

NOTES

West Valley City Parks and Recreation Master Plan Focus Group #2

November 18, 2025, 12pm, Remote



IN ATTENDANCE:

Mike Hillman	Part-time city employee, swim coach, and resident
David Madsen	Resident, was active in getting a neighborhood park promised built
Michael Finch	Longtime resident of about 50 years, active Fitness Center user
Rachael Lund	New resident, active Fitness Center user including afterschool program
Karen	Resident, small business owner
Brooke Harmon	Resident, park user
Mark Rupp	Resident and My Hometown volunteer
Jana Rupp	Resident and My Hometown volunteer
Daniel Rupp	Resident
Yazmine Mihojevich	Project Planner, Landmark Design
Lisa Benson	Project Manager, Landmark Design

MEETING SUMMARY

General

- Need to schedule ribbon cuttings and celebratory openings at hours when more people can attend so more people know about them (evenings or weekends)
- City asked for feedback after opening of Parkway Park – ask for community input before upgrades to other parks
 - Community wanted a dog park, there is space there where they could have a fenced in covered area
- City is doing well overall
 - Many people have good facilities close by, but want to see good planning so City Council can help meet the community’s needs. This plan will help with that.
- After School Programs
 - Surprised by lack of aftercare
 - Likes the program at the Fitness Center, but only 14 spots on bus for school of 600. There are a limited number of spots and it puts people at a disadvantage.
 - Michigan programs were run by state at local schools.
 - Ten WVC schools currently participation in a private/public community education partnership called CEP4kids that provides afterschool care in partnerships with businesses (CEP4kids.org)

Funding/Partnerships/O&M

- Want to upgrade existing parks and maintain what we have.
- Former county parks
 - There was an effort to acquire some smaller parks in the city from the county and the maintenance has improved drastically.
 - Does city have to take over for maintenance at county parks to improve?
- All parks, trails, and facilities should be updated, and city needs to continually assess needs over time to stay on top of things.
- County
 - Collaborate with county for Regional parks
 - Interested in what the city can provide and how this relates to what the county's plans are
 - WVC does not have high quality county-provided parks and recreational facilities like neighboring communities.
 - Acknowledge that not as much land is available for these, but feel like the county isn't doing their share in WVC.
 - As the second largest city in the state, WVC does not have the same quality of county regional parks
 - Lodestone county park does not compare to other county parks that exist. WVC is being short-changed. Paying a large share into ZAP, but county isn't funding anywhere near proportional projects here
- Tax Increases
 - Concerned about county's 20% tax increase proposal. Does not want to see this happen in WVC again. Had a 15% tax increase in the city with a past administration. Should have been incremental increases every year residents don't have big surprises.
 - Past City Council didn't want any increase, so they put things off. Now the city is looking at cutting services/facility maintenance.
 - Plan ahead so we don't have to make cuts.
- Rocky Mountain Power
 - Possible partnership with Rocky Mountain Power for power corridor area park.

Facilities

- Appreciates the value of golf courses, Family Fitness Center, and other facilities – they help meet the needs of all ages.
- Kearn Oquirrh Park Fitness Center (KOPFC)
 - Go here for swim meets - this outdoor facility is phenomenal.
 - WVC has Centennial Pool and Fitness Center, but Centennial Outdoor Pool can't compete with KOPFC.
 - WVC is lacking in pool facilities, especially for younger kids.

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- WVC Family Fitness Center
 - Has been around since 1999. Facility is aging, maintenance with any aging facility continues to get more intense
 - Score board just broke down. Now what do we do with it?
 - Likes the new stretching area at the Fitness Center.
 - Loves the family culture, and grateful to be involved in this community.
 - Uses the Fitness Center five days a week – loves the adaptive and senior programs
- UCCC
 - Has parking issue. Building capacity is 300-400 but only have parking for 50-60.
 - Great opportunity with adjacency to Jordan River but also challenges.
 - Make outside feel more park-like so people know they can use the space outside of scheduled events

Parks and Open Space

- Parks are critical for setting the visual character of the city, and for contributing to physical, emotional, and mental health of residents.
 - See needs that exist for all ages of kids.
 - Need to improve our existing parks and increase the number of parks.
 - Concur on need for planning for parks and recreation city-wide.
 - Need a prioritized list so that city can plan over time to meet needs.
- Parks Programming/Attracting Park Users
 - Add amenities at existing parks to attract users
 - Programming is needed in smaller parks to draw in park users, encourage interaction, and provide opportunities for kids and teens of different ages.
 - Signage could encourage use for parks like the UCCC, which some members of the public do not know they can use.
 - Having programs at other parks besides Centennial is a good idea.
 - The park next to their house is empty. Their local neighborhood needs an incentive to get together and interact. Thinks there are lots of people would volunteer to help keep costs down.
 - Have noticed that as the kids grow up, there is not much to do, so they get into trouble.
 - Would like if there is more to do, like a basketball hoop.
 - Then with teens in their own areas, the little kids would not be intimidated to go on the playgrounds.
 - Need programs to get kids to park, to put down devices.
 - Program community events at a wider variety of city parks.
- Event parking, for West Fest for example, is difficult.
- Planting more trees would be helpful in all city parks.
- Decker Lake
 - Would be nice to ride bikes there

- Lake in Daybreak (South Jordan) - the water feature is a great community asset with a lot of activities, very activated
 - Can Decker Lake (Salt Lake County) be upgraded to be more like that?
- Want a park like Wardle Fields Park in Bluffdale – has splash pads and for the older kids they have pickleball, basketball, tennis, plus a place for special needs kids to play.
- Highbury/Lake Park Boulevard/Armstrong Academy area
 - There is a little lake and some canals and thoughts that could be made more user friendly, available for kayaks.
 - Would like access to field between Dayberry and High Berry near Neil Armstrong Academy to walk
 - Interested in accessing private trails and areas
 - The whole business parks that goes through this area is one of the most beautiful areas of the city and is off limits for residents.
 - Businesses bring in taxes, but area is rarely used by employees.
 - Make lake community fishery too, not just for kayaking if you can get public access

Trails

- Lives right next to Salt Lake and Utah Canal and likes the improvements, but it ends at 7200 West and does not connect to Magna Park which is right there.
 - Seeing people using it, and more appropriate use of trail now
- Would like access to the Lake Park Boulevard area
- Difficult to find where Cross Towne Trail connections to other trails.
 - Need trail maps at junctures.
 - There is no place for them to bike right now because of gaps.
- There is great north/south trail access but not great east/west. The city has made some improvements, but trails are hard to use unless the gaps are filled.

Safety

- Homeless hang out at Decker Lake – recent additional facilities along the Jordan River for the unhoused have complicated a lot of stuff around Jordan River Parkway.
- Would be nice if north of 3100 S, where there are a bunch of schools, there was a safe way to cross 3100 so kids could access amenities.
- Decker Lake does not feel safe.
- Crossings
 - Signalized crosswalk at the Fitness Center still doesn't feel like it makes crossing 3100 South safe enough to let her kids go by themselves. Need something that is safer, like a pedestrian bridge.
- Under-parked areas cause safety issues because families and kids have to park on roads and walk where there aren't always sidewalks to get to the park or facility they're going to.