

PARKS & TRAILS

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GOALS & OBJECTIVES

PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS GOALS:



MOBILITY

M3 – Create quality pedestrian environments along primary walking/biking corridors which includes: benches, lighting, trash receptacles and wayfinding signage.



ENVIRONMENT

E2 – Promote a network of open space encompassing private and public developments within Mustang.

E3 – Connect Mustang through a framework of parks, pedestrian trails and recreation facilities that respond to community needs and match population demographics.

The provision of quality parks, recreation facilities, and trails in a community improves quality of life and can help attract new residents and businesses to an area. Studies have shown that well-maintained, high-quality parks and trails can also raise property values of adjacent homes or businesses. Therefore, these elements are critical components to the vision of Mustang and efforts should be made to improve existing facilities as well as expand the system as the city continues to grow.

Past planning initiatives related to parks and recreation are limited to the previous comprehensive plan completed in 2003. In this earlier plan, Wild Horse Park is discussed in detail and an inventory of the existing parks is provided, but no detailed recommendations are made.

This chapter provides an action framework for further development of the City's parks, recreation facilities, and trails.

EXISTING PARKS & TRAILS SYSTEM

PARKS

The Mustang Parks and Recreation Department maintains approximately 221 acres of parkland within the city. The existing system includes two community parks, six neighborhood parks, two undeveloped parks, and one recreation center. Neighborhood parks typically serve one large or several small neighborhoods and are generally 5 to 10 acres in size, while community parks typically serve a group of neighborhoods or portion of a city and are generally 10 to 50 acres in size.

The existing parks in Mustang are located primarily in the central part of the community, except for Elliot and Centennial parks which are located closer to the eastern and western edges, respectively. Figure 6-1 (on page 84) shows the location of the existing parks within the city. Also under the purview of the Parks and Recreation Department are the Mustang Conference Center, Mustang Aquatic Center, and Senior Center.

PUBLIC INPUT ON PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS

Residents consider the parks and recreation facilities in Mustang as one of the greatest existing assets in the community.

Residents would like to see a continued investment in facilities and equipment within the park system.

Stakeholders want to have trails in the city to connect to key destinations, especially within and to Town Center and Wild Horse Park.

Specific facilities that residents would like added include an indoor swimming pool, more tennis courts, and more playgrounds.



The existing parks range in size from 1.8 acres to 158 acres and offer a variety of passive and active recreation amenities. **Active Recreation** activities are those that involve exercise and promote healthy lifestyles. Examples of active recreation activities that are found in Mustang's existing parks include:

- 
Baseball fields
- 
Volleyball court
- 
Softball fields
- 
Swimming Pool
- 
Soccer complex
- 
Frisbee Golf
- 
Basketball courts
- 
Rodeo Arena (Curtis Park)
- 
Tennis courts
- 
Picnic areas
- 
Walking trails
- 
Pavilions
- 
Ponds
- 
Open fields

Passive Recreation activities are those that provide relaxation and the opportunity to enjoy nature. In Mustang, the following passive recreation activities are offered in city parks:

Figure 6-1: Existing Parks in Mustang

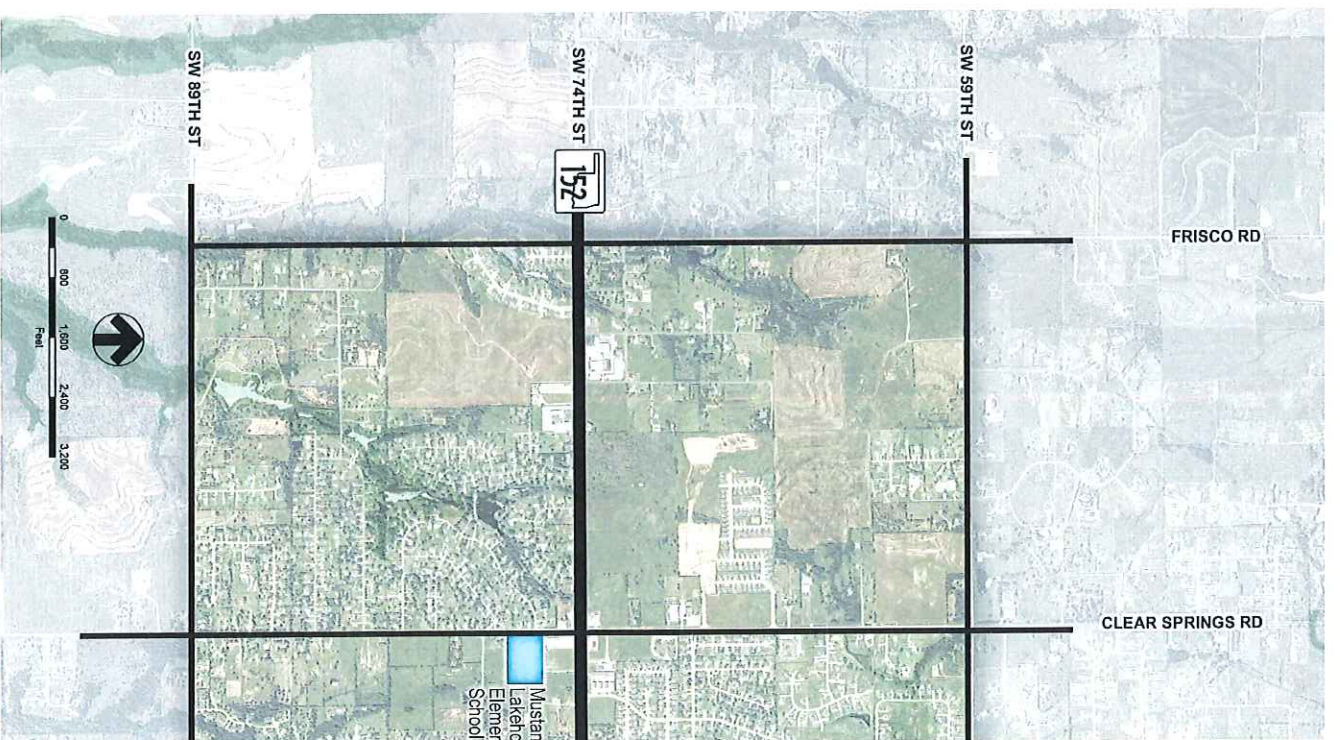
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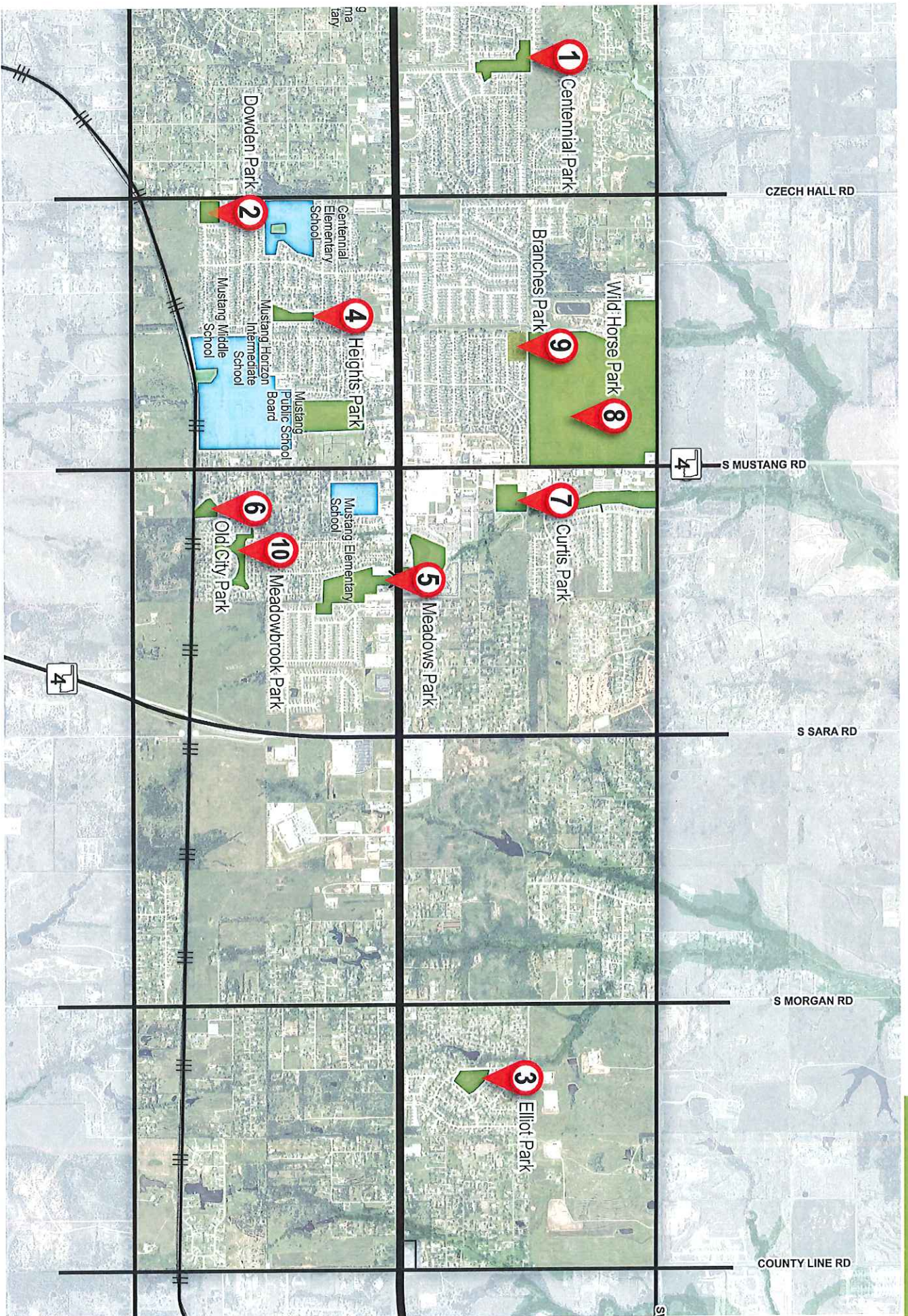


Parks



Schools





EXISTING PARK AMENITIES

Overall, parks in Mustang are well-maintained but have some outdated elements. During the public input process, stakeholders noted that they wanted to see continued investments made to existing parks, including more playgrounds in the city.

National trends in parks and recreation show that amenities park-goers are now seeking include splash pads, Wi-Fi access, skate parks, and fields for emerging sports like cricket, pickle ball, and lacrosse. The city has made progress in keeping up with trends; there are plans to construct a splash pad in 2018, Wi-Fi access is available in Wild Horse Park, and pickle ball is offered at the Rec Center. An issue with many existing parks is accessibility for all users. Several playground manufacturers now make all-inclusive playground structures that kids with special needs can enjoy.

A non-profit organization called the Mustang Parks Foundation was recently created to support the Parks and Recreation Department and help preserve and enhance the parks system in Mustang. The organization's website notes that their first project is to create a more inclusive park system for the special needs community. The first all-inclusive playground structure in the city is scheduled to open in June 2017. Partnerships with the Foundation should be capitalized on to help enhance the existing system.

Figure 6-2 depicts the current amenities at parks in Mustang. All of the developed parks have a playground and most have a pavilion and picnic tables. The community parks and larger neighborhood parks also have athletic fields. The largest park – Wild Horse Park – serves as the city's destination park with several amenities not found in other city parks including a dog park, soccer complex, inclusive playground and softball fields. Mustang Town Center is located on the same property and the complex houses the library, recreation center, senior center, and banquet facilities.

Figure 6-2: Existing Park Amenities



RECREATION

The recreation center located in Mustang Town Center is currently 20,000 SF and offers strength and conditioning space, cardio rooms, an indoor track, a multi-purpose gymnasium, space for group fitness classes, a game room, and an indoor rock climbing wall. Membership fees are lower for those that live within the Mustang Public Schools attendance boundary and seniors get a large discount. Non-residents can also purchase a recreation center membership, but the fees are higher.

Recreation programming that the city offers include a variety of aerobic and fitness classes for all ages and the prices for these classes depend on the membership rate. Youth sports leagues in Mustang are also very popular – there are existing leagues for baseball, basketball, football, softball, and soccer. Since Mustang has a high percentage of children, the emphasis on youth sports should be continued. Adult sport leagues offered include flag football, softball, and basketball. Both the adult and youth sports leagues are administered by the Parks and Recreation Department. Staffing for recreation include a sports coordinator, youth programs supervisor, and room rental coordinator.

Another facility operated by the Parks and Recreation Department is the senior center, which is open to adults 55 and over. Amenities at the center include sitting areas, television and gaming area, board games, and dining room for special events. The center is supported by a volunteer board called the Senior Supporters that assist with activities and fundraising for the center.

During the public input process, stakeholders noted that they wanted indoor aquatic facilities and more tennis courts. Currently the only tennis courts in Mustang are located at Meadows Park.



KEY ISSUES: PARKS, RECREATION, AND TRAILS IN MUSTANG

- The City is keeping up with parks and recreation trends at some parks but not system-wide.
- Wild Horse Park is a great signature amenity, and smaller neighborhood parks need to continue to develop.
- As the population continues to grow, the city should consider developing additional parks to ensure all residents have equal access.
- Trail connectivity is a need identified by both public stakeholders and staff.
- The city needs to develop a comprehensive Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan that will prioritize specific improvements.

TRAILS

Within the city there are no dedicated bike lanes or signed routes on the roadways. There are also no trails that connect different parts of the city. However there are paved walking trails within Centennial, Elliot, Meadows, and Wild Horse parks. There is one funded trail located in the creek corridor north of SH 152 between Czech Hall Road and Mustang Road which, when completed, will provide trail connectivity to the edge of Wild Horse Park.

During the public input process, 78% of survey respondents said that they would like to have more pedestrian walkways, trails, and bike paths linking the community. Stakeholders also noted that they wanted to have a continuous trail at Town Center and bike trails that connect to Town Center from other parts of the city. The development of shared-use trails and bicycle facilities should be a priority for the city to connect key destinations and provide active transportation opportunities.



A comprehensive park system is one that offers a balance of passive and active recreational activities, provides bicycle and pedestrian linkages between the parks, and serves residents of all ages in the city. Today, the park system in Mustang is not comprehensive – although there are both passive and active recreational activities, there are areas of the city that aren't served by an existing park and no trail connections are provided.

During the public charrette held in October 2016, designers worked with stakeholders to identify additional park sites and potential trail connections in the city. These concepts need to be further analyzed in a future Parks and Trails Master Plan, but they are described below to serve as a starting point for future park system enhancements.

Potential Park Sites: Based on the existing population of Mustang, there are currently 11.6 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. This is slightly above the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) average of 9.5 acres per 1,000 residents, but as the city continues to grow, additional parks and amenities should be considered. According to the charrette discussions, land could be acquired for four additional parks in Mustang. These sites were identified based on their proximity to potential trails, the overall spatial distribution of parks throughout the city, and the availability of sizable, vacant tracts of land.

Potential Trail Connections: Areas that could serve as trail corridors include railroad Rights-of-Way (ROW), creeks, utility easements, and roadway ROW. In Mustang, a trail could be developed in the Frisco railroad ROW to connect the southeastern parts of the city to commercial uses on Mustang Road. Additionally, the existing parks along Pebble Creek could be connected by a greenway trail that would provide a connection to Wild Horse Park and up to the proposed greenway that continues to Oklahoma City. Furthermore, an off-street sidepath could be added on either side of SH 152 in the existing ROW to provide alternative transportation options on this busy corridor. Sidepaths could also be added to SW 59th Street and County Line Road to connect the northeastern part of the city to the trail in the trail corridor. Additionally, Oklahoma City has plans to put a trail along Newcastle Road, so consideration should be given to how that trail could tie into the future system in

Figure 6-3: Trail and Bikeway Definitions



Mustang. Early consideration should be given to utility obstructions, coordination with ODOT and Oklahoma City, and public input.

Potential On-Street Bicycle Routes: In addition to greenway trails and sidepaths, on-street bicycle routes are an important element of a comprehensive bicyclist/pedestrian system. One on-street bicycle facility type that could be incorporated in Mustang is a sharrow, which is a street marking indicating that the lane is meant to be shared by vehicles and bicycles. Bike sharrows could be added to connect portions of the trail system where it's not feasible to construct an off-street trail or sidepath.

These potential park and trail system enhancements are depicted on Figure 6-4.

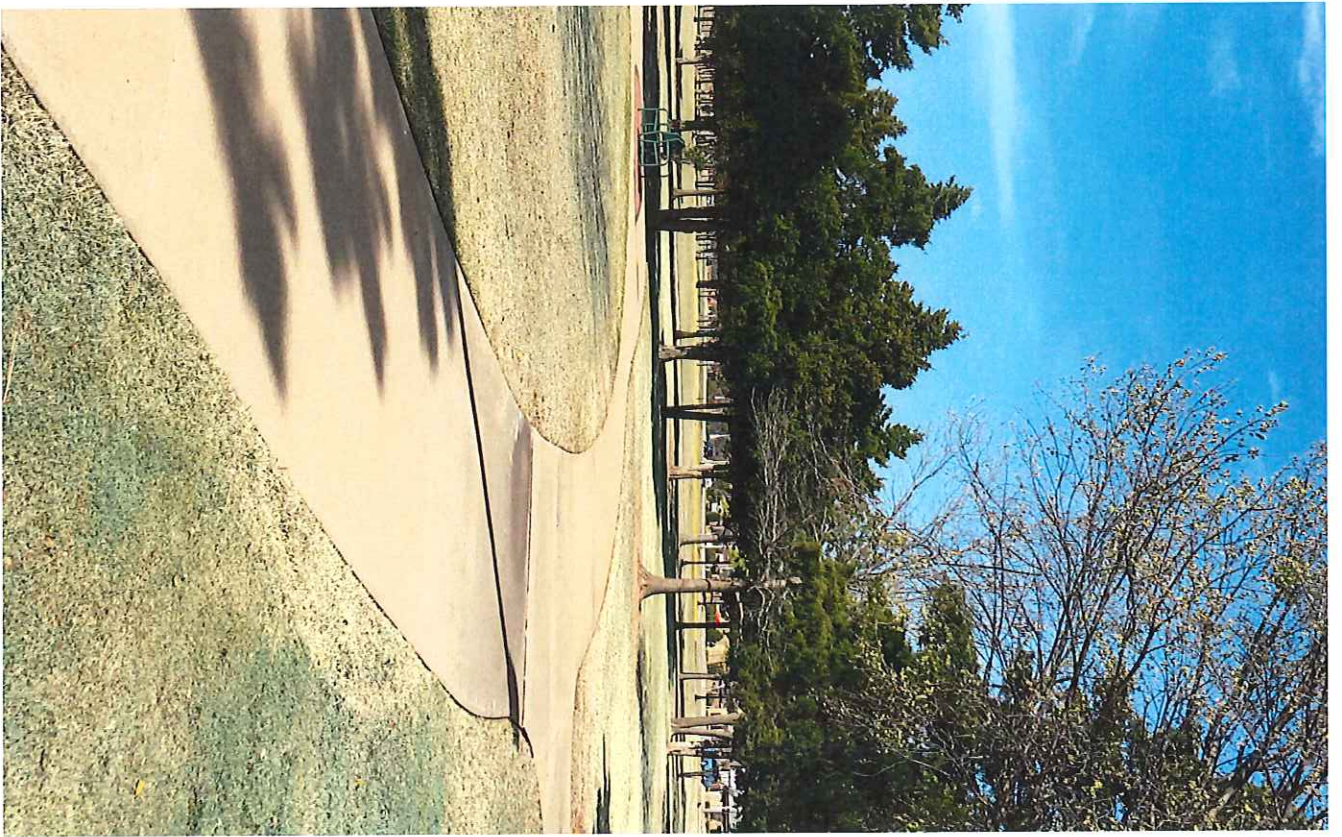
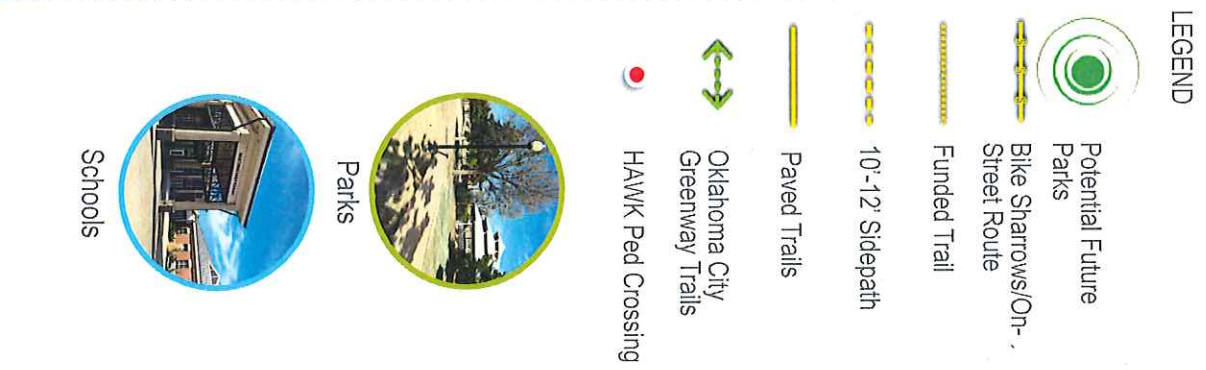
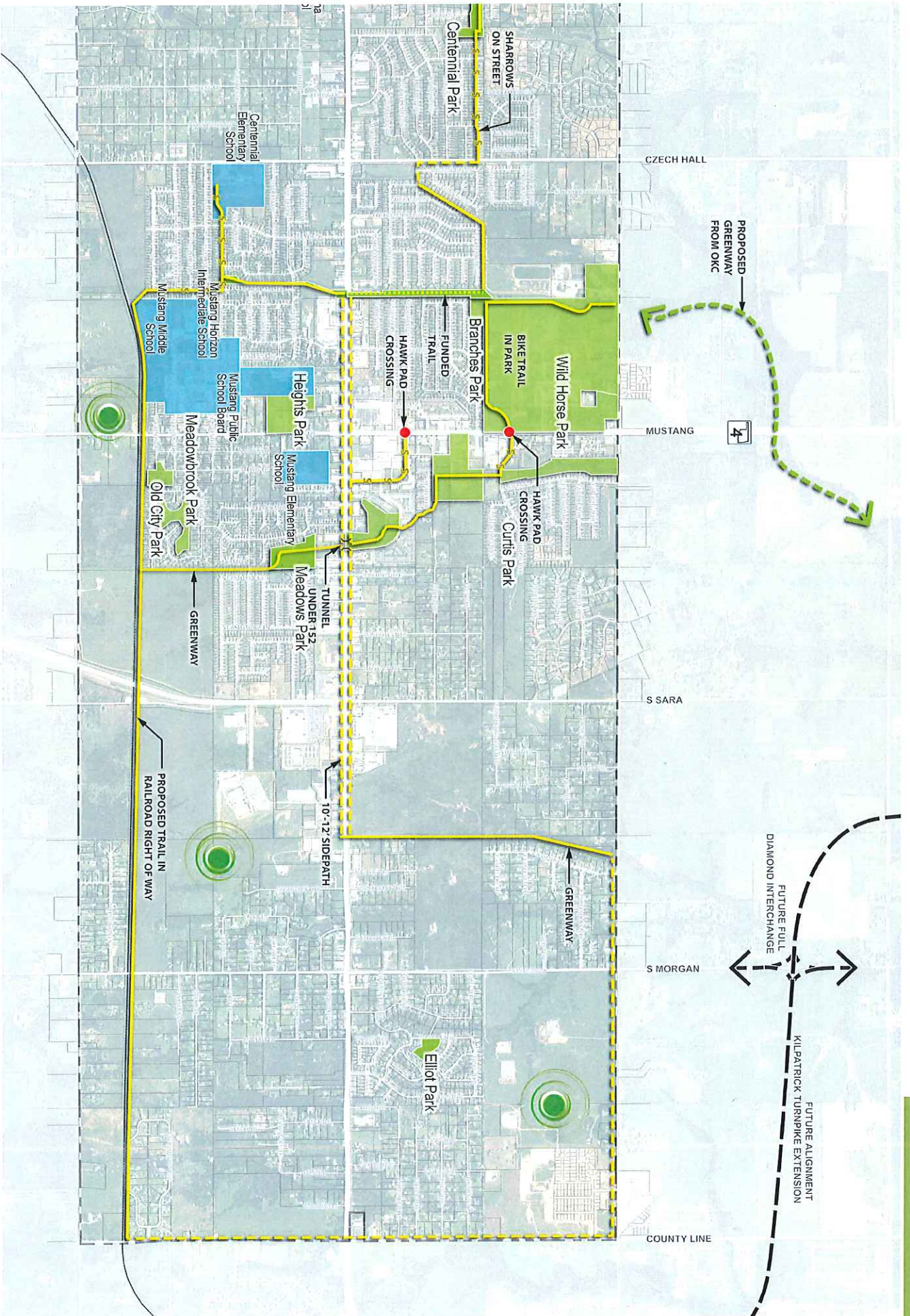


Figure 6-4: Potential Parks & Trails in Mustang





ACTIONS

Action 6.1.1: Develop a Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. As of this writing, Mustang has not developed a parks master plan, which is critical to prioritize improvements and to be prepared when funding opportunities arise. This plan should comprehensively assess the existing parks, recreation, trails, and open space system and provide prioritized recommendations for improvements and additional facilities based on projected growth. The plan should also include the potential annexation area in the study limits.

Action 6.1.2: Review the existing parkland dedication ordinance and other subdivision design ordinances as necessary to ensure that adequate parkland and open space remains available as the City continues to grow. Since Mustang is not built-out yet, the City should periodically review the requirements for developers to provide land area or amenities for parks when new development occurs.

Action 6.1.3: Evaluate current Parks and Recreation Department staffing levels to ensure that there is adequate staff. Currently, the Parks and Recreation Department is made up of 6 full-time staff that oversee the upkeep of parks, Recreation Center, and the Senior Center. Staffing and resources should be evaluated periodically to determine if existing levels are adequate to support additional programming.

Action 6.1.4: Make improvements to existing parks and recreation facilities. Determine priorities for improvements to the existing system and conduct routine safety inspections of equipment to ensure the parks remain up-to-date.

Action 6.1.5: Provide and maintain high-quality parks. Ensure that adequate funding and staffing is available to maintain an appealing and safe park system. This includes elements such as routine maintenance and repairs as well as implementing improved landscaping.

Action 6.1.6: Pursue partnerships with Mustang Public Schools. Pursue joint agreements in order to avoid duplication of services and to provide high-quality parks and recreation services where possible and appropriate. This could also include joint pursuit of land acquisition.

Action 6.1.7: Pursue partnerships with other public and private organizations to leverage park and recreation investments. Develop agreements for joint use of facilities and shared maintenance agreements with public and private organizations where possible and appropriate. Such organizations could include the Chamber of Commerce, religious institutions, and major employers.

Action 6.1.8: Establish design standards for community and neighborhood parks. Standards for each park classification would help ensure that the parks system as a whole consistently provides for the needs of the community.

TRAILS

Action 6.2.1: Incorporate a trail component into the Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. This plan component should comprehensively analyze trail connectivity in the city and make prioritized recommendations for implementation.

Action 6.2.2: Incorporate bicycle recommendations into future updates of applicable transportation plans. Ensure bicycle and pedestrian facilities are considered in future transportation planning documents developed by Mustang, ACOG, and ODOT.

Action 6.2.3: Design and implement connections to the proposed Greenway in Oklahoma City. Retain professional services to assist with planning, design, environmental clearance, utilities, and construction activities for the proposed trail to connect to the planned Greenway in Oklahoma City in order to provide a regional connection.

Action 6.2.4: Work with developers and property owners to develop multi-use trails on greenways and other linear open spaces. Where possible and appropriate, the City should create open space corridors along drainage ways and major creeks to eventually develop trails.

Action 6.2.5: Create trail connectivity within the city and to the surrounding region. As the trail network is developed, the City should prioritize connections to Town Center since this was noted by several residents in the survey as a priority.

RECREATION FACILITIES

Action 6.3.1: Conduct a recreational programming assessment as part of the Parks, Recreation, Trails, and Open Space Master Plan. This plan should consider the recreational needs of Mustang today and how these needs will change as growth occurs and demographics shift.

Action 6.3.2: Evaluate the city's free structures every 3-5 years to determine if they are competitive with peer cities. Since Mustang is part of a larger metropolitan region, recreation fees should be regularly evaluated to determine if they are on par with competing cities.

Action 6.3.3: Continue to hold regularly scheduled and special activities and events in parks to encourage community-wide usage of the parks system. Additional programs could include events such as monthly movie nights during warmer months, concerts, and races.

Pizza Hut

Cricket

ESSE MAIL

