



MISSOULA CONSOLIDATED PLANNING BOARD

Meeting Minutes



Missoula County
Planning, Development & Sustainability
(406) 258-4657

City of Missoula
Community Planning, Development & Innovation
(406) 552-6630

Date: May 20, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Missoula County Courthouse, Sophie Moiese Room (in person) or TEAMS (virtually)

Members in Attendance: Danny Tenenbaum (City Alternate), Danny Oberweiser (County Appt), Lynn Davis (City Appt), Derek Kanwischer (City Appt), Rick Hall (County Appt), Tung Pham (Mayor), Josh Schroeder (Conservation District), Shane Morrissey (City Appt), and Sean McCoy (County Appt).

Members Absent: James Fountain (County Alternate), Peter Bensen (County Appt)

I. CALL TO ORDER [Time stamp – 0:25]

Sean McCoy called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL [Time stamp – 0:37]

Analeshia Rodriguez called the roll. Eight regular members were present. Danny Tenenbaum was promoted to voting member for the evening. A quorum was met.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES [Time stamp – 1:49]

Shane Morrissey moved, and Danny Oberweiser seconded approval of the May 6, 2025, minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS [Time stamp – 3:03]

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

V. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS [Time stamp – 4:45]

There were no staff announcements.

VI. PUBLIC HEARINGS [Time stamp – 4:46]

There were no Public Hearings.

VII. COMMUNICATIONS & SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS [Time stamp – 4:47]

- A. Zac Covington, Open Space Manager, City of Missoula - PROST as an Issue Plan of the 2025 Land Use Plan

STAFF PRESENTATION

Zac Covington, Open Space Manager, with the City of Missoula led a presentation introducing the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) draft plan. Covington explained how the plan aligns with three primary decision-making lenses: climate sustainability, equity, and housing attainability. It includes key elements of the community's broader planning objectives including

public health, safety, welfare, transportation systems, recreation, as well as agriculture. He emphasized the importance of incorporating agricultural partnerships into the PROST plan, as parks and open space often intersect with land conservation and agriculture. Staff emphasized that it was essential for them to have it be coordinated with the City's Land Use Plan (LUP).

Covington summarized the PROST plan's primary and secondary planning areas. A key aspect of the update involved considering how various open spaces, trail systems, and urban green spaces connect within Missoula. It was noted the plan incorporates elements of economic development and tourism by staff cross-checking the PROST goals with the Missoula Destination Stewardship Plan and the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. It addresses future growth like housing density, urbanizing areas, and climate adaptability. Staff highlighted the plan's alignment with trail typologies, park classifications, and sensitive-lands protections with the LUP's street typologies, place types, and the upcoming Unified Development Code (UDC).

Covington highlighted residents' top 5 priorities that included safe parks, clean air and water, out-of-school youth programming, walkable neighborhoods, and universal accessibility. Green spaces like public parks were considered a major strength for Missoula City residents as a social determinant of health. Key updates included reconsidering the minimum size and service area for neighborhood and pocket parks and reclassifying certain open spaces into neighborhood.

Staff addressed the gaps that exist in Missoula's park system. Key takeaways included the 10-minute walk/roll initiative which addresses the fundamental need for convenient park access for all residents, the ability to enjoy outdoor recreation year-round despite seasonal limitations, and the urgent need to address failing urban forest canopy. The plan highlights bringing nature into developed areas and parks with a focus on ecological functionality and promoting hybrid parks that blend nature and built amenities. Covington also stressed the importance of having equitable access to parks and recreational resources across diverse neighborhoods and underserved communities.

Staff concluded the presentation by highlighting distinctions between the visionary nature of the PROST plan and the Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). He detailed the implementation strategy of PROST and listed upcoming engagement opportunities that remain open for public comment.

See PowerPoint presentation slides.

BOARD DISCUSSION

Covington addressed questions made by the Board that focused on equity and accessibility related to transportation and access to recreational areas. He explained there have been ongoing conversations with Mountain Line and other agencies about improving accessibility to destinations such as Marshall Mountain, Pattee Canyon, and Fort Missoula. Additionally, it was noted that transit improvements could also address parking congestion at popular recreation sites.

The discussion addressed the challenge of providing adequate park space as urban areas become denser. Staff clarified instead of strictly adding more acreage, the emphasis was placed on enhancing park capacity, strengthening trail connectivity and creating more amenities in smaller spaces to support a denser population. Staff acknowledged board members concerns about having overlapping issue plans.

In response to questions and comments by the board, staff clarified the language in the PROST plan acknowledges the economic and tourism-related impacts of Missoula's growing outdoor recreation system, but the primary focus is not tourism promotion. They explained a priority of PROST will remain on maintaining and improving existing assets to keep pace with local demand and growth. Board members asked whether the plan and Missoula's UDC update could be aligned in regard to requirements for parkland dedication, street trees, and trail connectivity. Nathan McLeod, Associate Director of Planning, Design, & Projects with the City of Missoula Parks and Recreation, noted that while the PROST Plan contains high-level recommendations for parkland dedication, the UDC update is the opportunity to redefine those standards into clearer, more enforceable standards that helps implement the community's parks and recreation vision.

Board members inquired about how Parks and Recreation might adapt its development review practices to support the City's housing production goals. Staff noted that clarity and flexibility in park-related development regulations (parkland dedication, activity areas, and tree standards) are being prioritized in the UDC update to avoid unnecessarily delaying housing approvals—especially for smaller infill projects.

Staff clarified the 10-Minute Walk program to developed parks was limited to existing developed parks within the City's control as well as spaces it can directly manage or guarantee access to. In regard to the 1 Mile to Nature Access aspect of the PROST plan, staff acknowledged that the nature access maps could potentially be updated to include places like Kelly Island or Forest Service lands.

Board members emphasized the importance of tracking how the PROST plan's priorities and projects are being implemented over time. They highlighted maintaining flexibility in the design of smaller pocket parks specifically in dense neighborhoods.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS [Time stamp – 1:21:25].

Board member, Danny Tenenbaum, shared the Transportation Technical Advisory Committee (TTAC) is being dissolved and its responsibilities will be carried into the Transportation Policy Coordinating (TPCC) Committee due to agenda overlap between the two. Additionally, the Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) is planning to reclassify roads in the Missoula area—categorizing them as arterial, collector, or local—based on current conditions.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was reported.

X. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was reported.

XI. COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

No comments from Board members were reported.

XII. ADJOURNMENT [Time stamp – 1:23:18]

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

Missoula Consolidated Planning Board May 20, 2025 – Transcription

This transcription was produced by transcription software. There may be discrepancies between this transcription and meeting dialogue. You can view the recording of the meeting at this link:

<https://missoulacomt.portal.civicclerk.com/event/9125/media>

Missoula Consolidated Planning Board

May 20, 2025 -Meeting Recording

27:44

OK, looks like we have plenty of folks for quorum, so we'll just get rolling. And if anybody joins us late, that's fine because we just got presentation tonight.

So with that, I will call to order tonight's Missoula Consolidated Planning Board meeting for Tuesday, May 20th, 2025 at 6:01 PM.

And with that, we'll do a roll call, please, Alecia.

Roll call.

Lynn Davis.

Eric Kanwisher here. Shane Morrissey.

Here, Toon pham.

Here, Danny tunenbaum. Josh Rader.

Danny oberweiser.

Peter Benson.

Peter is absent, recall.

RH

Richard Hall 28:42

Here.

AR

Analeshia Rodriguez 28:44

James Fountain James is absent. Sean McCoy.

Here, Mr. Chair, we have eight regular members present and one alternate present.

Would you like to appoint Danny Tunenbaum as voting member for the evening, please?

And we have quorum.

Great. Thank you.

Does it sound loud in here or is it me?

Is it just Mike is working really good?

Alrighty, moving right along.

To approval of the Minutes from May 6th.

Ideally, everybody got a chance to look that over.

Anybody find any corrections, adjustments, things that made you angry?

Wanna throw things? It was so bad.

No.

Nothing. Alrighty.

Well, we can entertain a motion then.

I thought they look great, Sean.

So I will move that we approve the Minutes from.

May 6th, 2025 second great. So moved by Shane and seconded by who seconded that Danny Oberweiser.

Great.

And with motion on the floor, we can take a vote and we'll just do an up and down vote. All those in favor of approval of the Minutes from May 6th, 2025. Please say aye, aye.

All those opposed say nay, any abstentions?

Hearing no abstentions or no nays, we have a unanimous approval of the Minutes from May 6th.

And that brings us to public comment on non agenda items.

So if you have a comment.

About anything outside of tonight's agenda, you are welcome to do that. Now. Staff has put up instructions on the screen for anybody who may be out in the ether sphere watching us. And if you need to call in.

And you're just listening, which I don't think is possible anymore than you can call into 406-272-4824. Phone conference ID is 358-8848, four 8 LB sign and press *5 to raise and lower your.

Hand for your public comment and *6 to mute and unmute yourself.

And with that, we'll take a minute.

OK, since nobody's beating down the doors to make comments, I think we can safely close public comment for non agenda items.

And that brings us into communications and special presentations. We do not have any staff announcements that I'm aware of and no public hearings.

So communications and special presentations, we have Zach Comington Open space manager.

For the city of Missoula, presenting tonight. Come on up, Zack.

Welcome Zach.

This is for, I don't know if I've met you before.

I don't recognize you, so maybe this is the first time.

Is that all?

Yeah, push the is that working?

Yes, good to meet you all.

Thank you for the opportunity to come present and talk with everyone.

Hi, my name is Zach Covington.

I'm the open space program manager for City of Missoula Parks and Recreation, and we've got Nathan McLeod here, who's our senior landscape architect and projects and planning lead for the for the department.

And I will share my screen here.

OK.

It's like that's hopefully working OK.

OK, here to present on the parks recreation, open space and trails draft plan. And this is something that we've been working on for a while as a department, you may have heard or seen announcements for public open houses or mobile listening sessions.

You may have had emails we.

Got. I don't know how many thousands of emails we have at Parks and Recreation we send.

In a blast, all of our announcements out to everybody.

And related to the to the pros plan.

There's a public comment period going on right now and I'll go through all the details of that.

Can we kind of give you an overview of of the plan and how the plan fits within a variety of contexts and particular to to the planning board?

And how we've been interfacing and interacting with the Community planning, development, innovation, the city planners on our Missoula, throughout the entire process.

So just we wanted it at this point now that we've got a draft plan to come.

Forward to you all present some of the findings of the plan and invite your input and comments through our public comment period.

And feel free to interrupt if you have any questions as I'm going along. There's a lot of slides.

Feel free to reference as needed.

I'm gonna try to go through fairly fast, so I don't #1 bore you to death and #2 we have enough time for questions from you all so.

So City Missoula has three decision making lenses. On the right there.

Climate sustainability, adaptation, resilience, equity and opportunity.

And access to local government resources and lands and housing attainability at all levels.

We we did a little bit of of learning and and educating ourselves on the consolidated planning Board objectives and we we found it really interesting that promoting quality of life and healthy environment planning for for of course the public health safety and welfare and and convenience I thought.

It was nice that that's in there and looking at transportation systems.

Health and recreation. Agriculture as in we.

You know, you may say, why is parks and REC interested in agriculture?

We do open space preservation conservation and have a lot of partnerships with agricultural partners, so that's really interesting to us as well. And of course, family life and and economy.

And tourism is always something that we definitely have been considering throughout the planning process.

So as far as.

The process concerned.

And we've talked at length with.

The the Cpdi department and and staff quite a bit about the pros being an issue plan of the adopted land use plan and and as we know with the with the land Use Planning Act recently passed, you know we've been trying to learn along with with planning staff.

On how that could be integrated as an issue plan. And so we're we're working hard to make sure that that and have been working hard over the last couple years to make sure those.

Plans are are coordinated.

And addressing public needs. So we have a couple of past precedents for this where the 2004 master Parks and Recreation Plan, which is the current plan that we're working under until this plan is adopted, was actually adopted as an issue plan for the old growth policy.

And the 2019 Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan was also adopted as an issue

plan for the growth policy.

So something that we've done before and and we feel that's.

It's critical to make sure.

Prost and the land use plan is tied together on some level as parks, recreation and open space, and trails in particular.

There, there's a lot of overlap and there's some components of pros that definitely are impacted and or impact development and and future planning needs for the community.

So we've got primary and secondary planning area, the primary planning area really is what was referred to in the past as a growth policy boundary. And I believe it's land use plan boundary, is that what you're calling it now?

At the primary planning area and you'll notice as you're reading through the plan, that a lot of you know our demographics and population data align exactly with the land use plan because we literally pulled a lot of that data from that plan to utilize for the pros plan.

The secondary planning area is this larger planning area that was used in 2019 for the open space plan and that plan originally was intended to be a chapter of the pros plan and we've we've changed that a little bit and and kind of decided to keep that. 2019 Open Space plan but we we utilized that planning area the same for for the entire pros planning process for consistency.

And in speaking about the open space plan, it's it's kind of interesting to go through and and think about how our open space trail and urban Green space network all connect.

So this was kind of a natural kind of diagram to throw in here to to think about our larger open space in those anchor areas along the perimeter, you know, mount Jumbo, Mount Sentinel, North Hills, thinking about our urban green spaces like Harris Park McCormick.

And how they're all kind of tied together.

There with Trail Systems, river corridors.

And something that we've talked a lot about in this, this update of the pros plan is is how to address kind of that the the urbanizing areas within Missoula related to to Prost.

So I thought that was kind of a good diagram for context.

As you know, there's been a lot of planning processes occurring in Missoula over the

last few years.

And you may be fatigued a little bit with all the open houses and surveys.

Isn't everything else you've probably seen, but we worked hard to make sure the Prost is working hand in hand. As I mentioned with the land use plan and future code reform, we've also worked with the the Health Department on the Community Health Assessment and Health Improvement Plan make.

Sure, those plans are coordinated and then the long range transportation plan and transit services plan is something that we've been working with concurrently as well. We've attended open houses that.

That have been put on for these events with Prost booths and they've also attended our events with with LRTP or Orlando's plan booths.

So they all have kind of unified goals of of housing, walkability, sustainability, clean air and water connectivity, affordable program access.

And amenities. And so this diagram at the top kind of shows how all of these different intersecting plans were working together and collaborating to achieve the community's vision.

And the city's vision is Missoula is an inclusive city where all people can live and celebrate.

Meaningful, purposeful and fulfilling lives while enjoying unparalleled recreational, cultural, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

We've also, as I mentioned, considered economic development in tourism to a certain extent, just to kind of cross check our plan with with those elements.

With the county's comprehensive economic development strategy, quality of life is one of the three main factors.

In that plan and then Missoula Destination stewardship plan mentioned, it mentions integration of arts and cultural experiences, the need for an indoor multi use Recreation Center of some kind and emzula as an outdoor recreation.

Destination.

So the land use planner, Prost have some fairly overlapping goals.

The Lup land use plan goals are at the top and and the solid colors crosses along the bottom outline so you can see the quality of life, health and safety, Environmental Quality and climate resilience and economic health is all integrated with with the land use plan and the.

Pros plan.

And I will say that those goals were determined or or I should say, developed independently to a certain degree. And actually Derek's on our Community working group for pros.

So he's been really providing excellent comments, but the Community working group that we have, which is a a voluntary organization of local residents that help guide the process, develop these goals.

And they overlapped remarkably well with the land use plan.

Planned goals.

So I thought it was pretty neat as we kind of looked at how they how they matched.

So how does the pros consider housing to future growth? As we know parks and I'll just add parks, open space trails and recreation programming or central quality of life for resilience, features and amenities directly related to function and success of parks.

We use the term park or park.

It's we kind of generalize that that can be anything from a a linear trail or bike path or Parkway.

To to natural areas, sports fields, playgrounds, the urban Forest River.

Corridors.

And of course, pros considers climate.

In a fairly robust way, if you look through the plan, there's a lot on climate in there and it's it's pretty it's kind of raised the top one of our main issues based on public engagement input.

So so the plan looks at future growth and climate.

Interaction as adaptable, opportunistic and innovative. And we've talked a lot about higher capacity urban parks.

We know that we're urbanizing.

We know that the land use plan is as adopted, is looking at how as a Community urbanizes and there's info development and growth and redevelopment. We talked a lot about what that means for parks in particular.

And so we we can answer any questions on that, but.

We've also looked at linear parks. The River Corridor has a whole network of kind of linear parks.

The Milwaukee Trail and Bitterroot trails.

We're kind of considered linear parks. We've talked a lot about the need for the Bitterroot Trail to potentially widen in the future and and to become more of a a park

so.

We talked a lot about programming for people of all ages.

We've talked a lot about nature within.

Developed parks and vice versa.

I can go through that a little bit more in a minute.

And the need to be flexible and also access and connectivity is is a huge theme.

With the pros plan.

So more directly related to the land use plan and and the future Unified Development code.

We've talked about how pros overlaps with these four particular.

So you know topics more than others, I think.

And that's St. trees related to development requirements, maintenance and funding.

We've completely redefined our trail typologies to line up with the street typologies in the land use plan, and they also overlap now better with.

With our our park classifications.

Parkland, dedication and improvements and how those relate to place types is something that we've talked a lot about in the pros plan. And then of course protection of sensitive lands through potential ordinance updates and sensitive lands meaning.

River corridors, riparian areas, floodplains, wetlands mostly and and. Wildlife urban interface.

Those are things that we've all been kind of talking about with.

Planning.

Staff on a pretty regular basis.

Couple other things. I won't go through all these, but couple other overlaps with the pros and land use plan, place making and designing walkability, increased housing density and how we serve those residents with with our parks trails and open space and programming. And then this theme of a.

10 minute walk or roll and by roll that's what mainly people, persons with disabilities.

10 minute walk or roll to to a park for for any resident for every resident is one of our largest goals.

And the city is actually a 10 minute.

Walk trying to think of the terminology.

10 minute walk community, I think is what it is.

The mayor signed a resolution years ago making the city a 10 minute walk community.

So, per our statistically valid survey, around 80% of residents in the city support ensuring new housing.

In commercial development, provide adequate access to parks, open space and trails, and so we are heavily considering the impact of development on parks and vice versa and how those those can be coordinated.

So this is where the draft plan currently lives on the engagement Zilla website. We've got a public comment period started on Friday and it's going till June 3rd.

You go to engage Missoula. It's pretty easy to find the Prost kind of button and then in the top right there's a little button you can Click to see how you can provide input. A little small, a little hard to read, but this this basically goes chapter by chapter through the PROSE plan, and I'll just kind of walk you through this real quick.

Chapter one is purpose and background.

Chapter 2 talks about creating the plan and describes an extensive public engagement process, which I'll share a graphic of in a second and key findings that helped inform the pros plan Chapter 3. Parks and Recreation today is really kind of an inventory of the current system.

Chapter 4.

Community needs is is the analysis and assessment.

Section and that helps us understand the community needs based on public engagement, findings and basically gap analysis.

Chapter 5 outlines pro subjectives.

Chapter 6 includes Prost recommendations and these are pretty extensive recommendations as you get into Chapter 6, you'll notice it's pretty long, but pros plan is a very comprehensive department wide plan.

And then Chapter 7 is implementation and how we how we get there and how we prioritize projects in the future.

I'll mention the pros. Plan really is a 15 year overarching visionary plan. It's not.

Detailed implementation I should say will be done through largely other plans and work plans in the future that will reference back to the pros plan similar to how the land use plan is a really guiding document that will inform code development in the future.

Right. Kind of in a similar in that way.

So going through these chapters, real quick key takeaways.

From chapter one, purposing background really talks about climate equity and housing being kind of at the front of our planning process.

The need to support compact growth and provide quality green spaces in denser environments. As I mentioned, climate is always a huge topic for our entire department.

And then there was a lot of need for equitable access.

As we prepare for population growth.

I mentioned what the pros plan is.

And the timeline is down at the bottom here. And as you can see, we're we're towards the end, but we've are excited about this draft plan and we feel like this is a great opportunity for the Planning board to be able to really dig into the plan and. And see what we're proposing.

Some of the materials, for example the maps that we have in there, we just barely got on like Friday morning and stuff.

So it's taken us a while to get to those.

Kind of more refined maps and and documents.

Chapter 2.

Creating the plan talks as I mentioned about the public engagement process, we reached over 5000 residents through a variety of different methods.

Around 85% of residents mentioned strongly supporting environmental strategies like protecting water, preserving habitat and expanding the urban tree canopy.

Residents want walkable neighborhoods. They want to be connected to the pro system.

They want to be able to access parks and trails from their homes.

And then as I mentioned, we've had a pretty integrated planning process throughout.

So these little diagrams showing all the many public engagement.

Opportunities that we had, we had a statistically valid survey. We had an online community survey multiple.

Public open houses.

We had many mobile listening sessions.

I think I think we were up over 40 mobile listening sessions so far.

Focus groups.

Informative interviews and one of the unique things that we did.
It is contracted with the University of Montana to do artist led engagement.
So we had artists that actually reached out to underserved and underrepresented members of the community, and they did kind of art projects and had discussions about what Parks and Recreation kind of means to them.
And this includes indigenous populations, LGBTQ plus.
Seniors and and others.
And so it was.
It was a pretty eye opening.
Experience for us to be able to work with some of those, some of those members of the Community.
This statistically valid survey I mentioned couple of highlights.
Here is they're generally satisfied with current quality of parks, trails, open space and rec facilities.
The vast majority really value safety, making sure neighborhoods are walkable.
They want that to maintain clean air and water and improve clean air and water. And as I mentioned, access was one of the key.
Values of the community.
As far as protecting what they want to protect ecologically river corridors seems to rise at the top almost every time we do a survey. Back in 2018, the survey was similar.
Most residents really value the river corridor. Connectivity and access is just is huge for local residents.
And.
Residence top five priorities from that same survey are safe parks, clean air and water out of school time, youth programming, walkable neighborhoods and universal accessibility.
This shows some trends from 2018 to 2024, and this particular question asks whether or not people want trails or parks near their homes.
And in 2024 is Blue, 2018 is orange, and as you can see.
On the middle graph there, ensuring recreational trails are near are near homes grew by quite a bit since 2018.
You break that down. We have a lot more renters in the Community, but renters are really high as far as their preference for wanting trails near their homes.
OK, key public engagement themes include, as I mentioned, early on, quality of life,

inclusive, community building, having connected the systems of trails and greenways. The need for an indoor and year round facility during.

You know, the summer when there's a lot of smoke or really cold winters, support for climate resiliency projects and strategies.

There, there was a concern and is a concern for safety.

And that can be from dogs or E bikes or other safety concerns. And then the need for greater variety of programming for people of all ages and hot topics included.

Again, dogs and E bikes and safety.

When looking at how the pros compares with the recent city Polco survey.

Parks and Recreation opportunities are highly valued by local residents and the availability of pass and walking trails are ranked higher than in the national average.

And 83 and 69% of mazelions fill the natural environment.

Is either essential or very important.

The Community health assessment, the CHA survey that was done in 2024.

Showed that green spaces, if you look at the bottom.

And look at the green and yellow combined.

That green spaces like public parks are considered.

A major strength for Missoula and so people love their parks, trails and open space.

OK.

I won't go into this too much, but Chapter 3 talks about it's kind of the inventory of our system.

And related to population growth and demographics, I'll just mention that that all of our demographics were taken from the land use plan directly.

So we utilized all the numbers. A lot of the mapping that that Mark and his great team did, we literally just integrated right into the Prost and we felt like that was a that was a good thing to do as a city.

I believe the Irtp was similar in that respect.

So all three of those plans really talk to each other when it comes to the data that was used.

OK. And I I'm not going to go over key demographics because you probably have them all memorized from the land use plan from all that work that you all did.

One thing that we've looked at and we we work pretty hard on in the PROST plan is park classifications and aligning those as I mentioned with our trail classifications, we also and I won't read this for you, but.

In general, for example, the pros plan talks about neighborhood parks as having the desired size of five acres, but but at least two acres being provided.

Half Mile Service area is pretty important per the pros and per the 10 mile walk criteria.

Pocket parks exist in the city and are are pretty small sometimes and some of them may not be usable to a certain extent, but others are really valuable to the community and if they're designed properly and if they're large enough and if they can have the amenities that.

That are similar to a neighborhood park.

Some of those we've talked about reclassifying as neighborhood parks.

Per the pros plan.

And so I just just wanted to kind of touch on a few of those things. Just so you know that we're thinking through some of that.

This just shows a little bit about our trail typologies with regional trails, community trails and neighborhood trails we use.

We were calling them primary commuter and secondary commuter and now we've gotten gone to this regional community neighborhood kind of kind of a level.

And then this shows.

Our community.

Excuse me.

Our conservation lands.

Our open spaces, and we've also in the pros plan transfer those over from some of our old designations to.

To community and neighborhood natural areas, for example.

Some of those designations, so trying to keep in line with that regional community neighborhood kind of theme has been really I think helpful throughout the plan.

So.

I I should say that I don't want to say how many years ago maybe like but.

Acres of Parkland per thousand residents used to be the main metric for determining Parkland. The size, or the amount of Parkland, right? We now in this pros plan have have been a little more innovative and I think in line with with the national recommendations that that talk about.

A park is more than just acres, right?

It's it's. It can be this. The quality of the park is the quality of amenities.

That's the access, it's the.

Connectivity.

And so, but currently nationally.

Acres, Acres per Parkland are serve about 10.2 acres. Excuse me, per thousand residents was about 10.68.

We included quite a bit of conservation lands in there. Everything except for our nature preserves. So anything that's got any public access to it at all, we've included in that. But we're talking about pros in pros as a complete park being more.

Including inclusive of the four following design elements, social, cultural, active, recreation, play experience and nature.

So if all these design elements are incorporated, we're considering that park complete, and that's really more in relation to our to our neighborhood parks.

When comparing other agencies around the country and per capita budgets, Missoula is just a little bit below the median for agencies serving a similar size of population.

And we provide.

I would say argue probably more services than a lot of the communities of that size in the country.

And so we're we're kind of just right below that.

Median.

OK, some takeaways from Chapter 4.

There are some gaps and access inequities right now currently in Missoula's Park system.

I'll show a couple of maps in a minute, but areas like Franklin of the Fort or North Reserve are showing gaps in in developed parks in particular.

When you look at that half mile or access or that 10 minute walk criteria, there's definitely some some holes and some gaps there.

There's an indoor recreation facility deficit.

Most communities our size have some kind of indoor facility recreation facility and so that just kept coming up over and over and over in the data.

We're having an urban forest crisis right now.

Removal of trees are outpacing plantings 2 to one, and so our urban forest is at risk right now.

Which is a critical resource for climate resiliency and cooling, improving air quality.

Managing storm water and then we also looked at access to nature, which is pretty unique for a for a city gross type plan. We looked at a one mile driving distance to nature and found that there were some pretty significant gaps again in those same areas in Frank.

To the Fort and N reserve.

So this is just a little bit showing our modern approach going from acres per thousand to a much more comprehensive kind of approach looking at distribution and access.

How how? Our future parks fulfill the three lenses of the city?

How how they serve all of our residents and how they compare to other communities.

This is showing a 10 minute walk access.

By time, and so the hatched areas actually show.

The areas where people can walk to a park, we've talked about that hatching.

Maybe maybe flipping that for the final plan, but the hatched area is actually showing where people can walk to a park.

So you can kind of see the gap in the middle.

It's a little bit of a donut.

That's kind of that, Franklin of the Fort neighborhood just to the north of that is that North Reserve area.

So we found this pretty interesting.

This is a one mile nature. Access to a city owned conservation lands or open spaces again in the center of town, right along Brooks and Russell you can see a huge gap there.

People really don't have access to to nature within those neighborhoods, right?

And so and N reserves the same way.

So much of the city has a half mile walk to develop park.

But there are gaps.

As I mentioned in, in those areas, Franklin before West side, Moose can go in neighborhoods. There's a lack of nature parks in some of those same areas and also South Gate triangle.

And I'll just mention this is again the 10 minute access to a park.

Map overlaid with with.

Lower income households and so the lower incomes are kind of in the pink area and

you can see up in that N reserve area, there's a there's a big gap, right.

You can see that the disparity there, the gap in access to park space, overlaps with those those populations.

You can also see it related to American Indian and Alaska Native.

The darker colors are higher percentages of those groups.

And then of course we we had to throw this over the place types map and take a look and just see what it what, what it looked like.

It's a little tough to tell, but I don't think you can see my cursor on the screen.

At this area right here, you can see that there's some urban mixed-use low and urban residential high place type.

On North Reserve, there's also in the pink urban mixed-use low and in that darker pink urban mixed-use high.

And that's also a gap with a 10 minute walk.

So it's just interesting to kind of draw some conclusions and think about what the implications are as those areas kind of densify and as they become more urban, what are we going to do about park space?

What are we going to do about trail connectivity?

How are we going to serve those people?

And they're disproportionately kind of linked.

With some of those underserved populations and under represented populations and groups.

So it's kind of interesting to think about how how all this interplay isn't overlaps.

In looking at the place types a little bit more, one of our staff members, Lucy, created this.

And it essentially shows that that.

Most of the place types on the left there include residential housing, where you can see where it's green and it says yes and they also include park and open space.

And then a Park Service area to the right, you can see where parks are really.

We need to be within walking distance of all residents, and that's usually in the more urbanized or denser areas.

And so when you're talking about that half mile proximity to a park and some of these place types.

Maybe it's quarter mile in a really dense area or in the downtown area, maybe as you get out to a more suburban or rural area that's just not possible, right? To provide a

park within a half a mile of every resident if every resident has a half M.

Or a half acre lot or larger, right?

So. So just thinking through kind of how Prost and and the land use plan and those place types overlap is pretty important.

Do you have anything else that on that, Nathan?

OK, Chapter 5.

I won't read through all this, but Chapter 5 essentially goes through and and breaks out objectives for the entire plan per goal.

And then these are the goals being forward thinking and adaptable, building and sustaining partnerships, elevating quality of life, supporting healthy people, fostering healthy natural environment, improving connections and connectivity and enhancing maintenance.

Chapter 6 really gets into the the more detailed recommendations and by detailed I'd I'd still say they're pretty high level on purpose.

The pros plan is a visionary. Plan is intended to be a pretty high level generalistic plan to give us a lot of flexibility and so we're not specifying, you know, like a particular.

Property or something for a future park or we're not. You know, we're not getting to that level. We're saying we know we need parks within a 10 minute walk.

Block. We know we need parts than a half a mile of every resident. We know we need trail connectivity across the system and so a lot of what we do is opportunistic a lot of what we do is based in partnerships and Community involvement. Every time we design.

A park.

We meet with the local neighborhood and we have a a design process to make sure that park is is kind of customized what those neighborhoods needs are because we know neighborhoods are not.

All the same.

Some are younger, some are older, some are different incomes.

Some you know are.

They're just all so diverse that that's something we really focus on a lot with, with Nathan and his team.

So couple of highlights.

The Chapter 6 talks about all season Recreation, River Corridor management, the

urban forests and the investment needed there.

Nature integration into parks, making sure there's equity in everything that we do, especially related to our local neighborhoods and our residents.

And then climate resilience is has a whole section.

Couple of highlighted recommendations for this graphic.

This is kind of nice 'cause it looks at our system becoming walkable and rollable. Having inclusive programming for all, making sure that we're innovative in our urban park designs.

And that means in more dense areas, you know, reconsidering how we're designing our parks in some ways to make sure to have.

Much more variety and capacity to serve more people.

Again, the urban forest comes up and making sure that we have a connected system.

So this is what our future, our future system looks like related to parks in particular.

So the bright green is all the park lands, conservation lands and develop parks.

The turquoise is kind of the river corridors.

The yellow is basically our gap. Areas where we don't have parks and then the stars are either are basically proposed or planned.

Park sites, and I should say that looks like a lot and probably half of those, or a third of those are already planned locations where developments already happen.

We already have land and we're getting ready to develop those in the future.

Others are just kind of ideas at this point, trying to help us prioritize in the future where we need, where we need park space.

This is the proposed comprehensive trails network.

And the I'll say the solid lines are existing trails per the different trail typologies.

The dashed lines are planned trails and then the dotted lines are proposed trails.

Planned trails are those that we've already. We're already kind of either working on or we're really close to beginning design for or we've received right of ways or easements.

And then proposed is just it's really kind of a wish list, but it's pretty sophisticated wish list. It's been through a lot of process.

Making sure that those connections are where they need to be in the future.

This idea of bringing nature into developed areas and develop parks and making

sure that that people have more access to nature where there's where it's more more centered on ecological functions.

This idea of hybrid parks has become really important, so a lot of our strategies, you know, focus on this hybridization, making sure that people have access.

The kind of the best of both worlds.

We would still keep our preserves and keep them managed as they are for for ecological impact and benefit.

We would still have some urban parks that are much more highly developed and maybe a lot more hardscape in certain some cases, but just looking at the flexibility and variety that we can have is really important in the plan.

OK, Chapter 7 talks about implementation and basically goes through.

This process proposing projects, programs or initiatives looking at the criteria.

And putting them into an implementation matrix and seeing how they kind of overlap with and and fulfill our goals and objectives. And then of course working towards implementation.

On the plan plan elements.

So upcoming schedule right now is a public draft review.

We we would like to come back.

On the 17th here for planning board, public hearing and recommendation if possible, and in the in between there we're gonna be meeting with Park board and climate conservation and Parks Committee of City Council and then we plan to have a public hearing with City Council.

On June 23rd.

Got multiple opportunities for public engagement. Now if you go to engagementzoula.org back slash, Prost. That's where all of our information is for the plan.

We had a public open house last night and we generally heard positive comments. We talked about.

We had some questions about pro scope versus other more capital or more implementation type plans.

So comparing the pros to Irtp, for example, lowering the transportation plan.

There's specific funding tied to each project for future years or multiple, you know, like year five, year 10 year type prioritization. The pros plan is a little different.

It's a visionary document.

It really looks at.

Kind of meeting the needs of local residents per all of our data, our public engagement or the the analysis.

And so it's really kind of setting the stage to allow us to have the flexibility we need to be able to serve local residents.

A couple options for drop and listening sessions on May 17th, 22nd and June 2nd. And chats in the park.

So lots of opportunities to give input and that was a lot of talking.

So thanks for your patience and we're here to answer any questions you have.

Great. Thank you, Zach.

Appreciate your presentation and your time being here.

Does anybody have questions they want to lead off with?

Jump in.

Go for it. Tune. So you talk a lot about equity and accessibility and you touched on it a little bit.

I was curious if you've got any feedback around.

Transportation and accessibility.

I know public Transit is a whole different a whole different thing, but especially to some what I think is referred to as the anchor areas, making it easier for people who may not have cars or whatever to get to those areas is that has that come up in.

Your feedback or is that as part of the plan?

Yeah, that's a great question. We, we have been talking with Mountain Lion about about the possibility of.

A.

Potential transit routes to some of those recreational destinations.

We talked about, you know, Marshall Mountain or Paddy Canyon.

We talked about Fort Missoula. And so yeah, those conversations have come up.

There are strategies in the pros to talk about utilizing public transit for for those types of trips.

And we're we're actually working closely with Mountain Lion on on seeing if we can improve.

Access kind of as a starter to Fort Missoula, and it's probably a low hanging fruit, something that we could we could help improve.

But yes, there are. There are agencies.

And it's not just the city, it's it's also, you know, over the past year, the Forest Service and the state lands, we've all been kind of talking together about how to serve some of those areas.

Yeah, some people just don't have access to a car or.

They're, you know, they don't have the income to be able to be able to.

Drive their car back and forth.

So yeah, great question.

Yeah, it's also a parking issue.

I mean, if you end up having to spend a lot of time and resources to create parking in these areas, you kind of that's gonna have to.

I mean, I can speaking for myself. The parking trailhead is ridiculous.

So yeah, I know the mountain lines looked at.

Case studies in other parts of the state and other parts of the country, you know, in some like like, I don't know, in Colorado there's a couple examples.

Where there's no vehicular access allowed, right?

It's just transit only, and national parks are doing some of that right.

And so there's there's been some discussions on on how to maybe look at those, look at those options.

But that's again, that's also largely ladder or directed by Mountain Lion. And what they can and can't do.

But they're interested.

They're they're good partners and they want to talk about it.

All right.

Anybody else?

Go ahead, chain.

So your your graphic about, so you started talking a little bit about, you know density and detro parks, I guess I wondered if when you were looking at the you know acreage per thousand people or whatever, is there any correlation to?

You know, I think you were alluding to the fact that like as you increase density, you know the need for parks space.

Be more.

And I wondered if that national data.

Shares, you know the density, I guess involved. And if if we're expecting that as we roll through with our land use plan aspirations and our zoning code changes that we

might actually need an increase of.

Open Space park space, things like that.

And if there's any data related to density.

Or are aspiring density for number of acres per per person.

Yeah, I got. That's a great question.

We so just to clarify, we haven't talked about necessarily more acreage in urban areas. We've talked more about higher capacity for the park, so that that usually we we talked about the need to design those parks so they can handle more people.

West Side Park is is a.

Really good example, right?

Lowell School, where that park was redesigned to increase capacity. There's an agreement with the school to.

To be able to utilize a lot of that land and and man, that place is packed.

And it serves so many more people than most of our parks, right?

In a.

In a more urbanized area.

So yeah, we've talked a lot about that and in essence that level of service per thousand, it would be less acreage per thousand potentially in some of those areas.

But still serve more people.

The other thing we've talked a lot about is just the availability of land is really tough, a tough issue in areas that are already developed where you're looking at infill infill.

Redevelopment how are you gonna buy 5 acres of land in an area that's already developed?

You know that that can be a really expensive.

Project and the city just doesn't likely have that kind of funding unless you know there may be some extenuating circumstances or something. But but largely it's about, you know, kind of customizing those areas and being flexible and and seeing if we can increase capacity. And then in some.

Cases like with neighborhood parks? Potentially.

Be, you know, not not requiring or not were not.

Being too tight on the five acre ideal park.

But maybe it's two or two and a half.

I don't know if Nathan, if you have any other comments on that.

Yeah, I think I think a lot of it is about trying to maintain the level of service we have

as we.

The national average is that 10.2 points don't want to.

Sorry, we we want to try to maintain what we the acreage that we have and the amount that we have per capita, so.

How do we do that?

Is going to be what Zach was saying, like in some opportunities we might be able to get larger park spaces. In some places. We've got to find ways to increase capacity of what we have or get smaller spaces that have more amenities to support a denser population.

Thanks. I mean.

What we kind of were looking at in the land use plan is potentially, you know, in areas of two to three to four times increase in density which.

In obviously areas will reduce. You know the overall, you know acreage per person. And I guess really the root of my question was like can a park sustain that level of increase?

Or does it become, you know like can you increase the the usage of a park by two 3-4 times or does it just kind of fall apart at that point? And we're really talking about like urbanized areas like, you know, when you start to count the Fr.

And things like that. Sure, we can develop more park out there.

There's more land available, but in the urbanized areas there is there a density where that.

Metric kind of falls part I guess, and I don't necessarily need an answer to it.

It's just a question I suppose.

Yeah, I think.

I think I mean, in the really urban scenario, you know when you look at more like Plaza space like an urban Plaza type scenario, you you can get can handle quite a bit of capacity if you're willing to design it to that standard, but.

The other thing that we've talked about is connectivity.

So as azarias urbanized.

Creating more trail connections to other parks so that you can kind of spread spread the love a little bit is another strategy we talked about. But but there's no to my knowledge, there's no like ***** level of service cut off. It just depends on what you're willing to.

Do and depends on what the community is willing to accept. If the if the residents

don't want a more urbanized or hard escaped park, then maybe other some other solution needs to be needs to be found.

Thanks. I had one. One more question. That's OK.

So.

It sounded to me like.

There were previous issue plans that.

This has kind of in addition to.

Is that right? Related to parks and open space and things like that?

Yeah. So the the 2004 Parks and Recreation Master Plan was adopted as an issue plan in 2004.

This plan would replace that plan as a as a new issue plan. The 2019 Urban Area Open Space Plan that would remain.

Really, for all intents and purposes, and I don't.

Mark, maybe you've got some insight into this, but for the land use plan was recently adopted and that 2019 plan was adopted as an issue plan to the the growth policy.

I'm not sure how that legally works.

Where there's a new land use plan now? Yeah, I don't know if you guys know the answer to that or not.

Yeah, the 2019 plan open Space Plan was adopted as an issue plan to the growth policy back in 2019.

There's not a lot of precedents right in the state with the new.

I would imagine.

Yeah. Introduce yourself too please.

Mark Hendrickson, long range planner with cpdi.

I would imagine if it was adopted by the land use planning this is like just me, just kinda like shooting from the hip, but I would imagine if it was adopted by the land use plan now then we would have to repeal it.

In the motion maybe.

And then like adopt it again.

But I could be wrong as well. I don't know.

So we can come back with it for an answer for that.

I mean ultimately my.

Sorry, this is probably a statement disguised as a question.

Ultimately.

You know we're we're doing.

I believe the city's doing really great work and I I take no issue with anything that's been presented here tonight.

But.

Seemingly, the fewer documents and the fewer like levels of of overlapping.

Bing or intertwined documents, the better. And like you know, we're going through this whole effort to create one development code, for instance and.

You know, ultimately is somebody who.

Reads, you know, zoning code as a for instance, and then has to look in nine different places for how to interpret those things.

It's concise and in one place is that could be.

Just be appreciated.

So that wasn't really a question, but maybe no, that's that's a good comment.

We've been talking about this a lot. I think you know.

And my background is mostly in in planning in Utah. Before I moved to Montana.

But but there are a lot of a lot of the plans are adopted as appendices to the comprehensive plan.

And and there's. There's a lot of benefits.

To that strengthen the implementation.

Of those plans.

So I feel like there's, you know, for example, Bozeman with their parks recreation and active transportation plan, they actually adopted it as an issue plan because there are land use implications that are tied between the two plans.

So that that's a good question and that that's something we talked a lot about with Cpdi staff is like making sure it's not complicating things, but also making sure that the plan has some legs to stand on and.

When you're talking about.

Can really land use in the way of parks open space trails.

You know where the land use act is pretty new.

We'd we'd rather air on the side of having it as an issue plan, so it's got some legal standing.

But that's something that various you know yourselves and the City Council will have to weigh in on.

Good, good question. Comment.

Yes, and I saw Linds and up. And then you took it down.
Lynn, do you wanna ask her question and then Josh?

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:27:42

Oh, sorry. OK did I unmute?

There we go.

My question really was on the higher capacity urban parks, which I think was answered.

And then I did have question or kind of AI don't know.

I guess it's a question.

There's a statement that said advocate advocate for strategies to grow mizzoula as a premier outdoor recreation destination.

And support other trail initiatives.

So I just kind of wondered what the vision was on that, if it's like.

Just advocating for more trails and a better trail system and to make it a great place for outdoor recreation.

Or is it like promoting?

Tourism in Missoula, or something like that?

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:28:34

Yeah, that's a good question.

And was that was that one of the earlier slides that talked about the destination Missoula plan or was that are you referring to something in the plan?

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:28:43

You know, and I have. I I wrote this down because I on the pre read and I put it's 5.4 so I don't.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:28:50

OK.

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:28:51

Yeah. Does it help?

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:28:52

It does, yes. Thank you.

The only only to US nerds that are like reading the plan on a regular basis already, right?

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:28:53

OK.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:28:58

Yeah, that does make sense.

They're there is some language in there related to tourism and economic development, just to make sure we're not neglecting the fact that as Missoula grows, its Parks and Recreation system, that there will be implications.

People are already coming here utilizing our system.

I know we're all. We're all probably sensitive of making sure that it doesn't become we're not priced out of the community and it doesn't become too touristy and that sort of thing too.

So yeah, that that's a really good comment and that's something that I feel like we just tried to address it and make sure we're not ignoring it. But if you know that may be a good comment for you to go into the document or into the into our.

Survey and add.

Because that that's an important perspective and we want to listen to though to those comments.

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:29:50

OK.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:29:50

That did I address your question? Is that what you're kind of wondering about?

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:29:55

Yeah. I mean, I think we're growing and we were probably slightly behind, right.

I'm keeping up with trail and parking at trail heads and different things.

So yeah, so I was just, I guess wanting to understand the intention or if there was a campaign to go promote you know we have these great trails because I feel like you know, we're still in this period of catching up with all the growth we have now.

Just my two cents, but yes.

Thank you.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:30:25

And I will add that one of the major themes from our public engagement is people want us to maintain and and improve what we have as well.

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:30:33

Mm hmm.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:30:33

So that's one of the higher priorities in the pros plan as opposed to like promoting tourism and and that sort of thing.

So it's kind of, it's kind of acknowledging that, but not not setting it as a high priority.

LD **Lynn Davis** 1:30:48

OK.

Thank you. That's helpful.

That's all I had.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:30:53

Great. Thank you, Lynn.

We have Josh and then we have Mr. Tenenbaum.

JS **Joshua Schroeder** 1:31:02

Thank you for the presentation.

I was just curious as as we move through the you know unified development code reform or update process, if there's an opportunity to either refine or enhance some of the developer requirements?

Parkland dedication, St. trees.

You know, trail dedications, connections.

And if that could help align with the implementation goals of of the pros, plan.
Just feels like maybe it's a good moment.
To ensure we're all integrated and have development standards that can you know,
they're all I guess aligned and forward-looking.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:31:44

Yeah. Thanks, Joshua. Nathan McLeod again.
Yes, we we are looking at that with the pros plan.
We have some pretty high level recommendations for how we want to address that.
Talking about Parkland dedication, we talk about how we want to get make sure that
we get trails where they need to be similar to what we do with streets.
Trees are the urban forest is a huge component of this plan.
And how do we address that with new developments and with redevelopments
throughout the city?
So pros does have recommendations.
They're fairly high level and then we are using that the UDC Unified development
code process to try to refine those standards so that they're clear and predictable
and all in one place.
And and also reflecting what our community has said that we've heard during this
process.

JS **Joshua Schroeder** 1:32:32

Thanks.

AR **Analeshia Rodriguez** 1:32:36

Great. Some good questions.
I guess I'll throw.
Oh wait, Mr. tanem.
I want to go ahead, Danny.
Thank you, Mr. Chair.
My question is similar to what Josh just brought up about.
Parks role in development review. Is there a way you could pull up that slide that has
the Community Health survey on it?
I don't wanna.

I think it's one of the earlier slides. I don't wanna force you to.
Rewind too far.
Keep that. Sorry. Let me just pull it back up here. No worries.
Sorry, I have so many.
Apps open.
Oh, I think I oh, it didn't.
Sorry, I'm gonna have to join the meeting again here.
Sorry my oh, I think I found it.
There we go.
My bad.
My screen actually went to sleep for a second there. Then I lost everything OK.
OK, I'm gonna make you dizzy by flipping through those for a SEC.
So which one were you preferencing?
Again, it was the 1-2 before there was the Community Health survey.
I think I saw it maybe four or five slides before.
Right there, yeah.
So one thing that stood out to me reading this survey was, as you pointed out, the green and the yellow combined with the final option was pretty significant.
People love Missoula's parks, and they're pretty happy with our parks and open space and then looking at where their people highlighted major weaknesses.
Conversely, it's housing and availability of housing options.
And I think if you look at the land use.
Plan that we just passed it.
Really. That's like the glaring sort of shortcoming in that going forward, Missoula's supposed to be permitting.
I think it's now 1500 units per year and 2024. I think we hit 580 and twenty 23480 and I know like housing production isn't really.
The primary thing in parks is bailiwick, but as as Shane just brought up.
Not Shane.
Sorry, has Josh brought up development standards?
Development review parks does play a role, so I was wondering, given this survey and you know, given all that we know about lack of housing options in Missoula, what is parks gonna do differently going forward with development review to ensure that?

We're not producing, you know, 405 hundred units per year, but we're actually hitting our our legally mandated target of I think it's 1500.

Per year.

Try that one.

Yeah, I don't know if I can totally answer that.

Partially because I don't think it's necessarily Park's fault that we're not hitting those goals, right?

And so maybe if you can elaborate about specifically what your question is, it's really broad.

So I don't I can answer it.

So like parks, role in development review, Parkland dedication, making sure that the Parkland that's being proposed meets standards and it can take a long time in the development review process to.

To give the green light to say a proposed subdivision.

Or activity space on an infill project.

And I don't know if you've heard from builders.

I I've personally have heard from builders some frustration with the process.

And you know, given that.

The ultimate goal with the land use plan is the goal that we have to hit.

Is that higher?

Much higher number of units permitted is parks planning on doing anything differently going forward in the development review process.

Maybe to make things go faster.

Or ensure that just basically ensure that the city hits its target, helps to ensure its so from in terms of Parkland dedication, some of the things we're looking at in the code is trying to clarify. What does count.

And what doesn't count and when we would accept land dedication and when we would wanna see cash in lieu of that land dedication and that's related to the service area, that 10 minute walk as well as the 10.6 acres per thousand residents. And so trying to.

Clarify that in the code so that you don't have to.

Then go to the design manual to figure out what we're trying to say.

It's all in the code.

It's in and there's clear links between where the requirements are held and what they

are, so I think.

That clarity is one of the biggest things that.

That we've heard through the process of the UDC that we need to refine and so we are trying to refine that with Parkland, dedication, activity areas are likely to go away or be changed to become easier to comply with and because that we have heard the same thing.

It's really hard to develop, especially smaller infill projects and still create this activity area that has these spatial regulations and it's it's hard to do and I get it.

And so we're trying to figure out ways that we can still support the future residents of the community that are saying that we really want to be near parks. We want to be near trails, we want trees, we want green space, but still allow us to have more.

Housing. And so I think it's really about clarifying and providing some level of flexibility.

So when we look at tree standards, so like right of way trees, we're trying to provide a wide range of flexibility in terms of what that spacing looks like and then clarify what species are allowed, what aren't.

When we can have design deviations, things like that, so that it's really clear from the start of what you need to do that can answer your question. It does.

Thank you. Yeah, great.

Nice, good questions.

Anybody else want to jump in there?

All right. Danny Oberweiser, go for it.

Thanks. Might have a twoparter here, but I'll try to do it in one but so you have the maps that talk about like a 10 minute access area and that tells a pretty dramatic story really in my opinion.

But could be kind of 1 sided in that if I'm reading it right, it's only showing existing developed part parks.

But you have plans for all these other future planned improvements.

I guess I'm curious why it doesn't account for those and in addition, you know, like county parks or state parks, you know, for like Kelly Island, for example, is a, it's a park in my opinion.

Why doesn't it get accounted for in that 10 minute walk area?

Yeah, that's a great question.

We, Nathan and I were just talking about that earlier today.

The the 10 minute walk to develop parks is really just based on inventory.

Of what currently exists.

So it's kind of, it's just saying what what we have right now.

Now and where gaps are right now in the system for just the develop parks.

We we didn't include things like county lands, state lands and so you know HOA school, like school yards and things like that because we just don't have control as the city over over who can access or who can't access or when they can or. And so sometimes those.

Can change, right?

Like with school.

May or may not allow public access.

Not that the state or the county would probably revoke public access or something, but but I think we just try to keep it nice and clean on what we can control as the city, so that that's one answer.

With the one mile to nature access.

You're right.

Like Kelly Island and Forest Service lands, some of the county lands, like there is access to nature in some of those areas.

Is something that maybe we maybe we could look at updating this map potentially that would be a really good comment if you don't mind taking the survey and putting that in there because that's that's going to help us be able to address it.

But that that's a possibility.

We don't.

Yeah. So I just, I think we've just been talking about what can we do, what can we do, what are our boundaries for the analysis? When does it you know, so that's something we should talk about.

That's a good comment. As far as not showing existing or or excuse me proposing planned.

We potentially could do that with the planned ones.

That's that's an interesting idea to look at how we're filling those gaps on the on the actual planned park locations where there's currently gaps or there's proposed park locations.

You know we don't.

We don't have any idea if we're going to be able to get those parks, but the plan

parks that is interesting to to think about how those potentially would address the gap.

So that's great comment.

Anybody else before I jump in there. You wanna go?

Go ahead, Derek.

I don't have a question, just comment.

Just wanna appreciate you guys and this process and the presentation.

I feel like this presentation actually is provided a little more context from serving on the Prost community.

I love the way that you're framing it in terms of, I guess there's a lot of stakeholder input and kind of overview.

Kind of mapping of like what your inventory is and then what your plans are as we move towards implementation. And I feel like that's where I think a lot of my curiosities are and I think a lot of people have just in terms of like there's so many. Great ideas and plan parks and trail connectivity options out there. And just how that's gonna happen? Maybe.

The city should have some sort of like database or platform.

You know where people can follow.

You know, progress based on what the prescription is, you know from the pros plan. You kinda see like how this plan is implemented over time to kind of address a lot of these.

Kind of values and priorities that have been raised through this public engagement process and and stuff so.

Thank you.

Thank you. Great comment we.

We are I think it's.

I think it's I'll have to look this up, but I believe we have a one year report kind of goal in here or strategy in here.

So we would go through and actually annually kind of track our progress on the pros plan. I'll to double check on that. But I think that's in there.

That's a good that's a good reminder for me to double check on that.

But that that's the idea that that's what we've talked about as a department is making sure that we've got every year we have a report that goes out to probably the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board just showing progress progress.

So good comment.

Great, thoughtful comments and statements from board members as always.

Let's see. Anybody else?

I'll jump in here with my two cents. I guess I have a statement and then a question.

So I think as far as my statement goes, I just wanted to encourage you guys.

I use flexibility a lot, particularly when we're talking about the code.

I think it's one of the things that can bring us the ability to do more.

Or at least that's my hope.

And so I like hearing that particularly around the trees and like dedicated park space for new subdivisions or whatever.

And I just want to encourage you guys to hit, you know like build that flexibility in as much as you can and not negate the possibility for odd little small parks.

And for me, what comes to mind is New York City.

I don't think there is a, you know, like a demographic with more humans.

And there's tons of little parks like, I mean, if you spend anytime you've ever had the opportunity to walk around New York City, which I have.

Like there's parks tucked all over the place.

And some of them are tiny.

And they're in these little, you know, these suburbs of millions of people.

And I don't think you can overvalue.

The the value of that park to the community compared to cash in lieu, which is, you know with tight budgets.

A git right?

Like, that's awesome to get a little bit of money one time, but that parkinserver community for 100 years, so I definitely appreciate hearing about that and encourage you guys to fight for that as much as you can.

My question goes to it was really good to see the identification of more, you know, a much greater need for a year round facility.

And I'm curious if that's just in the identification.

Is the city like trying to work on that 'cause? I have young kids and I am acutely aware of how like much we need basketball courts and, you know, like, yeah, we got lots of soccer and baseball now, but we don't have much indoor facilities. So where is?

That at are we just kind of early phases, yeah, definitely early phases.

And and and Nathan may have more background in this than I do, but but it's mainly related to to the pros plan.

Public input has just been reinforcing the need for it.

And not just our survey, but.

Other surveys that we've referenced in here have really shown a strong public support and public need.

And we're we're framing it largely, you know, from the perspective of, you know, kind of inhospitable seasons with smoke or cold weather or whatever. We're also framing it in the way that comparatively other communities our size around the country.

We have one or two or more and we just don't have one at all yet. And it's something that that a lot of community members have been speaking out about.

As far as as far as like status or progress, I believe that you know the plan for the center was adopted by City Council as a concept plan, but but the need remains for for funding and and you know more I guess more concrete planning in the future.

And and trying to find ways to to make it a reality.

Is at all accurate.

Good, good comment, great comments on the on the smaller pocket parks too. It's it's been a huge topic of discussion with CWG, with staff, with other departments, with with the public.

So that's that's really. Yeah, that's insightful.

Great. Well, unless we've got more, may not see anybody online.

Rick's been quiet.

Rick, you want to throw anything in there? No. OK. All right.

Well, I think with that.

We'll let you guys off the hook.

Thanks for being here.

Appreciate your time.

Thank you.

And we again, we plan to come back later in June and and please feel free to reach out if you have any questions and or any comments. And please go on the engage page and and put all your comments in there.

So thank you.

Great. Thank you.

Alrighty, my fellow Members, we're gonna sneak out of here in record time once

again.

I think that's it. Committee reports tuned.

We we don't.

Oh, dandy. Do we got anything?

We absolutely do.

Today was the meeting of the transportation policy.

Something committee.

There's another C in there.

Just very quick update from that committee.

T TAC, the Technical advisory committee.

He is being basically subsumed into the Transportation Policy Committee. There was just so much overlap between the two committees agendas they decided to do that.

And then the other bit of news is that after not doing it five years ago because of COVID, MDT is going to be.

Sort of redefining the various roads around Missoula as arterial, collector or local.

Based on existing conditions.

So we got a little presentation from MDT about how that's going to be going on over in the future.

OK.

I would think that'd be done, but who knows.

Great. Anything else? That's it.

OK, awesome. Thank you guys for.

Volunteering to be a volunteer of a volunteer.

I don't know how that works out, but thanks for you guys time.

Greatly appreciate you guys doing that.

Alright, I don't think we have any old business or new business comments from board members.

Wow, nobody's jumping in here.

I don't got anything to say.

All right. Meeting adjourned.

Have a good evening everybody.

Hopefully you guys are all going to plant your farm just like I am.

□ stopped transcription

Missoula Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails



M A S T E R P L A N

PROST as an Issue Plan of the 2045 Land Use Plan

Consolidated Planning Board – 5/20/25

City of Missoula Mission

Reflecting the needs and values of our residents, the City of Missoula commits to enhancing opportunity and quality of life through effective delivery of City services and fiscal stewardship while maintaining and creating a harmonious natural and built environment.

City of Missoula Vision

Missoula is an inclusive city where all people can live and celebrate meaningful, purposeful and fulfilling lives in a community offering unparalleled recreational, cultural and entrepreneurial opportunities.

City of Missoula Lenses

- ➔ Climate Sustainability, Adaptation & Resilience.
- ➔ Equity in opportunity and access to local government resources and lands.
- ➔ Housing attainability at all levels with focus on workforce and affordability.

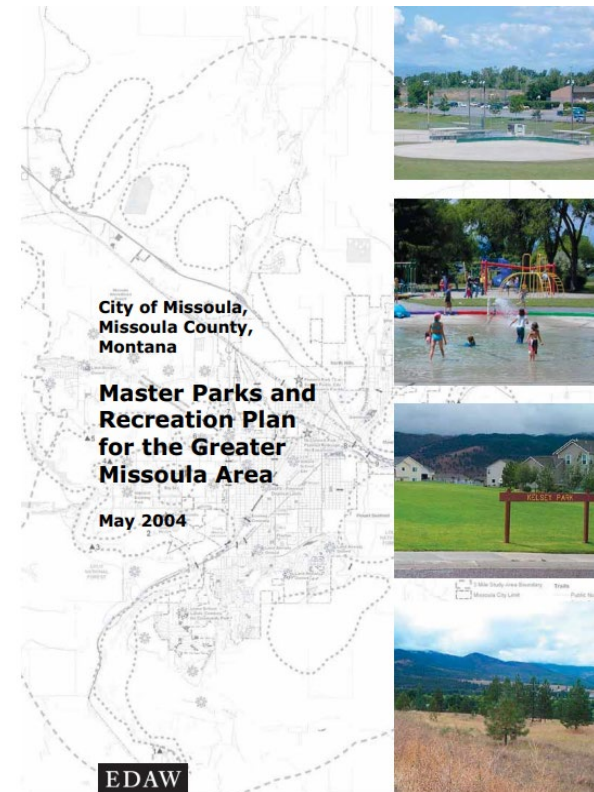
Consolidated Planning Board

- Enable units of local government within Missoula County to cooperate in promoting **quality of life** and **healthy environment**
- Planning for the **improvement of the present health, safety, convenience and welfare**
- **Considers**
 - **Transportation systems** are carefully planned
 - New community centers grow only with adequate **facilities, transportation, utility, health, education and recreation**
 - The needs of **agriculture**, industry and business be recognized in future growth
 - Residential areas provide **healthy surroundings for family life**
 - Growth of the community be commensurate with the promotion of the **efficient economical use of public funds**

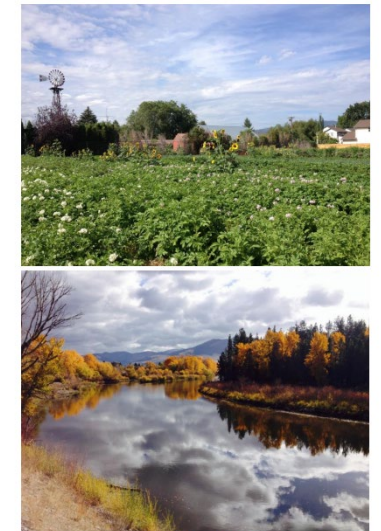


Adopting PROST as and Issue Plan

- In Concert with LUP
 - More detailed analysis of parkland/trails than LUP
 - Addresses specific public needs Related to Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) system
- Past Precedents
 - 2004 Master Parks and Recreation Plan for the Greater Missoula Area
 - 2019 Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan



Missoula Urban Area Open Space Plan 2019
As part of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Trails (PROST) Plan

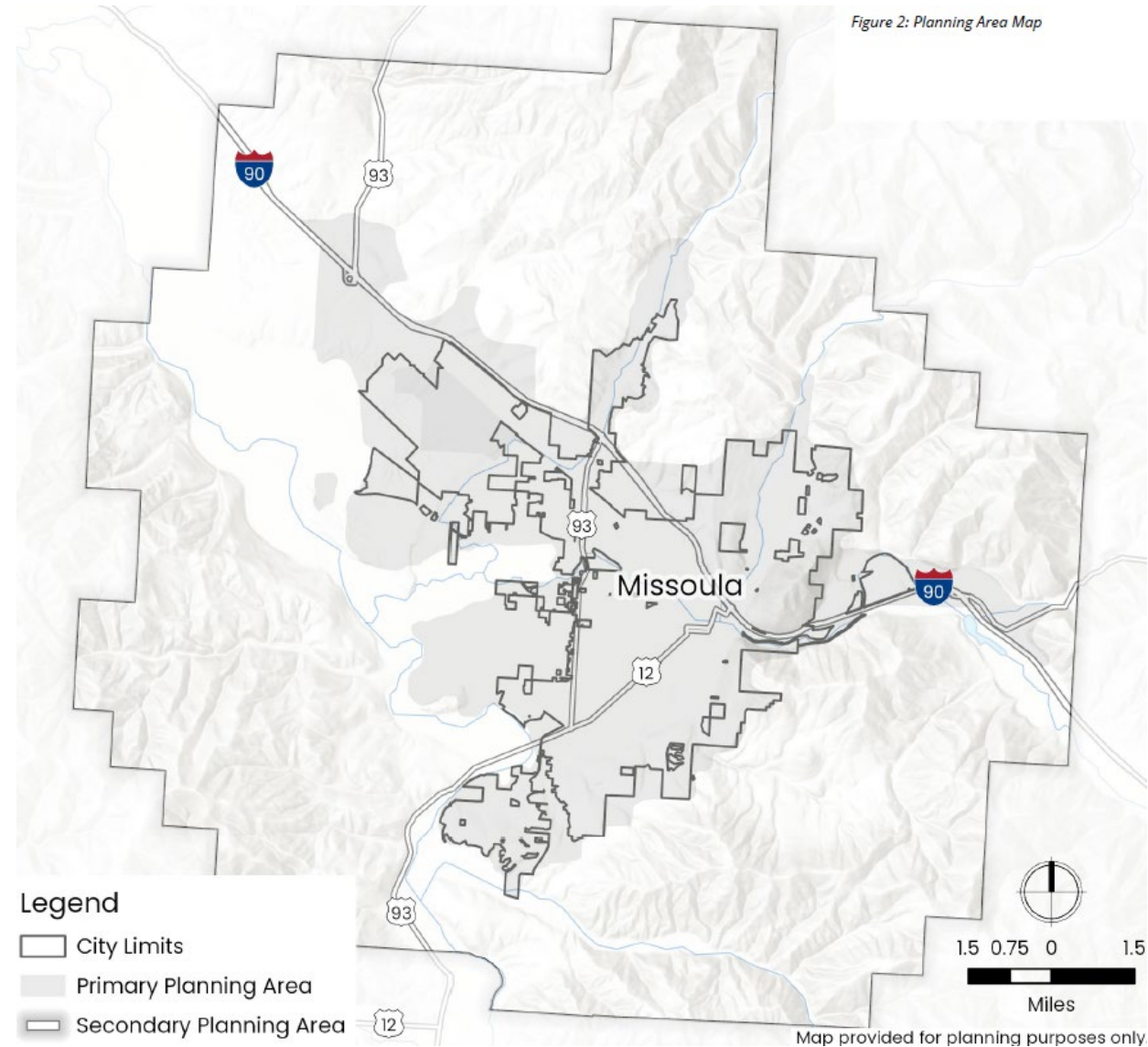


September 2019

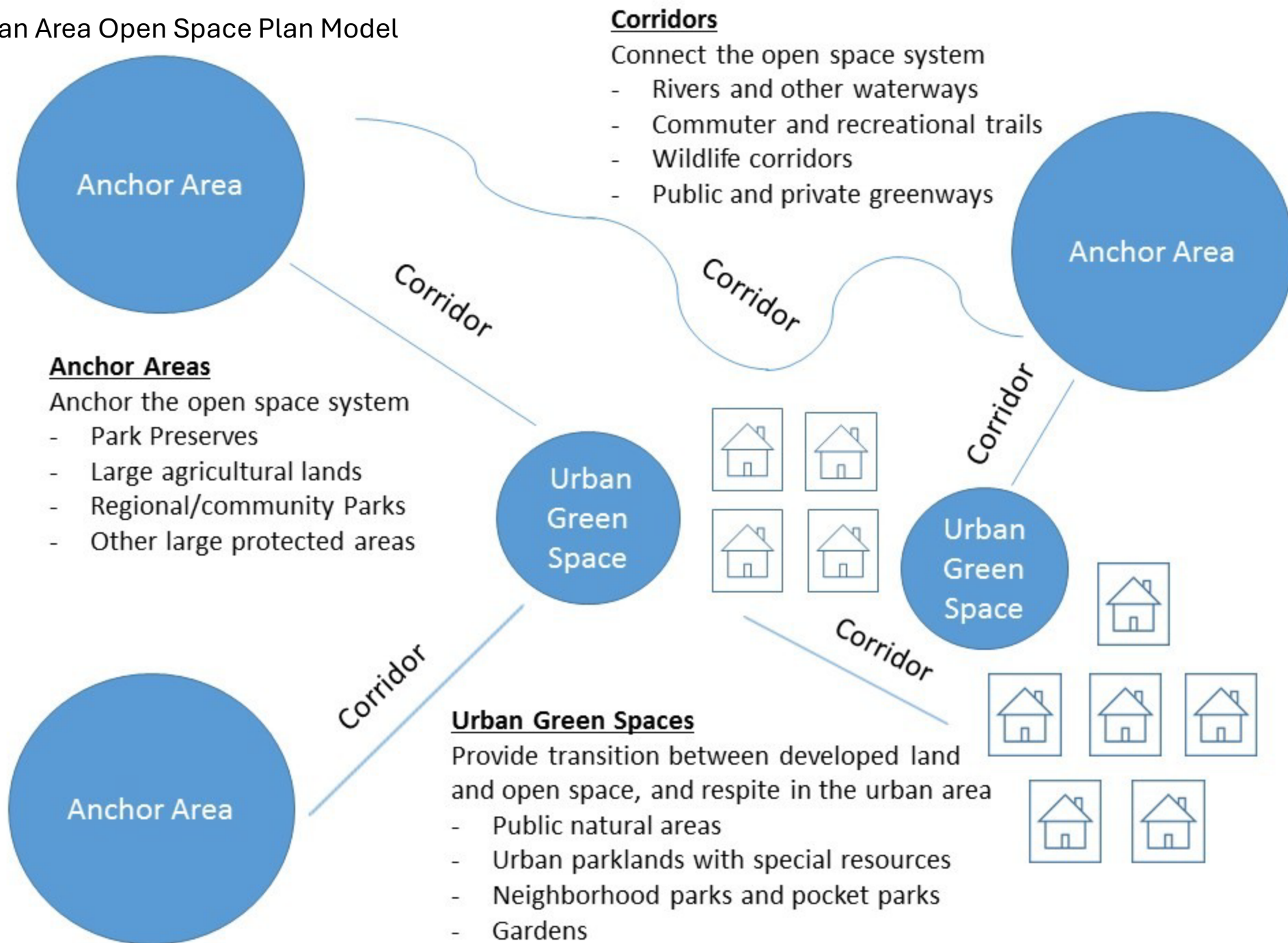


PROST Planning Area and Data Same as Our Missoula Land Use Plan

Figure 2: Planning Area Map



*2019 Urban Area Open Space Plan Model



Achieving the Community's Vision Through Planning



- Through meaningful community engagement during various planning processes, we have gained insights into what residents value most. Recent planning processes included:
 - PROST
 - Our Missoula Land Use Plan and Code Reform
 - Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan
 - Missoula Connect Long-Range Transportation Plan and Transit Services Plan
- Goals such as **housing, walkability, sustainability, clean air and water, connectivity, and access to affordable programs and amenities** reflect our shared vision for the future.
- These goals can be achieved through related actions that bring the plans to life and for realizing our community vision:

“Missoula is an inclusive city where all people can live and celebrate meaningful, purposeful, and fulfilling lives, while enjoying unparalleled recreational, cultural, and entrepreneurial opportunities.”

- Working collaboratively, we can effectively implement this vision over time.

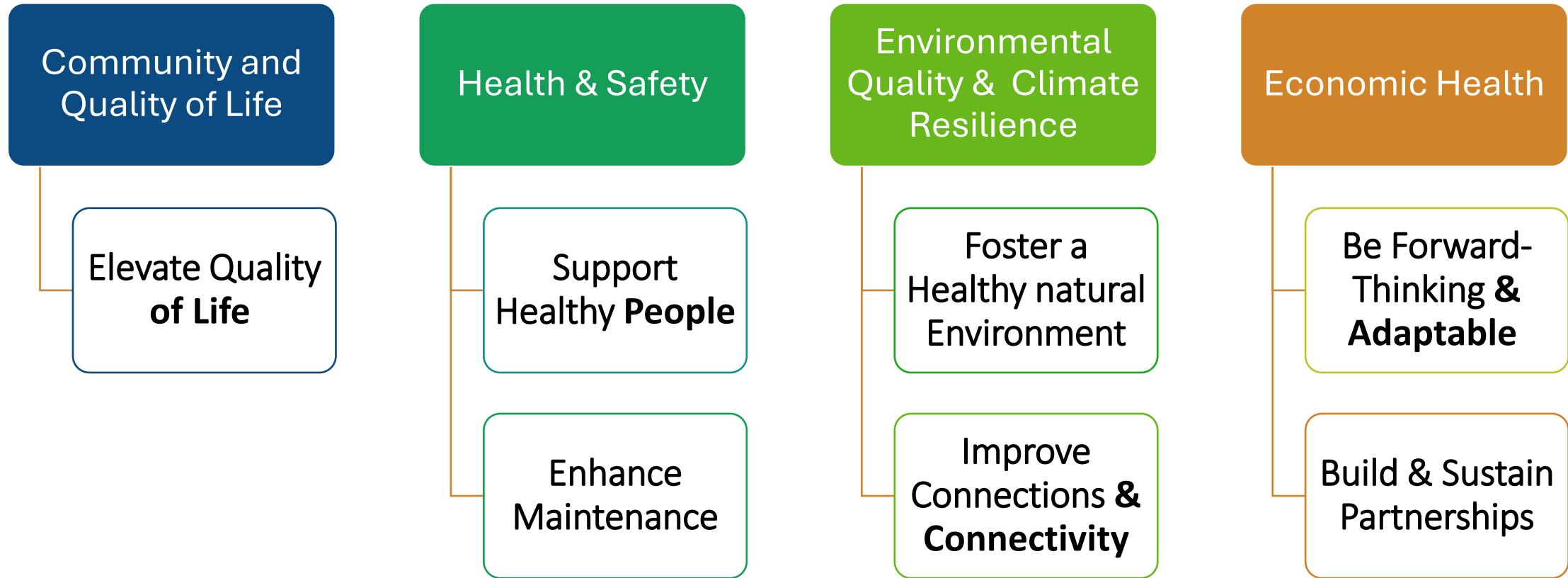


Missoula Economic Partnership

- **2021 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy**
 - Three main factors contribute to the advancement of Missoula County's economy
 - **Quality of life**
 - Supply of highly educated talent
 - A strong culture of Entrepreneurship
- **Missoula Destination Stewardship Plan**
 - 2.1 Advocate for strategies to **integrate arts and cultural experiences** into community life and public spaces to support the local creative economy and enhance Missoula's standing as a place that values artists and makers.
 - 5.1 Advocate for development of a **large indoor multi-use center supporting** largescale events year-round, potentially through a partnership among the city and county.
 - 5.4 Advocate for strategies to grow Missoula as a **premier outdoor recreation destination** (e.g., a comprehensive trail mapping plan) and support other trail initiatives.



Connecting Goals





How does the PROST Consider housing and future growth?

- Parks are **central to the quality of life** for Missoulians
- **Features and amenities** are directly related to function and success of parks
- **A park is not one thing** – can be:
 - Trail or bike path
 - Nature Patch
 - Sports Field
 - Playground
 - Urban Forest
 - The River
- Future of growth and climate means we need to **be adaptable, opportunistic, and innovative**:
 - Higher capacity urban parks
 - Linear parks
 - Programming everywhere
 - Spectrum of nature within Conservation to Developed Park
- **Multiple approaches** to meeting needs
- **Access and connectivity** is central to serving community members

PROST/Land Use Plan

Unified Development Code (UDC) Overlap

- Street trees – Development requirements, maintenance, funding
- Trail typologies – New trail categories with specs, development requirements
- Parklands and Place types – Dedication, improvements, etc.
- Sensitive lands – LUP and PROST both include strategies informing future updates to the City's sensitive lands ordinances

PROST/Land Use Plan cont.

- **Level of Service** – Regional, Community, Neighborhood, high-to- low density areas
- **Place-making and design** – Neighborhood Parks design process
- **Walkability** – Trails, green streets
- **Sensitive Lands** – Rivers, wetlands, wildfires
- **Environment and Climate** - Trees, river corridor, urban heat-island mitigation
- **Increased Housing Density** – Addressing needs of the growing population and infill areas
- **Inclusive Community** – 10-minute walk/roll, improved access to and w/in parks, variety of amenities

****BBER Survey Highlight** – **96%** of residents in the Missoula Planning Area support ensuring new housing and commercial development provide adequate access to parks, open space, trails.*



PROST Plan Review

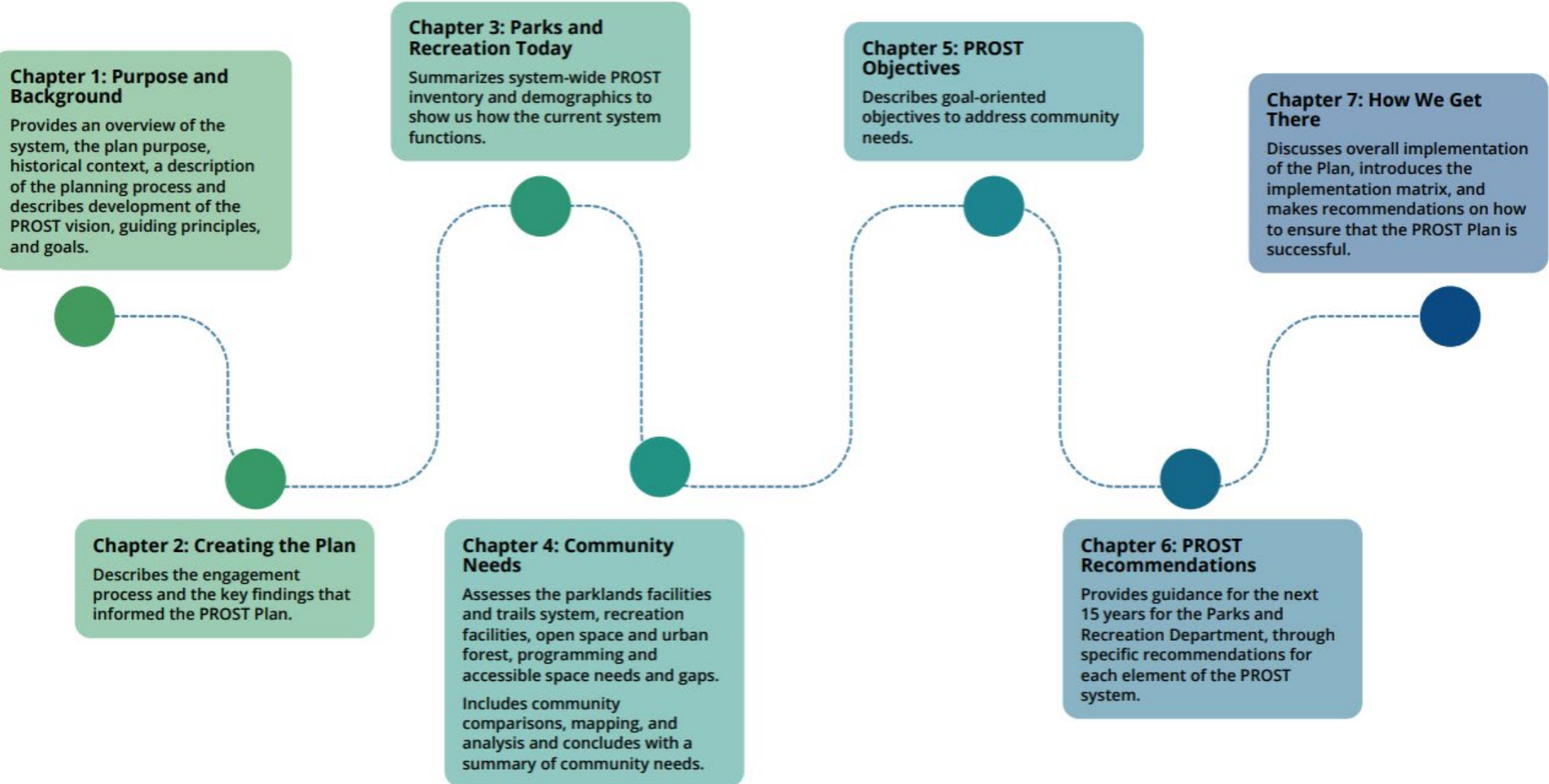
Online review and brief public
comment survey:
www.engagemissoula.org/prost

May 16-June 3



How to Read the PROST Plan

The following graphic outlines the chapters within the Plan and a summary of the key takeaways in each chapter.



Chapter 1: Purpose and Background

Key Takeaways

- **Strategic Lens Integration:** The PROST Plan embeds Missoula's [three decision-making lenses—Climate, Equity, and Housing](#)—into parks and recreation planning priorities.
- **Support Compact Growth:** As Missoula develops inward to address housing needs, the [PROST system must provide quality green spaces](#) in denser environments.
- **Climate Action:** The Plan includes [specific strategies for parks, open spaces, and urban forestry to advance carbon neutrality and climate resilience goals](#).
- **Universal Access:** Ensuring [equitable access](#) to recreation resources remains central as Missoula prepares for 50 percent population growth by 2045



What is PROST?

The PROST Plan will make recommendations for:



Parks



Recreation



Open
Space



Trails

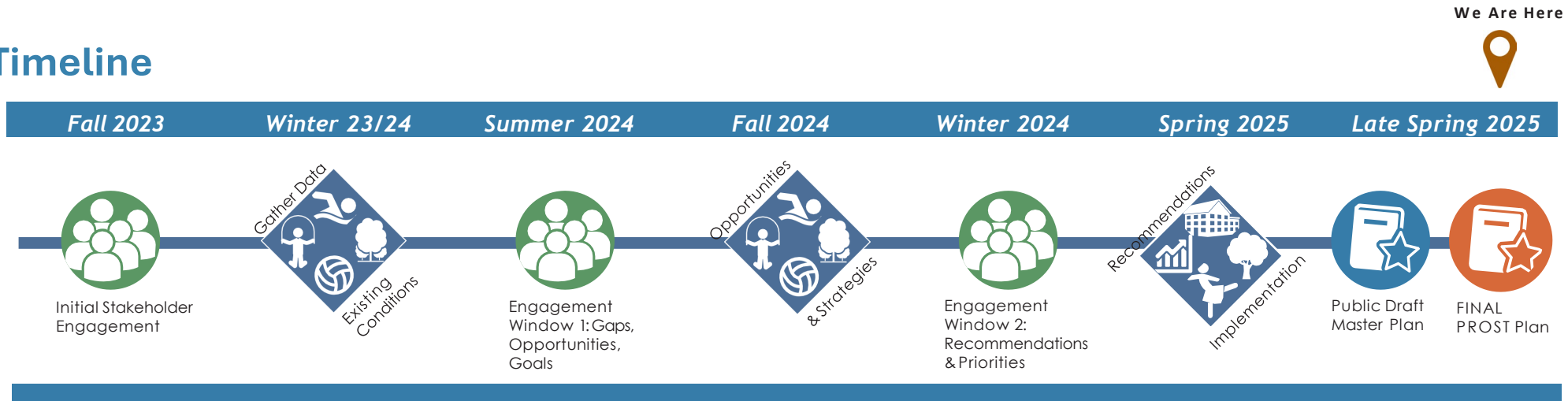


Trees

What is the PROST document?

- The City of Missoula takes pride in serving our wonderful community by providing **quality recreation and aquatics programs**, beautifully maintained **parks and trails**, and plenty of open spaces for everyone to enjoy.
- The master plan will be a blueprint for the next 15 years for parks, trails, open space, and recreation services to residents.
- The 2025 PROST Plan will be shifting from the more suburban 2004 Master Plan to identify and create solutions for an **adaptable and more urban community**.
- The PROST will augment the recently adopted **Our Missoula Land Use Plan**.

Timeline



Chapter 2: Creating the Plan

Key Takeaways

- **Inclusive Engagement:** The process reached **5,000+ residents** through diverse methods, with targeted outreach to historically underserved communities.
- **Climate Action Support:** Over **85 percent of residents strongly support environmental strategies**, including protecting water resources, preserving habitat, and expanding urban tree canopy.
- **Walkable Development:** As Missoula grows inward, **residents prioritize walkable neighborhoods** (90 percent support) **and connected trails**, linking housing density with accessible recreation.
- **Integrated Planning:** **PROST was coordinated with the concurrent local planning processes**, including the City's Land Use Plan, and the countywide Community Health Improvement and Long-Range Transportation plans, creating alignment across housing, mobility, health and recreation systems.



Public Participation Plan at a Glance



*Asterisks indicate targeted outreach

2024 BBER Statistically Valid Survey Highlights

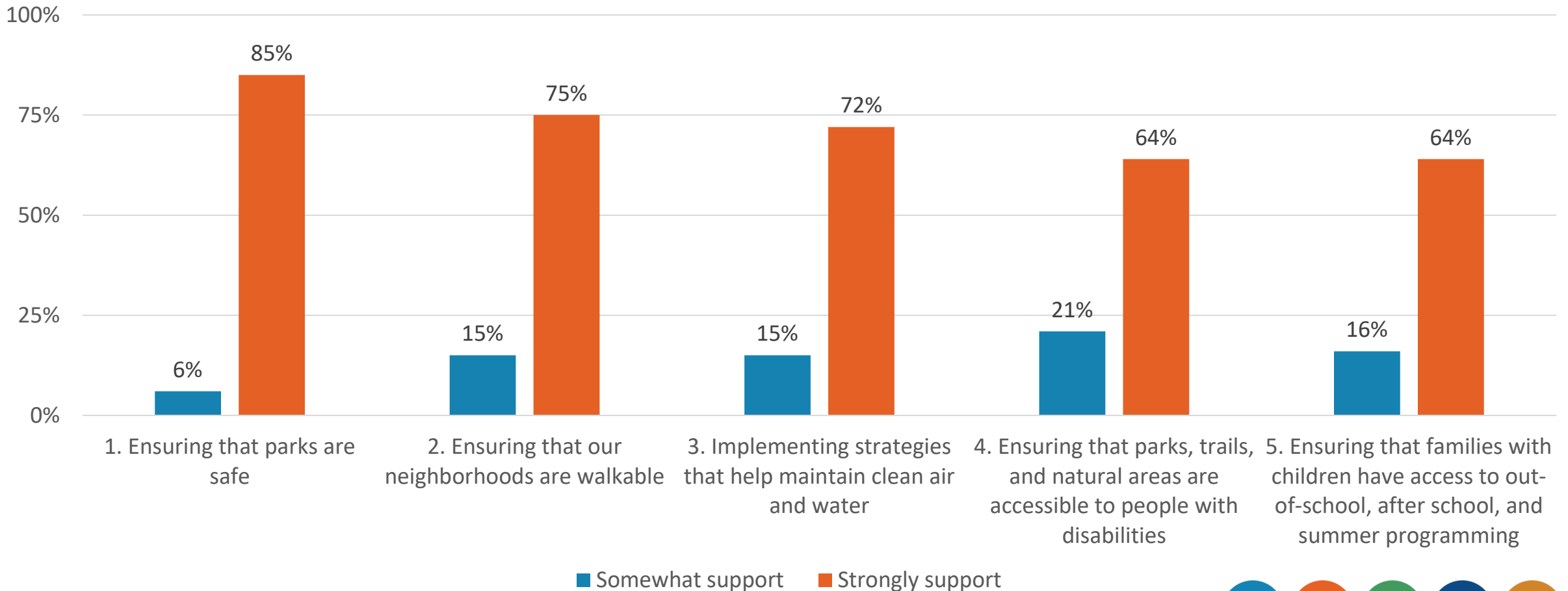
Residents:

- Are generally **satisfied** with the current quality of parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities
- Highly value: Top Policy Support
 - Ensuring parks are **safe** (91%)
 - Neighborhoods are **walkable** (90%)
 - Maintaining **clean air and water** (87%)
 - **Accessible** parks, trails and natural areas (85%)
 - **Children's** programming (child care) (80%)
- Want parks and trails located **near their homes**
- Want to **protect**:
 - River corridors
 - Public access
 - Wildlife habitat and the environment in general
 - Agricultural lands and working farms/forests
 - Scenic views and vistas

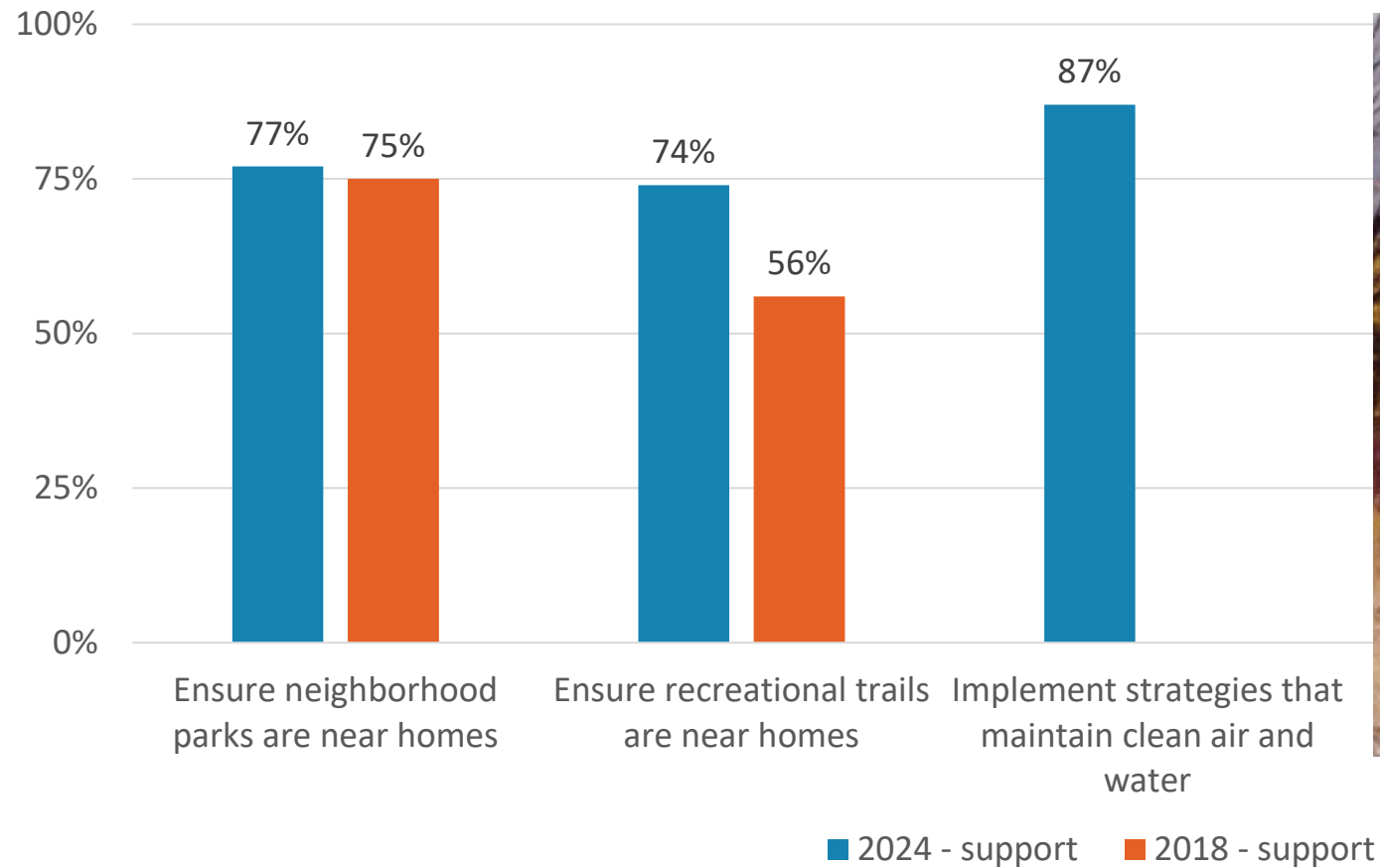


Residents' Top 5 Priorities

- Safe parks
- Clean air and water
- Out-of-school time youth programming
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Universal accessibility



General policies – trends in resident support



Public Engagement: What we heard

- P&R lands and services are key components of residents' **quality of life**
- P&R lands and services lead to **inclusive community-building** (including arts and culture)
- Important to provide a **connected system** (trails and greenways)
- Need for **year-round facility** for programming and gathering
- Focus on **maintenance and upkeep** of existing parks, trails, facilities, etc.
- Support for **climate and resiliency** projects and strategies
- Concerns for **safety**
- Need for a greater **variety of programming** for all ages and demographics
- Specific **areas of divided opinion/hot topics** – Ex: Dogs, e-bikes, safety

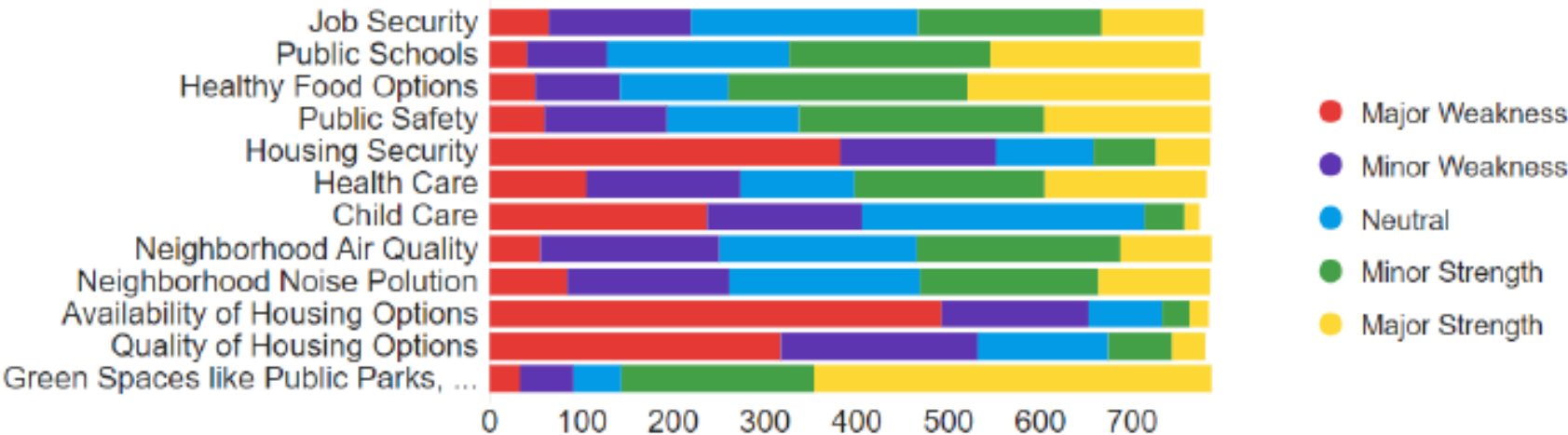


National Community (Polco) Survey*

- The City's **parks and recreational opportunities are highly valued** by residents with recreational opportunities, fitness opportunities, and availability of **paths and walking trails ranking higher** than the national average.
- **83%** and **69%** of Missoulians feel the natural environment and Parks and Recreation, respectively, is either **essential or very important**.

Community Health Assessment (CHA) Survey**

Missoula City Limits



Green spaces like public parks were considered a major strength for Missoula City residents as a social determinant of health.

*National Research Center/Polco, 2024; **Missoula Public Health, 2024



Chapter 3: Parks and Recreation today

Key Takeaways

- **Population Growth and Park Needs:** Missoula's projected population growth (to 115,950 by 2045) requires approximately 367 additional acres of parkland to maintain current service levels.
- **Demographic Considerations:** Missoula has both a large young adult population and a growing older adult population (projected to reach 20% by 2045), plus 10-12% of residents living with disabilities, necessitating diverse, accessible recreational offerings.
- **Indoor Recreation Facility Gap:** Unlike peer cities, Missoula lacks indoor recreation centers, a significant service gap given local climate conditions that impacts year-round recreation access.
- **Urban Forest Challenges:** The urban tree canopy faces decline with removals outpacing plantings by nearly 2:1, threatening a critical climate resilience resource that provides heat reduction, improved air quality, and stormwater management.
- **Recreation Programming Access:** While offering robust youth programming with \$120,000 in annual scholarships and reduced fees, facility limitations restrict program expansion to fully serve all demographics.



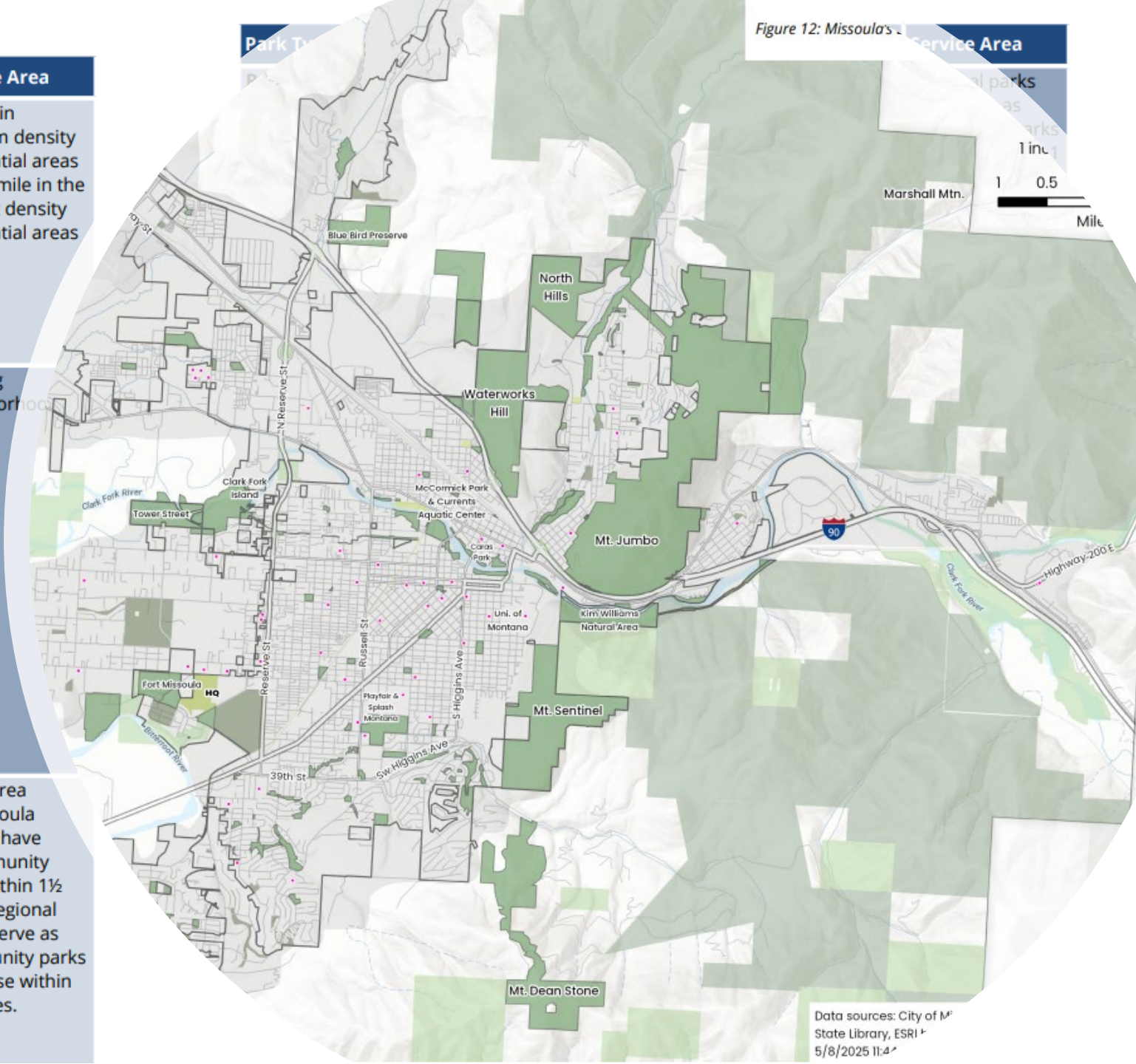
Key Demographics (2045 Land Use Plan)

- Population growth over the next 20 years...
 - Need for increased facilities and recreation services simply to keep pace with growth.
- Overall younger population is driven by a high percentage of young adults (20 – 29) now and in the future.
- Projected increase in the percentage of older adults (65+) in the next 10 years
- Continued significant population of people with disabilities (at least 10-12%).
 - For context, the K-8 age groups (ages 5-14) in Missoula currently account for about 11% of the population.
- Slight decrease in K-8 age groups in some schools, while other will increase
- Missoula's Equity in Land Use Report findings illustrate areas and populations who are vulnerable and underserved.

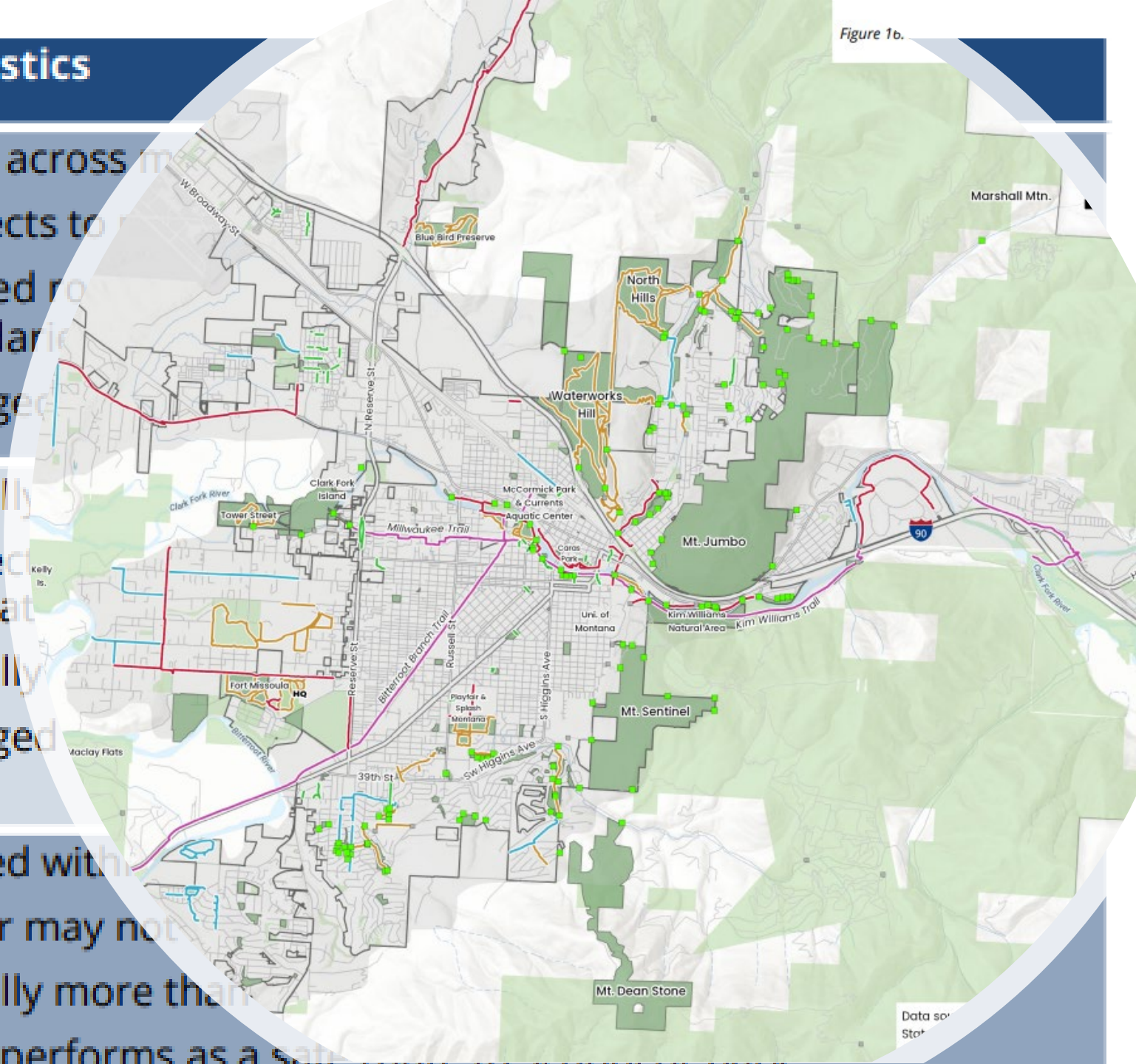


Table 3: Park Classification Overview

Park Type	Definition	Size	Service Area
Neighborhood Parks	Neighborhood parks provide close-to-home public spaces to meet recreation and social needs for nearby residents to walk, play, exercise and be outdoors. Park users typically live within walking and bicycling distance. Some neighborhood parks incorporate natural areas, such as wooded areas, adding to their overall size. Neighborhood parks are typically surrounded by public streets or trails.	Desired size is 5 acres. In the highest density residential areas, at least 2 acres should be provided.	½-mile in medium density residential areas and ¼-mile in the highest density residential areas
Pocket Parks	Pocket parks, sometimes called mini-parks, are small parks that may serve a portion of the surrounding neighborhood. Pocket parks may function as small neighborhood parks or simply provide urban green space. Pocket parks can be essential in serving densely populated portions of the city where neighborhood park level of service cannot be met due to lack of available lands.	The City of Missoula has pocket parks in its inventory. While not ideal for serving local neighborhoods, pocket parks can serve as neighborhood parks in certain situations and should meet neighborhood park access and location guidelines.	Existing neighborhood sites.
Community Parks	Community parks are designed to serve multiple neighborhoods, drawing visitors from several neighborhoods or across Missoula for their features, facilities or programs. These parks serve a broad range of activities and users, support group gatherings, provide space for programs and events and often include specialized recreation facilities. Community parks are generally designed to also serve as neighborhood parks for those living	Desired minimum size is 25 acres.	Every area of Missoula should have a community park within 1½ mile. Regional Parks serve as community parks for those within 1½ miles.



Type	Characteristics
Regional Trails	- Spans across multiple jurisdictions - Connects to other regional trails - Planned to cross jurisdictional boundaries - Managed by a single agency
Community Trails	- Typically within a city or town - Connects to local destinations - Typically managed by a local agency - Managed by a single agency
Neighborhood Trails	- Located within a neighborhood - May or may not be managed by a local agency - Typically more than 1 mile long - Often performs as a sales tool



Data source: State of Idaho

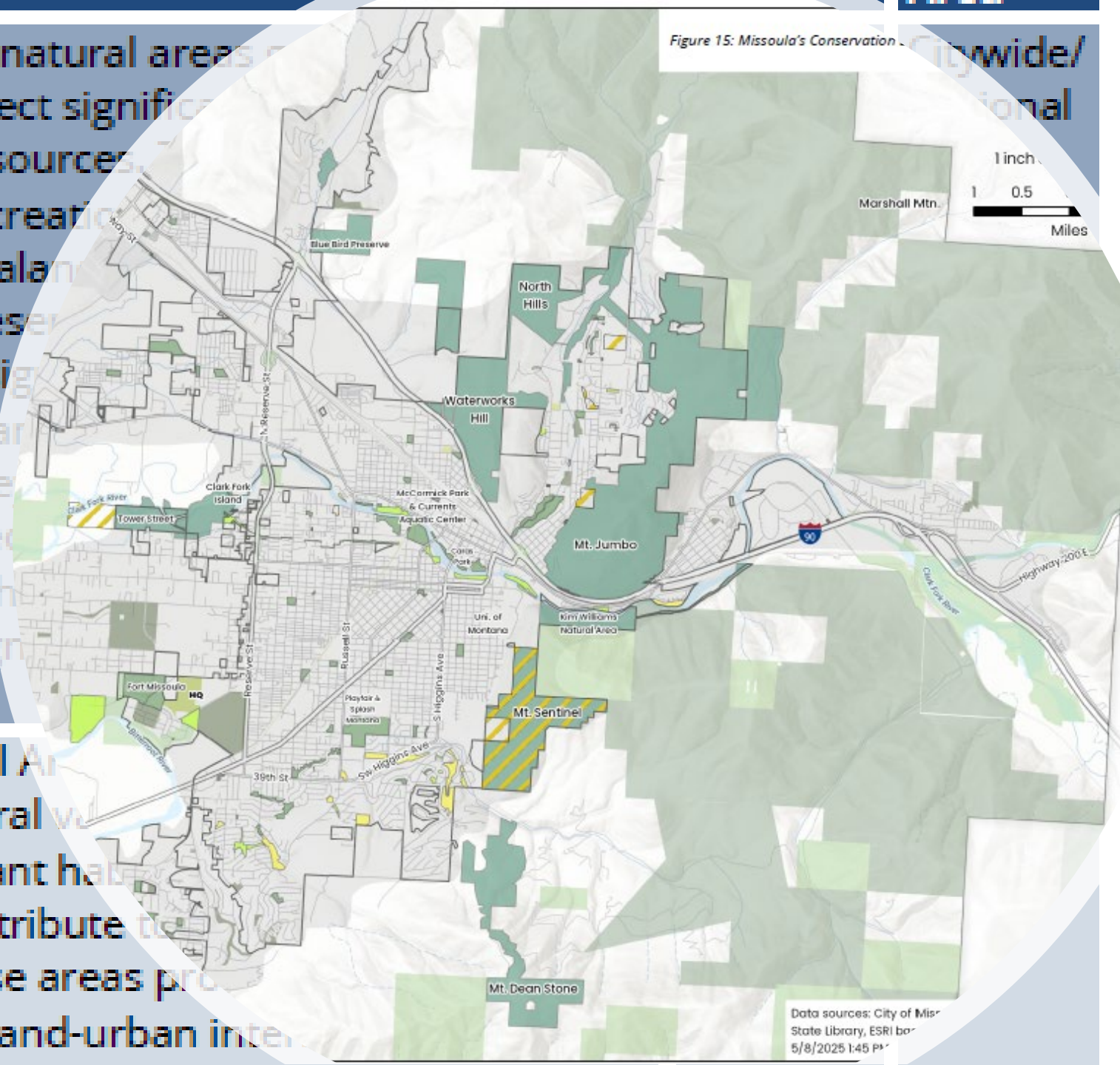
Park preserves

Park Preserves are natural areas of 100 acres that protect significant regional natural resources, provide nature-oriented recreation, and balance preservation and balance with public use. Preserves include surface trails with significant preexisting single-lane access. City acquisition. The exception is at designated access points, which include such as parking, signage, and toilets.

Community Natural

Community Natural Areas are functions and natural values, vegetation, important habitats, and zones that contribute to and buffering. These areas provide management, wildland-urban inter-

Figure 15: Missoula's Conservation Citywide/Regional



Missoulians Support Maintaining the Existing Level of Service

NRPA Metrics

10.2

Average acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for similar sized agencies (50,000 to 99,999 people)

Missoula

10.68

Average acres of developed and (accessible) parkland per 1,000 residents in Missoula*

**Including developed parks, urban parkland, and public natural areas.*

Per PROST a “**Complete Park**” includes the following design elements:

- Social/Cultural
- Active Recreation
- Play Experience
- Nature





National Recreation and Parks Association

U.S. Metrics

When compared to national averages, Missoula ranks:

- Above the national average in services provided
- Below the median in Parks budget per capita

PARKS AND RECREATION BUDGETS PER CAPITA	All Agencies*	Agencies Serving 50,000 to 99,999 people	Agencies serving 100,000 to 250,000 people
Lower Quartile	\$53.23	\$73.64	\$47.07
Median	\$94.77	\$120.70	\$75.88
Upper Quartile	173.05	\$197.47	\$155.62
Missoula	\$116.58*		

- Does not include Urban Forestry funding

Chapter 4: Assessing Community Need

Key Takeaways

- **Park Access Inequities:** Significant gaps exist in Missoula's park system, particularly in areas planned for higher-density development and neighborhoods with historically marginalized populations—directly impacting housing and equity goals.
- **Indoor Recreation Deficit:** Unlike peer cities, Missoula lacks dedicated indoor recreation centers beyond its aquatic facility, creating a critical gap during increasingly extreme weather conditions (cold winters, hot summers, wildfire smoke)—undermining climate resilience.
- **Urban Forest Crisis:** With low species diversity, aging trees, and removal outpacing planting 2:1, Missoula's urban forest is at risk—threatening a vital resource for climate resilience that provides cooling, improves air quality, and manages stormwater.
- **Nature Access Disparities:** Large areas of Missoula lack access to natural areas within a 1-mile distance, highlighting equity gaps in accessing spaces that support both recreation and climate resilience.



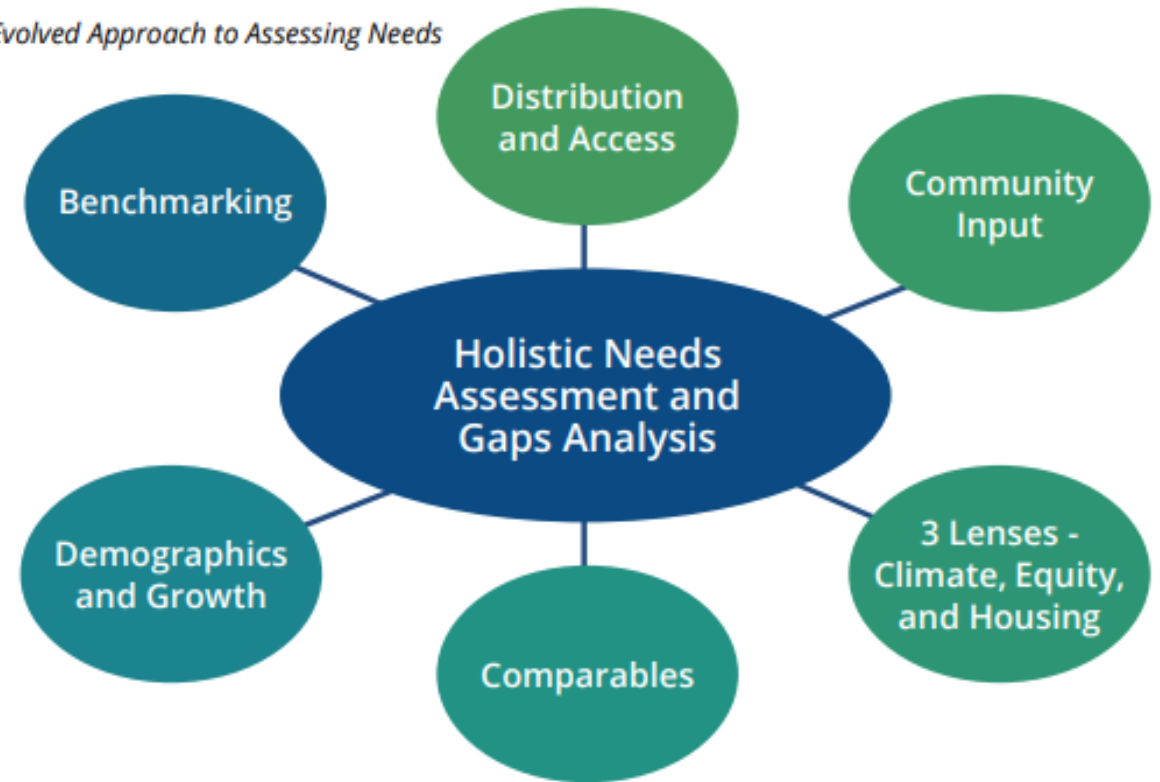
Modern Approach



2004



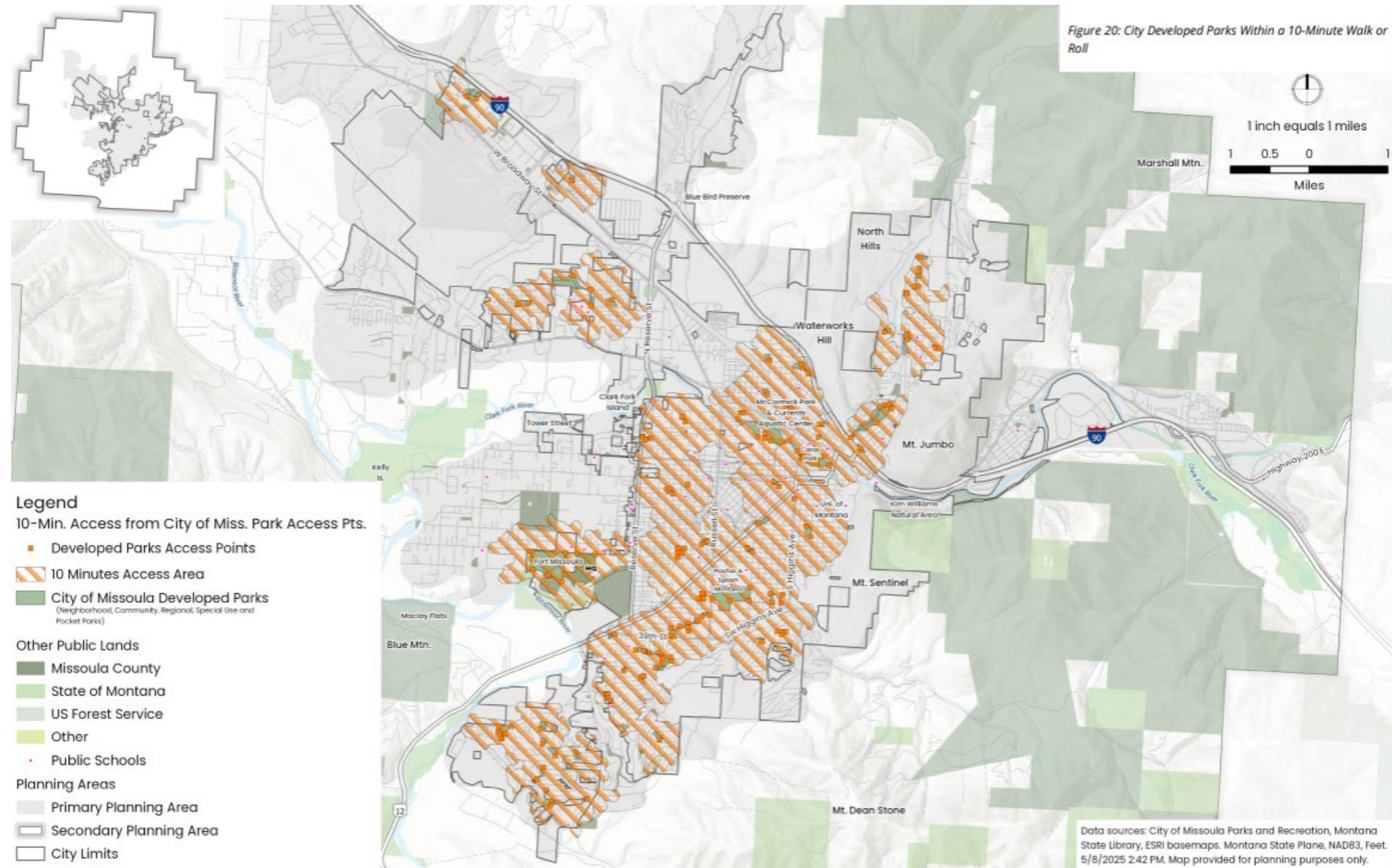
Figure 17: Evolved Approach to Assessing Needs



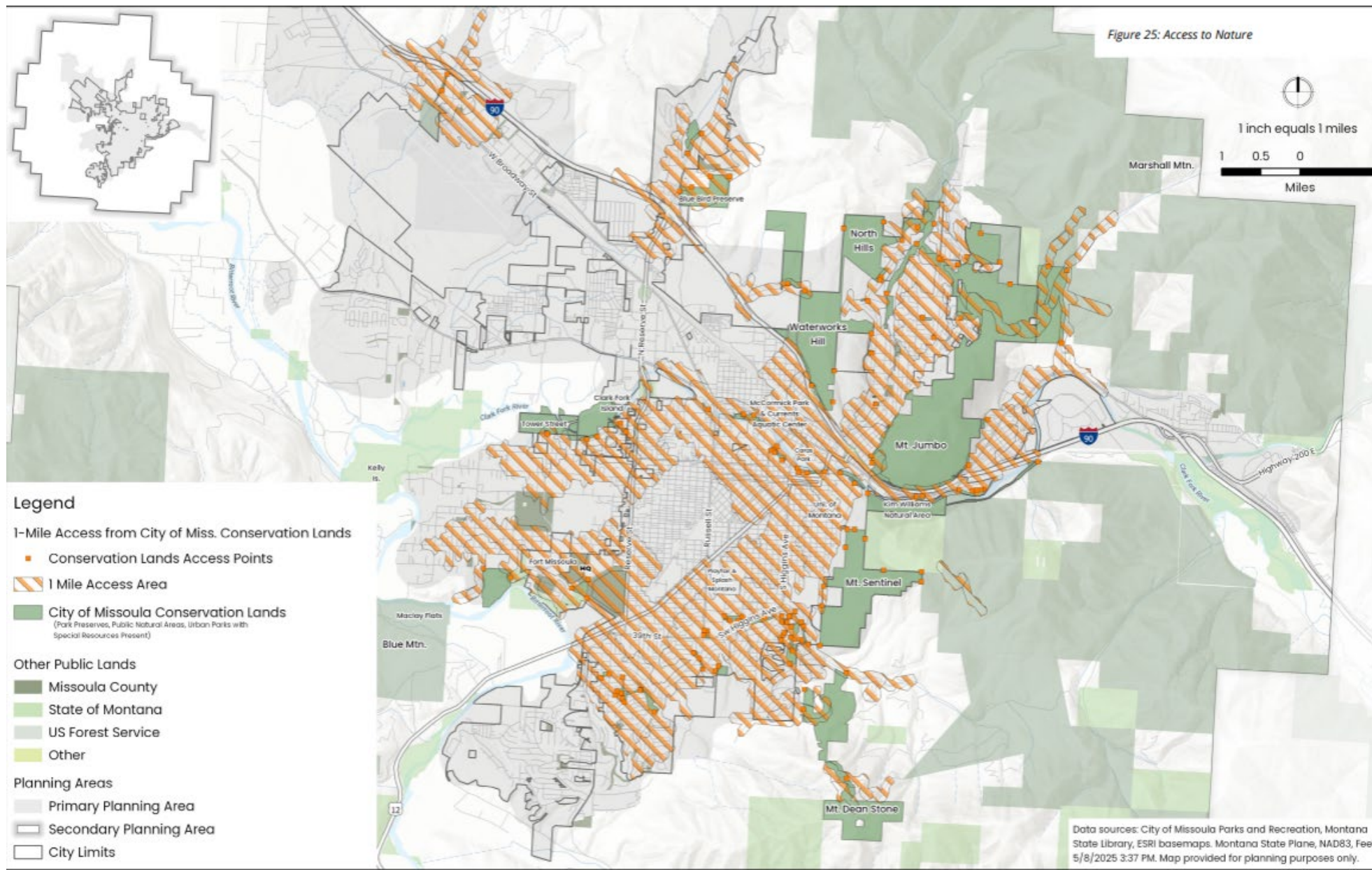
2024



10-Minute Walk Access By Time



1 Mile Nature Access



Key Gaps Mapping Findings

- Much of the City has a ½-mile walk to a developed park, however there are gaps, and barriers (ex: incomplete sidewalk network)
- Majority of the City has a 10-minute walk to a local park, but there are gaps in the Franklin to the Fort, Westside, and Moose Can Gully neighborhoods
- There is a lack of natural parks in the areas listed above, plus Captain John Mullan, Miller Creek, Rose Park, and Southgate Triangle neighborhoods (some lower income, diverse areas)



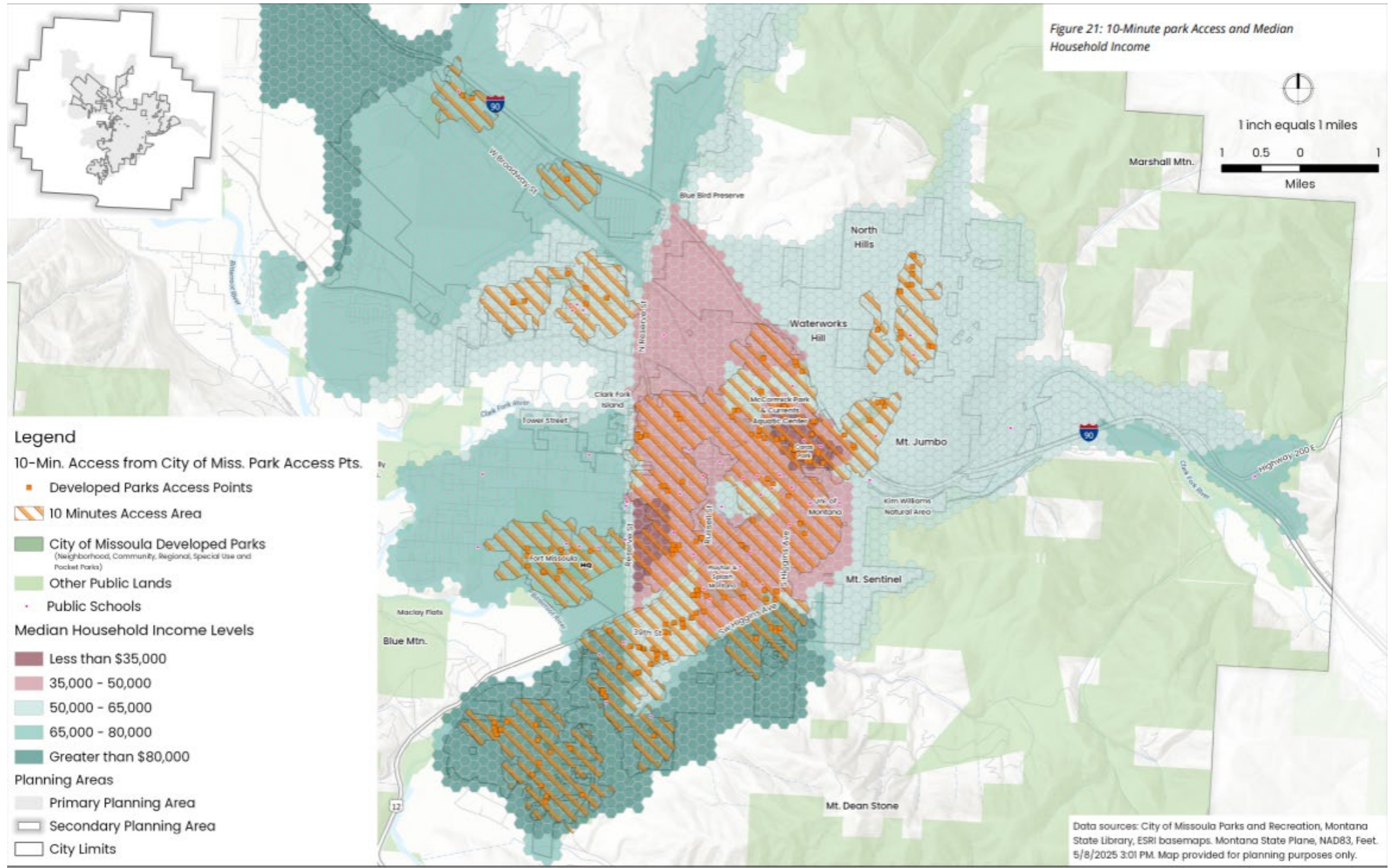


Figure 23: 10-Minute Park Access and American Indian and Alaska Native Populations

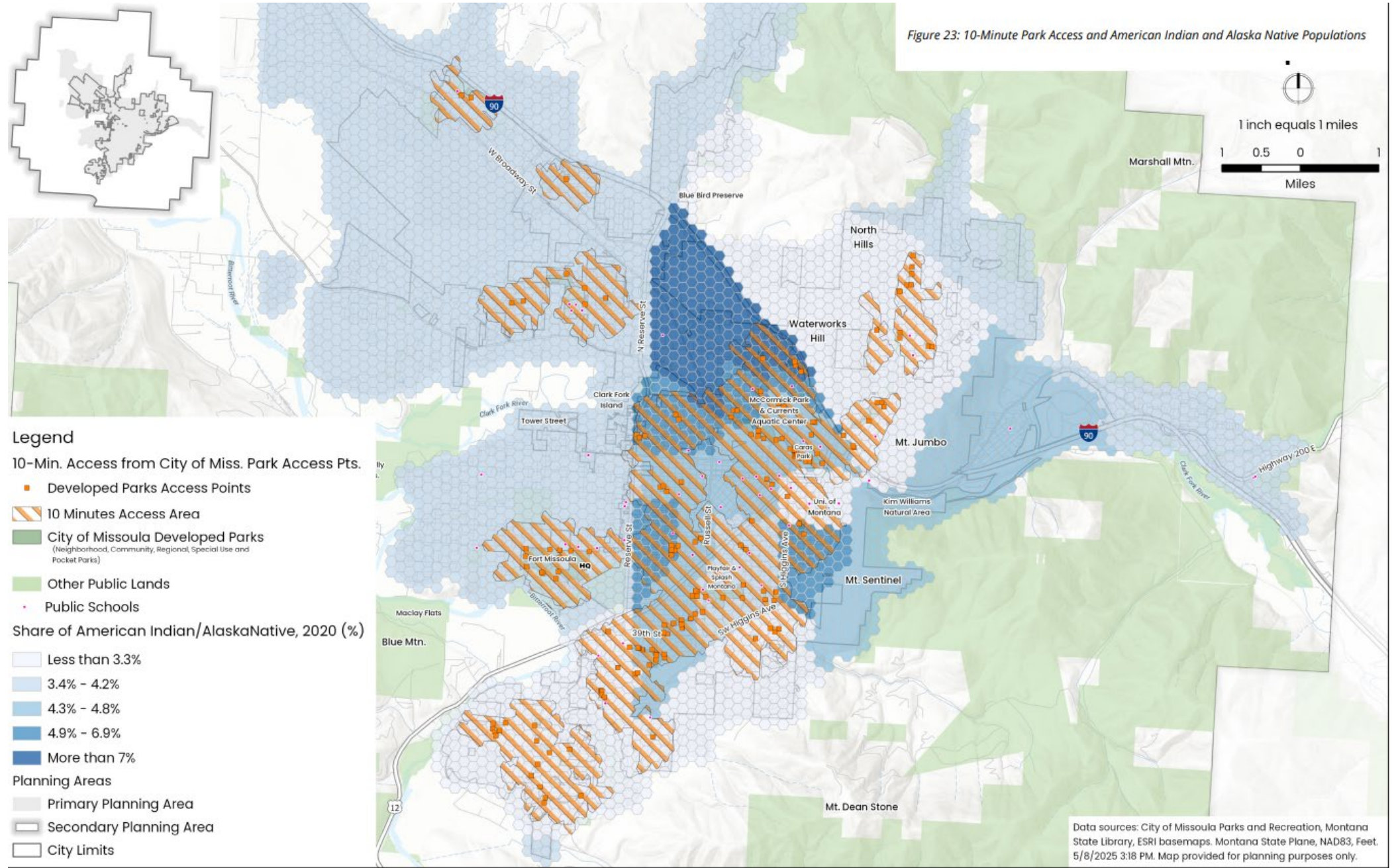
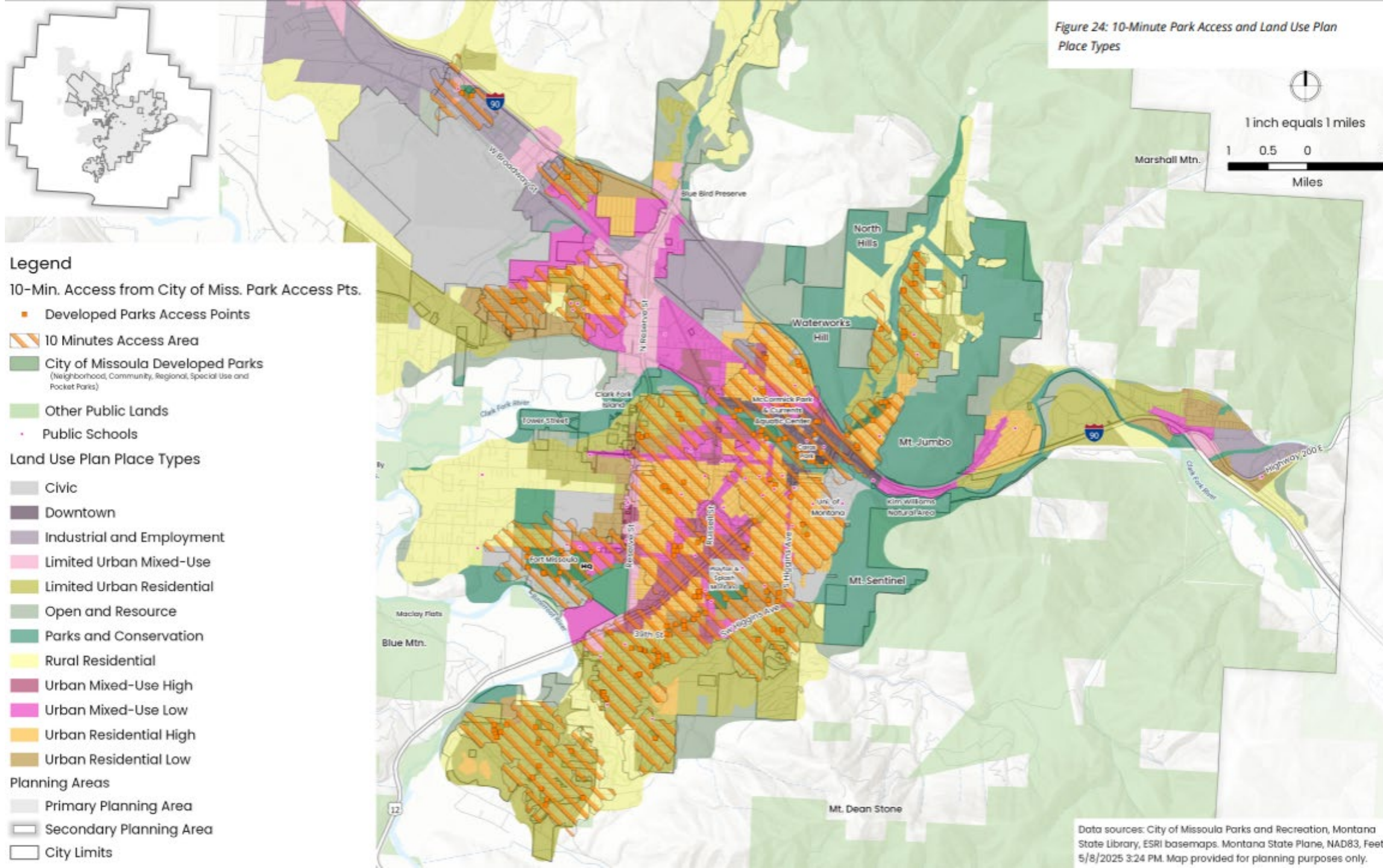


Figure 24: 10-Minute Park Access and Land Use Plan Place Types



Parks Service Area and Place Type Connection

Table 17: Summary of public parks and open space by Place Type in the Our Missoula 2045 Land Use Plan (LUP)

Place Type	Place Type Characteristics as defined in the LUP		
	Primary Land Use includes Residential Housing	Primary Land Use includes Parks and Open Space	Parks Service Area
Urban Residential High	Yes	Yes	Parks within walking distance of all residents.
Urban Residential Low			
Limited Urban Residential			
Downtown			
Urban Mixed Use High			
Urban Mixed Use Low			
Limited Urban Mixed Use			
Rural Residential	No	No	Parks may not be within walking distance of all residents.
Parks and Conservation Lands			Not Applicable. Residential housing is not a primary use of the Place Type.
Civic			
Open and Resource			
Industrial and Employment			



Chapter 5: Objectives to Meet Community Needs

Key Takeaways

- **Multi-Function Facilities:** Parks should be designed for flexible, multiple uses rather than single purposes, with community parks like Playfair Park being reimagined to serve more diverse needs year-round.
- **Nature Integration:** The future park system should incorporate natural elements throughout all park types, creating “hybrid parklands” that blend developed recreational areas with native habitat patches.
- **Expanded Partnership Network:** Building and sustaining robust partnerships with schools, nonprofits, businesses, and other agencies is essential for expanding access, funding, and programming.
- **All-Season Recreation Initiative:** Strategic investments in climate-controlled spaces, covered facilities, and winter programming are needed to ensure year-round access to recreation despite extreme weather conditions.
- **River Corridor Management:** A comprehensive, cross-jurisdictional approach to river corridor management will balance responsible recreational development, habitat protection, and educational campaigns.





Organizational Process Goals



Be Forward-Thinking & Adaptable

Anticipate the needs of Missoula's growing and changing community by creating adaptable and innovative parks, facilities, trails, landscapes, and programs that benefit the community environmentally, socially, culturally, and economically.



Build & Sustain Partnerships

Expand and sustain community partnerships, and work with other departments, agencies, organizations, businesses, and individuals to advance the PROST and greater community vision.

Outcome-Oriented Goals



Elevate Quality of Life

Ensure Missoula's parks, recreation facilities, open spaces, trails, trees, and services continue to contribute to and reflect Missoula's identity with a thriving, equitable, and well-rounded park system.



Support Healthy People

Promote overall wellbeing with increased opportunities for health and wellness, physical fitness, enjoyment of social connections, and increased safety through programs and services.



Foster a Healthy Natural Environment

Strategically protect, maintain, design, and improve a cohesive system of parklands and open spaces that help to mitigate the effects of climate change and provide respite for residents from the urban environment.



Improve Connections & Connectivity

Connect people to each other, to community, to public places, and to the natural environment while ensuring connected ecological systems.



Enhance Maintenance

Provide stewardship of Missoula's parks, open spaces, trails, urban forest, and recreation assets through innovative, regenerative, and effective design combined with maintenance and operations best practices.

Chapter 6: PROST Recommend ations

Key Takeaways

Park Access Initiative: The 10-minute walk/roll initiative addresses the fundamental need for convenient park access for all residents, reflecting the core community value of equitable recreation opportunities close to home.

All-Season Recreation: Given Montana's climate challenges, the ability to enjoy outdoor recreation year-round despite seasonal limitations, extreme weather, and poor air quality appears to be a high priority for maintaining quality of life throughout the year.

River Corridor Management: The Clark Fork and other waterways are vital ecological, economic, and recreational resources, highlighting the central importance of rivers to Missoula's identity, quality of life, and tourism economy.

Urban Forest Investment: The plan emphasizes the urgent need to address failing urban forest canopy, reflecting the community's strong valuation of trees for shade, aesthetics, and environmental benefits in the urban landscape.



Chapter 6: PROST Recommendations (Cont)

Key Takeaways (Cont)

- **Nature Integration Strategy:** While related to park access, the specific focus on [integrating natural elements throughout the system](#) addresses residents' expressed desire for connecting with nature near their homes.
- **Equity-Focused Implementation:** The plan [prioritizes underserved neighborhoods](#) through equity screens for improvement decisions, expanded scholarship programs, partnerships with underrepresented communities, universal access improvements, and inclusive programming designed for diverse community segments including preschoolers, teens, older adults, and people with disabilities.
- **Climate Resilience:** The plan [embeds climate strategies](#) throughout operations, focusing on water and energy efficiency, transportation-related carbon reduction, waste minimization, habitat restoration, and resilient landscape practices that advance Missoula's broader environmental goals while creating more sustainable park spaces.



Highlighted Recommendations

The following is a “snapshot” of the community’s gaps and needs that are outlined in Chapter 4 and inform the recommendations laid out in Chapter 6.

Urban Park Innovation

New models are needed for higher-density areas with compact, amenity-rich parks accessible to all residents—supporting both housing density and equity goals.

Support for the City’s Urban Forest

Updating the urban tree inventory, diversifying plantings, and strengthening development codes will protect this vital climate infrastructure.



A Walkable and Rollable System

Everyone should be within a 10 minute walk or roll of a park, with a safe route to get there.

Inclusive Programming

Recreation services need to extend beyond youth to serve adults, seniors, and underserved neighborhoods through diverse, mobile offerings.

A Connected Green Network

Developing an integrated system of parks, open spaces and conservation lands, particularly along river corridors, addresses climate resilience while providing equitable nature access.

Figure 27: PROST Future PROST System

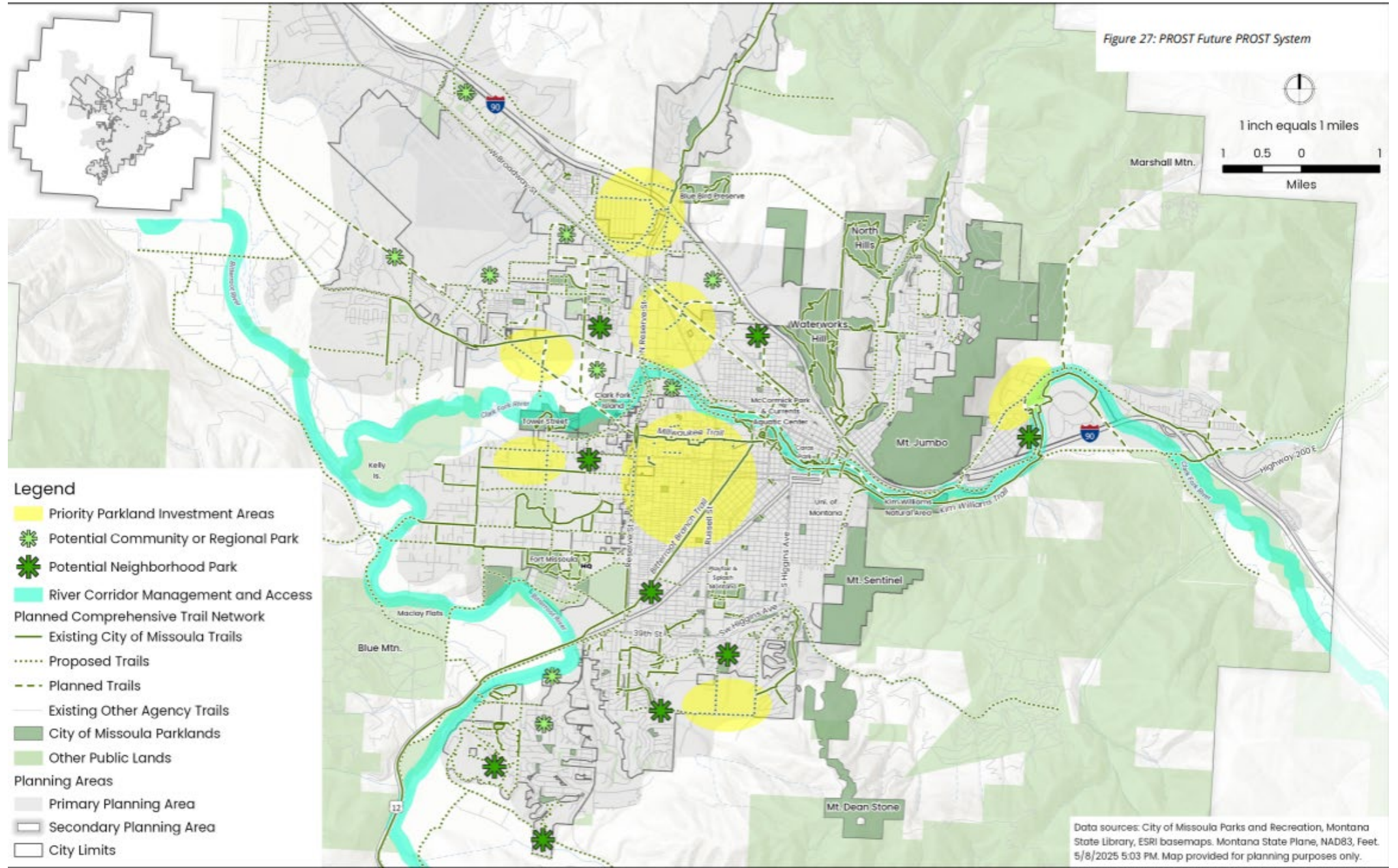
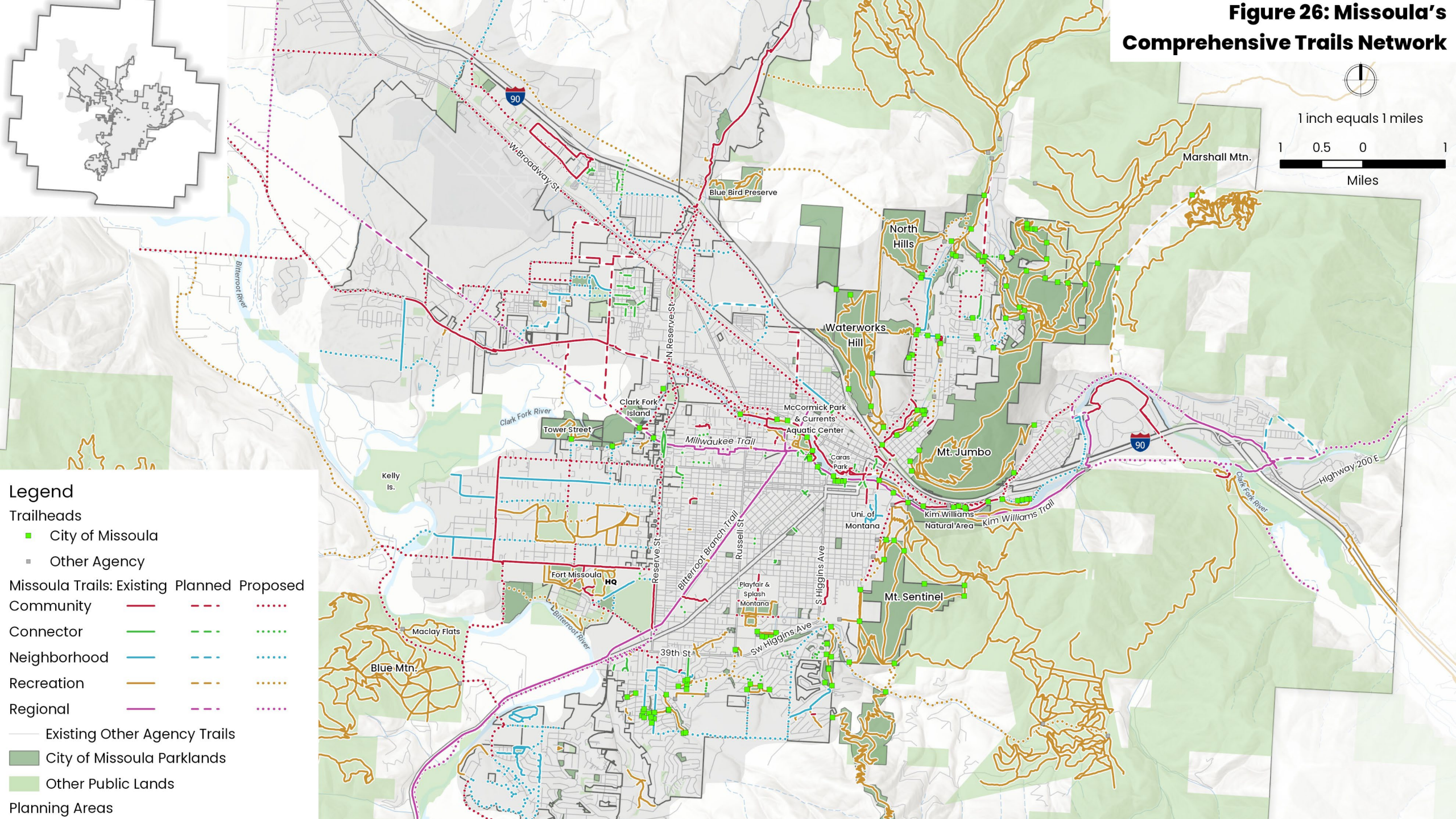
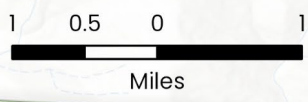


Figure 26: Missoula's Comprehensive Trails Network



1 inch equals 1 miles



Legend

Trailheads

- City of Missoula
- Other Agency

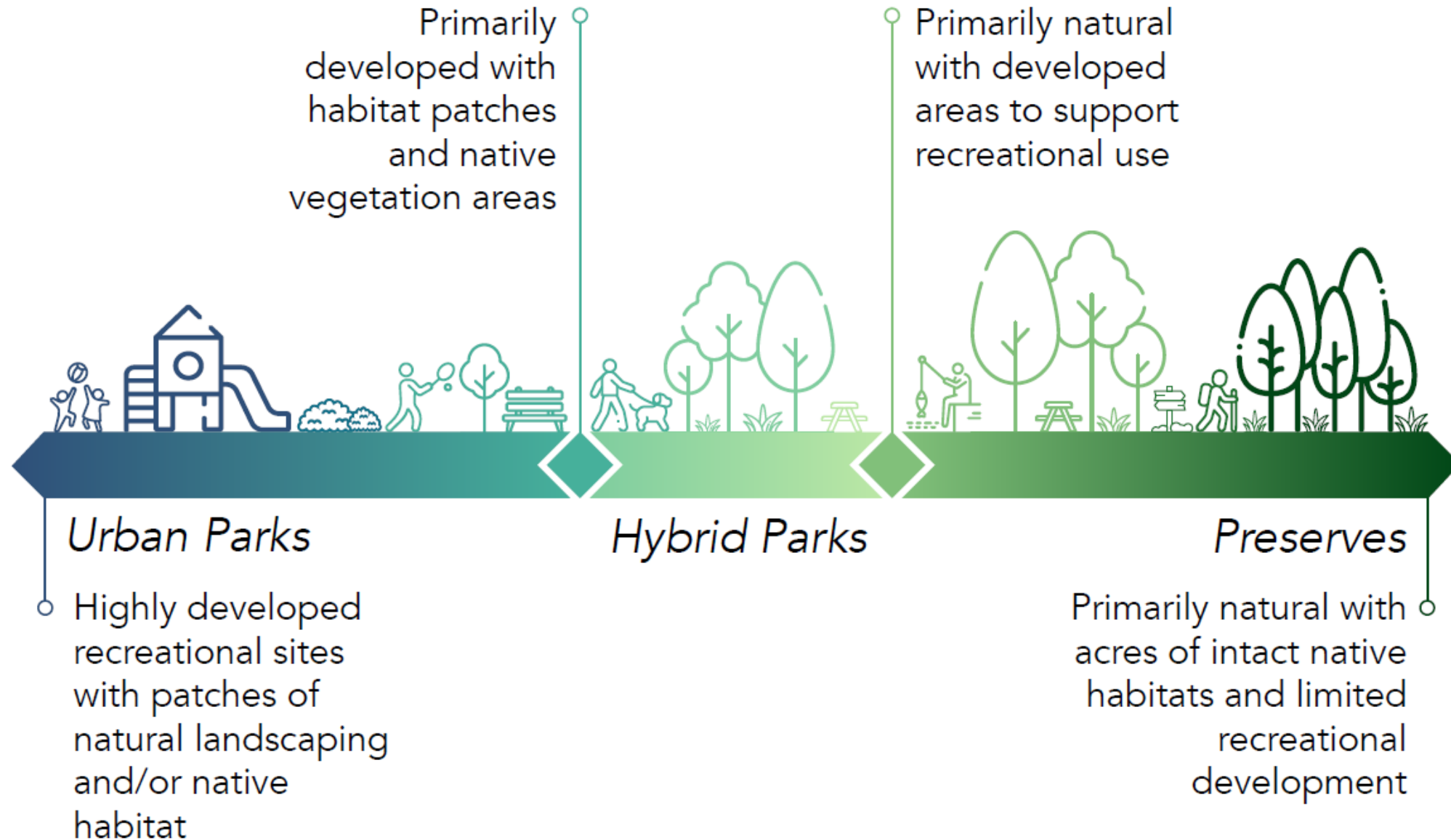
Missoula Trails: Existing Planned Proposed

	Existing	Planned	Proposed
Community	—	- - -	. . .
Connector	—	- - -	. . .
Neighborhood	—	- - -	. . .
Recreation	—	- - -	. . .
Regional	—	- - -	. . .

Other

- Existing Other Agency Trails
- City of Missoula Parklands
- Other Public Lands

Planning Areas



Chapter 7: How We Get There

Key Takeaways

- **Strategic Implementation Process** – A potential [process to systematically prioritize and sequence improvements over 15 years](#) based on funding availability, staff capacity, and seven specific evaluation criteria.
- **Equity-Focused Evaluation** - [Projects will be prioritized when they address service gaps in underserved communities](#), including neighborhoods with higher percentages of people below median income, communities of color, Indigenous people, seniors, and people with disabilities.
- **Climate Resilience Integration** - [The implementation matrix template](#) helps to track how each project connects to the City's climate lens, with special priority for projects that improve ecosystem function and increase resilience to extreme weather events.
- **Budget Reality Framework** - The [City's budgeting process is the final authority for determining Parks and Recreation funding](#), with strong consideration given to projects that align with specific criteria, including leveraging partnerships and meeting neighborhood needs



Implementation Process



Next Steps



Upcoming Schedule

May 16-June 3 - Public DRAFT Review, open houses, listening sessions, tabling.

June 10 – Park Board Recommendation for adoption

June 11 or 18 – Staff presentation to CCP before public hearing

June 17 – Staff presentation to Planning Board and recommendation

June 23 – City Council/Public Hearing



Public Engagement Opportunities

Public Engagement Opportunities

- Brief public comment survey and PROST plan review:
 - **May 16-June 3 at 12 p.m.**
 - www.engagemissoula.org/prost
- Public open house: **Monday, May 19, 4:00-7:00 p.m.** at Goodworks Place (129 W. Alder St.)
 - Family-friendly activities and refreshments provided
- Drop-in listening sessions at Currents Aquatics Center, Headwaters Conference Room:
 - Saturday, **May 17, 1-2:30 p.m.**
 - Thursday, **May 22, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**
 - Monday, **June 2, 4:30-6 p.m.**
- Neighborhood Council Meetings and City Chats and in the Parks



Missoula Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails



MASTER PLAN

Questions?