

# CITY OF JONESBORO

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# HEALTH ACCELERATOR PLAN

AN ADDENDUM TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN

**JONESBORO, ARKANSAS**

**DATE, 2024**

# PREFACE

**ON BEHALF OF THE JONESBORO CITY COUNCIL, I AM PLEASED TO PRESENT THE CITY OF JONESBORO HEALTH ACCELERATOR PLAN – AN ADDENDUM TO THE CITY OF JONESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.**

**Building a premier system of parks, trails, and recreation facilities is an endeavor that should benefit all of a Jonesboro’s residents.** In our ongoing efforts to address widely-popular recreational preferences expressed by our most engaged residents, it could be all-too-easy to overlook the specialized needs of our most vulnerable populations. Generously funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), our Health Accelerator Plan was commissioned by the City Council to determine how adaptations to our parks system can reduce barriers to community health and wellness.

**The City of Jonesboro Health Accelerator Plan contains actions, strategies, and investments that address two of the CDC’s identified “social determinants of health” - the Built Environment and Social Connectedness – to reduce barriers to health equity in our city.** The Plan provides us with a guide for success by focusing on methods to increase parks system access and to provide a diverse suite of adaptive recreational amenities that are enticing to children and adults with physical and developmental disabilities.

The City Council and I are convinced that the recommendations of the Health Accelerator Plan will help us to build a more inclusive parks and recreation system for all our residents – regardless of age or ability. We hope that you will embrace this challenge with us.

Respectfully,

Mayor Harold Copenhaver  
Jonesboro, Arkansas



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**THE JONESBORO HEALTH ACCELERATOR PLAN IS AN ADDENDUM TO THE JONESBORO PARKS AND RECREATION MASTER PLAN.**

The Accelerator Plan is funded by a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is organized in accordance with CDC requirements. Recommendations contained in the Plan are designed to provide a greater suite of adaptive recreational facilities for disabled individuals, and to improve access to municipal park properties and amenities for all users. The focused investments, strategies, and actions listed herein are incorporated into the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan's overarching work program.

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# CONDITIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

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# COMMUNITY BACKGROUND

## ABOUT JONESBORO

### CROWLEY'S RIDGE

Jonesboro is situated along Crowley's Ridge, a geological formation that rises 250 to 550 feet above the plains of the Mississippi embankment. The City is home to the Forrest L. Wood Crowley's Ridge Nature Center, which hosts self-guided exhibits featuring the topography, natural history, and wildlife of Crowley's Ridge.

Located at the intersection of the Mississippi Plain and Crowley's Ridge in northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro is the fifth most populous community in the state and the county seat of Craighead County. Jonesboro's 79,324 residents comprise 70 percent of the county's population.<sup>1</sup> As a major regional employment, educational, and activity center, Jonesboro's resident population has grown steadily while an increasing number of visitors are attracted to its cultural and natural amenities.

Jonesboro is home to Arkansas State University (ASTATE) and two major medical centers, resulting in a higher educational attainment compared to the state average. This includes: 90 percent of the population over age 25 having attained at least a high school diploma and 30 percent of the same group have received a bachelor's degree or higher.<sup>1</sup> As demonstrated by a high poverty level, however, income disparities persist despite this elevated level of educational attainment.

The median household income in Jonesboro is \$51,124 dollars, 7 percent less than the county (\$55,169) and 9 percent less than the state (\$56,335). Furthermore, approximately 22 percent of residents in Jonesboro live below the poverty level, also higher than both the county (19 percent) and the state (16 percent).<sup>1</sup>

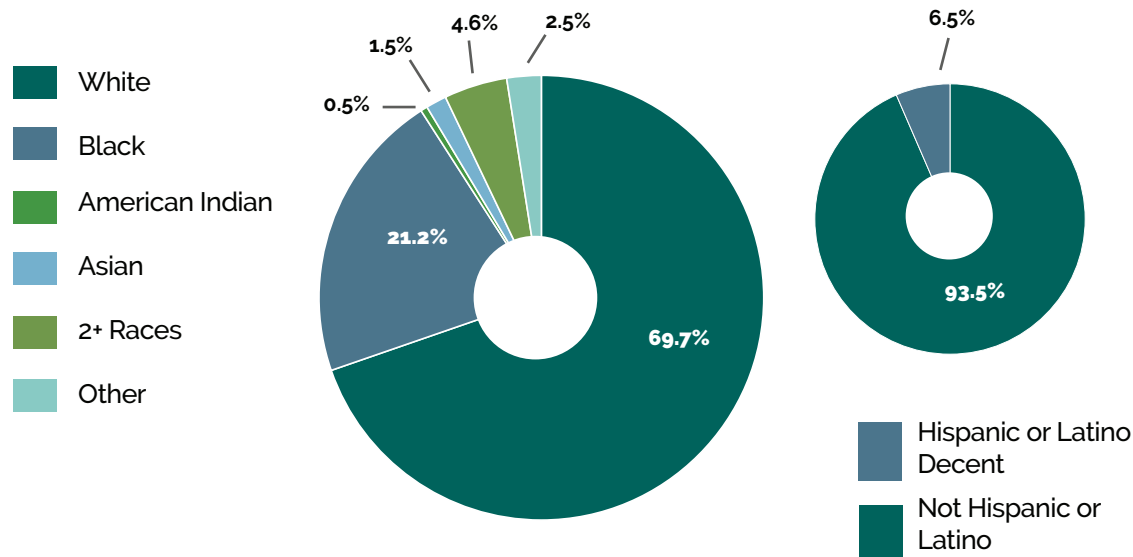
A similar discrepancy occurs between Jonesboro and the county and state in percentage of residents owning versus renting their homes. In Jonesboro, 47 percent of residents rent their home, while the rate is 42 percent at the county level and 34 percent at the state level. The average home value in Jonesboro is \$169,100 dollars and the median rent is \$828 dollars.<sup>1</sup> While notable, such income and housing values may be influenced by students opting to establish residency in Jonesboro while attending ASTATE.

*1. US Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates*



The City of Jonesboro is more racially diverse than either Craighead County or the state of Arkansas, with approximately one-third (33 percent) of the population identifying as something other than Non-Hispanic White. Jonesboro also has a larger percentage of Black or African American residents than either the county or state (21 percent). Residents identifying as two or more races is higher in Jonesboro than at the county or state level (four percent) and over 6 percent of residents are of Hispanic or Latino descent. Jonesboro also has a larger population that speaks a language other than English (7 percent) compared to the county (6 percent) which can contribute to a lack of access to resources.

## JONESBORO RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION<sup>1</sup>



## ARKANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY

Jonesboro is home to Arkansas State University (ASTATE), a public research university and the flagship campus of the Arkansas State University System. ASTATE is the second largest university in the state with nearly 15,000 students, drawing young adults and academics to Jonesboro.

1: US Census Bureau, 2022 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

# SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

## THE FIVE DOMAINS

The SDOH are grouped into five (5) specialized domains:<sup>1</sup>

**Tobacco-free Policy:** Population-based preventive measures to reduce tobacco use and tobacco related illness and death.

**Food and Nutrition Security:** Having reliable access to enough high-quality food to avoid hunger and to remain healthy.

**Community-clinic Linkages:** Connections made between health care, public health, and community organization to improve health outcomes.

**Built Environment:** Human-made surroundings that influence overall community health and people's behavior that drive health.

**Social Connectedness:** Relationships that create a sense of belonging and being cared for, valued, and supported.



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2022.



# COMMUNITY HEALTH ISSUES

Improving community health is a holistic issue that is addressed through a combination of social, behavioral, environmental, economic, and medical solutions. Arkansas's Mississippi Alluvial Plain, where Jonesboro is situated, is an area of the state where residents experience poor health outcomes, high levels of poverty, and broad levels of racial disparity. While this is the case for the region at large, Craighead County's health metrics suggest a slightly higher performance when compared to the rest of Arkansas. Nonetheless, county health metrics still fall behind the state and nation in many key categories.

There are many factors that contribute to individual and community health outcomes, including lifestyle, behavior, biology, environment, and socioeconomic status. This section highlights a few factors that are notable for Jonesboro and Craighead County.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2022;  
 3. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings, 2021.

## PHYSICAL HEALTH

Physical inactivity and obesity are serious health concerns in Craighead County. In the county, 40 percent of residents suffer from obesity compared to 37 percent at the state level. Both are higher than the national rate of 32 percent. The rate of physical inactivity is also higher in the county and state compared to the rest of the country, with Craighead County and Arkansas both at a rate of 29 percent compared to the national rate of 22 percent. Both of these health issues contribute to increases in heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and cancer.<sup>2</sup>

## MENTAL HEALTH

In addition to physical health, mental health outcomes are a serious concern in Jonesboro and Craighead County. Residents in the County experience approximately 5.2 "poor mental health days" annually, which is similar to the States rate (5.3), but much higher than the national rate (4.1).<sup>3</sup>

Physical activity and access to green space are major contributors to mental health outcomes. This may include reductions in stress levels and an increase in positive social behaviors.

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY	STATE OF ARKANSAS
<b>60%</b> Resident Access to Exercise Opportunities <sup>3</sup>	<b>63%</b> Resident Access to Exercise Opportunities <sup>3</sup>
<b>40%</b> Adult Obesity Rate <sup>3</sup>	<b>37%</b> Adult Obesity Rate <sup>3</sup>
<b>29%</b> Physical Inactivity Rate <sup>3</sup>	<b>29%</b> Physical Inactivity Rate <sup>3</sup>

## VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

For purposes of this Plan, social vulnerability refers to the socioeconomic status, household composition, demographics, health and disability characteristics, and housing and transportation factors that affect the resilience of a community. The CDC developed a Social Vulnerability Index for communities to evaluate areas that have higher rates of social vulnerability. Craighead County, where Jonesboro is located, maintains a score of 0.8041. This is within a range of scores from 0, representing the lowest areas of vulnerability, to 1, representing the highest areas of vulnerability. Specific census tract data from that same survey shows overlapping areas in Jonesboro with the highest level of vulnerability, high poverty, and higher concentrations of people with disabilities and people whose race, ethnicity, or primary language also leaves them more vulnerable.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the social vulnerability status, another tool to measure vulnerable populations is through the ParkServe City Health Dashboard. This tool uses park access as a factor to measure health within a particular community. While Jonesboro has 22 parks, many are concentrated in and around central Jonesboro. According to the ParkServe dashboard, only 20 percent of Jonesboro residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. The disparity in access to parks is more pronounced for Asian and white members of the community, with access at 9 percent and 17 percent respectively. Residents having the highest level of access, include Pacific Islander (36 percent) and Black (28 percent). This is well below the average of 59.5 percent of cities represented in the City Health Dashboard.<sup>5</sup>

CRAIGHEAD COUNTY	STATE OF ARKANSAS
<b>18.5%</b> Residents with a disability <sup>6</sup>	<b>17.6%</b> Residents with a disability <sup>6</sup>
<b>47.4%</b> Residents over the age of 65 with a disability <sup>6</sup>	<b>41.1%</b> Residents over the age of 65 with a disability <sup>6</sup>
<b>10.4%</b> Residents under the age of 18 with a disability <sup>6</sup>	<b>6.2%</b> Residents under the age of 18 with a disability <sup>6</sup>

4. Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan,

5. City Health Dashboard (ParkServe), 2022;

6. CDC Social Vulnerability Index, 2018.

# THE ROLE OF PUBLIC PARKS

Public parks are an essential component of a thriving community. Parks are a cornerstone that improve resident's quality of life, support healthy lifestyles, and increase community safety.

Access to parks, open spaces, and recreational activities greatly influence resident quality of life. The Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department oversees a multitude of public spaces for meeting and socialization, and appreciating the City's natural beauty and cultural heritage. The department also manages facilities and programs for exercise and active recreation, which promote a shared community identity and pride.

Physical activity is key to building a healthier lifestyle. By improving accessibility to parks and trails, users can more easily incorporate exercise into their daily routine. With the increase of obesity throughout the nation, physical activity is more important than ever. Besides providing opportunities to increase physical activity in a variety of forms, parks also improve air quality and reduce heat for the surrounding areas due to the increased tree canopy and less impervious surface coverage.

Neighborhood parks with well-defined and maintained pathways provide enhanced access to recreational space for surrounding residents.

Park improvements not only provide residents a safe location to gather and play but can reduce crime in the surrounding area through increasing community foot traffic. Introducing pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations to the roadways near parks can result in lowering travel speeds and improving safety for all users.

## PARK SPACES AND FACILITIES

The City of Jonesboro operates and maintains 22 parks and 5 indoor recreation facilities. Of these, only 1, Miracle League Park, provides fully ADA-compliant accessibility, while the others have varying degrees of accessible amenities.





# OUR HEALTH EQUITY FOCUS

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# SDOH PRIORITY AREAS



The City of Jonesboro has selected two (2) of the five (5) possible SDOH priority areas (see page 5) as a focus of this Plan. These priorities are designed to reduce health disparities and inequities related to chronic disease in the City.



## **SOCIAL CONNECTEDNESS**

Social connectedness is a significant determinant of mental, emotional, and physical health for our residents. This focus will serve as a key factor in protecting, improving, and maintaining individual and community well-being. Supporting and promoting a high degree of social connectedness can increase the likelihood of individuals engaging in positive health behaviors, ultimately improving chronic disease outcomes by moderating the negative health effects of psychological adversities, such as stress, trauma, anxiety, and depression.



## **BUILT ENVIRONMENT**

A healthy built environment facilitates access to transportation and physical resources that enhance quality of life, minimize exposures to environmental contaminants, and support physical activity. Through improving the built environment, we can support safe and accessible recreation and other protective factors that improve chronic disease outcomes in the community.



## SELECTED POPULATIONS

The selected populations which this Plan will focus include **residents of a racial or ethnic minority, residents experiencing poverty, and residents with a disability**. These vulnerable populations have a higher need for access to parks and recreation spaces in our community.

**RACIAL/ETHNIC MINORITIES.** Jonesboro itself is more racially diverse than either the county or the state, with nearly one-third of the population identifying as something other than Non-Hispanic White. Jonesboro also has a substantially larger Black or African American population than either the county or state rate. Those persons identifying as two or more races are higher in Jonesboro than in Craighead County or at the state level. The city also has a higher proportion of foreign-born residents than either the county or the state. The result contributes to a larger population for whom English is a second language, which can also lead to additional barriers to resources.

**RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING POVERTY.** With more than one in five residents experiencing poverty, the poverty rate in Jonesboro significantly exceeds both county and state rates. Rates for homeownership are also significantly lower in Jonesboro. This can be partially attributed to lower median household income, a high student population, and significantly higher median values of housing in the city.

**RESIDENTS WITH A DISABILITY.** Of the under 65 population in Jonesboro, 14.4 percent experiences some sort of reported cognitive or physical disability, which translates into a total of nearly 10,000 people. The over-65 population (13.2 percent) contributes another significant bloc of persons with potential age-related or other disabilities.

### SOCIAL VULNERABILITY INDEX

Social vulnerability refers to the potential negative effects on communities caused by external stresses on human health. Such stresses include natural or human-caused disasters, or disease outbreaks. Reducing social vulnerability can decrease both human suffering and economic loss. The CDC hosts a Social Vulnerability Index map that displays areas within the community that are more likely to experience negative health outcomes. This map can be viewed by clicking the link below:

[https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/interactive\\_map.html](https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/placeandhealth/svi/interactive_map.html)

## VISION AND GOALS

This vision of the Health Accelerator Plan aligns with the vision statement set in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan. The goals outlined below were crafted using recommendations from the CDC and the project Leadership Team (pg. 17). The goals build upon the vision statement to guide the recommendations contained within this document (Chapter 4, pg. 39).

### VISION STATEMENT

**“OUR PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM WILL EMPOWER JONESBORO RESIDENTS TO LIVE HEALTHY AND HAPPY LIVES THROUGH ACCESS TO QUALITY, DIVERSE, AND ACTIVATED PARK SPACES AND RECREATION FACILITIES.”**

#### GOAL 1: ACCESS

**INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO AND WITHIN JONESBORO’S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM**

#### GOAL 2: RECREATION

**STRATEGICALLY ADD ADAPTIVE AND INCLUSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN JONESBORO’S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM**



# OUR PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

The City of Jonesboro parks and recreation system is comprised of **22 parks** that account for **1,292 acres**. As with most communities, Jonesboro's park types are principally classified according to their size and geographic service area. This includes one (1) regional park, six (6) community parks, seven (7) neighborhood parks, three (3) pocket parks, one (1) civic space, and four (4) special use parks.

In addition to park spaces, the City has **10.5 miles of existing multi-purpose trail** and 4.2 miles of funded multi-purpose trail. These facilities create access between City parks, neighborhoods, the ASTATE campus, and the downtown area. The Jonesboro Connectivity Plan (2018) illustrates a planned comprehensive trail network composed of an additional 64-miles of multi-purpose trails.

Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department also operates and maintains **five (5) indoor recreation centers** that are distributed across the community. Each center offers amenities and programs that are accessible to residents of Jonesboro and surrounding communities.

Within the parks and recreation system are a variety of recreational facilities and amenities that provide a range of experiences for residents. This includes facilities such as sports courts, athletic fields, aquatics facilities, playgrounds, and dog parks.

## MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

Accessibility in the current system is most evident at Miracle League Park, located in southeast Jonesboro. The park is home to the world's largest rubberized ball field for children and adults with physical disabilities. The field is capable of being used for baseball, soccer, basketball, and flag football, with other sports to be added later, as needed.

The facility also has a playground with 28 different pieces of equipment, each one providing ADA-compliant accessibility. Other support facilities include a full sized concession stand, restrooms, and a quiet room for children who suffer from sensory overloads. A majority of the playground is shaded to protect from UV rays and keep visitors cool.

The playgrounds at Miracle League Park have accessible ramps and play equipment, ensuring the playscapes are inclusive for residents of varying abilities.

## ACCESS TO PARKS

In Jonesboro, only 4 percent of residential areas are located within a five-minute walk to a city park and 12 percent are within a 10-minute walk. This lack of access may affect total visitation of city parks, especially among children, the elderly, and residents with a physical disability.

*Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan*





# PLANNING PARTNERS AND PROCESS

## EXISTING RESOURCES, PROGRAMS, AND PARTNERSHIPS

The City of Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department continues to work with many City, state, and community partners to ensure the municipal parks system is accessible and inclusive for all residents. The City engaged these partners throughout the planning process through involvement of the Leadership Team (pg. 17), facilitation of focus group meetings, and administration of community surveys. Below and on the facing page is a list of multisectoral partners, and the programs that they administer, that directly impact the target population and social determinants of health which are the focus of this city-wide planning effort.

**AG FOR AUTISM** is an alliance of agriculture businesses dedicated to helping local children and families affected by autism.

**ARKANSAS SUPPORT NETWORK** provides support and services to disabled individuals and their families. They are a licensed disabilities service provider for all of Arkansas, with an office in Jonesboro.

**ASTATE | BECK CENTER FOR VETERANS** provides services for individuals with prior or current military service and their families within the northeast Arkansas area. Programs include rehabilitation, social re-integration, and education in a university environment.

**ASTATE | HOWL PROGRAM** provides mentoring, social skills, career planning, independent living skills, and academic support for students with intellectual disabilities and autism.

**CITY OF JONESBORO | CDBG** is a City-led program that focuses on community development activities directed towards revitalizing neighborhoods, economic development, and providing improved community facilities and services.

**CITY OF JONESBORO | COMMUNICATIONS** is an active partner when engaging the public and promoting parks events, programming, and spaces.

**CITY OF JONESBORO | PROJECT CARE** is a group of local advocates that have united to improve the lives of the special needs population in northeast Arkansas through education, resources, support, and advocacy.

**DASH ABA** specializes in applied behavior analysis (ABA) therapy and has grown to be the largest ABA service provider in Arkansas and Missouri.

**FOCUS INC.** is an early intervention program that facilitates lifestyle changes for individuals with developmental disabilities, particularly those who are underserved.



**JONESBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS** is the largest school district in the region, serving over 6,000 students.

**NORTH JONESBORO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION** is a local organization that works to decrease health disparities of minority and low-to-moderate income individuals through building strong and vibrant neighborhoods in Jonesboro.

**SPECIAL OLYMPICS ARKANSAS** provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for all children and adults with intellectual disabilities. The programs provide continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness and social skills.

**ST. BERNARDS | PROJECT SEARCH** is an internship program for young adults with developmental disabilities who desire sustainable, competitive employment. Project SEARCH provides real-life work experiences combined with training in employability and independent living skills.

**THE CALL IN ARKANSAS** provides foster care services in 44 counties in Arkansas. Since 2007, the organization has helped over 10,000 children.

**THE LEARNING CENTER** provides early intervention developmental treatment, physical, speech and occupational therapy, ABA therapy, behavioral health, and autism-specialist services to residents of Jonesboro and surrounding areas.

**UNITED WAY** invests in local human and financial resources, targeting critical needs to build a sustainable, equitable future for residents of Jonesboro.

**WESTSIDE SCHOOL DISTRICT** encompasses over 200 square miles outside of Jonesboro, with an enrollment of approximately 1,600 students.

## AARP LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) is potential community partner, working to help neighborhoods and cities become great places to live for people of all ages and abilities. The AARP Livable Communities program engages local officials, advocates, and residents to make communities more walkable and enjoyable, ensuring residents can safely age in place. They do this through grant programs, educational opportunities, and community engagement.

To learn more about how residents of all ages can help foster a livable community, visit: [aarp.org/livable-communities](https://aarp.org/livable-communities).

# LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team membership for this project has been selected from among the multisectoral partners in Jonesboro who strive to provide services that promote one or more of the key social determinants of health (pg. 5). Each member possesses unique qualifications and valuable skill sets that will assist the City of Jonesboro over time as it seeks to enact the vision and goals of this Plan. Health Accelerator Plan Leadership Team members are listed below - along with a summary of accomplishments, awards and recognitions

**MARK YOUNG** with the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce, has led local and regional economic development programs. He currently serves as president of the Northeast Arkansas Economic Development Coalition.

**JENNIFER REAVES** is a Community Education Specialist with the Craighead County Health Department. She is one of the founding members of "Smoke Free Jonesboro," an initiative that aims to keep our local parks, community centers and public spaces smoke free.

**STEVEN LAMM** is the Vice President of Economic Development for Jonesboro Unlimited. This private, non-profit partnership organization is dedicated to the advancement of economic prosperity in Jonesboro and Northeast Arkansas.

**MARISSA RICHARDSON** of Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Jonesboro is the Wound Care Coordinator, Infection Prevention Specialist, and the Employee Health Nurse. She directly intakes and oversees many patients with long and short term disabilities.

**MARY HOUSEWRIGHT** is the Director and Founder of St. Bernard's Project SEARCH. This program, partnered with St. Bernard's hospital and Arkansas Rehabilitation Services, helps provide job training and mentoring for people with disabilities.

**REVEREND DR. CHARLES COLEMAN** is the lead director of Fisher Street Community in Action, a non-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty and empowering people to be their best. He is a pastor, member of the NAACP, and is an elected Jonesboro City Council Official representing Ward 2, Position 1.

**LEE WELLS** is the Operations Supervisor and Interim Director of Jonesboro Economical Transportation (JET) and currently pursuing ADA and PASS Certifications. He is a certified CDL trainer through the FMCSA..

# COMMUNITY INPUT

The Jonesboro Health Accelerator planning process provided opportunities for the community to offer input, ideas, and concerns about access to parks and recreational facilities within the City. This consisted of a standing Leadership Team that provided feedback and guidance throughout the planning process; focus group meetings with members of the community; site visits in other communities; and community surveys.

Two community surveys were developed to gather feedback regarding park accessibility and facilities. The Leadership Team and other multisectoral partners helped review and distributed the surveys to ensure they were accessible to residents of the selected populations.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM

The Leadership Team was engaged throughout the planning process to ensure the plan meets the needs of the selected population.

## FOCUS GROUPS

The planning team met with four focus groups to gather feedback and insight into community needs.

## SITE VISITS

The Leadership Team and key City staff visited communities in north and central Texas to experience examples of accessible parks and facilities.

## COMMUNITY SURVEY

Two community surveys were distributed to gather feedback regarding park access and preferred park amenities. Combined, over 160 responses were gathered.



Surveys were distributed to members of target populations, their caregivers, and advocates.

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# PATHWAYS TO RECREATIONAL INCLUSION

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# PARKS SYSTEM ASSESSMENTS

## ADA SURVEY (2020)

In 2020, the City of Jonesboro conducted an ADA survey on city parks and facilities. The survey reviewed existing conditions of each site and provided project recommendations and cost estimates to improve each space. While an ADA survey provides guidance on specific improvements that should be made to bring a facility up to ADA minimum standards, the assessments conducted in this Plan provide guidance on prioritizing projects that make a park more welcoming and accessible to the selected population beyond minimum federal requirements (pg. 12).

Accessible, adaptive, and inclusive design are three concepts within the realm of park design that aim to create products, environments, or experiences that cater to the diverse needs of users. While they share a common goal of enhancing usability and user experience, each concept has a distinct focus and approach.

**ACCESSIBLE.** Accessible design largely focuses on ensuring products or environments can be used by individuals with a disability. This type of design removes barriers and provides equal access to information, services, and functionality for all users. This may include ramps, braille signage, or screen readers to accommodate different disabilities.

**ADAPTIVE.** Adaptive design is concerned with creating products or systems that can adjust to the specific needs or preferences of individual users. This type of design customizes the user experience based on user input, behavior, or context, allowing for flexibility and personalization. Adaptive design may include swings that can accommodate someone in a wheelchair or an elevated sand table placed alongside a playground sandbox.

**INCLUSIVE.** Inclusive design goes beyond addressing specific disabilities; it aims to create facilities and environments that are usable by the widest range of people, regardless of age, ability, or background. This type of design fosters diversity and ensures that the design is welcoming and effective for a broad audience, minimizing exclusion and accommodating various user needs.

In summary, while accessible design focuses on accommodating individuals with disabilities, adaptive design seeks to tailor experiences to individual preferences, and **inclusive design aims to create solutions that cater to a diverse range of users, fostering a sense of belonging among everyone.** These approaches can often overlap and complement each other in the pursuit of creating better, more user-friendly parks system.





# ASSESSMENT METHODS

To better understand the accessibility and inclusiveness of the Jonesboro parks system, three key assessments were conducted within each municipal park property and the surrounding land. Each assessment examined existing park conditions and identified a list of projects that would improve the conditions at each park space. The methods included a walkshed assessment, access assessment, and amenities assessment.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT



The project team reviewed the area within a quarter-mile of all park boundaries to assess the existing and potential walkability to the park space from surrounding neighborhoods. A list of projects was identified within each walkshed that will improve access to and from each park. Projects could include sidewalk improvements, sidewalk additions, roadway crossings, traffic signals, trail connections, and other infrastructure improvements.

## ACCESS ASSESSMENT



The project team reviewed each park regarding the park's compliance with ADA accessibility standards and accessibility for the selected populations. This included a review of sidewalks, pathways, parking, signage, and other outdoor amenities. A list of improvements were identified that would bring each park into compliance, including projects such as sidewalk improvement, accessible ramps, and parking lot improvements.

## AMENITIES ASSESSMENT



The project team examined potential amenities to be included in future park improvements and park expansions. This assessment utilizes public surveys and Leadership Team site visits to review best practices and community demand. In addition to amenities, this assessment includes potential programming expansions to provide inclusive and accessible recreation opportunities for the Plan's selected populations.

# WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The accessibility of Jonesboro's parks is reliant on the quantity and quality of the sidewalks, crosswalks, and transit connections within a quarter-mile (5-minute) walkshed. While all City parks are accessible by motor vehicle, not every resident can drive nor has access to a car. To build a parks system that serves residents of the selected populations identified in this Plan (pg. 12), improving non-motorized access is key.

**Walkshed Assessment Themes (facing page).** Walkshed enhancement opportunities around Jonesboro's parks include new pathways, pathway enhancements, and crossing improvements within and adjacent to municipal park properties.

**Image A.** A crosswalk at Southside Softball Complex that terminates at a drainage ditch.

**Image B.** Julian James Park crosswalk that provides an accessible connection for residents.

**Image C.** Transit access at Nettleton Community Center through the JET transit system.

**Image D.** A lack of sidewalk at Ralph "Pop" Stricklin Park.

**Image E.** A transit stop paired with a crosswalk at Miles / Parker Park.

## SIDEWALK CONNECTIVITY

Over fifty-two (52) percent of survey respondents said additional sidewalks and a connected sidewalk network would make it easier to access parks in Jonesboro.

*"How do you get to parks" survey*

## THE METHOD

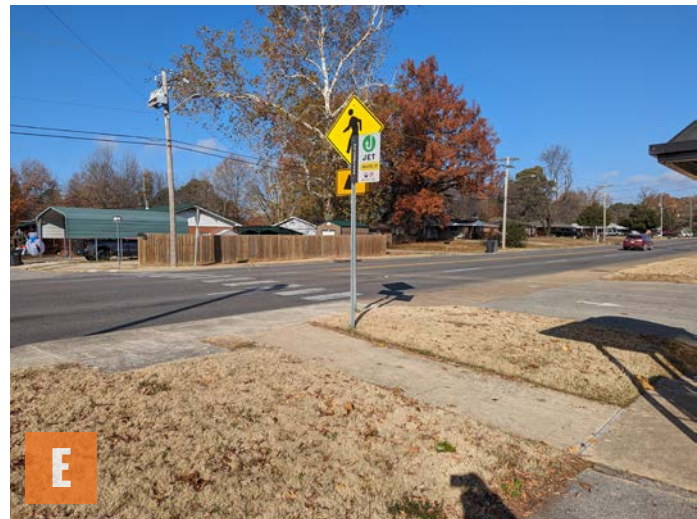
The Accelerator Plan's walkshed assessment included a desktop review of a quarter-mile buffer area surrounding each park, followed by on-site evaluations. Findings have been used to recommend park access projects including new/improved sidewalks, shared use paths, traffic signals, and crosswalks.

## THE RESULTS

The walkshed assessment identified key projects to increase walking, biking, and rolling access within five (5) minutes of a municipal park. Of these, projects **33 priority projects were scored** according to nine categories (right). Scored projects are highlighted in Chapter 4. A full project list and scoring results is on file with the City of Jonesboro.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT SCORING CRITERIA

Category	Description
Existing Conditions	What is the condition (or absence) of existing walkshed infrastructure (ex. sidewalks, trails, crosswalks, etc.)?
Target Populations	Does the project make connections where residents are historically underserved (per the CDC Social Vulnerability Index)?
Safety	Does the project mitigate a demonstrated safety issue by addressing areas with a history of bicycle/pedestrian crashes?
Route Simplification	Does the project create a new connection that improves access?
Barrier Mitigation	Does the project cross or mitigate a natural or artificial barrier (including highways and interstates, principal/major arterial roadways, rivers/creeks/streams, and railroad tracks)?
Network Connection	Does the project connect to existing or planned bicycle or pedestrian infrastructure, such as a sidewalk, crosswalk, bike lane, or trail?
Multimodal	Does the project improve access for more than one mode of transportation (walking, biking, rolling, transit, etc.)?
ADA Improvements	Does the project improve ADA accessibility?
Project Readiness	How soon can the project be initiated, based on cost and complexity?



# ACCESS ASSESSMENT

While the walkshed assessment reviews the area around a park, the access assessment examines the accessibility of facilities within a park. This Plan's accessibility assessment extends beyond an evaluation of compliance with ADA, but considers the degree to which the conditions exist for the maximum possible number of park visitors to occupy various park spaces or interact with a high percentage of amenities. By assessing each park's accessibility, the team can better plan and construct a system that is welcoming for people identified in this Plan's selected populations (pg. 12).

## THE METHOD

Each park in the Jonesboro parks system was assessed in relation to 13 categories, including ADA parking, accessible ramps, pathways and trails, park facility access, play elements, ADA signage, pavement markings, sports facilities, general facility access, miscellaneous site amenities, guardrails, accessible furnishings, and site lighting. Each category was scored on a scale of zero to five, with five representing the highest standard.

## THE RESULTS

The access assessment identified over 105 potential access projects of which **48 projects were selected to be scored**. The selected projects were scored according to five categories, including the existing conditions of the park, barriers mitigated by the project, creation of accessible routes, inclusion of accessible recreation, inclusion of accessible facilities, and ease of implementation. A full project list and scoring results is on file with the City of Jonesboro.

**Access Assessment Themes (facing page).** Accessibility enhancement opportunities within Jonesboro's parks include new or improved parking, pathway enhancements, accessible amenities, and playground upgrades.

**Image A.** The playground at Phillip Evans Community Park absent adaptive playscapes.

**Image B.** A non-ADA compliant pathway at CWL Park without guardrails.

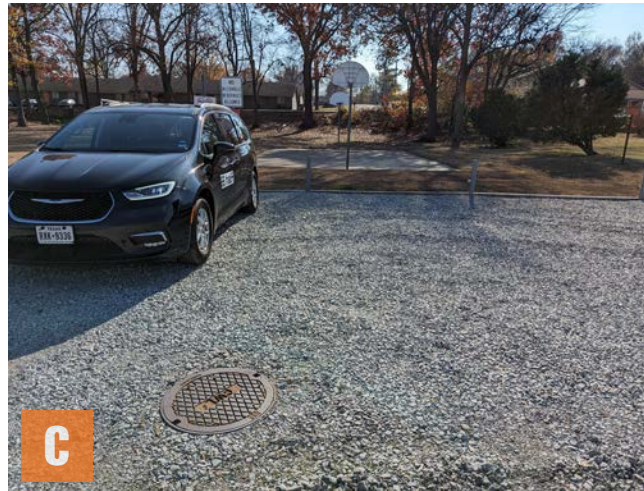
**Image C.** The parking lot at Stallings Park (big) without ADA accessible parking.

**Image D.** The playground surface at Craighead Forest Park that is non-ADA compliant.

**Image E.** A non-ADA compliant picnic table in Fairview Park.

## ACCESS ASSESSMENT SCORING CRITERIA

Category	Description
Existing Conditions	What is the condition of the existing amenity (ex. sidewalks, trails, furnishing, playground, etc.)?
Barrier Mitigation	Does the project cross or mitigate a natural or artificial barrier? Barriers include: overgrowth, playground barriers, rivers/ creeks/streams, poor/damaged infrastructure, etc.
Accessible Routes	Does the project create an accessible route? Route must meet ADA standards for material, slope, dimensions, and necessary handrail/guardrails. Route must connect to ADA parking and/ or other facilities.
Accessible Recreation	Does the project enable accessible recreation? Recreation includes any space or facility that enables activity that has an accessible use alternative or is designed for accessibility (i.e. playground with wheelchair ramps or furnishings with an ADA accessible seat/extension.).
Accessible Facilities	Does the project enable access to park facilities? Facilities include any space or facility that has alternative use options or is designed for accessibility (i.e. Restrooms, shelter areas, concession building, drinking fountains, etc.)
Implementation	How soon can the project be initiated, based on cost and complexity?



# AMENITIES ASSESSMENT

The amenities assessment is used to review the potential recreational facility and program enhancements for Jonesboro's municipal parks. This assessment highlights where amenity gaps may exist and suggests the essential adaptive or inclusive recreation investments which should be considered by the community to enhance the parks system.

## THE METHODS

**ON-SITE ASSESSMENTS.** Concurrent with the walkshed and access assessments, the planning team reviewed existing amenities within the parks system to understand the level of investment in accessible play.

**COMMUNITY TOURS.** The planning team, City staff, and members of the Leadership Team visited communities in the Dallas, Texas, and Austin, Texas, metropolitan areas to observe examples of accessible, inclusive, and adaptive park design and programming. The team considered these "best practices" when recommending investments in this Plan.

**DEMAND ASSESSMENT.** This analysis is based on observations from the Plan's two community surveys, "How do you get to parks?" and "How do you play in parks?" The surveys were distributed to group members of the selected populations, and where applicable, their advocates, (pg. 12) to ensure that survey results reflected their needs.

**ACCESSIBLE AND ADAPTIVE PLAY NEEDS TO BE ADDED TO THE MOST POPULAR PARKS IN THE AREA.**

- "How do you play in parks" survey response

**Amenity Assessment Themes (facing page).** Amenity improvements within Jonesboro's parks include new or improved playgrounds, inclusive and adaptive play elements, sensory play features, and inclusive recreational programming.

**Image A.** Inclusive swings provide access to the play equipment for children with diverse abilities.

**Image B.** Play elements that allow individuals to interact with a space while remaining in their wheelchair provide additional accessibility.

**Image C.** Sensory play engages multiple senses for auditory, tactile, or visually stimulating experiences.

**Image D.** Natural play elements increase a child's connection to nature.

**Image E.** Fencing around a play area decreases opportunities for children to wander off.

## THE RESULTS

**ON-SITE ASSESSMENTS.** Miracle League Park has accessible and adaptive play equipment and amenities along with an accessible field. Other parks in the system currently lack these features but would benefit from their inclusion.

**COMMUNITY TOURS.** Communities such as Austin, Carrollton, and Round Rock, Texas, incorporate elements in their park design that allow children with disabilities to easily and naturally engage with non-disabled children. The seamless integration of accessible and adaptive amenities allow children to play together, without an added stigma.

**DEMAND ASSESSMENT.** Results from the demand assessment indicate that residents in the community see a need for additional accessible and adaptive play options, accessible classes, and tactile play.

Findings from these assessments have been incorporated into this Plan's investment and policy programs and the site designs for the Allen / Landsbrook (pg. 95) and Northside / Crews Accelerator Parks (pg. 97).



**A**



**D**



**B**



**C**



**E**

# AMENITY CATEGORIES

Adaptive and inclusive park amenities can be separated into two major categories: accessory and recreational. These categories provide an organizational framework within which to make systemic park investment recommendations that extend beyond utilitarian walkshed and access project recommendations, and focus instead on the amenities that make Jonesboro parks an attractive destination to recreate.

**ACCESSORY AMENITIES.** Refer to adaptations or improvements to existing amenities and facilities, but which extend beyond basic accessibility accommodations, to ensure all park visitors have access to the conveniences that enable them to enjoy their experience.

**RECREATIONAL AMENITIES.** Adaptive equipment and programming, and inclusive design options, that facilitate physically, socially, and mentally stimulating activities within a park.

## ACCESSORY AMENITIES

Many existing park facilities are not built in consideration of people with a disability. A consistent theme to consider throughout the Jonesboro parks system is to provide accessibility beyond the minimum standard of ADA requirements for all paths within each park. Ensuring that wheelchairs have ample space and minimal barriers invites more inclusive activity. Providing hand rails and guard rails for any accessible stairs or ramps also creates a more approachable means of traveling to and from facilities in a park. In addition to providing safe and accessible routes through a park, providing direct and easy wayfinding is another way to give park users the ability to navigate to the facilities they want to use. This can come in the form of large maps with simple imagery, or signs that can be read with varying languages, including braille.

## ACCESSORY AMENITY CATEGORIES

**SURFACE TREATMENTS.** The materials, textures, and composition of all surfaces present within a park or facility.

**ACCESSIBLE ROUTES.** Any essential route that provides ADA compliant access to an amenity or facility.

**ACCESSIBLE FURNISHINGS.** ADA compliant furnishings that include but are not limited to benches, tables, receptacles, and water fountains.

**ADAPTABLE EQUIPMENT.** Any device, tool, or service that provides an adapted need to anyone that requires it.

**ACCESSIBLE FACILITIES.** Any facility that provides ADA compliant access to its access points and amenities.

**WAYFINDING ELEMENTS.** Signage, markings, or devices that provide navigation guidance to the user of the site.

**SHADE ELEMENTS.** Any coverings, canopies, or overhangs, both natural and man-made, that provide protection from the elements.

**Amenity Categories (facing page).** Amenity categories were identified to provide an organizational framework by which accessory amenities could be improved. This framework supports this Plan's system-wide recommendations and Accelerator Park conceptual designs.

**Image A.** Surface Treatments: Hardscapes, (concrete, pavers, slip resistant).

**Image B.** Surface Treatments: Detectable warnings, striping.

**Image C.** Accessible Routes: Wide walkways, ADA compliant slopes.

**Image D.** Accessible Routes: High visibility crosswalks and pedestrian beacons.

**Image E.** Accessible Furnishings: ADA compliant water fountains, tables, benches, etc.

**Image F.** Adaptable Equipment: Projection system for interactive play.

**Image G.** Adaptable Equipment: Adult changing tables.

**Image H.** Accessible Facilities: Handrails, guardrails on steps and ramps.

**Image I.** Wayfinding Elements: High contrast warnings, braille communication boards.

**Image J.** Shade Elements: Hardtop shade canopy for seating.

**Image K.** Shade Elements: Natural tree canopy over playgrounds.





# AMENITY CATEGORIES

## RECREATIONAL AMENITIES

Adding adapted and inclusive recreational amenities brings increases recreational opportunity for a broad cross-section of a community's residents who possess varying degrees of mental, social, and physical abilities. To provide these opportunities, it is often beneficial to retrofit existing facilities with a new, accessible designs. An example of this would be to replace soft play surfaces like mulch or grass with a compacted rubberized fiber or rubberized surface that a wheelchair can conveniently access. Expanding existing facilities to include new adaptable equipment can also be beneficial if there is no way to retrofit existing play structures. Creating adaptive exercise stations or introducing water play areas create new opportunities for people to be included in a wider array of activities.

**Amenity Categories (facing page).** Amenity categories were identified to provide an organizational framework by which Jonesboro's inventory of recreational amenities could be augmented. This framework supports this Plan's system-wide recommendations and Accelerator Park conceptual designs.

- Image A.** Inclusive Playscapes: A playground with wide paths, ADA-compliant ramps, shade canopy, and accessible play equipment.
- Image B.** Adaptable Play Equipment: A swing that can facilitate users of varying abilities.
- Image C.** Role Play Elements: A mock fire station to role-play a neighborhood feature.
- Image D.** Natural Playscapes: An interactive playground built from natural logs.
- Image E.** Interactive Elements: A toy to scoop sand, providing hand-eye coordination development and interaction with natural elements.
- Image F.** Sensory Play: A sensory wall provides tactile interaction to users.
- Image G.** Aquatic Elements: Water play provides another aspect of interaction.
- Image H.** Adaptable Sports Fields: Miracle League field, currently part of the Jonesboro Parks system, is a great example of an adapted sport field.
- Image I.** Program Elements: A tai chi class is being held at an amphitheater for users of all abilities.

## RECREATIONAL AMENITY CATEGORIES

**INCLUSIVE PLAYSAPES.** Playgrounds and play areas that provide ADA compliant access to include all users through the use of ramps, wider walkways, and lifts.

**ADAPTABLE PLAY EQUIPMENT.** Purpose-built equipment to provide play options for users with disabilities. This equipment is easy to use, simple to understand, and provides many different ways to play.

**ROLE PLAY ELEMENTS.** Model towns, race tracks, mock storefronts, etc. provide real-life examples of how to interact physically and socially in what could be an unfamiliar environment.

**NATURAL PLAYSAPES.** Provides connections to nature in the use of natural materials or recreating naturalistic environments.

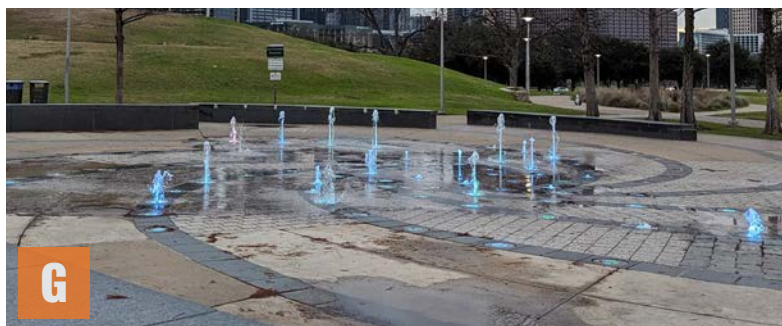
**INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS.** Play types that require the user to push, pull, climb, jump, etc. help to develop physical, social, and cognitive skills.

**SENSORY PLAY.** Play equipment that stimulates any one or combination of the five senses. Consistently found in areas known as sensory gardens.

**AQUATIC ELEMENTS.** Water features that encourage aquatic interaction with the use of designated water play equipment and splash pads.

**ADAPTABLE SPORTS FIELDS.** Sports fields that have been specifically designed to allow users of all abilities to participate in a given sport - usually by way of providing an adaptable surface treatment, accessible routes, and widened walkways.

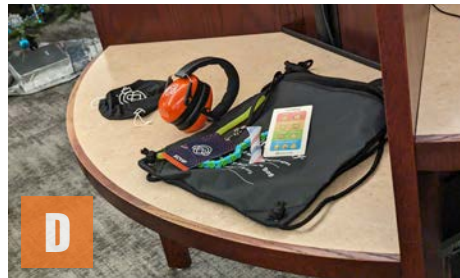
**PROGRAM ELEMENTS.** Any organized activity to promote inclusive participation, adaptable environments, and social interaction.



# AMENITY CATEGORIES - BEST PRACTICES

## DALLAS, TX

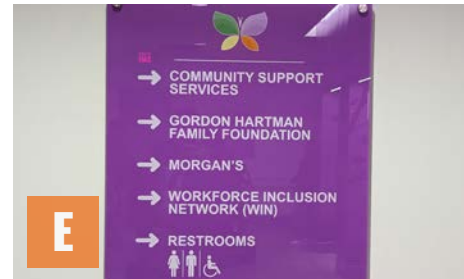
A recurring theme of many of the parks in the Dallas parks system is the integration of accessible play equipment with the overall playground space so that no one user feels excluded. Integrated adaptable equipment in Dallas's parks receives much more use when it is included among the typical components of a playground. When it comes to programming, Dallas's municipal parks department attempts to cater to all users of varying abilities along with younger and older users. This way inclusion is increased and more users are able to utilize not only the facilities themselves, but also the varied activities that were available.



- A.** Natural play, adaptable equipment, and accessible swings all within the same area.
- B.** A quiet area of respite is built in to the general play space so as to not feel excluded.
- C.** An accessible game is placed between the library and a senior center.
- D.** Sensory bags are freely available to those who require this adaptation.

## SAN ANTONIO, TX

In the Multi-Assistance Center at Morgan's Wonderland, great care was taken to promote accessibility through the use of easy wayfinding, wide walkways, and adaptive equipment throughout the facility. Color coded signs, corridors, and surfaces make navigating the area ultra inclusive to all users. "Wave to open" devices for simplified access to doorways and adult changing tables were provided in all appropriate locations, facilitating a wide range of users with varying levels of ability. The overarching idea of bringing the programmatic needs of many users to one, singular location is the cornerstone of success for this essential amenity.



- E.** Color coded signage helps with navigation and to orient the visitor.
- F.** Color coded corridors guide the visitor with easy to understand directions.
- G.** "Wave to Open" devices provide a hands-free way to enter spaces.
- H.** Adult changing tables provide a much needed function for users and caretakers.

# RECREATIONAL DEMAND

Members of this Plans selected populations, and their advocates, voiced their desire for new and improved accessible, inclusive, and adaptive recreation through the "How do you play in parks?" and "How do you get to parks?" surveys, distributed as part of the planning process. Over 80 responses were gathered. Survey results highlighted below helped to inform the planning team on facility, amenity, and programming preferences that would enhance Jonesboro's parks system. Community preferences have also influenced the Plan's investment and policy recommendations.



**3.0/5**

The score residents give the City today in incorporating accessible and adaptive recreational facilities.



**2.6/5**

The score residents give the City today in incorporating accessible and adaptive programs and accessory amenities.



**3.4/5**

The score residents give the current accessibility of City parks in Jonesboro.

## FACILITY, AMENITY, AND PROGRAM NEEDS

A list of the facilities and programs that received the highest percentage of "extremely important" ratings from survey participants.



Accessible Play  
84%



Adaptive Play  
76%



ADA Ramps  
76%



Accessible Classes  
70%



Tactile Play  
70%



Adaptive Pools  
70%

# ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE PROGRAMMING

Adaptive and inclusive programming refers to recreational programs that are designed to be accessible to people of all abilities. These programs may incorporate modifications to timing or movement, provide specialized instruction, or supply the necessary equipment to ensure people with and without a disability can participate in activities alongside one another equally.

## UNIFIED RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS

Unified recreational programs allow people with disabilities the opportunities to enjoy programs in a safe and supportive environment. Unified programming and activities may include mixed athletic teams, dances, road races, rock climbing, karaoke, yoga, bowling, or educational classes. Programs should offer accommodations, or clear rules on team composition in the case of competitive programming, to ensure all users have equal access.

## AQUATIC PROGRAMMING

Aquatics programming that is adaptive and inclusive must be considered during pool and splash pad construction and renovation. Facilities should be ADA accessible through the use of ramps, lifts, and handrails. With accessible facilities, programs such as swim lessons become more accessible to individuals with a disability. Aquatics-based programming provides a low-impact space for recreation, amenable to a range of abilities.

## ATHLETIC PROGRAMMING

Adaptive and inclusive athletic programming creates opportunities for individuals with a disability to engage in physical activity, connect with peers, and feel empowered within their community. Team sports, such as the Miracle League baseball and wheelchair basketball, bring groups of people with and without disabilities together for competitive play. Individual sports like hand cycling, swimming, or kayaking allow residents to compete directly against one another.



Existing facilities within the Jonesboro parks system can be leveraged for unified programming opportunities.



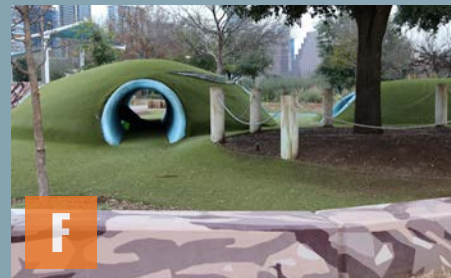
Therapy pools can include accessible ramps for entry for wheelchair users and individuals with mobility difficulties.



Miracle league field in Jonesboro offers an accessible field for residents of all ability to play together.

## CASE STUDY: CITY OF CARROLLTON, TX

The City of Carrollton, Texas, has implemented a robust set of adaptive programming across various city facilities. Programming such as game nights, swim parties, archery, ping pong, dances, nature nights, and athletic events contribute to an inclusive recreation system for all residents. The City has six (6) certified “sensory inclusive facilities,” expanding their adaptive offerings and promoting an accommodating experience for all guests with a sensory need. By ensuring both indoor and outdoor spaces are accessible for people of all abilities, the City can bring adaptive programming to various locations around the community.



- A. Indoor pickleball facilities allow residents of different ages to play together.
- B. Pavilions provide space to have shaded outdoor classes or activities.
- C. E-sports facilities provide a space for people to gather while gaming.
- D. Quiet areas give individuals with sensory needs a space to decompress.

## CASE STUDY: CITY OF AUSTIN, TX




The City of Austin, Texas, offers recreational programming and play spaces that accommodate users of all ages and abilities. The McBeth Recreation Center has been providing inclusive and adaptive programs since February 1986. McBeth Therapeutic Summer Camps specialize in providing adaptive programming to individuals with special needs. The Center also provides adaptive sports leagues, such as basketball, bocce, and tennis.

The Alliance Children’s Garden is a 2-acre multi-generational recreational space in Butler Park. The space features natural play elements, musical play equipment, and additional amenities that enable inclusive play.

- E. The McBeth Recreation Center offers outdoor recreation opportunities.
- F. There are many amenities that are designed to accommodate all potential users.
- G. Adaptive swings encourage a unified space for the social development of children.
- H. Shade covering and soft surface material allow for safe play for children of all abilities.

# TOWARD AN INCLUSIVE PARKS SYSTEM

The Accelerator Plan's walkshed, access, and amenity assessments reveal 12 common themes that must be addressed throughout Jonesboro's parks and recreation system to transform it into a resource that offers something for all, regardless of an individual's physical, mental, or emotional condition. Our work program (Chapter 4) includes recommended investments and strategies to address the following findings/themes.

-  Walkshed Assessment Theme
-  Access Assessment Theme
-  Amenity Assessment Theme



## SIDEWALK ACCESS

Sidewalks within each park walkshed area are often inaccessible, not connected, or absent. Many sidewalks require upgrades while system-wide additions are also warranted.



## TRANSIT ACCESS

Improved transit access is a community priority, as observed in survey results. The lack of transit stops at most parks reduces visits by those without reliable access to a motor vehicle.



## ACCESSIBLE SURFACING

The surface of most park's playgrounds is composed of mulched wood chips. This surfacing makes accessing play equipment difficult for individuals who have physical impairments.



## SAFE CROSSINGS

Many parks are adjacent to high speed or heavily trafficked roadways. To ensure residents have safe access to parks, new or upgraded, high-visibility and controlled crossings are needed.



## TRAIL ACCESS

Many parks lack access to the city-wide trails network. Strategic trail extensions and connections would improve access to city parks from nearby residential and/or commercial areas.



## ADA PARKING

While larger municipal parks provide designated ADA parking, many stalls are in poor condition or are inappropriately sized. Surfacing and striping improvements are needed for many ADA parking areas.





## PARK PATHWAYS

Many municipal parks lack connected pathways to and between on-site facilities and amenities. Further, there are paths within some parks that require safety upgrades to prevent falling along steep slopes.



## SENSORY PLAY

Parks system inclusivity must include amenities that are designed to be enjoyed by all park users. Sensory play amenities enable park users to utilize their most heightened senses: sight, smell, sound, and/or touch to enjoy shared recreational spaces.



## INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

There is an opportunity to build a suite of inclusive programs enabling disabled residents to recreate and build social skills. Inclusive programs span all categories (athletics, art, nature, music, etc.) and can be offered at many current City facilities.



## LIGHTING

Many parks in the system lack adequate site, safety, and path lighting. Additional lighting would improve visibility of pathways, signage, and enhance the positive perception of safety within the entirety of the parks system.



## ADAPTIVE PLAY

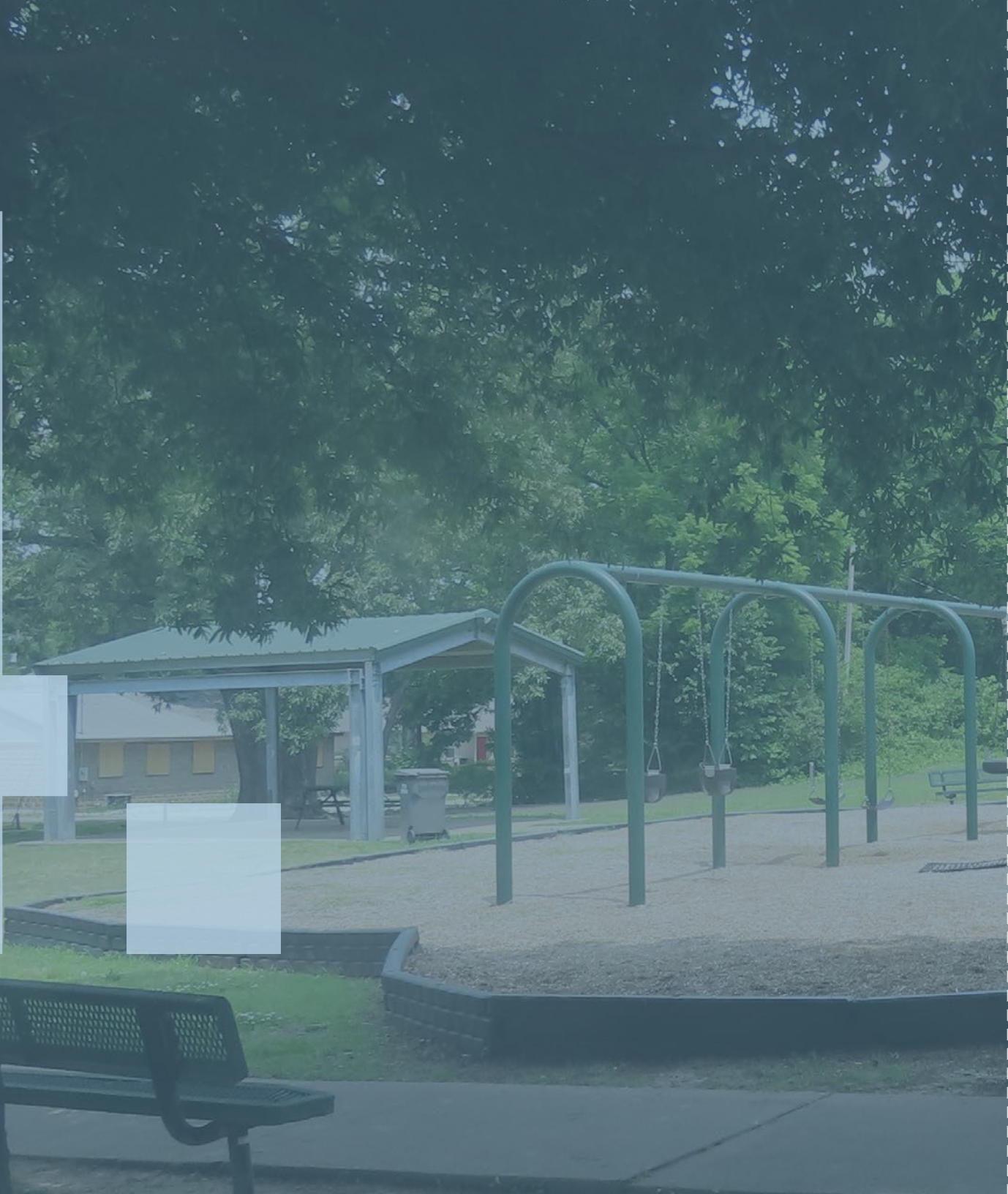
Adaptable play facilities are lacking at most park properties. Targeted investments in adapted play equipment across the parks system will allow individuals with a disability to interact alongside other park users to build a sense of belonging in each park space.



## AQUATIC FACILITIES

Results from the Master Plan survey and the “How do you play in parks” survey reveal a community-wide desire for additional aquatics facilities. With new adaptive and accessible aquatics facilities, the City can provide space for inclusive aquatics programming.

# 4



# ACCELERATING HEALTHY COMMUNITY OUTCOMES

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# OUR MISSION



The Leadership Team, in collaboration with the City of Jonesboro, has identified a shared mission to execute the vision and goals detailed within this Accelerator Plan (pg. 13). As outlined in the mission statement below, the Leadership Team and City staff will work to address the findings of this Plan and strive to create a parks system that is inclusive for all in the community. This mission will be implemented through the work program, which includes specific investments and policies that advance the goals of the plan.

## MISSION STATEMENT

**“THE LEADERSHIP TEAM AND CITY OF JONESBORO WILL PLAN, DESIGN, AND BUILD ACCESSIBLE, INCLUSIVE, AND ADAPTABLE PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES FOR ALL TO USE. WE WILL DO THIS BY LISTENING TO OUR RESIDENT’S NEEDS AND ACTING TO IMPLEMENT BEST PRACTICES IN PARK DESIGN AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING.”**

### GOAL 1: ACCESS

**INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO AND WITHIN JONESBORO’S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM**



### GOAL 2: RECREATION

**STRATEGICALLY ADD ADAPTIVE AND INCLUSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WITHIN JONESBORO’S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM**





# WORK PROGRAM

The Accelerator Plan's work program is comprised of two major components: **A)** The investment program; and **B)** The policy program. Both programs include recommended strategies to systematically implement the vision and goals of the Accelerator Plan. The Accelerator Plan's work program is an extension of, and has been integrated into, the work program of the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

## INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The investment program (pages 45 through 98) identifies key projects that address the findings of the walkshed, access, and amenity assessments. This program includes probable costs associated with each identified project and may include recommended investments such as new and upgraded facilities, accessible amenities, and other similar enhancements. In addition to the individual projects identified for each municipal park, two conceptual designs have been prepared - one for Allen / Landsbrook Park and the other for Northside / Crews Park. These "Accelerator Park" will serve as hubs of concentrated accessible and inclusive recreation facilities for all resident to enjoy.

## POLICY PROGRAM

The policy program (pages 99 through 102) is designed to prioritize all general policy, programming, regulatory and operational initiatives that advance the mission of the Accelerator Plan. This program includes essential operational and programming initiatives in general terms and does not address the potential costs of implementation.

## MASTER PLAN WORK PROGRAM



The Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Master Plan contains a series policies, programs, and investments designed to achieve Jonesboro's overarching recreational goals and guiding principles. Consistent with the Accelerator Plan work program, the Master Plan work program includes two primary components.

**Investment Program.** A list of near-term park improvements along with an assumption of probable costs for each parks system property. The full list of improvements and associated costs assumptions can be viewed in a companion appendix to the Master Plan..

**Policy Program.** The Master Plan recommends 56 strategies to improve the long-term community-wide value of the parks and recreation system. Strategies are organized according to the four guiding principles and address the findings presented in the Master Plan.

# INVESTMENT PROGRAM

The investment program identifies projects that improve the accessibility of Jonesboro parks and add adaptive and inclusive facilities to the system. The program is divided into four categories, each listing the priorities projects and the associated estimated cost ranges.

## ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY)

Shovel ready projects are those from the identified project list that are below \$10,000 and may be quickly implemented. These projects may be ideal candidates for general obligation funding and would have the most immediate impact to improve park accessibility.

## ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (CAPITAL)

Capital projects are those from the identified project list that are greater than \$10,000 and may take dedicated funding or outside funds to construct. These projects would have the most significant impact on park accessibility and may represent more noticeable additions to the system upon construction.

## ACCELERATOR PARKS

The Leadership Team has identified two parks: Allen / Landsbrook Park and Northside Park, as community "Accelerator Parks." These parks have been selected for a comprehensive redesigned to fully incorporate a suite of adapted and inclusive facilities. The parks will be specialized to cater to residents with disabilities and will be hubs for inclusive recreation. The conceptual designs for both Accelerator Parks can be viewed on pages 95 through 98.

## AMENITY AUGMENTATION PROJECTS

Amenity augmentation projects address universal challenges across the Jonesboro park system. These projects introduce new adaptive and inclusive amenities while also expanding existing ones, such as sensory play areas, aquatic features, and adaptable sports fields. These projects may be implemented in multiple locations across the parks system.

**Park-by-park project recommendations are located on pages 51 through 94. Project spreads provide an overview of the assessment findings in each park and describes priority project recommendations with associated cost estimates.**



By designing new Accelerator Parks, the City will bring the adaptive and inclusive play elements found in Miracle League Park to more parks within Jonesboro.

# OPINION OF PROBABLE COSTS

The recommended projects and opportunities for improvement presented in this Plan include opinions of probable construction costs (OPCC) for suggested walkways, accessibility improvements, and amenity upgrades. Where presented, OPCC are subject to the assumptions and disclaimers summarized below.

## ASSUMPTIONS/DISCLAIMERS<sup>1</sup>

All OPCC represent the consultant's best judgment as professionals familiar with the construction industry and current available unit pricing. Consultant does not guarantee that proposals, bids or actual project construction costs will not vary from this opinion. Quantities are estimates only and the actual amount of work and/or materials are contingent upon final existing conditions, survey, and construction design of these improvements. OPCC presented in this Plan do not include subsurface utilities.

**UNIT PRICING** is based on average cost statewide (2024) and does not account for any site specific determinants that would effect costs of construction (i.e., unknown subsurface conditions, structural foundations/footing per local soil conditions, etc.)

**TWENTY PERCENT CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY** Includes (but is not limited to): general conditions, mobilization, demolition, erosion/sedimentation control, site retaining walls and unclassified earthwork.

**ITEMS NOT INCLUDED** in the OPCC of this Plan are environmental and regulatory review, permitting, and fees

**UTILITY** adjustments/relocations/extensions/services for storm sewer, domestic water, sanitary sewer, gas, electric, and communication utility lines to the site are not included in the OPCC presented in this plan.

**A 10 PERCENT ANNUAL INCREASE** for projection of future costs should be added.



1. The assumptions and disclaimers presented herein apply to the probable project cost estimates presented on pages 45 through 94.

New adaptive facilities should be seamlessly integrated into the existing park space.



Accessory amenities, like picnic tables and benches, make a park more inviting and encourage longer use.

# ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY)

The adaptive projects (shovel ready) listed below and on the facing page are estimated to cost under \$10,000 (2024). The projects are listed in order of priority based on the scoring methodology described on pages 23 and 25. A full list of shovel ready project is on file with the City of Jonesboro.

## ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY)

Project ID	Project Name	Park	Item	Unit*	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Walkshed Projects</b>							
W-SP-1	Matthews Avenue Crosswalk	Stallings Park (Big)	Concrete Walk	SY	43	\$90	\$3,830
			Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
			Striping	LF	100	\$6	\$600
		<b>Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)</b>					
W-NC-2	Patrick Street Crosswalks	Northside / Crews Park	Concrete Walk	SY	44	\$90	\$3,960
			Striping	LF	173	\$6	\$1,040
		<b>Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)</b>					
W-OP-1	Nettleton Avenue Crosswalk	Nettleton / Optimist Park	Concrete Walk	SY	43	\$90	\$3,830
			Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
			Striping	LF	100	\$6	\$600
		<b>Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)</b>					
W-OP-3	Hester Street Crosswalk	Nettleton / Optimist Park	Concrete Walk	SY	43	\$90	\$3,830
			Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
			Striping	LF	100	\$6	\$600
		<b>Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)</b>					

\* SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre  
 Priority projects only. A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro.  
 Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification.



## ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (SHOVEL READY)

Project ID	Project Name	Park	Item	Unit*	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Access Projects</b>							
A-SPS-1	Accessible Pathways	Stallings Park (Small)	Concrete Walk	LF	120	\$42	\$5,040
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
A-JM-2	Replace Crossing	Joe Mack Sports Complex	Curb Ramps	EA	2	\$1,000	\$2,000
			Striping	LF	60	\$1.25	\$75
			Rapid Flashing Beacon	EA	2	\$1,500	\$3,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
A-RL-1	Playground Ramp Connection	Reverend Lewellen Park	Concrete Walk	LF	20	\$42	\$840
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
A-OP-2	ADA Ramps	Nettleton / Optimist Park	Concrete Ramps	EA	2	\$1,000	\$2,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
A-RL-1	Playground Ramp Connection	Reverend Lewellen Park	Concrete Walk	LF	20	\$42	\$840
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
A-SC-2	ADA Parking	Southside Softball Complex	Detect. Warning Strips	EA	4	\$300	\$1,200
			Replace Concrete	SF	120	\$42	\$5,040
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
A-LM-1	Access Ramp to Playground	L.M. Stotts Park	Concrete Ramp	EA	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					

\* SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre  
 Priority projects only. A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro.  
 Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification.

# ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (CAPITAL)

The adaptive projects (capital) listed below and on the facing page are estimated to cost more than \$10,000 (2024). The projects are categorized by project type and listed in priority based on the scoring methodology described on pages 23 and 25. A full list of proposed capital project is on file with the City of Jonesboro.

## ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (CAPITAL)

Project ID	Project Name	Park	Item	Unit*	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Walkshed Projects</b>							
W-AP-2	Race Street Crosswalk	Allen / Landsbrook Park	Concrete Walk	SY	40	\$90	\$3,600
			Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
			Striping	LF	88	\$6	\$530
			Bus Shelter	EA	1	\$12,300	\$12,300
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$22,950
W-CWL-2	Cherry St. Sidewalk West	City Water and Light Park	Concrete Walk	SY	1326	\$90	\$119,340
			Striping	LF	110	\$6	\$660
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
W-SP-2	Stallings Lane Sidewalk	Stallings Park (Big)	Concrete Walk	SY	1733	\$90	\$156,000
			Striping	LF	167	\$6	\$1,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
W-FV-1	Parkside Dr. Connector Path	Fairview Park	Concrete Walk	SY	167	\$90	\$15,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					
W-ML-3	Interpark Connector	Miracle League/Southside	Concrete Walk	SY	278	\$90	\$25,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					

\* SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre  
 Priority projects only. A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro.  
 Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification.

## ADAPTIVE PROJECTS (CAPITAL)

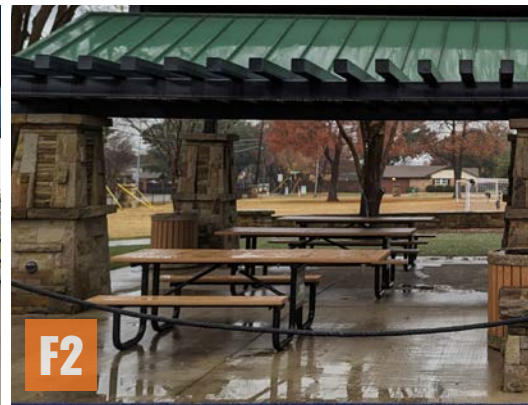
Project ID	Project Name	Park	Item	Unit*	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Access Projects</b>							
A-SPB-1	Accessible Pathways	Stallings Park (Big)	Concrete Walk	SY	200	\$42	\$8,400
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$11,340
A-SPB-2	Accessible Furniture	Stallings Park (Big)	Concrete Pad	SF	100	\$42	\$4,200
			Accessible Table	EA	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$11,070
A-RS-1	Pathways	Ralph "Pop" Stricklin Park	Concrete Walk	SY	250	\$42	\$10,500
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$14,175
A-AP-2	Connector Bridge	Allen / Landsbrook Park	Pedestrian Bridge	LS	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$675,000
A-JJ-2	Guard Rails / Hand Rails	Julian James Park	Guard Rails	LF	92	\$100	\$9,200
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$12,420
A-BS-1	ADA Parking	Beatrice Park	Asphalt Pavement	SF	960	\$7	\$6,720
			Striping	LF	300	\$0.50	\$150
			ADA Signage	EA	4	\$250	\$1,000
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$10,624
A-BS-3	Restroom Facilities	Beatrice Park	Asphalt Pavement	LF	20,000	\$22	\$440,000
Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)							\$594,000

\* SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre  
 Priority projects only. A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro.  
 Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification.

# AMENITY AUGMENTATION PROJECTS

The amenity projects detailed below address universal issues found throughout the Jonesboro park system and should be a priority for park improvement efforts. Many of these projects augment existing amenities and facilities with alternatives that promote inclusion and universal accessibility. The projects promote the addition of new inclusive amenities along with expanding existing amenities, such as sensory play, aquatic elements, and adaptable sports fields. The images on page 50 present existing conditions and examples of alternatives or facility additions. Unlike the shovel ready and capital adaptive projects, amenity augmentation projects can (and should) be distributed throughout the parks system to provide a broader suite of recreational opportunities for individuals that are part of this Plan's selected (focus) populations.

Amenity Category	Description	Project Type	Location	Cost
A. Surface Treatments	Replacing non-ADA compliant surfaces such as mulch or damaged concrete with accessible surfaces such as rubberized surfaces or bonded rubber mulch. (See A1 and A2)	Replace Playground Surfaces	All playgrounds	\$50/SF
B. Adaptable Play Equipment	Replacing non-ADA compliant equipment and introduction inclusive play equipment to provide alternate ways to play. (See B1 and B2)	Replace Play Equipment	Playgrounds (dispersed)	~\$2,000/EA
C. Sensory Play	Introducing inclusive play equipment that stimulates the five senses. (See C1 and C2)	Provide Sensory Play Equipment	Playgrounds (dispersed)	~\$2,000/EA
D. Aquatic Elements	Renovating existing aquatic play areas to provide inclusive equipment and alternative play. (See D1 and D2)	Provide Accessible Water-Play Equipment	All applicable parks	Varies
E. Adaptable Sports Fields	Replacing/introducing sports fields that accommodate varying ability levels. (See E1 and E2)	Replace Fields with Accessible Surfaces	All sports complexes	~100,000/EA
F. Accessible Facilities	Providing additional tools and equipment to existing facilities to include all potential users. (See F1 and F2)	Introduce Accessible Furnishings	All park facilities	Varies
G. Accessible Pathways	Replacing non-ADA compliant pathways with accessible pathways, such as concrete ramps with handrails, to provide direct routes to all park amenities. (See G1 and G2)	Repave / Regrade Pathways	All routes to park amenities/facilities	~\$40/SF



# ALLEN / LANDSBROOK PARK

Allen / Landsbrook Park is located at 3609 Race Street. The park is 23.5 acres and is bisected into north and south sections by a drainage ditch. The north side of this community park is more activated, featuring the Allen Park Community Center, tennis courts, a splash pad, bocce ball courts, a skate park, playgrounds, and a walking trail. The south side (Landsbrook) contains a basketball court, open play areas, soccer fields, and play equipment.

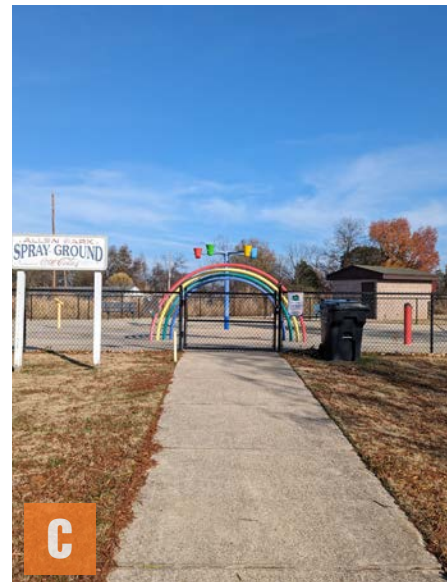
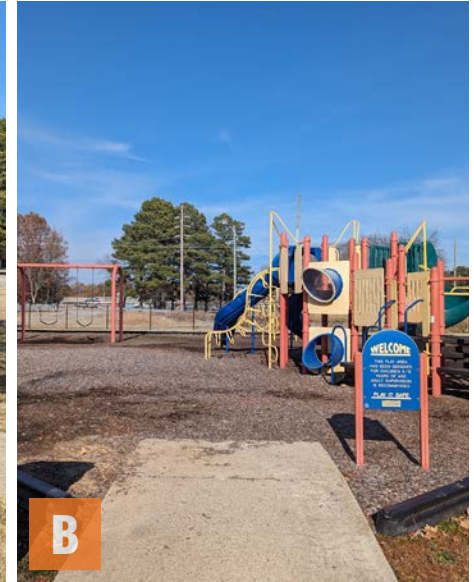
## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

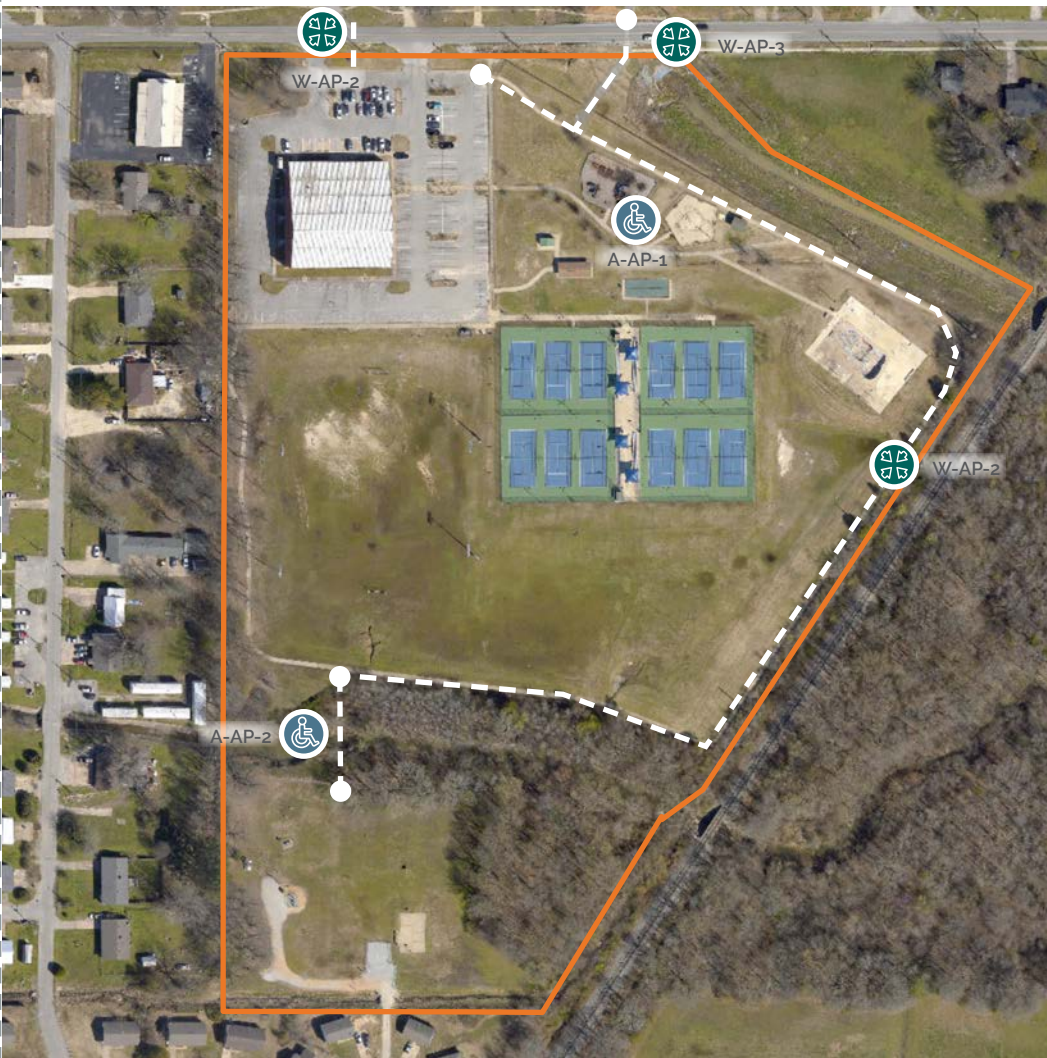
The walkshed around Allen/Landsbrook Park is connected by sidewalks on the northside of Race Street and the Turtle Creek Track (A) multi-purpose trail on the northeast side. The Landsbrook neighborhood to the south is connected via sidewalks, but there is no sidewalk connection to the east or west. Many existing sidewalks in the northern neighborhoods are generally in a state of disrepair. The existing infrastructure around the park does not meet ADA standards. It is usable, but not comfortable.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The park has sufficient ADA parking and adequate signage. Play structures within the park are in good condition, but lack adaptive inclusive play elements. The use of mulch for the surface creates a barrier for individuals who use a wheelchair (B). The splash pad provides good accessibility and is connected by a paved pathway (C). The athletic fields are not accessible, but the tennis courts are in good condition and accessible. There is no pathway to the equipment room (D) and restroom facilities are accessible. Furnishing on the site, such as picnic tables and benches, are in good condition with accessible options available.

Allen / Landsbrook Park has been identified as an Accelerator Park. The conceptual redesign can be viewed on [page 95](#).





- Boundary
- - - Paved Path
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## ALLEN / LANDBROOK PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS<sup>1</sup>

ID <sup>2</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-AP-1	Multi-use trail	Concrete Walk	SY	1,500	\$90	\$135,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$182,250
W-AP-2	Race street crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	40	\$90	\$3,600
		Signs	EA	19	\$30	\$570
		Striping	LF	88	\$6	\$530
		Bus Stop Shelter	EA	1	\$12,300	\$12,300
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$22,950
W-AP-3	Trail Crossing Upgrade	Rapid Flashing Beacon	EA	2	\$22,250	\$44,500
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$60,075
Access Projects						
A-AP-1	Adaptive Play Equipment	Equipment	EA	1	\$12,000	\$12,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$16,200
A-AP-2	Pedestrian Bridge	Pedestrian Bridge	LS	1	\$500,000	\$500,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$675,000

1. Exclusive of full-scale redesign as an Accelerator Park (pg. 95).
2. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.
3. SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre

A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro. Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification. In addition to the identified walkshed and access projects, each park is subject to amenity augmentation (see page 49)

# BEATRICE PARK

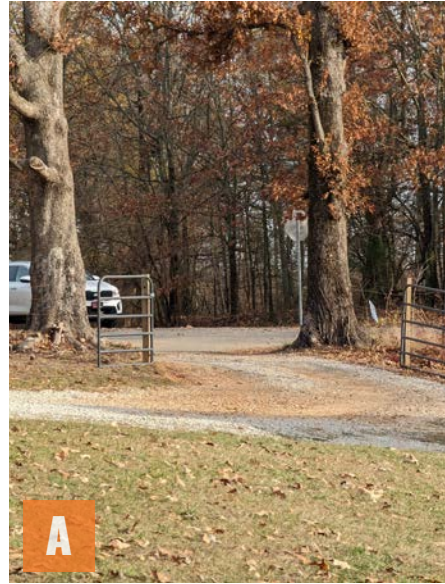
Beatrice Park is a 23.8-acre park located at 3255 Strawfloor Drive. The park is currently used for disc golf but the City intends to prepare a development plan to further program the recently acquired space. The park is secluded and in a rural area.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

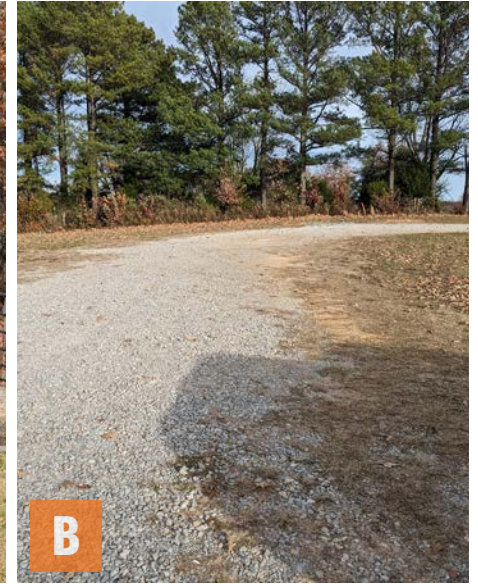
There is no existing pedestrian infrastructure around the park. The park is rural in location and currently has little nearby residential or commercial development. There is an area with a deep drainage channel on the southern end of the park and may be barriers for accessibility **(A)**.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The park is still relatively undeveloped, leaving many accessibility concerns unaddressed. The park's entrance **(B)** and only parking lot is gravel with no ADA parking or signage **(C)**. There are no accessible pathways to or along the disc golf course **(D)** and there are no other amenities on site.



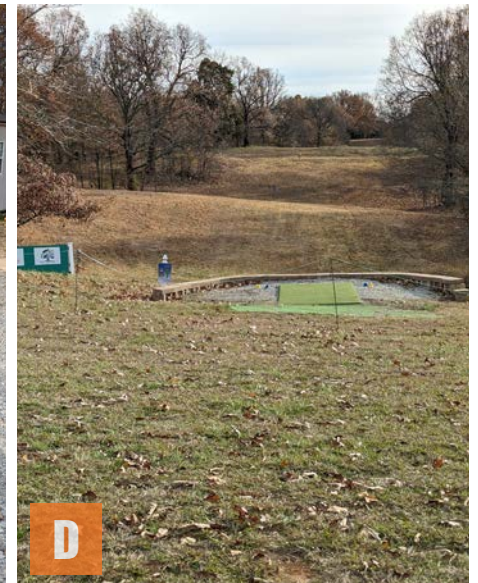
**A**



**B**



**C**



**D**





- Boundary
- - - Paved Path
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## BEATRICE PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-BS-1	Beatrice Park Trail Connection	Concrete Walk	SY	1,417	\$90	\$127,530
		Signs	EA	19	\$30	\$570
		Striping	LF	73	\$6	\$440
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-BS-1	ADA Parking	Asphalt Paving	SF	960	\$7	\$6,720
		Pavement Markings	LF	300	\$0.5	\$150
		ADA Signage	EA	4	\$250	\$1,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-BS-2	Restroom Facilities	Restroom Facility	LS	1	\$250,000	\$250,000
		Concrete Pathway to Restroom	SF	67	\$30	\$2,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-BS-3	Accessible Loop Path	Asphalt Path	LF	20,000	\$22	\$440,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

1. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.
2. SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre

A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro. Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification. In addition to the identified walkshed and access projects, each park is subject to amenity augmentation (see page 49)

# CITY WATER & LIGHT (CWL) PARK

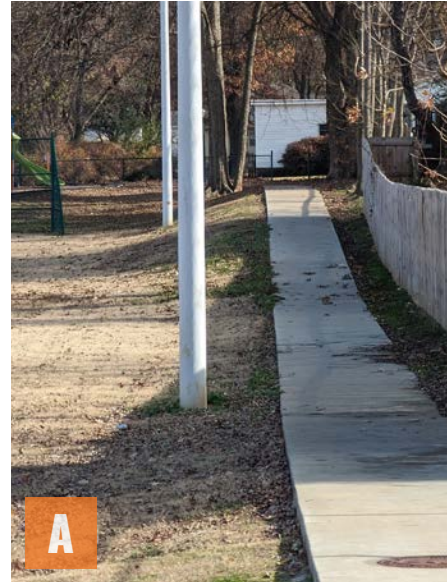
CWL Park is 2.5 acres neighborhood park located at 737 W. Cherry Avenue. The park features a playground, walking path, gazebo, fitness station, and basketball court.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

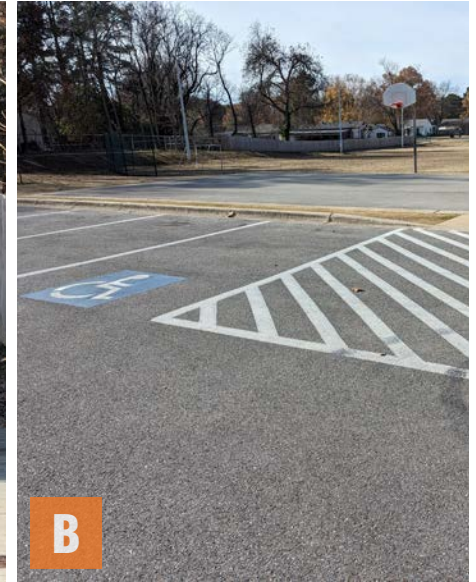
CWL Park has good connectivity to the surrounding neighborhood. Most neighborhood streets have existing sidewalks and the paths within the park connect to these pathways (A). There are crosswalk ramps on the west boundary that would benefit from ADA upgrades.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The park has good ADA parking, with one ADA stall (B), though it is missing ADA signage. The pathway along the southern border of the park has a significant decline that requires new safety railing. The pavilion is not ADA accessible (C) and does not offer accessible furniture. There are no adaptive play elements in the park and the concrete walk leading to the playground ends at the plastic barrier with no means of entry (D).



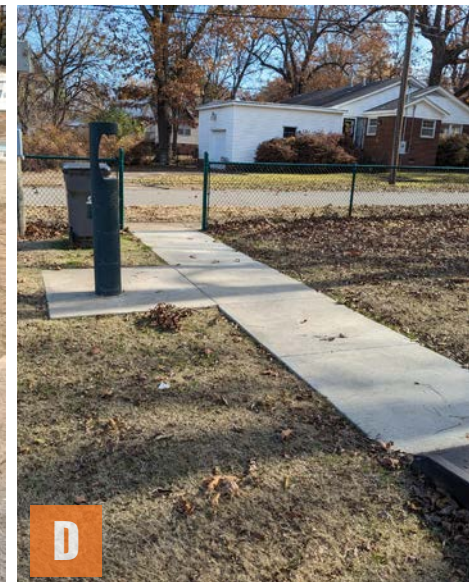
A



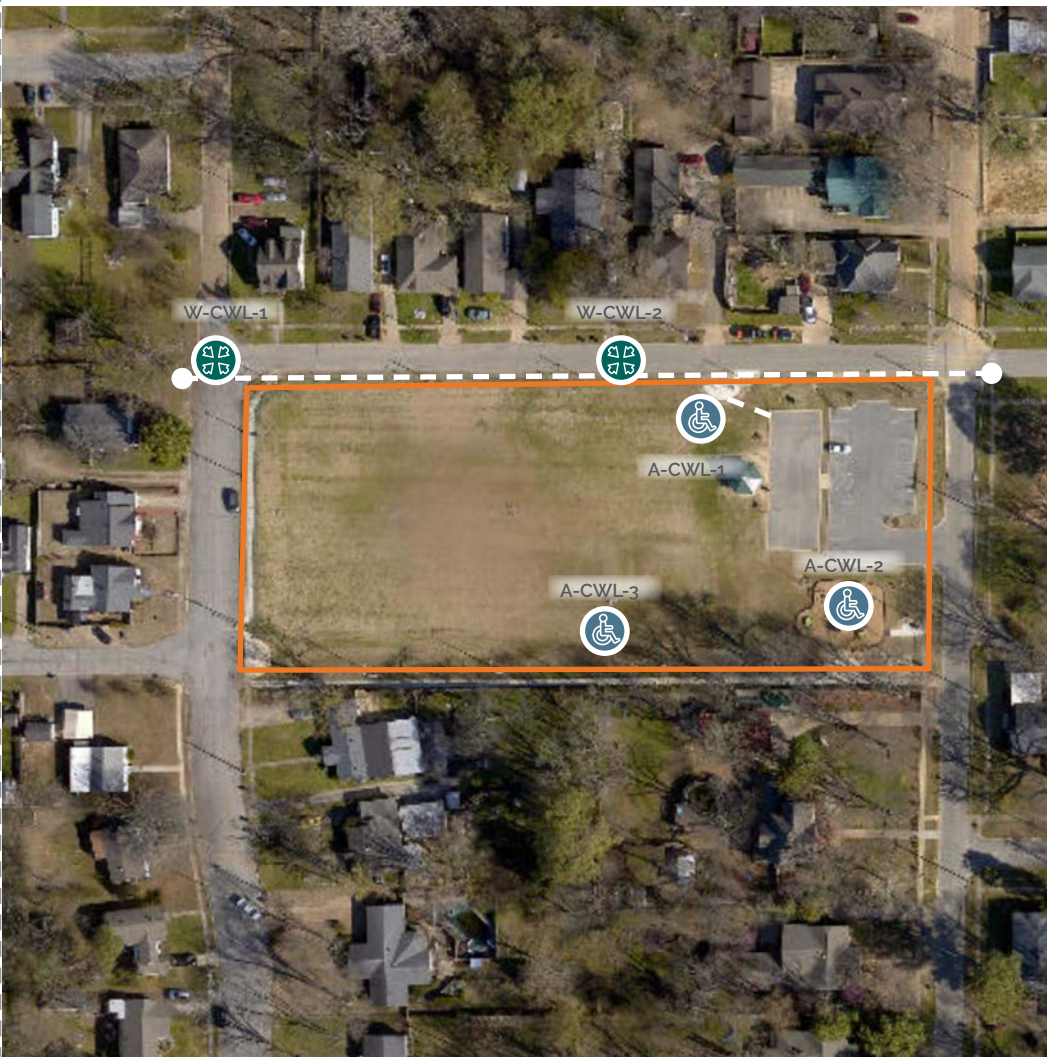
B



C



D





## CWL PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Walkshed Projects</b>						
W-CWL-1	Cherry and Oliver St Crosswalk	Signs	SF	40	\$30	\$1,200
		Striping	LF	167	\$6	\$1,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$2,970
W-CWL-2	Cherry St Sidewalk	Concrete Walk	SY	1,326	\$90	\$119,340
		Striping	LF	110	\$6	\$660
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$162,000
<b>Access Projects</b>						
W-CWL-1	Connector Path	Concrete Path	LF	50	\$42	\$2,100
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$2,835
W-CWL-2	Playground Resurface	Rubber Play Surface	SF	2,500	\$50	\$125,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$168,750
W-CWL-3	Guardrail Installation	Guardrails	LF	489	\$100	\$48,900
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$66,015

1. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.
2. SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre

A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro. Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification. In addition to the identified walkshed and access projects, each park is subject to amenity augmentation (see page 49)

- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
-  Walkshed Project
-  Access Project

# CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK

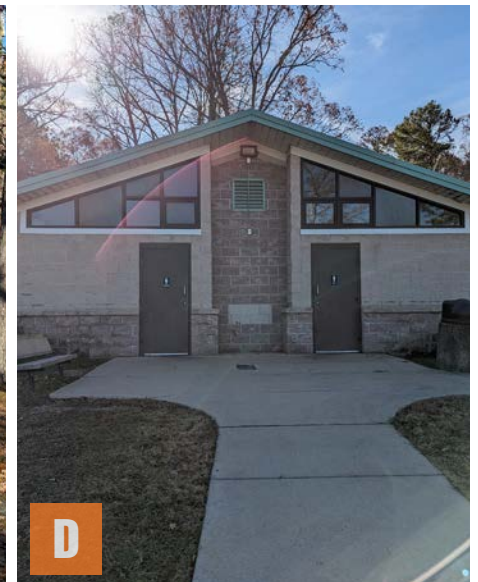
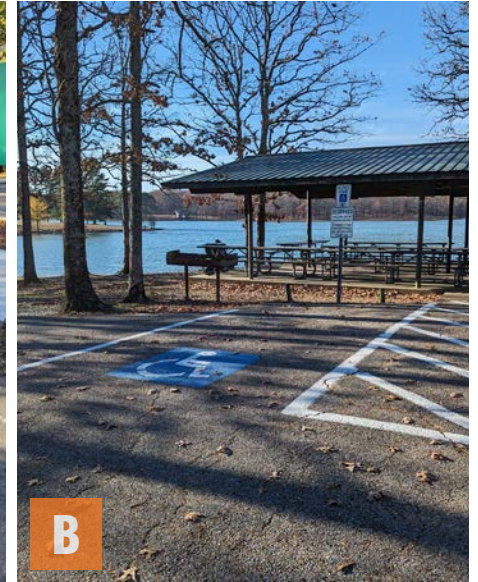
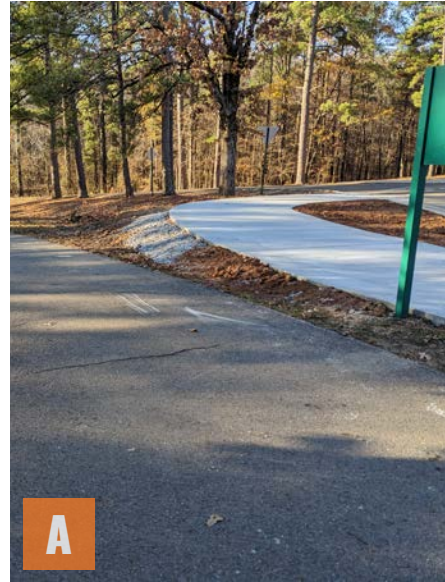
Craighead Forest Park is located at 4910 South Culberhouse Road. The park is 707 acres and features a lake (Craighead Forest Lake), a 3.1 mile shared-use trail, RV campsites, disc-golf course, pump track, mountain bike trails, playgrounds, and other amenities.

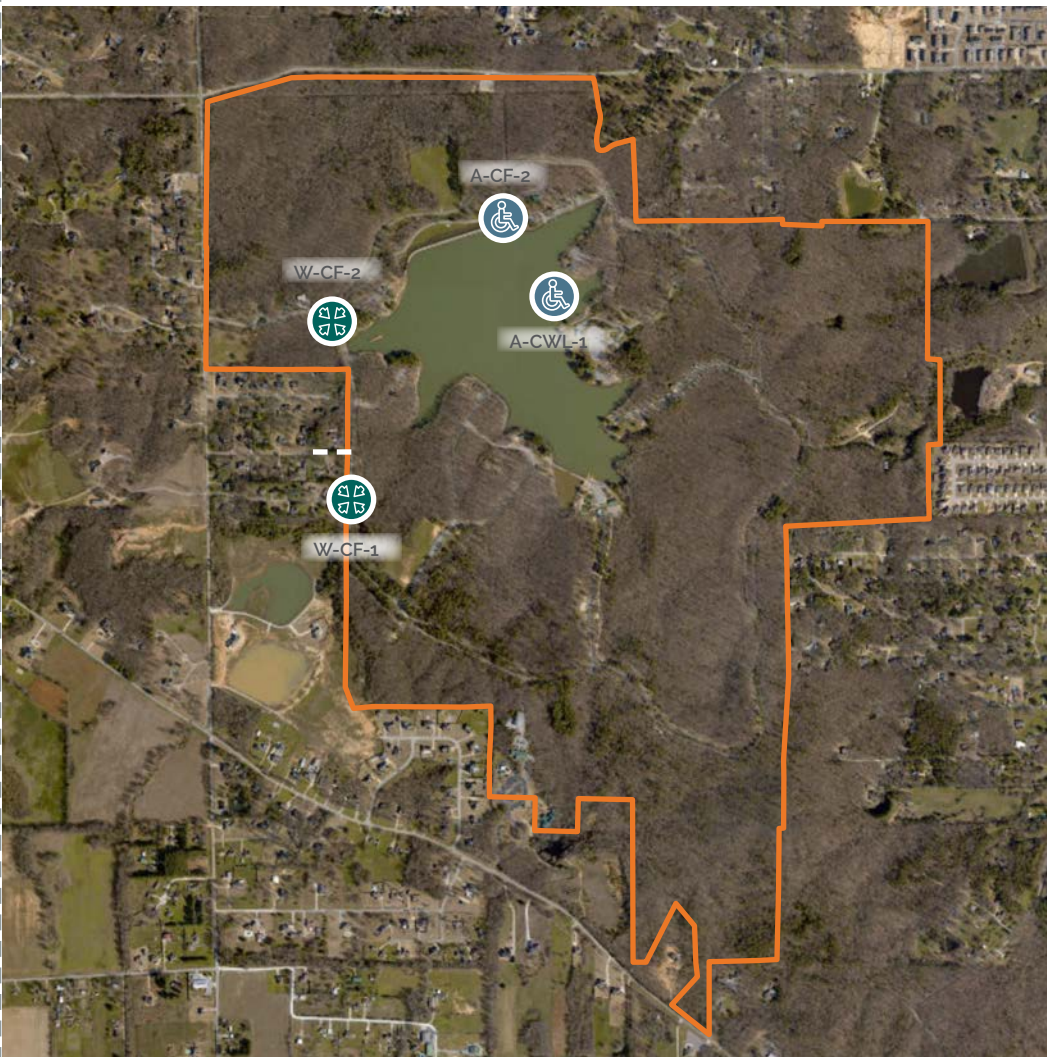
## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

Craighead Forest Park has two major entrances. The north end (Lincoln Drive) is accessible by a multi-purpose trail that connects to Park Loop trail (A). The western entrance has signs of pedestrian activity, but does not have sidewalk access at the time of this assessment. There is construction of a trail at Forest Park Road. The trails to and around the park are well maintained and ADA accessible. Better sidewalk connections along the northern portion of Forest Park Road and additional trails at access points would enhance park connectivity.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Craighead Forest Park has many ADA stalls for parking, though many lots are beginning to degrade and become less accessible (B). There are many playgrounds with good accessibility, such as Rotary Park Playground, but others that need accessibility updates (C). The Park Loop Trail provides good connectivity throughout the park, and is in good condition. The exercise stations along the trail are over the 5 percent slope and are not accessible. The restrooms are in fair condition and accessible (D). Additional lighting is needed and accessible site furnishings are needed throughout the park, with the only accessible tables located at Rotary Park.





- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## CRAIGHEAD FOREST PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-CF-1	Tannehill Dr Connector Path	Concrete Walk	SY	207	\$90	\$18,630
		Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
		Striping	LF	133	\$6	\$800
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-CF-2	Forest Park Roundabout Refit	Concrete Walk	SY	1,000	\$90	\$90,000
		Signs	SF	25	\$30	\$760
		Striping	LF	40	\$6	\$240
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-CF-1	Repave Parking Lots	Asphalt	SF	100,000	\$2	\$200,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-CF-2	Lake Access	ADA Kayak Launch	LS	1	\$100,000	\$100,000
		ADA Parking	SF	420	\$7	\$2,940
		Concrete Path	LF	100	\$42	\$4,200
		Regrade Parking	SF	2,000	\$22	\$44,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

1. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.  
 2. SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre

A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro. Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification. In addition to the identified walkshed and access projects, each park is subject to amenity augmentation (see page 49)

# FAIRVIEW PARK

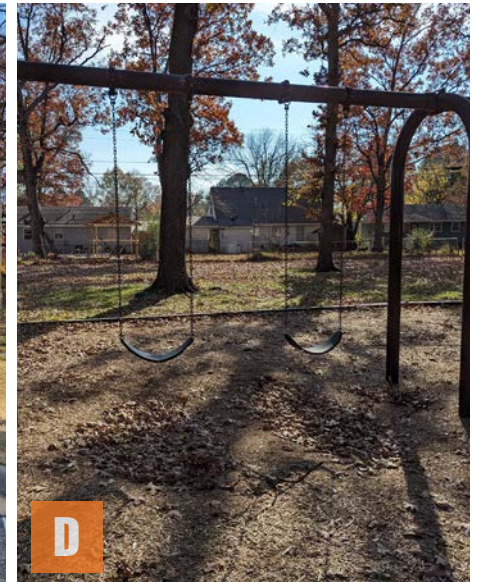
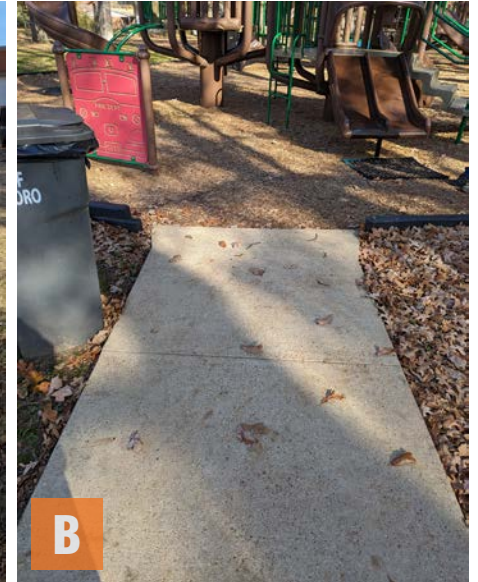
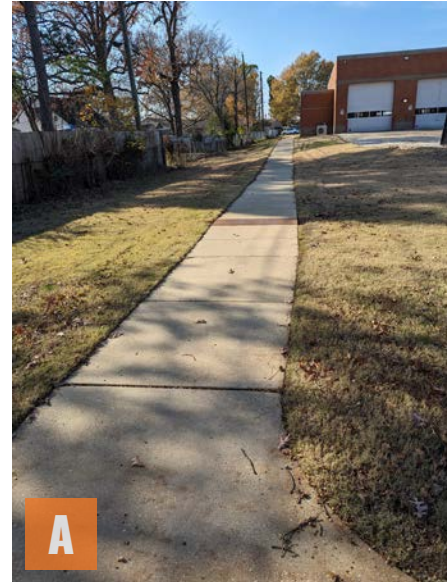
Fairview Park is a 2.5-acre park located at 2212 Brazos Street, behind Jonesboro Fire Station #3. The park features wooded areas, play equipment, and gathering spaces.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

Fairview Park is accessible by a sidewalk on Brazos Street that connects around the fire station (A). This sidewalk is in good condition and ADA accessible. The park does not currently have another direct connection to the surrounding neighborhood. Surrounding neighborhood streets have existing sidewalks, though many sections are in poor condition. New connections to the neighborhood are needed.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Fairview Park has one ADA parking stall, but there is no accompanying signage. The park has one pathway into the park, but does not connect all areas. The connection to the playground is in good condition, but ends at a mulched surface (B). The picnic tables and other site furnishings are not accessible (C) and there is no connection to the basketball court. There are no accessible or adaptive play elements and the existing play areas would benefit from a rubber surface (D).





- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## FAIRVIEW PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-FV-1	Parkside Dr Connector Path	Concrete Walk	SY	167	\$90	\$15,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$20,250
W-FV-2	Fire Station Connector Path	Concrete Walk	SY	322	\$90	\$29,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$39,150
Access Projects						
A-FV-1	Internal Connector Path	Concrete Path	LF	500	\$42	\$21,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$28,350
A-FV-2	Playground Resurface	Rubber Play Surface	SF	4,366	\$50	\$218,300
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$294,705

1. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.
2. SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre

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# JOE MACK CAMPBELL SPORTS COMPLEX / LACY PARK

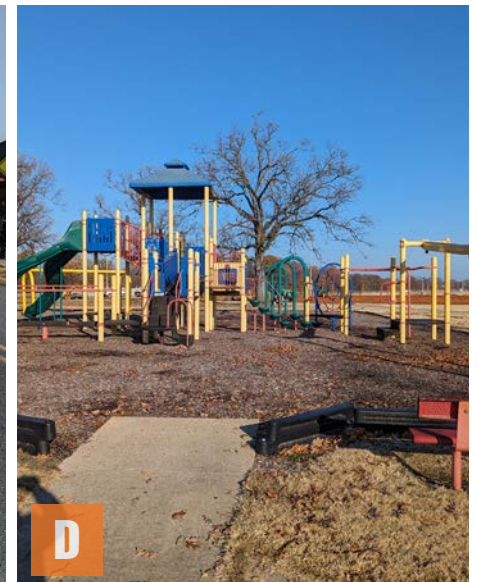
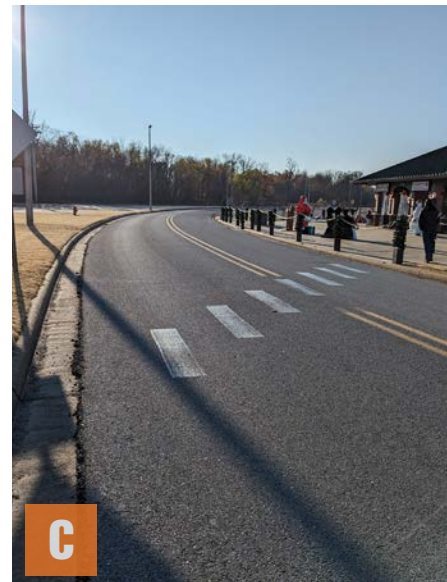
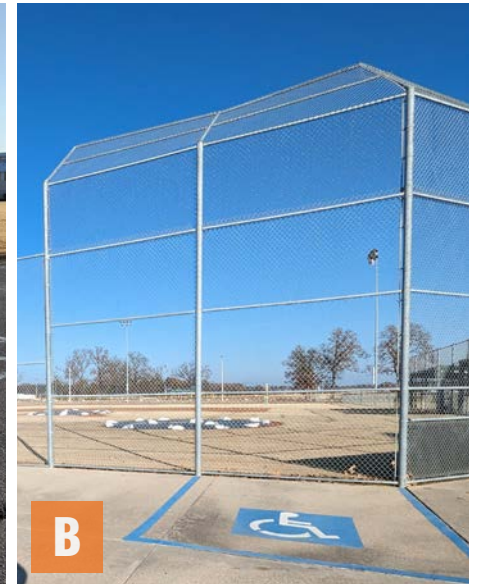
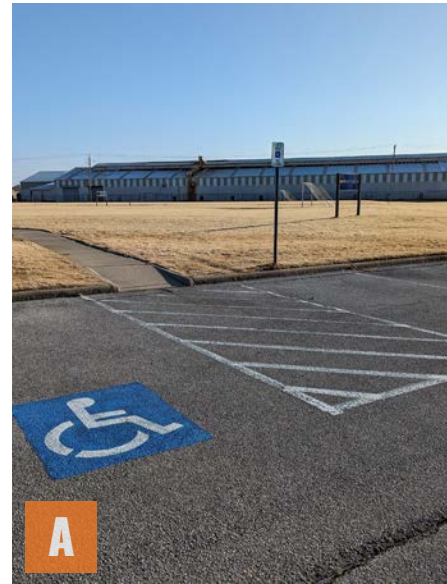
Joe Mack Campbell Sport Complex / Lacy Park is a 177.9-acre park located at 3021 Dan Avenue. The space includes baseball fields, soccer fields, tennis/pickleball courts, a playground, walking path, and additional open space for future development.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The sports complex does not have sidewalk connections to the surrounding area. There are paths within the park, but Dan Avenue creates a barrier to pedestrian access. There is potential for access to adjacent neighborhoods through additional sidewalk and trail connections. The access road within the Lacy Park (east) side of the facility is a "Complete Street" featuring sidewalks and bike lanes, but these facilities end at Dan Avenue. I-555 to the south is a major barrier.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The complex has good ADA parking (A) and signage. All parking lots are well marked and accessible. The ball fields are not accessible for play, but bleachers and viewing areas incorporate layout and design considerations for people with a disability (B). The park has marginal internal connectivity via paved pathways but lacks a comprehensive interconnected system. The crosswalks need restriped and additional crosswalks are needed (C). The complex play equipment is not designed for accessibility, with mulched play areas (D) and no adaptive play elements.







- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## JOE MACK SPORTS COMPLEX, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-JM-1	Joe Mack Connector Path	Concrete Walk	SY	1,160	\$90	\$104,400
		Bridge	SF	90	\$190	\$17,100
		ROW Acquisition	LS	1	\$16,500	\$16,500
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-JM-2	Joe Mack Crosswalk Improvements	Raised Crosswalk	EA	5	\$7,130	\$35,650
		Signs	SF	90	\$30	\$2,850
		Striping	LF	83	\$6	\$500
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-JM-3	Internal Connector	Concrete Walk	SY	2,778	\$90	\$250,000
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-JM-1	Additional Shelters	Shade Structure	EA	3	\$100,000	\$300,000
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-JM-2	Crosswalk Replacement	Curb Ramps	EA	2	\$1,000	\$2,000
		Striping	LF	60	\$1.25	\$75
		Rapid Flashing Beacon	EA	2	\$1,500	\$3,000
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

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# JONESBORO SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX

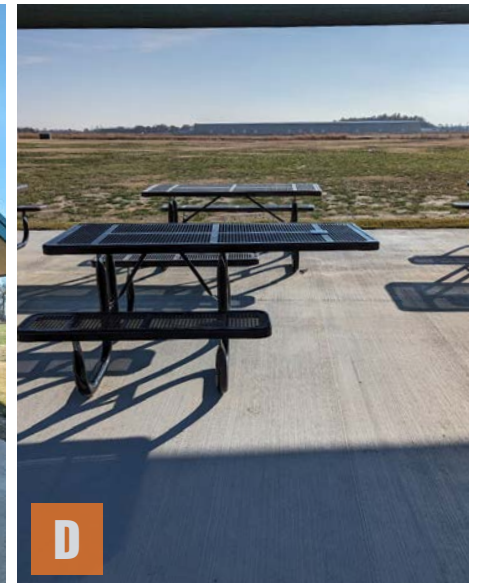
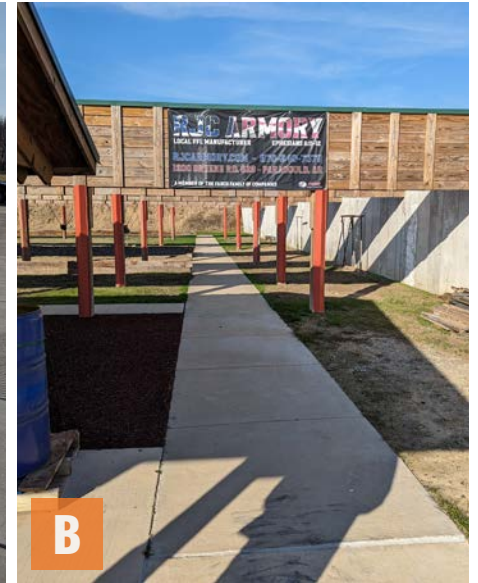
The Jonesboro Shooting Sports Complex is 209 acres and is located at 3702 Moore Road. The facility has plans for expansion with future play areas and camper parking.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

There is no existing pedestrian access within the walkshed of the complex. There is no residential land in this area and no observed demand for pedestrian access to the facility.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The parking lot has good ADA parking available and most stalls have adequate signage **(A)**. There are no existing play elements at the site. The pathways are in good condition, though there are some gaps and drop-offs in the areas around the paths **(B)**. The rifle range is accessible by wheelchair and the restroom facilities are all accessible **(C)**. There are options for picnic tables with wheelchair access **(D)**. Additional pedestrian access must be an integral part of planned park expansions - particularly in relation to planned camping facilities.





- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## SHOOTING SPORTS COMPLEX, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Access Projects						
A-SSC-1	Repave ADA Parking	Asphalt	SF	3,000	\$7	\$21,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$28,350
A-SSC-2	Additional Lighting	Light Poles	EA	10	\$7,000	\$70,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$94,500

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# JULIAN JAMES MEMORIAL PARK

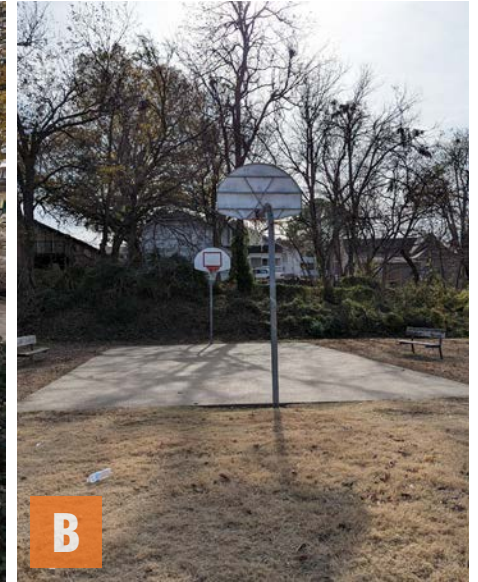
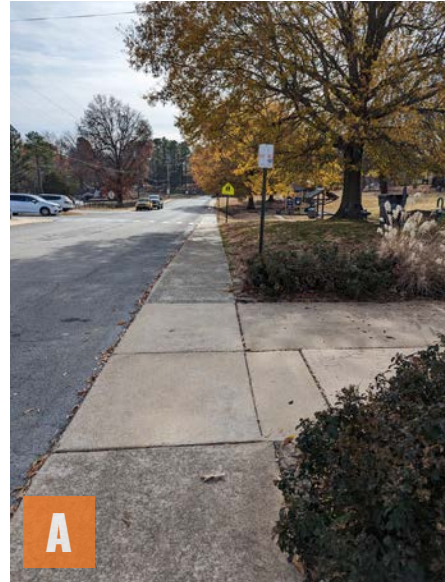
Julian James Memorial Park is 6.5 acres and located at 1212 South Church Street. The park hosts the Earl Bell Community Center, Midtown Dog Park, tennis courts, pavilions, and playgrounds.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The area surrounding Julian James Memorial Park is well served by sidewalks and crosswalks. Nettleton Avenue and Main Street have signalized intersections, allowing residents to safely cross. The sidewalk conditions in the area vary. Some are in good condition **(A)** while others are missing sections or deficient. Many sidewalks are not ADA accessible and require upgrades. Main Street and Nettleton Avenue are both high traffic, high stress roadways that may present a barrier to park access.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

ADA parking at the park is fair, but the concrete pad is cracking and a dumpster is placed on the ADA stall in the north end of the community center. There is no adaptive play equipment in the park and the basketball court does not have an accessible path **(B)**. The park has good accessible ramps **(C)**, but the ramp leading up to the community center is too long (should be less than 20 ft to landing). New sidewalk has been added, connecting parking areas to the tennis court area, but it abruptly ends without connecting to the roadway **(D)**.





- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## JULIAN JAMES MEMORIAL PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-JJ-1	Richmond Ave Sidewalk	Concrete Walk	SY	842	\$90	\$75,780
		Signs	SF	38	\$30	\$1,140
		Striping	LF	180	\$6	\$1,080
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-JJ-2	Cobb & Cherry Intersection	Concrete Walk	SY	83	\$90	\$7,500
		Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
		Striping	LF	155	\$6	\$1,930
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-JJ-1	Restripe ADA Parking	Striping	LF	100	\$4	\$400
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-JJ-2	Guardrail Installation	Guardrails	LF	92	\$100	\$9,200
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

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# L.M. STOTTS PARK

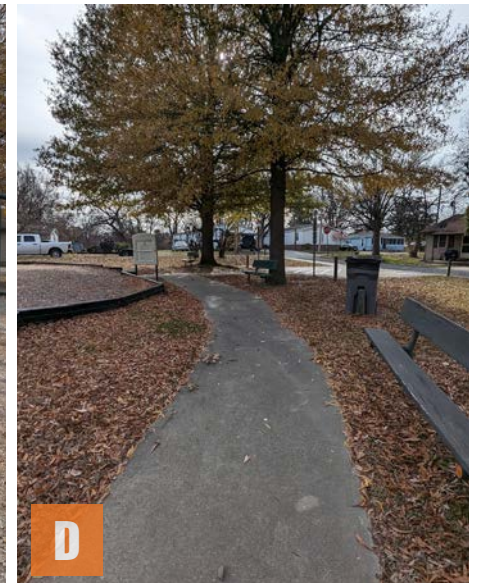
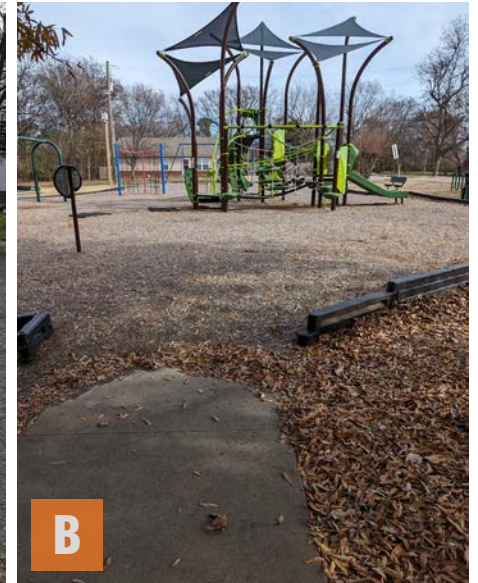
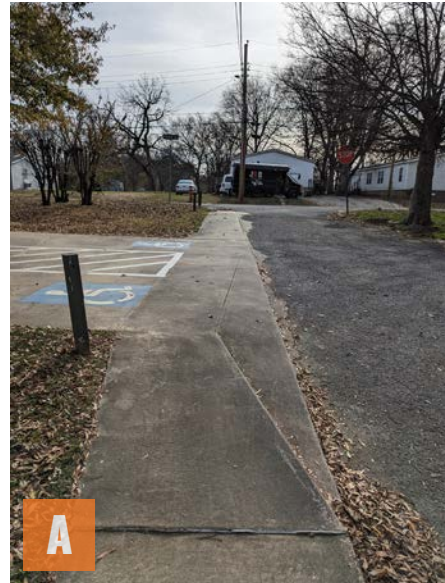
L.M. Stotts Park is 0.9 acres and located at 832 E. Hope Avenue. The park features a pavilion, playground, swing set, and basketball court.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The area around L.M. Stotts Park has intermittent sidewalk connections, with gaps or deficient sidewalks in most areas. Facilities around the park need additional ADA upgrades, though the park is generally accessible by foot (A). The railroad tracks to the north of L.M. Stotts Park creates a barrier, though it is on the edge of the walkshed.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The L.M. Stotts Park has good ADA parking, with parking areas that are in good condition, clearly marked, and employing appropriate signage. Playgrounds within the park do not include adaptive play elements and the existing play areas lack accessible entry points (B). The surface does not allow access for people in a wheelchair (C). The paths within the park are in good condition with minor surface damage (D). Access to the sports courts is sufficient and there is good connectivity around the park.





### L.M. STOTTS PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Walkshed Projects</b>						
W-LM-1	Hope Ave Sidewalks	Concrete Walk	SY	891	\$90	\$80,200
		Striping	LF	133	\$6	\$800
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$109,350
W-LM-2	Patrick St Crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	20	\$90	\$1,800
		Signs	SF	38	\$30	\$1,140
		Striping	LF	177	\$6	\$1,060
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$5,400
<b>Access Projects</b>						
A-LM-1	Playground Access Ramp	Concrete Ramp	EA	1	\$1,000	\$1,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$1,350
A-LM-2	Accessible Outdoor Tables	Accessible Table	EA	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$5,400

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- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

# MILES / PARKER PARK

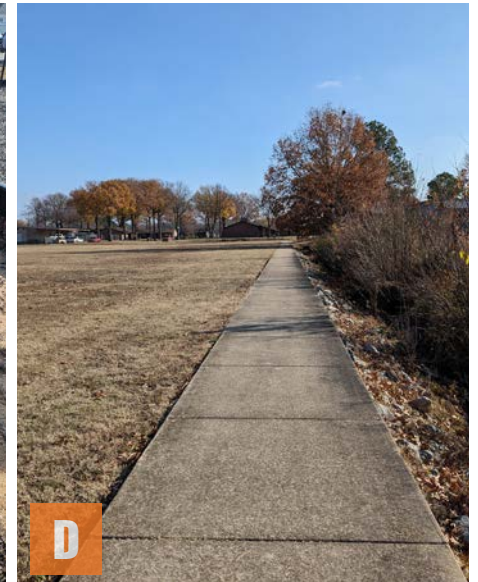
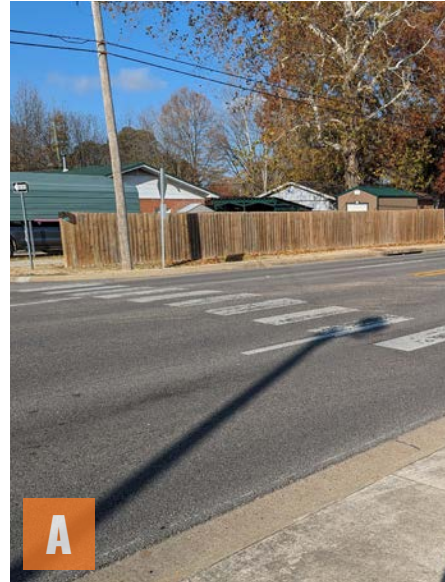
Miles/Parker Park is a 12.7-acre park located at 1506 North Church Street. This park is comprised of Miles Park and Parker Park, two parks that are adjacent to each other. It is combined into one park for Plan analysis due to the direct relationship between both spaces.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The walkshed area around Miles/Parker Park contains sidewalks along the east side of Church Street with a crosswalk at Novak Street **(A)**, though refurbishment is necessary. The walkshed has adequate sidewalk in most areas, but there are limited connections into the park. There is a bus shelter at the intersection of Novak Street and Church Street **(B)**, though it is in a deteriorated condition.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

There is good ADA parking and signage at each parking lot within Miles/Parker Park. All ramps meet ADA standards and are in good condition. Access to playgrounds is limited **(C)** and there are no adaptive play elements present, other than the splash pad, which is in good condition. The pathways within the park are well connected and free of obstructions **(D)**. The athletic fields are not accessible and in need of updates. The park has accessible benches and picnic tables and adequate site lighting.







- Boundary
- — Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
-  Walkshed Project
-  Access Project

## MILES / PARKER PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-MP-1	Warren St Sidewalks	Concrete Walk	SY	1,560	\$90	\$140,400
		Striping	LF	267	\$6	\$1,600
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$191,700
W-MP-2	Roseclair Street Connector	Concrete Walk	SY	122	\$90	\$11,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$14,850
Access Projects						
A-MP-1	Guardrail Installation	Guardrails	LF	1,000	\$100	\$100,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$135,000
A-MP-2	Playground Resurface	Rubber Play Surface	SF	1,019	\$50	\$50,950
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$68,783

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# MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK

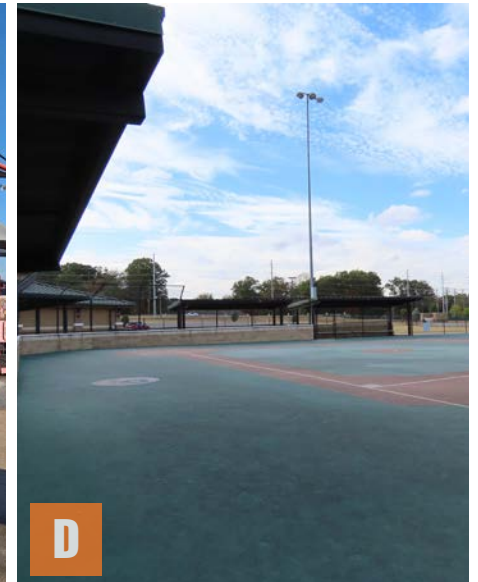
Miracle League Park is an 8.8-acre park located at 500 South Caraway Road. The park is an all-accessible facility, built to remove barriers that keep children with mental and physical disabilities from playing on a traditional playground or ball field. The park has adaptive playgrounds, swings, pavilions, and a baseball field.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

Miracle League Park is connected to the Jonesboro Human Development Center to the north **(A)**. The path is in good condition and ADA compliant. Outside of this path, there is a lack of pedestrian connectivity to the Southside Softball Complex or along Caraway Road. Caraway Road creates a barrier to the neighborhoods to the west, with no sidewalk access to crosswalks along the corridor. Connectivity between Miracle League Park and the Southside Softball Complex should be prioritized.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Miracle League Park is the most accessible park in the Jonesboro parks and recreation system. There is ample ADA parking, though there are not enough aisles for accessible entry/exit to vehicles **(B)**. All ramps and site amenities are accessible. The play equipment is tailored to people in wheelchairs and include various adaptive play elements **(C)**. The ball field is accessible and specifically built for wheelchair access **(D)**. The site is well lit and site furnishings are accessible for people in a wheelchair.





## MIRACLE LEAGUE PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
<b>Walkshed Projects</b>						
W-ML-3	Interpark Connector	Concrete Walk	SY	1,056	\$90	\$95,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$128,250
<b>Access Projects</b>						
A-ML-1	Restripe ADA Parking	Striping	LF	500	\$4	\$2,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$2,700
A-ML-2	Guardrail Installation	Guardrails	LF	100	\$100	\$10,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$13,500

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# NETTLETON COMMUNITY CENTER / OPTIMIST PARK

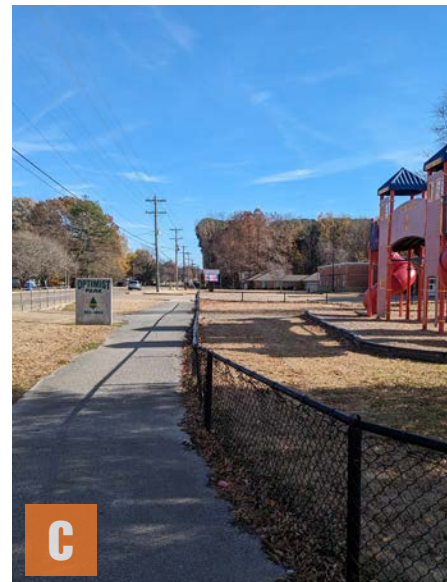
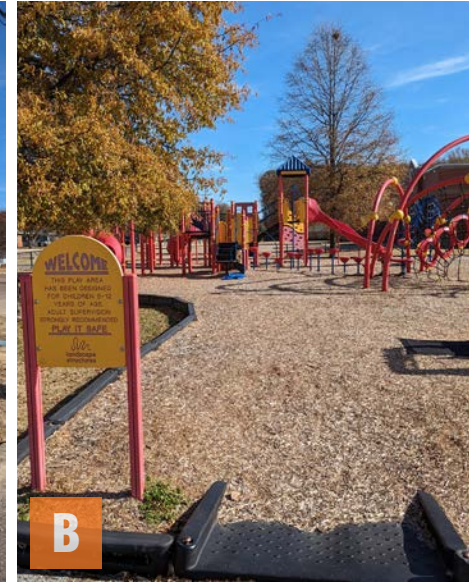
Nettleton Community Center/Optimist Park is a 6.2-acre park located at 1421 West Nettleton Avenue. For purposes of this Plan, the park is a combination of the park grounds around the Nettleton Community Center and adjoining Optimist Park.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The park has good sidewalk connectivity to the surrounding neighborhoods. The existing sidewalk and bus stop along Nettleton Avenue **(A)** provides access to the park and pool. The sidewalks within the surrounding neighborhoods are relatively abundant, in good condition, and generally ADA accessible. The sidewalk along Nettleton Avenue lacks a buffer between pedestrians and motorists, which may be a concern for many users, and there is no dedicated pedestrian crossing of Nettleton Avenue serving residents north of the park.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The park has good overall ADA accessibility. The parking stalls and ADA signage at the property are ample and well maintained. The park does not have many adaptive play elements, and the mulch at the playgrounds is restrictive **(B)**. The park pathways are overall in good condition **(C)**, but will soon need to be resurfaced. The furnishings at the park are not accessible and the accessible swings are difficult to access for anyone using a wheelchair **(D)**.





- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## NETTLETON / OPTIMIST PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-OP-1	Netleton Ave Crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	43	\$90	\$3,830
		Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
		Striping	LF	100	\$6	\$600
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-OP-2	College Ave Connector	Concrete Walk	SY	556	\$90	\$50,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-OP-3	Hester St Crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	43	\$90	\$3,830
		Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570
		Striping	LF	100	\$6	\$600
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-OP-1	Connector Path	Concrete Path	LF	500	\$42	\$21,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-OP-2	ADA Ramps	Concrete Ramps	EA	2	\$1,000	\$2,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

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# NORTHSIDE / CREWS PARK

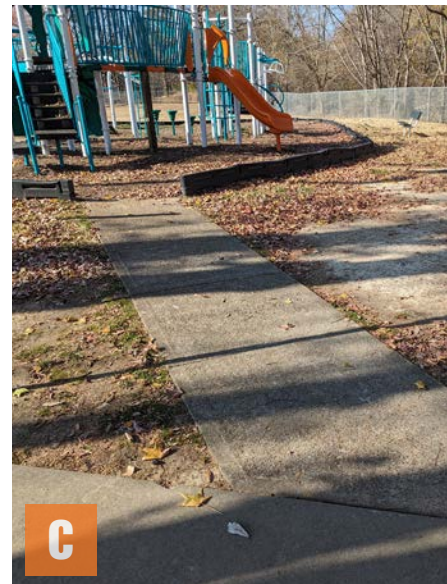
Northside/Crews Park is 51.5 acres and located at 502 North Bridge Street. For this analysis, the park is the combination of Northside Ball Park, Crews Park, and University Heights Lions Club Park, all of which are adjacent to one another.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The park has limited sidewalk access. The new sidewalk constructed along Patrick Street connects the park to the apartments to the north, but there is no access to the south or west. Lost Creek to the west creates a barrier to residents west of the park.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Northside / Crews Park has limited ADA accessibility. The parking lot paint has faded away and none of the ADA stalls have corresponding signage. Asphalt and concrete paths are unmaintained and overgrown **(A)** or have debris or other obstacles reducing access **(B)**. The athletic fields are not accessible and in need of maintenance. The site has no adaptive play elements and existing play surfacing is inaccessible for people in a wheelchair **(C)**. Other site furniture and amenities, such as benches, bleachers, and picnic tables are not accessible **(D)**.



Northside / Crews Park has been identified as an Accelerator Park. The conceptual redesign can be viewed on [page 97](#).



- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Ⓜ Walkshed Project
- ♿ Access Project

## NORTHSIDE / CREWS PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS<sup>1</sup>

ID <sup>2</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>3</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost	
Walkshed Projects							
W-NC-1	Belt St Sidewalk	Concrete Walk	SY	1,527	\$90	\$137,414	
		Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570	
		Striping	LF	336	\$6	\$2,016	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$189,000
W-NC-2	Patrick St Crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	44	\$90	\$3,960	
		Striping	LF	173	\$6	\$1,040	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$6,750
		Access Projects					
A-NC-1	Replace Paths	Asphalt Path	LF	600	\$22	\$13,200	
		Concrete Path	LF	400	\$42	\$16,800	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$28,500
A-NC-2	Playground Resurface	Rubber Play Surface	SF	2,106	\$50	\$105,300	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$142,155

1. Exclusive of full-scale redesign as an Accelerator Park (pg. 97).
2. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.
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# PHILLIP EVANS COMMUNITY PARK

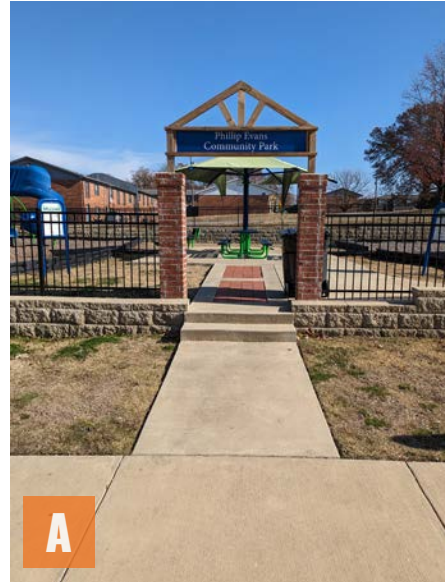
Phillip Evans Community Park is a 0.2-acre pocket park located at 207 State Street. This park provides a playground and gathering area.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

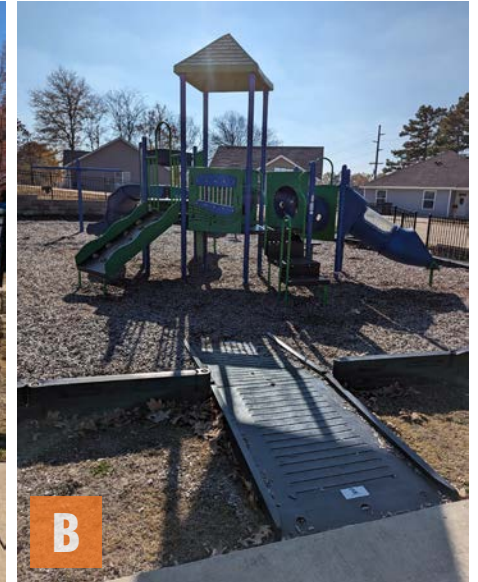
There is limited sidewalk in the area around the park. There is park access along Johnson Avenue, but there is a gap in the sidewalk between Johnson Avenue and the park. Sidewalks around the perimeter of the park **(A)** are in good condition and are ADA compliant.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

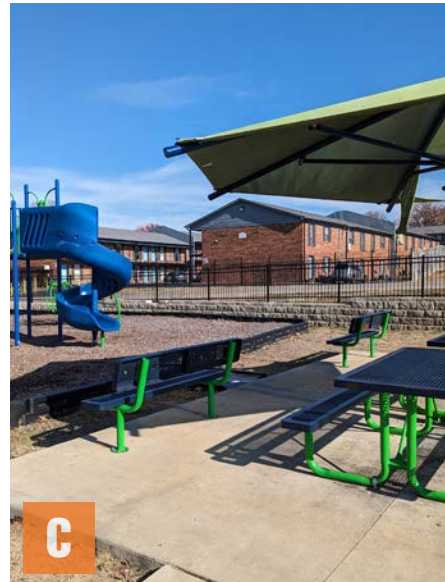
The park has good access internally, though there are small gaps and drop-offs along the pathways that may be a concern. The play equipment has a ramp from the paved pathway **(B)**, but the playground surfacing is mulched. Site amenities are in good condition and furnishing is inclusive for people in a wheelchair **(C)**. The accessible swing is surrounded by mulch, making it less accessible **(D)**.



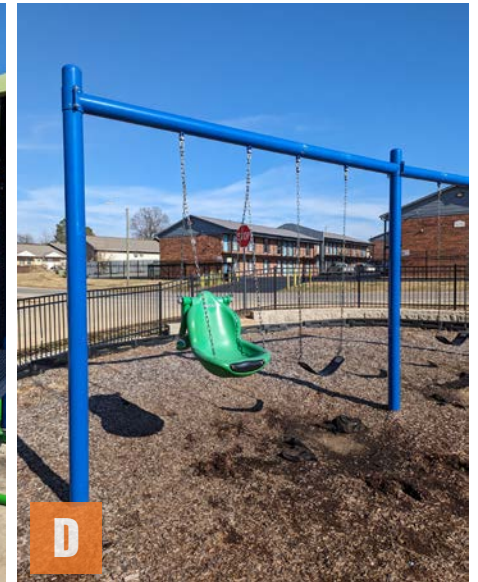
**A**



**B**

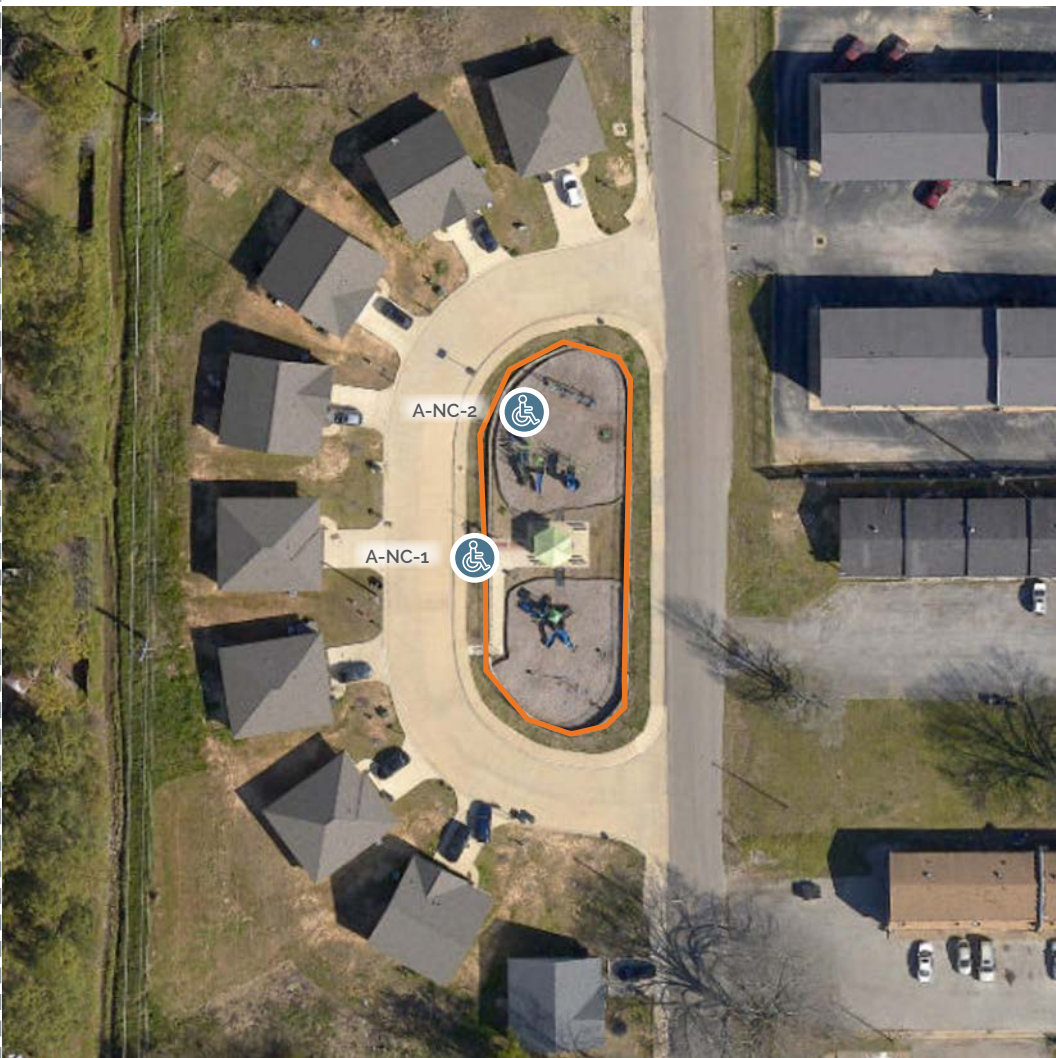


**C**



**D**





- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## PHILLIP EVANS PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Access Projects						
A-PE-1	Regrade Walkways	Concrete Path	LF	200	\$42	\$8,400
		Brick Pavers	LF	40	\$10	\$400
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$11,880
A-PE-2	Playground Resurface	Rubber Play Surface	SF	5,808	\$50	\$290,400
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$392,040

1. Project ID corresponds to project locations on the map and projects on files with the City of Jonesboro.
2. SF: square feet; SY: square yard; EA: each; LS: lump sum; LF: linear foot; AC: acre

A complete list of projects is on file with the City of Jonesboro. Costs are for order of magnitude estimating purposes only and are subject to refinement and verification. In addition to the identified walkshed and access projects, each park is subject to amenity augmentation (see page 49)

# RALPH “POP” STRICKLIN PARK

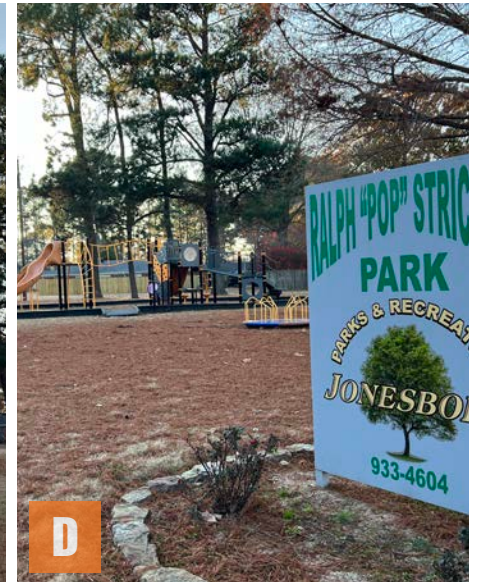
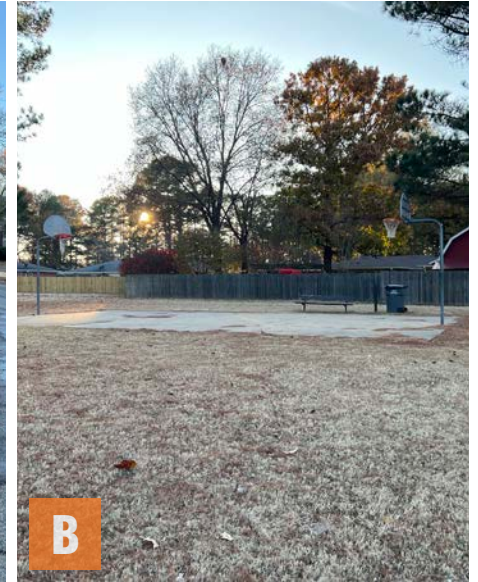
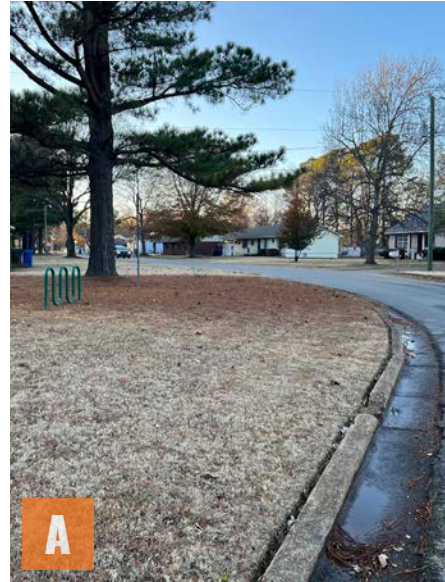
Ralph “Pop” Stricklin Park is a 0.4-acre pocket park located at 1220 Medallion Circle. The park features a basketball court, playground, and pavilion on a wooded site.

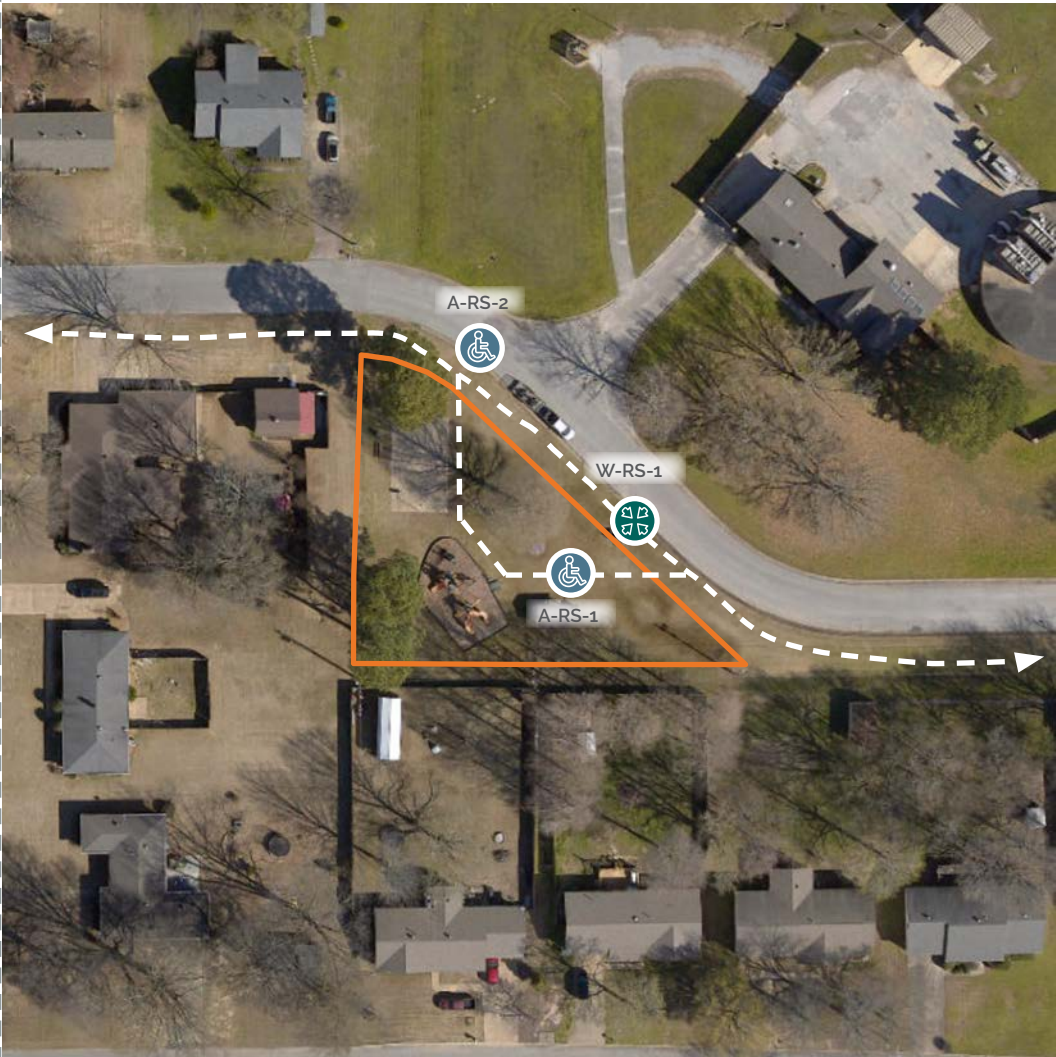
## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

There is not currently any pedestrian infrastructure in the surrounding neighborhood. The park does not have sidewalk (A) connections or accessible parking.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The park does not include any pathways or equipment (B). The play equipment does not include adaptive play elements (C) and the site furnishing do not accommodate wheelchair use (D).





- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## RALPH “POP” STRICKLIN PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-RS-1	Medallion Cir Sidewalks	Concrete Walk	SY	1,056	\$90	\$95,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$128,250
Access Projects						
A-RS-1	Internal Pathways	Concrete Path	LF	250	\$42	\$10,500
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$14,175
A-RS-2	ADA Parking	ADA Striping	LF	50	\$10	\$500
		Asphalt Paving	SF	520	\$22	\$11,440
		ADA Parking Sign	EA	2	\$200	\$400
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$16,669

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# REVEREND LEWELLEN PARK

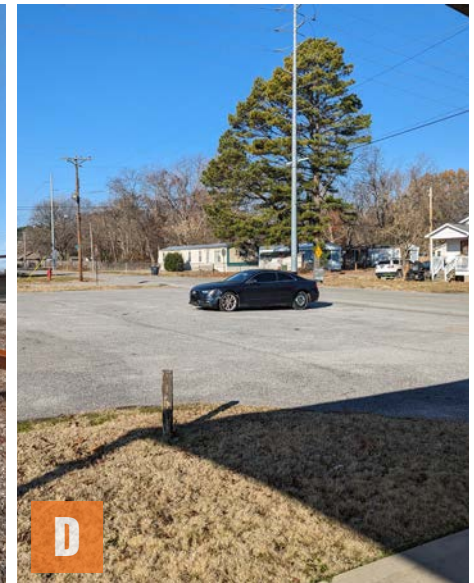
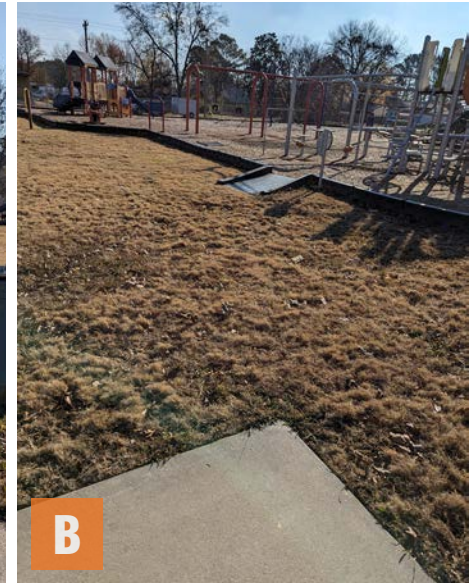
Reverend Lewellen Park is a 0.6-acre pocket park located at 102 West Allen Avenue. The park has a basketball court, pavilion, and large structured play area.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

Reverend Lewellen Park is well connected to the surrounding community by sidewalks. There is access along the north and east sides of the perimeter of the park (A). Main Street is a high traffic road with no safe crossing. While the park has sidewalks, much of the surrounding area is not ADA accessible or comfortable to use.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The park has good ADA parking options, with two ADA accessible stalls and good striping and signage. The playground is not connected to any paved path (B) and is mulched. The play equipment does not include adaptive play elements (C). Park pathways are well maintained and free of obstructions. Connectivity to the park from the parking lot is adequate, but a large uncontrolled drive into the lot is hazardous for pedestrians (D). Site furnishings are ADA accessible and in good condition.





- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## REVEREND LEWELLEN PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Access Projects						
A-RL-2	Playground Ramp Connection	Concrete Path	LF	20	\$42	\$840
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-RL-2	Adaptive Play Equipment	Musical Play Station	EA	1	\$5,000	\$5,000
		Tactile Board	EA	2	\$6,250	\$12,500
		Elevated Sand Pit	EA	1	\$3,000	\$3,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

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# ROTARY CLUB OF JONESBORO CENTENNIAL PLAZA

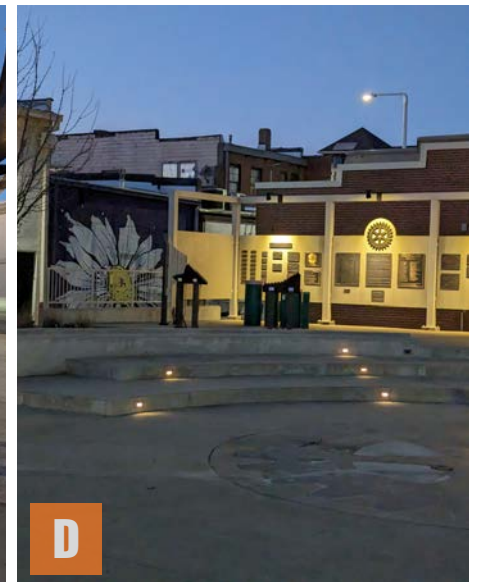
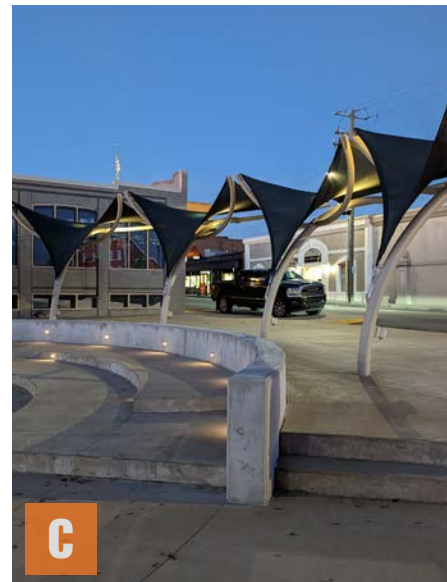
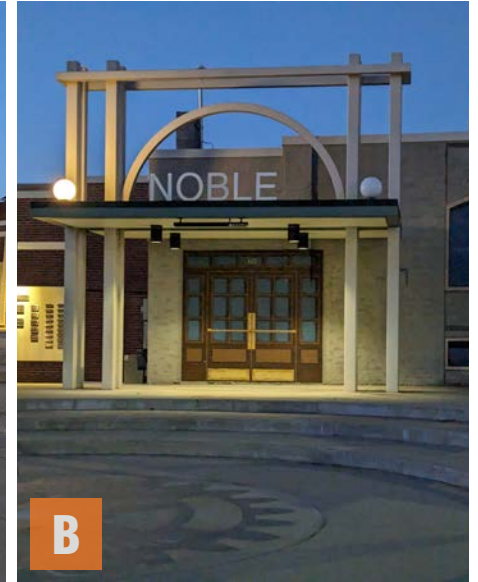
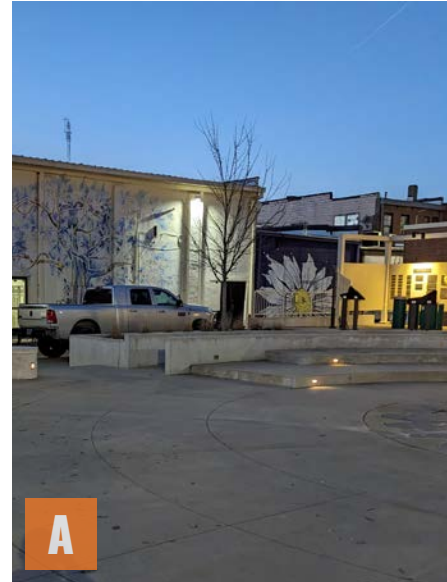
Rotary Club of Jonesboro Centennial Plaza is a 0.2-acre civic space located at 327 South Church Street in downtown Jonesboro. The space features play areas, gathering spaces, and murals.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The Centennial Plaza walkshed covers most of downtown Jonesboro. The area had ample sidewalk coverage and the sidewalk is in good condition. There is close trail access to the Turtle Creek Track and bus stops nearby.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Centennial Plaza does not have ADA parking available on the site. ADA parking at The Forum is close, but not accessible due to the fire hydrant placement. The site has instrumental play equipment **(A)** though it is in need of minor repairs. The pavement on site is in good condition **(B)** and the shade sails provide relief from the sun **(C)**. Site lighting, both overhead and in-ground are in good condition **(D)**.





## CENTENNIAL PLAZA, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Access Projects						
A-CP-1	On-street ADA Parking	Concrete Paving	SF	142	\$42	\$5,964
		ADA Parking Sign	EA	1	\$400	\$400
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$8,592

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- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

# SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX

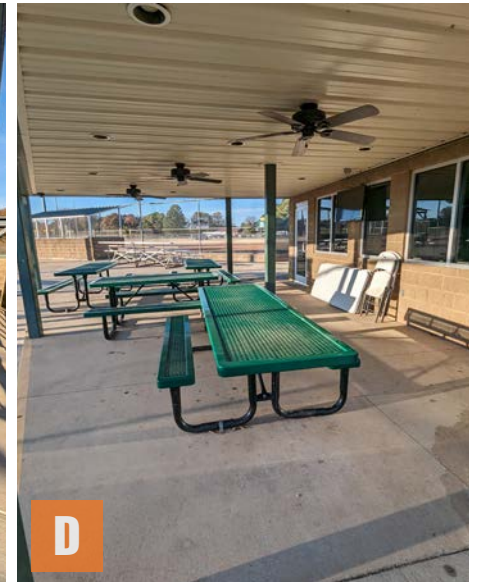
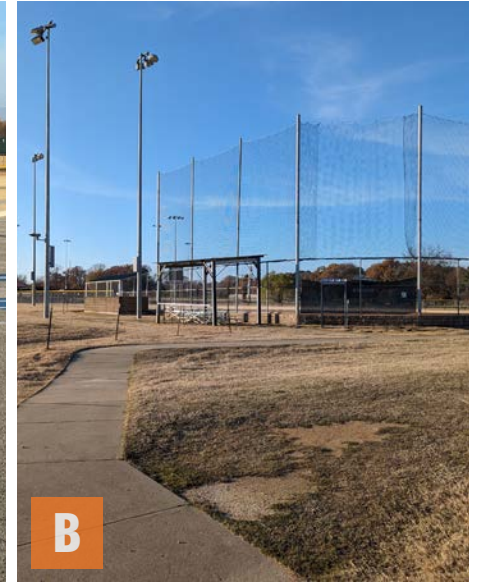
The Southside Softball Complex is a 53.6-acre park located at 5003 South Stadium Boulevard. The facility is composed of 10 fields used for softball tournaments and practice.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The Southside Softball Complex lacks connectivity to surrounding residential areas. The development center to the north connects to Miracle League, but no pedestrian connection to the Softball Complex exists. Connectivity between parks is lacking and Stadium Boulevard does not have any sidewalks or crosswalks present.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The complex has good ADA parking **(A)**, some signage, and is access from the parking lot to the fields, though there are not aisles available to enter/exit vehicles. The complex does not include adaptive play elements and the fields are not accessible. Pathways within the facility are in good condition **(B)** and ramps are all accessible and ADA compliant **(C)**. Furniture at the site is in good condition and there are wheelchair accessible tables available **(D)**.







- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## SOUTHSIDE SOFTBALL COMPLEX, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-ML-1	Summer Place Connector	Concrete Walk	SY	1,056	\$90	\$25,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
W-ML-2	Southside Sidewalk	Concrete Walk	SY	1,215	\$90	\$109,350
		Signs	SF	38	\$30	\$1,140
		Striping	LF	85	\$6	\$510
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-SSC-1	Remeasure ADA Parking	Striping	LF	400	\$4	\$1,600
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-SSC-2	ADA Ramps	Detect. Warning Strips	EA	4	\$300	\$1,200
		Concrete Paving	SF	120	\$42	\$5,040
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

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# STALLINGS PARK (BIG)

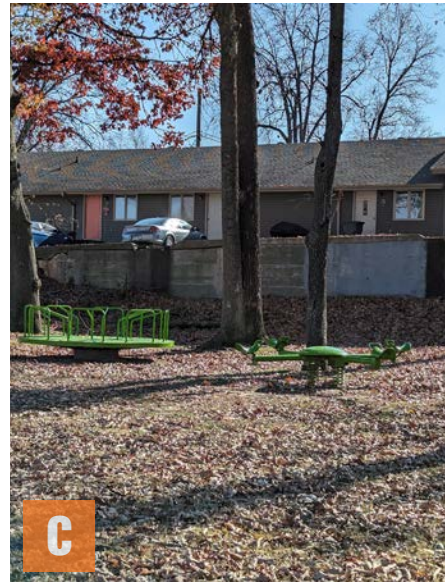
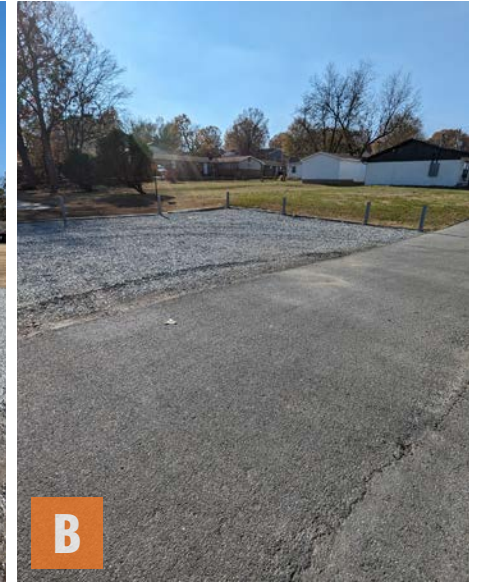
Stallings Park (Big) is the larger of two parks of the same name. The park is 2.3-acres and located at 2806 East Matthews Avenue. The park has soccer fields, a basketball court, and play equipment.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The larger Stallings Park has direct access to Turtle Creek Track trail (A), but there is limited sidewalk connections in the surrounding neighborhoods. There is no marked or signalized crossing along Matthews Avenue and the businesses to the north have large, uncontrolled driveways.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Stallings Park is served by a single gravel parking lot that does not include ADA parking stalls (B). While a multi-use trail passes to the north, there is no connection into the park or to park amenities. The park does not have any adaptive or inclusive play elements, and existing elements are aging and do not provide safe fall areas (C). The fields are in good condition but do not have accessible viewing or play areas (D).





- Boundary
- Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## STALLINGS PARK (BIG), PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost	
Walkshed Projects							
W-SP-1	Matthews Ave Crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	43	\$90	\$3,830	
		Signs	SF	19	\$30	\$570	
		Striping	LF	100	\$6	\$600	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$6,750
W-SP-2	Stalling Lane Sidewalk	Concrete Walk	SY	1,733	\$90	\$156,000	
		Striping	LF	167	\$6	\$1,000	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$211,950
		Access Projects					
A-SPB-1	Accessible Pathways	Concrete Path	SF	200	\$42	\$8,400	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$11,340
A-SPB-2	Accessible Furniture	Concrete Paving	SF	200	\$42	\$4,200	
		Extended Table	EA	2	\$2,000	\$4,000	
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)					\$11,070

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# STALLINGS PARK (SMALL)

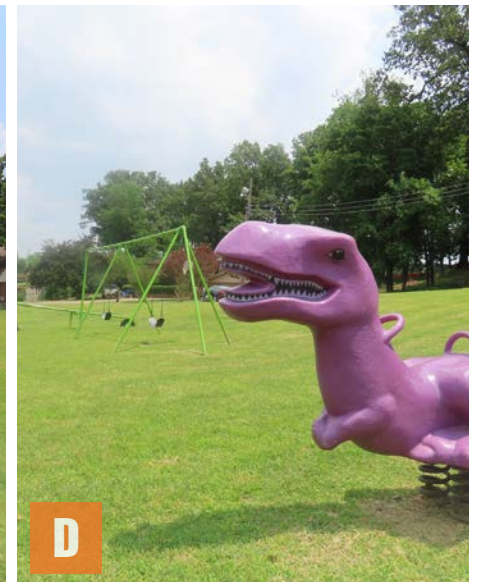
Stallings Park (Small) is the smaller of the two parks with the same name. This park is 0.6 acres and located at 2908 Bernice Circle, behind the Discovery Island Learning Center.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

There is no pedestrian infrastructure connecting the park to the surrounding neighborhood or businesses. The Turtle Creek Track trail is to the north, but does not directly connect to the park.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The site has no ADA accessible amenities or facilities. The field does not have accessible pathways and there is no connection between amenities (A) (B). There are no adaptive or inclusive play elements (C) and play element are not accessible by the road (D).





- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- Walkshed Project
- Access Project

## STALLINGS PARK (SMALL), PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Access Projects						
A-SPS-1	Accessible Pathways	Concrete Path	SF	120	\$42	\$5,040
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$6,804
A-SPS-2	ADA Parking	Striping	EA	10	\$7.50	\$75
		Wheel Stops	EA	10	\$100	\$1,000
		Asphalt Paving	SF	500	\$22	\$11,000
		Concrete Paving	SF	162	\$42	\$6,804
		ADA Parking Sign	EA	1	\$400	\$400
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$26,027

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# UNION PARK

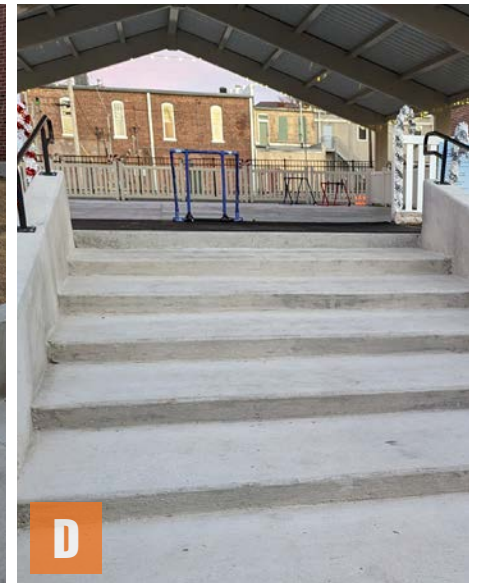
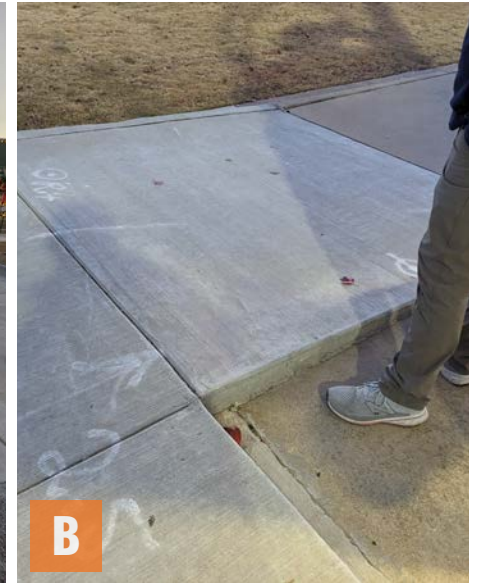
Union Park is a 0.2-acre civic space located at 402 Union Street in downtown Jonesboro. The park had recently undergone a renovation at the time of this assessment.

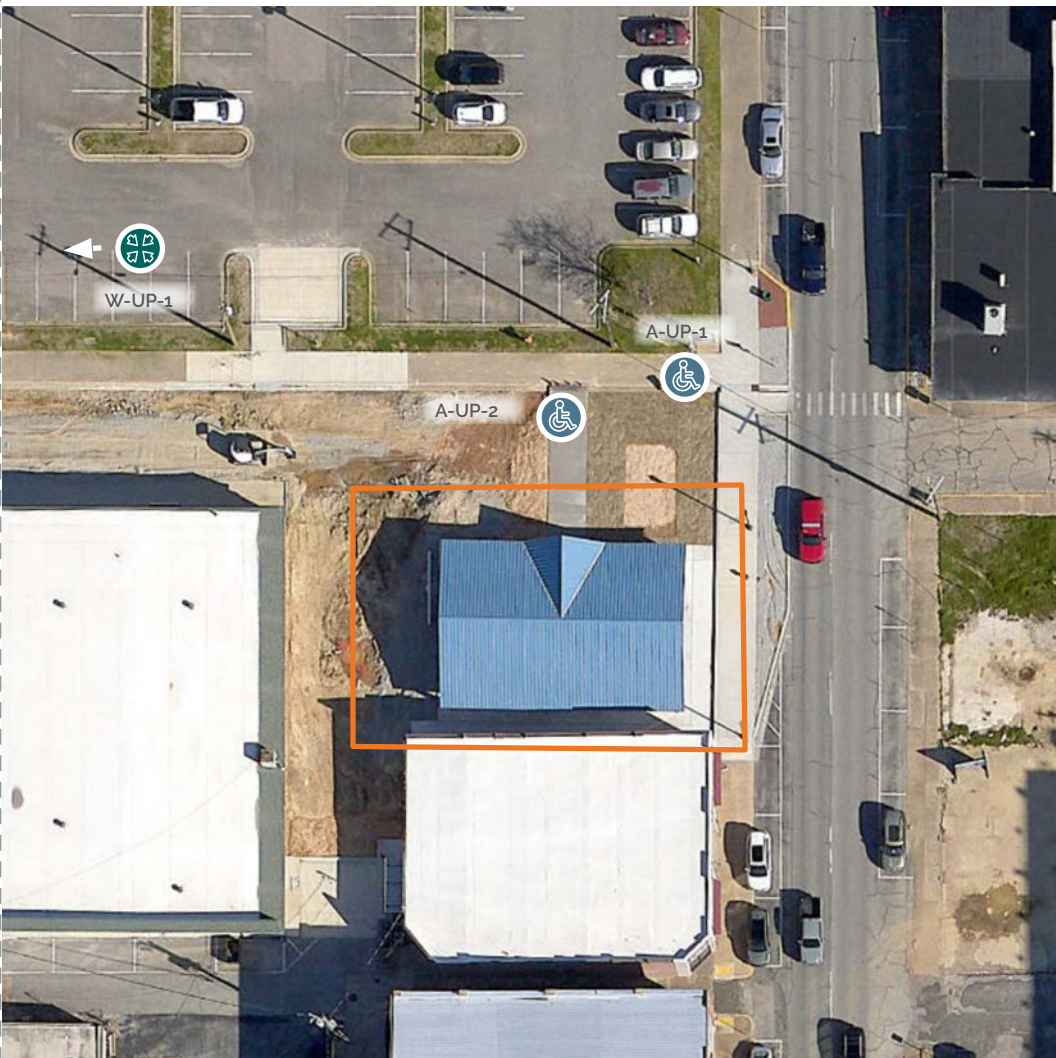
## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The Union Park walkshed covers most of downtown Jonesboro. The area had ample sidewalk coverage and the sidewalk is in good condition. There is close trail access to the Turtle Creek Track and bus stops nearby.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

Continued work at Union Park is needed. The ADA parking is missing striping **(A)** but the updates have otherwise brought the park into great ADA compliance. The pathways, ramps and access points are accessible and in great condition, though there is one location with a ramp above a 5 percent grade **(B)**. The new staircase has the appropriate handrails **(C)**, All areas of the park are well lit and the new pavilion provides a good gathering area **(D)**.





## UNION PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-UP-1	Madison & Monroe Crosswalk	Striping	LF	333	\$6	\$2,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$2,700
Access Projects						
A-UP-1	Regrade Walkway	Concrete Path	SF	100	\$42	\$4,200
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$5,670
A-UP-2	Install Guardrails	Guardrails	LF	40	\$100	\$4,000
		Total project cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				\$5,400

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# WILLIAM EVANS MEMORIAL PARK

William Evans Memorial Park is a 1.6-acre park located at 1005 Logan Avenue. The park is home to the E. Boone Watson Community Center and has basketball courts, a pavilion, and structured playground area.

## WALKSHED ASSESSMENT

The park is accessible by existing sidewalks to the north, and west sides. The sidewalk is in good shape in most locations, but the areas along Logan Avenue is in need of repair **(A)**. Most sidewalks are ADA accessible and access to Matthews Avenue is sufficient. Matthews Avenue has marked crosswalks, but crosswalk upgrades may be needed.

## ACCESSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

The parking lot includes ADA stalls, but wheel stops are needed and pavement striping is starting to fade, though the signage is in good condition. The parking lot overflows into the basketball courts, causing potential conflict points for pedestrians **(B)**. Park pathways are in fair condition, but slope too much near amenities **(C)**. The playground does not include adaptive play elements and the area around the connection to the pathway requires regrading to avoid steep drop-offs **(D)**. Site furnishings do not include areas for people in a wheelchair and site lighting could be expanded.







- Boundary
- - Paved Path (Concrete and/or Asphalt)
- ⊕ Walkshed Project
- ♿ Access Project

## WILLIAM EVANS MEMORIAL PARK, PRIORITY PROJECTS

ID <sup>1</sup>	Project	Item	Unit <sup>2</sup>	Quantity	Unit Cost	Cost
Walkshed Projects						
W-WE-1	Washington Ave Crosswalk	Concrete Walk	SY	19	\$90	\$1,710
		Signs	SF	38	\$30	\$1,140
		Striping	LF	192	\$6	\$1,150
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
Access Projects						
A-WE-1	Regrade Walkway	Concrete Path	SF	300	\$42	\$12,600
		Guardrails	LF	70	\$100	\$7,000
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				
A-WE-2	Accessible Furniture	Benches and Tables	EA	2	\$2,000	\$4,000
		Total Project Cost (with 20 percent contingency and 15 percent for design and engineering)				

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# ACCELERATOR PARK CONCEPT - ALLEN / LANDSBROOK PARK

Allen Park is a well-visited attraction with various sports and play options, including tennis, bocce ball courts, and one of the only skate parks in Jonesboro. Due to location, Allen Park has the potential to become a hub for inclusion for the east side of the city, complementary to the existing Miracle League Park. A key component of this hub is a stronger connection to Landsbrook Park to the south with a pedestrian bridge across the drainage canal. **The exhibit on the facing page identifies possible inclusive play and programming opportunities within a re-designed Allen and Landsbrook Park.**

Major changes could include a full redesign of Landsbrook Park with dedicated spaces for alternative play and sensory stimulation through a new sensory garden, natural play space, and an informal amphitheater nestled into the slope of the canal.

The existing playground, splash pad, and skate park may be augmented to provide an inclusive experience with accessible equipment. The existing loop trail could be widened and stations with accessible workout equipment would be introduced. A final concept could create easier access with a new parking lot from Landsbrook Park to the south and a stronger connection to the Turtle Creek Track trail to the north.



A



B



C



D



E

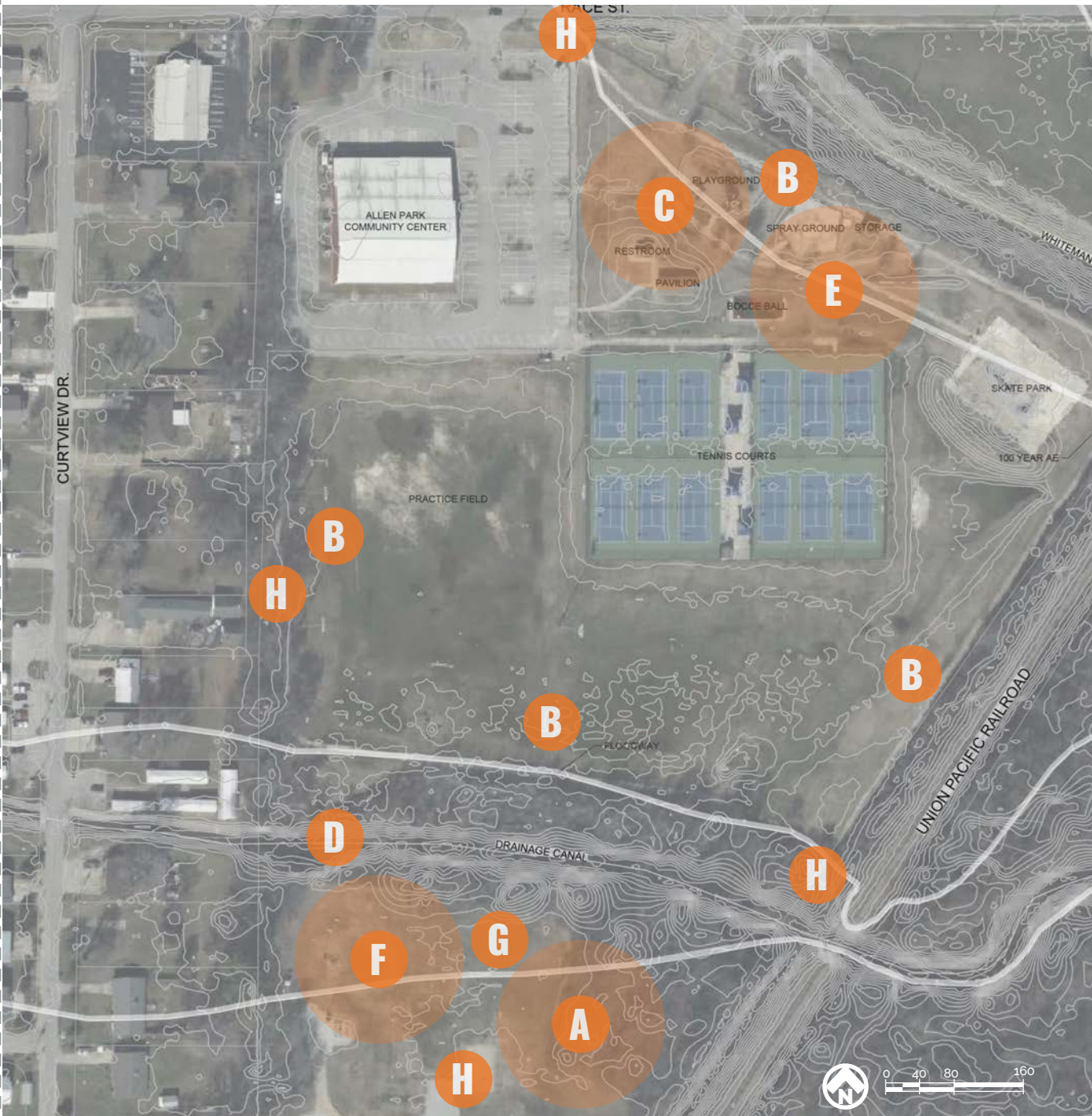


F



G

Images correspond with the concepts discussed on the facing page.



## INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Allen/Landsbrook Park provides many areas of opportunity to introduce amenity categories, fostering a hub of inclusive play and experiences.

**NATURAL PLAYScape.** In Landsbrook Park to the south, a natural playscape can be built within the trees and topography **(A)**.

**ADAPTABLE EQUIPMENT.** Expanding the existing loop route can create nodes for accessible exercise equipment **(B)**. In the north, the existing playground can be retrofitted to include adaptive play elements **(C)**.

**ACCESSIBLE ROUTES.** A refurbished historic bridge can be placed across the channel to increase access **(D)**. At potential access points of the site, links can be made to the multi-use trail system **(H)**.

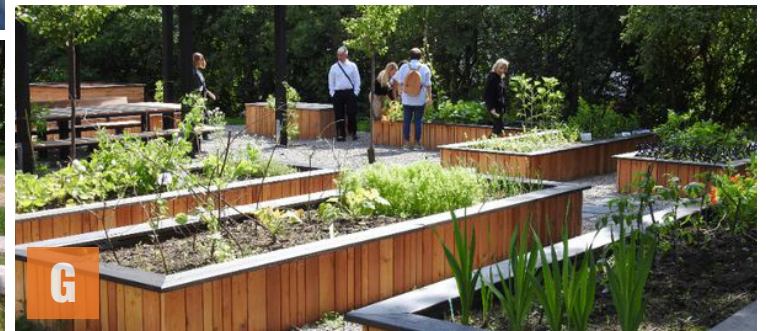
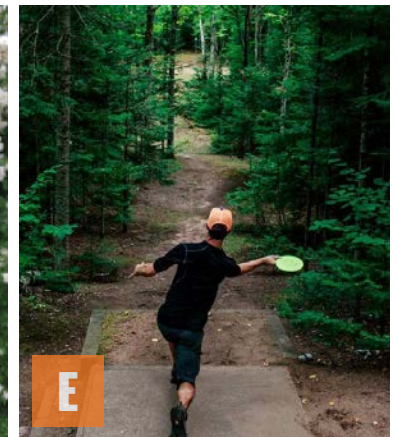
**SENSORY/AQUATIC PLAY.** The splash pad can be renovated to include elements that provide sensory experiences **(E)**. In a quiet area to the south, a sensory garden can be placed **(F)**.

**INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS.** Taking advantage of existing topography, an accessible amphitheater can also be built to the south, providing a flexible space to gather **(G)**.

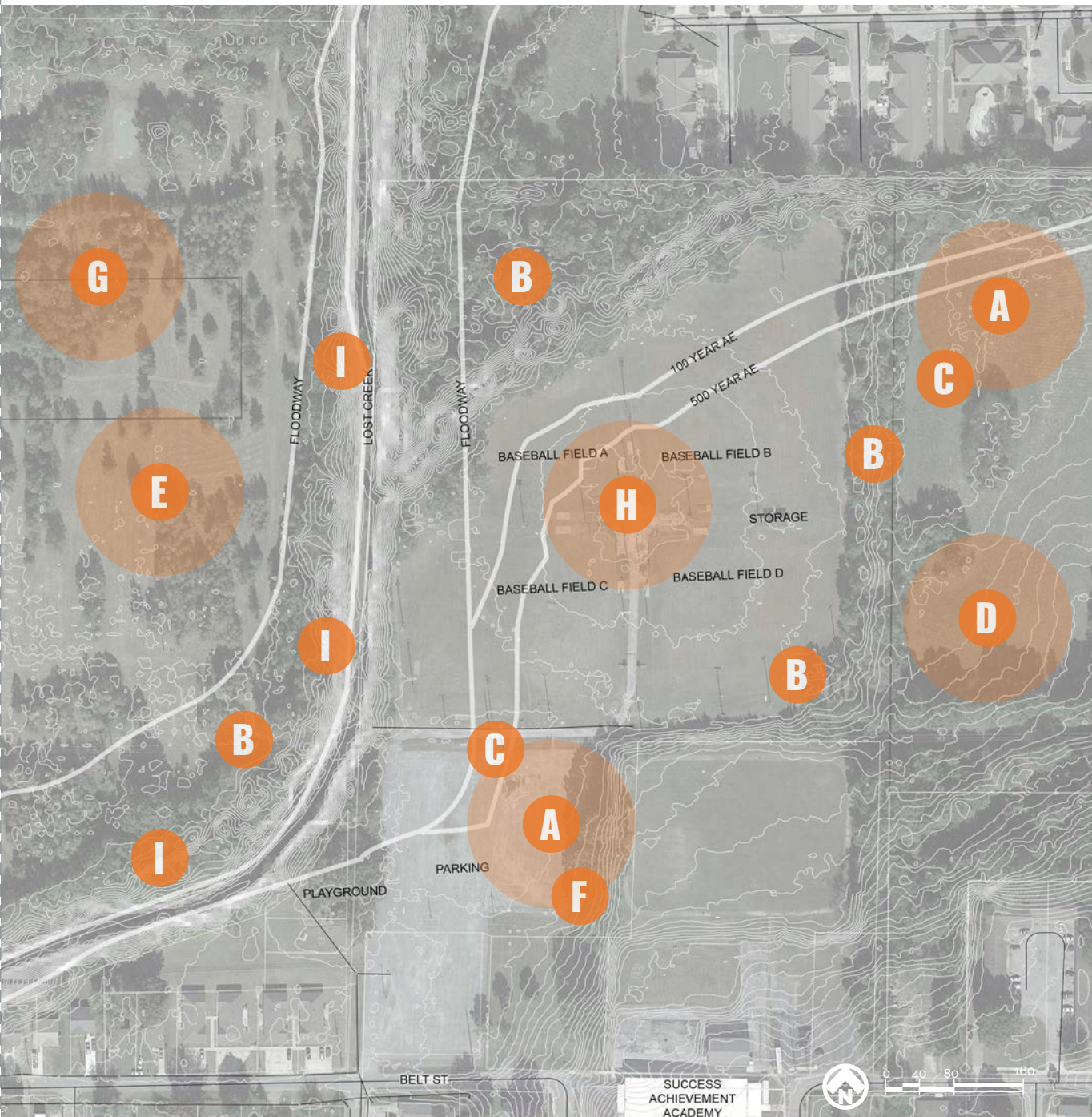
# ACCELERATOR PARK CONCEPT - NORTHSIDE / CREWS PARK

Northside Park and Crews Park are ready for full-scale renovation to realize their full potential. New baseball fields could replace the existing fields to provide more space and accessible facilities. Key points of addition could include a Miracle League Baseball Field, a 9-hole accessible disc golf course, a new community center, among other outdoor amenities. These additions aim to make Northside Park an inclusive hub similar to Miracle League Park and Allen / Landsbrook Park that can better serve the city. **The exhibit on the facing page identifies possible inclusive play and programming opportunities within a re-designed Northside and Crews Park.**

A redesigned park might include a system of accessible trails and pathways that connect to all amenities. A new splash pad, sensory garden, adaptable playgrounds, and disc golf course all incorporate ADA compliant walkways and trails to provide access to activity in the park. Open lawn areas, an accessible amphitheater, and the community center provide potential areas for inclusive programs and educational spaces for the use of Success Achievement Academy . The entire concept aims to enhance the parks existing features while also creating an inclusive hub of activity for the community's benefit.



Images correspond with the concepts discussed on the facing page.



## INCLUSIVE OPPORTUNITIES

Northside/Crews Park has the unique opportunity to become a pioneering inclusive, adaptive, and accessible facility.

**ADAPTABLE/AQUATIC PLAY.** Areas for adaptable play, including natural, interactive, and aquatic play (A). Splash pads can be placed adjacent to foster inclusivity (C).

**ACCESSIBLE ROUTES.** Rubberized surfaces could be introduced to provide an additional accessibility to nature (B). Area for a fully accessible 9-hole disc golf course (E).

**SENSORY/COMMUNITY GARDEN.** A sensory garden with plenty of room and the latest features and can be tucked into a quiet wooded area (D). A community garden will foster inclusivity and provide another sensory space for users (G).

**INTERACTIVE ELEMENTS.** Placing the amphitheater in conjunction with the play areas, increases inclusivity and provides a flex space opportunity to the school to the south to gather and activate (F).

**ADAPTABLE ACCESS.** Adaptable sports fields and adaptable access to water provide more previously unrealized inclusivity (H, I).

# POLICY PROGRAM (GOAL #1: ACCESS)

## INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO AND WITHIN JONESBORO'S PARKS SYSTEM.

The Accelerator Plan's walkshed assessments have produced a series of priority infrastructure projects within and proximate to each of the City's park properties. The implementation of these improvements will enhance biking, walking, and rolling mobility to and within each property. The impact of these projects will be expanded over the long-term by other systematic changes to the mobility policies of the City and its partnering agencies.

Strategies to accelerate Jonesboro's offerings of adaptive and inclusive recreation amenities are presented on the facing page.

**TRAILS NETWORK.** Multi-use trails networks can provide comfortable and safe access for bicyclists, pedestrians, and individuals using mobility assist devices to parks and other community destinations. Completion of the trails network promoted in Jonesboro's Connectivity Master Plan (2018) and amended in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan (2024) will greatly improve walkshed accessibility to and from municipal parks properties.

**TRANSIT.** Many members of the Plan's "selected populations" (pg. 12) do not have ready access to a personal motor vehicle. JET transit provides a feasible commuting option for park visitors. Further steps must be taken to maximize JET transit access to parks system properties, with a focus on community centers, Craighead Forest Park, Miracle League Park, and this Plan's proposed Accelerator Parks (Allen/Landsbrook and Northside).

**SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES (ACCESSORY).** A concerted and phased effort should be made to increase the distribution of the adaptive accessory facilities and inclusive design features recommended in this Plan across the municipal parks system.

**COMPLETE STREETS.** Jonesboro's street design standards should include specifications incorporating bicycle and pedestrian features in a way that not only accommodates biking, walking, and rolling,

**ACCESSIBLE PATHWAYS.** Systemic efforts should be made to improve access to a greater number of internal park facilities for individuals with limited mobility. Such phased investments should be prioritized through an ongoing feedback with Leadership Team members and multi-sectoral partners.



**ACCESS STRATEGIES. INCREASE ACCESSIBILITY TO AND WITHIN JONESBORO'S PARKS SYSTEM.**

Strategy	Strategy Type	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Responsible Parties
<b>Policies and Programs</b>			
<p><b>A.1. Walkshed Enhancements.</b> Set aside annual funding to invest in walkshed improvements identified in the Jonesboro Health Accelerator Plan to enhance pedestrian and bicycle access to parks from surrounding neighborhoods.</p>	Investment	Ongoing	City staff
<p><b>A.2. Transit System Enhancements.</b> Invest in improvements to the Jonesboro Economical Transportation (JET) system, including new buses, routes, bicycle racks, and transit stops providing direct access to parks.</p>	Investment	Ongoing	City staff
<p><b>A.3. Public Safety Campaign.</b> Conduct an ongoing public safety informational campaign to highlight the role that drivers have to ensure roads are safe for all users. The safety messageing can be shared through city newsletters, social media, radio advertisements, and partner agencies.</p>	Program	Near-term	City staff, Jonesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization, Jonesboro Advertising and Promotion Commission
<p><b>A.4. Accessible Signage.</b> Beginning with Miracle League Park and proposed Accelerator Parks, incorporate accessible signage and wayfinding features into parks system properties to assist disabled individuals in navigating among the features of each park property..</p>	Investment	Near-term	City staff, Multi-sectoral Partners
<p><b>A.5. Roadway Design Standards.</b> Update municipal roadway standards and specifications to incorporate bicycle- and pedestrian-friendly features into all future roadway (in conjunction with a city-wide active transportation plan.</p>	Policy/ Regulation	Mid-term	City staff, Jonesboro Metropolitan Planning Organization
<p><b>A.6. Leadership Team Consultation.</b> Continue ongoing meetings with the Leadership Team to monitor park accessibility, investment prioritization, and Plan implementation.</p>	Practice	Ongoing	City staff, Leadership Team, Multi-sectoral Partners

1. "Timeframe" refers to when the strategy should be initiated.

# POLICY PROGRAM (GOAL #2: RECREATION)

## STRATEGICALLY ADD ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO JONESBORO'S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM.

Improving health outcomes for Jonesboro's target populations starts with a commitment to building the facilities and amenities that have been identified in the Plan's investment program. Sustaining improvements to health outcomes is reliant on recurring investments and the implementation of corresponding policies and programs by the City and partnering agencies.

Strategies to accelerate Jonesboro's offerings of adaptive and inclusive recreation amenities are presented on the facing page.

**SYSTEM-WIDE AMENITIES (RECREATION).** A concerted and phased effort should be made to increase the distribution of the adaptive recreation facilities and inclusive design features recommended in this Plan across the municipal parks system.

**ACCELERATOR PARKS.** Planning participants are looking for the "next" Miracle League Park. This can be accomplished by targeting one or more parks distributed throughout the City which may serve as "hubs" of inclusive recreation. These "accelerator parks" (pgs. 95 - 98) may be redesigned to incorporate a suite of adapted and inclusive facilities catering to residents with disabilities.

**DESIGN STANDARDS.** Parks design and construction standards adopted by the City of Jonesboro should include minimum recommendations on adaptive equipment, accessory facilities, audible features, and surfacing to maximize system-wide access for those with disabilities.

**RECREATIONAL PROGRAM PORTFOLIO.** With the ongoing support of Jonesboro's multi-sectoral partners, the City should commit to the gradual addition of inclusive or unified recreation programs. Partner agencies may be able to assist in program staffing and administration.

**STAFFING.** The effective addition and administration of adaptive, inclusive, and universal programming and facilities to Jonesboro's portfolio will require dedicated in-house staff to serve as program champion and facilitator. The creation of an inclusive recreation division under a potential reorganization of the Jonesboro Parks and Recreation Department would solidify the City's commitment to equitable recreation opportunities in the city.

**PUBLIC-FACING COMMITMENT.** Jonesboro's ongoing commitment to recreation for all may be embodied by future parks and recreation department reorganization that includes an inclusive recreation division. The division should maintain an on-line presence and facilitate events and activities that boost use of, and participation in, the parks system's adaptive and inclusive amenities and programs.

**LEADERSHIP TEAM.** The Leadership Team which assisted in the preparation of this Plan maintains a vested interest in promoting the growth of recreational opportunities for the selected populations identified in Chapter 2. On behalf of the multisectoral partners identified in this Plan, members of the Leadership Team should retain an active role in overseeing the Accelerator Plan implementation and in coordinating activities between the City and partnering agencies.



**RECREATION STRATEGIES. STRATEGICALLY ADD ADAPTIVE & INCLUSIVE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES TO JONESBORO’S PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM.**

Strategy	Strategy Type	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Responsible Parties
<b>Policies and Programs</b>			
<b>R.1. Adaptive Programming.</b> Maximize use of existing and planned recreational facilities by adding new inclusive recreational programming for residents with a disability. Gradually increase the City’s portfolio of unified, adaptive, and inclusive programs.	Operations	Mid-term	City staff
<b>R.2. Inclusive Play.</b> Increase the number of inclusive and accessible play elements in community and neighborhood parks as identified in this Accelerator Plan.	Investment	Near-term	City staff, ASTATE, non-profits
<b>R.3. Accelerator Parks.</b> Prepare schematic designs and begin phased construction of the inclusive park amenities at the Allen/Landsbrook and Northside/Crews parks to transform them into hubs of adaptive and inclusive play opportunity.	Investment	Near-term	City staff
<b>R.4. Inclusive Recreation Manager.</b> Hire a manager to oversee the development of an inclusive recreation division responsible for programming and facility development for individuals with disabilities and other vulnerable populations identified in the Jonesboro Health Accelerator Plan.	Operations	Near-term	City staff
<b>R.5. Inclusive Design Standards.</b> Develop and adopt a park design standards guide that incorporates inclusive design and amenity standards for all new and updates park properties.	Operations	Near-term	City staff, Leadership Team
<b>R.7. Collaborative Monitoring.</b> Work with the Leadership Team to prepare and deploy ongoing community outreach to measure community perceptions of inclusive recreation investments, monitor participation, and collect measures of success.	Practice	Ongoing	City staff, Leadership Team Multi-sectoral Partners

1. "Timeframe" refers to when the strategy should be initiated.

# METRICS AND DATA INTEGRATION

To monitor the success of this work program, City staff and the Leadership Team will use the table below to track progress. Local, state, and national data sources should be used to monitor the progress and outcomes from the strategies listed in the work program. Each strategy is paired with a performance indicator and performance measures to monitor the desired outcomes.

## IMPLEMENTATION METRICS

Topic	Desired Outcome	Performance Measure	Data Sources
<b>Access</b>			
<b>Trails Network</b>	Reduced obesity rates; Improve access to parks	Miles of trail in the city	County Health Ranking data City GIS data; Park user counts
<b>Trails Network</b>	Increase rate of physical activity; Increase trail use	Trail users	CDC health data; County health rankings; Trail user counts
<b>Transit</b>	Increased transit ridership;	JET ridership	JET ridership numbers
<b>Transit</b>	Improve access to transit	Transit commuters; Number of bus stops	US Census ACS data; City data
<b>Complete Streets</b>	Reduce the number of traffic fatalities	Traffic safety	ArDot traffic safety data
<b>Complete Streets</b>	Increased rate of physical activity	Physical activity	County health rankings;
<b>Complete Streets</b>	Increase use of parks; Increase rate of physical activity	Signage in parks	City inventory data; Community parks survey
<b>Access to Parks</b>	Increase park access	Park accessibility	ParkServe Dashboard; Park visitation counts
<b>Access to Parks</b>	Increase the percentage of population with adequate access to locations for physical activity	Percentage of population with access to physical activity	County Health Ranking data

## IMPLEMENTATION METRICS (CONTINUED)

Strategy	Desired Outcome	Performance Measure	Data Sources
<b>Recreation</b>			
<b>System-wide Amenities</b>	Increase in program options; Reduce obesity rates	Programs offered by the city and partners.	CDC health data; Community surveys; County health rankings.
<b>Inclusive Play</b>	Increase access to recreation	Inclusive amenities in the parks system	Community survey; Park inventory
<b>Inclusive Play</b>	Reduce rates of obesity; Increase rate of physical activity	Health metrics	County health rankings, CDC health data
<b>Accessible Park Design</b>	Improve park accessibility; Improve health outcomes	Build-out of Accelerator Parks based on conceptual design (pg. 95-98)	ParkServe Score; Community parks survey; County health rankings; Park user counts
<b>Collaboration with Partners</b>	Increase the number of partner organizations	Number of partner organizations	City data; Community survey
<b>Recreational Programming</b>	Improve park accessibility; Improve health outcomes;	Programs offered by the city and partners.	City program participation number; Community survey
<b>Community Health</b>	Reduce the amount of high vulnerability areas in Jonesboro	Social vulnerability	CDC Social Vulnerability Index
<b>Community Health</b>	Reduce the amount of adults over age 18 reporting no leisure-time physical activity	Percent of adults reporting no leisure time physical activity	County Health Ranking data

Consistent with the recommendations of the Plan's policy program on the preceding pages, additional metrics for success may be developed in partnership between the City, Leadership Team, and other multi-sectoral partners.

# FUNDING STRATEGY

To implement the projects identified in this work program, the Leadership Team and City staff must continue pursuing supplemental funding sources. The team should dedicate City funding and work with the partnering organizations and programs listed on pages 15 and 16 to identify and pursue supplemental funding. Other potential sources of funding may include:

## **AARP COMMUNITY CHALLENGE GRANT**

The AARP Community Challenge provides small grants to fund quick-action projects that can help communities become more livable for people of all ages. Eligible organizations may apply for more than one grant opportunity and may submit multiple applications.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE GRANTS**

With these grants, communities receive financial assistance for grassroots community—based groups to support projects to design, demonstrate, or disseminate practices, methods or techniques related to environmental justice.

## **OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM**

The Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program, a nationally competitive grant program funded through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, offers grants specifically to help create and improve state and local parks and other outdoor recreation areas particularly in under-served communities.

## **RAISE GRANTS**

The Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program, formerly BUILD and TIGER, helps communities around the country carry out road, rail, transit and port projects with significant local or regional impact. Projects should be multi-modal and can include trail system improvements.

## **RECONNECTING COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM**

The Reconnecting Communities Program encourages applications from place-based partners for planning and construction grants to support projects that will reconnect communities by removing, retrofitting, or mitigating transportation facilities. Projects often address highways and rail lines that create barriers to community connectivity including to mobility, access, or economic development.

## **RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM**

This program, administered by the Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT), provides funding to local project sponsors (public and private/nonprofit agencies) to construct and maintain motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail support facilities.

## **SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

The purpose of the Safe Routes to School Program is to enable and encourage children, including those with disabilities, to walk and bicycle to school. The program works to make bicycling and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative.

# REFERENCE

The table below links the required components of a Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) Accelerator Plan, as outlined by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with the location which they can be found in the City of Jonesboro Health Accelerator Plan. The plan components may be found throughout the referenced plan chapter and section or on a single page.

Required SDOH Accelerator Plan Component <sup>1</sup>	Jonesboro Health Accelerator Plan, Chapter and Section	Page Number
Community Background	Chapter 1. Community Background	3-4
Community Health Issue	Chapter 1. Community Health Issues	6-7
Selected Populations	Chapter 2. Selected Populations	12
Leadership Team	Chapter 2. Leadership Team	17
Multisectoral Partners	Chapter 2. Existing Resources, Programs, and Partnerships	15-16
Shared Mission and Goal Statement	Chapter 2. Vision and Goals & Chapter 4. Our Mission	13 & 41
Existing Resources and Programs	Chapter 2. Existing Resources, Programs, and Partnerships	15-16
SDOH Priority Areas	Chapter 2. SDOH Priority Areas	11
Outcomes	Chapter 4. Policy Program	99 - 102
Activities	Chapter 3. Pathways to Recreational Inclusion	21 - 38
Anticipated Reach of the Activities	Chapter 3. Park System Assessment	21
Anticipated Policy, Systems, Environmental, Programmatic, and Infrastructure Outcomes	Chapter 4. Accelerating Health Community Outcomes	39 - 104
Evaluation of the SDOH Accelerator Plan Strategies	Chapter 4. Metrics and Data Integration	103 - 104
Data Integration	Chapter 4. Metrics and Data Integration	103 - 104
Responsible Party	Chapter 4. Policy Program	99 - 102
Implementation Plan	Chapter 4. Investment Program	43
Sustainability / Funding Strategy	Chapter 4. Funding Strategy	105
Success Story	Jonesboro Success Story	Appendix A

1. SDOH Accelerator Plan Template, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

# GLOSSARY OF TERMS

**Accessible:** Ensures the programming or facility can be used by individuals with a disability. This type of design removes barriers and provides equal access to information, services, and functionality for all users.

**Accelerator Park:** A park that is designed to fully incorporate a suite of adapted and inclusive facilities to cater to residents with a disabilities or special need.

**Active Transportation:** Any human-powered transportation that engages people in healthy physical activity while they travel from place to place. People walking, bicycling, using strollers, wheelchairs/mobility devices, micro-mobility options such as electric scooters, skateboarding, and roller-blading are all engaged in active transportation.

**Adaptive Recreation:** Programming that adjust to the specific needs or preferences of individual users. This type of design customizes the user experience based on user input, behavior, or context, allowing for flexibility and personalization..

**Community Park:** Parks that attract residents from more than one neighborhood in the community. These parks offer more specialized facilities than neighborhood parks.

**Complete Parks:** A comprehensive method to developing a healthy parks system that works for everyone in the community, regardless of age, ability, or interest.

**Environmental Justice:** The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. (EPA)

**Inclusive Recreation:** Programming that fosters diversity and ensures that the program is welcoming and effective for a broad audience and minimizes exclusion.

**Level of Service:** A ratio representing the amount of recreational facilities and parkland needed to meet the recreation demands of the community.

**Maintenance:** The regular tasks that keep parks and recreation facilities clean and safe to use.

**Neighborhood Park:** Parks that serve residents within the surrounding neighborhood. These parks typically offer facilities that cater to local needs, such as pavilions, picnic tables, or multi-use courts and athletic fields.

**Pocket Park:** Parks that utilize unused space, such as a vacant lot, trail head, or neighborhood median. These parks offer limited amenities based on size and need, such as playgrounds, picnic tables, or gazebos.

**Recreational Programming:** The classes, activities, sports and special events that are provided by the City and other providers.

**Regional Park:** Often the largest type of parks that serve the residents within and outside the city limits. These parks offer a broad range of active and passive recreational opportunities and amenities that cater to a large audience.

**Shared-use Path:** A pathway physically separated from motor vehicle traffic by an open space or barrier and either within the highway right-of-way or within an independent right-of way. Shared-use paths may be used by all active transportation users. Most shared use paths are designed for two-way travel. (Source: Derived from AASHTO)

**Social Vulnerability:** The resiliency of a community when confronted by external stresses on human health. This may include range from natural or human-caused disasters or disease outbreaks.

**Sidepath:** A shared-use path located immediately adjacent and parallel to a roadway. (Source: AASHTO)

**Sidewalk:** A paved path for pedestrians at the side of a road. The area where people interface with one another and with businesses most directly in an urban environment.

**Walkshed:** An area around a destination reachable on foot or mobility device for the average person. Often defined as a 5- or 10-minute walk (1/4 to 1/2 mile).

## LIST OF ACRONYMS

**AAPR:** American Association of Retired Persons

**ABA:** Applied Behavior Analysis

**ACS:** American Community Survey

**ADA:** Americans with Disabilities Act

**ASTATE:** Arkansas State University

**CDBG:** Community Development Block Grant

**CDC:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**EJ:** Environmental Justice

**EPA:** Environmental Protection Agency

**FY:** Fiscal Year

**GIS:** Geographic Information Systems

**JET:** Jonesboro Economical Transportation

**LOS:** Level of Service

**NRPA:** National Recreation and Park Association

**OPCC:** Opinions of Probable Construction Costs

**SDOH:** Social Determinants of Health

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Jonesboro Health Accelerator Plan was funded by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and was adopted by the Mayor and City Council of the City of Jonesboro, Arkansas. Plan adoption establishes it as the City's foremost policy guide for addressing adaptive and inclusive design and recreation in the City's parks system.

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