



AGENDA MEMO - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

CITY COUNCIL MEETING DATE: JUNE 21, 2023
DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
ITEM DESCRIPTION: ADOPTION OF IMAGINE LV PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

**** STAFF RECOMMENDATION(S) ****

CASE NUMBER	RECOMMENDATION	REQUIRED FOR APPROVAL
23-0092-GPA1	Staff recommends APPROVAL.	

**** NOTIFICATION ****

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS NOTIFIED n/a

NOTICES MAILED n/a

**** STAFF REPORT ****

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The City of Las Vegas is requesting adoption of the Imagine LV Parks System Plan as the City's recreation and open space element, covering parks and recreational opportunities over the course of the next thirty years. This plan includes additional specific activities largely consistent with the City Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan and if adopted, would support the ongoing implementation of parks facilities and recreational programming. The attached systems plan (Exhibit A) is a supplement to the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan, compliant with NRS 278.160 (1)(f) and is recommended to be considered for adoption by City Council.

ISSUES

- Section 4(F) of Ordinance 6788 specifies that in the implementation of the 2050 Master Plan, any additional sub-plans, inventories, strategies, surveys, and assessments largely conform and are consistent with the 2050 Master Plan. Similarly, Section 11 provides that the Community Development Department is authorized to incorporate updates by general plan amendment with respect to the 2050 Master Plan's maintenance and implementation.
- Adoption of the Imagine LV Parks System Plan achieves an outcome of the 2050 Master Plan to adopt a specific plan for the purposes of ongoing implementation and future accreditation by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

ANALYSIS

On July 21, 2021, the City Council adopted the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan as the new long-range comprehensive master plan for the City of Las Vegas (Ordinance 6788). The 2050 Master Plan addresses the comprehensive range of elements required by NRS 278.160. For each element, goals, key actions, implementation strategies, and outcomes address short and long-term opportunities and challenges.

Chapter 2 includes Parks and Park Connectivity goals and serves as the recreation and open space element, which generally includes a plan showing a comprehensive system of recreation areas, natural areas, parks, parkways, trails, playgrounds and other recreational areas, as well as locations and proposed future developments. Among the outcomes and Key Actions for these goals, the Plan calls for the City to:

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- Adopt a Parks System Plan with additional specific details and strategies for both short and long-term recreational programming and open space needs
- Improve the amount of parkland to 7 acres / 1,000 by 2050, comparable to other similarly sized metro areas.
- Attain departmental accreditation from the Commission for the Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies.

The City Council retained SmithGroup and PROS Consulting for public outreach, community input, and plan development. Beginning April 2021, and lasting through much of the year, the plan development team collected information for the plan and conducted outreach at events throughout the City, reaching over 2,000 people. The plan development team also employed use of various online surveys, stakeholder and focus group interviews, three hybrid public meetings, a visioning workshop with the staff of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, and a number of onsite visits to help inform and advise the City at various points during the plan development process. This public outreach supplemented a portion of the public outreach that had previously been conducted during the 2050 Master Plan's development.

Community members and surveys indicated that the top priorities for future parks should be additional accessibility and inclusivity, better park connections through trails, more recreational opportunities of diverse types, better community outreach, and safety improvements at City parks and facilities. Among other major findings:

- 81% of households visited City parks, 6% above the National Average.
- Half of City residents indicated they used City facilities, while other half would use county facilities.
- 35% participate in City programs and events offered at City recreation facilities.
- 88% rate the quality of parks and facilities as excellent or good.
- 77% rate the physical condition of parks and facilities as excellent or good.

In terms of facilities, amenities, and recreational programs desired and rated as high priority, trails, trees and shade, nature parks, off-leash dog parks, pavilions and picnic areas, adult fitness classes, senior programs, special events, gyms and weight rooms, and gardening areas were all among the top needs for the city to focus on. Other general comments are summarized within the plan's appendix. Based on the results of input, plan content was drafted through the latter half of 2022 and prepared for review in Spring 2023.

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The plan consists of several chapters aligning with the 2050 Master Plan's guiding principles of equity, health, innovation, resilience, and livability. The plan includes a demographic and recreational trend analysis, the needs assessment and summary of public outreach and input, a recreational program plan and operational assessment of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs, and a level of service analysis. The recreational program plan recommends that the department focus on existing core program areas, and in the short term, develop new programs identified from input, offer additional core program areas, develop programs following local and national trends based on funding and cost recovery, and fill service gaps. Over the long term, the City should continue its evaluation of core program areas, monitor pricing strategies and fees of other jurisdictions, monitor demographic shifts and recreational trends, and complete program lifecycle analysis.

In terms of the City's levels of service and operational assessment, 1,798 park acres were provided by the City and private development in 2022, an increase of one acre from the previous year. Park proximity to housing increased from 56% in 2020 to 58% in 2022, however, the City is still below the overall metric of 7 acres of park space per 1,000 residents at 2.6 acres. The City continues an operational deficiency of tennis courts, swimming pools, and neighborhood community centers of all types; it does have a large surplus of baseball and softball fields. When examined geographically, there are notable gaps in service in various areas of the City – both in developing suburbs and in existing areas in the urban core. For future consideration, the plan recommends that the City enhance job opportunities, review and incorporate new park policies and refine the City's marketing program to reinforce its parks and recreation brand. Over the long-term, the plan recommends to develop service standards, to invest in technology and customer service and to address space and storage needs, as well as capacities and levels of service deficiencies.

The plan concludes with a summary of recommendations on short and long-term capital projects and ongoing implementation activities:

- Within each area of the city, develop community facilities as a neighborhood anchor for city resources and activities.
- Make more connections through the development of trails and upgrade of streets to new complete streets standards found in LVCM Title 19.04.
- Develop innovative parks and facilities in alignment with operational assessments and public input and with the addition of new recreational offerings.
- Nominate, reserve, and develop SNPLMA funded sites.
- Amend LVCM Title 19 to consider infill space for parks.

The full plan in its entirety, its goals, and future recommendations are outlined in Exhibit A.

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FINDINGS (23-0092-GPA1)

- The Imagine Las Vegas Parks System Plan (Exhibit A) is consistent with Sections 4(F) and 11 of ordinance 6788 and serves as a supplemental recreation and open space element pursuant to NRS 278.160 (1)(f). The plan supports the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan and is an element intended to guide future parks development, capital project implementation and fulfill operational needs of the City's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

<i>Related Relevant City Actions by Planning, Fire, Bldg., etc.</i>	
4/1/1992	The Las Vegas City Council adopted the City of Las Vegas General Plan
9/6/2000	The Las Vegas City Council adopted the Las Vegas Master Plan 2020 (Ordinance 2000-62)
Adoption of Master Plan 2020 Elements and Amendments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Design Element: Ord 5997 (08/06/2008) Conservation Element: Ord 5529 (PC: 8.22.02 / CC: 11.6.02); Rev: GPA-6287, 6.1.05; GPA-43977, 5.2.12 Economic Element: Ord 6057 (9/2/2009) Historic Properties & Neighborhoods Preservation Plan Element: Ord 5931 (09.05.2007); Rev: Ord 6104 (08.04.2010) Housing Element: Ord 6246 (04.17.2013) Land Use & Rural Neighborhoods Preservation Element: Ord (09.02.2009); Rev: Ord (06.20.2018) Parks Element: Res 44-2000 (03.15.200); Rev: Ord 6290 (11.20.2013) Population Element: Ord 6078 (02.17.2010) Public Facilities & Building Element: Ord 6364 (11.19.2014) Safety & Seismic Safety Element: Ord 6103 (08.04.2010) Trails Element: Ord 6237 (2/20/2013) Transit Element: Ord 5968 (2/20/2008) Transportation & Streets and Highway Element: Ord 6038 (4/15/2009) Water Element: GPA-6288 (6/1/2005)
4/12/2016	DIR-63603 – The Planning Commission received a presentation and update on the Downtown Master Plan
5/10/2016	DIR-64287 – The Planning Commission received a presentation and update on the Downtown Master Plan

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Related Relevant City Actions by Planning, Fire, Bldg., etc.	
6/15/2016	The Las Vegas City Council received a presentation and adopted the Vision 2045 Downtown Las Vegas Masterplan (R-25-2016).
11/10/2020	20-0266-DIR1 - The Planning Commission received a report for discussion and possible action to discuss adoption of the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan.
7/21/2021	The Las Vegas City Council adopted the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan (Ordinance 6788)
7/12/2022	22-0294-GPA1 - The Planning Commission approved an amendment and update to portions of the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan.
8/17/2022	The Las Vegas City Council adopted the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan amendments and update to portions of the City of Las Vegas 2050 Master Plan consistent with Section 11 of Ordinance 6788.
05/09/23	The Planning Commission voted (7-0) to recommend APPROVAL of request TO AMEND AND INCORPORATE A SUPPLEMENTAL RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE ELEMENT TO THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS 2050 MASTER PLAN CONSISTENT WITH SECTION 11 OF ORDINANCE 6788, All Wards

Neighborhood Meetings	
3/23/2023	<p>A neighborhood meeting was held at City Hall at 495 S Main St in Training Room 3 and virtually to discuss the proposed General Plan Amendment.</p> <p>Meeting attendance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No attendees

****SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIAL****

- **Exhibit A** – Imagine LV Parks (attached to backup materials) – may be accessed at www.masterplan.vegas