

# NOTES

## West Valley City Parks and Recreation Master Plan Focus Group #1

November 13, 2025, 5:30 pm, Family Fitness Center



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### IN ATTENDANCE:

Craig Lindberg	Park user, bus driver, focused on maintenance issues
Crystal Butler	Newton Farms advocate
David Baker	Golf, longtime resident
Nancy Day	Park professional
Master Meda West	Marital Arts TaeKwon Do
Delcina White	Marital Arts TaeKwon Do, former resident
Mike Nickas	WVC Assistant Golf Pro – The Ridge
Hailey Fenn	WVC Recreation Programmer
Nick Coleman	WVC Recreation Supervisor
Lisa Benson	Project Manager, Landmark Design

### MEETING SUMMARY

- Lisa to email project website to everyone – [wvcparksandrecplan.org](http://wvcparksandrecplan.org)

### General

- Agrees that it's important to do long term planning for the city's park and recreation system
- Need better communication on what happens and why - educate the community on why certain parks get developed before others (funding, etc.)
  - Feels there's a lack of transparency in communication
- Used to have a Parks and Rec Advisory Board but it didn't stay unified
  - Could use a recommendation to make a new one with no more than 8 to 10 people, but they really need to stay focused on the broader community vision
- Question about how to see more change to boost parks and recreation funding and priority – attendees recommended attending City Council to communicate concerns regularly
- I have seen how some cities put up holiday signs on their street lamps. I think that would be a nice gesture to help the city feel more welcoming. The other thing I have seen is sometimes they have signs on the overpasses that say welcome to West Valley City. I really like those!

## Parks and Open Space

- Disappointed that the city is only building one park every year – there are parcels that have sat there forever that were supposed to be parks
- It's important to have parks accessible to each neighborhood
- Maintaining and updating what we have is as or more important than building new parks
  - Would like to see upgrades to existing parks
- Disappointed by the county's new park (Pioneer Crossing) by the Cultural Center
  - Lives near this park and doesn't see a lot of use, feels like it was a waste of resources
  - Understands that more can be done with the Jordan River as a recreational water trail
  - Even though there's a boat ramp here now, there's not a lot of use
  - Wasn't geared for WVC residents
- Our parks are weak overall as far as size and amenities go compared to other cities like Murray (Murray Park is great)
- Still no dog park
- Need more pavilions at Centennial Park for the summer – really high demand, and two is not enough for a park of this size
- Wood Ledge Park - talk of adding bike facilities here
  - Would love to see this because it would be a draw for more kids in the area but haven't heard anything about its status, definitely supported though
  - Like the skate park and bike park at Centennial Park
- West View Park (4100 S and Mountain View Corridor) feels like it was weird to put the ninja course next to an existing park
  - Access is really difficult - no one will walk or bike to it because the road crossings are dangerous and there's missing sidewalk
  - Got a grant for West View Park ninja course specifically because it was on the trail and due to its location
    - Was part of a transportation specific grant - city should have communicated better
- Need more fields - existing fields are a madhouse during soccer season
- Maintain what we have and upgrade - need new zip lines and more splash pads – upgrade amenities
- Not building parks in newer communities is an issue
- Open space isn't maintained so the weeds become a fire hazard especially when people drop their garbage like vapes
- Keep parks clean – sets a bad precedent for kids when they see places unkempt, and doesn't encourage them to be good stewards
- Need parks in lower income areas and other underserved areas.

### **Special Facilities/Golf**

- Loves the Family Fitness Center – lives in Utah County and teaches martial arts here (for the past 30 years) – this is her favorite rec center of any
- Seek grant funding for golf courses
- Golf courses offer great opportunities for kids and provide a community benefit
- Everyone plays everywhere - people cross city boundaries and county boundaries and use each other's facilities
- It's not just parks that are important - all of the recreation facilities in our city make our life better like the golf courses, the Maverick center
  - It's great to have amenities even if we don't use them personally
- Cultural center is awesome- but it's so far away, need another one like it on the West side to provide opportunities for youth
- Cultural center is awesome, but it's so far away for a lot of residents
  - Need another one like it on the West side to provide opportunities for youth
- The city's golf courses are so well used that people have a difficult time getting tee times.

### **Funding/Partnerships**

- Need better communication and a better relationship with the county to negotiate what's better for West Valley City
- Decker lake was a great opportunity and the city wanted this property to serve as a recreation resource for residents
  - The county kept it but doesn't maintain it well, it needs to be cleaned up
  - WVC wanted the county to give the city the portion of funds for they were going to use for maintenance to the city so the city could maintain this area – the county wouldn't go for it
- The ZAP Tax
  - A good resource but is handled differently than a lot of grants
  - Awards are decided by a committee, which usually consists of county employees
  - WVC is the second largest city in the state and the county and are a huge contributor for these ZAP tax funds, but we don't see an equivalent award for projects within our community (want a representative share)
  - Utah County special sales taxes work differently – instead of being pooled, each community gets to keep the funds generated in their community
  - Awards are based on a combination of need and politics
  - ZAP can now be used for maintenance which significantly reduced/diluted contributions towards new facilities
  - Contributing communities need to be able to be more involved in the project award process.
- Revenue collected at all recreation facilities help fund other new facilities
- Upgrade Wood Ledge
- Parks and Recreation Department constantly applies for grants to fill funding gaps
- Arts are in a new in the new division/department

- Arts have a lot more grants available to them
- Parks and rec could use a committee to help search for grants funding
- Deferred maintenance for parks is always an issue – could never get funded for years
  - Have been getting some funds for deferred maintenance recently, but it has to be renewed/approved every year
- Waste of money to change out street signs recently from black to white, need to keep priorities straight
- Budgets start in January and February when the city departments have to have their budgets established - then overall city budget goes for final approval around May of each year

### **Safety**

- Can't get safely to the Jordan river trail
- Schools near West View Elementary have no sidewalks
- Wood Ledge Park - took five years to get the parking lot resurfaced - it was horrible, causing flat tire
  - There are still safety concerns at the park
- Need better lighting and security through all of the city's parks
  - City has been looking at solar lights – many lights are still out because of vandalism issues where people are stealing the wiring
- Seems to be a lack of priority placed on safety by leadership

### **Trails/Walkability**

- Love trails in the area near the family fitness center
- Walking trails throughout the city are thwarted by a lack of sidewalks
  - Need more community connectivity
- Would love to walk to get groceries - want more casual encounters to build a sense of community and neighborliness