

*Salt Lake County*

# 2015 Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan

Approved September 1, 2015



# *Salt Lake County*

# 2015 Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan

**T**he *Salt Lake County 2015 Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan* is the guiding document for developing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities in the Salt Lake valley. As the County continues to grow and change, new demands for recreation and leisure services are constantly being created. What doesn't change, however, is people's desire for places to maintain an active healthy lifestyle: a park to walk through, a golf course to unwind on, a pool to exercise in during their lunch hour, an after-school program to inspire youth. Implementation of the recommendations found in this plan will benefit residents, cities, school districts, and providers of parks and recreation amenities. And we believe that through partnerships and collaboration we can provide more services to a greater number of residents.

County Parks & Recreation staff have put a tremendous amount of time and energy listening to the public, meeting with special interest groups, reaching out and meeting with each municipality in the valley, and then comparing and contrasting all that information with data provided by the National Recreation and Park Association, in order to set facility development standards for Salt Lake County.

I want to thank Mayor Ben McAdams and the members of the County Council for being advocates of parks, recreation, and golf services in Salt Lake County. I especially would like to recognize Emery Crook, Associate Director of Park Planning and his staff, Morgan Selph, Lynn Larsen, Angelo Calacino, Andrea Sorensen, Walt Gilmore; Callie Birdsall, Communication and Marketing Manager for her assistance, and all Parks & Recreation staff for their support, insight, and dedication to completing this plan. To all of those that provided input towards the completion of this document, we thank you and acknowledge that we are all working toward the same goal of "Improving Lives, Through, People, Parks, and Play."

**Martin Jensen**  
Director, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation



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*Jordan River Parkway Trail*

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*Big Cottonwood Regional Park*



# Introduction



Valley Regional Park

*A truly startling projection is that Salt Lake County's population will double by 2040 to over 2,000,000. Contemplating this forecast places great pressure on government agencies to provide parks and recreation facilities to meet the overwhelming future demand.*

**S**alt Lake County is a large and diverse geographic area, encompassing 742 square miles, dominated by the Salt Lake Valley which extends from the steep slopes of the Wasatch Mountains in the east to the foothills of the Oquirrh Mountains in the west. The Jordan River divides the County into east and west halves, flowing from Utah Lake headwaters in the south to its Great Salt Lake terminus on the northern edge of the County, collecting the waters of smaller canyon tributaries along the way.

## A Changing Place

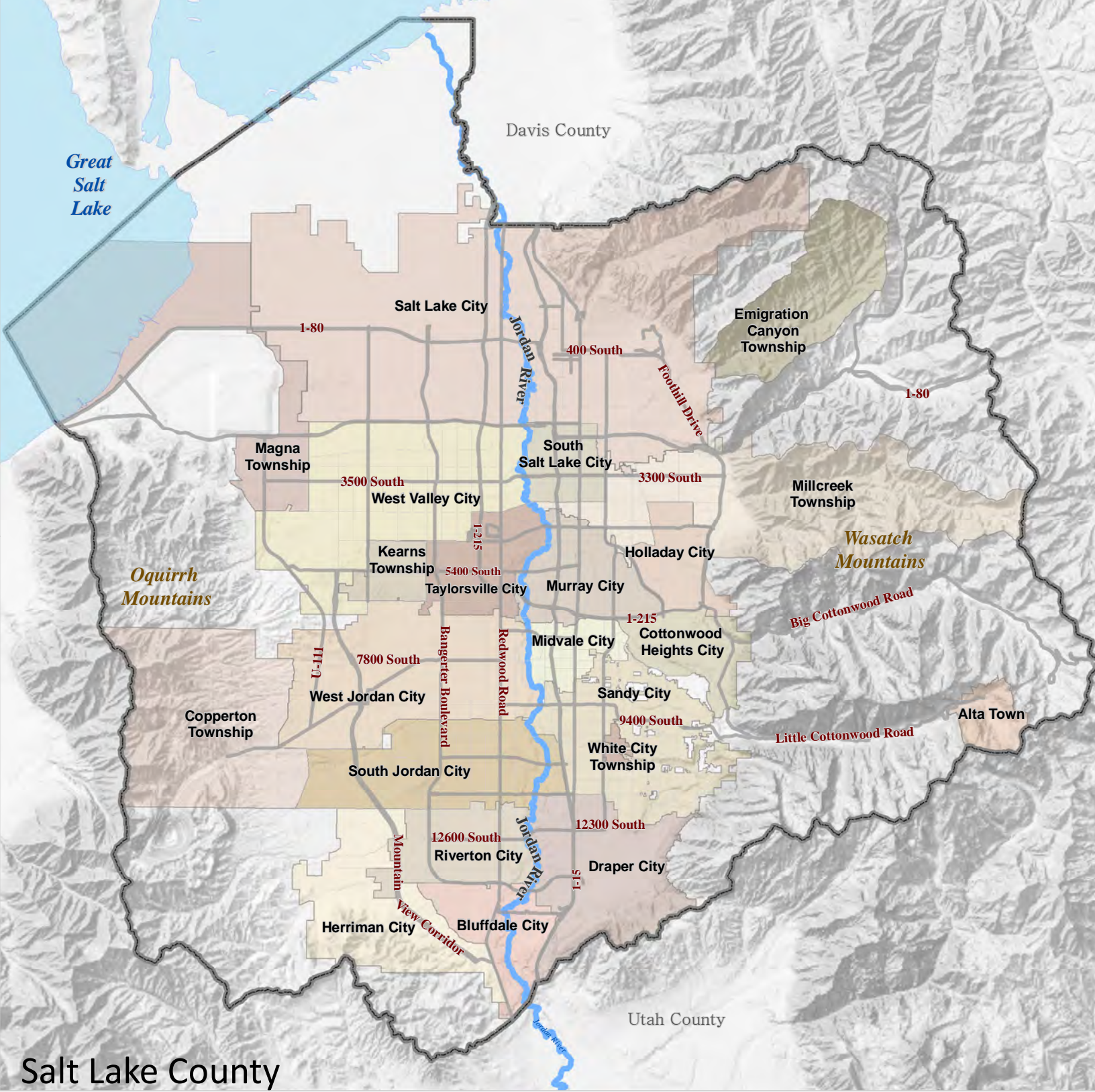
Just like the persistent ebbs and flows of the Jordan River, Salt Lake County is continually growing and changing. It is the most populous and densely populated County in the state. In recent years growth has been particularly dramatic. From 2000 to 2010 the County's population increased by nearly 15% from 898,387 to 1,029,655. A truly startling projection is that Salt Lake County's population will double by 2040 to over 2,000,000. Contemplating this forecast places great pressure on government agencies to provide parks and recreation facilities to meet the overwhelming future demand.

## Public Support for Parks and Recreation Facilities

Salt Lake Valley residents are in an enviable position regarding their parks and recreation facilities. Public support has been high for years, which has translated into the development of many new recreation amenities. Important to these advancements is the collaboration that has existed between the County, cities, recreation service districts, school districts, and the State.

A key indicator of the popularity of parks and recreation facilities in the County is the voter-supported Zoo, Arts, & Parks (ZAP) Tax, which has recently passed for the third time with a resounding approval rating of 77%.

In the last two decades, the ZAP tax, the open space and park acquisition bond, and the regional parks and trails bond for park development have dramatically



Salt Lake County

Map 1-1. Salt Lake County





changed the landscape of parks and recreation in the valley. During this time the County either built or assumed responsibility for several new recreation centers, swimming pools, ice centers, and acres of newly developed parkland—all in addition to its existing parks and recreation system.

## Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division

The *Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division* was established nearly 70 years ago, and the fledgling organization dedicated its first park in East Millcreek within 10 days of formation. Since those early days the division has grown at pace with the County, becoming the major agency providing regional parks and recreational facilities in the Salt Lake Valley. For decades the division has been planning for regional parks and recreation facilities, envisioning trails systems, and is now the author of this new master plan.

## What is ZAP?

When you pay sales tax in Salt Lake County, the ZAP program diverts one penny for every \$10 spent toward the funding of parks and recreational facilities and the provision of grants to over 160 arts and cultural organizations.

## Purpose of the “Salt Lake County 2015 Parks & Recreation Facilities Master Plan”

The *Salt Lake County 2015 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* is intended to maintain the legacy of planning for countywide recreation amenities. It provides clear goals and focused implementation ideas which support the development of future parks and

recreation facilities in a fair and equitable manner. With a planning horizon similar to past efforts, the new plan will serve as a multi-year blueprint for continued development of a countywide park and recreation system.

The primary purpose of this master plan is 1) to guide future development of parks and recreation facilities in Salt Lake County, and 2) to establish criteria for decision making. The plan is a focused vision of what is needed in the future. It provides substantial flexibility to change direction as opportunities shift. It is not intended to answer all questions or address every possibility, focusing instead on broad ideas based on clear research that provides the County with options for dealing with future recreation demands.

At present there is no earmarked funding for implementation of actions associated with this plan, nor are there specific priorities for implementation. The *Salt Lake County 2015 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan* indicates what is needed, but how or if it is implemented is dependent on yet-to-be-determined funding resources.

The authors of this master plan have endeavored to make it informational and “user friendly.” The plan is intended to be a meaningful document to serve the diverse needs of various users, including County planners, parks and recreation administrators, community leaders, and the residents of Salt Lake County. Each will undoubtedly be looking for information that directly affects an area of their specific interest. The Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division hopes that this master plan will be beneficial to all users, whatever their purpose.

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*The primary purpose of this master plan is 1) to guide future development of parks and recreation facilities in Salt Lake County, and 2) to establish criteria for decision making.*

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Taylorsville Recreation Center



# Methodology



*Yellowfork-Rose Canyon*

*The inventory reveals that there are currently 17,178 acres of publicly owned park land in the Salt Lake Valley, more than half of which is regional open space and trails.*

A thorough and comprehensive process was followed in preparing the *Salt Lake County 2015 Parks and Recreation Facilities Master Plan*. This systematic approach was comprised of a series of interconnected tasks that helped determine public needs and preferences for parks and recreation facilities, which in turn was used in making recommendations for future improvements and action.

Figure 2-1 is a simple flow chart that helps clarify the methodology used to prepare the plan. As illustrated, the planning process consisted of three primary activities. Each major activity consisted of various tasks, which together lead to the formation of this plan. The following is a summary of each major activity and key findings.

## Data Gathering

Data gathering consisted of four main tasks, which are described below.

### Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory

An extensive inventory was prepared, identifying every publicly owned park and recreation facility in the County, as well as all park-like amenities owned and operated by the five county school districts. This was the first step in determining development standards which were later used to assess park acreage needs. Inventory summary information is represented in Table 2-1, Table 2-2, and Map 2-1.

The inventory reveals that there are currently 17,178 acres of publicly owned park land in the Salt Lake Valley, more than half of which is regional open space and trails. Approximately 20% of the total acres is occupied by golf courses, with the remaining acres devoted to regional and neighborhood parks. Salt Lake County owns 46% of the inventoried land, with the remaining acres owned by cities, recreation service areas, and the State.

The inventory also sheds some light on the important role that school properties play in mitigating shortages of park land and recreational facilities. For example, Figure 2-2 indicates that there are 641 children's playgrounds,



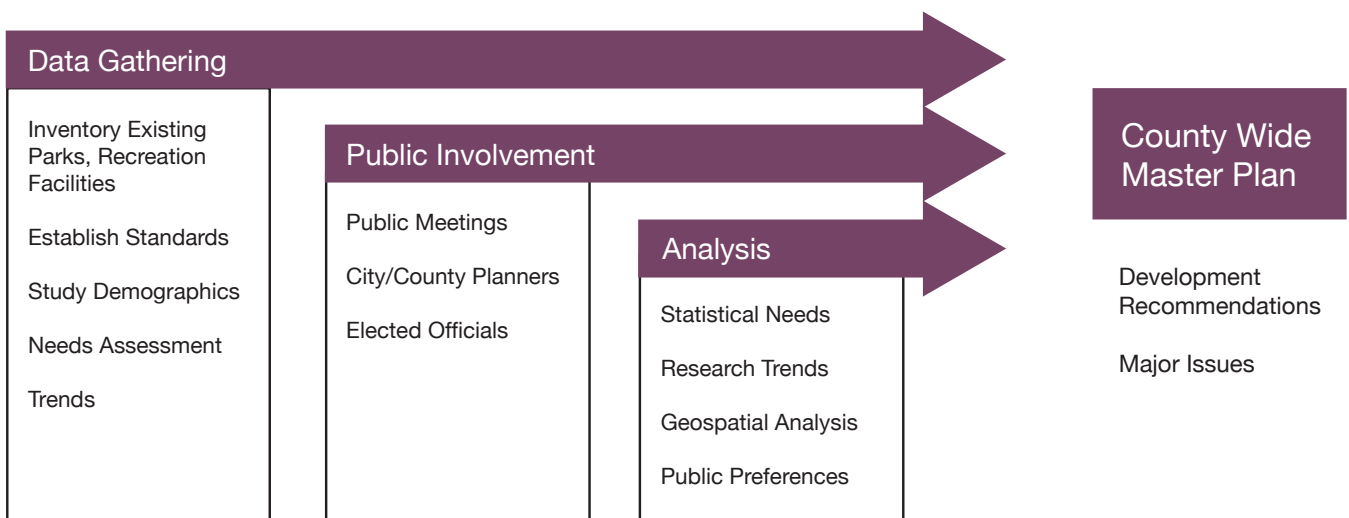


Figure 2-1. Master Plan Development Process





Old Mill Golf Course

Table 2-1. Summary of Public Park Acres in Salt Lake County (2014)

| Acres of Land           |                               |                                 |                               |                        |                   |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
|                         | Class One Regional Park Acres | Special Use Regional Park Acres | Class Two Regional Park Acres | Open-Space/Trail Acres | Golf Course Acres | Neighborhood Park Acres | Total Public Parks |
| Salt Lake County        | 876                           | 80                              | 719                           | 4,831                  | 1,032             | 68                      | 7,606              |
| City/Service Area       | 399                           | 877                             | 1,622                         | 3,709                  | 2,294             | 671                     | 9,572              |
| Total Public Park Acres | 1,275                         | 957                             | 2,341                         | 8,540                  | 3,326             | 739                     | 17,178             |

Table 2-2. Summary of Recreation Facilities in Salt Lake County (2014)

| Number of Recreation Amenities |           |                 |                       |                         |             |                     |              |                            |                   |                   |           |               |                   |                   |             |                |                   |                    |                       |                       |                   |            |                        |
|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------------|--------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------------------|
|                                | Restrooms | Group Pavilions | Childrens Playgrounds | Destination Playgrounds | Skate Parks | Off-Leash Dog Parks | Golf Courses | Multipurpose Sports Fields | Baseball Diamonds | Softball Diamonds | Backstops | Tennis Courts | Volleyball Courts | Basketball Courts | Pickleballs | Horseshoe Pits | Disc Golf Courses | Recreation Centers | Swimming Pools Indoor | Swimming Pool Outdoor | Water Playgrounds | Ice Sheets | Special Use Facilities |
| Salt Lake County               | 62        | 46              | 51                    | 2                       | 4           | 3                   | 6            | 48                         | 33                | 25                | 7         | 37            | 43                | 19                | 8           | 51             | 2                 | 13                 | 7                     | 8                     | 1                 | 2          | 6                      |
| City/ Service Area             | 146       | 143             | 284                   | 1                       | 11          | 11                  | 15           | 167                        | 100               | 50                | 38        | 170           | 68                | 93                | 8           | 53             | -                 | 7                  | 6                     | 6                     | 1                 | 4          | 12                     |
| Sub-total Public Park Acres    | 208       | 189             | 335                   | 3                       | 15          | 14                  | 21           | 215                        | 133               | 75                | 45        | 207           | 111               | 112               | 16          | 104            | 2                 | 20                 | 13                    | 14                    | 2                 | 6          | 18                     |
| School District                | -         | -               | 306                   | -                       | -           | -                   | -            | 331                        | 24                | 22                | 395       | 107           | -                 | 477               | -           | -              | -                 | -                  | -                     | -                     | -                 | -          | -                      |
| Total Recreation Amenities     | 208       | 189             | 641                   | 3                       | 15          | 14                  | 21           | 546                        | 157               | 97                | 440       | 314           | 111               | 589               | 16          | 104            | 2                 | 20                 | 13                    | 14                    | 2                 | 6          | 18                     |

589 basketball courts, 546 multipurpose sports fields, 440 backstops, 314 tennis courts, and 254 baseball/ softball diamonds in the County. The school districts are responsible for nearly half of the playgrounds, and the bulk of basketball courts, multipurpose sports fields, and backstops.

School grounds are frequently used for informal pick-up games of softball, football, basketball, tennis, and similar activities, primarily by local neighborhood residents who visit school yards during after-school hours. There are, however, distinct differences between public parks and school grounds. Public parks and recreational facilities have been purposely designed and developed to meet recreational needs of the general public, incorporating a range of enhancements and details that support multi-dimensional experiences.

In addition to sports fields, public parks also include restrooms, benches, sitting and viewing areas, trails, picnic sites, shelters, and trees, to name a few typical improvements. In comparison, public school ground facilities are built to meet only the needs of its students, and contain few of the other amenities commonly found in public parks. General public access to these facilities is typically a secondary consideration, which further limits the potential of fulfilling public needs. As a result school district facilities tend to be less family-friendly and more one-dimensional in nature. For these reasons school facilities were not factored into the statistical assessment of need.

Key maps developed through this process are provided in the ensuing chapters of this plan, and a sample spreadsheet of documented parks and recreational facilities is illustrated in Figure 2-2.



| Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation<br>Parks and Recreation Facilities in Salt Lake County ( D R A F T ) - Updated 9 February 2015 |                                    |                |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|------------------------------------|----------------|----|---------|-----------|---|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------|--------------------|-------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------|--------------|------------------|------------------|------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------|----------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Parks and Recreation Facilities  |                                    |                |    |         |           | Recreation Amenities Planning Area Park Acres |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Park/Facility Name   | Address                            | Jurisdiction   | PA | Acreage | Park Type | Restroom                                      | Group Pavilion | Childrens Playground | Destination Playground | Skate Park | Off-Leash Dog Park | Golf Course | Multipurpose Sports Field | Baseball Diamond | Softball Diamond | Backstop | Tennis Court | Volleyball Court | Basketball Court | Pickleball | Horseshoe Pit | Disc Golf | Recreation Center | Swimming Pool Indoor | Swimming Pool Outdoor | Water Playground (Large) | Splash Pad (Small) | Ice Sheet | Special Use Facility |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Park Land Owned and Maintained by Salt Lake County</b>  |                                    |                |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Class One Regional Park Land (owned by Salt Lake County)</b>  |                                    |                |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Parks</b>   |                                    |                |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Big Cottonwood Regional Park   |                                    |                | E  | 176     | R1        |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Big Cottonwood Area (47.6 ac)  | 4300 S. 1300 E.                    | Unincorporated |    |         |           | 1   | 1              | 1                    |                        |            |                    |             |                           | 1                | 4                |          |              | 6                |                  |            |               | 4         |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Creekside Area (27.5 ac)   | 1600 E 4800 S (Murray-Holladay Rd) | Holladay City  |    |         |           | 1   | 1              | 1                    |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              | 1                |                  |            |               | 1         |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Hillview Basin Area (25.3 ac)  | 4191 S 900 E                       | Unincorporated |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Holladay Lions RC Area (75.6 ac)   | 1500 E 4500 S                      | Unincorporated |    |         |           | 1   | 1              |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  | 1                |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           | 1                 | 1                    |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lodestone Regional Park  | 6000 S 6000 W                      |                | W  | 59.84   | R1        | 2   | 2              | 1                    | 1                      |            |                    |             | 1                         |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lodestone (6.02 ac total)  |                                    | Unincorporated |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lodestone (53.82 ac total)   |                                    | West Valley    |    |         |           |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Magna Regional Park (ATK)  | 4042 S 7200 W                      | Unincorporated | W  | 62.24   | R1        |   |                |                      |                        |            |                    |             |                           |                  |                  |          |              |                  |                  |            |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Southwest Regional Park  | 14148 S 2700 W                     | Bluffdale      | SW | 80.00   | R1        | 1   | 2              |                      | 1                      |            |                    |             | 2                         |                  |                  |          | 2            |                  | 1                | 8          |               |           |                   |                      |                       |                          |                    |           |                      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Figure 2-2. **Partial Sample** Spreadsheet Documenting Countywide Parks and Recreation Facilities

### Development Standards

While preparing park and recreation facility development standards for this master plan, national guidelines provided by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) and development standards of similar organizations were reviewed. After careful analysis, adjustments were made based on unique regional conditions, such as the easy access to mountain lands and national forests within Salt Lake County and the fact that the County has a larger-than-average population of youth.

As part of this process, the County also established an exclusive nomenclature for classifying recreational amenities, which provided a common language for discussing the planning of parks and recreation facilities.

The resulting park and recreation facility designations and development standards are presented in Table 2-3, which also includes general descriptions for each category of park or facility by class, type, size and function. These development standards establish the baseline for determining adequacy of providing recreation amenities.

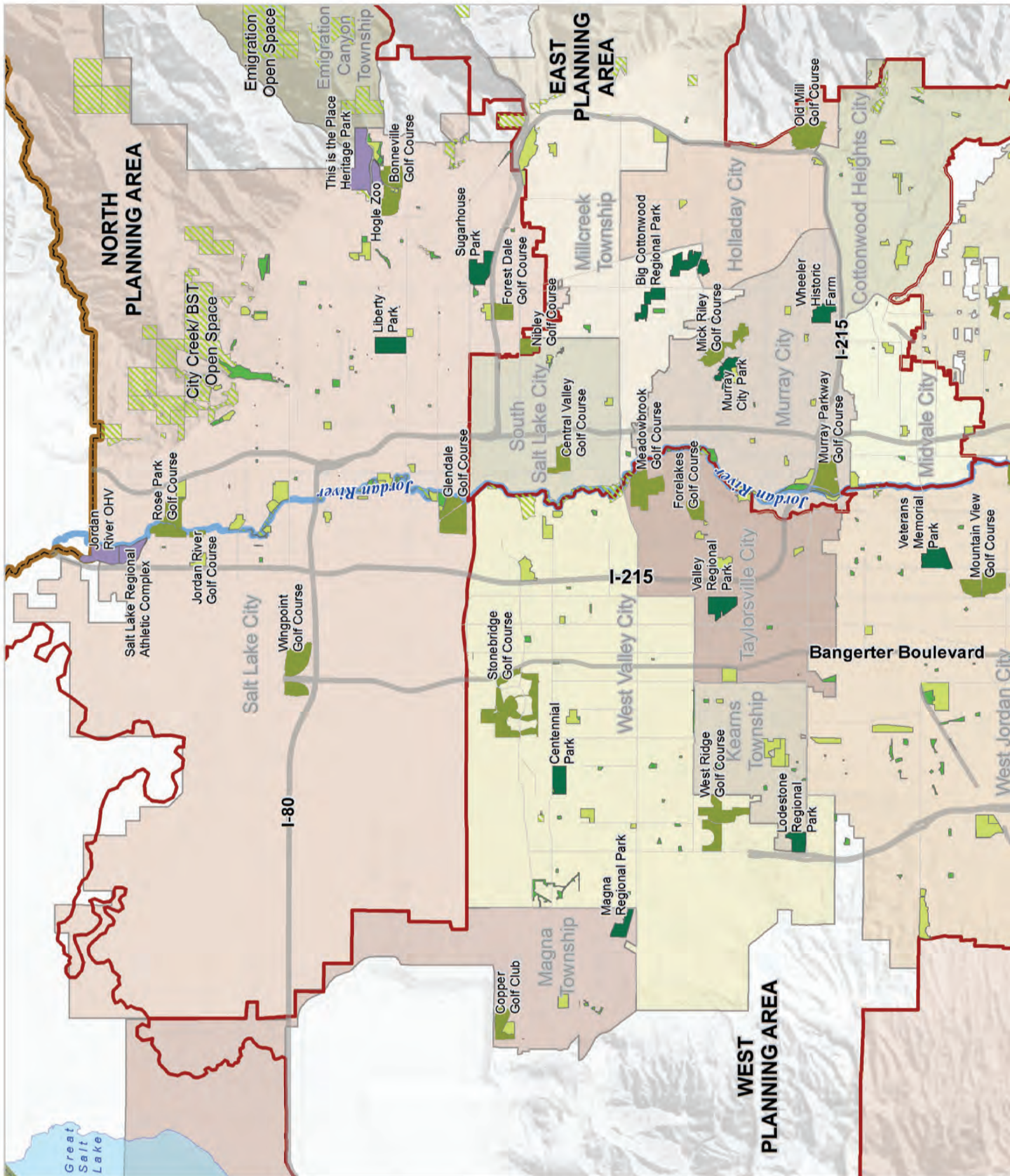
### Demographics

Demographic conditions in Salt Lake County reflect those of the state as a whole, which are unique from a national perspective. For example, Utah was the third-fastest growing state (by percent) in the nation from 2000 to 2010, increasing from 2,223,169 to 2,763,885, an increase of 530,716 new residents and a 23.8% growth rate. 72% of this change was due to a natural increase

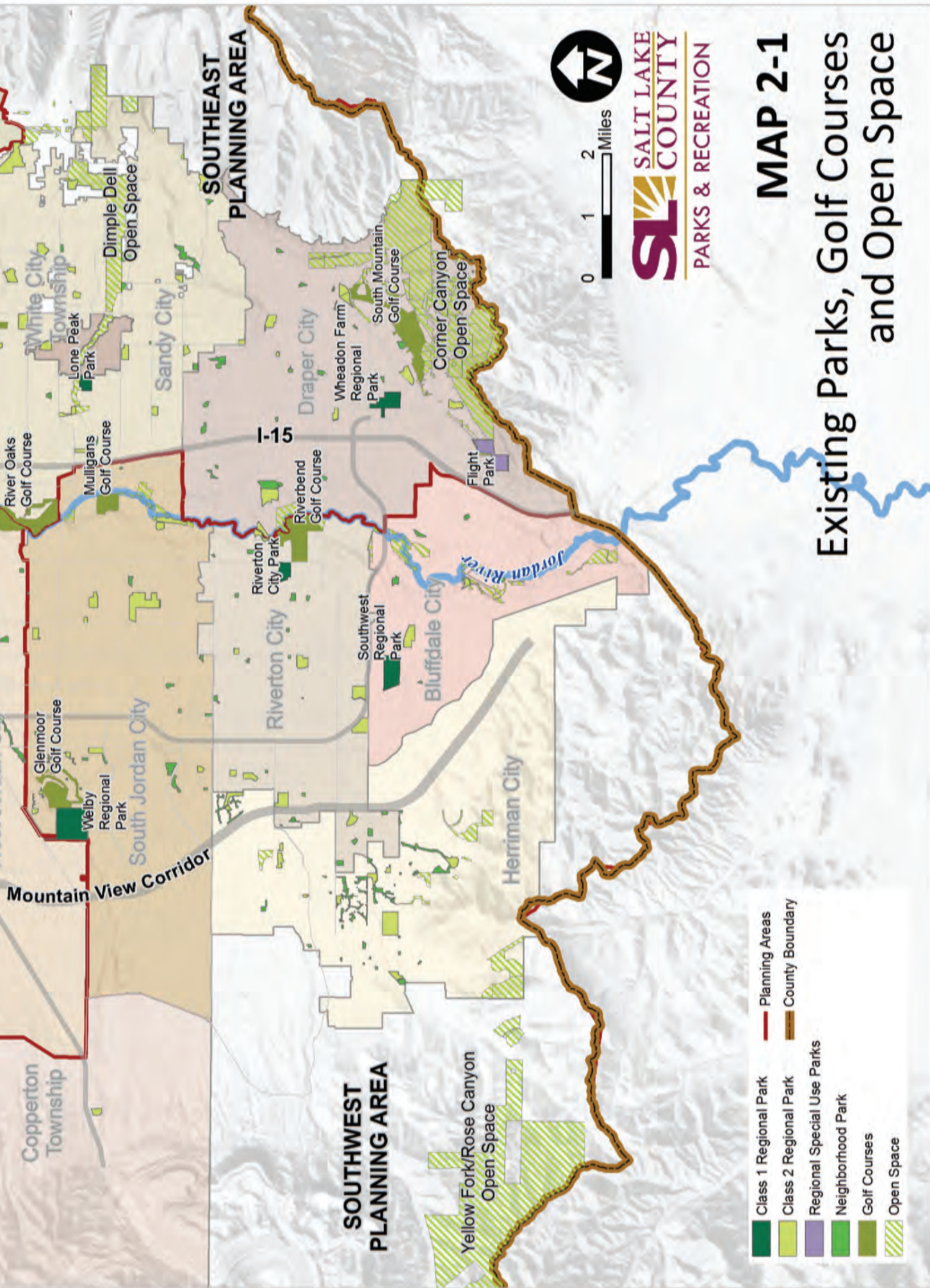
Table 2-3. Salt Lake County Development Standards for Parks and Recreational Facilities

| Development Standards for Parks and Recreation Facilities |  |
|---|--|
| Regional  |  |
| Park Acreage  | 5 acres per 1,000 population; Acreage standard includes Class One Regional Parks, Class Two Regional Parks, Neighborhood Parks   |
| Class One Regional Park                                   | Largest and most diverse multipurpose park type, ideally 60+ acres size; Serves several jurisdictions and has county-wide attraction; Generally contains programmed or rented amenities; Variable park amenities such as open-space, trails, playgrounds, group pavilions, sports fields and courts, unprogrammed lawn, outdoor basketball, recreation centers, swimming pools, water playgrounds, disc golf, skate parks, restrooms; Salt Lake County's primary focus |
| Special Use Regional Park                                 | Provides unique recreational opportunities, usually one-of-a-kind park; Often managed as an enterprise; Generally single use; Has countywide draw and is heavily used by residents   |
| Class Two Regional Park                                   | Variable size, but generally smaller than Class One Regional Parks; Serves more than one jurisdiction; Contains programmed or rented amenities such as group pavilions, sports fields, recreation centers, swimming pools  |
| Regional Open-Space                                       | Variable size; Largely undeveloped land valued for its aesthetic, ecological, and passive recreational attributes; Contains few or no recreation amenities and little or no manicured lawn; Includes regional trails and trail-heads; Regionally important for wildlife habitat, watershed, view-shed, or of other ecological significance; Preserved agricultural land  |
| Regional Trail  | Passes through or is adjacent to multiple jurisdictions; Connected to other local and regional trails; Countywide attraction and use   |
| Golf Course   | One 18-hole course per 75,000 population   |
| Multipurpose Sports Field                                 | 1 large field per 5,000 population; 2-3 miles service radius; Scheduled for competitive games; Supported by parking, restrooms   |
| Baseball Diamond  | 1 of any size per 10,000 population; 3 mile service radius; Scheduled for competitive games; Supported by parking, restrooms   |
| Softball Diamond  | 1 of any size per 15,000 population; 3 mile service radius; Scheduled for competitive games; Supported by parking, restrooms   |
| Backstop  | A ball diamond backstop fence used for dropin pickup games of softball or baseball, or scheduled for team practices; Not used for competitive games; No skinned infield; Sometimes placed in corners of multipurpose sports fields   |
| Group Pavilion  | 1 per 5,000 population; Supported by parking, restrooms; Rentable by group size of 30+ people  |
| Childrens Playground                                      | 1 or more per park; Caters to younger age groups   |
| Destination Playground                                    | 1 per 200,000 population; 5 mile service radius; Large playground containing multiple amenities; Accommodates multiple age groups at the same time; Regional attraction with unique features   |
| Tennis Court  | 1 per 5,000 population; 3 mile service radius  |
| Basketball Court  | Outdoor; 1 per 7,000 population; 2 mile service radius   |
| Skate Park  | 1 per 50,000 population; 3 mile service radius   |
| Recreation Center   | 1 per 75,000 population; 3 mile service radius; Variable components such as fitness, aerobics, gymnasiums, indoor swimming pools   |
| Swimming Pool Indoor                                      | 1 per 75,000 population; 3 mile service radius   |
| Swimming Pool Outdoor / Water Playground                  | 1 per 75,000 population; 3 mile service radius   |
| Ice Center (2 or more ice sheets)                         | 1 per 300,000 population; 5-7 mile service radius  |
| Neighborhood  |  |
| Neighborhood Park   | 1/2-1 mile service radius; Ideal size 7-15 acres; Minimum size 2.5 acres; No programmed or rented amenities; Regional parks fill this need for adjacent neighborhoods; Primarily the responsibility of cities  |

Listed amenities are commonly found in parks and recreation systems, but the list is not all inclusive. These development standards are guidelines that can be adjusted as needed based on distribution, demographics, population density, drive time, etc.







Map 2-1. Existing Parks, Golf Courses and Open Space





and 28% due to net in-migration. Based on these results, Utah had the youngest median age among all states (29.2) and also the highest percentage of children under 18 (31.1%).

Salt Lake County statistics reflect similar patterns of rapid growth and a young age profile, with 40.3% of all County households in 2010 comprised of children under age 18. With 1,063,842 people in 2012, the County is the most populous in the state and the most densely populated, with 1,387 persons per square mile.

In other words, Salt Lake County has a young population and a high percentage of households with children, both

of which significantly affect the needs and expectations for parks and recreation amenities. Concurrent with these factors is the emergence of a healthy, active, and growing cadre of senior citizens who have distinct needs and expectations regarding parks and recreation facilities.

As illustrated in Figure 2-3, a recent report by the State of Utah predicts that the growth in school age population in Utah<sup>1</sup> will continue to escalate at a consistently high pace, although the increase in school age population has recently peaked. It is not surprising that support for parks and recreation facilities has been tremendously high during the past decades.

<sup>1</sup> *Population & Demographic Standards 2000-2010 – This is not your Father's Utah*. Michael E. Christensen, Ph.D. Director, Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel, January 24, 2012



Figure 2-4 illustrates that the population 65 and over is also increasing, concurrent with the explosive growth of the younger populations. The emergence of an older contingent places greater demand on park and recreation amenities suited to that group than has previously existed in the past.

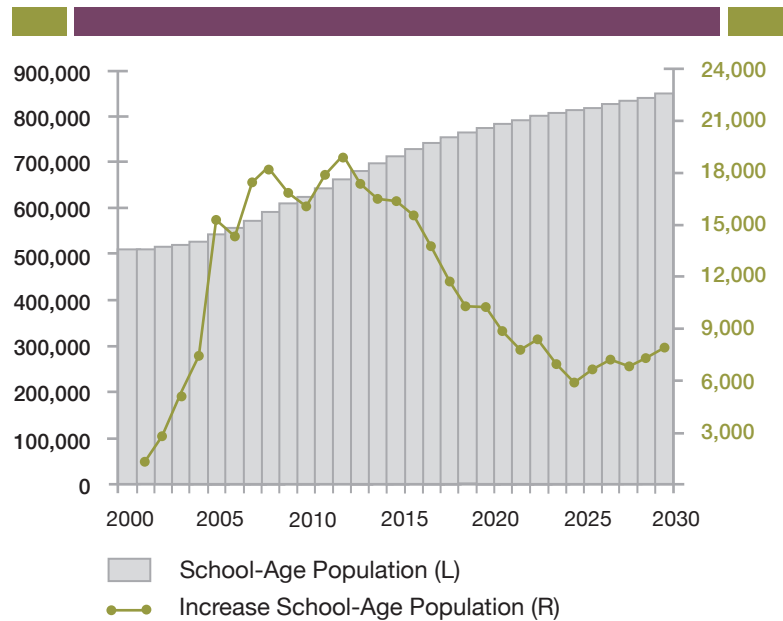
To summarize, Salt Lake County is younger today than ever before, a trend that is expected to continue for many years. At the same time the County population is aging, which is another trend that is also expected to continue well into the future. Both of these groups – bookends of the age spectrum – have specific parks and recreation needs and interests. To add complexity to the emerging situation, today's population is more mobile and active than past generations, placing new and greater demands on park and recreation facilities.

The bottom line is that today there is far greater demand for parks, open space, trails, and recreational facilities than at any time in the past, with all signals indicating that this trend will continue for generations to come. A rapidly growing population, changing attitudes, new perspectives, and evolving lifestyles make it imperative that opportunities are seized today to meet future needs.

## Needs Assessment

In 2012 the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division conducted a needs assessment survey to determine priorities and satisfaction levels of County residents regarding County parks, recreation programming, and services. County staff mailed 20,000 surveys to random residential households and received 2,906 replies, a very high 15% rate of return, giving planners statistically valid information upon which to base their analysis.

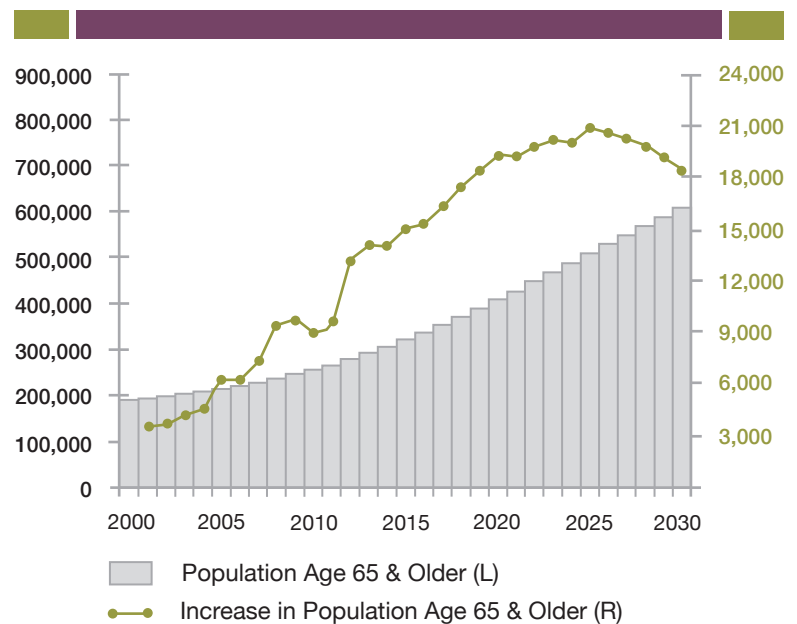
## Growth in School Age Population - 2,000 - 2030



Source: 2010 Economic Report to the Governor, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2-3. Growth in School Age Population - 2000 to 2030.

## Growth in Population Age 65+ - 2,000 - 2030



Source: 2010 Economic Report to the Governor, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 2-4. Growth in Population Age 65+ – 2000 to 2030.



The survey questions were developed by Parks & Recreation staff with assistance from the Community Services Department and the Salt Lake County Recreation Advisory Board. Utah State University Extension refined and finalized the questions, conducted the survey, and tabulated and helped analyze the information. The results indicate that the majority of respondents have lived in Salt Lake County for over 20 years, with 45% for more than 30 years. 61% own their home, and older residents responded to the survey more frequently than younger residents. 63% percent of the respondents were female and 37% were male.

The results further indicate that most respondents use a car to travel to parks, even though almost three quarter's live within 15-20 minutes walking distance of a park. A vast majority visit Salt Lake County parks, and are positive about their overall physical condition. They are generally satisfied with park maintenance, value the service they receive from their parks, and appreciate the level of customer service provided by Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation staff.

## Key highlights of the survey results include the following.

### Park and Recreation Amenities Most Important to Households

- Trails for walking, running, biking
- Natural open space areas
- Unprogrammed lawn areas
- Children's playgrounds
- Group pavilion/picnic areas
- Indoor swimming pools

### Sports Amenities Most Important to Households

- Multipurpose fields for soccer, football, rugby, lacrosse
- Outdoor basketball courts
- Little league baseball diamonds

### How Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Should Focus Its Efforts

- Higher level of park maintenance
- Purchase land to preserve natural open space areas
- Purchase land for regional trails and parks
- Build trails for walking, hiking, biking
- Higher levels of building maintenance
- Improve regional trails
- Maintain natural open space areas
- Maintain sports fields well
- Build new passive use parks, indoor swimming pools, athletic fields

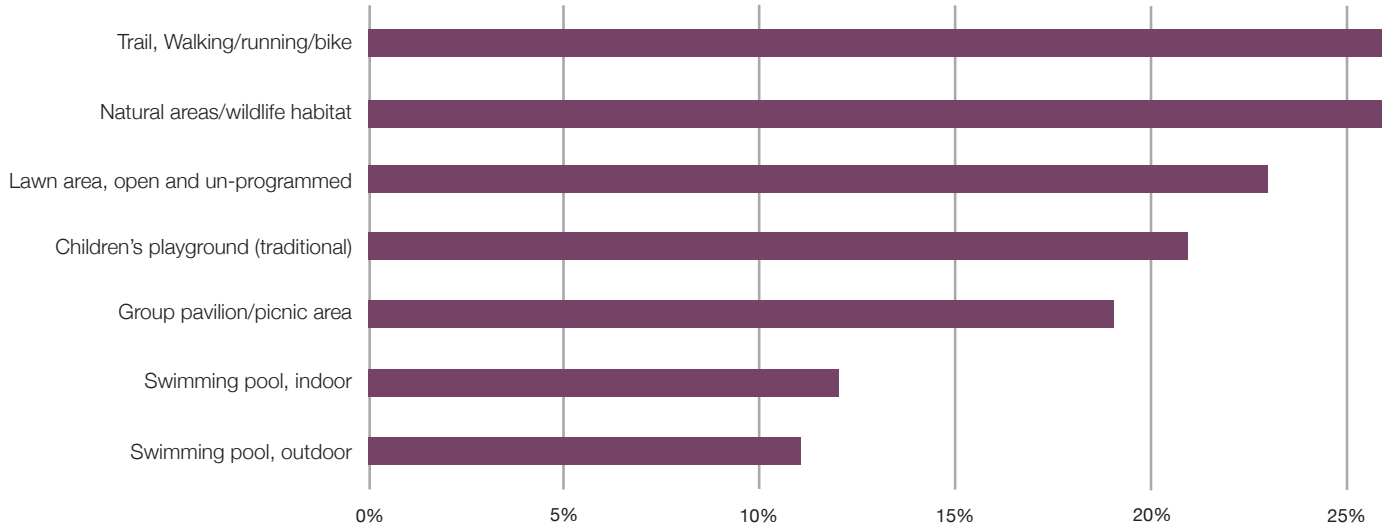
### Other Survey Highlights

- Three-quarters of respondents agreed that having County parks and recreation facilities and programs makes the County a better place to live, improves physical health and wellness, preserves open space, improves mental health and reduces stress, increases cultural and community interaction, increases property values in surrounding areas, and protects the environment.

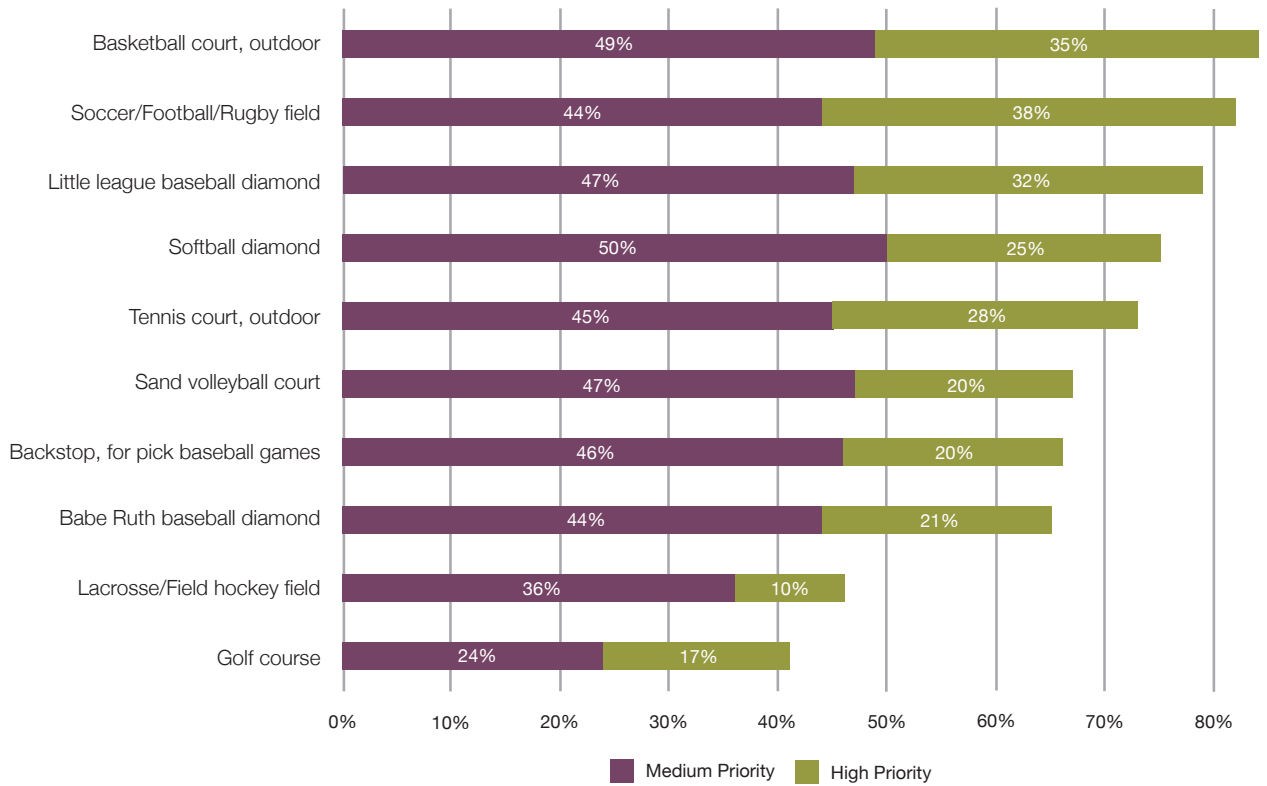
- Over half of all respondents agreed that having parks and recreation facilities and programs helps reduce neighborhood crime, attracts new residents, protects



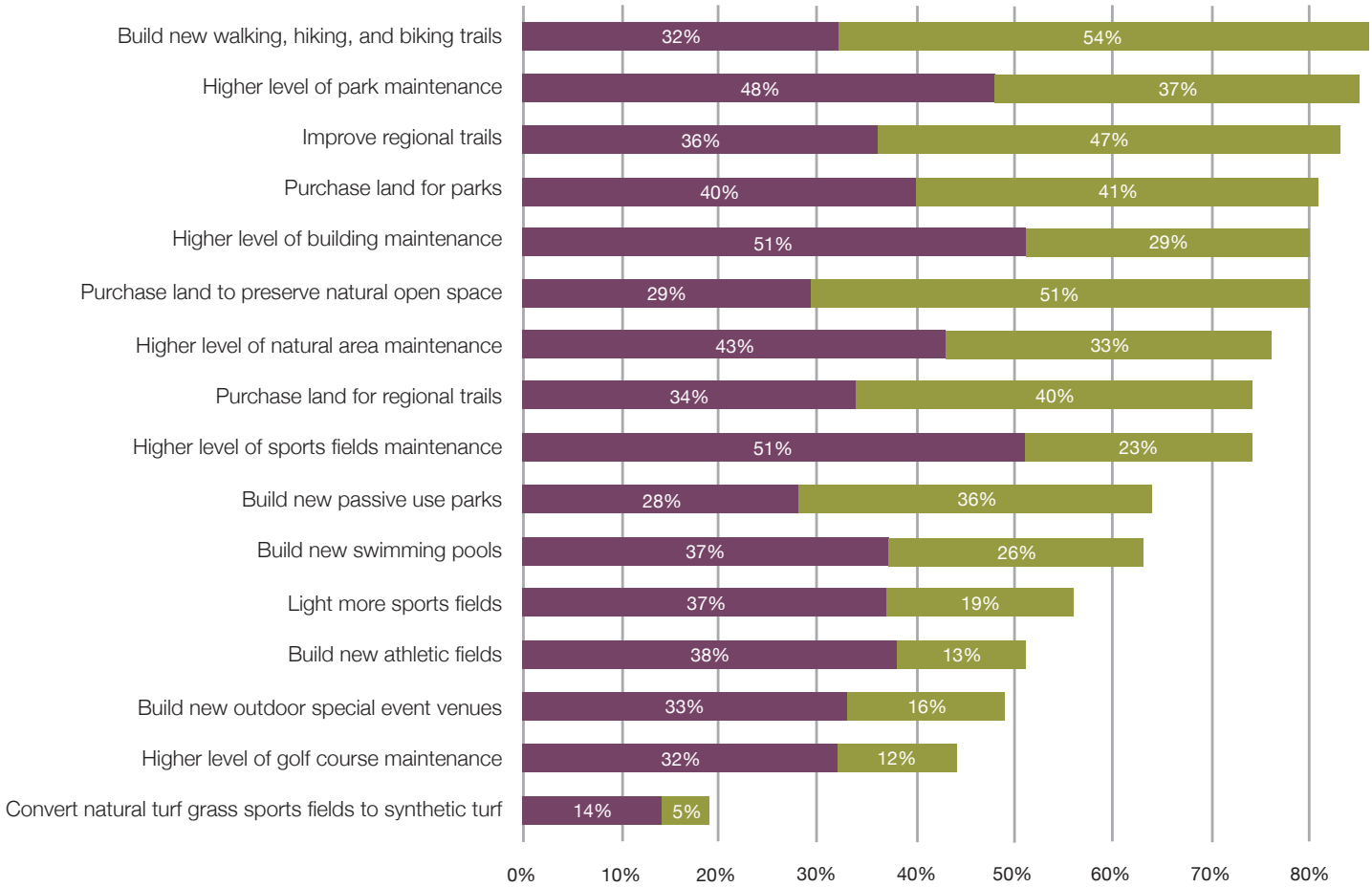
### When asked to prioritize park and recreation amenities



### When asked to prioritize outdoor sports amenities



## When asked to prioritize actions by Parks and Recreation



Valley Regional Park





historical assets of the County, attracts new businesses, and promotes tourism to Salt Lake County.

- The most important benefits to households of having County parks and recreation facilities and programs are that they improve physical health and wellness, improve mental health and reduce stress, make Salt Lake County a better place to live, preserve open space, and help reduce neighborhood crime.

## Public Involvement

Obtaining public input was a cornerstone of the master-planning process. Beginning in the earliest stages, open house meetings were the primary method for acquiring public input and have resulted in the identification of various issues, ideas, and concerns related to parks and recreation. Meetings were held twice in each planning area and were well-advertised and carefully scheduled for public convenience.

In addition to these grassroots efforts, input was sought from professional planners and parks and recreation staff in each city in Salt Lake Valley, providing another layer of input and a slightly different perspective of needs. County administrative staff also talked with elected officials and city managers in the various municipalities to hear their priorities and concerns.

## Analysis

Park planners evaluated the various data in a holistic fashion, establishing statistical needs, analyzing trends, and studying geospatial information. The conclusions and results drawn from this effort are presented as recommendations in each planning area in Chapter Four.

### Regional Park and Recreation Facility Distribution Mapping

The regional park and recreation facility distribution maps provided throughout the master plan illustrate the current distribution of class one regional parks, major recreation facilities, and regional trails in Salt Lake County; they also identify proposed locations for new facilities. When overlaid with population density and distribution data, the



maps show areas that are under-served by the regional parks and major recreation facilities now, and indicate where there will be future needs.

Several of the maps include a service radius, each representing the approximate service area of a class one regional park or recreation facility. Areas located outside of a distribution circle are generally considered to be underserved by regional parks or a particular recreational facility, while areas located within the circles are sufficiently served. This analysis is further enhanced by studying drive time maps, which indicate the length of time it takes for residents in a particular geographic area to access a regional park or recreational facility.

These maps were extensively utilized when making the final recommendations provided in this master plan.

## Park Acreage Needs Assessment

Once an inventory of all parks and recreation facilities was completed and development standards established, it was then possible to assess the need for parks and recreation facilities, both countywide and by planning area. For example, Table 2-4 illustrates that in 2014 there was a shortfall in park acreage countywide of 1,362 acres, which is expected to increase to a shortfall of 2,941 acres by 2030 unless new parks are acquired and developed.

Table 2-4. Countywide Summary Park Acreage Needs - 2014 and 2030

| Existing        |                       |             |                       | Projected       |                       |             |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2014 Population | 2014 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess or (Shortfall) | 2030 Population | 2030 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess/ (Shortfall) |
| 1,143,289       | 5,716                 | 4,354       | (1,362)               | 1,459,026       | 7,295                 | 4,354       | (2,941)             |

## Planning Area Concept

Dividing the County into homogeneous planning units is fundamental to measuring and analyzing park, open space, facility, and recreational programming needs against available resources. The planning area concept used in this master plan sub-divides the County into five regional divisions. The planning areas have been carefully delineated using natural and man-made boundaries such as jurisdictional areas, the Jordan River, mountain range frontages, and the interstate freeway system.

To help the reader understand the composition of each planning area the following lists are provided.



Jordan River

### North Planning Area

- Emigration Canyon Township
- Salt Lake City

### East Planning Area

- Cottonwood Heights City
- Holladay City
- Midvale City
- Millcreek Township
- Murray City
- South Salt Lake City

### Southeast Planning Area

- Draper City
- Sandy City
- Town of Alta
- White City Township

### Southwest Planning Area

- Bluffdale City
- Copperton Township
- Herriman City
- Riverton City
- South Jordan City

### West Planning Area:

- Kearns Township
- Magna Township
- Taylorsville City
- West Jordan City
- West Valley City





Planning Area Map

## Planning Areas

Due to the large size of the County, analysis of findings took place at two levels. Countywide analyses were conducted that addressed broad issues and their regional implications. (See Chapter 3)

Since Salt Lake County is such a large and a diverse place with unique physical and demographic conditions, planning area analyses were also conducted, focusing on the specific needs of the five planning areas. (See Chapter 4)



Flight Park

# Countywide Parks and Recreation Facilities



*In recent years it has become clear that the positive impact of developing regional parks and recreation facilities extends well beyond enhancements to quality of life; they often attract dollars from outside of the immediate area, especially during tournaments and events.*

## Responsibility for Providing Parks and Recreation Facilities

**R**esidents of Salt Lake County have made it clear that they appreciate and value their parks and recreation facilities. They have regularly voted to authorize County administration to buy park land and build parks and recreation facilities. When combined with the resources and efforts of committed cities, recreation service areas, school districts, the State, and other government agencies, much has been accomplished in meeting citizen demand for recreation amenities.

Over the years Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation has become the major provider of regional parks and recreation facilities in the Salt Lake Valley. This has emerged as a logical response to the regional role that the County plays. Neighborhood parks are smaller in size, have a smaller service area, and are typically provided by municipalities. In addition to its regional focus, the County also has direct responsibility for providing neighborhood parks and recreation amenities for townships and other unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County.

## Economic Benefit of Regional Parks and Recreation Facilities

In recent years it has become clear that the positive impact of developing regional parks and recreation facilities extends well beyond enhancements to quality of life; they often attract dollars from outside of the immediate area, especially during tournaments and events. This is supported by a 2010 NRPA study, which points to the importance of regional parks, recreational facilities, sports tournaments, and festivals for attracting tourism, and in the process, improving the economic health of regions.

In the past, economic benefits of regional recreation amenities have been realized in a serendipitous manner, emerging as the unanticipated secondary result of meeting park and recreation needs. As new facilities





*Sugar House Park*

are planned and developed in the future, the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division anticipates taking a more proactive role in assessing and leveraging the economic impacts and the role they will have in shaping the communities where they are located.

## **Class One Regional Parks**

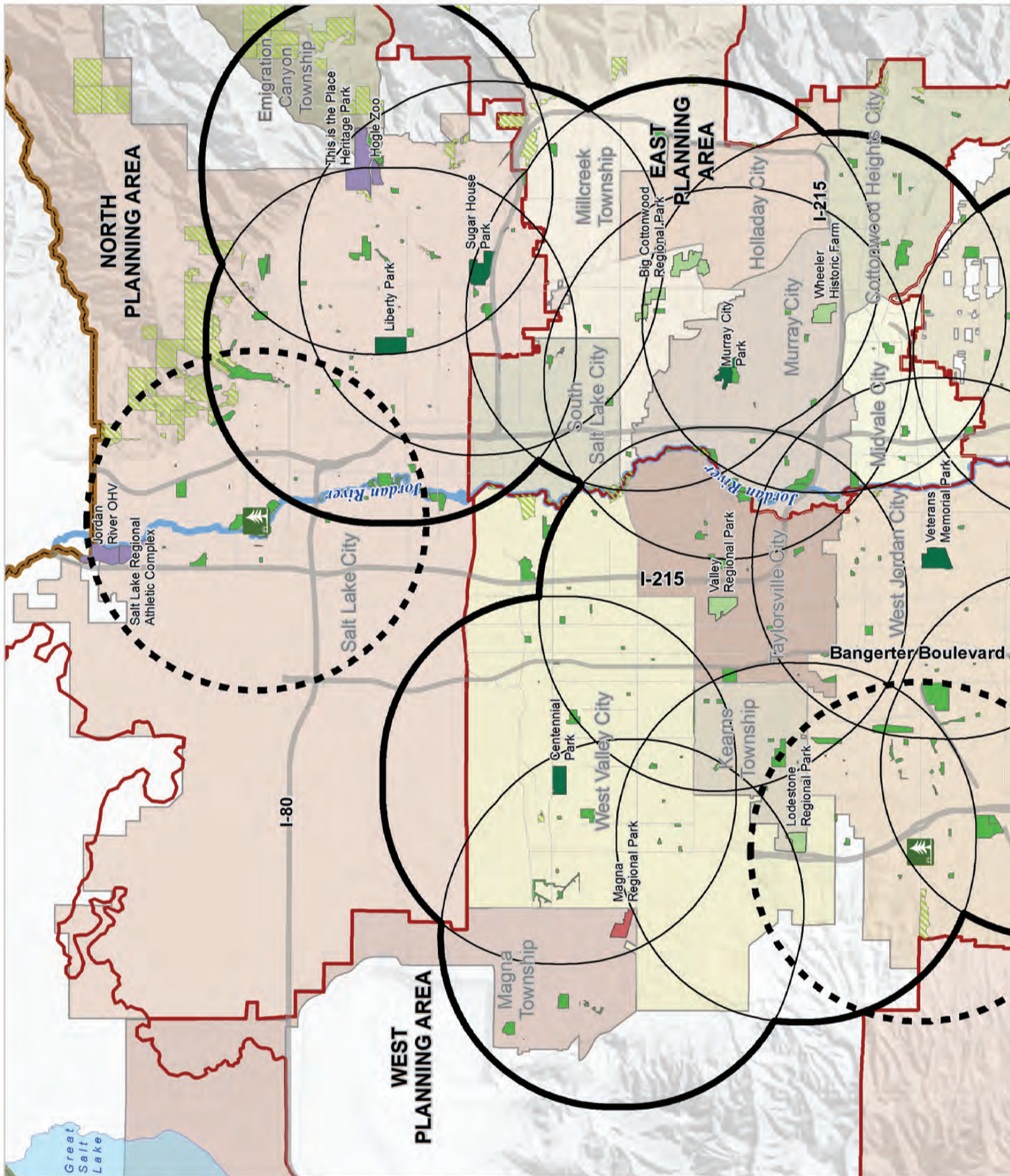
Class one regional parks are the heart of the County park system. They encompass a large service radius and typically provide the greatest variety of recreational opportunities and generally include a wide array of amenities such as un-programmed lawn areas, athletic fields, group picnic facilities, recreation centers, swimming pools, and expansive children's playgrounds. Because of their size and open design, class one regional parks frequently provide visual and aesthetic relief to the confining density of residential development.

As the cornerstone of the County's park system, class one regional parks offer an escape from urban sights and sounds and provide tranquil surroundings with unmatched and diverse recreational features.

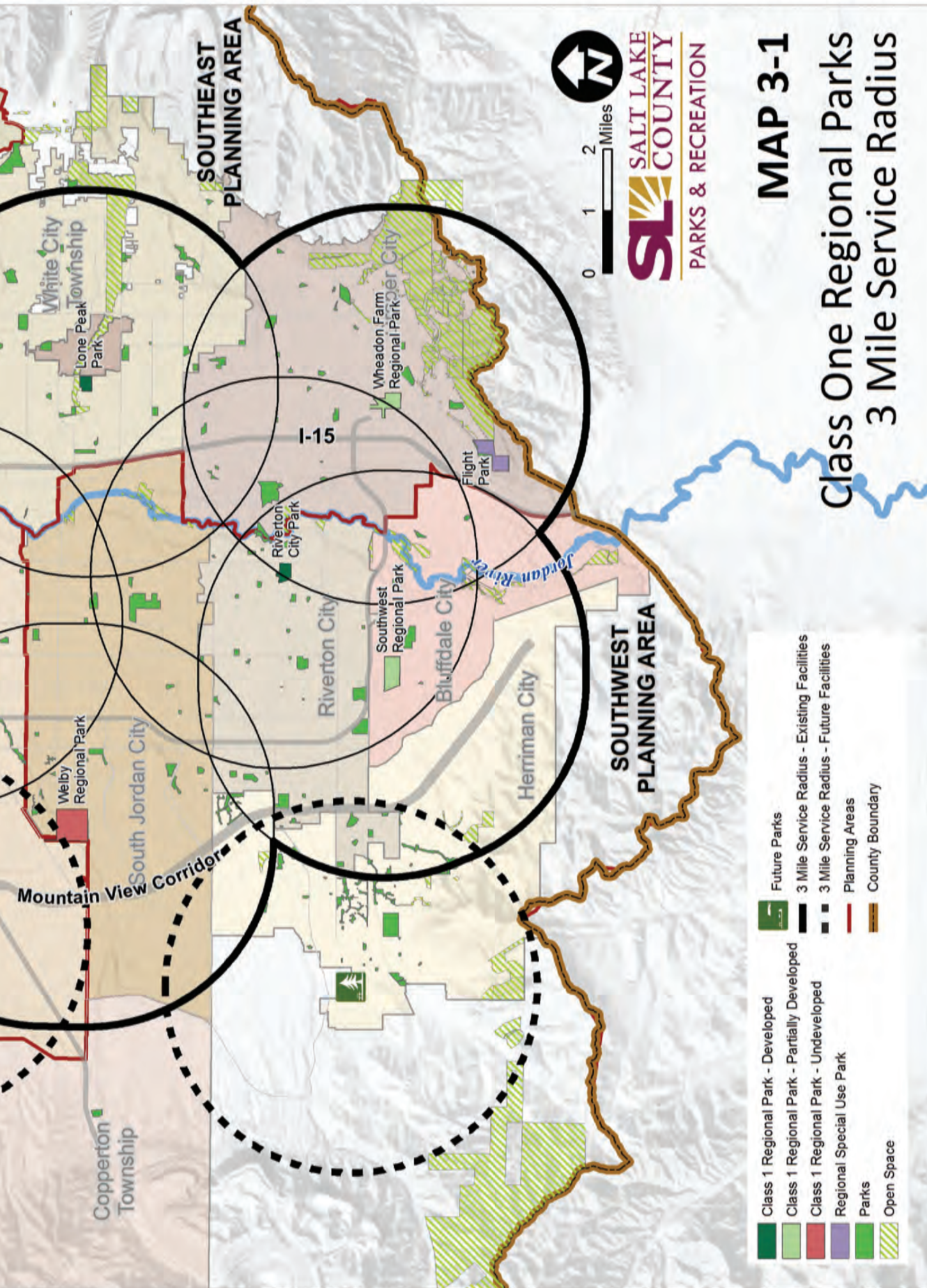
Developing these parks is a key priority of Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation. Class one regional parks add immeasurably to the quality of life of County residents, they promote healthy local economies, and their environmental value is indisputable. In some cases these parks are capable of hosting events that infuse the local economy, on a one-time or annual basis.

As illustrated in Map 3-1, the distribution of class one regional parks is represented by a three-mile service area. Coverage is generally good, particularly in the central and north portions of the County. However, there are some gaps that should be closed, particularly









Map 3-1. Class One Regional Parks - 3-Mile Service Radius

Table 3-1. Class One Regional Parks 2015 - Facts and Figures

| Park/Facility Name                                       | Location                         | Jurisdiction                       | Planning Area     | Acreage |                 |
|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|
| <b>Owned and Maintained by Salt Lake County</b>          |                                  |                                    |                   |         |                 |
| Big Cottonwood Regional Park                             |                                  |                                    | E                 | 176.00  |                 |
|  | Big Cottonwood Area (47.6 ac)    | 4300 S. 1300 E.                    | Unincorporated    |         |                 |
|  | Creekside Area (27.5 ac)         | 1600 E 4800 S (Murray-Holladay Rd) | Holladay City     |         |                 |
|  | Hillview Basin Area (25.3 ac)    | 4191 S 900 E                       | Unincorporated    |         |                 |
|  | Holladay Lions RC Area (75.6 ac) | 1500 E 4500 S                      | Unincorporated    |         |                 |
| Lodestone Regional Park                                  |                                  | 6000 S 6000 W                      |                   | W       | 59.84           |
|  | Lodestone (6.02 ac total)        |                                    | Unincorporated    |         |                 |
|  | Lodestone (53.82 ac total)       |                                    | West Valley       |         |                 |
| Magna Regional Park (ATK)                                |                                  | 4042 S 7200 W                      | Unincorporated    | W       | 62.24           |
| Southwest Regional Park                                  |                                  | 14148 S 2700 W                     | Bluffdale         | SW      | 80.00           |
| Sugar House Park (50% ownership w/ Salt Lake City)       |                                  | 1600 E 2100 S                      | Salt Lake City    | N       | 110.51          |
| Valley Regional Park, RC, SP                             |                                  | 5100 S 2700 W                      | Taylorsville      | W       | 89.86           |
| Wheeler Farm (S Cottonwood Regional Pk)                  |                                  | 6351 S 900 E                       | Murray            | E       | 73.07           |
| Welby Regional Park                                      |                                  | 9780 S 5200 W                      | South Jordan City | SW      | 160.00          |
| Wheadon Farm   |                                  | 13800 S 440 E                      | Draper            | SE      | 64.00           |
| <b>Owned and Maintained by City, State, Service Area</b> |                                  |                                    |                   |         |                 |
| Centennial Park  |                                  | 55405 W 3100 S                     | West Valley       | W       | 77.60           |
| Liberty Park   |                                  | 589 E 1300 S                       | Salt Lake City    | N       | 100.00          |
| Murray City Park   |                                  | 296 E Murray Park Ave              | Murray            | E       | 67.00           |
| Lone Peak Park   |                                  | 10150 S 700 E                      | Sandy             | SE      | 28.76           |
| Riverton City Park                                       |                                  | 12765 S 1400 W                     | Riverton          | SW      | 26.50           |
| Veterans Memorial Park                                   |                                  | 1985 West 7800 South               | West Jordan       | W       | 99.00           |
| <b>Subtotal Class One Regional Park Land</b>             |                                  |                                    |                   |         | <b>1,274.38</b> |



in the southwest and west areas of the valley. Map 3-2 illustrates the time it takes to drive to these facilities for locations in the County; this map reiterates the findings of Map 3-1, further clarifying how different areas are served by regional parks.

## Recommendations for Class One Regional Parks

- Build out the undeveloped portions of all existing class one regional parks.
- Acquire land, through purchase or partnerships, for new class one regional parks in the southwest and west planning areas, and if possible in the north planning area, particularly where a service gap exists in the residential areas west of I-15.
- Consider working with landfill managers in the valley to study the feasibility of converting active landfills into regional parks once the life of the landfills comes to an end.

## Class Two Regional Parks

Class Two Regional Parks cover a large spectrum of park types and sizes. They are generally smaller and have fewer amenities than Class One Regional Parks, but they are also larger and serve more people than Neighborhood Parks. One of the defining characteristics of this park category is that the parks contain amenities that are rented (such as group pavilions) or they have space that is formally programmed for activities (such as multipurpose fields or a swimming pool). Another defining characteristic is that Class Two Regional Parks are used by more than one jurisdiction. There are many parks in the valley that fall into this category, and they are owned and operated by both the County and cities.

## Special Use Regional Parks

Special Use Regional Parks is a category into which truly unique recreational properties are placed. They provide one-of-a-kind recreation opportunities, and often require a fee to enter. They are generally single use in nature, and have a countywide draw and are heavily used by residents. Examples of this park type are Hogle Zoo and This Is The Place Heritage Park.



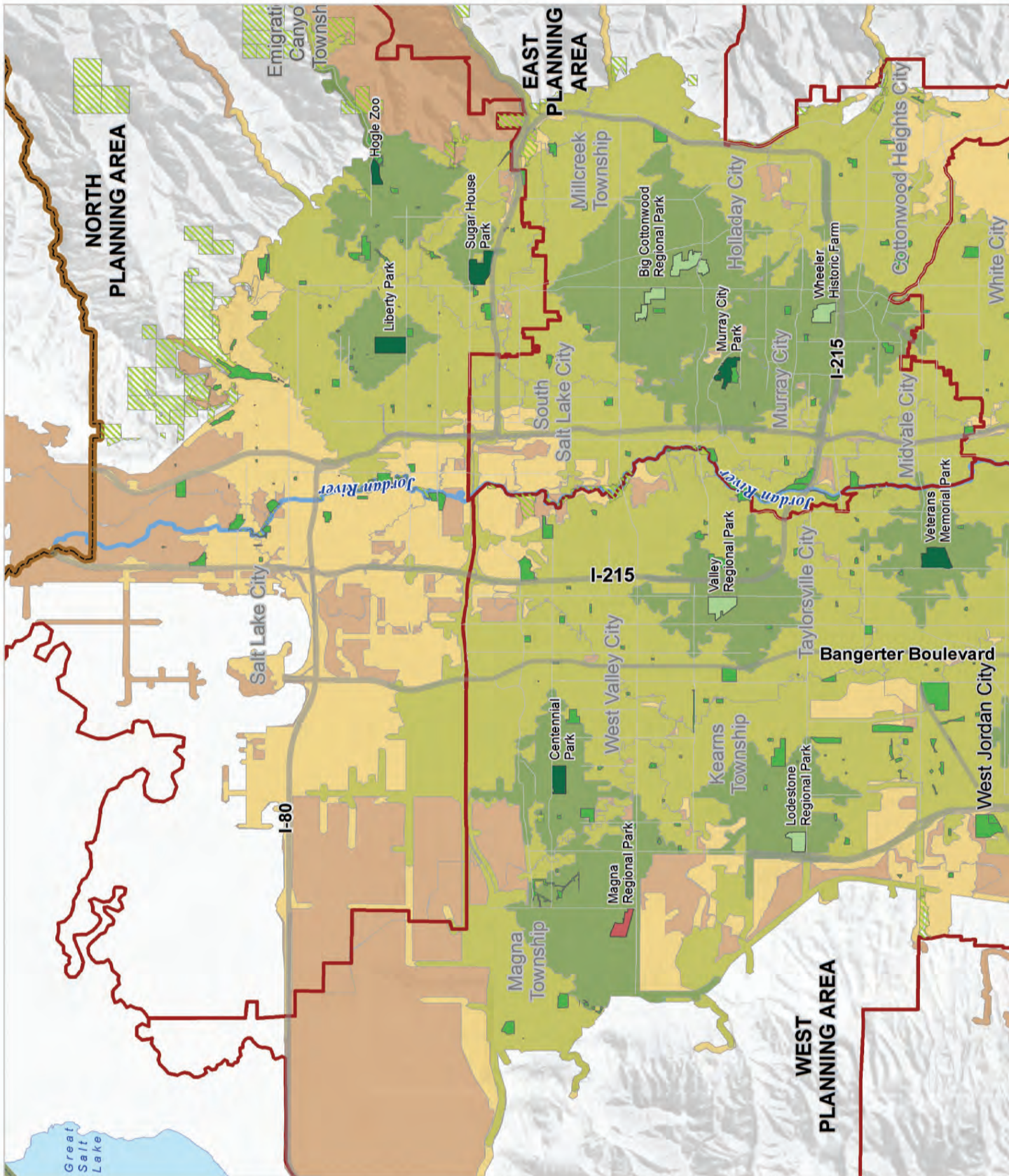
*Wheeler Farm*

## Neighborhood Parks

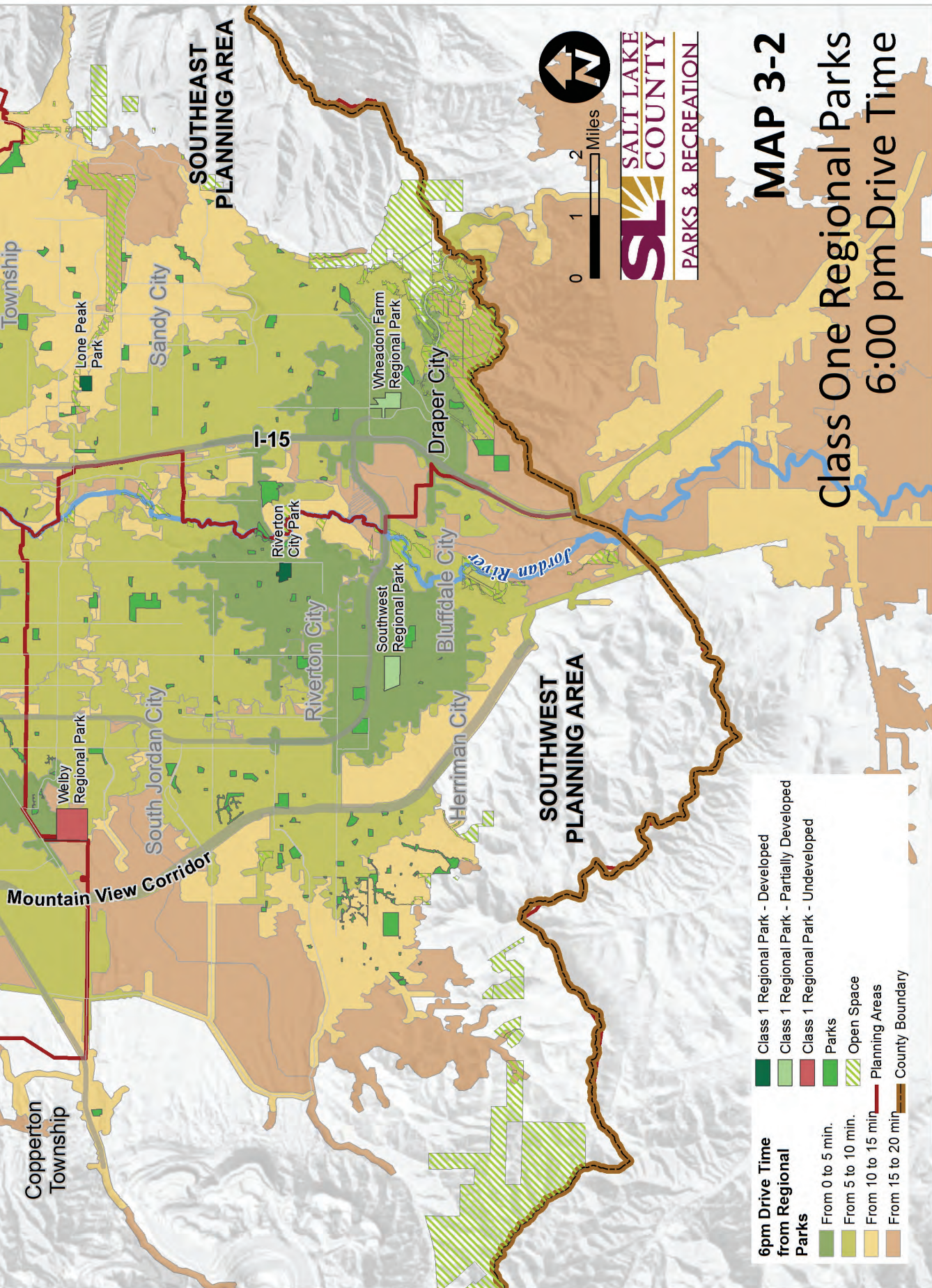
Neighborhood parks are the smallest park unit in the County system, serving small neighborhood areas. These parks are generally highly developed sites, often providing limited park amenities such as picnic tables, small picnic pavilions, basketball courts, children's playground equipment, open lawn areas, and trees.

For the unincorporated areas, neighborhood parks are developed and maintained by Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation. For other municipalities, while neighborhood parks are an important part of the overall park system, they are not the primary emphasis of the County's park acquisition and development plans. Many municipalities have taken the lead in purchasing, planning, and developing neighborhood parks in their cities, thereby allowing the County to free-up its resources to focus on the acquisition and development of larger and more complex regional parks, which serve a greater number of residents per acre than neighborhood parks.



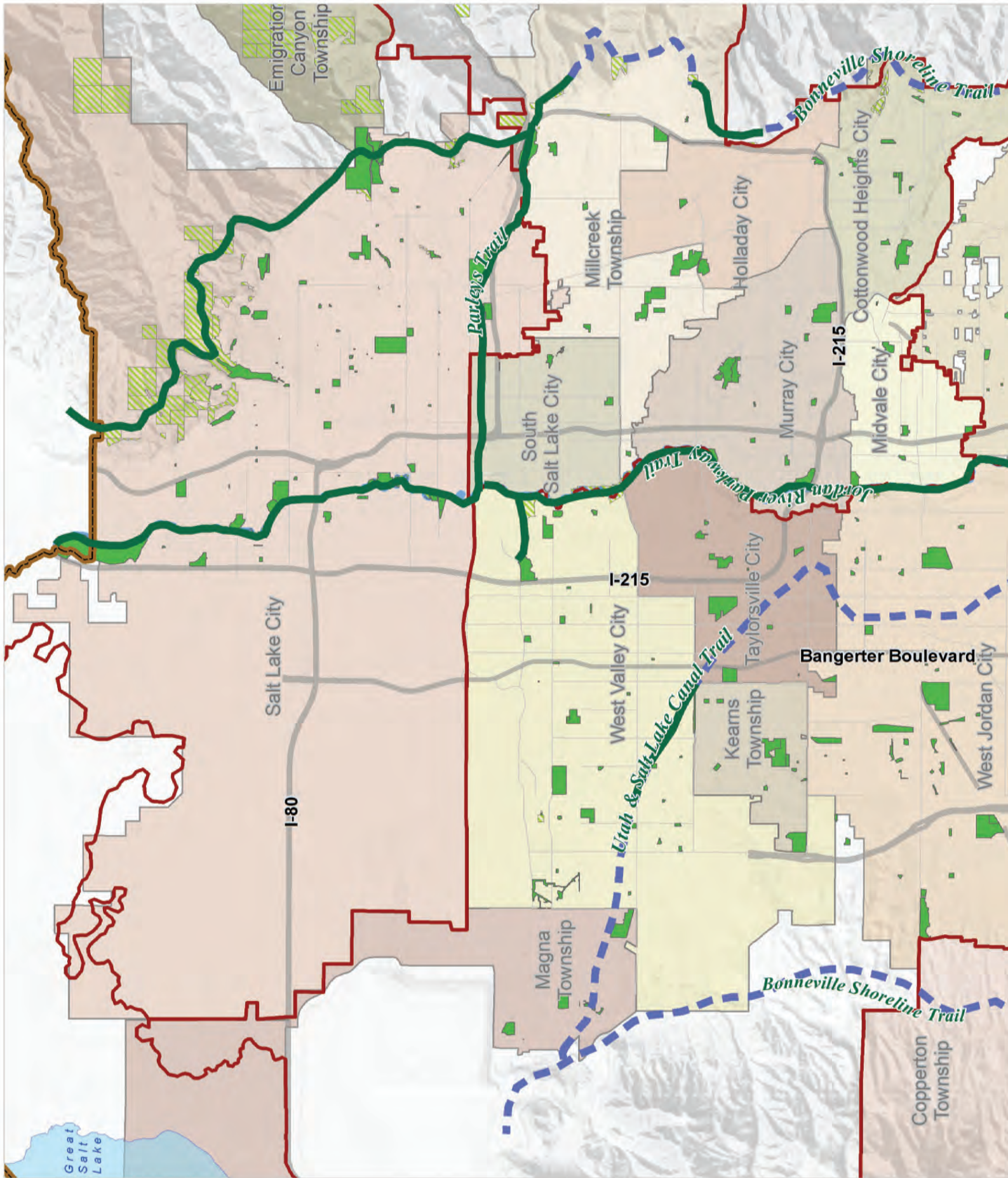




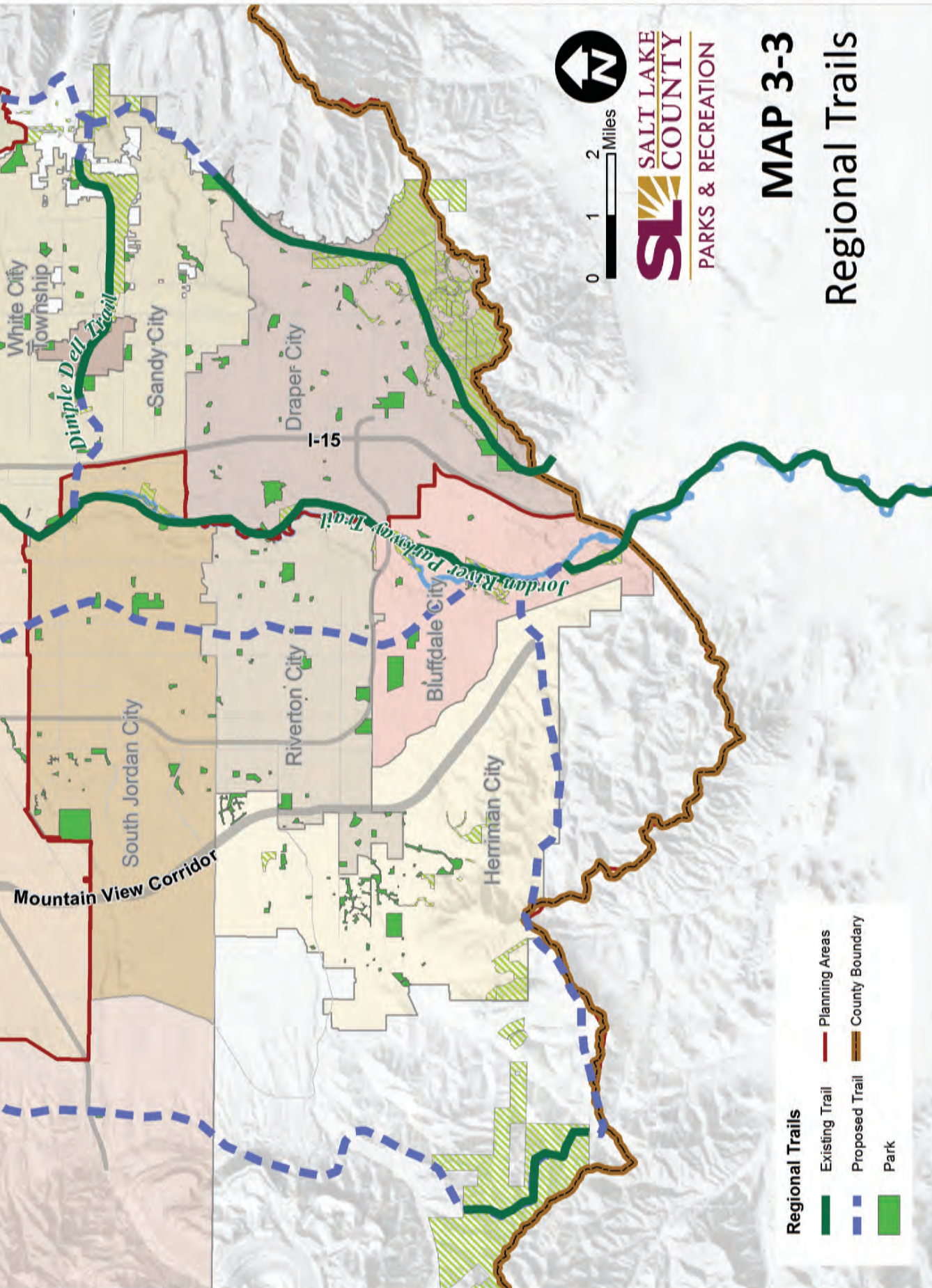


Map 3-2. Class One Regional Parks - 6:00 pm Drive Time









# MAP 3-3

## Regional Trails

Map 3-3. Regional Trails





*Parley's Trail*

## Recommendation for Neighborhood Parks

- Complete a level-of-service study for neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County and prepare a plan that identifies needs and proposes actions to mitigate deficiencies.

## Regional Trails

In September 1993, the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division published its first countywide regional trails plan. The purpose of that plan was to propose a conceptual network of non-motorized recreation trails for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians that would span the County from north to south, east to west. These regional trails are envisioned to create an interconnected web of recreational trails that also serve as an alternative transportation network connecting valley communities. County residents are persistent in demanding trails for both recreation and commuting.

Over the past two decades much has been accomplished in the fulfillment of this vision, including completion of 76 miles of trail, an almost-completed

Jordan River Trail from the County's northern to southern boundaries, development of major segments of Parley's Trail, and construction of many miles of Bonneville Shoreline Trail (see Map 3-3.) Despite these advances, much still remains to be accomplished.

Of all the activities associated with realizing a complete regional trails system, none are more difficult, complex, uncertain, or time-consuming than those related to the acquisition of land. Along nearly all trail alignments in the County there are usually multiple owners controlling individual parcels that are integral to the continuity of a particular trail. As individual property owners they manifest a variety of attitudes and degrees of willingness to consider trails on their property – some can be quite reasonable in their expectations while others adamantly reject the idea of trails being located on or near their land. As a result of such challenges, the task of developing regional trails can take years and even decades to accomplish.

In order to realize the vision of a regional trail network, it is important that the County and cities, in partnership, take an opportunistic approach toward land acquisition,



so that trail development can proceed most effectively. As opportunities emerge – whenever or wherever they may be found in the regional trail system – governmental jurisdictions should be prepared to act quickly in working with landowners to acquire parcels of land or to establish easements.

The recreational and economic benefits derived from having a complete regional trail system are almost incalculable, contributing not only to the vitality of the community, but reaching deep into local lifestyles to foster healthier communities.

## Recommendations for Regional Trails

- When currently funded projects on the Jordan River Trail are complete, users will be able to travel uninterrupted from Davis County to Utah County. However, funding is still needed to preserve open space along the Jordan River Parkway corridor, which in turn will enhance the trail user experience while increasing ecological function and integrity. There are also many trail-related enhancements that should be implemented, such as improving trailheads and establishing connector trails.
- The Bonneville Shoreline Trail should continue to be built as land or easements can be acquired. At present there are undeveloped segments that will remain incomplete until the trail alignment is acquired.
- Complete development of Parley's Trail by continuing to work in partnership with Salt Lake City, South Salt Lake City, UDOT, UTA, PRATT, and other stakeholders.
- Prepare a master plan for the Utah & Salt Lake Canal Trail.
- Prepare a master plan for the Jordan River Water Trail.
- Begin developing east/west trails according to the recently completed *Salt Lake County East/West Trails Master Plan (2015)*.
- Encourage and support the establishment of connections to regional trails from residential and commercial areas wherever possible.

- As it becomes available, acquire land for trail alignment in an opportunistic manner. Salt Lake County, governmental jurisdictions, and other stakeholders should work in partnership to address the land acquisition challenges of developing a countywide network of interconnected non-motorized recreation trails and alternative transportation routes.

- Some regional trails are popular for events, but arranging those events is complicated, since the organizers must coordinate with many jurisdictions. In order to help deal with this new issue and streamline coordination efforts, leaders should assess the feasibility of establishing a multi-jurisdictional agency to coordinate major events on regional trails.

## Regional Open Space

Open space is generally the most pristine of all recreational property in the County's inventory. These properties are usually large tracts of land consisting of hundreds of acres, and are predominantly composed of aesthetically pleasing natural landscapes unaltered by development and frequently encompass undisturbed, self-sustaining ecosystems. Open spaces typically support passive, low-impact activities and are free of unnatural land disturbance.

Open space is best recognized by the various elements that it is composed of—wild and native plant and animal habitat, wetlands, ponds, natural drainage ways, stream and riparian corridors, mountain slopes, meadows, forests and other similar ecological features and systems; it can also include agricultural land set aside by easement to preserve the County's cultural heritage. Due to their environmental makeup, open spaces can provide a range of secondary benefits as well, such as watershed protection, preserving sensitive wetlands or natural landscapes, and accommodating casual, low-impact recreational trail systems, picnicking, nature centers, and similar facilities.

Open space is not only important for recreation, but can also help mitigate and soften the impacts of urban growth and development by encompassing cultural landscapes and farm land that are visually, aesthetically,



*Redwood Nature Area*

biologically, agriculturally, ecologically, or environmentally distinctive. Such places are important heritage sites to be passed forward to future generations.

Some of the best known examples of open space in Salt Lake County are as follows.

- City Creek
- Corner Canyon
- Dimple Dell
- Jordan River Parkway
- Millcreek Canyon
- Parley's Historic Park
- Yellow Fork / Rose Canyon

Lands of this type almost unconditionally contain elements that are essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems. The ambiance that is intrinsic to open spaces also provides the natural setting for popular non-motorized recreational trails, which in turn offers relaxation and enjoyment to a wide variety of visitors, a

precious commodity sought by many residents in the Salt Lake Valley.

The “wild places” once easily found in every portion of the valley are becoming fewer and farther apart. Open space preservation efforts should continue, but flexibility must prevail in open space land acquisition, with decisions made on a case-by-case basis.

It is important that the quality of land be considered when acquiring open space. For example, sites that are small disconnected remnants should generally not be considered for acquisition as open space recreation land, unless they facilitate the development of a regional trail alignment, are adjacent to a regional trail, are components of a regional park, preserve threatened ecology, flora, or fauna, or constitute a portion of an extensive primary stream corridor or lake shoreline.

The development of any natural area infers very low-key, unobtrusive, passive-styled recreational activities. Trails and/or access-ways that facilitate nature education or provide ingress and egress to observation points are the most frequent type of development envisioned.

Political leaders and senior government administrators are encouraged to take a positive, opportunistic approach toward the acquisition of large tracts of land for open space. As opportunities present themselves, the County and its municipal partners should be prepared to fund their acquisition and receive them into public ownership.

## **Recommendations for Regional Open Space**

- Acquire large tracts of land that are largely undeveloped and valued for their aesthetic, ecological, and passive recreational attributes, and that are regionally important for wildlife habitat, watershed, view-shed, or of other ecological significance.
- Acquire land that becomes available in the Jordan River corridor for open-space preservation, connectivity, and enhancement of wildlife habitat.
- Acquire easements on strategically located agricultural land to preserve the valley's farming heritage.



- Study the feasibility of developing small nature education centers at strategic locations along the Jordan River corridor.
- Provide adequate resources to better manage and maintain open space.

## Golf Courses

Because Salt Lake Valley has more municipally owned and operated golf courses than any comparable region in the United States, golfing is a truly unique recreational opportunity. The cost to golf is far less here than almost anywhere else in the country, which further enhances the opportunity for participation.

According to national standards, the valley is overbuilt with public golf courses; this brings unique opportunities as well as challenges. The sheer number of public golf

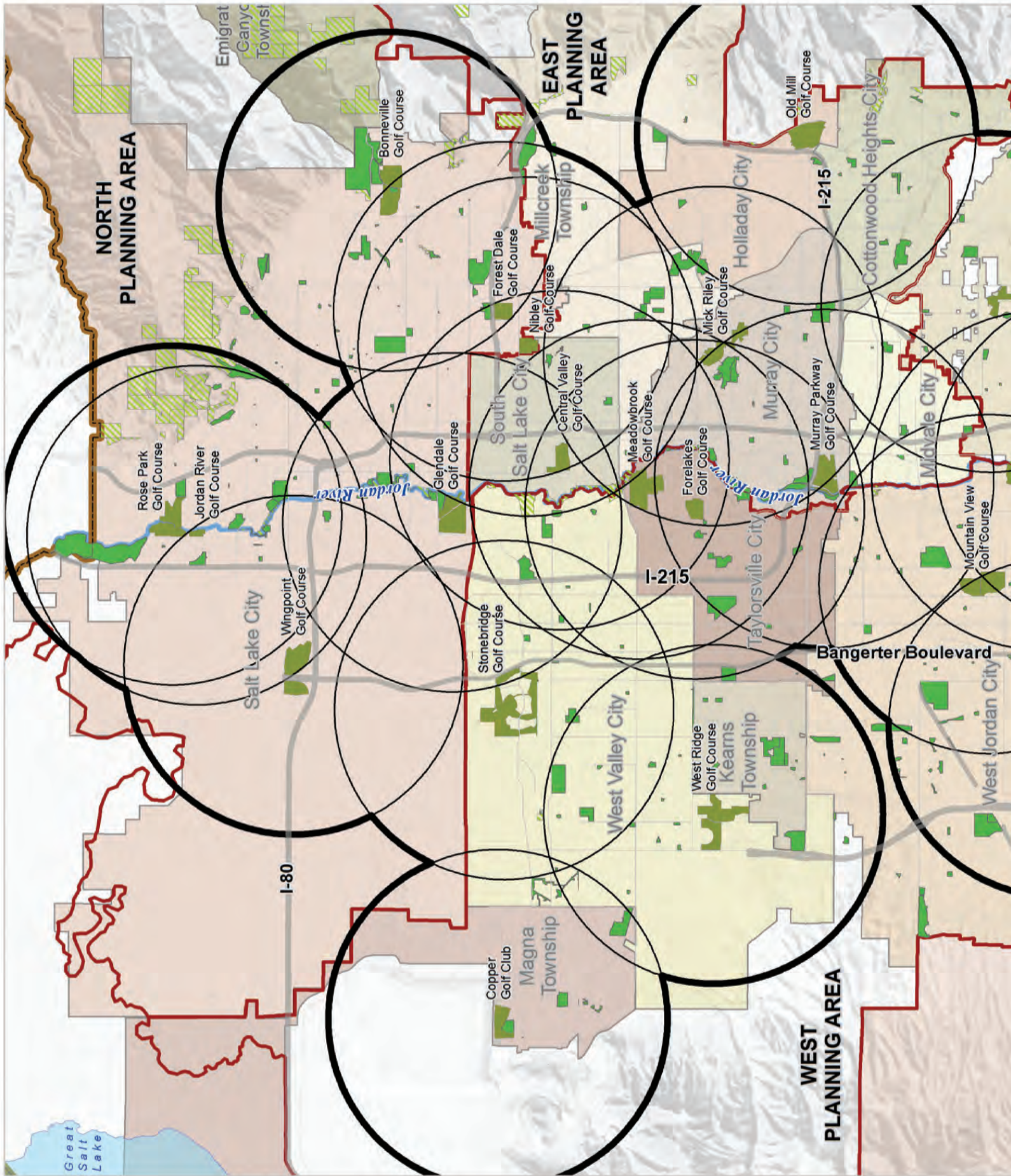
courses and the low cost of play have resulted in more people being able to take part in the sport. This has significantly enhanced quality of life for residents, making golf an affordable activity for a wide range of participants, enhancing the regional economy by attracting users from throughout the broader region, and providing green space in areas that might otherwise be developed. The economic value of golf in the Salt Lake Valley should never be underestimated.

As illustrated in Map 3-4, the valley is generally saturated with golf courses, but distribution is somewhat inconsistent, with a particularly high number in Salt Lake City. At present the County population does not support the need for new golf courses. However, based on an assessment of distribution and future population growth, acquisition of land for future development of a new 18-hole golf course is proposed for the southwest planning area.

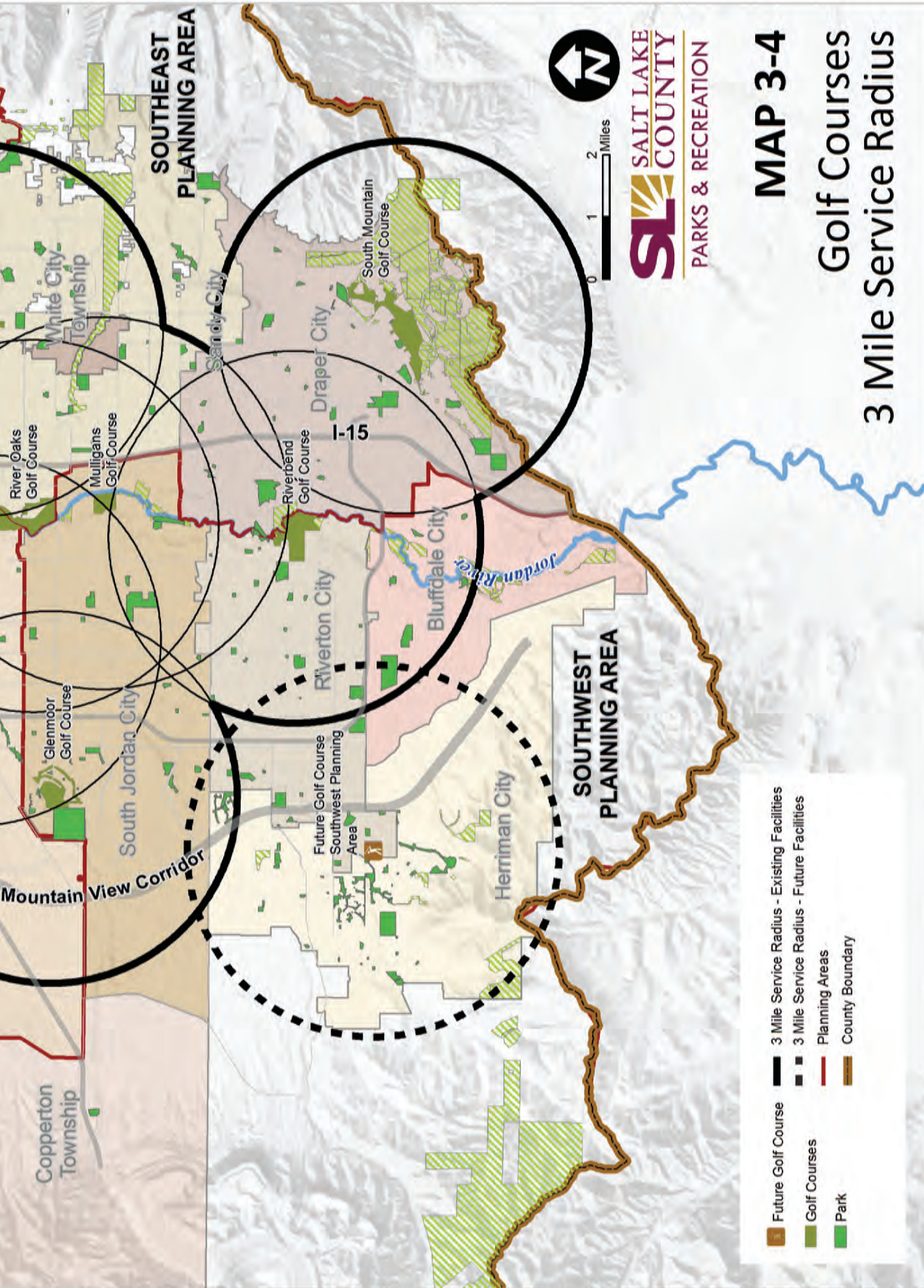
*Old Mill Golf Course*











Map 3-4. Golf Courses - 3-Mile Service Radius





*Wheeler Farm Playground and Pavilion*

One issue facing County golf courses, and others in the valley as well, is the fact that they are aging and will require substantial capital maintenance to keep them in good condition. Several clubhouses, parking lots, and maintenance facilities are old and in need of major refurbishment. Over the next few years, it will be important to invest adequately in golf course maintenance to protect this important recreational investment.

### **Recommendations for Golf Courses**

- As the population continues to grow in the southwest portion of the valley, Salt Lake County should acquire land in this area through purchase or partnership for a future 18-hole golf course.
- Adequately fund capital maintenance of golf courses to ensure that they continue to serve the residents of the County.

## **Recreation Facilities**

For decades, building recreation centers has been a priority of County residents. Funding efforts have been so successful that Salt Lake County now has more publicly owned recreation centers and swimming pools per capita than almost any other similar region in the country.

Due in large part to the ZAP funding program, the County is now approaching build-out of recreation centers, swimming pools, and ice centers. As illustrated in Map 3-5, the distribution pattern of existing recreation centers

is good overall, particularly in the center of the valley. However, gaps are found on the west, southwest, and south edges of the County. As illustrated in Map 3-6; the drive times for accessing these facilities is also generally quite good, although there are several areas where longer commutes are required.

### **Recommendation for Recreation Facilities**

- All new recreation centers should be full-service facilities that include indoor swimming pools containing both leisure and competition components.
- A new recreation facility should be developed in the far southern part of the southeast planning area.
- A new recreation center should be built in both the west and southwest planning areas in the future, after additional residential growth has occurred.
- In the future, as the demographics of the downtown area evolve, undertake a study to determine the feasibility/desirability of replacing Central City Recreation Center with a modern full-service recreation center at a nearby location.
- Explore more cost-effective designs for new buildings to reduce construction and operating costs.
- For new construction of major facilities, evaluate colocation of services with other Salt Lake County agencies, as exemplified at the Millcreek Community Center.



## Swimming Pools

Swimming has long been a popular summertime recreational activity and year-around sport of many residents of the Salt Lake Valley. While residents desire additional outdoor pools, they are very expensive to build and maintain and have limited usability since they are only open four to five months each year. For this reason Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation recommends installing water playgrounds instead of new outdoor pools that are not economically sustainable.

Water play is the overwhelming purpose of outdoor swimming pools, and regionally sized water playgrounds provide the wet fun of traditional outdoor swimming pools with the exception of actual swimming. Well-planned, large water playgrounds often experience more use than traditional outdoor pools by providing a greater variety of play opportunities. In addition, there are economic benefits to building water playgrounds, as they cost far less to build, maintain, and operate, and they use less water. New swimming pools should be indoor pools and built as a component of new full-service recreation centers.

It should be noted that the Granite School District owns five indoor swimming pools, none of which are available for general public use. However, these facilities mitigate the need for competition lap pools in the areas that they are located.

### Recommendations for Swimming Pools

- Where the need for summer outdoor water play is identified in this plan, install large water playgrounds rather than new outdoor swimming pools.
- Study the feasibility and program advantages of covering existing outdoor pools that are adjacent to recreation centers, in order to convert them into year-round facilities.
- Some existing outdoor swimming pools are old, undersized, or outdated, resulting in declining use. Careful consideration should be given to closing outdoor pools that no longer meet the needs of residents or that are worn out and would require complete new

construction. In some cases, usage and attendance might be improved by refurbishment and adding leisure play toys that the public has come to expect.

- Study the benefits and cost of creating an indoor regional competitive swim facility to accommodate state, regional, and countywide swim competitions and water polo events; since no similar facility exists in Salt Lake County and the existing state swim meet facility on the



*Magna Pool*

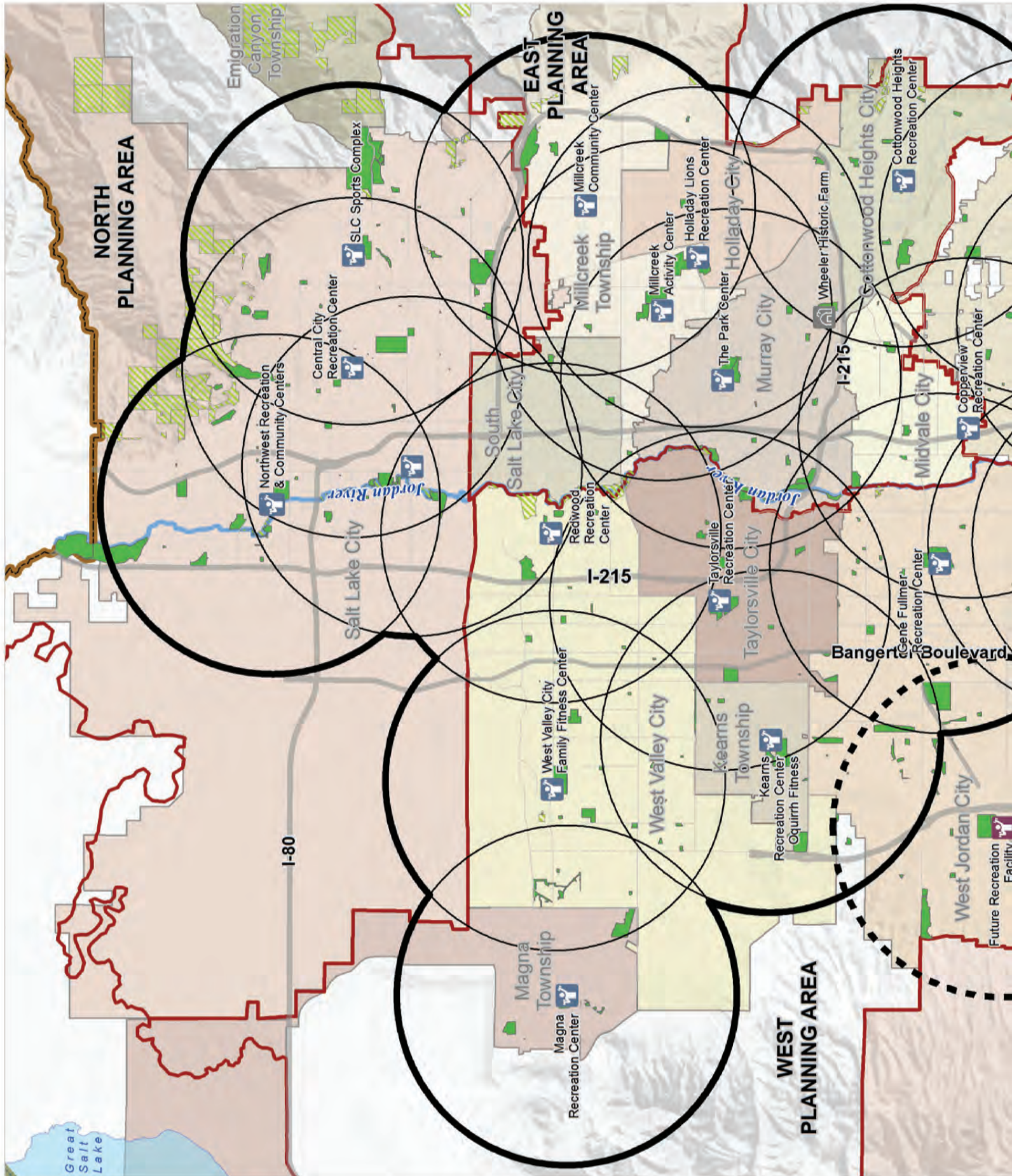


*Northwest Indoor Pool*

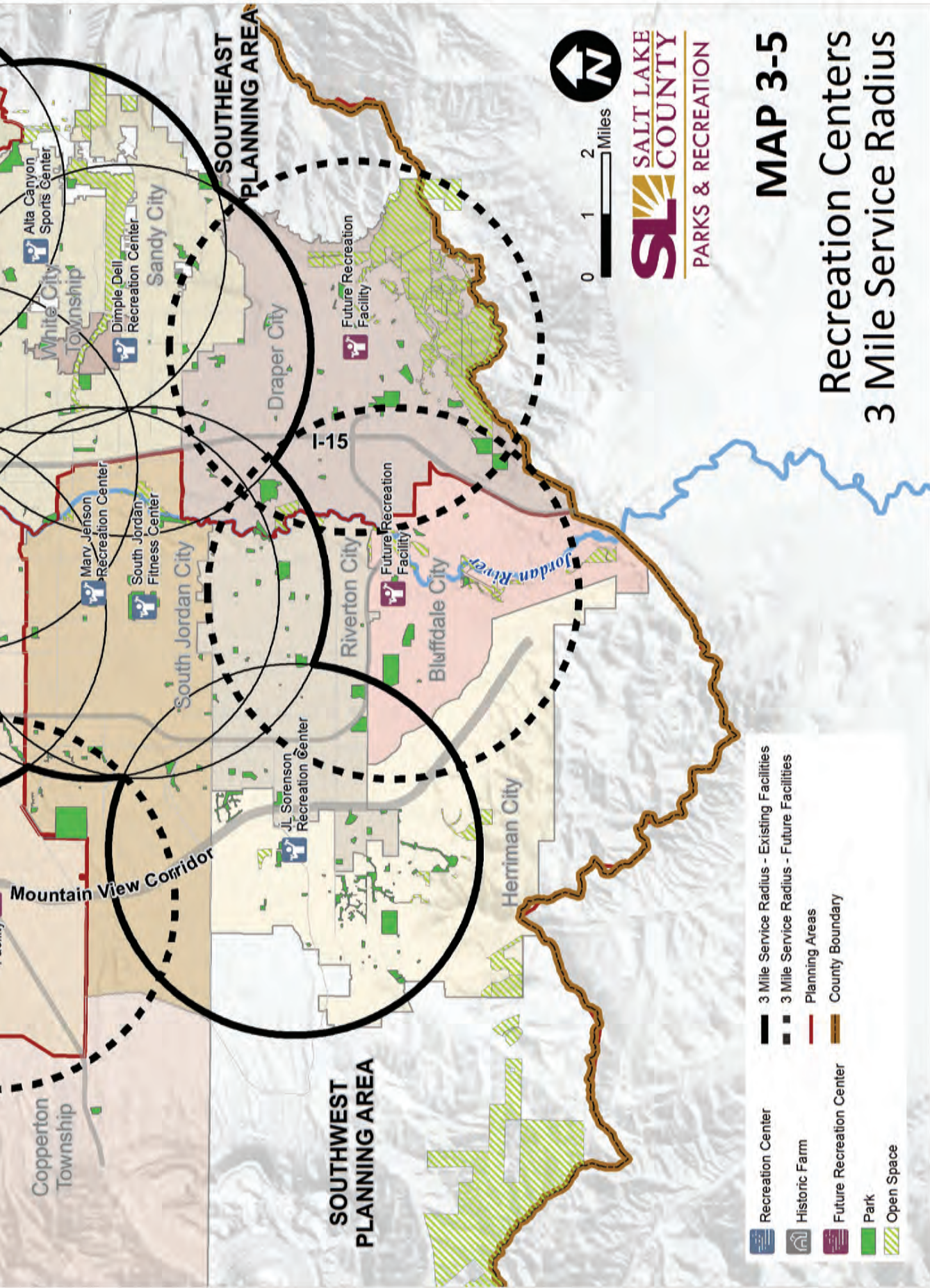


*West Jordan Pool*



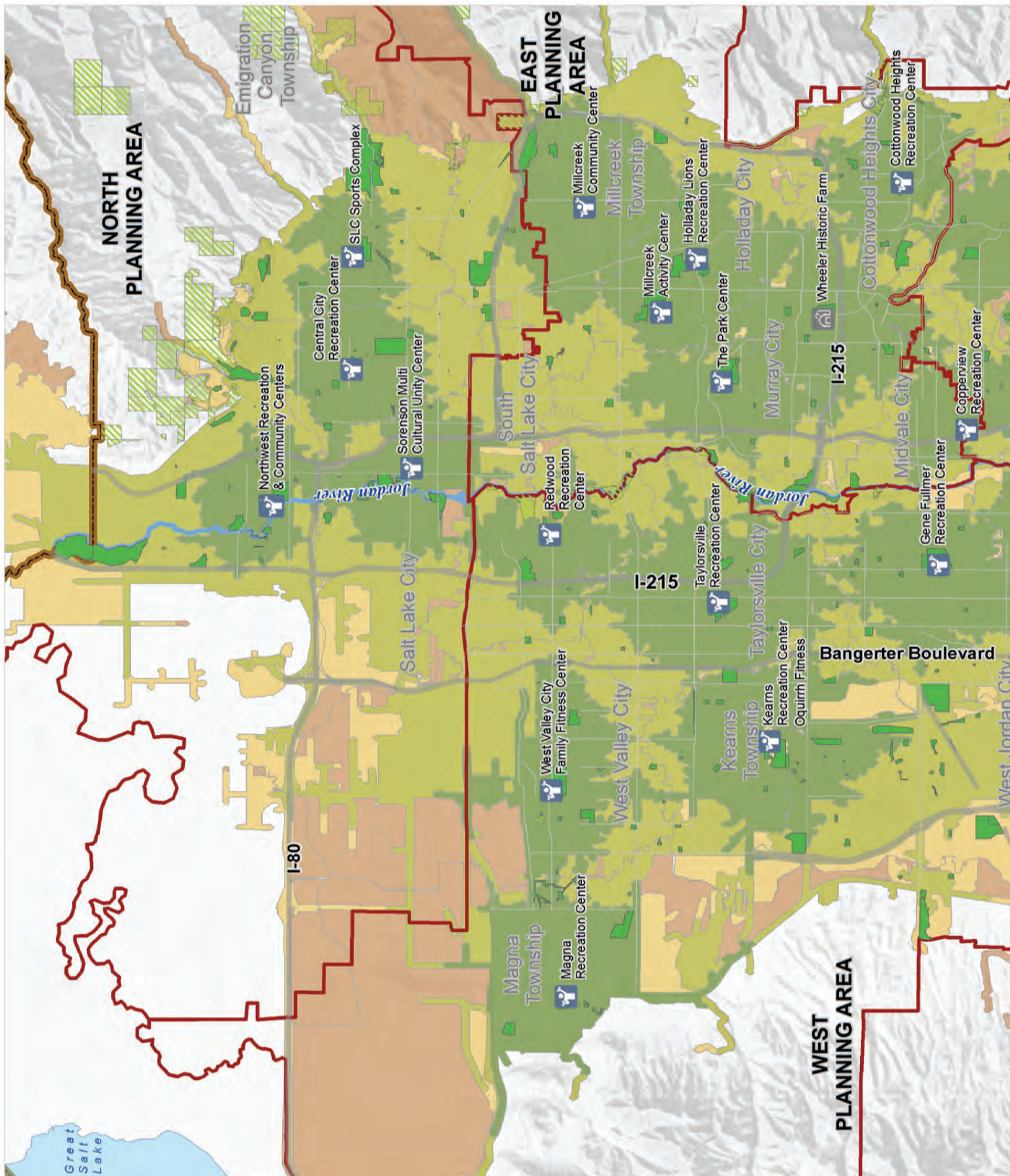




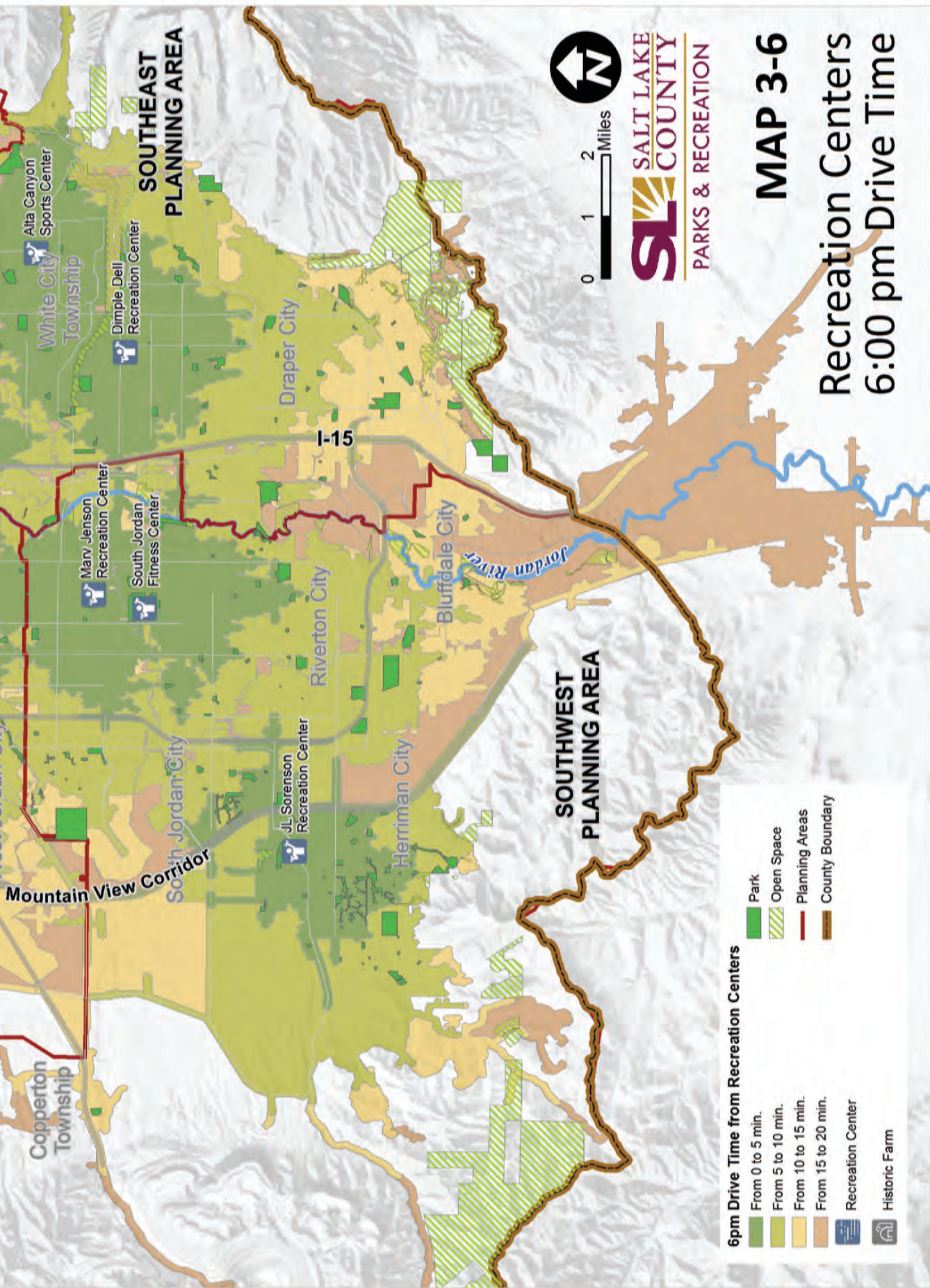


Map 3-5. Recreation Centers - 3-Mile Service Radius









Map 3-6. Recreation Centers - 6:00 pm Drive Time





County Ice Center

BYU campus is going to be rebuilt without adequate spectator seating. Providing this regional competition pool could be accomplished by expanding an existing recreation center or by incorporating it into one of the proposed new recreation centers.

## Ice Centers

Map 3-7 shows the five ice centers that are currently located in the County. Assuming a five-mile service radius as illustrated, the north, east, and west portions of the County are well-served by ice arenas, with a gap existing in the south end of the valley. The drive times illustrated in Map 3-8 further clarifies the situation.

Since there are a limited number of ice centers countywide, participants expect to travel to facilities. To help facilitate access, ice centers should be located on or near major transportation routes. Because ice centers are truly regional in nature and require travel by participants, they have a positive economic impact on the communities in which they are located.

In order for ice centers to function well, to be cost effective, and to accommodate programming requirements, they need to be built with at least two full-size ice sheets.

## Recommendation for Ice Centers

- Add a second ice sheet to the existing County Ice Center.
- Build a new two-sheet ice center in the underserved south portion of the valley in the southwest planning area.

## Athletic Fields

There is a valley-wide demand for sports fields in general, but particularly for multipurpose fields. The higher demand for multipurpose fields is obvious, as many sports can be played on the same field, including soccer, lacrosse, rugby, football, and T-ball as examples. This flexibility also extends to non-sporting events such as community town-days and movies in the park. Far more activity occurs on multipurpose fields than on ball diamonds, which are single-use facilities. As a result, more people are served by multipurpose fields.

Prior decades of youth programming has resulted in a new generation of adults demanding field space and time for various adult recreation activities. The trend toward “professionalization of youth sports” and the increased participation in competitive sports at a very young age is putting an ever-increasing demand on field space. Additionally, the emergence of what were once considered “non-traditional” sports such as lacrosse, rugby, and the explosion of youth soccer has also increased field demands. These new trends place greater pressure on existing fields.

It should be noted that although there is a shortage of municipally owned field space, some school fields are programmed for community play, mitigating the deficiency to some degree. They are, however, available at the discretion of the school districts and can be taken away.

In the current countywide park system almost every available flat lawn space or grassy area gets programmed at certain times of the year, which has given rise to the demand by non-sports park users for un-programmed lawn space, to be used for drop-in unorganized leisure activities.



While some planning areas have undeveloped land that could be acquired to build new fields, other planning areas have a severe shortage of potential land.

## Recommendations for Multipurpose Fields

- Build approximately 25 multipurpose fields that are currently master-planned in undeveloped portions of regional parks.
- Construct two or more full-size multipurpose fields in the same location whenever possible, in order to facilitate league play and user convenience. Additionally, it is important to build multipurpose fields adjacent to existing recreation facilities.
- On heavily used existing multipurpose fields, explore methods that will increase available playing time. Examples to be considered include providing higher levels of field maintenance, replacing low quality soil fields with specialized amended soil based fields, installing field lighting, building indoor field-houses, and exploring other turf options.

## Recommendations for Ball Diamonds

- Individual fields scattered on several sites do not accommodate league play and cannot host tournaments, which have a positive local economic impact. In order to avoid such shortcomings, in the future build only four or five-diamond complexes, designed to accommodate both adult and youth play.
- Ball diamonds are costly single-use facilities that require lots of land, and should, therefore, be developed judiciously with restraint. Because they are single-use and travelling to these facilities is common, ball diamond complexes can be located at sites outside of class one regional parks, in non-traditional settings such as commercial or industrial areas. Locating these facilities in such areas allows them to be illuminated at night, mitigating the negative impact on local residents when located in parks in residential neighborhoods. It should be noted that although the County and cities provide baseball diamonds, baseball programs are organized and run by private leagues.

- Adults travel countywide to play softball, so distribution is not as important as the number and availability of facilities. As a result, new softball complexes should have good access to regional highways. It should be noted, however, that for youth softball, the service radius is about four to five miles.

## Racquet Sports

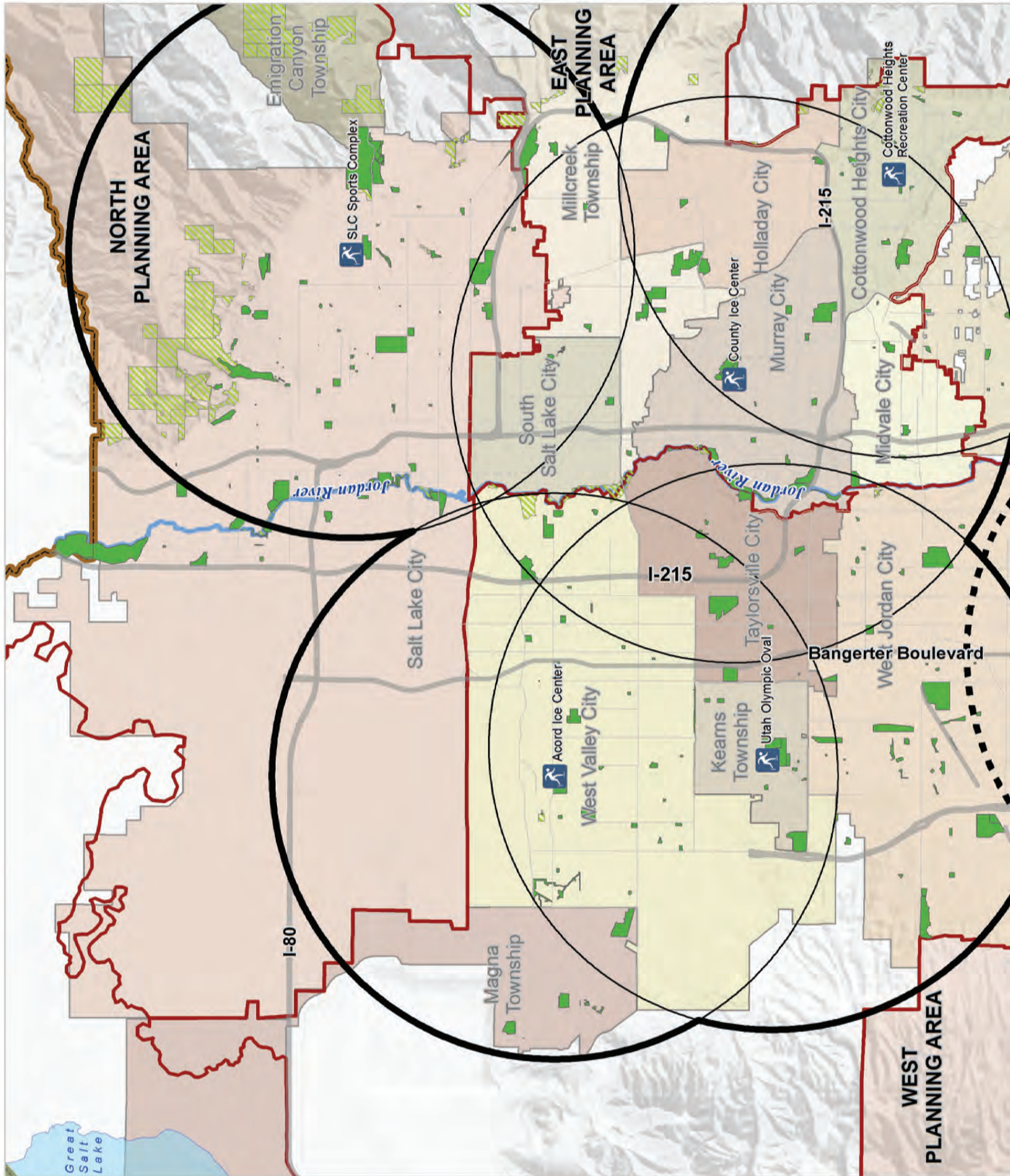
Racquet sports in the County have experienced various highs and lows in popularity over the years. Currently, the demand for tennis is increasing, but the facilities aren't adequately meeting the need.

Pickleball has experienced a recent upsurge in popularity. The sport is played by participants of all ages. It is currently being programmed indoors in several recreation centers, and some outdoor tennis courts have been striped for play.

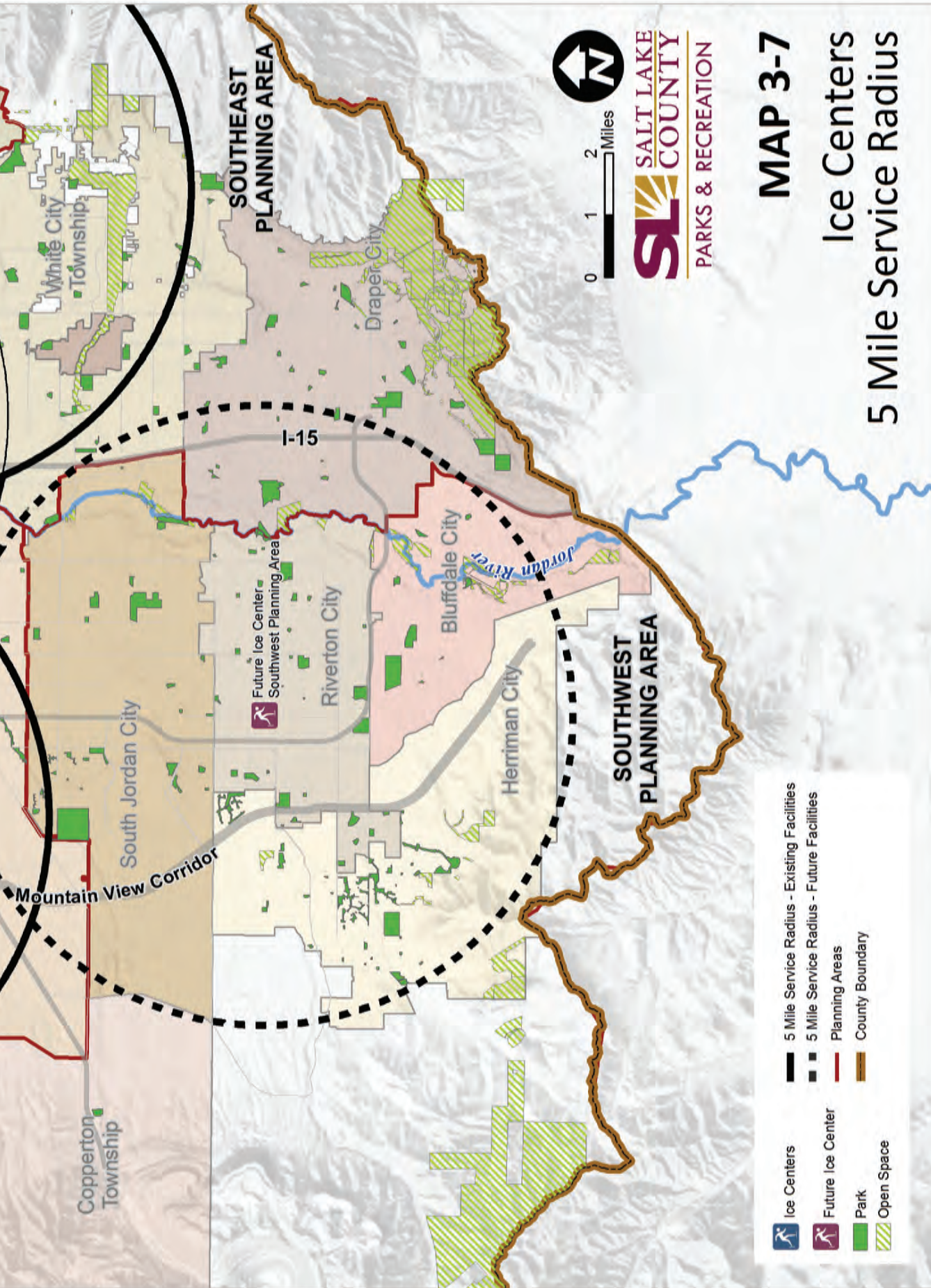
Stand-alone courts located in local parks are often under-utilized and cannot be programmed or used for tournaments. For facilities designed to host regional and national tournaments, consider providing on-site office and storage space to facilitate extensive daily programming when not being utilized for tournaments.

## Recommendations for Racquet Sports

- As a general rule, new racquet facilities should only be constructed in complexes with six or more courts.
- An outdoor pickleball complex of eight or more courts should be built in each of the five planning areas in the County at sites where tournaments could be hosted. However, the facilities should also be available for recreational programming and drop-in play.
- Outdoor pickleball courts of four or less in one location should be built thoughtfully with care not to over-build, until long term popularity and need can be better determined.

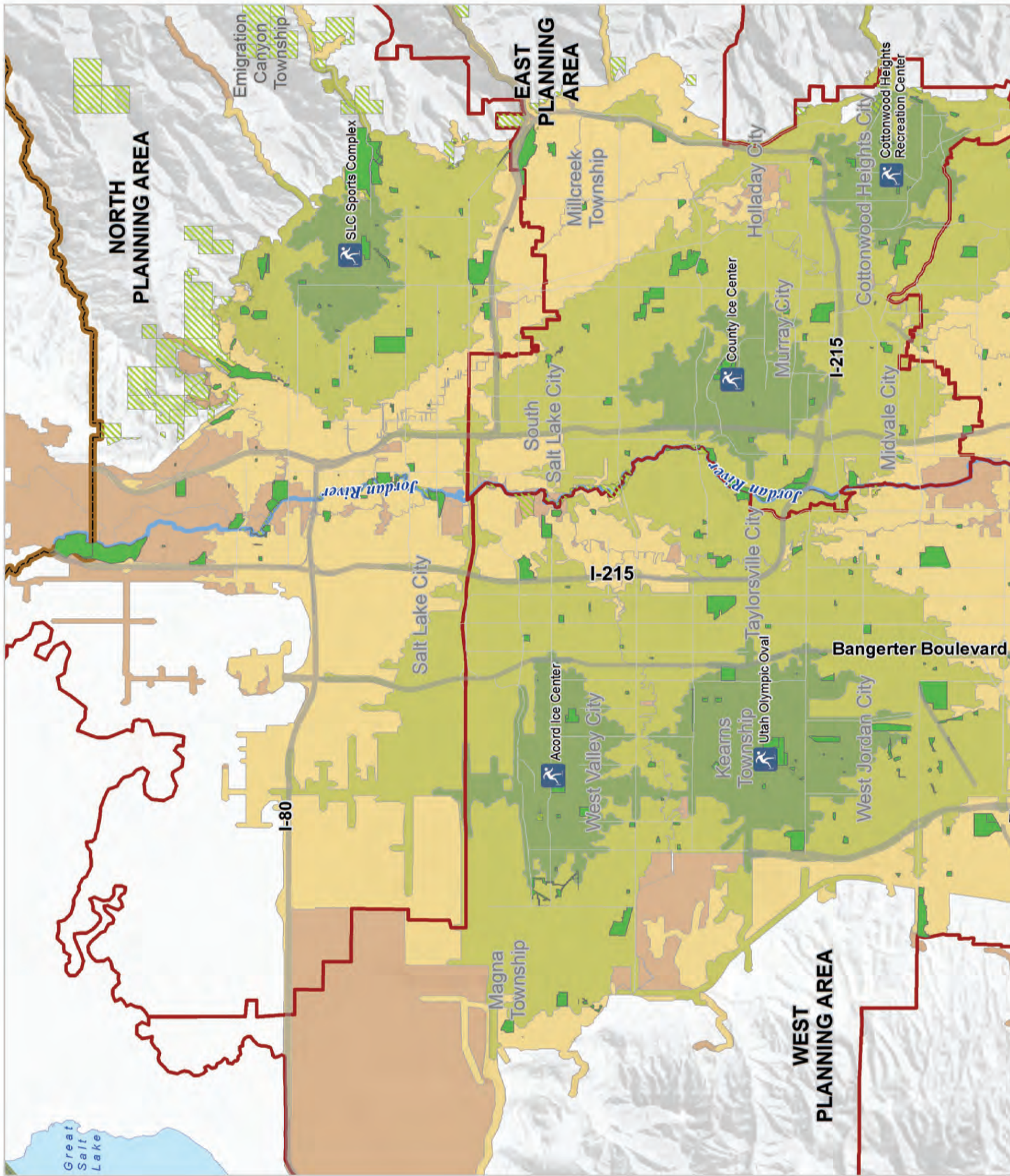




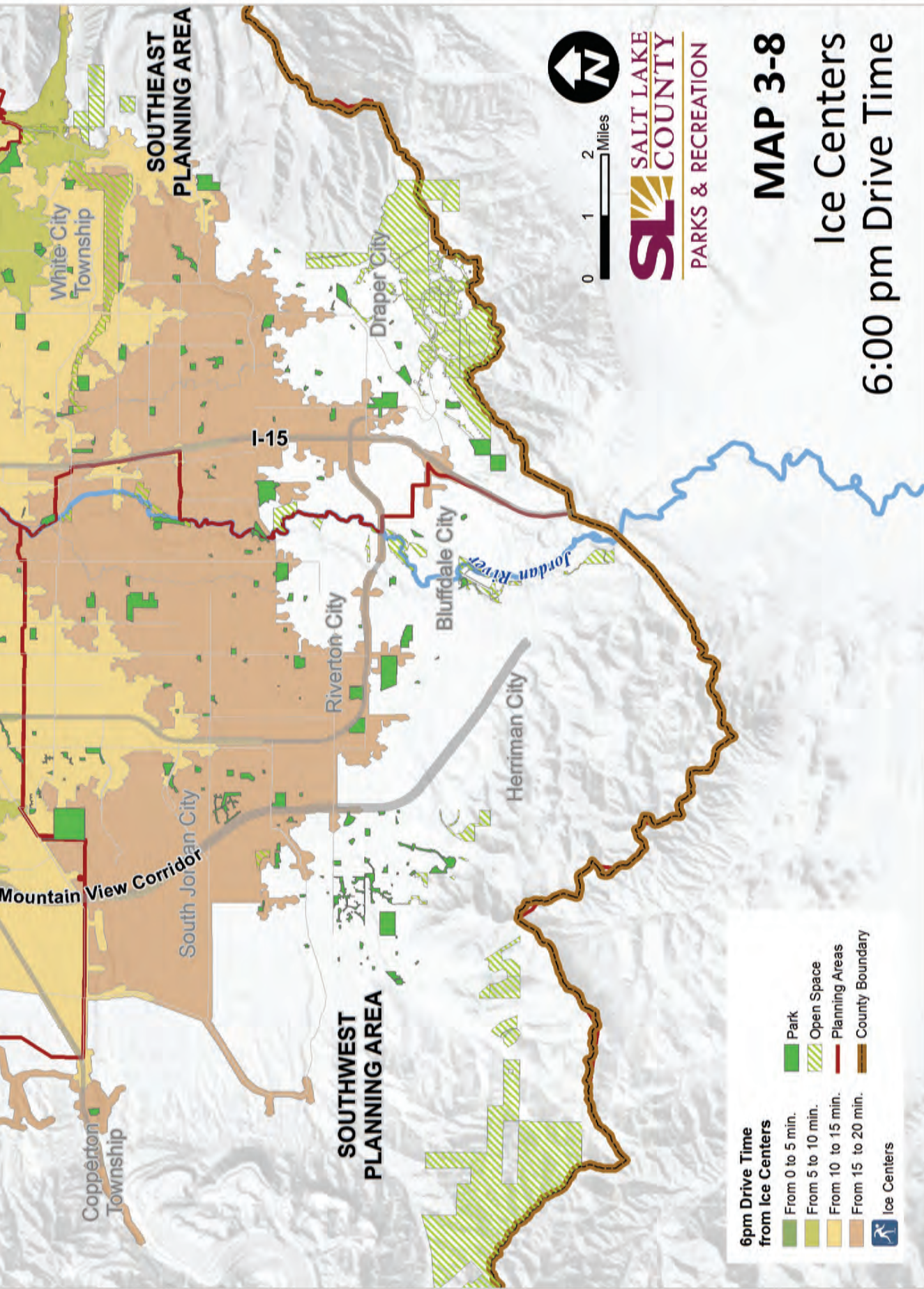


Map 3-7. Ice Centers - 5-Mile Service Radius









Map 3-8. Ice Centers - 6:00 pm Drive Time

# Planning Areas



*When assessing the needs of parks and recreation services it is important to keep in mind that the sum value of all parks and recreation providers must be considered. This includes all County and city owned recreational assets, school district resources, and service area facilities.*

This chapter looks at each of the five planning areas individually, adding detail to the countywide parks and recreation facilities discussion in Chapter Three.

- North Planning Area
- East Planning Area
- Southeast Planning Area
- Southwest Planning Area
- West Planning Area

Dividing the County into smaller planning units in this manner makes it easier to understand the unique needs of the County by geographic sub-districts. A list of recommended actions concludes each planning area section, and the chapter ends with a summary of all recommended actions.

## Needs Based on More than Statistical Data Alone

When assessing the needs of parks and recreation services it is important to keep in mind that the sum value of all parks and recreation providers must be considered. This includes all County and city owned recreational assets, school district resources, and service area facilities. Statistical data alone, whether defining population characteristics, park and open space acreage and distribution, or raw resource assets, is only one factor to be taken into consideration when assessing the recreational needs of a planning area. Other factors also weigh heavily into analyzing recreation amenity needs: geographic distribution, proximity to other amenities, ethnic preferences, demographics, etc.





Figure 4-1. The Five Park Planning Areas.

## North Planning Area

(Emigration Canyon Township, Salt Lake City)

### Planning Area Characteristics

As illustrated in Figure 4-1, the North Planning Area stretches from the shores of the Great Salt Lake to the canyons and slopes of the Wasatch Mountains, with the Jordan River dividing the area into east and west segments. The area encompasses two political jurisdictions—Salt Lake City, the oldest and most populous city in the County; and Emigration Canyon Township, one of the smallest communities in the valley.



Northwest Recreation Center

## Age Characteristics by Planning Area

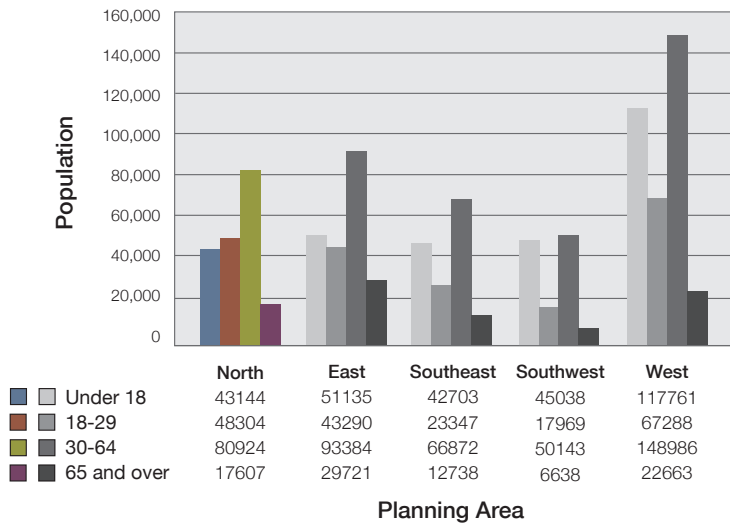


Figure 4-2. Age Characteristics of the North Planning Area in comparison to the Other Planning Areas

The planning area includes a good mix and distribution of parks. Key examples of major facilities include City Creek Canyon, Parley's Historic Park, This Is The Place Heritage Park, Liberty Park, and Sugar House Park. Neighborhood and class two regional parks are well-distributed throughout the area, although they tend to be smaller and less frequent in the northern extremes. Each of the regional parks is unique, mixing traditional uses such as sports fields with specialty uses such as swimming pools, historic features and natural open space areas. On the other end of the scale are nearly 200 acres of small neighborhood parks, which provide a range of amenities such as sports fields, open lawn areas, and playgrounds. Personal safety in the parks has been identified as a concern of park users, especially in the western portion of the study area.

Salt Lake County operates all of Salt Lake City's aquatics and ice facilities (Salt Lake City Sports Complex, Steiner West Swimming Pool), and it operates all of the city's recreation sports programs. The County also owns

Table 4-1. North Planning Area Demographic Characteristics

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2014 Population             | 192,767 |
| Projected 2030 Population   | 235,561 |
| Projected Net Gain          | 42,794  |
| Total Projected Growth Rate | 22.20%  |

and operates Northwest Recreation Center, Northwest Community Center, Central City Recreation Center, and Fairmont Aquatics Center. These cooperative arrangements are mutually beneficial and effective in reducing costs and eliminating duplication of services.

Table 4-1 shows that the North Planning Area population was 192,767 in 2014, and is projected to increase 22% by 2030, gaining nearly 43,000 additional residents in the process, for a total population of 235,561. While at first glance the projected growth seems high, it is comparable to most other planning areas, with the exception of the southwest and west which are projected to grow at higher rates during the same period.

Age characteristics provide a picture of the potential users of park and recreation facilities and what their needs might be. As illustrated in Figure 4-2, the North Planning Area is maturing, with residents over 30 years of age exceeding the number of children and young adults. This trend is also supported by the lower prevalence of children under 18 years of age in comparison to the other four planning areas.

Based on this assessment and after factoring in the built-out condition, it can be predicted that the area will continue to mature in the future, in contrast to the West and Southwest planning areas. This makes it particularly important to strike a balance between the needs of older and younger groups as resources for parks and recreation facilities are allocated.

## Inventory of Existing Facilities

Table 4-2 shows park acreage in the planning area in 2014, projecting it forward to 2030. This is achieved by applying the countywide standard of five acres of park land for every 1,000 residents (see Chapter Two for details.) Based on this calculation, the planning area had a shortfall of 204 acres in 2014, which is projected to increase to a deficit of 418 acres by 2030, assuming no new parks are developed during the ensuing years. While there is currently a deficiency in park acreage, it is relatively small when compared to other planning areas. By 2030, however, the shortage will be more significant and should be a cause for concern. The shortfall in park land is partially mitigated by the close proximity of recreational areas found in the adjacent Wasatch Mountains.



Table 4-2. North Planning Area - Park Acreage Needs Assessment based on 2010 U.S. Census Data  
(Includes County, City, and Service Area Class One Regional Parks, Class Two Regional Parks, and Neighborhood Parks)

| Existing        |                       |             |                       | Projected       |                       |             |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2014 Population | 2014 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess or (Shortfall) | 2030 Population | 2030 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess/ (Shortfall) |
| 192,767         | 964                   | 760         | 204                   | 235,561         | 1,178                 | 760         | (418)               |

Table 4-3 indicates that the planning area generally meets or exceeds current recreation development standards and that by 2030 this condition is projected to remain relatively stable.

- There is public perception that some parks and recreation facilities in the North Planning Area are unsafe. This issue should be studied to explore methods for making parks and recreation amenities safer.

## Recommendations

Although park acreage deficiencies are not large, meeting established standards will be a challenge in this planning area, now and in the future. It will be particularly difficult to make a substantial dent in the park land deficit, because large tracts of suitable land are almost non-existent. Nevertheless, attempts to rectify shortfalls should continue.

The following are recommended actions for this planning area, to better serve area residents in the provision of parks and recreation facilities.

### Major Park and Recreation Facilities

- Develop a new class one regional park in Salt Lake City west of I-15, to include sports fields, trails, a water playground, passive recreation, etc.
- Renovate the old pool space in the Northwest Community Center into a multipurpose room.

### Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements

- In the future, as the demographics of the downtown area evolve, undertake a study to determine the feasibility/desirability of replacing Central City Recreation Center with a modern full-service recreation center at a nearby location.
- Study the feasibility of creating a water rowing facility on the Jordan River Surplus Canal.



Bonneville Shoreline Trail

Table 4-3. North Planning Area Recreation Amenities - Existing in 2014/ Projected for 2030

| North Planning Area                          | Quantity SLCo + Cities | Distribution: 1 per | SLCO Standard | Meets Standard? | 2030 Future Distribution: 1 per | Meets Standard in 2030 ? |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Recreation Centers                           | 6                      | 32,128              | 75,000        | yes             | 86,350                          | yes                      |
| Swimming Pools - indoor                      | 4                      | 48,192              | 75,000        | yes             | 58,890                          | yes                      |
| Swimming Pools & Water Playgrounds - outdoor | 2                      | 96,384              | 75,000        | no              | 117,781                         | no                       |
| Ice Rinks                                    | 2                      | 96,384              | 300,000       | yes             | 117,781                         | yes                      |
| Golf   | 8                      | 24,096              | 75,000        | yes             | 29,445                          | yes                      |
| Multipurpose Sports Fields                   | 51                     | 3,780               | 5,000         | yes             | 4,619                           | yes                      |
| Baseball Diamonds                            | 24                     | 8,032               | 10,000        | yes             | 9,815                           | yes                      |
| Softball Diamonds                            | 23                     | 8,381               | 15,000        | yes             | 10,242                          | yes                      |
| Tennis Courts                                | 79                     | 2,440               | 5,000         | yes             | 2,982                           | yes                      |
| Basketball Courts                            | 16                     | 12,048              | 7,000         | no              | 14,723                          | no                       |
| Destination Playgrounds                      | 1                      | 192,767             | 200,000       | yes             | 235,561                         | yes                      |
| Skate Parks                                  | 3                      | 64,256              | 50,000        | yes             | 78,520                          | yes                      |
| Volleyball Courts                            | 7                      | 27,538              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Off-Leash Dog Parks                          | 7                      | 27,538              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Disc Golf Courses                            | 0                      | 0                   | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | NA                       |
| Pickleball                                   | 0                      | 0                   | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |





*Evergreen Park*

## East Planning Area

*(Cottonwood Heights City, Holladay City, Midvale City, Millcreek Township, Murray City, South Salt Lake City)*

### Planning Area Characteristics

The East Planning Area extends from the Jordan River to the upper reaches of Millcreek Canyon, and from Parley’s Canyon in the north to Little Cottonwood Creek at the furthest point south. It is geographically diverse, rising dramatically from the valley floor at its western extents and encompassing the foothills and steep slopes of the Wasatch Mountains at its highest points in the east. The planning area encompasses the entire Millcreek Canyon drainage, including open spaces and public lands.

*Table 4-4. East Planning Area Demographic Characteristics*

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2014 Population             | 225,072 |
| Projected 2030 Population   | 287,372 |
| Projected Net Gain          | 62,300  |
| Total Projected Growth Rate | 27.70%  |

As indicated in Table 4-4, the East Planning Area population was 225,072 in 2014, and is projected to increase by nearly 28% by 2030, for a gain of 62,300 residents and a total population of 287,372. The projected growth is moderate, similar to the North Planning Area.

Figure 4-3 shows that the planning area has matured at a faster rate than the North Planning Area, with residents over age 30 significantly exceeding younger age groups. In fact, the East Planning Area is by far the oldest area in the County, and is likely to continue to age when the limited development opportunities and relatively low

### Age Characteristics by Planning Area

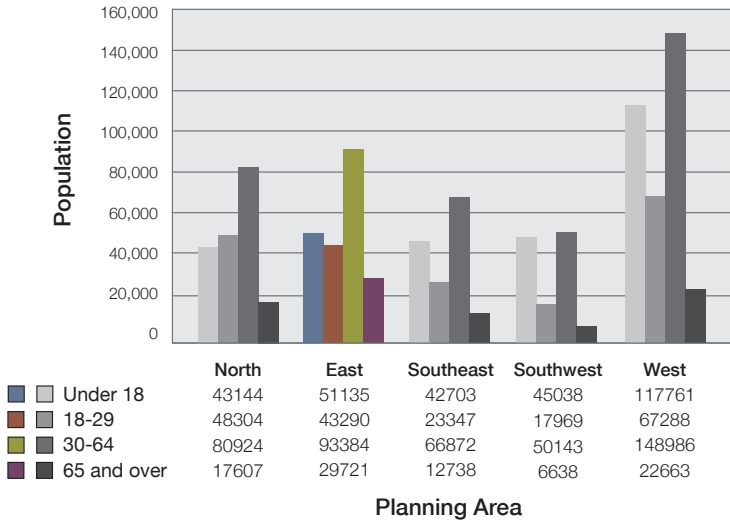


Figure 4-3. Age Characteristics of the East Planning Area in Comparison to the Other Planning Areas

projected growth rates in the area are applied. This makes it important to strike a balance between the needs of younger and older populations when making decisions regarding parks and recreation facility investments.

### Inventory of Existing Facilities

Based on these calculations, the planning area had a shortfall of 386 acres in 2014, which is projected to increase to a significant deficit of 698 acres by 2030, assuming no new parks are developed during the ensuing years.

Despite the park land acreage shortage, further examination reveals that there are no large open tracts of land available for acquisition of class one regional parks. The lack of available land means that residents in the east community will not have the option of increasing park and/or open space acreage through additional large land acquisitions. This not

only restricts area residents' personal recreational opportunities in the planning area, but also limits the County's ability to provide structured recreational programming for area residents.

Table 4-6 indicates that the planning area generally meets or exceeds current recreation development standards, with the exception of multipurpose sports fields, tennis courts, destination playgrounds, skate parks, softball diamonds and basketball courts. By 2030 this condition is projected to remain stable.

### Alternatives to Land Procurement

There is an irrefutable need for additional parks and open space in the East Planning Area, but there are no large undeveloped 60 – 120 acre parcels of land available for procurement and development into regional parks, a fact that has been verified through meticulous examination of recent aerial photography. This requires that alternatives to land procurement be investigated to provide leisure recreation opportunities and structured recreation programming.

In an effort to alleviate shortfalls in recreation amenities, the County and cities of the East Planning Areas have partnered with local school districts, sharing resources and facilities in a manner that allows community recreational needs to be better met. Granite and Canyons school districts have entered in inter-local agreements with the County to utilize middle school and high school gyms, tennis courts, and track and field spaces for various youth programs. The Murray School District works cooperatively with Murray City's recreation department, allowing many of the district's facilities to be used for the city's recreation programs. Murray School District also has an interlocal agreement to provide a learn-to-skate program for kids 3rd-6th grades at the County Ice Center.

Table 4-5. East Planning Area - Park Acreage Needs Assessment based on 2010 U.S. Census Data (includes County, City and Service Area Parks)

| Existing        |                       |             |                       | Projected       |                       |             |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2014 Population | 2014 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess or (Shortfall) | 2030 Population | 2030 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess/ (Shortfall) |
| 225,072         | 1,125                 | 739         | (386)                 | 287,372         | 1,437                 | 739         | (698)               |



Table 4-6. East Planning Area Recreation Amenities - Existing in 2014/ Projected for 2030

| East Planning Area                         | Quantity SLCo + Cities | Distribution: 1 per | SLCO Standard | Meets Standard? | 2030 Future Distribution: 1 per | Meets Standard in 2030? |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Recreation Centers                         | 5                      | 45,014              | 75,000        | yes             | 86,350                          | yes                     |
| Swimming Pool - indoor                     | 3                      | 75,024              | 75,000        | yes             | 95,791                          | yes                     |
| Swimming Pool & Water Playground - outdoor | 4                      | 56,268              | 75,000        | yes             | 71,843                          | yes                     |
| Ice Rinks                                  | 2                      | 112,536             | 300,000       | yes             | 143,686                         | yes                     |
| Golf                                       | 3                      | 75,024              | 75,000        | yes             | 95,791                          | yes                     |
| Multipurpose Sports Fields                 | 19                     | 11,846              | 5,000         | no              | 15,125                          | no                      |
| Baseball Diamonds                          | 22                     | 10,231              | 10,000        | yes             | 13,062                          | yes                     |
| Softball Diamonds                          | 13                     | 17,313              | 15,000        | no              | 22,106                          | no                      |
| Tennis Courts                              | 32                     | 7,034               | 5,000         | no              | 8,980                           | no                      |
| Basketball Courts                          | 12                     | 18,756              | 7,000         | no              | 23,948                          | no                      |
| Destination Playgrounds                    | 0                      | 0                   | 200,000       | no              | 0                               | no                      |
| Skate Parks                                | 3                      | 75,024              | 50,000        | no              | 95,791                          | no                      |
| Volleyball Courts                          | 33                     | 6,820               | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                     |
| Off-Leash Dog Parks                        | 2                      | 112,536             | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                     |
| Disc Golf Courses                          | 1                      | 225,072             | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                     |
| Pickleball                                 | 4                      | 56,268              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                     |

The Cottonwood Heights Recreation Service Area is also a key provider, offering facilities and programs specifically requested by area residents. Funding agreements with the County have also greatly benefited the service area, providing capital infusions to help build and maintain park and recreation facilities in this area.

In past years Granite School District has closed a number of elementary schools, particularly on the east side of the planning area, some of which have

not remained in the public domain. It would be highly advantageous for the County or cities to acquire school sites selected for closure in portions of the community where critical park needs may otherwise never be met. Such sites could be converted into parks, ball complexes, athletic fields and other park-like uses, and consequently remain in public use.

Another option to consider is the possibility of the County entering into cooperative exchange agreements with the



*Canyon Rim Park*

school districts, wherein maintenance of some school grounds could be performed by the County in trade for use of the facilities during after-school hours and on weekends. It may not be feasible at all schools, but holds great potential at some.

## Recommendations

Meeting established standards for park land and recreational facilities will continue to be a challenge in the East Planning Area. It will be difficult to make a substantial dent in the parkland deficit, due to the large gap that already exists and the lack of available sites for developing new parks and facilities, requiring a focus on cooperation with the school districts and the recreation service area to help accommodate future needs.

The following is a targeted list of improvements proposed for the East Planning Area.

### Major Park and Recreation Facilities

- Complete development of Big Cottonwood Regional Park, especially the several multipurpose fields, as master-planned.

- Complete development of Wheeler Farm including re-master-planning to enhance agricultural, environmental, cultural education, and recreation opportunities.
- Add an ice sheet to County Ice Center.
- Purchase the Millcreek Activity Center property from Granite School District to ensure that the land remains in recreational use.
- Continue to acquire land needed to build the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.
- Improve community connections to the Jordan River Trail and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.
- Build a large water playground in the Holladay Lions section of Big Cottonwood Regional Park.
- Install an outdoor pickleball facility in Big Cottonwood Regional Park at Holladay Lions Recreation Center.
- Update the Little Cottonwood Park (Crestwood Park) master plan to explore the inclusion of additional recreational amenities, and consider replacing the old neighborhood swimming pool with a water playground.

### Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements

- Explore the possibility of partnering with Utah State University Extension at Wheeler Farm to create outdoor educational programs.
- On heavily used existing multipurpose fields, explore methods that will increase available playing time. Examples to be considered include providing higher levels of field maintenance; replacing low quality soil fields with specialized amended soil based fields; installing field lighting; building indoor field-houses; and exploring other turf options.





## Southeast Planning Area

(Draper City, Sandy City, Town of Alta, White City Township)

### Planning Area Characteristics

The Southeast Planning Area extends from the Jordan River in the west to the Wasatch Mountains in the east, and from Big Cottonwood Creek in the north to the south County border. The planning area encompasses Little Cottonwood Canyon and Bell Canyon in their entirety, various high mountain peaks and ridges, rugged side canyons and diverse alpine landscapes such as Albion Basin, located near the apex of Little Cottonwood Canyon near the Town of Alta.

Table 4-7. Southeast Planning Area Demographic Characteristics

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2014 Population             | 147,372 |
| Projected 2030 Population   | 177,682 |
| Projected Net Gain          | 30,310  |
| Total Projected Growth Rate | 20.57%  |

Table 4-7 indicates that the Southeast Planning Area population was 147,372 in 2014, which is expected to rise to 177,682 by 2030. This is an increase of 30,130 people, representing a net gain of nearly 21%. The corresponding annual average growth rate is under two-percent, which is quite moderate when compared to the County as a whole, and very low when compared to the west and southwest areas. The growth rate is a direct reflection of a maturing population and development pattern.

Figure 4-4 indicates that the Southeast Planning Area falls somewhere between the east and north planning areas when it comes to general age characteristics. The number

## Age Characteristics by Planning Area

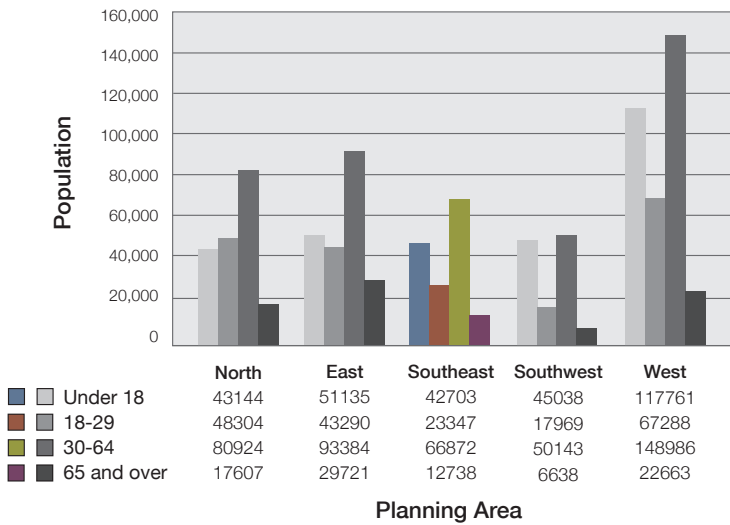


Figure 4-4. Age Characteristics of the Southeast Planning Area in Comparison to the Other Planning Areas

of residents over age 30 surpasses those who are younger, although to a lesser degree than in the east and north planning areas. This pattern of aging and maturation is projected to extend into the future, although at rates that are lower than either the north or east planning areas. This is primarily the result of being located in the far southern portion of the County, where development started much later than in the north and east.

### Inventory of Existing Facilities

Table 4-8 shows the statistical shortage of park acreage in 2014 and projects it to 2030; this is achieved by applying the countywide standard of five acres of park land for every 1,000 residents (See Chapter Two).

Table 4-8. Southeast Planning Area - Park Acreage Needs Assessment based on 2010 U.S. Census Data (includes County, City and Service Area Parks)

| Existing        |                          |             |                          | Projected       |                          |             |                        |
|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 2014 Population | 2014 Needs<br>5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess or<br>(Shortfall) | 2030 Population | 2030 Needs<br>5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess/<br>(Shortfall) |
| 147,372         | 737                      | 583         | (154)                    | 177,682         | 888                      | 583         | (305)                  |

Based on these calculations, the planning area had a shortfall of 154 acres in 2014, which is projected to increase to a deficit of 305 acres by 2030, assuming no new parks are developed during the ensuing years. When viewed from a countywide perspective, these shortages are modest, although effort should still be taken to close the deficiency gap, because the need for more park amenities such as sports fields is seemingly insatiable.

Careful scrutiny indicates that very few, if any, large tracts of suitable land for regional parks remain in the planning area. Every opportunity should be exercised to acquire more park land, because opportunities will continue to diminish. In order to meet minimum park development standards, joint efforts with the Canyon School District should continue to be nurtured.

Table 4-9 shows that the most significant recreation facility deficiency is the absence of an ice center in the southern part of the County.

### Recommendations

The following are specific actions that will help meet the most critical needs for parks and recreation facilities in the study area.

#### Major Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Build a new recreation facility in Draper City, including gymnasium space, fitness components, and similar amenities.



Table 4-9. Southeast Planning Area Recreation Amenities - Existing in 2014/Projected for 2030.

| Southeast Planning Area                    | Quantity SLCo + Cities | Distribution: 1 per | SLCO Standard | Meets Standard? | 2030 Future Distribution: 1 per | Meets Standard in 2030 ? |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Recreation Centers                         | 2                      | 73,686              | 75,000        | yes             | 86,350                          | yes                      |
| Swimming Pool - indoor                     | 1                      | 147,372             | 75,000        | no              | 177,682                         | no                       |
| Swimming Pool & Water Playground - outdoor | 2                      | 73,686              | 75,000        | yes             | 88,841                          | yes                      |
| Ice Rinks                                  | 0                      | 0                   | 300,000       | no              | 0                               | no                       |
| Golf                                       | 2                      | 73,686              | 75,000        | yes             | 88,841                          | yes                      |
| Multipurpose Sports Fields                 | 39                     | 3,779               | 5,000         | yes             | 4,556                           | yes                      |
| Baseball Diamonds                          | 23                     | 6,407               | 10,000        | yes             | 7,725                           | yes                      |
| Softball Diamonds                          | 12                     | 12,281              | 15,000        | yes             | 14,807                          | yes                      |
| Tennis Courts                              | 36                     | 4,094               | 5,000         | yes             | 4,936                           | yes                      |
| Basketball Courts                          | 23                     | 6,407               | 7,000         | yes             | 7,725                           | yes                      |
| Destination Playgrounds                    | 0                      | 0                   | 200,000       | no              | 0                               | no                       |
| Skate Parks                                | 2                      | 73,686              | 50,000        | no              | 88,841                          | no                       |
| Volleyball Courts                          | 12                     | 12,281              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Off-Leash Dog Parks                        | 2                      | 73,686              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Disc Golf Courses                          | 0                      | 0                   | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Pickleball                                 | 2                      | 73,686              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |



*Geologic View Park*



*Dimple Dell Recreation Center*



*Flight Park*

- Improve community connections to the Jordan River Trail and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.
- Continue to acquire land needed to build the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.

### **Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements**

- Consider the feasibility of enclosing/covering the Draper outdoor swimming pool, or adding water toys, to encourage better attendance.
- Study the feasibility and advisability of building a new covered pool at Copperview Community Center, in place of the softball diamonds.
- Little undeveloped park land is available to build multipurpose sports field complexes with more than one full-sized field. Due to the shortage of field space, consideration should be given to other options: lighting existing sports fields to extend hours of operation, building field-houses to extend seasons and hours of operation, overlapping sports fields to provide opportunities for a wider range of users, maintaining fields at a higher level, and exploring various turf options.
- Consider developing a nature center in Dimple Dell Regional Park, but careful study of feasibility is required to ensure that there is adequate public support and that program funding is available.





# J. L. SORENSON RECREATION CENTER

Table 4-10. Southwest Planning Area Demographic Characteristics

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2014 Population             | 135,568 |
| Projected 2030 Population   | 228,432 |
| Projected Net Gain          | 92,864  |
| Total Projected Growth Rate | 68.50%  |

## Southwest Planning Area

(Bluffdale City, Copperton Township, Herriman City, Riverton City, South Jordan City)

### Planning Area Characteristics

As illustrated in Figure 4-1, the Southwest Planning Area is comprised of four cities, one township, and one unincorporated community. It stretches from the Jordan River to the Oquirrh Mountain foothills, between West Jordan City and the county line to the south.

The planning area 2014 population was 135,568, which is projected to rise to 228,432 by 2030, an increase of 93,864 and a growth rate of 68.5%. For the past decade this planning area has been the fastest-growing place in

the County and the region, and this condition is expected to continue through 2030. The projected 2014-2030 growth rate is predicted to be approximately three times greater than the corresponding rates for the north and southeast planning areas, and 250% higher than the east planning area. As a result, extraordinary pressure will continue to bear on this area, requiring continued vigilance and careful planning to ensure that existing and future park and recreation facilities needs are met.

Figure 4-5 confirms that the Southwest Planning Area is young, with the number of residents under age 30 surpassing the older groups. The rapid rate of growth coupled with this young profile indicates that park and

## Age Characteristics by Planning Area

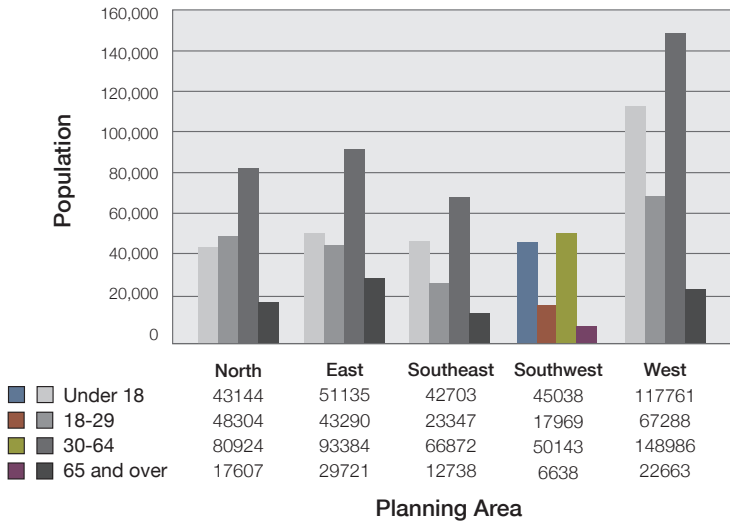


Figure 4-5. Age Characteristics of the Southwest Planning Area in Comparison to the Other Planning Areas

recreation needs will increase at a much faster rate for young people than older ages, calling for a focus on the needs of younger residents in the foreseeable future.

### Inventory of Existing Facilities

As illustrated in Table 4-11, the Southwest Planning Area exceeded the minimum standard for park land in 2014, but by 2030 this excess is expected to be usurped by a significant deficit in park acreage.

Large tracts of land suitable for new regional parks are quickly disappearing in this area, the result of rapid residential and commercial land development. Without the acquisition of land for large park sites, there will be a shortage of parks and recreational opportunities in the future.

Table 4-11. Southwest Planning Area - Park Acreage Needs Assessment based on 2010 U.S. Census Data (includes County, City and Service Area Parks).

| Existing        |                       |             |                       | Projected       |                       |             |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2014 Population | 2014 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess or (Shortfall) | 2030 Population | 2030 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess/ (Shortfall) |
| 135,568         | 678                   | 959         | 281                   | 228,432         | 1,142                 | 959         | (183)               |

Table 4-12 indicates that in the future there will also be a shortage of several recreation amenities: a recreation center, ice arena, multi-purpose sports fields, ball diamonds, basketball courts, and water playgrounds.

Great strides have been made in recent years to bring this planning area closer to minimum facility development standards, but few large 60-120 acre parcels suitable for developing class one regional park land remain. Time is of the essence when it comes to acquiring park sites, both due to the disappearing resource and increasing land costs. Moving forward into the future the County will need to join forces with local municipalities pooling resources to ensure that new parks and recreation amenities are available to meet projected needs.

In addition to land acquisition efforts, partnerships should be maintained and strengthened with the Jordan School District to help meet public needs for sports fields, gymnasiums, and recreational amenities. The school district has partnered with the County for many years, sharing resources and facilities that allow community recreational needs to be met in ways otherwise not possible.

### Recommendations

In order to meet the most pressing needs for parks and recreation facilities, the following actions should be implemented.

#### Major Parks and Recreation Facilities

- Finish development of existing class one regional parks—Welby Regional Park (140 acres undeveloped) and Southwest Regional Park (40 acres undeveloped)



Table 4-12. Southwest Planning Area Recreation Amenities - Existing in 2014/Projected for 2030

| Southwest Planning Area                      | Quantity SLCo + Cities | Distribution: 1 per | SLCO Standard | Meets Standard? | 2030 Future Distribution: 1 per | Meets Standard in 2030 ? |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Recreation Centers                           | 3                      | 45,189              | 75,000        | yes             | 86,350                          | no                       |
| Swimming Pool - indoor                       | 3                      | 45,189              | 75,000        | yes             | 76,144                          | yes                      |
| Swimming Pool and Water Playground - outdoor | 9                      | 15,063              | 75,000        | yes             | 25,381                          | yes                      |
| Ice Rinks                                    | 0                      | 0                   | 300,000       | no              | 0                               | no                       |
| Golf   | 3                      | 45,189              | 75,000        | yes             | 76,144                          | yes                      |
| Multipurpose Sports Fields                   | 41                     | 3,307               | 5,000         | yes             | 5,572                           | yes                      |
| Baseball Diamonds                            | 18                     | 7,532               | 10,000        | yes             | 12,691                          | yes                      |
| Softball Diamonds                            | 12                     | 11,297              | 15,000        | yes             | 19,036                          | yes                      |
| Tennis Courts                                | 18                     | 7,532               | 5,000         | no              | 12,691                          | no                       |
| Basketball Courts                            | 23                     | 5,894               | 7,000         | yes             | 9,932                           | yes                      |
| Destination Playgrounds                      | 1                      | 135,568             | 200,000       | yes             | 228,432                         | yes                      |
| Skate Parks                                  | 3                      | 45,189              | 50,000        | yes             | 76,144                          | yes                      |
| Volleyball Courts                            | 18                     | 7,532               | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Off-Leash Dog Parks                          | 0                      | 0                   | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Disc Golf Courses                            | 0                      | 0                   | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Pickleball                                   | 16                     | 8,473               | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |



*Western Springs Park*

- Acquire land, through purchase or partnerships with municipalities, suitable for the future development of one or two large class one regional parks, with at least one located in the southwestern portion of the planning area.
- Acquire land, through purchase or partnerships, for a new 18-hole golf course, for future development.
- Plan for the future development of a recreation center in Bluffdale area, which should include an indoor swimming pool with leisure and competition components.
- Plan for the future development of a two-sheet ice arena near a major transportation route, to provide good countywide access.



*Jordan River Trail*



*Open Space*

- Create a large water playground in western Herriman in a class one regional park.
- Build a multipurpose field adjacent to JL Sorenson Recreation Center.

### **Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements**

- Study the feasibility and advisability of closing Marv Jensen Recreation Center and using the land for additional parking to serve the multipurpose fields, or for another park purpose.
- Consider partnering with South Jordan City to expand their recreation center swimming pool to include competition lanes.





Oquirrh Park

Table 4-13. West Planning Area Demographic Characteristics

|                             |         |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| 2014 Population             | 442,510 |
| Projected 2030 Population   | 529,979 |
| Projected Net Gain          | 87,469  |
| Total Projected Growth Rate | 19.77%  |

## West Planning Area

(Kearns Township, Magna Township, Taylorsville City, West Jordan City, West Valley City)

### Planning Area Characteristics

The West Planning Area stretches from the Jordan River to the Oquirrh Mountains and from South Jordan City to Salt Lake City. It is the largest of the five planning areas geographically, and also the youngest area in the County.

As illustrated in Table 4-13, the planning area population was 442,510 in 2014, with a projected 2030 population of 529,979. This represents a gain of 87,467 residents and a total growth rate of approximately 20%. While projected growth is comparatively moderate, the large existing and projected population of the area results in a higher anticipated need for recreation amenities. This need is further highlighted by the fact that there are more children in the West Planning Area than the north,

## Age Characteristics by Planning Area

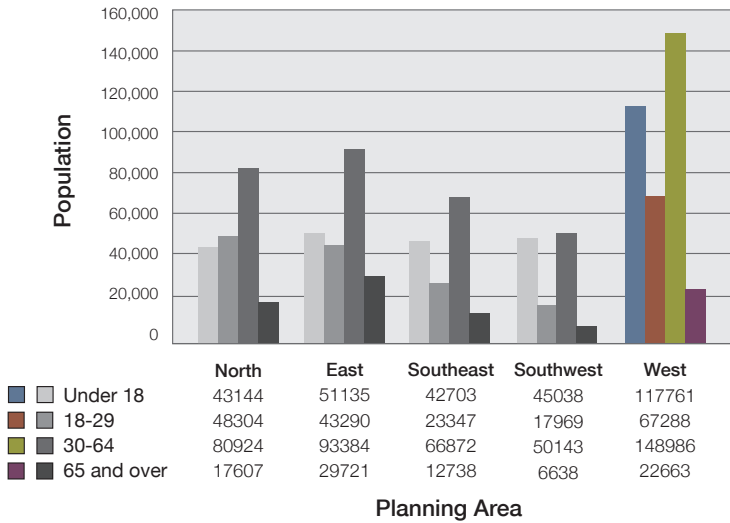


Figure 4-6. Age Characteristics of the West Planning Area in Comparison to the Other Planning Areas

east, and southeast areas combined, yet it has the least number of major recreation facilities per capita.

Figure 4-6 reveals that the West Planning Area is where the children are; two to three times the number of children under 18 are found here than in any of the other planning areas. The youthful nature of this planning area is further demarcated by the fact that young people surpass the number of residents in the older brackets. It is likely that the planning area will remain young well into the future before it begins to mature.

## Inventory of Existing Facilities

Table 4-14 reveals that the West Planning Area has the largest shortfall of park land among the five planning areas, with only 1,238 acres provided compared to the 2,213 acres required to meet park development

Table 4-14. West Planning Area - Park Acreage Needs Assessment based on 2010 U.S. Census Data (includes County, City and Service Area Parks)

| Existing        |                       |             |                       |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------------|
| 2014 Population | 2014 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess or (Shortfall) |
| 442,510         | 2,213                 | 1,238       | (975)                 |

| Projected       |                       |             |                     |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2030 Population | 2030 Needs 5 ac/1,000 | Total Acres | Excess/ (Shortfall) |
| 529,979         | 2,650                 | 1,238       | (1,412)             |

standards. The gap is projected to nearly double by 2030, at which point the shortfall will increase to 1,412 acres.

Land suitable for park development is disappearing rapidly, and without the acquisition of hundreds of acres of additional park land in partnership with stakeholder agencies, area residents will be deprived of recreational opportunities that other areas of the valley enjoy.

Table 4-15 indicates that there were gaps in the provision of several recreational amenities in 2014, including indoor swimming pools, softball diamonds, tennis courts, skate parks, destination play grounds, sports courts, and multipurpose sports fields. By 2030 the gap widens significantly.

The West Planning Area is the most underserved of the five planning areas in terms of park land and recreational amenities. Salt Lake County and the local cities have made significant efforts to bring the planning area closer to meeting the minimum standards, but it is a daunting task when considering the population size now and in the future. Additionally, the West Jordan Soccer Complex will be closing in the near future, significantly increasing the shortage of multipurpose fields in the area. Both the County and municipalities must be vigilant in their efforts to acquire and bank new park land. It should be emphasized that time is of the essence for making such acquisitions; this should be the highest priority in this area.

The Granite and Jordan School Districts are major recreational players in the planning area, providing limited public access to district ball diamonds, multi-use sports fields, tracks, football fields, and gymnasiums at most of its junior high and high school campuses. The Granite



Table 4-15. West Planning Area Recreation Amenities - Existing in 2014/Projected for 2030.

| West Planning Area                           | Quantity SLCo + Cities | Distribution: 1 per | SLCO Standard | Meets Standard? | 2030 Future Distribution: 1 per | Meets Standard in 2030 ? |
|--|------------------------|---------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Recreation Centers                           | 6                      | 73,752              | 75,000        | yes             | 86,350                          | yes                      |
| Swimming Pools - indoor                      | 3                      | 147,503             | 75,000        | no              | 176,660                         | no                       |
| Swimming Pools & Water Playgrounds - outdoor | 5                      | 88,502              | 75,000        | yes             | 105,996                         | yes                      |
| Ice Rinks                                    | 2                      | 221,255             | 300,000       | yes             | 264,990                         | yes                      |
| Golf   | 5                      | 88,502              | 75,000        | yes             | 105,996                         | yes                      |
| Multipurpose Sports Fields                   | 53                     | 8,349               | 5,000         | no              | 10,000                          | no                       |
| Baseball Diamonds                            | 46                     | 9,620               | 10,000        | yes             | 11,521                          | yes                      |
| Softball Diamonds                            | 15                     | 29,501              | 15,000        | no              | 35,332                          | no                       |
| Tennis Courts                                | 36                     | 12,292              | 5,000         | no              | 14,722                          | no                       |
| Basketball Courts                            | 38                     | 11,645              | 7,000         | no              | 13,947                          | no                       |
| Destination Playgrounds                      | 1                      | 442,510             | 200,000       | no              | 529,979                         | no                       |
| Skate Parks                                  | 3                      | 147,503             | 50,000        | no              | 176,660                         | no                       |
| Volleyball Courts                            | 23                     | 19,240              | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Off-Leash Dog Parks                          | 3                      | 147,503             | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Disc Golf Courses                            | 1                      | 442,510             | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |
| Pickleball                                   | 4                      | 110,628             | N/A           | N/A             | N/A                             | N/A                      |



Valley Regional Park

School District also operates swimming pools at most of its high schools. Although these pools are not open to general public use, they do help mitigate the need for competition swimming pools. Strengthening existing partnerships with the school districts will be crucial moving into the future.

The Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center is also a major provider of recreation amenities and programs. Their contribution to filling these needs for residents cannot be overlooked. Collectively, the County, the cities, the school districts, and the Kearns Oquirrh Fitness Center have worked to meet the recreational needs of residents, but there is much more that needs to be accomplished in the planning area.

## Recommendations

The current lack of parks and recreation facilities is significant, and is anticipated to grow in the future. The following actions are recommended to fill the most pressing needs.

## Major Recreation Facilities

- Acquire land for one or two large 60-120 acre class one regional parks in the West Planning Area, for future development; at least one of these should be located in western West Jordan.
- Acquire land for new regional park sites throughout the planning area, as feasible, to meet existing and future shortfalls.
- Complete development of existing class one regional parks—Lodestone, Magna Regional Park property, and Welby which is on the southern boundary of West Jordan City.
- Locate and develop a new recreation center in the western portion of West Jordan City, when the population increases; the facility should ideally be located in a large class one regional park and include an indoor swimming pool with leisure and competition components.
- Cover the Taylorsville outdoor swimming pool to enhance/augment year-round programming opportunities.
- Cover the Magna outdoor swimming pool to enhance/augment year-round programming opportunities.
- Develop a new large water playground in Welby Regional Park.
- Develop a new large water playground in Lodestone Regional Park.
- Remodel the south half of Redwood Recreation Center.

## Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements

- Study the advisability of modifying the Kearns Recreation Center to better meet community needs, possibly by partnering with other County agencies or the Kearns Oquirrh Recreation Service Area.



## Summary of Recommendations - *Table 4-16. Summary of Recommendations*

### Countywide Parks and Recreation Amenities

|   |
|---|
| <b>Class One Regional Parks</b>   |
| Build out the undeveloped portions of all existing class one regional parks.  |
| Acquire land, through purchase or partnerships, for new class one regional parks in the southwest and west planning areas, and if possible in the north planning area west of I-15.                       |
| Consider working with landfill managers to study the feasibility of converting active landfills into regional parks once the life of the landfill comes to an end.  |
| <b>Regional Trails</b>  |
| Continue to fund trail construction, land acquisition, and parkway improvements in the Jordan River Trail corridor.   |
| Continue to build the Bonneville Shoreline Trail as land or easements can be acquired.  |
| Continue to develop Parley's Trail in partnership with other stakeholders.  |
| Prepare a master plan for the Utah & Salt Lake Canal Trail.   |
| Prepare a master plan for the Jordan River Water Trail.   |
| Begin developing east/west trails according to the 2015 Salt Lake County East/West Trails Master Plan.  |
| Support the establishment of connections to regional trails from residential and commercial area.   |
| Acquire land for all regional trails opportunistically in partnership with other governmental jurisdictions and stakeholders.   |
| Assess the feasibility of establishing a multi-jurisdictional agency to coordinate major events on regional trails.   |
| <b>Open Space</b>   |
| Acquire large tracts of undeveloped land that are valued for their aesthetic, ecological, wildlife habitat, watershed, viewshed, or passive recreational qualities.                                       |
| Acquire easements on strategically located agricultural land to preserve the valley's farming heritage.   |
| Study the feasibility of developing small nature centers along the Jordan River or other strategic locations.   |
| Provide adequate resources to better manage and maintain open space.  |
| <b>Golf</b>   |
| Acquire land for a future 18-hole golf course in the southwest planning area.   |
| <b>Neighborhood Parks</b>   |
| Complete a level-of-service study for neighborhood parks in the unincorporated areas of Salt Lake County, and prepare a plan that identifies needs and proposes actions to mitigate deficiencies.         |
| <b>Recreation Facilities</b>  |
| All new recreation centers should be full-service facilities that include indoor swimming pools containing both leisure and competition components.   |
| Build a new recreation center in the southern part of the southeast planning area.  |
| In the future when additional residential growth has occurred, build a new recreation center in the southwest planning area and in the west planning area.  |
| In the future, as demographics of the downtown area evolve, undertake a study to determine the feasibility of replacing Central City Recreation Center with a new recreation center at a nearby location. |
| Explore more cost effective designs for new buildings to reduce construction and operating costs.   |
| For new construction of major facilities, evaluate colocation of services with other Salt Lake County agencies.   |
| <b>Swimming Pools</b>   |
| Where the need for summer outdoor water play is identified, build large water playgrounds rather than new outdoor swimming pools.   |
| Study the feasibility and program advantages of covering existing outdoor pools that are adjacent to recreation centers, in order to convert them into year-round facilities.                             |
| Give careful consideration to closing outdoor swimming pools that no longer meet the needs of residents or that are worn out and would require complete new construction.                                 |
| Study the benefits and cost of creating an indoor regional competition swim facility to accommodate regional events.  |

## Countywide Parks and Recreation Amenities (continued)

|   |
|---|
| <b>Ice Centers</b>  |
| Add a second ice sheet to the existing County Ice Center.   |
| Build a new 2-sheet ice center in the underserved south portion of the valley in the southwest planning area.   |
| <b>Multipurpose Fields</b>  |
| Build approximately 25 currently master-planned multipurpose fields.  |
| Construct two or more full-size fields in the same location to facilitate league play.  |
| On heavily used fields, explore methods that will increase available playing time.  |
| <b>Ball Diamonds</b>  |
| In the future build ball diamonds only in complexes of four or more fields, to accommodate league play and tournaments.                                     |
| When ball diamonds are needed, look for sites that can stand alone as ball diamond complexes in areas that will minimize disturbance to adjacent residents. |
| <b>Racquet Sports</b>   |
| Generally, new racquet facilities should only be constructed in complexes of six or more courts.  |
| Build an outdoor pickleball complex of eight or more courts in each of the five planning areas.   |

### North Planning Area *(Emigration Canyon Township, Salt Lake City)*

|  |
|--|
| <b>Major Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>   |
| Develop a new class one regional park in Salt Lake City west of I-15.  |
| Renovate the old pool space in the Northwest Community Center into a multipurpose room.  |
| <b>Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements</b>  |
| In the future, undertake a study to determine the feasibility/desirability of replacing Central City Recreation Center, with a modern full-service recreation center at a nearby location. |
| Study the feasibility of creating a water rowing facility on the Jordan River Surplus Canal.   |
| Explore methods for increasing park user safety.   |

### East Planning Area *(Cottonwood Heights City, Holladay City, Midvale City, Millcreek Township, Murray City, So. Salt Lake City)*

|   |
|---|
| <b>Major Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>  |
| Complete development of Big Cottonwood Regional Park, especially the several master-planned multipurpose fields.  |
| Complete development of Wheeler Farm including re-master-planning to enhance agricultural, environmental, cultural education, and recreation opportunities.                                     |
| Add an ice sheet to County Ice Center.  |
| Purchase the Millcreek Activity Center property to ensure that the land remains in recreational use.  |
| Continue to acquire land needed to build the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.  |
| Improve community connections to the Jordan River Trail and the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.   |
| Build a large water playground in the Holladay Lions section of Big Cottonwood Regional Park.   |
| Install an outdoor pickleball facility in Big Cottonwood Regional Park.   |
| <b>Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements</b>   |
| Explore the possibility of partnering with Utah State University Extension at Wheeler Farm to create outdoor educational programs.  |
| Update the Little Cottonwood Park master plan to explore the inclusion of additional recreational amenities, and consider replacing the old neighborhood swimming pool with a water playground. |
| Explore methods that will increase playing time on heavily used existing multipurpose fields.   |



## Southeast Planning Area *(Draper City, Sandy City, Town of Alta, White City Township)*

|   |
|---|
| <b>Major Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>  |
| Build a new recreation facility in Draper City.   |
| Consider the feasibility of enclosing the South Mountain outdoor swimming pool.   |
| Continue to acquire land needed to build the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.  |
| <b>Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements</b>   |
| Study the feasibility of building a new covered swimming pool at Copperview Community Center.                               |
| Improve community connections to the Jordan River Trail and Bonneville Shoreline Trail.                                     |
| Due to shortage of space to build more multipurpose fields, consider options for extending playing time on existing fields. |
| Consider the feasibility of developing a nature center in Dimple Dell Regional Park.  |

## Southwest Planning Area *(Bluffdale City, Copperton Township, Herriman City, Riverton City, So. Jordan City)*

|   |
|---|
| <b>Major Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>  |
| Finish developing existing class one regional parks—Welby Regional Park (140 acres undeveloped) and Southwest Regional Park (40 acres undeveloped).   |
| Acquire land, through purchase or partnerships with municipalities, suitable for the future development of one or two large class one regional, with at least one located in the southwestern portion of the planning area. |
| Acquire land, through purchase or partnerships, for future development of an 18-hole golf course.   |
| Plan for the future development of a recreation center in the Bluffdale area.   |
| Plan for the future development of a two-sheet ice arena near a major transportation route, to provide good countywide access.  |
| Create a large water playground in western Herriman in a class one regional park.   |
| Build a multipurpose field adjacent to JL Sorenson Recreation Center.   |
| <b>Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements</b>   |
| Study the feasibility of closing Marv Jensen Recreation Center and using the land for additional parking to serve the multipurpose fields, or for another park purpose.   |
| Consider partnering with South Jordan City to expand their recreation center swimming pool to include competition lanes.  |

## West Planning Area *(Kearns Township, Magna Township, Taylorsville City, West Jordan City, West Valley City)*

|   |
|---|
| <b>Major Parks and Recreation Facilities</b>  |
| Acquire land for one or two large 60-120 acre class one regional parks in the West Planning Area, for future development; at least one of these should be located in western West Jordan.         |
| Acquire land for new regional park sites throughout the planning area, as feasible, to meet existing and future shortfalls.   |
| Complete development of existing class one regional parks—Lodestone, Magna Regional Park property, and Welby which is on the southern boundary of West Jordan City.                               |
| Locate and develop a new recreation center in the western portion of West Jordan City; it should include an indoor swimming pool with leisure and competition components.                         |
| Cover the Taylorsville outdoor swimming pool to enhance/augment year-round programming opportunities.   |
| Cover the Magna outdoor swimming pool to enhance year-round programming opportunities.  |
| Develop a new large water playground in Welby Regional Park.  |
| Develop a new large water playground in Lodestone Regional Park.  |
| Remodel the south half of Redwood Recreation Center.  |
| <b>Proposed Studies and Management Enhancements</b>   |
| Study the advisability of modifying the Kearns Recreation Center to better meet community needs, possibly by partnering with other County agencies or the Kearns Oquirrh Recreation Service Area. |

# Major Issues



*The goal of the division is “Improving Lives Through People, Parks, and Play.” Addressing the issues in this chapter effectively will help achieve this vision.*

Since its meager beginnings over six decades ago, Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation has grown to become the largest local provider of parks and recreation facilities in Utah, and is regionally recognized for the excellent quality of service it provides. The goal of the division is “Improving Lives Through People, Parks, and Play.” Addressing the issues in this chapter effectively will help achieve this vision.

## Funding Parks and Recreation Facilities

For many years the funding of parks and recreation services has been inconsistent, without the long-term assurance of adequate resources. Despite this limitation, the growth of the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division has been dramatic, because the residents of Salt Lake Valley have come to love their parks, open space, trails, and recreation program opportunities.

In order to sustain what has been built and expand into the future, the time has come to explore alternatives for establishing a long term secure funding stream. Ideas such as a dedicated tax levy and a countywide parks and recreation authority should be considered.

## Deferred Capital Maintenance

Salt Lake County residents value their parks and recreation facilities and strongly desire amenities that are well maintained. This is supported by standard practice, which clearly dictates that maintaining what we already have protects the existing foundation of past investments in our parks and recreation facilities. Maintaining existing infrastructure should therefore be one of the County’s highest priorities now and in the future.

Unfortunately, a pattern of deferred renewal and replacement has emerged in past years, postponing required upkeep due to a combination of the lack of available funds and maintenance projects being perceived as lower priority. Delaying routine maintenance often results in minor repair work evolving into more costly problems long-term. This issue was further compounded during the recent economic downturn, when routine maintenance was deferred in order to meet other fiscal requirements.





One potential source for reducing the backlog of deferred maintenance projects would be to dedicate a significant portion of ZAP revenue toward funding this effort.

Once deferred capital renewal and replacement projects have been eliminated, the Parks & Recreation Division's asset management plan should be fully implemented and expanded, to ensure that existing parks and recreation facilities are systematically well-maintained. The plan should be comprehensive, addressing the gamut of routines and requirements for a workable maintenance program.

In the Parks & Recreation Division's 2012 *Needs Assessment Survey*, County residents made it clear that better park maintenance was one of their highest priorities. This is a daunting challenge facing the division as it moves into the future.

Toward meeting these expectations the Parks & Recreation Division should continue to find ways to more effectively maintain all of its parks and recreation facilities by searching for means to increase efficiencies, implementing new cost-effective technologies, and better use of existing capital and human resources. Ultimately, achieving higher levels of maintenance in parks and recreation centers will require re-evaluating funding of Park Operations.

Current plans to build a new maintenance operations center will support these goals. At present, maintenance operations takes place from two inadequately sized and decentralized facilities. Salt Lake County has recently acquired a site with good valley-wide access that will function well as a new headquarters for maintenance operations. Building the new center will increase efficiency and provide better service levels throughout the valley.



*Big Cottonwood Regional Park*



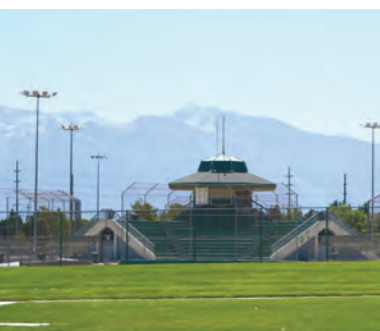
*Magna Regional Park*



*Lodestone Regional Park*



*Southwest Regional Park*



*Valley Regional Park*



*Wheadon Farm Regional Park*



*Wheeler Farm Regional Park*



*Welby Regional Park*

## Development of Existing Class One Regional Parks

Some Salt Lake County-owned class one regional parks are not fully developed, as indicated in the following list.

- Big Cottonwood Regional Park
- Magna Regional Park
- Lodestone Regional Park
- Southwest Regional Park
- Valley Regional Park
- Wheadon Farm Regional Park
- Wheeler Farm Regional Park
- Welby Regional Park

Several of these parks, in addition to several class two regional parks, have remained unfinished for decades, resulting in parks that only partially achieve their full potential of helping satisfy public demand for parks and recreation amenities. While there is a need to create new parks in emerging areas of the County, the completion of these existing parks should be prioritized, particularly over the development of new buildings and structures that are expensive to operate and maintain. This is also supported by the fact that the County has been very successful in providing recreation centers, swimming pools, golf courses, and ice arenas. Playing “catch-up” at unfinished parks should have precedence.

## Responsibility for Park Development

Based in part on its acquired expertise, countywide perspective, and focus on addressing regional concerns that cross municipal boundaries, Salt Lake County is positioned to provide leadership in the planning and development of regional parks and recreation facilities. At present, the County is the primary provider of large parks and recreation amenities; it is also responsible for providing parks for townships and other unincorporated County areas.

In contrast, the cities have primarily focused on providing smaller parks and recreation amenities. They have also played a key role, in partnering with the County to provide regional facilities such as trails, class one regional





parcs, recreation centers, field-houses, swimming pools, ice arenas, and multipurpose sports fields. In the future, collaborative efforts with cities and other agencies will be necessary in providing needed recreation amenities.

## Developing Regional Trails and Open Space

In conjunction with the completion of class one regional parks, the continued development of regional trails and the improvement of open space should be prioritized over the construction of new buildings and structures that are expensive to build, operate, and maintain. As indicated in the 2012 Salt Lake County Needs Assessment, the development and maintenance of regional trails and open space was the highest priority of County residents.

In order for some regional trails to be further developed as envisioned, master plans need to be prepared for the



Utah & Salt Lake Canal Trail, Bonneville Shoreline Trail West, the Dimple Dell Trail, and the Jordan River Water Trail. In addition, the County should study the feasibility of locating small nature education centers at strategic locations in the Jordan River corridor.

Because regional trails and open space have become a prominent part of the park and recreation fabric of the County, and are becoming increasingly important to County residents, it is necessary for the funding of trail and open space maintenance to be reconsidered, to ensure that these important amenities are properly cared for.

There is increasing concern regarding managing the cross-jurisdictional use of regional trails; this issue needs to be studied and solutions developed.



*Magna Regional Park*

## Land Acquisition

As identified in this plan, additional park land is needed for several class one regional parks, a golf course, recreation centers, an ice arena, and for regional trails. Since land that could be suitable for large regional parks is becoming very scarce and costly, acquiring large tracts of land for parks requires immediate action. Once the necessary sites have been acquired either through purchase or partnerships, they should be set aside and saved for future development when predicted growth occurs.





Dimple Dell Regional Park

Open space is also disappearing quickly from the valley. Effort should be made to acquire large tracts of undisturbed land and to preserve agricultural land from development. Open space in the Jordan River corridor, especially, should be preserved to save it from urbanization and to preserve wildlife habitat.

## Collaboration with School Districts

As identified previously, school districts own and maintain many properties that contain park and recreation amenities that benefit Salt Lake County residents. To some degree, these resources mitigate the statistical deficiencies for these amenities.

Examples of recreation amenities provided by the school districts include children’s playgrounds, gymnasiums, multipurpose sports fields, tennis courts, running tracks, and swimming pools. Providing public access to these facilities is a definite benefit to County residents, and there is a need to explore additional opportunities to increase the cooperative use of school district facilities to better meet current demand and leverage tax dollars.

The County and school districts should also explore the possibility of cooperatively planning and constructing sports facilities, which could benefit both while conserving resources.

Salt Lake County should work more closely with the school districts to identify additional opportunities and to achieve better equity in the sharing of costs and the use of facilities.

## Establish a “Friends of Parks & Recreation” 501(c)(3) Organization

A *Friends of County Parks & Recreation* 501(c)(3) organization should be established to help advocate for parks and recreation, to provide a structure for handling financial contributions earmarked for park and recreation improvements, to help facilitate the establishment of corporate partnerships to further parks and recreation goals, and to help fund recreation scholarship programs.

## Services to Underserved Populations

Salt Lake County desires to improve services and increase access to parks, recreation facilities, and recreation programs for underserved populations. Targeted groups include low-income families, youth at risk, and ethnic minority groups.

## Adaptive & Inclusive Services

In order to improve services for people with disabilities, opportunities should be explored to expand the County’s role as the regional service provider for adaptive recreation services. This includes expanding adaptive program offerings in County recreation facilities, partnering with municipalities and other agencies, and studying various models for establishing County adaptive facilities.







Other steps being undertaken by Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation for improving adaptive community services include 1) a self-assessment evaluation, and 2) an adaptive needs assessment, both of which are committed efforts.

## Comprehensive Off-Leash Dog Implementation Plan

For many years there has been demand for more off leash dog parks in the Salt Lake Valley. Some effort has been made to satisfy this need, but it is a difficult challenge; location, conflicts with other park and trail users, water quality, and dog waste cleanup are some of the issues. Salt Lake City has done the most to address this concern by building or designating several dog parks

in their city limits. A few other cities have tried to respond to the need with varying degrees of success.

Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation prepared an Off-Leash Dog Park Master Plan in 2008. This document contains carefully researched information and design criteria that forms the foundation for further study and planning. Little was done toward implementation, however, due to the recession that followed and resulting budgetary constraints of the time. The Division now intends to undertake the process of developing a countywide implementation plan that will explore options such as fenced dog parks, off-leash areas in multipurpose parks, off-leash single-use parks, and alternating days or scheduled hours. To be successful, the planning process will require extensive public involvement and multi-jurisdictional cooperation.





## New Recreation Facility Types and Trends

New recreational trends are constantly emerging, as demonstrated by recent requests for pickleball courts, disc golf courses, rowing facilities, and bike courses. In order to adequately address the need for these new amenities, additional study is required. When testing the potential of new types of facilities, it is recommended that a limited number be constructed in order to observe how they are used before committing to large-scale development. This approach will allow the County to move slowly and methodically toward meeting demand, thereby reducing the possibility of creating underused facilities.

## Improving Service

In order to be more successful at accomplishing its mission, the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Division anticipates pursuing several goals that will help

advance its role as a leader in providing regional parks and recreation facilities in the County. The following are some of the key efforts the division has committed to undertake.

- Engage in the rigorous multi-year process of becoming fully accredited with CAPRA (Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies), as administered through the National Recreation & Parks Association.
- Evaluate and re-write the Salt Lake County Parks & Recreation Ordinance to bring it up to date so that it reflects existing conditions.
- Prepare a Parks & Recreation Division programming master plan that addresses traditional public needs, takes advantage of existing parks, trails, open space, and recreation facilities, and that explores new ways to increase programming for nature and cultural education.



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