RESOLUTION 25-04

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE CITY OF RIDGETOP 2025 PARKS AND RECREATIONAL MASTER PLAN

WHEREAS, the City contracted the services of a State approved team of consultants to assist Ridgetop with the development of the Parks and Recreation Master Plan; and

WHEREAS, Ridgetop afforded the public opportunities to provide input into the planning process including public input meetings; one held at the Ridgetop City Hall November 12, 2024 and one held January 7, 2025 at Ridgetop Station Park; and

WHEREAS, a Draft Plan Presentation and Input Session was held February 4, 2025, at Ridgetop Station Park; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ridgetop Board of Mayor and Aldermen has reviewed and provided input and assistance with development of the Master Plan;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Ridgetop Board of Mayor and Aldermen as follows,

THAT, the City of Ridgetop Board of Mayor and Aldermen does hereby adopt the 2025 Ridgetop Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

READ AND ADOPTED this 18^{TH} day of February, 2025.

Tim Shaw, Mayor

Kelly Rider, Recorder

2025

City of Ridgetop Parks and Recreation Master Plan

Acknowledgements

City of Ridgetop

Tim Shaw, Mayor Kristen Harrison, Vice Mayor Kim Martin, Alderman Kelly Rider, City Recorder

<u>Ridgetop Recreation Advisory Board</u>

Anna Gregory, Chairman Jennifer Crain, Vice Chair Viktoria Lawson Glenn Pearson Ralph Carter Miranda Shrum Krystal Lyons Mitchell Glanzbergh

Community Development Partners, LLC

Community Development Partners, LLC

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1.0 Introduction

This Master Plan serves as a forward-looking roadmap designed to meet the evolving needs of the Ridgetop community. As Ridgetop continues to grow, its parks, recreational facilities, and open spaces play a crucial role in enhancing the quality of life, fostering community connections, and promoting health and well-being. This Master Plan provides a strategic framework to ensure that parks and recreation services remain sustainable, equitable, and responsive to both current and future generations.

Emphasizing community-driven planning, this document reflects the values, aspirations, and priorities of Ridgetop residents. The plan is built on thorough community engagement, detailed assessments of existing assets, and a commitment to preserving the town's natural beauty while expanding access to high-quality recreational opportunities.

Historical Context

Ridgetop, Tennessee, is a charming small town located in Robertson County, just 25 minutes from Nashville. Originally settled in the late 19th century, Ridgetop began as a rural farming community, valued for its fertile soil and scenic landscapes. The town's development was closely tied to the construction of the Louisville & Nashville (L&N) Railroad, which ran through the area and connected Ridgetop to larger markets and neighboring communities. The railway not only facilitated economic growth but also attracted visitors drawn by the town's reputation for clean air and cool breezes.

Ridgetop's location at the top of Baker's Hill presented some challenges for the railroad. The L&N Company recognized the need for a tunnel to traverse the ridge. In 1902, large crews of immigrant workers, often from Chicago, along with local laborers, began constructing one of the longest hand-dug, self-supporting tunnels in



Ridgetop Station Park

the world. The tunnel was completed and opened in 1905, measuring approximately 4,700 feet in length and 22 feet in height.

By the early 20th century, Ridgetop had become known as a summer retreat for city residents seeking relief from the heat, especially those from nearby Nashville. Quaint inns and boarding houses sprang up to accommodate these seasonal visitors. Despite its growth, the town maintained its close-knit rural character.

During the mid-20th century, Ridgetop began evolving into a suburban community, with new residential developments designed to accommodate a growing population. While modern amenities were introduced, the town remained dedicated to preserving green spaces, its railroad history through the Railroad Museum, and fostering a strong sense of community. Today, Ridgetop is a blend of historical charm and suburban convenience, with parks, trails, and recreational opportunities serving as essential aspects of local life.

Geography and Natural Beauty

Ridgetop, Tennessee, situated in southern Robertson County, feels worlds apart from the urban landscape of Nashville. The community's uniqueness stems from the area's topography and climate. Perched at over 800 feet above sea level on the edge of the Highland Rim, this small hamlet is influenced by both agriculture and urban commerce.

Ridgetop boasts breathtaking views and a distinctive blend of rolling hills, lush forests, and open meadows. Its elevated position provides panoramic vistas of the surrounding countryside, while diverse ecosystems support a variety of native plants and wildlife. The region is characterized by rich soil, natural springs, and gently sloping terrain, which contributes to the community's agricultural and recreational identity.

Additionally, the town sits atop Baker's Hill, a geological formation that enhances its fertile land and effective natural drainage patterns. Local trails wind through wooded areas and along creeks, offering opportunities for hiking, birdwatching, and enjoying the serene environment.

Vision and Goals

In October 2024, the City of Ridgetop Parks Advisory Board conducted a discussion to establish the goals and vision for the City of Ridgetop Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The goals and vision were determined through open discussion, with the intention of guiding the plan in developing future action plans and implementations.

City's Goals for Ridgetop's Parks and Recreation

- Achieved through the encouragement of a well-rounded recreational program designed to serve all citizens of the community
- Achieved through the establishment and implementation of proper rules and regulations governing activities on and uses of park properties
- Achieved through the responsible supervision of all recreation programs and facilities owned and operated by the city

Goals for Ridgetop's Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- Provide enjoyable, safe, and accessible parks
- Create new areas and centers for community activities
- Maintain and conserve the parks
- Conduct fun, family friendly, and historical events and programs
- Pursue property purchase opportunities for new recreation and sport programs

Vision Statement

"The historical Ridgetop community aims to create beautiful, nature-inspired parks that encourage people to learn about and engage with the outdoors. The community organizes events and activities that teach and engage the community with history and promote a sense of community. Ridgetop is committed to providing safe and comfortable parks for every member of the community."

SWOT Analysis

(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats)

Workshop – October 2024

The City of Ridgetop parks volunteer board conducted a SWOT analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) on their two parks and the potential property that the city is interested in obtaining. The following lists out the SWOT outcomes.

Station Park

Strengths

- Serenity and Nature inspired
- Accessibility
- Child-friendly with the playground
- Walking trails,
- Tables, pavilion, hangout areas,
- Amphitheater, music, stage
- History and museum
- Community gatherings and events allow for big gathering events
- Wedding venues and photogenic atmosphere
- Bathrooms access are ADA compliant

Weaknesses

- Low security and vandalism
- No path lighting
- No ADA access to Historic House
- No bike access or path
- No organized sport facilities allowed
- No water fountains
- No large indoor event access
- No sunshade or protection at playground

Opportunities

- Unutilized open space
- Opportunities for more beautification
- Expanding playground space
- Expanding themes for social events
- Remodel the Historic House for larger wedding events

- Senior Bingo Night
- Sidewalk connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods
- Improve Park signage and park advertising

Threats

- Deed restriction (2006-2056), not allowing sport facilities on the property
- Vandalism and maintenance
- Lack of funds
- Homelessness and illegal parking
- Illegal hunting and poaching in adjacent woods (crossbow hunting)
- Community apathy
- Small community base

Bobby Rob Pioneer Park

Strengths

- Large pavilions (X2) and ability for large gatherings
- Enjoyable playground
- Future basketball courts
- Sport organization encouraged
- Intimate and neighborly neighborhood

Weaknesses

- No Bathrooms (underway)
- Lack or parking
- Lack of walking paths and limited ADA access to facilities
- No lighting

Opportunities

- Enclose a pavilion for indoor events (roll up or folding doors or walls)
- Adding walking paths
- Expand sport facilities volleyball, soccer, baseball, ping pong, shuffle boards, batting cages

Threats

- Vandalism
- High cost of maintenance
- Closed after dark

Summer Crest Tennis and Pickleball Club (Ridgetop pursuing property purchase)

Strengths

- House on the property (Est 1850) large ~2,500 SF
- Active senior and middle school activity center
- Private club and revenue producing
- Sports for a range of age groups, high schoolers, adults, and seniors
- Accessory building with bathrooms and a club house

Weaknesses

- House on property needs to be retrofitted and updated
- Staffing needed and finances to support sports club
- Ongoing deferred maintenance
- No bathrooms near pickleball courts
- Lack of ADA compliance

Opportunities

- House on the property could be transformed into a small community center
- The property is adjacent to Ridgetop Station Park
- Connection can be made and create trails and expanded walking/biking paths
- Expansions for new facilities disk golf, hiking trails, greenway

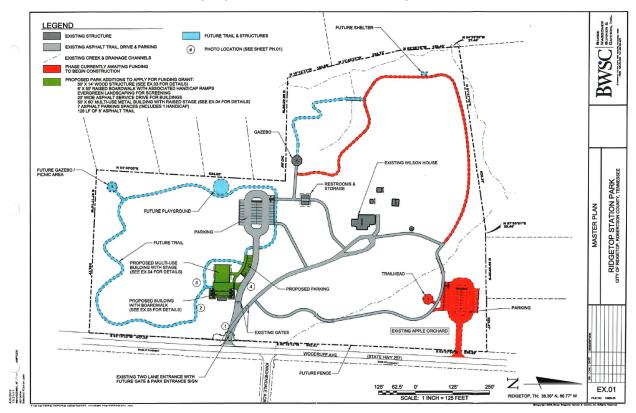
Threats

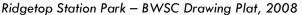
- Missing the opportunity to purchase the property
- Heavy upfront cost

Other Plans

Ridgetop Sation Park Master Plan Plat, 2008

In 2008, the city of Ridgetop unveiled its first plat plan for Station Park, a resourceful blueprint designed to enrich the community's recreational landscape. This plan includes a diverse array of features, many of which have already been successfully realized, such as picturesque walking trails that meander through the park and a vibrant playground equipped with engaging structures for children. The development of this master plan drew inspiration from various innovative concepts, reflecting a commitment to creating a welcoming and dynamic space for residents and visitors alike.



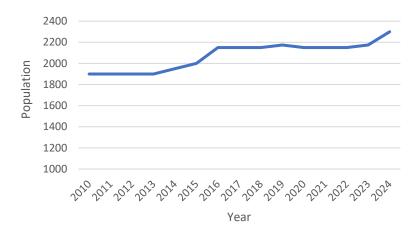


2.0 Demographics

Understanding the demographics of Ridgetop, Tennessee, is crucial for planning a parks and recreation system that meets the needs of all residents. This analysis examines key demographic indicators, including population trends, age distribution, household composition, socioeconomic factors, education, and local industries. These insights will serve as a foundation for developing inclusive and responsive recreational opportunities.

Population Trends

Ridgetop has experienced steady population growth over the past few decades, reflecting its appeal as a suburban community with access to nearby urban centers. As of 2024, the town's population is estimated at approximately 2,300 residents, representing a modest increase from the 2020 Census. This growth is driven by new housing developments, the town's reputation for quality schools, and its proximity to Nashville. Population projections indicate continued growth at a manageable pace, with an emphasis on preserving the town's small-town character.



Ridgetop Population



Sources:

https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/tennessee/ridgetop https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US4763140-ridgetop-tn/

Age Distribution

The age distribution in Ridgetop reveals a balanced community with diverse recreational needs. Approximately 25% of residents are under the age of 18, highlighting the importance of youth-oriented parks and programs. The working-age population (18-64) constitutes about 55% of residents, requiring amenities such as fitness trials, sports facilities, and spaces for social gatherings. Meanwhile, seniors aged 65 and older make up 20% of the population, emphasizing the need for accessible and low-impact recreational opportunities.

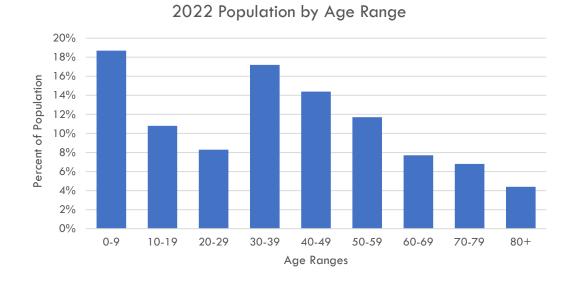


Figure 2. Population by Age Range

Figure 3. Population by Age Category

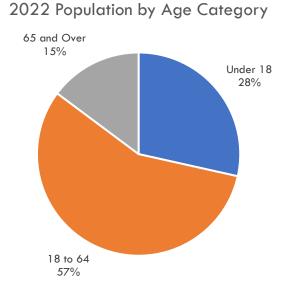
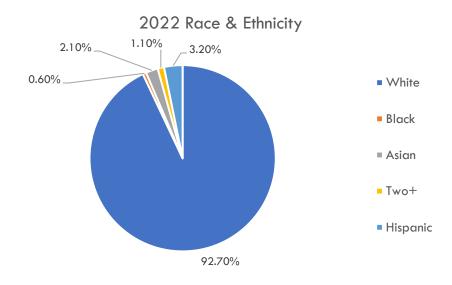


Figure 4. Race and Ethnicity



Household Composition

Ridgetop's households are predominantly family-oriented, with 70% of households consisting of families. Of these, many include young children, reflecting on the demand for playgrounds, sports leagues, and family-friendly events. The remaining 30% of households are composed of singles, retirees, and other non-family arrangements, underscoring the importance of offering a variety of activities and spaces that cater to all household types.

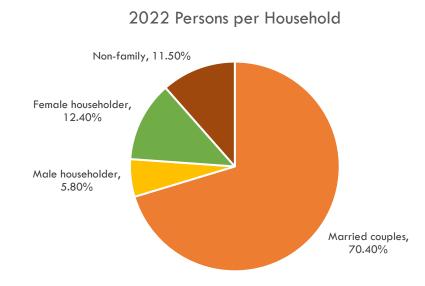
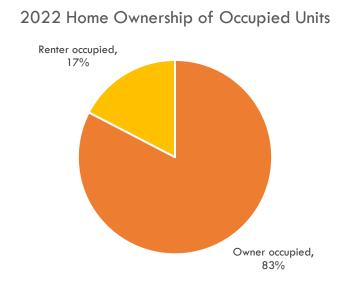


Figure 5. Persons per Household





Socioeconomic Factors

Ridgetop is characterized by a middle-class socioeconomic profile, with a median household income slightly above the state average. While the majority of residents enjoy financial stability, approximately 12% of households are considered lowincome, highlighting the importance of ensuring equitable access to parks and recreation services. Affordable programs and facilities can help bridge gaps and ensure all residents can benefit from the town's recreational offerings.

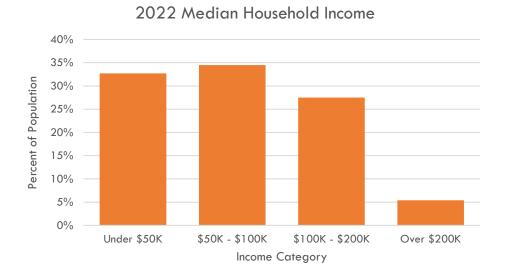
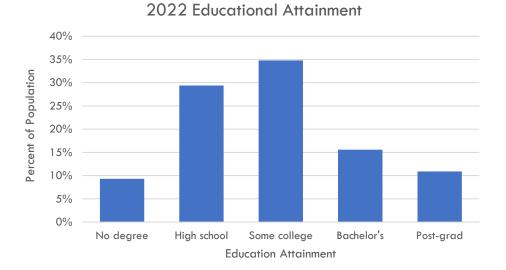


Figure 7. Median Household Income

Education

Education is a cornerstone of the Ridgetop community, with a majority of residents holding high school diplomas, and a growing percentage achieving bachelor's and advanced degrees. The presence of well-regarded schools in and around Ridgetop contributes to the town's family-friendly appeal. Educational partnerships, such as outdoor classrooms and environmental education programs, can further enhance the role of parks as learning spaces.





Conclusion

The demographic profile of Ridgetop, Tennessee, underscores the importance of a park and recreation system that is inclusive, adaptable, and reflective of the community's needs. By considering population trends, age distribution, household composition, socioeconomic factors, education, and industries, the 2025 Ridgetop Parks and Recreation Master Plan aims to create spaces and programs that enhance the quality of life for all residents.

3.0 Facility Evaluations

This chapter provides a detailed analysis of all the elements, structures, features, facilities, and amenities available at each park that is owned and managed by Ridgetop. The following sections offer a brief overview of each property.

Parks:

- Bobby Robb Pioneer Park
- Ridgetop Station Park

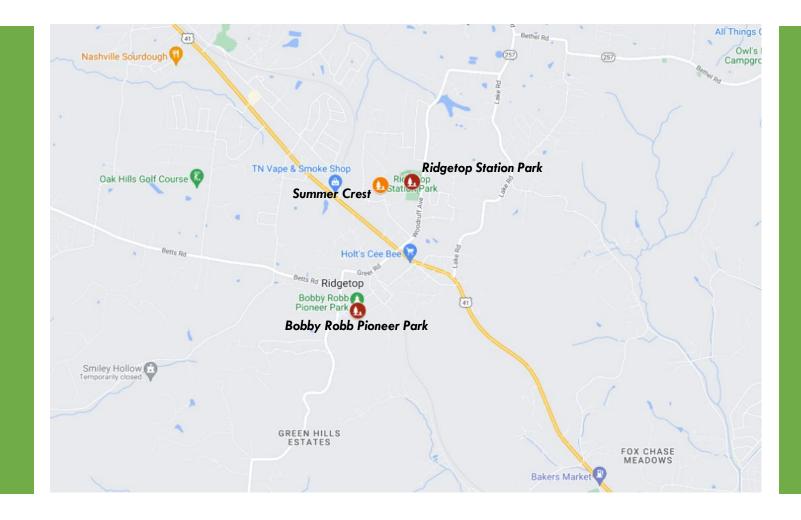
Property of Interest

• Summer Crest*

*Please see notations regarding property ownership, maintenance, and/or scheduling in each of these sections.



Parks Map



Bobby Robb Pioneer Park

Coordinates:	36.39227975279313, -86.77757060051084
Address:	COBB ST 721
Parcel Number:	132N A 047.00
Calculated Acreage:	3.7 Ac

List of Amenities:

- Pavilion 30' x 48' with electrical outlets
- Includes six each, 8' tables, seating a total of 48 people, an amphitheater
- 2 additional picnic tables in the park
- Charcoal grills
- Pavilion (back of park)
- 1 Gazebo
- Volleyball/Badminton net
- Basketball Court (under construction/new)
- Children's Playground
- Parking Facilities
- The park is lit by streetlights around the park

Observations:

- Well maintained park
- Some vandalism
- Under conservation contract
- Limited-use Park (no sport facilities)
- Park closes at night

















Ridgetop Station Park

Coordinates:	36.40451338389072, -86.7705917511531
Address:	WOODRUFF AVE 1954
Parcel Number:	132 058.00
Calculated Acreage:	22.45 Ac

List of Amenities:

- Historical House
- Pavilion #1: 32' Octagon Pavilion
- Pavilion #2: 20 x 24 Pavilion with a 4' wrap-around overhang
- 6/10 Mile Walking Trail
- Children's Playground
- Smoke House
- Garden House
- Caboose
- Restroom Facilities
- Parking Facilities
- Arboretum

Observations:

- Well maintained park
- Some vandalism
- Under conservation contract
- Limited-use Park (no sport facilities)
- Park closes at night











Summer Crest*

*Disclaimer: The City of Ridgetop does not own this property. However, the City is pursuing the purchase of this property with a Grant

Coordinates:	36.40526422271997, -86.77458152280502
Address:	LENNOX AVE 1029 & RED OAK DR 1002
Parcel Number:	132E A 050.00 & 132E A 049.00
Calculated Acreage:	11.3 Ac
Owners:	TARA PLANTATION PROPERTIES LLC & WEBB RUTH
	ELIZABETH & WEBB KIMBERLY RUTH ETAL

List of Amenities:

- 3 full-size tennis courts
- 1 clay tennis court
- 4 pickleball courts (May add more courts in future)
- House building
- Accessory building at the back of house

Future:

• Possible connection with Ridgetop Station Park property

Observations:

- Well maintained property
- Parking lot may need resurfacing
- Will need overhead lights for night play

















Benchmark

Benchmark analysis provides a comparative assessment of the parks and recreation services in the City of Ridgetop. By comparing local statistics with those from similar municipalities and national data, this approach highlights both the strengths and potential gaps in the services offered by the city. This analysis uses an objective methodology to evaluate the quantity and quality of the services provided.

City of Ridgetop Benchmark Numbers (Population of 2,300)

- Residents per park: 1,150
 - Total parks: 2
- Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents: 11.4 acres
 - o 26.15 acres total
- Total facility locations: 2
- Residents per playground: 1,150
 - Playground structures: 2
- Total miles of trails: 0.6 miles
- Full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) per 10,000 residents: 0 staff
 - The parks and facilities are managed by the Parks Advisory Board
- 2023 operating expenditures: \$53,584
 - 2023 revenue: \$0



City of Ridgetop Facilities	Number of Facilities		
Playgrounds	2		
Shaded Picnic Areas	4		
Gymnasium	0		
Disc Golf Course	0		
Tennis Courts	0 (4 Private Courts - Summer Crest)		
Pickleball Facilities	0 (4 Private Courts - Summer Crest)		
Baseball Facilities	0		
Soccer Facilities	0		
Basketball Courts	1		
Restroom Facility	1		
Amphitheater	1		
Dog Park	0		

List of Facilities

Similar Municipalities Comparisons – Type

Municipality	County	Population 2020 Census	Population 2023 Census	Area (sq mi)	TN Region
Ridgetop	Robertson County	1,874	2,300	2.2	Middle
Berry Hill	Davidson County	2,112	1,840	0.91	Middle
Cross Plains	Robertson County	1,714	1,809	8.49	Middle
Estill Springs	Franklin County	2,055	2,270	4.68	Middle
Jamestown	Fentress County	1,959	2,077	2.9	Middle

Municipality	Total Parks	Residents per Park	Total Non-Park Facilities	Total Park Acres	AC per 1k residents	Number of Playgrounds	Resid. Per playg.
Ridgetop	2	1,150	0	26.15	11.4	2	1,150
Berry Hill	1	1,840	0	65.39	35.5	1	1,840
Cross Plains	1	1,809	1	46.17	25.5	1	1,809
Estill Springs	1	2,270	1	17	58.8	1	2,270
Jamestown	1	2,077	3	345	170.4	1	2,077

Similar Municipalities Comparisons – Facilities

Similar Municipalities Comparisons – Finances

Municipality	Total miles of Trails	Full-time employees	Staff per 10k residents	2023 Operating Expenditures	2023 Capital Projects	2023 Revenue
Ridgetop	0.6	0	0	\$53,584	\$0	\$O
Berry Hill	unknown	0	0	\$22,000	\$10,000	\$0
Cross Plains	unknown	0	0	unknown	unknown	\$O
Estill Springs	unknown	0	0	unknown	unknown	\$0
Jamestown	unknown	0	0	unknown	unknown	\$0

National Recreation and Park Association

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) serves as the primary source for the latest nationwide data. This data not only informs present and future decisions but also equips local leadership with valuable insights to guide resource allocation. The 2023 NRPA Agency Performance Review encapsulates key findings from the NRPA park metrics. For optimal comparison, the subsequent information presents the median figures from NRPA for jurisdictions with populations under 20,000. This category represents the smallest data population group available and will be juxtaposed with the City of Ridgetop.

NRPA Median Comparison by Jurisdiction in Population of Less Than 20,000

- Residents per park: 1,225
- Acres of parkland per 1,000 residents: 13.0 acres
- Residents per playground: 2,014
- Total miles of trails: 4.0 miles
- Full-time equivalent employees (FTEs) per 10,000 residents: 11.5 staff
- Annual operating expenditure: \$1,200,000

In summary, the benchmark comparisons highlight the richness of the City of Ridgetop's parks and recreation system, while also identifying areas that require attention for the parks department. The city aims to provide a wide range of opportunities for both residents and visitors through well-maintained parks and recreational spaces now and in the future. To accomplish this, it is essential for the city to properly maintain its designated parks and recreation facilities.

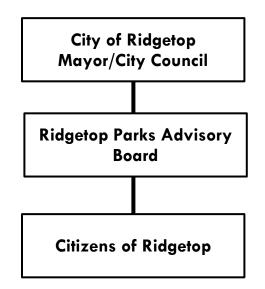
4.0 Revenues and Staffing

Parks and Recreation Staff

The City of Ridgetop has a clear and straightforward organizational structure for managing its two beautiful parks. At the helm is the Ridgetop Parks Advisory Board, a dedicated group of citizen volunteers who are passionate about enhancing the community's green spaces. This board plays a vital role in overseeing the parks, ensuring they are well-maintained, and proposing necessary improvements or changes.

The advisory board advocates for the needs and desires of the community regarding the parks and reports directly to the Ridgetop City Council. They are responsible for organizing various events throughout the year, which bring the community together for recreational activities, celebrations, and educational programs in the parks.

Additionally, the advisory board serves as the primary point of contact for residents who wish to share their insights or suggestions about the parks. The advisory board's monthly meetings are open to the public, encouraging community members to provide their thoughts or suggestions. This collaborative approach fosters a strong sense of community involvement and allows the parks to reflect the interests and needs of Ridgetop's citizens. Importantly, the city does not employ any full-time staff dedicated to the parks, relying instead on the commitment and volunteer efforts of the advisory board.





Funding Breakdown

The table below provides an overview of the funding allocation for the parks and recreation budget in the city of Ridgetop from 2022 to 2024. The city's general budget includes specific line items designated for essential maintenance and utility expenses to ensure that parks and recreational facilities remain in good condition. It is important to note that, although this funding helps cover the upkeep of these community assets, there are currently no significant revenue streams available.

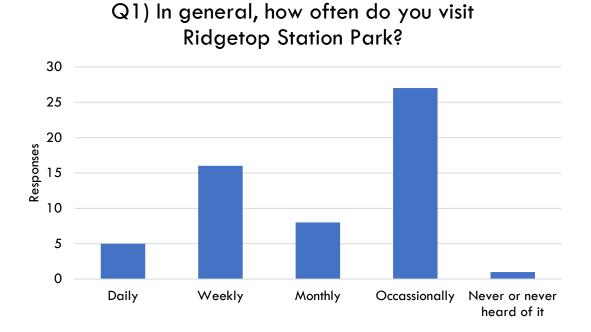
Year	2022	2023	2024
Operating Expenditure	\$35,834	\$53,584	\$86,223
Capital Expenses	\$ O	\$ O	\$ 19,617
Revenues	\$ O	\$ O	\$ O

Parks and Recreation Funding Breakdown

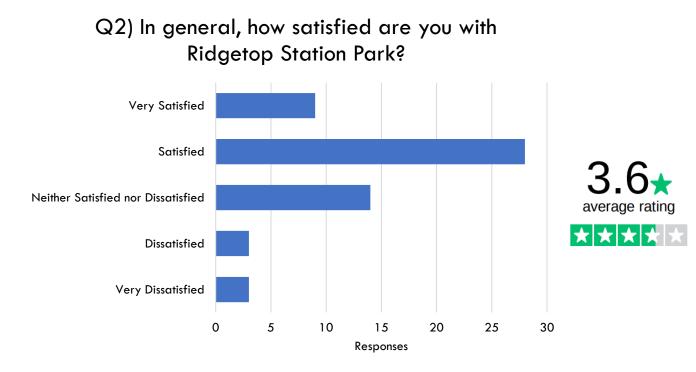
5.0 Survey and Community Engagement

Engaging the community effectively is a crucial and intricate aspect of the planning process. To achieve meaningful engagement, it is important to establish various avenues for interaction with stakeholders and the general public. This approach not only facilitates the collection of diverse and valuable input but also fosters a sense of shared support for the recommendations presented in the plan. Our engagement strategies included administering a public survey, hosting public meetings, and conducting interviews with city officials and staff. These initiatives were designed to gather essential insights from a range of perspectives, ensuring that our recommendations resonate with the needs and aspirations of the community.

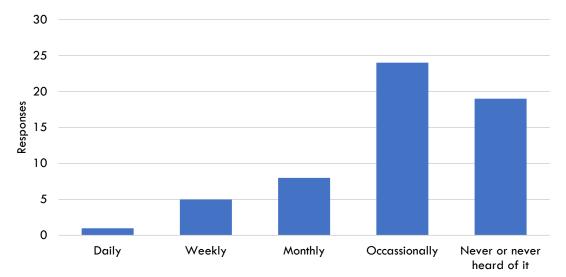
Public Survey



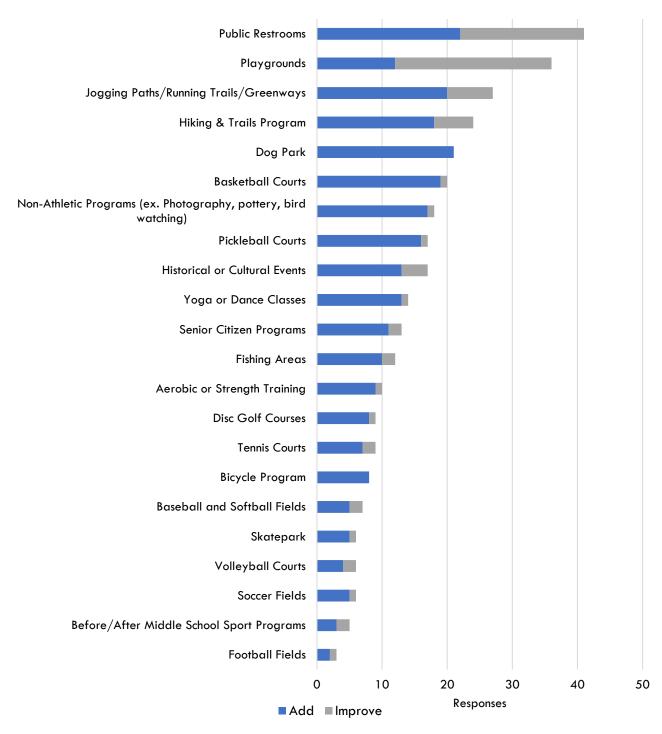
Total: 57 Online Survey Responses



Q3) In general, how often do you visit Bobby Robb Pioneer Park?



Q5) Pick your TOP FIVE Park Amenities & Programs that the City of Ridgetop should consider ADDING or IMPROVING?



Q6) (Optional) Are there any accessibility issues with any of the parks to citizens of any age, status, and abilities?

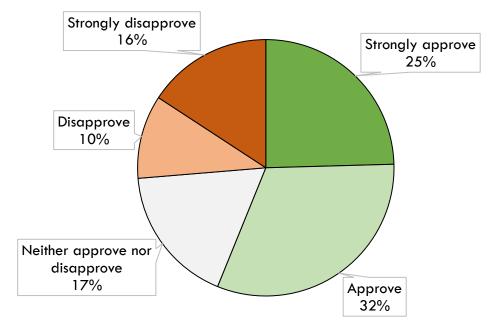
Most Common Answers

- Lack of ADA accessibility
- Need better bathroom accessibility
- Improve security and address vandalism
- Fencing and after-hours access to parks

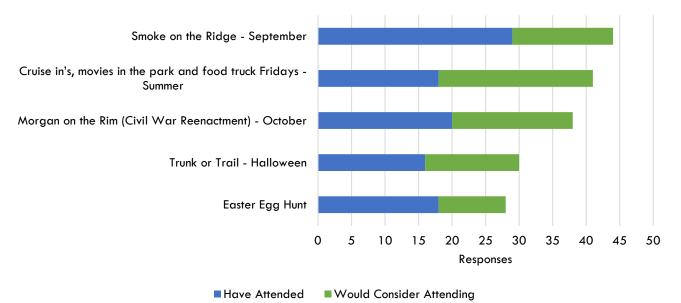
Open-Ended Response

- Yes. No walkable or bike accessible access to get to the parks.
- Nothing for the younger generation to do except get in trouble
- Good sidewalks so ada and wheel chairs can move around in the parks
- I know the train park was donated and the donation came with restrictions. Make sure you are always honoring the donor's wishes. I don't think they wanted ball fields. Thanks
- There needs to be bathrooms accessible for the community to use while at the parks and fence in the park.
- The parks are unprotected. The taxpayers money is being spent unwisely. Crime is high, we are unprotected, but have more money being spent on parks. The bathrooms are inaccessible, due to vandalism (crime).
- All areas should be handicapped accessible. Pioneer park has a new fence around It that blocks walkers or joggers from getting in once closed. A spot big enough to walk in on each end of the gate would be greatly appreciated. It's the safe spot for walking, jogging and dog walking on this side of ridgetop.
- It just sucks when the ridgetop station bathrooms are closed in the winter. My kid still likes to go on walks and play on the play ground regardless of the weather and it puts us in a bind when the bathrooms are closed.
- Park bathrooms are fine but not always open. Locked or closed much of the time.
- No

Q7) The City of Ridgetop is considering acquiring the Summer Crest Tennis Club and property, which includes tennis and pickleball courts, through a grant. How in favor are you with this decision?



Q8) Which Ridgetop events did you or your household participate this year (2024), and would you consider attending in the future? (Check all that apply)



Q9) What other recreation activities does your household use outside the City of Ridgetop (within a 30-minute drive)?Example: Boating, hiking, swimming, fishing, or sports programs and activities in Nashville

Most Common Activity

- Kayaking
- Swimming
- Hiking
- Soccer
- Fishing
- Sport programs

Most Common Locations

- Springfield
- Goodlettsville
- Hendersonville

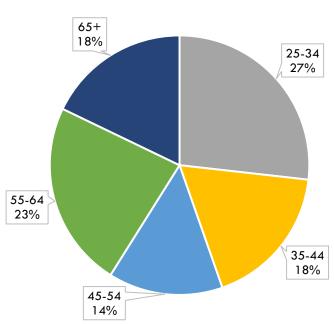
Activities - Open-Ended Response:

- running, hiking, gym / excercise
- Hiking
- Kayaking, hiking
- Cruise in
- fishing / playground/ scoccer / walking trail
- Swimming
- hiking, greenways, splash pad, soccer, swim and basketball
- Hiking, soccer
- Golf
- Other parks, soccer teams, greenways, gymnastics
- Hiking , play grounds , splash pad
- Kayaking, hiking, camping
- Greenway
- Basketball, public exercise equipment, trails.
- Splash pad indoor play area
- walking
- Baseball, swimming, hiking, summer camps
- Disc golf
- Fishing
- Hiking, fishing, skating

- Hiking, walking, splash pads
- Riding bikes
- Youth gymnastics
- Splash Pad, Larger playgrounds
- Mary's magical kingdom, white house and Brentwood splash pad
- Pickleball

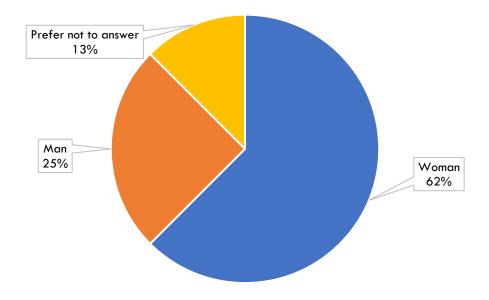
Locations - Open-Ended Response:

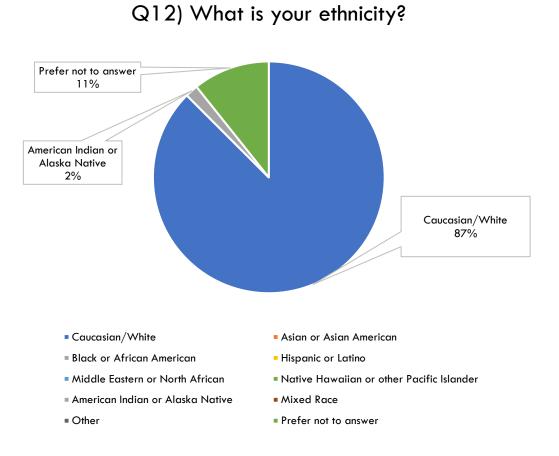
- Louise Martin Park Greenbrier, Travis Price Park & Greenway Springfield
- Beaman, Bledsoe, Cumberland river
- Hendersonville, Springfield, Whitehouse, Somerset, Ky
- YMCA
- springield parks
- Ridgetop
- Beaman Park, Springfield (MLK Jr. and Travis Price parks + Greenways), Rob Co. YMCA
- Nashville
- Oak Hills
- White House, goodlettsville, Hendersonville
- Goodlettsville, Hendersonville
- Bledsoe park, Beaman park
- Springfield
- Hendersonville
- Springfield and goodlettsville
- white house greenway
- Greenbrier, Nashville, Hendersonville, goodlettsville
- Springfield
- Ole Hickory Lake
- Springfield, Goodlettsville, Hendersonville
- Springfield, goodlettsville
- Travis price greenway
- Hendersonville
- WH and Springfield
- Hendersonville, white house and Brentwood
- Goodlettsville

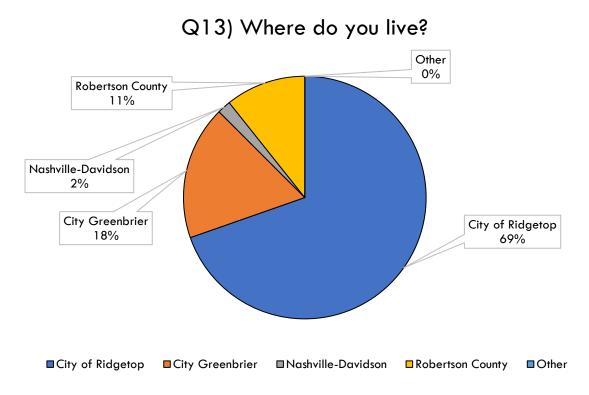


Q10) What is your age group?

Q11) What is your gender?







Coment Box) Please provide any parks comments/suggestions you have for the Town of Ridgetop.

Most Common Answers

- Taxes
- Sport programs
- Park accessibility

Open-Ended Responses:

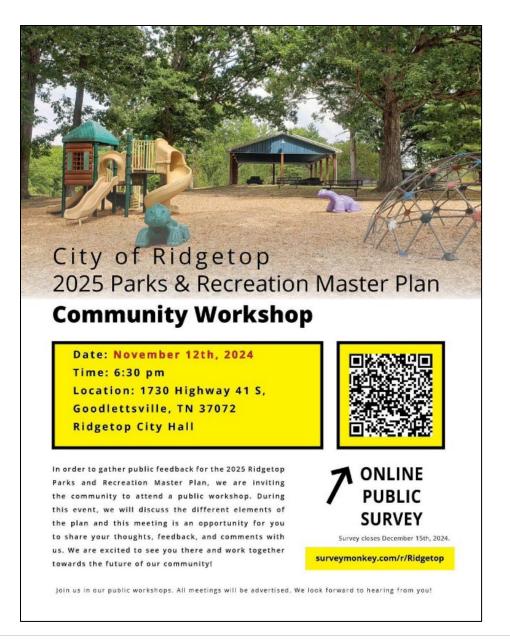
- The RIdgetop Parks are hard to get to. There are no sidewalks to get to them on Woodruff or Greer If I have to drive, I go to a much bigger park to make worth my while. Ridgetop Station could use a longer walking trail to go the whole perimeter. Not just the woode area around the house.
- I have a 9 yr old and a 10 yr old. We are members of Summer Crest Tennis and think it's a great idea for the city to acquire it.
- Need a police department.
- Expand on any and all ideas to make Ridgetop beautiful and inviting.
- Have a citizen vote on what's what
- How would activities and additions be paid for and how much would the maintenance of all these ideas impact the taxes to the citizens?
- add a .25% sales tax for parks dept
- Please DONT RAISE TAXES. I like my town how it is and how low my taxes are
- Be responsible with our land and funds. And be considerate of the neighbors when holding events at the parks. Loud activities, like cannons, do not make the neighbors want to support these events. And we are the ones pays for the parks. Events are good but not at the cost of taxpayers support.
- If the city of Ridgetop acquires Summer Crest Tennis courts then the tennis courts will turn to crap most likely. I pay an annual fee (\$100) to be a member and when I want to play, I am able to. I can envision the courts being used for skating, skateboarding, other purposes other than tennis which will tear up the courts and I can see it being overcrowded. Just my opinion. Thanks, -Charlie Sevier
- Would love to see basketball goals at either of the parks. Even more importantly, would love a bicycle lane and/or sidewalk connecting 41 to Ridgetop Station park. While we can walk and ride bikes to Cobb park, doing so is more difficult to the train park.
- We enjoy participating and would like to see any upgrades possible... we'd also like to join the Tennis club for fun indoor activities

- Enough has been spent on parks/rec. we need to offer service to the citizens, like trash pick up. Money is being wasted on what most citizens are seeing as others hobbies. Like train museums open extremely limited hours. This things are not serving our community well.
- Would love pickle ball & splash pad , also the playground at moss wright is amazing .
- Pioneer park stays closed too much gate is always locked even on sunny days. All areas should be handicapped accessible. Pioneer park has a new fence around It that blocks walkers or joggers from getting in once closed. A spot big enough to walk in on each end of the gate would be greatly appreciated. It's the safe spot for walking, jogging and dog walking on this side of ridgetop. Please make a walk way where we can walk in when the park is closed. Having to walk over the new gate is getting old.
- Ridgetop station is perfect other than bathrooms not being reliable.
 Obviously would always love any playground equipment additions. Would go to pioneer more often if I felt like it was patroled more often by the county sheriffs. I also am unsure if the swings were ever added back but a park with no swings is a no go for my child.
- Walking at Ridgetop Park is ok, but longer trails are needed so long walks don't feel like lab rats walking in circles
- If you can use grants I am in favor of improving and building. However, I do not feel you should use tax money as Ridgetop has other needs such as safety.
- Accessibility is a major issue.
- The solid rubber like Mary's Magical Kingdom in Hendersonville. Plenty of swings and slides for age 5 and under

Community Public Meetings

Two community meetings were held to give the public an opportunity to share their thoughts with the park advisory board and the mayor. One meeting took place at City Hall, while the other was held at the historic house in Ridgetop Station Park.

The majority of the discussions and comments from community members focused on concerns about ADA accessibility, the costs associated with the parks, and a desire to expand walking and hiking trails.



Interviews

During the planning process for the City of Ridgetop's parks and recreation system, elected officials and advisory board were interviewed to uncover their internal opinions and goals. These interviews were structured around specific questions or thematic areas to ensure a broad range of insights. The inquiries included various topics such as the perceptions regarding specific parks, facilities, programs, expectations, and objectives. This approach ensured a holistic understanding of the City's viewpoints and laid a strong foundation for planning endeavor.

<u>List of Interviewees</u> Mayor Park Advisory Board Members

Interview Questions and Responses

The following are the interview questions that were posed to the interviewees. The responses provided by each interviewee are presented without any discernible order. It should be noted that these responses are unedited and have been transcribed to ensure their full response.

Q1) What primary outcome would you like to see from the master planning process?

- Long-term plan for park improvements and growth
- Improvements to both parks
- Grant approval

Q2) List the 3 most important parks or facilities that need to be immediately addressed. List them by priority.

- 1. Bathroom at Pioneer Park, 2. Updated playground facilities at both parks,
 3. Remodel ridgetop station house
- 1. Security, 2. Bathrooms, 3. Walkways
- 1. Pioneer, 2. Ridgetop Station

Q3) In your opinion, what facility or program should the Parks and Recreation Department add in the future?

- Acquisition of Webb property
- Purchase Summer Crest property
- The Webb House, Summer Crest

Q4) Within the Parks and Recreation department, should there be any structural changes or improvements that the department should consider?

- Remodel of Wilson House
- Bathrooms and walkways
- The Wilson House needs repairs and updating to the kitchen and bathroom, and ceiling in library. Wi-Fi and cameras. Expand parking lots at both parks.

Q5) What is the biggest complaint from users of the existing facilities and programming?

- (Pioneer Park) Playground not adequate for children
- Bathroom closed
- Not enough walkways
- No adequate way to advertise events
- The restrooms are not open in winter

Q6) What is the biggest compliment?

- Beauty and accessibility of the park
- Parks are beautiful
- How nice R. Station Park is.

Q7) What areas of town do you think are underserved? In what ways (programs, facilities, connectivity, access)?

- Pioneer Park
- Bike paths
- Children water sports
- We need sidewalks on the most travelled side streets.

Q8) What is the most important thing for the parks system to accomplish in the next year? Five years? Decade?

- Acquire and develop Webb property to develop athletic facilities and develop community center for public gatherings
- Purchase Summer Crest property
- 1. Finish bathrooms at Pioneer Park, 2. Add activities at Pioneer and Station,
 3. Purchase and make available le the public Summer Crest (Webb House)

Q9) What are the short-term and long-term funding mechanisms supporting the department?

- Grants
- Taxes from legalizing beer and wine sales
- Local grants, city funds, revive "Friends of the Park"

Q10) What are the greatest strengths of parks and recreation in the city?

- Community gatherings
- Having pride in the community
- Size and easy access, beauty, community events

Q11) Do you have any additional thoughts or feedback?

• Parks department slow to adapt

6.0 Programming and Community Events

The City of Ridgetop is known for its vibrant community life, which is marked by a range of programming and events that bring together residents and visitors alike. This chapter outlines the diverse array of parks and recreation programming and community events that enrich the social fabric of Ridgetop, fostering a sense of belonging and community pride.

Full List of Events

Easter Egg Hunt – March Afternoon Tea – Summer Food Truck Friday + Entertainment – Summer Smoke on the Ridge – September Morgan on the Rim – October Trunk or Trail - Halloween Ridgetop Natural Gas Christmas Parade



Easter Egg Hunt – March

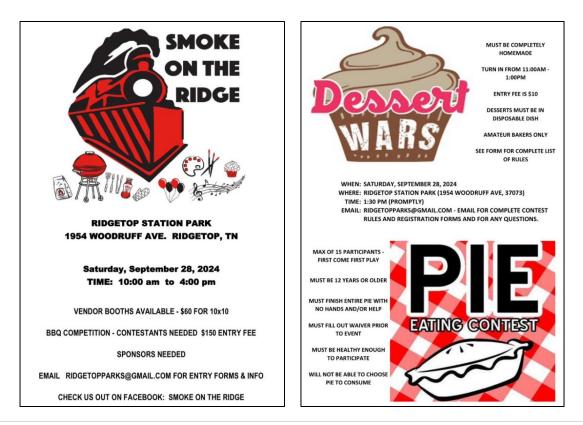


Afternoon Tea – Summer

First event occurred in 2024



Smoke on the Ridge - September



Morgan on the Rim Civil War Reenactment – October

Trunk or Trail - Halloween



December

Non Ridgetop Sport Program



7.0 Regional and State Parks

Ridgetop might be limited to two current parks but have other nearby communities with a wealth of optional recreation facilities that Ridgetop citizens may visit. Below highlights a few other communities with optional recreation facilities and a few regional parks that members of Ridgetop might visit.

Local and Regional Parks

- Greenbrier Louise Martin Ball Fields
- Greenbrier Lake Dam and Park
- Goodlettsville Peay Park
- White House Rover's Ridge Dog Park
- Hendersonville Sanders Ferry Parks
- Cedar Hill Swamp Wildlife Management Area
- Cages Bend Campground in Gallatin

Greenbrier Louise Martin Ball Fields

The Greenbrier Louise Martin Ball Fields, located at 1005 Louise Martin Drive in Greenbrier, TN, just 5 miles from Ridgetop, offer well-maintained baseball and softball fields ideal for league play, tournaments, and casual games. The park includes seating, concessions, and restrooms, making it a hub for youth and adult sports.

Greenbrier Lake Dam and Park

The Greenbrier Lake Dam and Park, situated at 715 Lake Road in Greenbrier, approximately 6 miles from Ridgetop, features a serene lake setting perfect for fishing, picnicking, and nature walks. The park includes a boat ramp, picnic shelters, and walking trails, providing a relaxing outdoor experience for families and anglers.

Goodlettsville Peay Park

Goodlettsville Peay Park, at 200 Memorial Drive in Goodlettsville, TN, about 8 miles from Ridgetop, offers multi-use sports fields, a splash pad, a playground, walking trails, and a recreation center. The park is popular for soccer, basketball, and community events, serving as a vibrant recreational space for all ages.

White House Rover's Ridge Dog Park

White House Rover's Ridge Dog Park, located at 420 Tyree Springs Road in White House, TN, roughly 12 miles from Ridgetop, is a dedicated off-leash dog park with fenced areas for large and small dogs, agility equipment, and shaded seating for

pet owners. With a trail system and greenway. It provides a safe and engaging environment for dogs and their owners.

Hendersonville Sanders Ferry Parks

The Hendersonville Sanders Ferry Parks, located along Sanders Ferry Road in Hendersonville, TN, about 18 miles from Ridgetop, include multiple parks offering lakefront access to Old Hickory Lake. Popular features include boat ramps, fishing piers, picnic shelters, disk golf, playgrounds, and open green spaces, making these parks ideal for family outings, water sports, and relaxation by the water.

Cedar Hill Swamp Wildlife Management Area

The Cedar Hill Swamp Wildlife Management Area, located off Highway 41 in Cedar Hill, TN, approximately 15 miles from Ridgetop, is a natural haven for wildlife enthusiasts. This protected area offers opportunities for birdwatching, hiking, and seasonal hunting, emphasizing conservation and outdoor exploration.

Cages Bend Campground

Cages Bend Campground, situated at 1125 Benders Ferry Road in Gallatin, TN, about 25 miles from Ridgetop, is a lakeside camping destination along Old Hickory Lake. It features tent and RV camping sites, fishing docks, boat ramps, and picnic areas, making it a favorite for overnight stays and water-based activities.

8.0 Local Priorities

Summary of City Wide Needs

During the planning process, certain topics, requests, and comments were frequently mentioned. To summarize the most common ones, the table below outlines the assessment of needs.

Facilities	Survey and Public Meetings	SWOT	Interviews	Site Evaluations	Benchmark Research
Add/upgrade restrooms	x	x	x	x	x
Add/update playgrounds	x	x	x	x	x
Pickleball courts add/improve	x	x	x	x	
Address park maintenance	x	x	x	x	x
Greenways / hiking trails	x	x	x	x	x
Dog park	x	x			
Add or improve Festivals and special events	x	x			
Address ADA accessibility	x	x	x	x	x
Basketball add/improve	x	x		x	
Purchase properties to expand parks and facilities	x	x	x	x	x

State Priorities

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Tennessee Outdoors - Vision 2030, vision for parks, people, and landscapes is Tennessee's statewide comprehensive outdoor recreation plan (SCORP). This plan provides the framework for managing existing parks, meeting the public's recreational needs, conserving recreational resources, and using recreation to benefit economic development and public health. The plan has been updated every five years since the passage of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act in 1965. The last update to the plan was in May 2022.

The SCORP includes goals and recommends actions to improve outdoor recreation across Tennessee. For each of the goals and recommended actions, SCORP suggests implementing partners, which assist in achieving the plan's goals. The following are the goals and recommended actions from SCORP for which a local government such as the City of Ridgetop is suggested as an implementing partner:

Goal: Collaboration and Partnerships for Economic Success

- 1. Complete mapping and inventory of recreational facilities
- 2. Develop an economic impact model/formula
- 3. Development partnerships
- 4. Identify communication strategies

Goal: Conservation

- 1. Develop direct land conservation policies and strategies that address each of the three focal areas to ensure equity and inclusion meet the diverse needs of all Tennesseans
 - Conserve land and water for healthy ecosystems and communities.
 - Take collaborative actions that enhance local tourism and economic activity.
 - Establish priorities for funding and planning that address local/community recreation and conservation needs.
- 2. Develop a land acquisition and stewardship plan that lays out strategies and actions for current and future public lands for outdoor recreation
- 3. Develop a land acquisition and stewardship plan that lays out strategies, actions, and opportunities for improved access and use of private land for outdoor recreation

Goal: Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access, Affordability

- 1. Ensure that all parks will be placed where all communities can engage with nature in positive ways
- 2. Encourage the creation of and support for groups promoting outdoor recreation with demographic groups currently underrepresented in park use
- 3. Ensure that leadership in all levels of public parks and recreation agencies will represent the diversity of Tennessee

The project team reviewed the SCORP during the planning process to determine how the findings and recommendations of this plan contribute to the goals and action areas from the SCORP listed above. The following bullets illustrate how this plan's findings concur with the SCORP:

- Collaboration and Partnerships for Economic Success Goal Action #1 This plan provides a comprehensive list of facilities and opportunities available to new and existing residents.
- Collaboration and Partnerships for Economic Success Goal Action #2 One significant long-term recommendation in the Plan is to maintain the current facilities at the park.
- Collaboration and Partnerships for Economic Success Goal Action #3 This plan aims to collaborate with other regional jurisdictions to improve access to outdoor recreation opportunities, such as trails for walking and fishing.
- Collaboration and Partnerships for Economic Success Goal Action #4 Another benchmark component compares communication and organization practices in the city with similar communities across Tennessee, which can be found in Chapter 3. Local government officials and other key stakeholders were also engaged throughout the planning and prioritization process to ensure effective communication.

Conservation Goal – Action #1
 The City of Ridgetop Parks and Recreation Master Plan evaluates existing recreation facilities, and the land required to meet the community's future parks and recreation needs.

- Conservation Goal Action #2
 No land acquisition is necessary for the plan as the current parks and green space is sufficient for the city's population.
- Conservation Goal Action #3 The plan has implemented new updates and facilities on existing land for better park access.

- Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access, Affordability Goal Action #1 The plan has evaluated the population and demographic factors, and trail access includes a mix of accessible City sidewalks and many forest trails mainly located in the Watershed.
- Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access, Affordability Goal Action #2
 This plan includes an evaluation of access to exercise and physical activity
 and recommendations for additional programming for active recreation and
 programs for all abilities within the city and targets underserved and
 underrepresented groups.
- Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity, Access, Affordability Goal Action #3 This plan outlines a detailed analysis of the diverse demographics of the City of Ridgetop. It provides recommendations for parks and recreation facilities that fit the needs of a continuously diversifying population in the city. The Tennessee Outdoors – Vision 2030 Master Plan recommends implementing the annual DEIA (diversity, equity, inclusion, and access) training session/event for parks and recreation directors in Tennessee.

9.0 Recommendations

The following implementation plan is the result of all the planning, analysis, discussions, surveys, and visioning activities as described in the previous sections. Parks and Recreation planning requires a collaborative approach where community leaders, elected officials, various departments and agencies, businesses, and other stakeholders work together to prioritize recreational facilities. Regular maintenance and updates to park amenities will continue to meet the needs of residents, contribute to public health, and promote a high quality of life.

The implementation plan outlines specific goals and estimated capital improvement costs for the next several years. They merely serve as a framework for decision-making and the allocation of funds to maximize recreational improvements.

Timeline (Years)	Priority	Recommendations
Current	High	Build a restroom building
Ongoing	High	Build basketball court
1-2	Medium	Add paved walking paths to the playground and pavilions
1-2	Medium	Repave road and repaint parking lines
1-2	Medium	Add security cameras
1-5	Medium	Extend hours of operation *if lighting is improved
1-5	Medium	Add and improve lighting*
3-5	Medium	Expand playground facility
3-5	Medium	Add volleyball court net

Bobby Robb Pioneer Park

Ridgetop Station Park

Timeline (Years)	Priority	Recommendations
Ongoing	High	Add surveillance cameras
Ongoing	High	Expand playground
Ongoing	High	Connect greenway path to adjacent neighborhood
1-5	High	Update restroom building
1-2	High	Add path lighting on walking trail
3-5	Medium	Add sunshade structures at the playground
5-20	Low	Update Historic House to add ADA accessibility
5-20	Low	Refurbish Historic House's bathrooms and Kitchen

General		
Timeline (Years)	Priority	Recommendations
When opportunity arises	High	Purchase Summer Crest Property if awarded a grant or a funding opportunity
	High	*Add more pickleball courts
	High	*Refurbish the house to be ADA accessible and be a possible community center
	High	*Creating a tennis and pickleball parks program, and can be a revenue source
	High	* Add outdoor lighting around all courts
	High	*Bathroom by pickleball courts
	Medium	*Repave parking lot
	Medium	*Possibly add a sport field/facility for organized sports
		* Connect Summer Crest property with Ridgetop Station

Park property with hiking trials and a possible paved

General

*Only implement if Summer Crest property is purchased

greenway

High