

Elk Ridge City Trails, Parks, and Open Space Master Plan

Purpose of the plan: To create a comprehensive, well-distributed and interconnected system of trails, parks, and open space that support a healthy community and the preservation of resources for current residents and many generations to come.

Public input on trails and parks (INCLUDE SURVEY RESULTS)

Coordination with other documents

The Trails, Parks and Open Space Master Plan shall adhere to and coordinate with the General Plan, Transportation Master Plan, and the Capital Facilities Plan. Any deviation of trail route/placement, change in classification, park location or acreage adjustment shall be presented in a public hearing, recommended by the Planning Commission, and approved by the City Council.

Trails

Vision: Trails are a top priority for residents. There is strong public support for the development of additional trails in Elk Ridge. Connectivity is a key to any viable trail system. Public input on spending priorities and willingness to fund is a vital component.

Goal: The overall trail plan is one that connects residents to all parts of the community with exclusive use of the trail system. An emphasis should be placed on establishing sidewalks within subdivisions for safe walking along residential streets.

Goal: The plan will include a trails system that connects to neighboring communities and the regional trail system to allow pedestrians and non-motorized vehicles to have an extensive and safe route to traverse the beautiful mountains, foothills, and canyons of Utah Valley.

Goal: The plan will include trailhead amenities at appropriate locations along mountain access trails

Existing and planned trails (ATTACH TRAILS MAP)

Design standards (ATTACH CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS VISUAL)

1. A pavement and soils investigation shall be performed for all new trails. The results of the investigation and a design of the trail section shall be submitted to and accepted by the City Engineer.
2. Engineered fill- compacted engineered fill shall be placed in all areas where fills are required to meet grade or the requirements of the soils investigation.
3. Untreated base course – 6 inches of compacted untreated base course shall be placed under the surface of all trails.
4. Both sides of a trail shall be laid out by a survey and approved by the City before construction.
5. All weeds shall be sprayed and killed with Roundup or an approved equivalent one week before any work may be performed, and within 3 weeks of the placement of untreated base course.
6. All trails shall be 10' width unless otherwise approved by Elk Ridge City.
7. City shall inspect each base course or fabric layer before covering.
8. The trail base must extend six inches beyond the edges of the trail on both sides
9. **3 ½"** of asphalt or 4" concrete as required by Elk Ridge City. **NOTE: SALEM TRAIL ON LOAFER MOUNTAIN PARKWAY AND WOODLAND HILLS DRIVE IS 2 ½".**
10. Mountain (natural) trails:
11. Crushed stone trails:

Plan priorities: Specific tasks to achieve the Plan vision are assigned immediate, short-term (0-10 years), medium-term (10-20 years) and long-term (20+ years) implementation timeframes.

Immediate Priorities:

1. Connection to the mountains – trail to Fore Bay
2. Completed/connected trail along 11200 South
3. Canyon View: shared roadside trail from Park Drive to Hudson when road is widened
4. Repainting of shared roadside trails along Canyon View, Alpine and Park Drive

Short-term:

Medium-term:

Long-term:

Action Plan/Implementation:

1. Implement the recommended trail facilities by buildout
 - a. Develop the planned trail network to 2050
 - b. Encourage multi-jurisdictional cooperation and funding relationships with the Mountainland Association of Governments (MAG), Utah County, and the neighboring cities of Salem, Woodland Hills, and Payson.
 - c. Update the Transportation Master Plan and this plan regularly.
2. Assure that the Elk Ridge Trails Systems meets public need and expectations
 - a. Develop an accessible network of supportive pedestrian infrastructure, including sidewalks, curb ramps, and trails near existing parks and other high-use destinations.
 - b. Work with the Public Works department to ensure all existing trails are adequately maintained.
3. Require community planning, land use planning, and development review processes to incorporate trail master planning, including access to trails.
 - a. Continually evaluate system-wide trails as part of future planning efforts, focusing on closing gaps and improving connections with existing and future neighborhoods, and parks.
 - b. Require private development projects to finance and install sidewalks and trails as recommended in the City General Plan and Master Trail map.

Funding sources:

- Impact fees
- Grants

Utah Outdoor Recreation Grant (UORG)
Recreational Trails Program (RTP)– development and maintenance of trails
Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Grant (OHVR)
Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
Outdoor Recreation Initiative (ORI)
UDOT – Utah Trail Network (\$45,000,000 per year)

Parks

Vision: Parks, open space, and recreational opportunities are fundamental parts of every good community. Citizens of all ages and abilities need recreational space that is accessible, well maintained and contain amenities that make a park pleasant and useful. Elk Ridge City shall ensure that current and future residents are well-served by a comprehensive system of parks, recreation facilities, and open space.

Park Standards: The guidelines of the National Parks and Recreation Association (NRPA) suggest 5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents (Level of Service - LOS). The population of Elk Ridge (2024) is approximately 5,000 residents, with 25 acres of park space integrated throughout the city. As the city grows, develops, and reaches capacity of approximately 8,000, another 10 to 15 acres should be added to meet park space expectations and needs (LOS). While Elk Ridge is currently a young community with many children, it is aging and maturing as well. This dichotomy means that parks should be designed to meet the needs of the broadest range of users and age groups, all of whom have unique demands.

Goal: Assess needs of each park area and prioritize improvement/construction projects

- Improve water efficiency of existing parks by utilizing Smart and Water Wise irrigations systems.
- Future parks should be developed with water conservation in mind, sizing grass areas based upon the minimum needed for specific amenities and allowing additional acreage to be left in its natural state with trails for active use or other uses.
- Identify areas suitable for future parks as the city expands geographically.

Goal: Obtain and provide adequate funding for park maintenance, park construction, recreation programs, and adequate maintenance staff.

- Pursue a diverse array of funding sources, such as grants (county, state, and national), bonds, public-private partnerships, and special entities such as Conservation Easement funds.
- Pursue appropriate impact fee assessment to support new growth and development.

Goal: Provide ongoing opportunities for community engagement.

- Offer park improvement and maintenance volunteer opportunities.
- Use community engagement to identify opportunities for new programming that aligns with needs and trends (e.g. soccer teams, pickleball play)
- Allow community members to comment on the design/amenities of proposed new parks/ recreation facilities (parks committee, beautification committee, recreation committee)
- Create a web page with park descriptions and maps that highlight current and future park improvements.

number	name	acres	location	Current amenities	Suggested amenities/improvements
1	Deer Creek Trail Park	2.083	Deer Creek Trail and Grizzly Way	(2014-2015) Neighborhood park — 50 homes surrounding the area. Officially named Mt Loafer Park-2016. Paved trail with street lights. Picnic tables on cement pads. Playground equipment in good condition. Majority is grass — sloped — with large water retention basin. Dog walking station with plastic bags. Connecting trail to far north end, eventually to Salem trail. No parking	Missing a park bench. Repair street lights — get them working. Area on east side of park — very narrow grass area and hard to mow/weed without damage to resident fences. Take out the grass and landscape with waterwise bushes, more trees, mulch, gravel? Grassy sloped sides of basin hard to keep green in summer. Plant a different type of grass? Too small/secluded to add parking.
2.	Grizzly Way	1.298	Grizzly Way and 11200	Large grass area with paved trail, benches and street lights. Paved trail crosses 11200 to Elk Ridge Meadows	Repair street lights — get them working. Landscaping to reduce water use and mowing cost. Community garden? Parking space? Add safety features for 11200 crossing
3	Elk Ridge Meadows	6.672	11200 to Sky Hawk Way between Horizon View Loop and Bear Hollow	Paved trail with street lights and benches. Natural vegetation — no grass. Frisbee golf. Water retention basin. "Wildflower Park" — bulbs planted by residents	Repair street lights — get them working. Plant grass? Xeriscape? Consult county or state services for natural landscaping help. Remove weeds around frisbee golf stations.
4	Sky Hawk	5.91 *1 acre used for well house	Sky Hawk Way and Cotton Tail Drive	Well house — fenced. Paved trail with benches and street lights. Large grass area — soccer. Sloped hill with grass	Repair street lights — get them working? Parking lot. Pavilion. Restrooms. Pickleball courts Basketball court. Connecting trail north/south. 2025

5	Goosenest park	8	Elk Ridge Drive and Goosenest	Public Works building — 1.8 acres House — Elk Ridge City property as of 2006	Sell the old salt shed. Demolish the existing old home. Parking area for trailhead to Fore Bay and for park amenities. Paved walking trail connecting to other trails and throughout park. Water feature play area Pavilions. Restrooms. All Abilities Park Events center Bike track. Ice ribbon.
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6	Shuler Park, IngramField John W. Thomas Pavilion	6	Park Drive	Parking lot, grassy field, paved walking trail, pavilion, restrooms, children's play equipment, cement tennis area, grassy volleyball area, basketball court, benches. Picnic tables	Repairs to tennis court Area south of children's playground — extend playground? All Abilities equipment there? Repairs and maintenance Lighting?
7	Loafer Canyon Retreat	1	Loafer Canyon	Purchased in 2018. Federal drainage project will use this as needed	AFTER the Federal drainage project: Keep this as natural open space as much as possible. Family nature area? Trailhead parking as a stopping place for bikers/walkers going up Loafer Canyon and eventually on to Woodland Hills?
	Loafer Canyon THIS PARK PROPERTY TBD NOT ON MAP	TBD	North and south of Canyon View Drive at Loafer Canyon	South side has a basin and a natural ravine	South of Canyon View Drive beyond the water retention basin: label as "natural open space" on Parks map. Natural connecting trail for bikers and walkers? Area directly north of Canyon View Drive not labeled on Parks map.

8, 9, 10	Future parks south end of Elk Ridge City limits	TBD			Discussion needed about what amenities would fit this area.
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(Attach Parks and Open Space map from General Plan)

Plan priorities: Specific tasks to achieve the Plan vision are assigned immediate, short-term (0-10 years), medium-term (10-20 years) and long-term (20+ years) implementation timeframes.

Immediate Priorities:

1. Sky Hawk Park: pickleball courts, basketball court, pavilion, restrooms, parking lot and asphalt trail – 2025
2. Goosenest Park: design and selection of amenities. Secure funding for construction by applying for available grants – 2025. Complete phase 1 of the park – 2026. Continue to actively seek funding (grants, public-private partnerships, appropriate impact fees) for completion of Goosenest Park.
3. Park improvement and maintenance needs. Utilize volunteer groups to best advantage in appropriate projects.

Short-term:

1. Retain a grant writer/ grant writing committee

Medium-term:

Long-term:

Action Plan/Implementation:

Funding Sources:

- Impact fees
- Grants
- Public-Private partnerships

Open Space

Vision: Open space is a critical component of a comprehensive, well-balanced parks and recreation system. Both private and public open spaces provide a host of ecological and ecosystem benefits, such as sites for purification of the soil, water, and air; places where the impacts of noise, wind, and visual disturbances can be buffered and absorbed; and places where native vegetation and natural wildlife can prosper. In other words, a robust open space system helps create a healthier community.

Goal: As development occurs, the city will work with landowners to conserve valuable spaces while creating beautiful, well-planned places to live, work, and play.

Goal: Identify prime areas for open space preservation by referencing the Sensitive Areas map in the General Plan, and focusing on areas that cannot be developed due to steep slopes, ridgelines, ravines/drainage areas, wildlife habitat areas and corridors, watershed, and water well protection areas.

Plan priorities: Specific tasks to achieve the Plan vision are assigned immediate, short-term (0-10 years), medium-term (10-20 years) and long-term (20+ years) implementation timeframes.

Immediate:

1. Maintain existing open space areas with developed areas.

Short-term:

2. Create a map of desired/potential open space areas on undeveloped land within city boundaries and the purpose for each open space (wildlife corridor, protect watershed, protect city water tank/well)

Medium-term:

1. Purchase/preserve land for open space

Long-term:

Action Plan/Implementation:

Survey current open space areas to determine upkeep and use (deer trails, water drainage, etc.)

Create a citywide cleanup day twice a year for maintenance (chipper day) – May and September

Funding sources: