

1. Background, Context, Trends & Growth Framework

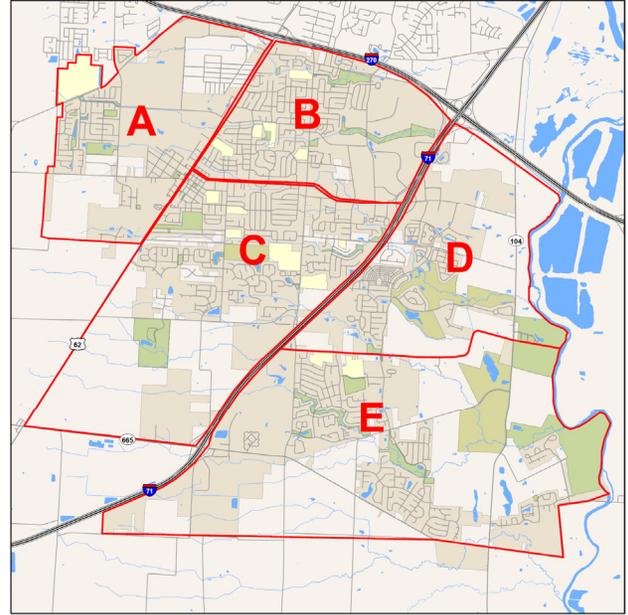


Chapter will include: Regional context, Planning area boundaries, Demographics, Market trends, Growth framework, and Development Projections

Planning Area Boundaries

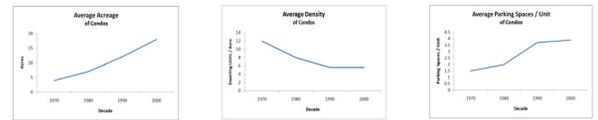
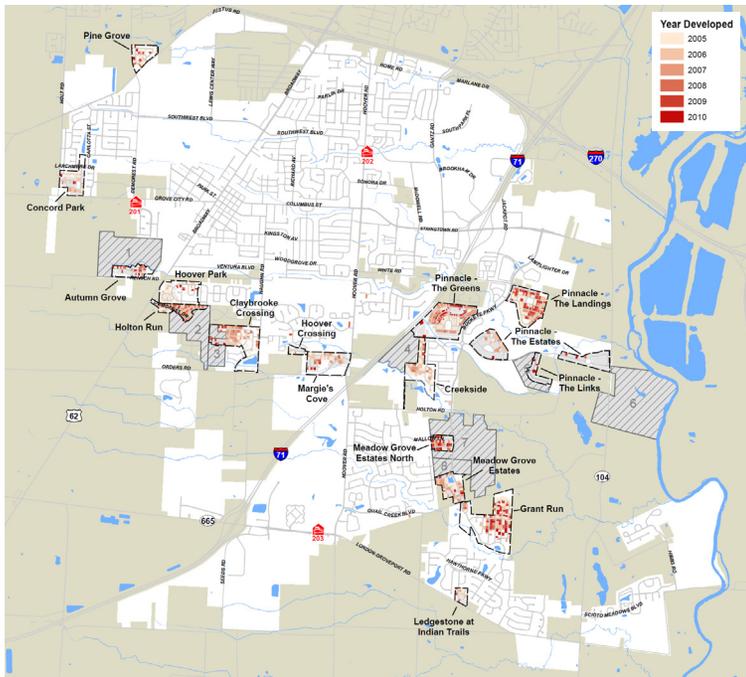
- Because Grove City is home to such a variety of neighborhoods, the desires and concerns of residents in these neighborhoods likely vary also. Grove City was divided into five planning areas in order to better understand what residents want from the parks system in their neighborhood.

2010 Estimates	Planning Area A	Planning Area B	Planning Area C	Planning Area D	Planning Area E
Total Population	5,470	10,005	10,799	2,805	8,753
Total Households	1,934	4,109	4,152	1,092	3,047
Average Household Size	2.83	2.39	2.58	2.57	2.87
Median Age	31.6	38.5	40.6	45.9	37

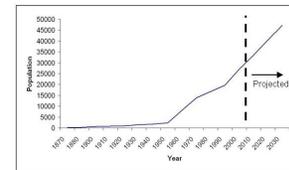


Regional Context & Growth Framework

- Between the years 2000 and 2009, the population of Grove City is estimated to have grown by approximately 22%.
- According to MORPC projections, Grove City will have the highest growth rate of all Columbus suburbs in Franklin County between 2005 and 2030.
- By the year 2014, Grove City is projected to have a total population just under 36,000 – a 30% increase from its 2000 population.



Development Patterns in Grove City Condominium Developments



Grove City's Population Growth

- The majority of growth is expected to occur east of Interstate 71, where new developments are bordered by hundreds of acres of undeveloped or underdeveloped land.
- Between 2000 and 2009, the area east of I-71 and north of Holton Road (Planning Area D) saw an increase of almost 380% in the number of residents.
- The north and west portions of Grove City, with an older housing stock and less land available for development, are expected to remain fairly stable in terms of population.

2. Parks and Open Space



Chapter will include: Parkland definitions, Descriptions and inventory of parks and open space, Existing conditions analysis

Goal 1. A community knowledgeable of the City's parks and open space system.

Objective 1. Promote public open space within the community and make the community aware of current parks, their sizes and components.

- Action 1. Continue to publish seasonal newsletters about the parks system
- Action 2. Keep the website updated with park information
- Action 3. Provide the community with up-to-date maps and descriptions of parks
- Action 4. Adopt revisions for park definitions, such as Greenway, Community Park, Neighborhood Park, and Pocket Park
- Action 5. Update the rules and regulations for public parks, outlined in Chapter 903 of the Grove City Code of Ordinances.

Goal 2. A park system offering the community a variety of park and open space options.

Objective 2. Make all parks welcoming and accessible for all levels of users.

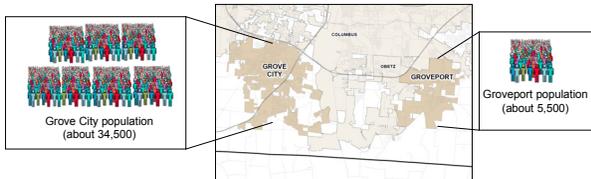
- Action 6. Provide clean restroom facilities in the parks when feasible.
- Action 7. Provide park features usable for citizens of all abilities in every park.

Objective 3. Pursue and encourage joint uses with schools.

- Action 8. Maintain a working relationship with schools for the use of select ball fields
- Action 9. Draft a formal agreement for the utilization of the currently rented South-Western City School facilities and building use
- Action 10. Explore the possibility of using school facilities for a wider variety of recreation and educational offerings

Objective 4. Facilities should be able to support multiple activities.

Action 11. Create a public recreation center in Grove City



Grove City has more than **6 times the population** of Groveport but Groveport has **3 times the public recreational facility space** than Grove City due to their 67,000 square foot community recreation center

Public Input

- Multiple comments were received from the public regarding a desire for more partnerships with community agencies

Public Input

- The need for a recreation center was the 5th most mentioned comment from the public.
- 75% of responders said they would be likely or very likely to use a public recreation center

Objective 5. Create areas in the parks system for peaceful, passive, non active recreation.

- Action 12. Create areas in all new parks with no designated programming, for passive, non active recreation
- Action 13. Target areas for passive recreation in existing parks and city owned property

Public Input

- The desire for more natural areas in city parks was the 6th most mentioned topic from residents

Objective 6. Create parks appropriate for the population they serve, while keeping in mind the greater parks system.

Actions will be targeted to each specific park, for recommendations based on public input and analyses conducted regarding current park conditions and demographic data, by planning area.

Dog Parks

- The need for a dog park was the 4th most mentioned comment heard from the public. It was the 2nd most popular comment from residents in Planning Areas A and D.
- Market research indicates that Grove City residents are more likely to own a dog than the national average
- Staff is in the process of examining sites most suitable for a dog park that accommodates the needs and desires of residents
- Recommendations for a dog park in Grove City will be made as part of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Analysis

- Staff is examining each park to identify their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for every city park

Meadow Grove Park

Strengths: Size, Natural setting, Connection to other city-owned property

Weaknesses: Small shelter and limited amenities (no recycling containers, only one picnic table, no grill). No connectivity between park areas north and south of Grant Run

Opportunities: Starting point for Grant Run Trail, Access off Hoover Road, Connect land on south side of Grant Run with park on the north side



— Potential Trail

3. Natural Resources and Management



Chapter will include: Inventory of natural resources, Habitat and nature education, Existing conditions analysis, Steam protection policy, Public and private pond design analysis

Goal 1. The protection of the City's natural resources.

Objective 1. Follow the principles outlined in the Central Ohio Green Pact through the sustainable development of parks.

- Action 1. Use sustainable materials and practices in park development when feasible to do so.**
- Action 2. Encourage recycling by placing recycling containers in convenient locations in all parks and along public trails.**

Objective 2. Preserve natural resources on land to be developed.

- Action 3. Recommendations based on staff's Stream Protection Policy review.**
- Action 4. Recommendations based on staff's Public and Private Pond Design review.**
- Action 5. Recommendations based on staff's Tree Preservation Policy review.**
- Action 6. Adopt Code revisions for natural resource definitions, such as wetlands and bioretention area.**

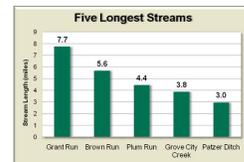
Did You Know?

- Grove City is one of 30 agencies that have signed the Central Ohio Green Pact – a commitment to make our region more sustainable

Goal 2. A community aware of the natural resources found in and around the City.

Objective 3. Provide the community with natural resource education opportunities.

- Action 7. Provide educational links / facts on the City's website.**
- Action 8. Provide naturalists in parks, where applicable.**
- Action 9. Create handouts and signage to place in parks explaining educational opportunities.**
- Action 10. Install and promote community gardens as educational opportunities.**



Grove City has more than 70 miles of streams flowing in and around it, not including the Scioto River. The five longest streams and their lengths are shown above.



Grove City is home to a variety of natural resources. As the city grows, it will be very important to protect these resources.

Public Input

- The 6th most common topic mentioned from the public was the desire for more natural areas and passive recreation
- Many classes requested by residents involve natural resource education, including bird watching and gardening, and a desire for naturalists in the parks

Did You Know?

- Grove City currently offers interactive programs about rain barrels and rain gardens
- Less than 1% of Grove City is covered by the more than 100 different water bodies. Most bodies of water in Grove City are man-made.
- More than 60% of streams in and around Grove City are considered perennial (carry water more than 80% of the year)

4. Trails and Connectivity



Chapter will include: Trail descriptions, Inventory and rating of trail and bike routes, Existing conditions analysis, Trail safety, Regional context, Design standards, Trail map, Funding / grant opportunities

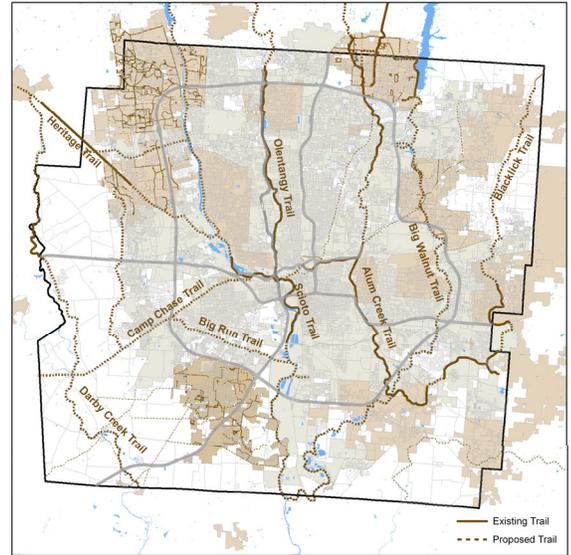
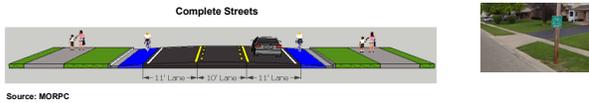
Goal 1. A network of trails providing residents with connectivity to important elements throughout the community and surrounding region.

Objective 1. Create a dynamic system that integrates easily into the surrounding regional systems.

- Action 1. Connect to the Scioto River trail
- Action 2. Connect to the Darby Creek trail system
- Action 3. Maintain dialogue between other trail agencies such as MORPC, City of Columbus Recreation and Parks, Franklin County Metro Parks, ODNR, ODOT and the Central Ohio Greenways Committee

Objective 2. Strengthen inter-neighborhood connectivity and connect parks through the city's trail network.

- Action 4. Adopt a complete streets policy and standards
- Action 5. Adopt Code revisions for bikeway definitions
- Action 6. Connect all parks with the trail network



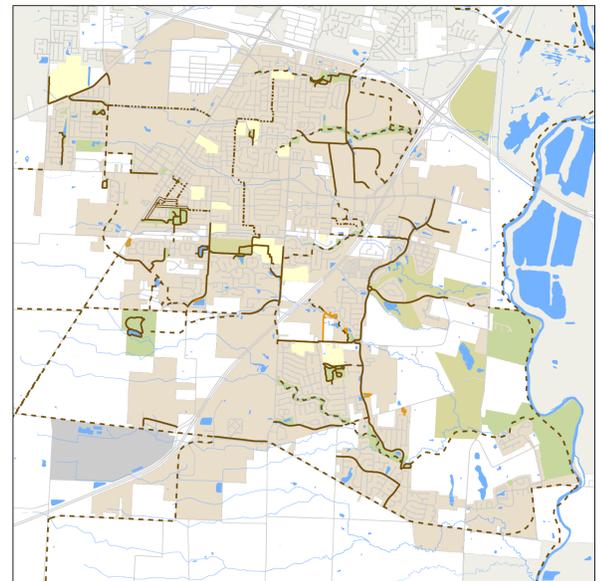
Goal 2. A community knowledgeable of the city's trail network.

Objective 3. Keep the public informed and involved in the trail planning process.

- Action 7. Keep the trails portion of the city website and other electronic and social media updated with news and public input options
- Action 8. Have the Grove City Trails Map available for distribution at City Hall and in select parks
- Action 9. Involve the Park Board and Planning Commission in the review of trails
- Action 10. Initiate an "Adopt a Trail" program allowing citizens or organizations to get involved in the trail network

Objective 4. Provide bicycle and trail safety education opportunities

- Action 11. Offer classes for bicycle safety
- Action 12. Install signage along trails with safety tips



Public Input

The most popular theme heard through both the public input meetings and the online survey was the need for better connectivity in the community.

- 16% of all comments generated from the public involved trails and connectivity
- Almost 1/2 of residents surveyed felt their neighborhood was not well served by or accessible to trails
- 80% of residents surveyed said having trails connect to parks was either important or very important to them

5. Recreation



Chapter will include: History of recreation, Generalities of recreation, Existing conditions analysis, Administration

Goal 1. A Parks and Recreation department engaged in partnerships with agencies throughout the community to ensure a variety of recreational and leisure opportunities are available for residents

Objective 1. Encourage local businesses to donate services and/or provide sponsorships.

Action 1. Expand existing programs and brochures explaining the opportunities to donate services or provide sponsorships

Objective 2. Remain aware of other recreational offerings provided by other agencies and continue to partner with other associations to provide a greater variety of recreational opportunities to residents

Action 2. Partner with associations including the YMCA, Southwest Franklin County Historical Society, and South-Western City School District to provide programming for residents

Action 3. Keep in contact with agencies providing additional recreational opportunities, including Grove City Kids Association, Upward, and Franklin County Metro Parks and other recreation-based businesses to ensure that programs do not overlap and that the community's recreational desires are met.

Goal 2. A community with a wide variety of recreational opportunities available.

Objective 3. Continue to provide recreation and educational opportunities for an aging population.

Action 4. Continue to offer a variety of courses for seniors

Objective 4. Provide a variety of classes for adults

Action 5. Provide nature based programs, such as outdoor photography, gardening, and bird watching.

Action 6. Create more adult recreational programs, such as general fitness programs and adult sports.

Action 7. Expand outdoor recreation offerings in all seasons, particularly winter sports

Action 8. Develop a variety of professional development courses for adults (writing, public speaking, etc)

Public Input

- More than 10% of all comments received from the public related to expanding sports programs offered
- Basketball and tennis were the most frequently mentioned sports from the public

Objective 5. Provide more recreational opportunities for teens

Action 9. Provide a greater variety of sports, such as lacrosse, volleyball, and wrestling for teenagers

Action 10. Make select sports or recreational offerings for teenagers more informal

Action 11. Provide more winter sports for teenagers

Action 12. Provide educational opportunities for teenagers (ACT/SAT prep)

Did You Know?

- Grove City is currently involved in a Teen Initiative with various other community organizations to provide events and activities for teens and pre-teens

Objective 6. Provide more opportunities for families to participate in programs together.

Action 13. Provide a variety of opportunities for families to participate in programs together such as "Family Fun Nights" and book or movie swaps.

Action 14. Provide educational courses for families to attend together such as safety classes (children at home alone, etc) and classes on assisting aging parents

Breakdown of Programs Offered by Grove City

	Pre-School	Youth	Adult	Seniors	All Ages	TEENS	(youth sports)	total
Summer	14	40	31	51	2	0	n/a	138
Fall	27	40	44	60	3	3	n/a	177
Winter	18	44	46	53	2	1	n/a	164
Spring	51	60	52	64	2	0	n/a	229
All Year	2	6	1	6	1	0	n/a	16
Total # of Programs	112	190	174	234	10	4	30	754
% of Total Recreation Programs	15%	27%	23%	31%	0.001%	0.001%	4%	100%

Goal 3. Facilities available for a variety of formal and informal recreational opportunities.

Objective 7. Provide facilities and classroom spaces that are able to accommodate a variety of programs to meet the needs and desires of the community.

Action 15. Analyze existing facilities and their utilization to determine the possibility of additional course offerings in existing facilities.

Action 16. Design new park facilities to be fully ADA compliant.

Action 17. Create a public recreation center in Grove City

For more details on input received and analyses conducted regarding a recreation center in Grove City, see Chapter 2 – Parks and Open Space

6. Impact of Parks on Economic Development



Chapter will include: The impact of parks and open space on real estate values and the property tax base, Attracting tourists, Attracting businesses, Attracting and retaining retirees

Goal 1. Grove City benefits economically from parks, recreation, and open space amenities.

Objective 1. Demonstrate a positive return on major park investment.

Action 1. Prepare a report (annually or every three years) that assesses the short-term and long-term fiscal returns on park investment through local changes in rents and property values.

Action 2. Use community opinion surveys to assess the value Grove City residents attribute to various park and recreation amenities. Could involve surveys of real estate professionals and property owners to determine their perceptions about the impact specific parks or types of amenities have on property values.



Objective 2. Review existing recreation development fees to determine if rates are appropriate and make necessary changes as needed to ensure that the park system will properly serve the growing population.

Action 3. Create a separate Parkland Acquisition fund, for the sole purpose of acquiring land for parks.

Action 4. Create a new Trail Development fund, delineating funds exclusively for trails.



Objective 3. Identify and secure land for park creation, before adjacent land is developed in order to maximize the value of park investment.

Action 5. Purchase park land in advance of development and use development fees collected in the future to pay for that park land.

7. Land Acquisition & Parkland Development



Chapter will include: Defining and differentiating between land acquisition and parkland development, Existing policy analysis, Review criteria, Land acquisition process, Sustainability

Goal 1. Parkland is acquired and developed to meet the needs and desires of the growing community.

Objective 1. Provide adequate amenities in parks to serve the community.

- Action 1. "Brand" the parks by creating standards for signage, lighting, and site furnishings.
- Action 2. Draft and adopt policy for utility extension to parks (when deemed necessary / appropriate).



Variety of furnishings found in Grove City parks



Public Input

- Nearly 100 comments were generated from the public regarding utilities in the city's parks – particularly the need for lights and running water at Fryer Park

Objective 2. Provide more opportunities for review and collaboration regarding land acquisition and development

- Action 3. Develop a review process between Development and Parks and Recreation staff to evaluate developer-granted land
- Action 4. Involve Park Board and Planning Commission in review of dedicated land
- Action 5. Adopt Code revisions to require / create stricter standards and implement review criteria for land dedication

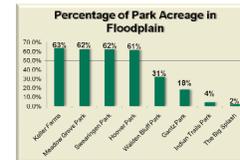


Grove City's parkland dedication requirements are currently based only on the number of dwelling units proposed in the subdivision.

Grove City currently has no standards for where dedicated parkland is to be located within a subdivision. Because of this, land is often dedicated that is essentially undevelopable and not easily accessible for many of the residents of that subdivision.



Many of Grove City's parks are located within the undevelopable floodplain.



Objective 3. Encourage residents to donate property for open space uses throughout the community.

- Action 6. Prepare brochures or explanatory handouts for distribution to property owners explaining the benefits of donating property for parks.

8. Organizational Analysis



Chapter will include: History of parks and recreation department, Organizational structure, Roles and responsibilities, Staff levels and training

Goal 1. A Parks and Recreation department that grows with the community.

Objective 1. Adequate staffing levels should be maintained for all departmental functions including administrative staff, program instructors, and parkland maintenance staff.

Action 1. Pursue additional volunteering opportunities for youth and elderly programs.

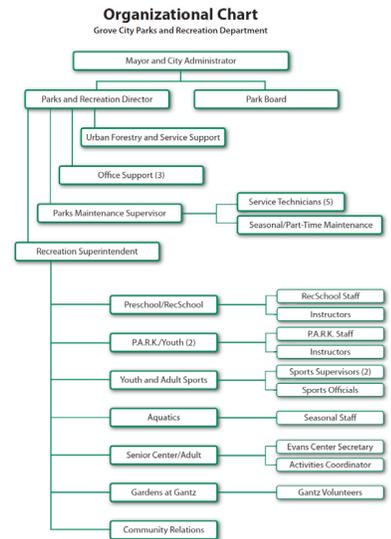
Goal 2. A Parks and Recreation Department that strives to provide the best possible services to the public.

Objective 2. Necessary training should be provided to staff.

Action 2. Provide all levels of staff with necessary training to complete their jobs to the best of their ability

Objective 3. A schedule of park maintenance should be outlined, prioritizing parks and trails

Action 3. Adopt policy on trail and park maintenance (plowing, clearing of debris, painting, equipment replacement, etc.)



Goal 3. The creation of a Grove City Parks Foundation.

Objective 4. Encourage and provide support to community members interested in establishing a Grove City parks foundation

Action 4. Create a park foundation portion of the website, explaining the benefits of a park foundation

Action 5. Provide support to residents in the creation of a park foundation