



# 9: Recreational Opportunity

*For Santaquin residents, enjoying the outdoors is a way of life. Santaquin residents envision walkable access to a citywide network connecting to local parks and trails as well as to regional opportunities like the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, Santaquin Canyon, and nearby wilderness.*



The existing recreation system and plan is detailed in the 2016 Parks, Recreation, Trails and Open Space Facilities Plan. This plan shows an extensive system of mountain trails on the east side of the City, the use of the dirt road along the Strawberry Highline Canal, the Prospector View Bike Park, along with a few other trails.

Although canal trails have been successfully coordinated in some parts of Utah, they are on private property. There is often considerable reluctance from irrigation companies because of liability involved in sharing an adjacent canal road with recreational users. Often fencing is required to prevent access to any use of the actual canal. Though a challenge, many communities and water companies have successfully navigated a path forward.

The recreation plan is currently being updated and expanded, since trails have become so

popular and were a high priority in the public visioning process. The current plan can be found on Santaquin City's website.

The vision process produced a conceptual trails plan that considers additional links and loops, as well as suggestions to use the City brand to identify and theme the trails within the system. Many of these suggestions have been incorporated in the forthcoming Active Transportation Plan that will become part of Santaquin City's plans for recreation.

A commonly used technique to assess park needs is to provide a park within  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile of most residential development. Another technique is to set a goal of a certain number of acres per 1,000 residents, with targets often set in the 4 to 10 acres per 1,000 persons range. The 2016 plan analyzed the existing development at that time and suggested future park needs based on the  $\frac{1}{4}$

to ½ mile distance from a park methodology.

The future land use map (chapter two) includes additional park suggestions that reflect areas that have grown considerably in the last six years and uses the distance to a park methodology.

**STRATEGIES**

**1.** Emphasize the construction and improvement of trails on mountainsides.

Work with state and federal agencies to open Santaquin Canyon, implement the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, and improve trails on Dry Mountain. These trails can also serve as fire breaks.

**2.** Focus on funding and building a citywide trail loop over time, and pedestrian friendly streets to connect neighborhoods, local destinations, downtown, the surrounding mountains to the east, and the hills to the

 = priority strategy





west.

- **Include wayfinding signage based on a theme or brand and historic or educational information.**
- Include defined trailheads with amenities where trail systems enter more natural areas, such as the Bonneville Shoreline Trail.
- **Create a multi-faceted funding program,** including research grant opportunities for trail construction, a crowd sourcing effort, **a voter approved bond or tax increase such as a Recreation, Arts, and Parks (RAP) tax,** and charitable donations.

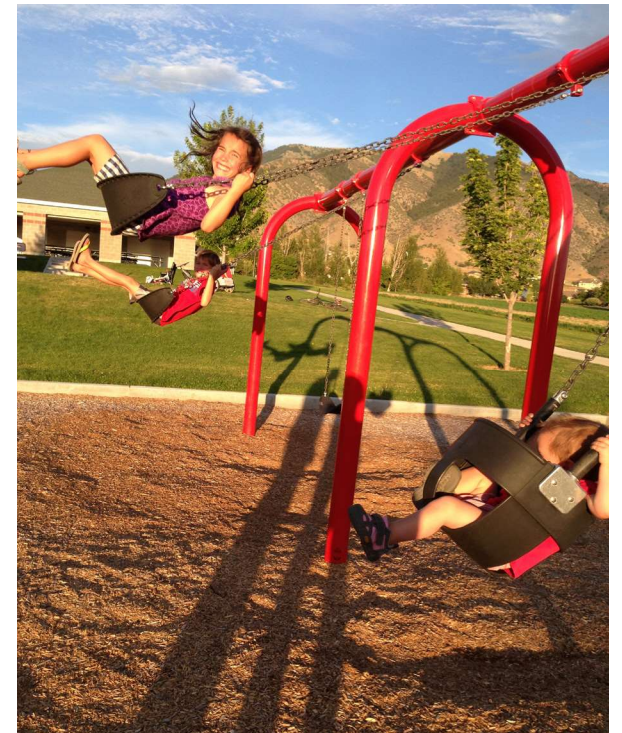
**3** Build more trails to better connect neighborhoods to the City-wide trail system.

**4** Create a civic center/gathering place along 100 South, including recreational opportunities (see chapter five), such as rock climbing with changeable climbing routes.

5. Create low-cost/free activities for youth/families (e.g. skatepark, mountain bike park, etc.).

6. Explore some potential opportunities to create a large, trail-connected, city park near Summit Creek Irrigation Reservoir. Find opportunities to connect this area with trails to downtown, so it can be enjoyed by the whole city.

7. Use the trail system plan to design and connect neighborhoods. Prioritize trail system sections based on patronage potential, creating better connections, and to provide access to natural areas.
8. Include bike lanes on City streets, especially downtown, where street widths are particularly wide.
9. Explore different funding options to help purchase land for more parks and trails. Neighborhood residents should be able to access a park with a ¼ to ½ mile walk from home.



**EXISTING PARKS AND TRAILS SYSTEM: 2016 PARKS, RECREATION, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE FACILITIES PLAN** (see website for the complete plan)

EXISTING PARK INVENTORY			
NAME	TYPE	SIZE	
1 Centennial Park	Community	6.25 Ac	
2 City Ball Complex	Community	5.23 Ac	
3 City Cemetery	--	12.6 Ac	
4 City Center Park	Neighborhood	3.50 Ac	
5 East Side Park	Neighborhood	3.0 Ac	
6 Orchard Cove Park	Neighborhood	3.19 Ac	
7 Orchard Hills Park	Community	3.81 Ac	
8 Orchard Lane Park	Pocket	0.33 Ac	
9 Rodeo Arena	Community	7.5 Ac	
10 Squashhead Park	Pocket	0.85 Ac	
11 Sunset Trails Park	Neighborhood	2.79 Ac	
12 Theodore Ahlin Park	Community	21.78 Ac	
TOTAL	=	70.83 Ac	

