

# 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 supports a healthy community and the preservation of resources for current residents and many generations to come.

## Public Input on Trails and Parks:

A Community View survey was taken in 2021. (Mobile Digital Insights – Ron Gailey) In 2022, *Onpointe Insights* conducted a community view/city priority survey. The 2024 by *Onpointe Insights* focused on development and design of the Goosenest Park property. (attach links to these surveys and future surveys)

## Survey Results regarding parks, trails, and open space:

- Our location and view, proximity to wildlife, and our friendly, safe, and quiet lifestyle are highly prized.
- City parks, open spaces, pathways, and trails are the most important amenities in our city.
- Maintaining nature, access to the outdoors, preserving our view of the mountains and the valley are important.
- Walking trails provide a safe, pleasant, and cost-effective way to enjoy our beautiful area.
- Connecting trails to the Fore Bay area, connecting city trails and sidewalks to each other, and connecting to neighboring cities are all priorities.
- A natural water feature at Goosenest Park would benefit children, families, and the community.
- An All-Abilities playground at Goosenest Park would address the current gaps in recreational facilities to a growing population of children and families.
- Improving and maintaining existing parks is vital: grass look and health is priority. Safety improvements to existing playground equipment, the tennis court, pavilion, benches, and tables should be ongoing.
- Adding amenities, especially pickleball courts, are high priority. Other amenities of interest are pavilions, basketball court, bike paths, mountain bike skills park, and an ice ribbon/skating feature.
- Water wise landscaping is desired
- Preferred funding mechanisms: grants, donations of labor, equipment, and material. Volunteer programs for regular citywide clean up. Organized volunteer work projects for landscaping, grooming trails, etc.

## Community Meetings: ~~and Stakeholder feedback:~~

- ~~• Summary of public comments and concerns.~~
- ~~• Highlights of discussions from Planning Commission and City Council meetings.~~
- In 2023 The Planning Commission did a visual survey of all of the city park properties. The resulting table is included under the Parks section of this document
- In October of 2023 the Elk Ridge city beautification committee was established – “Elk Ridge the Beautiful”. The purpose was to organize a citywide clean-up/weeding/planting event at least once a year. Specific areas of the city were targeted so that all public areas – parks, streets, trails, open space, and buildings, would have a group of volunteer residents assigned to care for that area.
- May 4, 2024, a citywide cleanup was completed. May 3, 2025 is the next citywide clean-up event.
- In February 2024 the Elk Ridge Parks and Trails Committee held their first meeting. Based on the General Plan and city surveys, priorities were established: 1. a community trail to access the mountains and Fore Bay area, 2. create a Goosenest Park plan, 3. obtain funding (grants) for park and trail projects. Committee meetings will continue to be held on a regular basis, inviting all interested community members to attend.
- Subsequent Parks and Trails Committee meetings refined Goosenest Park Plans. Information was shared with the general public at the City Celebration, June 14, 2024.
- In 2024, the Parks and Trails Committee approved hiring a grant writer to pursue funds for Sky Hawk Park and Goosenest Park, as well as applying for other grants for trails and park projects.

- In 2024-2025, a park designer was hired to create a Goosenest Park Master Plan. The master plan, as well as phase 1 of the park, was presented to the Parks and Trails Committee in March 2025.

## 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 Capital Facilities Plan. Any deviation of trail routes/placement, classification changes, park location, or acreage adjustments shall be presented in a public hearing, recommended by the Planning Commission, and approved by the City Council.

Regular updates to this Master Plan should occur approximately every five (5) years to reflect growth, infrastructure changes, and evolving community needs.

## 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.

### Goals

- 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.
- The plan will include a trails system that connects 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. Clear, consistent wayfinding signage and safety measures shall be a priority of the trail system, including distance markers, trail rules, lighting, and appropriate road crossing visibility.
- The plan will include trailhead amenities at appropriate locations along mountain access trails.
- The plan will seek to include ADA-compliant trails where feasible.

### Existing and Planned Trails

### Updated Trails Map (TO BE INSERTED)

**Design Standards (ATTACH UPDATED CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS VISUAL) Work on this section after feasibility study is complete.**

1. Complete a feasibility study. 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 soil investigation.
3. Untreated base course – A minimum of 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 trails shall be 10' width unless otherwise approved by Elk Ridge City.
6. City staff shall inspect each base course or fabric layer before covering.
7. The trail base must extend six inches beyond the edges of the trail on both sides.
8. **3 ½" (inches) of asphalt or 6" (inches) of concrete as required by Elk Ridge City. After asphalt or concrete is installed untreated base course shall be used to backfill/shoulder both edges of the trail. NOTE: Trails that border natural wilderness areas on the south end of Elk Ridge City boundaries will be required to accommodate heavier equipment to allow emergency vehicle access in case of an emergency.**

9. Design for mountain (natural) trails or crushed stone trails will be determined after a feasibility study is complete.
10. Input from current property owners will be considered for all trails on private property.

## **Plan priorities**

Specific tasks to achieve the Plan vision are assigned immediate (0-5 years), short-term (5-10 years), medium-term (10-20 years) and long-term (20+ years) implementation timeframes. **REVISION NEEDED**

### **Immediate (0-5 years)**

1. **Complete a feasibility study for all trails within city boundaries and connections to other nearby cities.**
2. Connection to the mountains – trail to Fore Bay.
3. Completed/connected trail along 11200 South.
4. Canyon View: shared roadside trail from Park Drive to Hudson when the road is widened.
5. Repainting of shared roadside trails along Canyon View, Alpine, and Park Drive.
6. Multi-City trail connectivity efforts through multi-city discussions, projects, and common goals.

### **Short-term (5-10 years)**

1. Expansion of trail network within subdivisions.
2. Addition of signage and safety features.
3. Multi-city/regional trail connectivity efforts

### **Medium-term (10-20 years)**

1. Multi-city trail connectivity efforts.

### **Long-term (20+ years)**

1. Connection to regional/statewide trail system.

## **Action Plan/Implementation**

1. Implement the recommended trail facilities by buildout.
  - a. Develop the planned trail network to 2050 and seek to align with state and regional outdoor recreation goals.
  - 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 the Elk Ridge Trails Systems meets public needs 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.
  - c. Inform and educate Elk Ridge residents about plans to create trails on existing public streets.
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 Trails map. Working with developers / property owners is an essential part of the process.
  - c. Ensure open space is considered during land-use planning and zoning approvals.

## **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)
- **Bonding and Conservation Easements**
- **Volunteer and Community Fundraising Programs**

## **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 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 a Level of Service (LOS) of 5 acres of park space per 1,000 residents. 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, 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.

### **Goals**

- 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.
- 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 an appropriate impact fee assessment to support new growth and development.
- 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 streetlights. 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 the trail to far north end, eventually to Salem trail. No parking	Missing a park bench. Repair streetlights — 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 a paved trail, benches, and streetlights. Paved trail crosses 11200 to Elk Ridge Meadows	Repair streetlights — 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 streetlights and benches. Natural vegetation — no grass. Frisbee golf. Water retention basin. "Wildflower Park" — bulbs planted by residents	Repair streetlights — 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 streetlights. Large grass area — soccer. Sloped hill with grass	Repair streetlights — get them working? Parking lot. Pavilion. Restrooms. Pickleball courts. Basketball court. Connecting trail north/south. <b>2025</b>
5	Gooseneck park	8	Elk Ridge Drive and Gooseneck	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.
6	Shuler Park, Ingram Field 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?
8	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.
9, 10, 11	Future parks south end of Elk Ridge City limits	TBD			Discussion is needed about what amenities would fit in this area.

## **(Attach Parks and Open Space map from General Plan)**

### **Plan priorities**

Specific tasks to achieve the Plan vision are assigned immediate (0-5 years), short-term (5-10 years), medium-term (10-20 years) and long-term (20+ years) implementation timeframes. Annual plans shall be reviewed and maintained by the Parks Committee. **REVISION NEEDED**

#### **Immediate (0-5 years)**

1. Retain a grant writer and establish a grant writing committee.
2. Sky Hawk Park upgrade
3. Goosenest Park: Design and selection of amenities. Continue to actively seek funding (grants, public-private partnerships, appropriate impact fees) for completion of Goosenest Park.
4. Enhance existing park facilities with upgraded amenities.
5. Park improvement and maintenance needs: Utilize volunteer groups to best advantage in appropriate projects.
6. Long term maintenance planning and funding

#### **Short-term (5-10 years)**

#### **Medium-term (10-20 years)**

1. Acquisition and development of additional park space to meet growing population needs.

#### **Long-term (20+ years)**

1. Expansion of regional park facilities and long-term maintenance planning.

### **Action Plan/Implementation**

1. Develop a park maintenance plan to ensure regular upkeep and timely improvements.
2. Establish a Parks and Recreation Committee to oversee planning, fundraising, and community involvement.
3. Collaborate with local schools, community groups, and businesses to support park enhancement projects.
4. Secure funding through grants, impact fees, and public-private partnerships to support park expansion and renovations.
5. Improve accessibility to parks by ensuring ADA-compliant pathways, seating, and playgrounds.
6. Create an annual park evaluation report to assess conditions, identify improvement areas, and guide future investments.
7. Encourage community participation in park development through volunteer programs, sponsorship opportunities, and citizen feedback forums.

### **Funding Sources**

- **Impact Fees**
- **Grants**
- **Bonding and Conservation Easements**
- **Volunteer and Community Fundraising Programs**
- **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.

## Goals

- As development occurs, the city will work with landowners to conserve valuable spaces while creating beautiful, well-planned places to live, work, and play.
- 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 (0-5 years), short-term (5-10 years), medium-term (10-20 years), and long-term (20+ years) implementation timeframes.

### Immediate (0-5 years)

1. Maintain existing open space areas **within** developed areas.

### Short-term (5-10 years)

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

### Medium-term (10-20 years)

1. Purchase/preserve priority lands for open space.

### Long-term (20+ years)

1. Expand open space connectivity for regional conservation efforts.

## Action Plan/Implementation

1. Develop a long-term open space preservation strategy, including conservation easements and land acquisition programs.
2. Work with local and state agencies to identify and secure funding for open space conservation.
3. Promote responsible land stewardship through community education and incentives for private landowners.
4. Implement wildfire mitigation efforts in designated open space areas.
5. Survey current open space areas to determine upkeep and use (deer trails, water drainage, etc.).
6. Create a citywide cleanup day twice a year for maintenance (chipper day) – May and September.

## Funding sources

- **Grants**
- **Bonding and Conservation Easements**
- **Volunteer and Community Fundraising Programs**

## **Appendix**

Links to surveys

Notes to community meetings

Sky Hawk design plans

Goosenest Park design plans