creative program formats that blend recreation with education and community engagement.

1.6 Benchmarking

To better understand Winter Park’s parks and recreation system within a broader context, a comparison was conducted with three peer communities, Maitland, Winter Springs, and Oviedo, as well as one aspirational community, Rockville, Maryland. The peer cities were selected based on similarities in population characteristics, community context, geographic setting, and the scale of their parks and recreation systems. The City of Rockville was selected as an aspirational community, due to its nationally recognized parks and recreation services and reputation for excellence in park and recreation management. The analysis examines demographic characteristics, park system inventories, recreational facilities, program offerings, park accessibility, and park acreage per capita to identify key similarities,

Maitland encompasses approximately 5.4 square miles, resulting in a population density of more than 3,600 residents per square mile. Compared to many Central Florida communities, Maitland has a relatively young population, with a median age of approximately 35 years. The city's median household income is approximately \$97,150.

The City of Maitland Parks and Recreation Department manages a system of five parks, which includes community parks, neighborhood parks, community centers, and athletic facilities. Residents have access to a broad range of recreational amenities, including sport courts, athletic fields, playgrounds, boardwalks, lakefront recreation areas, boat launches, a splash pad, and multipurpose trails.

TABLE 9. PEER AND ASPIRATIONAL COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHIC AND PARK SYSTEM CHARACTERISTICS

City	Population Size	Median Age	Number of Parks	Acreage of Park Land	City Size
Winter Park, FL	30,914	44.0	60 (19 major parks, 41 mini parks)	507.8	8.8
Maitland, FL	19,543	35.1	5	44	5.4
Winter Springs, FL	38,342	40.2	14	594	15.0
Oviedo, FL	40,059	37.6	11	702	15.5
Rockville, MD	67,117	39.6	67	1,142	13.6

differences, and best practices that can help inform future decision-making and service delivery. Together, these communities provide a useful framework for evaluating Winter Park's strengths, opportunities, and position within both the Central Florida market and the broader parks and recreation profession.

Table 9 below provides an overview of key demographic and park system characteristics for Winter Park and the selected peer and aspirational communities. The comparison highlights notable differences in population size, municipal land area, age demographics, and the scale of park systems.

Maitland

The City of Maitland is a suburban municipality located in Orange County, Florida, immediately north of Winter Park. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Maitland's population was 19,543 residents in the 2020 Census, compared to 15,751 residents in 2010, representing growth of approximately 24% over the decade. More recent Census estimates place the city's population at approximately 19,500 residents in 2025, indicating that population growth has largely stabilized since 2020.

The Maitland Parks and Recreation Department offers a diverse portfolio of recreational, educational, wellness, athletic, and community programs serving youth, adults, and older adults. Programming includes youth sports leagues, active adult and senior services, fitness and wellness classes, arts and crafts activities, language conversation groups, social and hobby clubs, youth camps, and lifelong learning opportunities.

The department also hosts numerous community events and festivals throughout the year. Signature events include the Getdown Downtown concert series, Movie in the Park events, the Maitland Fall-O-Ween Festival, the Season of Light holiday celebration, and the annual Maitland Jazz and Blues Festival.

Winter Springs

The City of Winter Springs is a suburban municipality located in Seminole County, Florida, 8 miles northeast of Winter Park. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Winter Springs had a population of 38,342 residents in the 2020 Census, compared to 33,282 residents in 2010, representing growth of approximately 15% over the decade. More recent Census

estimates place the city's population at approximately 39,822 residents, indicating continued but moderate population growth since 2020.

Winter Springs encompasses approximately 15 square miles and has a population density of roughly 2,600 residents per square mile. The median age is approximately 40 years, and the median household income is approximately \$92,600.

The City of Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Department manages a system of 14 parks, which includes community parks, neighborhood parks, community centers, aquatic facilities, and athletic facilities. Residents have access to a broad range of recreational amenities, including sport courts, athletic fields, playgrounds, boardwalks, a dog park, splash pads, a therapy pool, multipurpose trails, and the AdventHealth Pickleball Complex.

The City of Winter Springs Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of recreational, athletic, senior programs, and community-based programs for residents of all ages. Programming includes youth sports, youth camps, fitness and wellness activities, and senior programs. The department also hosts a variety of community events throughout the year including holiday celebrations, community festivals, outdoor recreation activities, food truck events, environmental stewardship initiatives, and veteran and patriotic commemorations. Signature events include Celebration of Freedom, Hometown Harvest, Winter Wonderland, and the Central Florida Scottish Highland Games.

Oviedo

The City of Oviedo is a growing suburban municipality located in Seminole County, Florida, 11 miles northeast of Winter Park. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Oviedo's population was 40,059 residents in the 2020 Census, compared with 33,342 residents in 2010, representing growth of approximately 20% over the decade. Recent Census estimates place the city's population at approximately 41,317 residents in 2025, indicating continued but moderate growth since 2020.

Oviedo encompasses approximately 15.5 square miles and has a population density of roughly 2,600 residents per square mile. The city is a family-oriented community with more than 25% of residents under the age of 18. The median age is approximately 38 years, and the median household income is approximately \$117,070.

The City of Oviedo Recreation and Parks Department manages a system of 11 parks, which, includes community parks, neighborhood parks, community centers, aquatic facilities, and athletic facilities. Residents have access to a broad range of recreational amenities, including sport courts, athletic fields, playgrounds, boardwalks, a gymnasium, a fitness facility, a climbing wall, boat launches, a dog park, a splash pad, a skatepark, pools and multipurpose trails.

The City of Oviedo Recreation and Parks Department offers a broad range of recreational, athletic, aquatic, educational, wellness, and senior-focused programs for residents of all ages. Programming includes youth and adult athletics, aquatics programs, fitness activities, climbing programs, senior services, cultural activities, youth camps and community recreation opportunities. The department also hosts a variety of community events, recreational activities, athletic competitions, aquatic programs, and cultural gatherings throughout the year. Signature events include Taste of Oviedo, Great Day in the Country, Independence Day Celebration, and Bark & Brew.

Rockville, Maryland

The City of Rockville, Maryland, was chosen as the aspiration agency, as its Department of Recreation and Parks has achieved national recognition as a finalist for the National Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Park and Recreation Management in both 2025 and 2026. The National Gold Medal Award is administered by the American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration (AAPRA) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), and is widely regarded as one of the highest honors in the parks and recreation profession.

The City of Rockville is an established suburban municipality located in Montgomery County, Maryland, approximately 15 miles northwest of Washington, D.C. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Rockville's population was 67,117 residents in the 2020 Census, compared with 61,209 residents in 2010, representing growth of approximately 10% over the decade. Recent Census estimates place the city's population at approximately 67,563 residents in 2025, indicating relatively stable population growth since 2020.

Rockville encompasses approximately 13.6 square miles and has a population density of roughly 5,000 residents per square mile. The median age is approximately 40 years, and the median household income is approximately \$128,649.

The City of Rockville Recreation and Parks Department manages an extensive system of 67 parks, which includes community parks, neighborhood parks, community centers, aquatic facilities, golf course, performing arts center, nature center, athletic facilities, and historic sites. Residents have access to a broad range of recreational amenities, including sport courts, athletic fields, playgrounds, a gymnasium, a fitness facility, pools, and multipurpose trails.

The department provides range of programs for residents of all ages, including aquatics, youth recreation, teen activities, adult and active adult programming, fitness and wellness opportunities, nature and environmental education, summer camps, special interest classes, and community enrichment activities.

In addition, the City of Rockville Recreation and Parks Department hosts an array of events, including community festivals, holiday celebrations, patriotic ceremonies and parades, live entertainment events, family-focused activities, cultural programs, and community engagement opportunities. Signature events include Hometown Holidays, the Independence Day Celebration, Rocktoberfest, the Rockville Antique & Classic Car Show and the Memorial Day Ceremony and Parade.

Park Acreage Per Capita

For consistency and to provide an apples-to-apples comparison, the analysis below relies exclusively on park access and park inventory data reported by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) ParkScore database. While individual agency inventories may include additional parks, facilities, and acreage that are not reflected in TPL's dataset, using TPL data provides a standardized methodology for comparing communities. TPL places particular emphasis on the percentage of residents living within a 10-minute walk of a park, a nationally recognized benchmark for park accessibility.

Using the TPL data, Winter Park* compares favorably to its local peer communities in terms of park access. Approximately 70.7% of Winter Park residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, significantly exceeding Maitland (35%), Winter Springs (38%), and Oviedo (34%). However, Winter Park falls below the aspiration community of Rockville, where 91% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park.

In terms of park system size, Winter Park maintains 19 major parks and 41 mini parks, encompassing a total of 507.8 acres. By comparison, Maitland operates 5 parks totaling 44 acres, Winter Springs manages 14 parks across 594 acres, Oviedo maintains 11 parks with 702 acres, and Rockville oversees 67 parks spanning 1,142 acres.

A review of park acreage per capita provides additional insight into the level of park land available to residents:

TABLE 10. PARK ACREAGE PER 1,000 RESIDENTS COMPARISON		
City	Park Acreage Per 1,000 Residents	
Winter Park, FL	16.4 acres	
Maitland, FL	2.2 acres	
Winter Springs, FL	15.4 acres	
Oviedo, FL	17.2 acres	
Rockville, MD	16.7 acres	

From a park acreage perspective, Winter Park provides substantially more park land per resident than Maitland and slightly more than Winter Springs. However, Winter Park offers slightly less park acreage per 1,000 residents than both Oviedo and Rockville. Overall, Winter Park’s

park land provision is comparable to the higher-performing communities in the comparison group and exceeds the level provided by most of its local peers.

Conclusion

Winter Park shares several characteristics with its peer communities of Maitland, Winter Springs, and Oviedo. All are established suburban municipalities within the greater Orlando region that provide a comprehensive range of parks, recreation facilities, athletic amenities, community events, and programs serving residents of all ages. Like its peers, Winter Park offers youth sports, fitness and wellness activities, youth camps, community festivals, and a diverse network of parks and open spaces.

However, Winter Park differs from its peers in several notable ways. Demographically, Winter Park has a slower population growth rate and an older resident population than Maitland, Winter Springs, and Oviedo. As a result, demand for recreation services is likely to be influenced more by active aging, wellness, accessibility, and passive recreation opportunities than by rapid population growth or expanding youth populations.

From a parks perspective, Winter Park performs particularly well in park accessibility. Approximately 70.7% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, exceeding Maitland (35%), Winter Springs (38%), and Oviedo (34%). This suggests that Winter Park's park system is well integrated within established neighborhoods and provides convenient access for residents throughout much of the community. However, Winter Park remains below the aspiration community of Rockville, Maryland, where approximately 91% of residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park, highlighting an opportunity to further expand park accessibility and connectivity throughout the community.

Winter Park also distinguishes itself through several signature assets that contribute to its identity and quality of life, including Central Park, Mead Botanical Garden, its lakefront parks, golf courses, tennis facilities, and numerous community events. Similar to Rockville, Maryland, Winter Park places a strong emphasis on community gathering spaces and cultural amenities.

Overall, Winter Park's parks and recreation system is most notable for its high level of park accessibility, diverse programming, strong community event offerings, and unique destination parks. Winter Park provides a well-balanced and highly accessible system that is well positioned to serve the needs of its residents through a combination of active recreation, passive recreation, community events, and cultural experiences.

*TPL acreage includes golf courses and cemeteries for Winter Park





2. Public Input

DRAFT FOR REVIEW PURPOSES ONLY.

2.1 Overview

Public Input

Public engagement is essential for understanding the needs and desires of the community. The opportunities identified through this process help shape a clear vision for the future of the parks and recreation system. To better understand all aspects of the community, a robust public engagement strategy was employed that combined broad outreach with in-depth dialogue. The public engagement approach validates information received from a wide cross section of the community through surveys with detailed conversations and information received through in-person engagements and digital applications.

By creating diverse opportunities for community participation, the resulting insights represent the needs and aspirations of a wide cross-section of residents, balanced with the detailed perspectives of those most familiar with the current operations and challenges of parks and recreation.

Types of Public Input

- **Statistically Valid Survey:** Distributed across a systematically random sample of households and weighed to the demographic profile of the City to ensure broad, data-driven insights into recreation use, amenities, and priorities.
- **Open-Access Online Survey:** Hosted on the project website to offer a low barrier input method for residents citywide. Together with the statistically-valid survey, these represent the primary source of input for the development of PRMP.
- **Public Workshops:** Two open-house style public workshops were hosted to allow for in-person input on the plan to further refine the understanding of community needs. These events also served to advertise the open-access online survey to park users and participants.
- **Meet a Planner Day:** One "Meet a Planner Day" event was held at the Winter Park Library, offered in two separate time blocks to give residents the opportunity to speak one-on-one with the project team, learn more about the plan, and share their input.
- **Web-based Interactive "Pin Drop" Map:** Allowed residents to mark specific parks, note concerns or wishes, and visualize community hotspots for improvement. This platform helped capture geographically nuanced input and supported equitable access to engagement.
- **A dynamic project website:** Served as the central hub for information, input, and updates. Ongoing outreach was supported by:
 - Email campaigns
 - Flyers and yard signs
 - Social media posts

Public Input Timeline

Invite Survey Mailed
Friday, March 13, 2026

Open Link Survey Launch
Friday, March 27, 2026

Public Workshop #1
Saturday, April 18, 2026
10:00am–12:00pm
Ward Park
250 Perth Lane, Winter Park, FL

Meet A Planner Day
Tuesday, April 21, 2026
8:30am–11:30am
4:00pm–6:30pm
Winter Park Library
1052 W Morse Blvd, Winter Park, FL

Public Workshop #2
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
5:30pm–7:30pm
Winter Park Community Center
721 W New England Ave, Winter Park, FL

Invite and Open Link Survey Close
Sunday, May 31, 2026

Survey

Survey Response Overview

A public survey was conducted using two complementary methods: a statistically valid survey distributed to selected households in the City of Winter Park, and an open-link online survey accessible to the public.

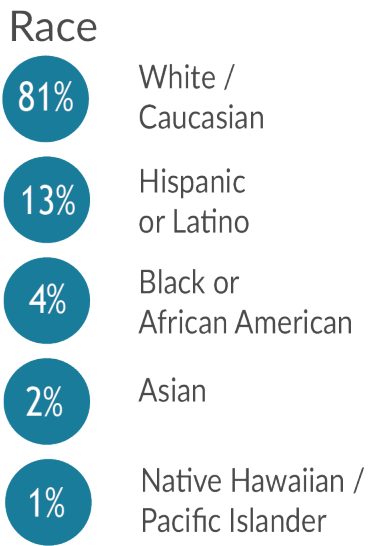
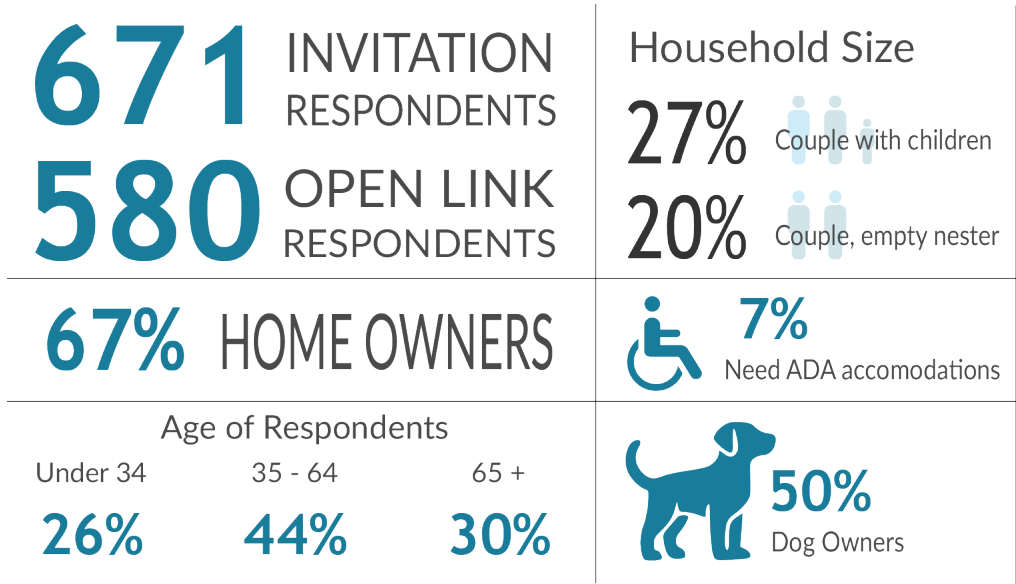
In mid-March 2026, paper surveys and reminder postcards were mailed to a systematic random sample of 5,000 residential households in Winter Park. Each survey packet included a cover letter with instructions and a unique password for accessing a secure online version of the survey, allowing one response per household. Residents could participate either by completing the survey online through the password-protected website or by returning the paper survey in a pre-stamped envelope. Offering both response options helped maximize accessibility and convenience, supporting broad community participation. The survey achieved a 15% response rate, which is considered strong for a mailed community survey, resulting in a statistically valid sample with a ±3.7% margin of error at the 95% confidence level.

By late May 2026, the invitation-based survey yielded 671 completed responses, which constituted a statistically significant sample. To ensure the results accurately reflected the broader community, the data was weighted based on key demographics such as age and ethnicity, helping to mitigate potential response bias. The weighting process changes the results only slightly and ultimately makes the results more accurate and representative of the population.

In addition, an open-link online survey was made available to all Winter Park stakeholders, including residents of nearby communities, for a 2 month period beginning in late March 2026. This version received 580 responses in total, including both city residents and non-residents. Responses from the open-link survey, generally align with those of the invitation-based survey reinforcing a high level of confidence in the results of both. Differences between sample responses are noted throughout this summary. Together, both surveys provide valuable insights into the recreational needs and preferences of Winter Park residents, helping to shape and inform the development of this plan.

The respondents aged under 35 compose the largest age group in the Invite survey (26%), with all other age cohorts evenly distributed across the remaining responses (74%). Demographically, most Invite survey respondents are female (53%), homeowners (67%), and identify as White/ Caucasian (87%).

Although respondent household makeups are diverse, families with children represent the largest group. The Invite sample shows a more even distribution across household types, including couples, singles, and empty nesters. About 7% of households report a need for ADA-accessible facilities. Dog ownership is evenly split in the Invite sample (50/50). Residents in Winter Park tend to be long-tenured, with the largest share having lived in the City for 15 years or more. In the Invite sample, 40% of respondents report living in Winter Park for 15+ years, including 20% for over 30 years, indicating a well-established resident base.



Response Summary

Most Visited Parks and Amenities

Respondents were asked about their familiarity with the Winter Park parks and recreation system, the parks and recreation facilities their household has visited within the past 12 months, the amenities they typically use, and the parks and facilities they visit most frequently. Respondents are generally familiar with the system, with higher engagement among Open-link participants. Familiarity is moderate to high in the Invite sample (3.6 average), while the Open-link reports stronger familiarity (4.0 average), reflecting a more engaged user group. Use is anchored by core parks, trails, and community hubs. Central Park and the Library & Events Center lead in visitation. A second tier of frequently used destinations includes Lake Baldwin Park, Mead Botanical Garden, Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, and Cady Way Park, reflecting a mix of regional and neighborhood use. Larger or destination-style facilities tend to drive the highest visitation, while smaller parks and specialty facilities (e.g., mini parks, The Park at Orwin Manor, Trismen Park) see more limited use.

Basic amenities such as parking, restrooms, benches, and picnic tables are used by most respondents (~70%), making them foundational to the park experience. Trails and walking paths are the next most utilized amenities, followed by quiet green space and outdoor exercise areas, highlighting strong demand for passive recreation and wellness-oriented uses. The Open link sample shows higher use of specialty amenities, particularly golf, playgrounds, and sports fields, indicating more active and frequent users of the system. Only a small share (1%-2%) in both samples, report not using any of the listed amenities.

Communication

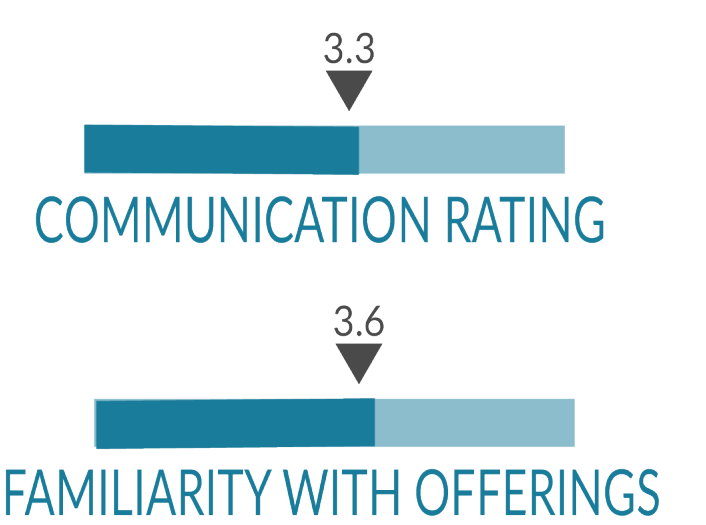
Respondents were asked to identify their preferred methods for receiving information from the City. Email emerges as the clear preference, particularly among Open Link respondents (53%) compared to Invite respondents (33%). Social media ranks as the second-most preferred communication channel, followed by the City's website, though both were selected by notably smaller shares of respondents. All other communication methods received limited support, suggesting that direct digital channels, especially email, represent the most effective means of reaching and engaging residents.

Access to Parks and Facilities

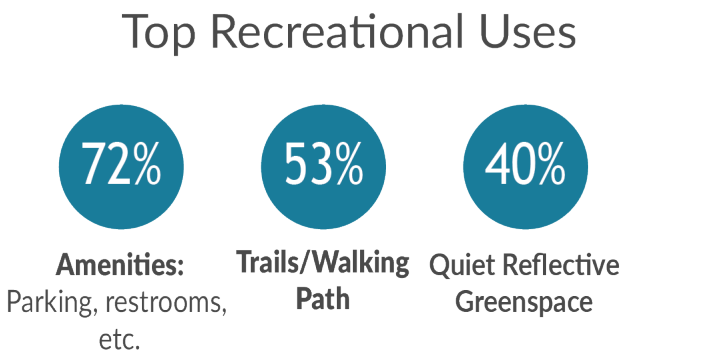
To better understand park accessibility and mobility patterns, respondents were asked both how they currently travel to parks and recreation facilities and which modes of transportation they would most prefer to use. Looking at current travel behavior, most respondents access parks and recreation facilities by motor vehicle, with more than 80% of respondents in both samples reporting this as their primary

mode of transportation. A substantial share accesses facilities by walking or running, particularly in the Invite sample (68%), along with notable use of bicycles (34%–37%). Use of other modes, including electric vehicles and public transportation, is relatively limited. These results indicate that while the system is largely car-dependent, there is also meaningful use of active transportation options, especially walking and biking.

When evaluating preferred modes of transportation, motor vehicles remain the top choice among respondents, with 44% of the Invite sample and 51% of the Open link sample selecting this option. Walking or running is also a highly



Currently via:	Preferred Method:
Word of Mouth City Website Social Media Email	Email Social Media City Website Flyers/Posters at Businesses



preferred mode, particularly among Invite respondents (40%), indicating strong support for active transportation. Bicycling is a secondary preference for a smaller share of respondents (12% in both samples), while fewer prefer electric vehicles or public transportation.

Most respondents are willing to walk a moderate distance to access parks and recreation facilities, with the largest share in both samples indicating a willingness to walk 10–14 minutes. Fewer resident respondents prefer very short walks, while a smaller share is willing to walk 20 minutes or more. Responses are similar across sample types.

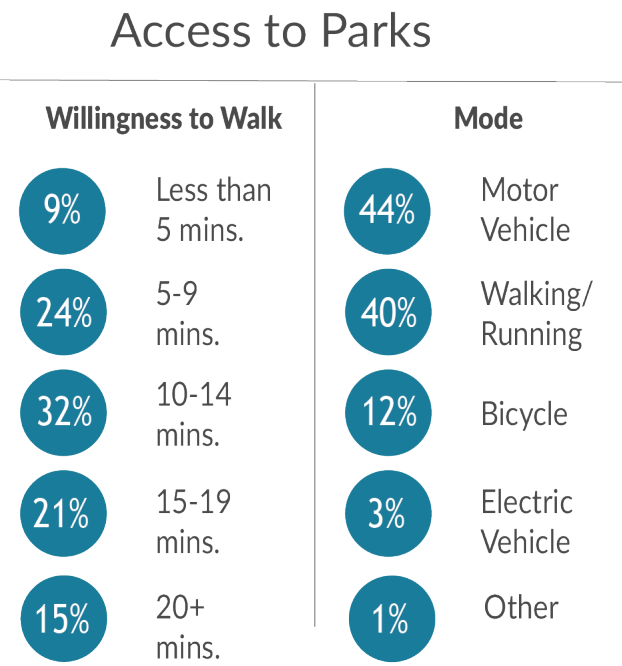
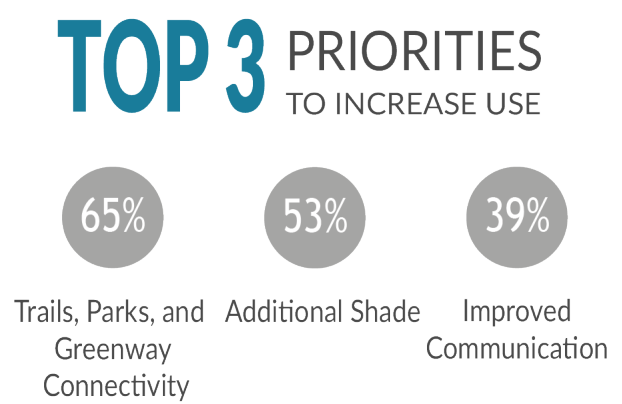
Highly Valued Facilities and Amenities

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of various parks, recreation facilities, and amenities to their household, including those they may not currently use, to help identify the community's priorities and the relative value placed on different components of the parks and recreation system. The highest importance is placed on amenities at City parks (shade structures, picnic areas, etc.), green space, and natural areas—all receiving very strong ratings across both samples. Trails and pathways also rank highly, reinforcing the importance of connectivity and active use within the system. Mid-tier importance is assigned to features such as lakefront access and recreation centers, indicating these are valued but not universally essential. Lower-importance ratings are seen for specialized facilities, including golf courses, athletic fields, tennis courts, and pickleball courts, reflecting more niche use. The samples are generally aligned in priorities; however, the Invite sample places greater importance on lakefront access, while the Open link sample places relatively more importance on golf courses and athletic fields.

Facilities and Amenities Needs Met

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of various parks, recreation facilities, and amenities to their household, providing insight into which physical assets and recreational spaces are most valued by the community, regardless of current use. Ratings indicate that most facilities and services are meeting community needs, with the highest performance seen for golf courses, city parks, and green space. The Winter Park Tennis Center, the Dog Park at Lake Baldwin Park, natural open spaces, and general amenities all also scored highly in terms of satisfaction. Mid-tier performance is observed for trails, athletic fields, and lakefront access, suggesting these areas are generally meeting needs but with some room for improvement. Lower ratings are seen for aquatic facilities, basketball courts, and pickleball courts, indicating these may be areas where needs are not being fully met. The samples are generally aligned; however, the Invite

Most Important Facilities:	Most Satisfied With:
Amenities at City Parks	Winter Park Golf Courses
City Parks and Greenspace	City Parks and Greenspace
Natural Open Spaces	Winter Park Tennis Center
Trails and Pathways	Dog Park at Lake Baldwin Park
Lake Front Access	Natural Open Spaces



sample tends to rate facilities slightly more positively, while the Open link sample reflects more moderate perceptions of how well needs are met.

Importance-Satisfaction for Facilities and Amenities

An importance-satisfaction analysis of facilities and amenities helps identify which assets are most valued by residents and where improvements may be needed. The Invite survey showed that while general park amenities, City parks and green space, and natural open spaces all rated highly in both importance and satisfaction, some gaps in importance and satisfaction exist for trails and pathways and lakefront access indicating areas in need of improvement. Overall ratings are similar to the Invite sample, with only trails and pathways and lakefront access falling into the high-importance/low-needs met quadrant.

Highly Valued Programs and Services

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of a variety of recreation programs, events, and services to their household, regardless of whether they currently participate, to help identify the community's priorities and preferences for future programming and service offerings within the Winter Park parks and recreation system. Community events and the Saturday Farmers Market stand out as the most valued offerings, with consistently strong ratings across both samples. Interest remains strong for arts and cultural programming, along with fitness and wellness activities, pointing to a balance between social and individual experiences. Programs serving more specific groups, such as youth, seniors, aquatics, and afterschool offerings, receive lower overall importance ratings, suggesting more targeted appeal.

Programs and Services Needs Met

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of a variety of recreation programs and services, helping identify the types of activities, offerings, and community services that residents consider most important to their household and future recreation needs. The Saturday Farmers Market and community events are performing exceptionally well, with the strongest ratings across both samples. Programs such as arts and cultural offerings and fitness/wellness are also meeting needs for many respondents, though with slightly more mixed feedback. Lower ratings appear for adaptive/ special needs programs and some youth-oriented services, where a larger share of respondents indicate that needs are not being fully met. While patterns are similar, the Invite sample consistently reports stronger performance, whereas the Open link sample reflects more tempered views across most program areas.

Importance-Satisfaction for Programs and Services

An importance-satisfaction analysis for programs and services helps identify which ones are most valued by residents and where improvements may be needed. The importance-satisfaction analysis indicates that residents place the greatest value on community-based programming and events. In the Invite survey, community events and the Saturday Farmers Market stand out as strong performers, falling within the high-importance/high-needs-met quadrant. Arts and performing arts programs, and fitness and wellness programs also fall into the high-importance/high-needs met quadrant. Ratings from the Open link sample are similar to the Invite sample; however, the Open link sample indicated that some greater attention should be placed on fitness and wellness programs.

Priorities for Increasing Use

Respondents were asked what are the most important areas that, if addressed by the City of Winter Park, would increase their use of parks and recreation facilities. The top priorities for increasing use focus on connectivity and comfort, with trails/greenway connectivity and additional shade ranking as the most important improvements across both samples. Improved communication and maintenance of parks/facilities also rank highly, indicating both awareness and quality of experience influence participation. Access-related factors, including better access and parking, remain important, though secondary to system connectivity and comfort features. The Open link sample places greater emphasis on maintenance, shade, and additional amenities, reflecting higher expectations among more engaged users. Lower-tier priorities include items such as Wi-Fi, pricing, signage, and ADA access, suggesting these are less likely to drive increased usage compared to core system improvements.



Future Needs

To help guide future investments, respondents were asked whether the City should focus on adding new amenities, expanding existing offerings, improving current facilities, or maintaining existing conditions over the next 5–10 years. The results highlight clear priorities for enhancing the parks and recreation system while also identifying areas where current service levels are generally viewed as adequate.

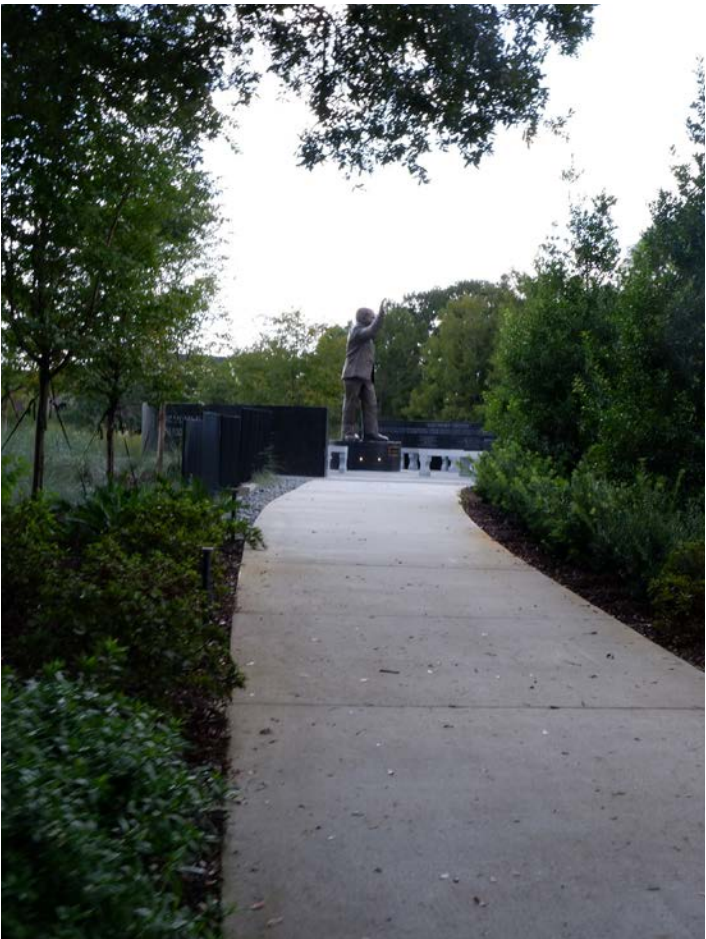
For many system elements, respondents in both samples lean toward adding new or expanding existing amenities, particularly for trails, natural areas, and habitat-related features. The strongest support for growth is seen in paved walking paths and connector trails, where 64% of Invite respondents and 58% of Open Link respondents favor either adding new or expanding existing facilities. Similar patterns emerge for natural areas and unpaved trails (61% Invite; 54% Open), natural habitat areas (56% Invite; 45% Open), and passive restorative spaces (52% Invite; 40% Open). These findings indicate strong community support for expanding access to nature, trail connectivity, and environmental resources, with Invite respondents expressing somewhat stronger enthusiasm for these investments than Open Link respondents.

Parks, as a whole, stand out as an area for improvement in both samples. The largest share of respondents selected improving existing parks (34% Invite; 36% Open), exceeding the share favoring maintain as is. This suggests that residents generally value the existing park system but would like to see continued reinvestment and upgrades to enhance park quality and functionality.

Lake access and activities, picnic areas and shelters, playgrounds, and athletic courts reflect a more balanced mix of preferences than many other system elements. Across both samples, respondents are generally split between maintaining existing amenities and improving current conditions, with comparatively less supports for adding new facilities. For lake access and activities, approximately one-third of respondents favor maintaining existing conditions (36% Invite; 35% Open), while a similar share support improvements (29% Invite; 31% Open). Picnic areas and shelters show an almost identical pattern, with respondents nearly evenly divided between maintaining current facilities (32% Invite; 34% Open) and improving them (33% in both samples). Playgrounds are evenly split between maintaining and improving existing facilities (36%/36% Invite; 35%/37% Open), while athletic courts receive the strongest support for maintenance (41% Invite; 44% Open), followed by improvement (29% in both samples). Collectively, these results suggest that residents generally view the existing supply of these amenities as adequate but support ongoing reinvestment to maintain quality and functionality over time.

Several recreation facilities and amenities show a strong preference for maintaining current service levels, suggesting that existing offerings generally meet resident expectations. This is particularly evident for dog parks (52% Invite; 61% Open), swimming pools (42% Invite; 43% Open), golf courses (63% Invite; 55% Open), diamond athletic fields (62% Invite; 61% Open), rectangular athletic fields (57% in both samples), indoor sports facilities (50% Invite; 47% Open), and indoor multi-use and flexible spaces (50% Invite; 52% Open). Respondents show limited interest in adding new facilities in these categories, indicating that the current inventory is largely sufficient. Instead, the findings suggest that future investments should focus on maintaining and selectively improving existing assets to preserve quality, functionality, and long-term usability.

Programming-related amenities reveal varying levels of demand across age groups and activity types. Adult recreation programs show a relatively balanced distribution of preferences, with respondents most often favoring maintaining existing offerings (31% Invite; 38% Open) while also expressing interest in expanding programs (27% Invite; 22% Open) and improving current services (24% Invite; 26% Open). Senior recreation programs are similarly viewed as largely adequate, with maintenance receiving the



highest level of support (43% Invite; 45% Open). Youth recreation programs, however, generate greater interest in expanding existing offerings, particularly among Open Link respondents (30% versus 24% of Invite respondents); while improvement also receives notable support (29% Invite; 25% Open). These findings suggest that while adult and senior programming generally meet resident expectations, there may be opportunities to expand and enhance youth-focused recreation services to better meet community demand.

Overall, both survey samples indicate that the highest priorities for future investment are expanded trail networks, additional natural areas, habitat preservation, and improvements to existing parks. Facilities such as swimming pools, dog parks, picnic shelters, athletic fields, golf courses, and indoor recreation spaces are generally viewed as adequately provided, with residents favoring continued maintenance and improvements over significant expansion.

Top Three Priorities

When asked to identify their top three priorities for future investment, respondents in both samples overwhelmingly prioritize trails, natural areas, and nature-based amenities. Paved walking paths and connector trails emerged as the highest-ranked priority overall, selected among the top three priorities by 41% of Invite respondents and 32% of Open Link respondents. Natural areas and unpaved trails also rank highly in both samples (32% each), reinforcing the community's strong interest in trail connectivity, outdoor recreation, and access to natural environments.

Environmental and park-related assets form a second tier of priorities. Natural habitat for plants and animals identifies as a top-three priority by 25% of Invite respondents and 18% of Open Link respondents, while parks overall receive support from 24% and 18% of respondents, respectively. Passive restorative spaces, such as sensory-rich gardens, contemplative plazas, and viewpoints, also rank relatively high, particularly among Invite respondents (16% Invite; 13% Open). These findings suggest strong support for investments that enhance environmental quality, conservation, and opportunities for passive recreation.

Community programming and recreation opportunities represent a third tier of priorities. Adult recreation programs rank among the top priorities for 18% of Invite respondents and 12% of Open Link respondents, while youth recreation programs have stronger support from Open Link respondents (17%) than Invite respondents (15%). Senior recreation programs have similar levels of support in both samples (13%), indicating consistent interest across age-focused programming opportunities.



Several traditional recreation facilities have received moderate priority rankings. Playgrounds and athletic courts are each selected among the top three priorities, selected by approximately 15% to 16% of respondents across both samples. Swimming pools receive moderate support as well (11% in both samples), while dog parks rank slightly lower (12% Invite; 9% Open).

The largest differences between survey samples appear in golf courses and lake-related amenities. Open Link respondents place considerably greater emphasis on golf courses, which ranking among the top three priorities for 25% of Open Link respondents, compared with just 12% of Invite respondents.

Lower-priority items across both samples include picnic areas and shelters, indoor sports facilities, indoor multi-use and flexible spaces, and most athletic field types. These amenities generally rank among the top three priorities from fewer than 10% of respondents, suggesting they are less likely to drive future investment decisions compared to trails, park, and nature-focused improvements. Overall, the findings indicate that residents place the highest priority on expanding access to trails, natural areas, and environmental resources, while traditional recreation facilities and indoor amenities are viewed as secondary investment priorities.



Types of Funding Support

Respondents were asked to indicate how strongly they support each of the potential funding sources that could be used to help finance recommendations emerging from the PRMP. The highest levels of funding support are for partnership-based and non-tax funding sources, including public/private partnerships and sponsorships, both receiving strong majority support (65%–76%). Bond referendums for specific projects also receive moderate support, with over half of respondents in both samples indicating support. Support is more mixed for a new hospitality tax, with roughly half in favor and a sizable share opposed. Raising fees on venues and rentals shows limited support, with more respondents opposed than supportive, particularly in the Invite sample. The least-supported options are new sales taxes and increased property taxes, both of which face majority opposition across samples.

Respondents were asked which of the following best describes the potential impact, if any, that fee increases for Winter Park Parks and Recreation programs and facilities would have on their current level of participation. Most respondents indicate that fee increases would have some level of impact on participation, though reactions are mixed. About a third (35%) of Invite respondents report that fee increases would not limit their participation, while 30% say it would limit participation somewhat, and 14% state significantly. The Open link sample shows a similar pattern, with slightly higher sensitivity to cost increases. A meaningful share in both samples also report uncertainty, suggesting that while many respondents are willing to absorb modest increases, price sensitivity remains a consideration for a portion of the community.

Additional Comments and Suggestions

At the end of the survey, respondents were given the opportunity to provide any additional comments or suggestions for the City. When coded and graphed by common topics, the two most mentioned areas of feedback are overall appreciation for the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as comments related to park maintenance and upkeep. A total of 397 comments were collected from both samples, and common themes are highlighted below.

Overall satisfaction and appreciation

- Many respondents describe Winter Park’s parks as beautiful, well maintained, and a key reason they live in the City
- Frequent praise for staff, maintenance crews, and overall system improvements
- Respondents express pride in the park system and a desire to maintain its quality

Focus on maintenance over expansion

- Repeated calls to prioritize repairs and upgrades over new park development
- Concerns that some newer investments are underutilized or not well planned
- Emphasis on protecting existing assets and ensuring long-term quality

Connectivity and safety gaps

- Strong interest in expanding trails, sidewalks, and bike connections
- Safety concerns at crossings, along busy roads, and on shared-use paths
- Desire for better connectivity between neighborhoods and parks

Heat and shade constraints

- Extreme heat frequently limits use of parks and playgrounds
- Strong demand for more shade trees, structures, and cooling features
- Requests for lighting to improve comfort and evening use

Communication gaps

- Many respondents feel they miss events due to limited or unclear communication
- Requests for more centralized and user-friendly information
- Interest in better promotion of programs, events, and facilities

Need for inclusive amenities

- Requests for more splash pads, playgrounds, dog parks, and passive spaces
- Interest in expanded youth, senior, and special needs programming
- Ongoing discussion around access, affordability, and resident priority

Key Takeaways

- Respondents are generally familiar with the system, with Open Link participants reporting higher familiarity and engagement than Invite respondents.
- Use is anchored by core parks, trails, and community hubs. Central Park and the Library & Events Center lead in visitation, while trails and everyday park amenities (such as parking, restrooms, benches, etc.) are used by a majority of households.
- Residents are willing to travel and walk to access quality parks and facilities. Most residents are comfortable walking approximately 10–15 minutes, and while driving is the primary mode of access, a meaningful share also walk or bike—highlighting the importance of both proximity and connectivity.
- Core facilities and amenities are meeting needs, though lakefront access and trails present opportunities for improvement.
- Programs generally meet community needs, with community events and the Farmers Market ranking highest in both importance and satisfaction.
- Residents use multiple communication channels, but email remains the preferred and most effective way to receive information.
- Community priorities focus on maintaining and enhancing existing parks and facilities rather than expanding the system.
- Future priorities are led by trails and natural areas. Trail connectivity and nature-based features rank highest, while programs fall into a secondary tier. Indoor facilities and some athletic amenities rank lower as investment priorities.
- Respondents favor partnerships and sponsorships as funding options and are less supportive of tax increases or higher user fees.

Public Workshops

Format

In April and May, the project team hosted two public workshops at Ward Park and the Winter Park Community Center, offering residents two opportunities to share input on the Winter Park parks and recreation system. These open-house style events featured a range of interactive activity stations designed to encourage feedback and spark conversations about parks and recreation in the City of Winter Park.

To ensure broad accessibility, the workshops were offered at times that aligned with residents' availability. One was conducted on a Saturday morning, coinciding with community baseball games, and the other was held on a weekday evening. Each session served a dual purpose: informing participants about the PRMP process and empowering them to get involved by voicing their ideas and concerns. The workshops were advertised by the City through social media, on-site signage, as well as the City website to capture residents at various touchpoints.

The input collected during these workshops helped shape the Master Plan to incorporate the specific needs, preferences, and desires of residents who will be the end users of the parks and recreation system. Importantly, feedback received during the workshops largely reinforced the findings of the community survey, providing additional confidence that the identified priorities and recommendations reflect the broader community's needs and aspirations for Winter Park's parks and recreation system.



Welcome Station

Upon arrival, workshop participants were welcomed at a table located at the entrance and provided with a brief overview of the workshop format. The participants were asked to sign in and were provided with a flyer with a QR code for the open survey.

Live Work Play Station

For this activity, participants used either a printed map or an online GIS map on a tablet to plot the places within the City where they live, work, and play. When using the online version, a live heat map highlighting “play” points was projected onto a wall at the workshop and updated in real time to show which areas of the City were visited most frequently. The printed map similarly revealed the common areas with the highest concentration of drawn points.

The station facilitator guided participants through the activity. Participants were also asked to discuss why they chose places to play and how these places could be improved. This activity gave participants a “bigger picture” of their park system and improved their awareness of the various opportunities to recreate in their community. The station also enabled the project team to better identify “hot spots”, specifically parks that are more frequently visited by residents and why users may feel drawn to these parks.

Write on Me Map Station

The station featured a large map of the City of Winter Park parks system. Participants were asked to write directly on the map to share their concerns relating directly to the parks and facilities illustrated on the map. Participants could share their thoughts on park improvements, desires for new amenities, parks and trails, and ways to better connect residents with parks.

This activity gathered community input on specific parks and geographic areas noting where amenities are desired, missing, and able to fulfill additional recreational purposes.

Priority Voting Station

At this station, participants could prioritize their needs and desires using a board with various categories, i.e. programming, sport facilities, lake access, and trails. Participants were provided with a total of four dot stickers with which they could prioritize needs and desires for parks and recreation within the City. Participants could also write any needs and desires not represented within the board.

Using participant dot votes, the station facilitator led a conversation with community members to understand their choices. Through these conversations, the project team gained a stronger grasp of underlying community needs and desires, revealing how existing parks may be improved or better utilized.

Draw Your Own Park Station

Participants were given blank coloring sheets and crayons and were invited to illustrate their ideal park. This activity provided adults and children with an engaging way to express their ideas by visually designing park features and amenities they would like to see. These creative contributions were collected to help inform the development and implementation of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, which ensured even the young voices were included in shaping future park spaces.

Survey Station

To enhance participation and improve access to the survey, a survey station provided participants with a laptop to complete the survey at the workshop. Additionally, survey flyers with a QR code were provided for participants to take the survey at their leisure. Participants were encouraged to take flyers home to share with friends and family who may be interested in the survey, thereby leveraging word-of-mouth to increase public awareness of the survey.

Response Summary

Live Work Play

Park usage was relatively well distributed across the Winter Park parks system. The most frequently visited sites included MLK Park, Ward Park, Central Park, the Community Center/Shady Park (particularly for senior programming), and Phelps Park for tennis. Kraft Azalea Garden served as a strong second-tier destination, along with Dinky Dock Park for its kayak launch and Mead Garden for walking. Community feedback highlighted improving lighting at Ward Park as a key priority.

Write on Me Map Station

Participants who provided comments on the park system map expressed a strong desire to enhance trail and sidewalk connectivity throughout Winter Park. Residents emphasized the need for more continuous pathways between parks, neighborhoods, and key destinations. Many comments focused on creating stronger connections between major parks such as Mead Botanical Garden and Seven Oaks, Kraft Azalea Garden and MLK Park, Lake Baldwin Park and Phelps Park, along with additional linkages across the city. Ensuring shade coverage along these routes was also a recurring priority.

Community input also emphasized the need for upgraded park amenities and facilities, including converting the tennis courts at Ward Park to pickleball courts, updating the picnic areas at the Community Center/Shady Park, adding a splash pad at Phelps Park, modernizing Ward Park, and improving restrooms at Kraft Azalea Garden.

Residents also highlighted the importance of nature and environmental restoration. Comments reflected interest in restoring natural areas, particularly within Mead Botanical Garden and Howell Branch Preserve. Expanding tree planting, including cypress restoration at Mead Botanical Garden, was noted; as well as increasing canopy coverage throughout the park system. Opening the Rollins College pathway along Lake Virginia near Dinky Dock Park for public access was also mentioned. Finally, community feedback included support for acquiring land for two new parks: one located at Symonds Avenue and North Pennsylvania Avenue, and another envisioned as a gateway park to the City of Winter Park at SR 426 and Edwin Boulevard.

Priority Voting Station

Community input from the Priority Dot Voting station revealed preferences for how residents would like to see Winter Park's parks and recreation system evolve. The strongest interest centered on both athletic and natural amenities, with Diamond Athletic Fields and Natural Habitat for Plants and Animals receiving the highest number of votes. Close behind was a strong desire for lake access and water-based activities. Residents also showed notable support for athletic courts and natural areas with unpaved trails.

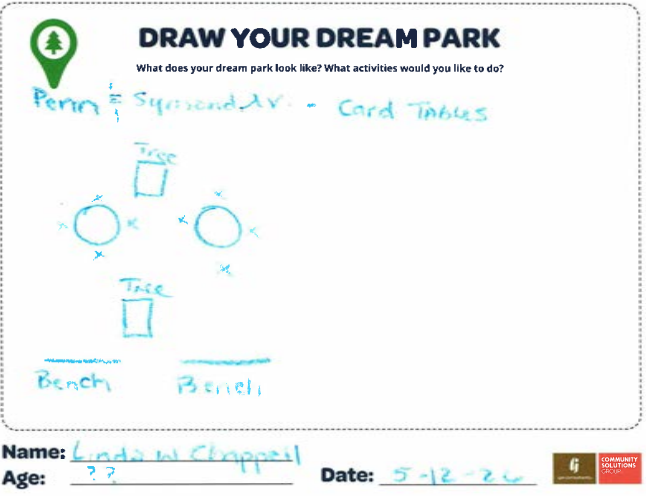
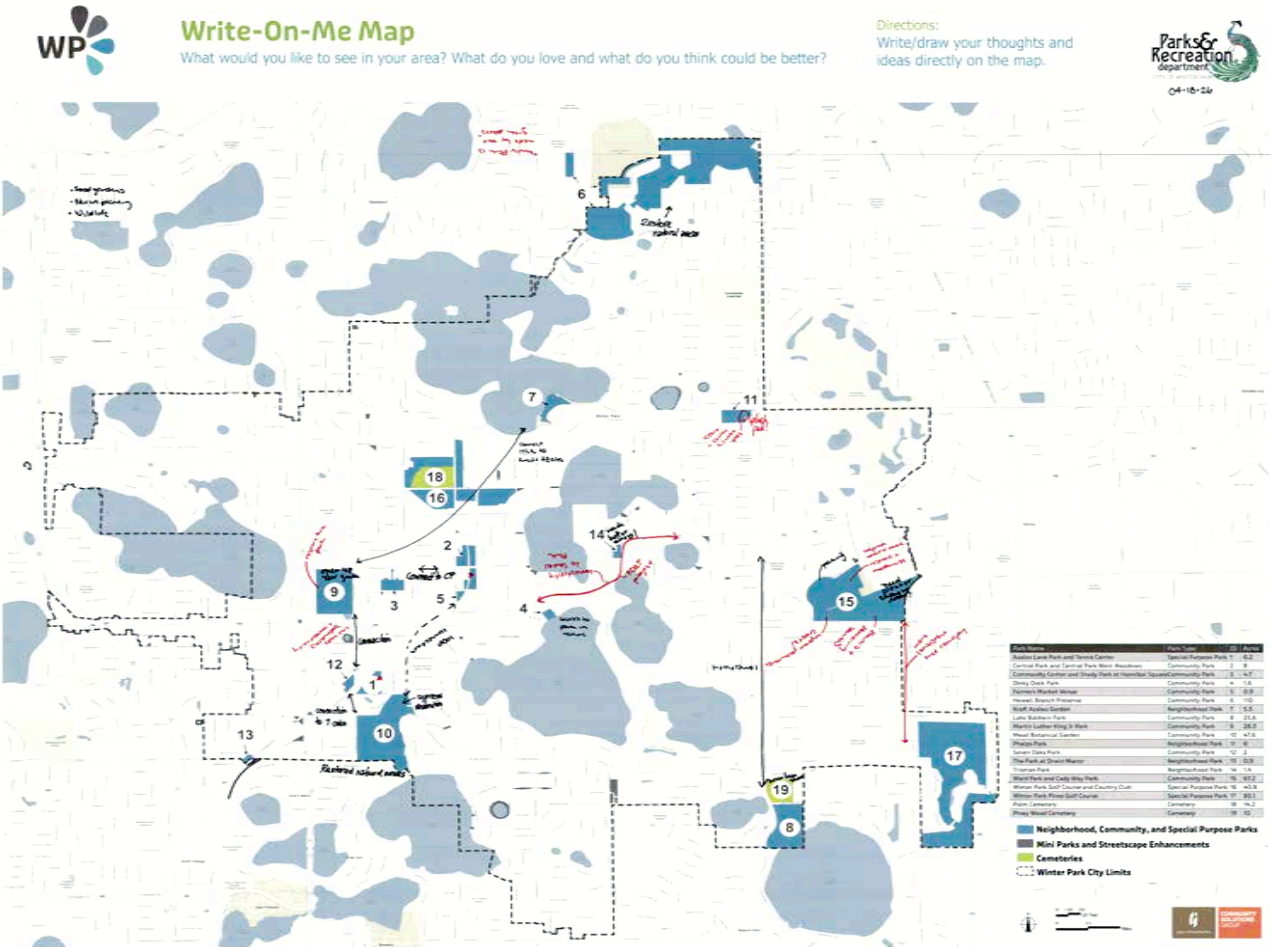
A second tier of priorities emerged around system expansion and community-serving amenities. New parks received meaningful support, along with senior recreation programs, dog parks, playgrounds, and passive restorative spaces—each drawing moderate interest. There was also steady support for paved walking paths and connector trails and golf courses.

Draw Your Own Park Station

Drawings collected from participants demonstrated strong imagination and enthusiasm for sharing ideas. Elements included card-game tables, slides and swings, large shade trees, gardens, and even a football field, reflecting a mix of playful, social, and active recreation interests.

Priority Dot Voting Station

Diamond Athletic Fields	11
Natural Habitat for Plants and Animals	11
Lake Access and Activities	10
Athletic Courts	9
Natural Areas and Unpaved Trails	9
New Parks	8
Senior Recreation Programs	6
Dog Parks	6
Playgrounds	6
Passive Restorative Space	6
Paved Walking Paths and Connector Trails	5
Golf Courses	5
Swimming Pools	4
Youth Recreation Programs	3
Picnic Areas and Shelters	3
Adult Recreation Programs	1
Rectangle Athletic Fields	1
Indoor Sports Facilities	1
Indoor Multi-Use Flexible Spaces	1
Parking Expansion and Improvements	1
Universal Changing Tables	1
Splash Pad	1
Shaded Playgrounds	1
Enhanced Protocols for Photographers	1



Meet a Planner Day

Format

In April, the project team hosted a "Meet a Planner Day" at the Winter Park Library to create a more personal, conversational opportunity for residents to learn about the PRMP, share their ideas, and reach additional residents who may not otherwise participate in the public workshops or online survey. To maximize accessibility, the event was offered in two time blocks, one scheduled during the library's busy morning programming hours, and another in the late afternoon/early evening on a high-traffic Tuesday.

A project table was set up in a prominent area of the library, staffed by a member of the project team. The setup included a needs-priority board, which served as a conversation starter and helped guide discussions about community priorities for Winter Park's parks and recreation system. Each attendee received four dots to allocate across a range of park and recreation needs, allowing them to highlight their top priorities in a simple, visual way. Residents were invited to stop by, ask questions, and talk one-on-one about their experiences, concerns, and desires for local parks.

Response Summary

As part of "Meet a Planner Day," participants were invited to take part in a priority dot-voting exercise to identify the amenities and activities most important to them. The highest-ranked priorities, each receiving nine votes, were Lake Access and Activities, Natural Areas and Unpaved Trails, and Natural Habitat for Plants and Animals. Together, these selections highlight a desire to both preserve and enhance Winter Park's ecological assets while expanding opportunities for residents to engage more deeply with the city's lakes, natural landscapes, and outdoor environments.

Swimming Pools and Playgrounds followed closely with seven votes each, signaling continued demand for family-oriented recreation and aquatics. Dog Parks also ranked highly with five votes, showing interest in pet-friendly spaces.

Mid-tier priorities included Paved Walking Paths and Connector Trails, Golf Courses, and Passive Restorative Spaces (three votes each). Senior Recreation Programs and Picnic Areas and Shelters received two votes each, while Rectangle Athletic Fields and New Parks received one vote.

Priority Dot Voting Station	
Lake Access and Activities	9
Natural Areas and Unpaved Trails	9
Natural Habitat for Plants and Animals	9
Swimming Pools	7
Playgrounds	7
Dog Parks	5
Paved Walking Paths and Connector Trails	3
Golf Courses	3
Passive Restorative Space	3
Senior Recreation Programs	2
Picnic Areas and Shelters	2
Rectangle Athletic Fields	1
New Parks	1
Adult Recreation Programs	0
Youth Recreation Programs	0
Athletic Courts	0
Diamond Athletic Fields	0
Indoor Sports Facilities	0
Indoor Multi-Use Flexible Spaces	0

Help shape the future of our parks

share your ideas and be part of the Winter Park Parks and Recreation Master Plan!



Participate!



Public Workshops
Saturday, April 18th
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Ward Park

Tuesday, May 12th
5:30 - 7:30 pm
Winter Park Community Center



Meet a Planner Day
Tuesday, April 21st
8:30 - 11:30 am &
4:00 - 6:30 pm
Winter Park Library

Visit www.planwinterparkparks.com for more information!





Park & Recreation Priorities

How/Where should funds be spent to enhance parks & recreation in Winter Park?

Directions: Place a sticker on each area where you think funds should be allocated. Remember, you have a limited number of stickers!





Adult Recreation Programs



Youth Recreation Programs



Senior Recreation Programs



Athletic Courts
Basketball, tennis, pickleball, sand volleyball, etc.



Diamond Athletic Fields
Softball, baseball, etc.



Rectangle Athletic Fields
Football, soccer, etc.



Indoor Sports Facilities
Gymnasiums, courts, etc.



Swimming Pools



Lake Access and Activities



Indoor Multi-Use Flexible Spaces
Meeting space, community center



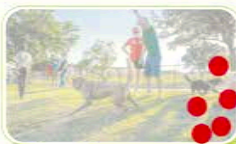
Natural Areas and Unpaved Trails



Paved Walking Paths and Connector Trails



Golf Courses



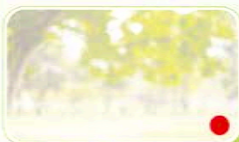
Dog Parks



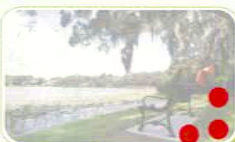
Playgrounds



Picnic Areas and Shelters



New Parks



Passive Restorative Spaces



Natural Habitat for Plants and Animals

Write in your own ideas!

Other
Did we miss something?

Digital Engagement

Format

The engagement process for the Winter Park PRMP incorporated innovative digital outreach strategies to broaden participation and remove barriers to input. Chief among these efforts was the Winter Park Parks Pin Drop App, a powerful online mapping tool that invited residents to interact directly with the park system through a self-guided, visual, and highly accessible platform.

Overview of the Pin Drop App

The Pin Drop App was developed using GIS technology and hosted on the project website. The tool served as a cornerstone of community engagement for the plan, enabling a new level of data-driven public participation. It allowed residents to leave location specific comments, concerns, and ideas in real time.

Residents could interact with a digital map of the city that highlighted existing park spaces, trail corridors, and public waterfront access. By selecting a predefined suggestion type and clicking a location on the map, users could provide commentary grounded in their personal experiences and priorities. The app remained active for several months and was featured on City of Winter Park Parks and Recreation communications platforms, including social media, email blasts, and community partner outreach. Additionally, QR codes linking to the project website where the Pin Drop App was hosted were made available on flyers and promotional signage at all parks, ensuring a wide cross-section of residents had the opportunity to participate.

How the App Worked

- Accessing the Map: Users could search by address, zoom in to neighborhoods, or browse freely across Winter Park’s city limits.
- Dropping Pins: Upon identifying an area of interest, residents chose from three “pin types” that corresponded to common planning themes (listed below).
- Commenting: A comment box allowed users to describe specific issues, offer praise, identify opportunities, or note concerns.
- Reviewing Other Feedback: Pins were visible to all, allowing users to see and build upon each other’s comments, creating a living document of community insight.

Pin Types Explained

The structured design of the Pin Drop App allowed for the categorization of feedback into three main suggestion types:

- Things I would like to see
- Things I love
- Things I think need work

Response Summary

Level of Engagement and Volume of Participation

The tool collected more than 40 unique comments from residents across all areas of Winter Park. In addition to identifying specific maintenance issues and safety concerns, the feedback also revealed a wide range of aspirational ideas for the future of the City’s parks and recreation system. Residents shared everything from requests for climbing structures and more youth programming to calls for wider sidewalks and improved connectivity.

Overall Insights

The Pin Drop App revealed that Winter Park residents value safety, accessibility, family-friendly amenities, and well-maintained natural spaces, while also envisioning parks as more connected, inclusive, and activity-rich community destinations. Feedback consistently pointed to the need to balance addressing maintenance and safety issues with introducing new amenities that reflect evolving community expectations. By capturing these perspectives, the engagement process provides actionable guidance for future planning, investment, and communication strategies that resonate with Winter Park residents.

The Pin Drop App facilitated meaningful public engagement across Winter Park. The feedback revealed residents’ priorities, concerns, and aspirations for the City’s park system, highlighting both immediate maintenance needs and long-term community goals. Several consistent themes emerged across the comments:

1. Love for Nature

Across Winter Park’s parks and recreation, residents express a deep appreciation for the city’s natural beauty and signature gathering places. Many comments highlight the charm of places like Central Park, Mead Botanical Garden, Kraft Azalea Garden, and the WP9 golf course, describing them as “a Winter Park treasure” and praising features such as the “nature setting” and areas “great for butterflies.”

2. Desire for New Amenities

Residents are eager to see the park system evolve in ways that better support families, accessibility, recreation, and everyday comfort. A recurring theme across the feedback is the desire for more family-friendly amenities, including new playgrounds in Central Park, Mead Botanical Garden, and other underutilized spaces. Residents also expressed interest in additional tennis courts at Ward Park to meet growing demand, as well as coworking-style picnic table setups in Central Park that offer shaded, flexible seating for both leisure and informal work.

3. Accessibility

Accessibility also emerges is a strong priority. Several residents praise the new inclusive picnic tables in Central Park, saying they allow wheelchair users to “sit right next to their family.” In addition, there is a suggestion for universal changing tables in key park restroom locations to better support people of all ages and abilities.

4. Safety and Comfort Concerns

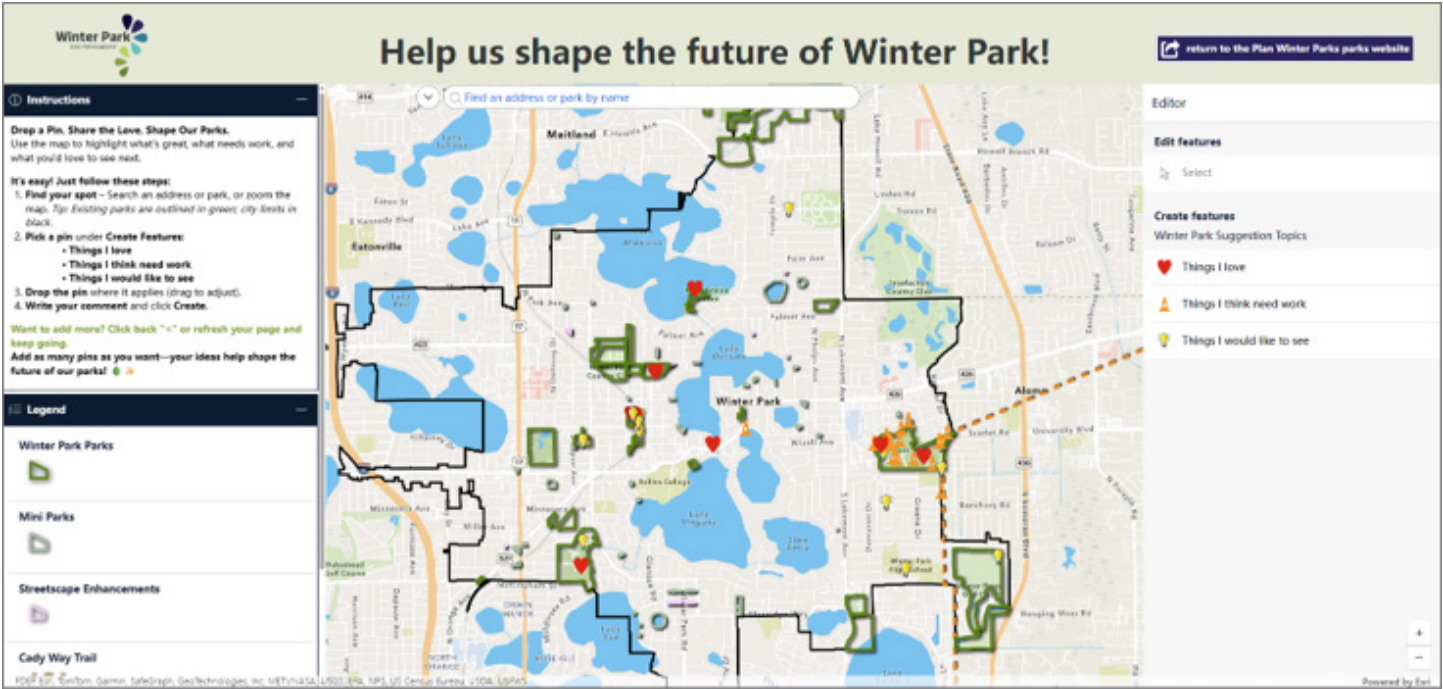
In Ward Park and Cady Way Park, residents had concerns about maintenance, safety, and noise. Safety concerns are especially prominent: residents request street lighting, pedestrian yield signs, crosswalk signals, additional sidewalks, and noise mitigation around pickleball courts and event speakers.

5. Access & Connectivity

Residents expressed a strong desire for better connections between neighborhoods and key destinations. Suggestions included widening sidewalks and trails to improve access from east-side neighborhoods to Central Park and the Library, as well as an improved crossing to the Cady Way Trail from Balfour. Additionally, residents recommend expanding Cady Way Trail connectivity to Park Avenue.

6. Activities and Programming

Residents expressed interest in expanding programming and community activities across the park system. Suggestions included offering more youth programming at the Community Center; hosting additional events at Ward Park, such as a second farmers market or outdoor movie nights; and providing community classes at the Winter Park Pines Golf Course clubhouse. Residents also recommended allowing public use of the high school tennis courts when they are not in use by students.



Most Commented Parks

1. Ward Park & Cady Way Park — 18 Comments

Ward Park and the adjacent Cady Way Park form one of Winter Park’s largest and most active recreation hubs, serving athletes, families, trail users, and nearby neighborhoods. The volume and diversity of comments reflect the park’s heavy use and the complex balance between recreation, natural areas, and residential adjacency. TThe elevated number of comments associated with this park may be attributed to the public workshop that was held on-site.

Key Comment Themes

Safety & Comfort Concerns (7 Comments)

- Residents cited the need for street lighting, noting that the park becomes “dark” when no activities are scheduled.
- Multiple comments requested pedestrian yield signs, crosswalk signals, and sidewalks, especially where overflow parking forces people to walk in the street.
- Noise emerged as a major concern, with several comments calling for reduced pickleball hours, noise mitigation, and lower volumes for amplified event music.

Maintenance & Condition Issues (5 Comments)

- Residents described the park as “overgrown” or “neglected” compared to other City parks.
- Requests included updating the pavilion, addressing water-logging through retention ponds, and managing overflow parking that damages natural areas.

New Amenities & Connectivity (4 Comments)

- Suggestions included adding more tennis courts, expanding Cady Way Trail connectivity to Park Avenue, and improving crossings to enhance neighborhood access.

General Appreciation (2 Comments)



- Despite concerns, residents also expressed appreciation for the natural areas and amenities, noting features like butterfly-friendly landscapes.

2. Central Park and Central Park West Meadows— 9 Comments

Located in the heart of downtown Winter Park, Central Park and Central Park West Meadows serve as the city’s signature civic landscape. As a cultural and economic anchor, the park draws residents, visitors, and families for events, recreation, and everyday relaxation. Its central location and constant foot traffic make it one of the most visible and frequently used public spaces in the city.

Key Comment Themes

New Amenities & Family-Friendly Features (4 Comments)

- Residents expressed a strong desire for children’s play spaces, including climbing structures and organic, garden-style play elements.
- Several comments requested picnic tables, shaded seating, and coworking-style outdoor setups to support both leisure and casual work.

Accessibility Enhancements (2 Comments)

- Residents praised the new accessible picnic tables that allow wheelchair users to sit directly alongside family members.
- A comment recommended installing universal changing tables.

General Appreciation (2 Comments)

- Residents expressed love for the park’s amenities and overall atmosphere



THE PROJECT

PARTICIPATE

Join the Journey to Exceptional Parks!

We want to hear from you. Share your thoughts and become involved.

Participate!

Parks and recreation are at the heart of our community. Our parks give us places to unwind, play, explore, and reconnect with the outdoors, while recreation programs and events help us connect with neighbors, discover new hobbies, and play sports with friends. Whether taking a stroll down Central Park, taking our kids to MLK Park playground, playing sports at Ward Park, or visiting any of our other facilities, our parks form a central part of what it means to live in Winter Park.

Now, the City of Winter Park is working on developing a new Parks and Recreation Master Plan, and we want you to help make our parks extraordinary. We invite you to join our upcoming parks and recreation meetings and help shape the future of these treasured spaces. Bring your ideas, your experiences, and your passion for recreation and nature. Your voice plays an essential role in keeping our parks vibrant, welcoming, and enjoyable for everyone.

PROJECT INITIATION1JANUARY - MARCH 2026

JAN. 28

KICKOFF WORKSHOP

JAN. 2026

PROJECT WORKPLAN
KICK OFF SUMMARY
DOCUMENT MATRIX

FEB. 16

CITY PARK
SYSTEM TOUR

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
AND FRAMEWORK2JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2026

FEB. 16

PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

JUNE 2026

EXISTING CONDITIONS ANALYSIS
PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY
NEEDS ASSESSMENT
EMERGING THEMES

JULY | TBD

NEEDS ASSESSMENT
AND EMERGING THEMES
WORKSHOP

AUG. 19

PARKS AND RECREATION
ADVISORY BOARD

APRIL TO MAY

PUBLIC WORKSHOPS

RECOMMENDATIONS
AND IMPLEMENTATION3JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 2026

SEP. 2026

CIP SWIMLASHILL
GIS DATABASE

LATE OCT.

REPORT DRAFT

LATE NOV.

FINAL REPORT

OCT. 28

COMMISSION
MEETING

DEC. 9

CITY
COMMISSION

Frequently Asked Questions



FINAL EDITING, PROOFREADING, AND FORMATTING TO OCCUR AT FINAL DOCUMENT.

2.1 Overview | 91

Page 70 of 78



3. Master Plan Framework

3.1 Level of Service (LOS)

Acreage-Based Analysis

The acreage-based LOS analysis is the first of two methodologies used to evaluate the City's parks and recreation system. This approach measures the quantity of publicly accessible park land available relative to the resident population and assesses compliance with the standards established in the Comprehensive Plan. The second method, presented in the following section, evaluates the geographic distribution and accessibility of parks throughout the community.

Comprehensive Plan LOS Standards

The City's adopted Comprehensive Plan establishes an overall parks and green space LOS standard through Policy 6-1.1.1, which requires the City to provide a minimum of 10 acres of publicly owned green space per 1,000 residents. Green space is defined broadly to include publicly owned active and passive recreation areas, conservation lands, parks, botanical gardens, cemeteries, golf courses, and similar open spaces. Excluded from the calculation are water areas within lakes, except where water is surrounded by City green space, and landscaped roadway medians dedicated as park land.

In addition to the overall LOS standard, Policy 6-2.2.2 establishes goals for the equitable distribution of park land and identifies target allocations within the overall 10-acre standard of:

- 2 acres of Community Parks per 1,000 residents
- 2 acres of Neighborhood Parks per 1,000 residents

These targets help ensure that both community-serving facilities and neighborhood-scale recreational opportunities are adequately represented within the park system.

Population Basis and Future Projections

Level of service calculations are based on current and projected population estimates because park acreage planning must address both existing and future recreational demands. While the City currently exceeds its adopted LOS

standards, population growth gradually increases the amount of park land needed to maintain compliance. Evaluating future conditions allows the City to identify potential deficiencies before they occur, plan for future park acquisition or development, and ensure that capital investments continue to support resident needs over the planning horizon.

The analysis uses:

- 2026 population estimate: 30,914 residents
- 2030 population projection: 32,292 residents
- 2035 population projection: 33,166 residents

Existing population is derived from Esri Business Analyst estimates that utilize the U.S. Census American Community Survey. Future population projections are based on data from the Florida Housing Data Clearinghouse and the University of Florida Shimberg Center for Housing Studies.

Parks Included in the Acreage-Based LOS Assessment

Consistent with the Comprehensive Plan definition of green space, the acreage-based LOS assessment includes the following park and facility categories:

- Community Parks
- Neighborhood Parks
- Special Purpose Parks
- Cemeteries
- Golf Courses
- Mini Parks
- Lake Lookouts
- Streetscape Enhancements
- Open Space and Conservation Areas

Overall Green Space LOS

For purposes of evaluating compliance with the City's overall green space LOS standard, all qualifying publicly owned green space was included in the inventory. Acreage was grouped into the categories shown in Table 11, including Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Special Purpose Parks, Cemeteries, Mini Parks, Lake Lookouts, Streetscape Enhancements, and Open Space/Conservation lands. Collectively, these facilities comprise the City's green space inventory used to evaluate compliance with the Comprehensive Plan requirement of 10 acres of green space per 1,000 residents.

In addition to Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Special Purpose Parks, and Cemeteries, the overall LOS analysis includes numerous Mini Parks, Lake Lookouts, Streetscape Enhancements, and Open Space/Conservation areas located throughout the city. These facilities are documented in Table 12 and contribute to the overall green space inventory used in the LOS calculation.

TABLE 11. GREEN SPACE ACREAGE INCLUDED IN OVERALL LOS CALCULATION

Park/Facility Type	Park Type
Community Parks	244.7
Neighborhood Parks	63.5
Special Purpose Parks	139.3
Cemeteries	24.1
Mini Parks	28.1
Lake Lookouts	1.6
Streetscape Enhancements	1.7
Open Space/Conservation	4.5
Total	507.8

TABLE 12. ADDITIONAL FACILITIES INCLUDED IN OVERALL GREEN SPACE LOS CALCULATION

Park/Facility Name	Park Type	Acres
Alberta Drive Lake Lookout	Lake Lookout	0.3
Alberta/Cortland Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Alberta/Joalca	Lake Lookout	0.04
Alexander Place Mini Park	Mini Park	0.4
Alfred J Hannah Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Bonita Drive Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.1
Bonnie Burn Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Cady Way Bike Trail	Open Space/Conservation	3.7
Canton / Interlachen Lake Lookout	Lake Lookout	0.2
Canton / New York Mini Park	Mini Park	0.1
Cavendish / Harmon Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.03
Chelton Cir Mini Park	Mini Park	5.1
Fairbanks Ave / Orlando Ave Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Fawcett Road Lake Lookout	Lake Lookout	0.6
Gipson Green Mini Park	Mini Park	0.4
Golfview Mini Park	Mini Park	0.5
Hamilton Place Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.4
Harland Mini Park	Mini Park	2.7
Harris Circle Lake Lookout	Lake Lookout	0.3
Hooper Mini Park	Mini Park	0.5
Jay Blanchard Mini Park	Mini Park	0.5
Kings Way Mini Park	Mini Park	0.8
Kiwi / Webster Lake Lookout	Lake Lookout	0.2
Lake Knowles Mini Park	Mini Park	10.3
Lake Midget Mini Park	Mini Park	1.6
Lake Wilbar Mini Park	Mini Park	1.7
Lakeview Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Lasbury / Maiden Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Laughlin Mini Park	Mini Park	0.1
Leith Mini Park	Mini Park	0.6
Loch Lomond / St Andrews Mini Park	Mini Park	0.4
Marvin Smiley Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Morse Blvd Mini Park	Mini Park	0.1
Orange / Harmon Mini Park	Mini Park	0.2
Park Grove Mini Park	Mini Park	0.1
Pucifer/Interlachen Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.3
Reading Way Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.8
Sunset / Chestnut Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.1
Tyree Lane Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.2
Via Bella Streetscape Enhancement	Streetscape Enhancement	0.1
Villa View Mini Park	Mini Park	0.3
Worthington Court Mini Park	Mini Park	0.03
1620 S Pennsylvania Ave	Open Space/Conservation	0.8

Park Functional Classification

While each park is assigned a primary park classification, the acreage-based LOS analysis also recognizes that some parks serve multiple recreational functions. As a result, acreage is allocated based not only on park type, but also on the recreational role provided to residents. This methodology is consistent with the approach utilized in the City's 2008 Parks and Recreation Master Plan, informed by FDEP, and recognized that portions of larger parks may serve both community-wide and neighborhood-level recreation needs. Under this approach, portions of Community Parks and one Special Purpose Park are credited toward the Neighborhood Park LOS calculation where those areas function as neighborhood-serving recreation spaces. This functional classification provides a more accurate representation of how residents utilize the park system and how the City meets the Comprehensive Plan's Neighborhood Park LOS objectives.

TABLE 13. ACREAGE LOS FUNCTIONAL CROSSWALK

Park/Facility Name	Park Type	Total Park Acres	Functioning as Neighborhood Park	Functioning as Community Park
Central Park & Central Park West Meadow	Community Park	8.0	5.0	3.0
Community Center & Shady Park at Hannibal Square	Community Park	4.7	3.3	1.5
Dinky Dock Park	Community Park	1.6	1.6	0.0
Farmers' Market Venue	Community Park	0.85	0.71	0.14
Howell Branch Preserve	Community Park	110.0	5.0	105.0
Lake Baldwin Park	Community Park	23.6	11.6	12.1
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park	Community Park	28.3	12.0	16.3
Mead Botanical Garden	Community Park	47.6	5.0	42.6
Seven Oaks Park	Community Park	2.0	0.0	2.0
Ward Park & Cady Way Park	Community Park	67.3	5.0	62.2
Kraft Azalea Garden	Neighborhood Park	5.3	5.3	N/A
Phelps Park	Neighborhood Park	6.0	6.0	N/A
The Park at Orwin Manor	Neighborhood Park	0.9	0.9	N/A
Trismen Park	Neighborhood Park	1.4	1.4	N/A
Azalea Lane Park and Tennis Center	Special Purpose Park	6.2	0.9	N/A
Total			63.5	244.7

Acreage-Based Level of Service Results

The City is projected to maintain compliance with the overall green space LOS standard and retain a substantial acreage surplus throughout the planning horizon. However, the Neighborhood Park LOS category is projected to transition from a slight surplus under existing conditions to a modest deficiency by 2035. This finding suggests that future investments should focus on expanding access to neighborhood-scale park opportunities rather than increasing overall park acreage citywide.

TABLE 14. ACREAGE-BASED LOS RESULTS (2026, 2030, 2035)

	All Green Space (10 acres per 1,000 residents)	Community Parks (2 acres per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of 10 acres)	Neighborhood Parks (2 acres per 1,000 residents of the total LOS of 10 acres)
Current Park Acres	507.8	244.76	63.5
Population (2026)	30,914	30,914	30,914
Required Acres	309.1	61.8	61.8
Excess/Deficiency	198.7 acres (16.4 ac/1,000r)	182.9 (7.9 ac/1,000r)	1.7 (2.06 ac/1,000r)
Population (2030)	32,292	32,292	32,292
Required Acres	322.9	64.6	64.6
Excess/Deficiency	184.9 (15.7 ac/1,000r)	180.2 (7.6 ac/1,000r)	-1.1 (1.97 ac/1,000r)
Population (2035)	33,166	33,166	33,166
Required Acres	331.7	66.3	66.3
Excess/Deficiency	176.1 (15.3 ac/1,000r)	178.5 (7.4 ac/1,000r)	-2.8 (1.92 ac/1,000r)

Geographic Analysis

In addition to the acreage-based assessment, a geographic LOS analysis was conducted to evaluate residents' access to parks and recreational opportunities throughout the city. Unlike the acreage-based LOS standard established in the Comprehensive Plan, the City has not adopted a specific geographic accessibility standard for parks. Therefore, a service area methodology was developed to assess how effectively the park system serves residents based on walkable access.

The geographic LOS metric used in this analysis was informed by public engagement conducted as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan process. Survey results indicated that most respondents are willing to walk up to 15 minutes to reach a park or recreation destination. Based on this feedback, a 15-minute walking distance was selected as the benchmark for evaluating park accessibility across the city.

Using the pedestrian network, 15-minute walksheds were generated around Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, and Special Purpose Parks. Cemeteries were excluded from the analysis because they do not function as public recreation destinations. The resulting service areas illustrate portions of the city with convenient walking access to primary park facilities.

To provide additional context regarding recreational opportunities available to residents, several supplemental facility types were evaluated separately:

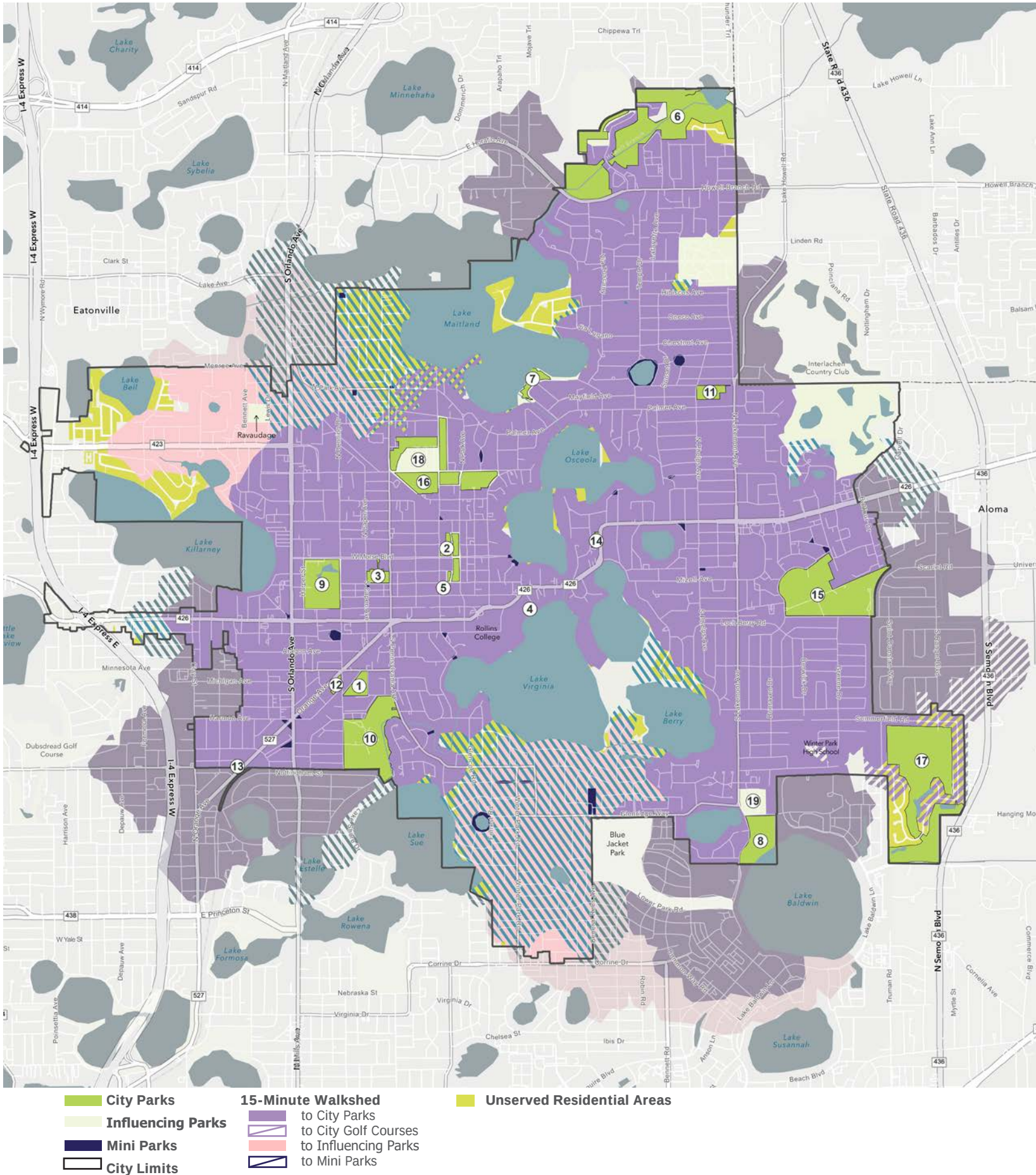
- Golf Courses are shown as a hatched purple walkshed due to their specialized recreational function and limited user base.
- Influencing Parks are shown in pink and include nearby recreational destinations that may supplement access to parks for Winter Park residents. These amenities include Blue Jacket Park, located adjacent to the city, and Ravaudage, a privately owned mixed-use development within Winter Park that provides publicly accessible open space and gathering areas.
- Mini Parks are shown as an additional layer of service because of their role in providing neighborhood-scale open space and passive recreation opportunities. A hatched blue walkshed illustrates areas that gain park access when Mini Parks are included in the analysis. Streetscape Enhancements and Lake Lookouts were not included in this layer because they generally do not provide the recreational amenities or functional park experiences associated with traditional park facilities.

In addition to park accessibility, residential density was evaluated throughout the city to identify areas where park service may be most needed. Areas located outside of all identified 15-minute walksheds were considered unserved for purposes of the analysis. Residential density was then overlaid to help distinguish between unserved areas with relatively low residential populations and those with higher concentrations of residents. This approach provides a more meaningful assessment of service gaps by recognizing that not all unserved areas generate the same level of recreational demand.

The map illustrates the cumulative walkshed coverage provided by the park system and highlights areas that may warrant future attention. Areas that are both outside a 15-minute walkshed and characterized by higher residential densities may represent priority locations for future park acquisition, new neighborhood-scale park opportunities, improved pedestrian connectivity, or other strategies designed to expand equitable access to recreation throughout the city.

In addition to park accessibility, residential density was evaluated throughout the city to identify areas where park service may be most needed. Areas located outside of all identified 15-minute walksheds were considered unserved for purposes of the analysis. Residential density was then overlaid to distinguish between unserved areas with relatively low residential populations and those with higher concentrations of residents. This approach helps identify priority service gap areas where future park improvements, land acquisition efforts, enhanced pedestrian connections, or new neighborhood-scale recreation opportunities could have the greatest benefit.

FIGURE 2. EXISTING LEVEL OF SERVICE





GAI Consultants, Inc.
618 East South Street, Suite 700
Orlando, Florida 32801
(407) 423-8398

Contact: Kristin Caborn, CPRE
k.caborn@gaiconsultants.com
(321) 319-3161

Kristin Caborn – Project Director
Andrea Penuela – Senior Landscape Architect
Amy Zengotita – Park Planner
Hannah Hollinger – Senior Project Analyst





Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

agenda item 5.b

item type

Non-Action Items

meeting date

September 16, 2026

prepared by

Jason Seeley, Director of Parks and Recreation

approved by**subject**

Howell Branch Rd. Stormwater Pond Improvements

motion | recommendation

Staff is seeking any PRAB comments or recommendations on the project's current direction, as detailed in the 60 percent design document. Further funding to support the walkway, landscaping, and additional park amenities is currently being pursued through state and federal grant opportunities. Staff is also working to secure private funding to offset Phase 2 costs.

Additional project area images and information will be provided at the meeting.

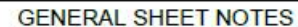
background

The city of Winter Park was the recipient of a \$500k grant to improve the property located on Howell Branch Rd. adjacent to Howell Branch Preserve Park. The grant only applies to the pond and weir, but is part of a longer-term plan to improve and connect the two properties as previously presented to PRAB.

60% design plan includes a potential walkway loop and changes to the existing weir, which would be phase 2 of the improvements. Additionally, sketches of potential changes to the size and aesthetics of the weir will be provided as the project proceeds.

alternatives | other considerations**fiscal impact****attachments**

1. 60% Submittal HBP SW Pond Design



1. REFER TO SHEETS C-001 AND C-002 FOR LEGENDS, ABBREVIATIONS, AND CIVIL NOTES.
2. THIS SHEET IS PART OF A MULTI-SHEET SET OF CONSTRUCTION PLANS AND SHALL BE READ WITH THE FULL SET TO BEST ENSURE PROPER INTERPRETATION.
3. ALL CONCRETE FORMWORK AND REINFORCING BARS TO BE INSPECTED BY ENGINEER'S OR OWNER'S FIELD REPRESENTATIVE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CONTRACTOR'S REPRESENTATIVE BEFORE CONCRETE IS PLACED.
4. CONTRACTOR TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY SUPPORT FOR EXISTING UTILITIES AND MAINTAIN IT THROUGHOUT CONSTRUCTION.
5. CONTRACTOR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIR OF ANY DAMAGED CURB, FENCE, OR DRIVEWAYS DURING CONSTRUCTION.
6. CONTRACTOR TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPAIR OF ANY DAMAGED ROADWAY/ASPHALT DURING PROJECT CONSTRUCTION, AS WELL AS REPLACEMENT AND RELOCATION OF MAILBOXES.

GRADING NOTES:

1. MAXIMUM SLOPES ALLOWED WITHIN CITY OF WINTER PARK RIGHT-OF-WAY SHALL BE 3:1. PROVIDE GENTLER SLOPES WHERE POSSIBLE.

LEGEND

-
- Legend for Figure 1:
- LIMITS OF DISTURBANCE (represented by a line with cross-ticks)
 - CONCRETE WALKWAY (represented by a stippled pattern)



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

agenda item 6.a

item type

Staff Updates

meeting date

September 16, 2026

prepared by

Jason Seeley, Director of Parks and Recreation

approved by**subject**

Project Update

MLK Park Improvements:

- Sidewalk and Lighting Upgrades
- Community Playground

Cady Way:

- BDSC Pool
- Pickleball/Tennis Court Lighting

motion | recommendation**background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

None



Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

agenda item 6.b

item type

Staff Updates

meeting date

September 16, 2026

prepared by

Jason Seeley, Director of Parks and Recreation

approved by**subject**

Budget Update

- Potential changes to department services
- Paid Parking

motion | recommendation**background****alternatives | other considerations****fiscal impact****attachments**

None