

# PARKS & RECREATION

MOUNT PLEASANT, TENNESSEE



## City of Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan 2022

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# Introduction

This strategic plan is a continuation of the original plan implemented in 2017. This planning document is intended to be reviewed, updated and improved on a yearly basis and serves as a working guideline for the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department. The original strategic plan was developed using input from the community, stakeholders, and the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Board.

The Parks and Recreation Department is committed to making its programs, parks, facilities, and amenities accessible to everyone and the recommendations of this plan will need to be incorporated in all future improvements and upgrades to the park system.

Today, the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department manages more than forty-five (45) acres of park land and open space and offers a variety of recreational programs, activities, and special events each year. The Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department directly serves the residents in the city limits of Mount Pleasant and also has customers from surrounding areas that utilize the services and programs. However, only those specifically within city limits contribute to the park system through property tax.

In order to raise the quality of life up to the community standard, the City of Mount Pleasant desired a Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan to guide the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department for the next five (5) years.

A strategic plan is a directional document that looks at the long-term future of the City's Parks and Recreation Department in the context of its changing environment, the needs and desires of its citizens and its internal operation. Also, a Strategic Plan outlines the Vision and Goals that the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Department is inspiring to achieve. It describes the specific objectives and specific targets and actions that the Mount Pleasant City Commission and the Mount Pleasant Parks and Recreation Board want to accomplish by a certain date.

## Vision Statement

- To create and maintain opportunities for diverse recreational activities.

## Mission Statement

- To develop and maintain a parks and recreation system which enriches the quality of life for both residents and visitors and preserve it for future generations.

# Parks and Open Space Standards

The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) has developed a set of recommended park and recreational space standards which can be used by local communities as a general guide to planning for usable park and recreation space.

The plan uses the Gross Recreational Acreage Standard. This standard is expressed as a population ratio; that is, the minimum number of usable park and recreational acres recommended per 1,000 residents of the city. Generally, NRPA recommends gross acreage standard of 6.25 to 10.5 acres of developed recreational space per 1,000 persons.

Currently the Parks and Recreation department of Mount Pleasant has approximately forty-five (45) acres of park land and open space as well as the Community Center. We have an estimated population of over 5000. (total population in 2017, 4561)

## Approximate #'s

Facilities	NRPA Recommendations	Mount Pleasant
<b>Acres</b>	9.5 acres per 1,000 residents	9 per 1,000
<b>Parks</b>	1 per 2,277 residents	7 per 5,000
<b>Staff</b>	3.7 per 5,000 residents	1 per 5,000
<b>Baseball Fields</b>	1 per 4,000 residents	3 per 5,000
<b>Outside Basketball Courts</b>	1 per 5,000 residents	3 per 5,000
<b>Football Fields</b>	1 per 20,000 residents	0 per 5,000
<b>Pavilions / Picnic Shelters</b>	1 per 3,000 residents	2 per 5,000
<b>Picnic Tables</b>	1 per 300 residents	2 per 300
<b>Playgrounds</b>	1 per 1,000 residents	4 per 5,000
<b>Community Center</b>	1 sq ft per person	2.6 sq ft per 5,000
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	1 per 4,000 residents	0 per 5,000
<b>Softball Fields</b>	1 per 4,000 residents	0 per 5,000
<b>Swimming Pools</b>	1 per 20,000 residents	0 per 5,000
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	1 per 2,000 residents	0 per 5,000
<b>Trails</b>	1 mile per 4,000 residents	3 miles per 5,000
<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	1 per 5,000 residents	0 per 5,000

## Goals of Strategic Plan

The 2017 five-year strategic plan ends January 2022 and is not complete. I recommend the initial focus of the 2022 five-year strategic plan to be the completion of the current 2017 plan followed by the new action items.

- 1) Improve park infrastructure to ensure safe and enjoyable parks and open spaces for residents.
- 2) Improve the recreation and amenity standards to support a variety of users and recreational experiences in town.
- 3) Update and improve amenities within the park system using design standards that consciously work to minimize maintenance and efficiently manage the department's operational budget.
- 4) Improve the efficiency of park maintenance operations to allow for the parks system to establish a model of "smart growth".
- 5) Research alternative funding and identify options to help address the unmet needs along with an adequate level of tax dollar support.
- 6) Research the feasibility of new facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- 7) To work toward completion of the 2017 five-year strategic plan while integrating new ideas into the new 2022 five-year strategic plan.

## **Community and Stakeholder Input – 2017**

Restrooms in all parks  
Maintain/improve access and use for disabled and senior population  
Parks connected by trail system  
Multi use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city  
Improved signage  
Improved or updated parks maintenance  
Dog Park  
Youth soccer fields  
Splash Pad  
Football Field  
Picnic Tables  
Boy Scout Hut renovations  
Clean Up  
Better Parking  
Tether Ball  
Paint 4 square and hopscotch lines on the basketball pads  
Paint basketball poles and playground equipment

## **Community and Stakeholder Input – 2022**

Complete existing five-year strategic plan  
Relocate Disc Golf course  
Remove/Replace/Repair bent flag poles at Brewer Field  
Additional Bleachers at all ball fields  
Drainage issues at Hay Long/Wall  
Basketball court, pavilion and playground equipment at Gardenia  
Plant trees and bushes as obstacles for DG course  
Create selfie opportunities within the parks  
Better trash receptacles at all parks  
Pet waste receptacles at all parks  
Landscaping at all park entrances  
More community activities at the community center  
Rename/Name Clark mini-park  
Repair press box at Brewer field  
Wi-fi and firewall at Community Center  
Annually scheduled monthly events at the MPCC  
More exercise classes/equipment  
More paved walking trails  
Outdoor amphitheater

## 2017 Estimated Completion Level

- Restrooms in all parks... 50%

Arrowmines and Hay Long Wall (Rotary) Park still need restrooms

- Maintain/Improve access and use for disabled and senior population... 25%

Both new restroom facilities are handicap accessible. The swing set and gaga ball pit at Gardenia Park, as well as the pavilion at Arrowmines Park are also handicap accessible. The playground equipment at Arrowmines and Hay Long Wall (Rotary) Park are not handicap accessible, nor are the restrooms at Barker/Brewer Fields or the pavilion at Hay Long Wall (Rotary) Park.

- Parks connected by a trail system via a multi-use trail uninterrupted within and throughout the city... 25%

The Arrowmines trail does connect two neighborhoods. However, I would like to see better access to the trail from both the East Merchant Street entrance as well as a direct access to the trail from Arrowmines Park.

- Improved signage... 100%

New signs that will include park rules were approved by the City Commission and are now up in all parks.

- Dog Park... 100%

The ordinance Kiosk is damaged and needs to be repaired

- Youth Soccer fields... 0%

I would like to install soccer goals at Arrowmines Park. Another possible location for soccer would be the baseball practice fields along Hwy 43, depending on scheduling conflicts. There would be potential for income for field rentals.

- Youth Football field... 0%

- Splash Pad... 75%

Construction is ongoing, the LPRF grant deadline is November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

- Picnic tables in all parks... 80%

The only park without a picnic table is the Clark Street mini park

➤ **Boy Scout Hut renovations...75%**

The renovation project is currently taking place. John Hatcher as well as the local Boy Scouts are handling the project.

➤ **Clean-up... 100%**

All parks are cleaned and maintained weekly

➤ **Better Parking... 0%**

All of our parks could use better parking but the entrance and parking situation at Hay Long Wall (Rotary) Park and Barker/Brewer Fields is in really bad shape.

➤ **Tether Ball... 0%**

Donations of tetherballs will be made once poles are in place.

# Input per Specific Park Location

## Clark Mini-Park

### Action Plan Items

- 1) Clean up
- 2) Replace basketball net and paint pole
- 3) Paint lines and 4square/hopscotch on court
- 4) Place two picnic tables
- 5) Add trash can
- 6) Install tetherball

**Analysis:** With the exception of cleaning, none of this has been done.

A concrete or other weather resistant picnic table as well as garbage receptacle for this location as it will be out in the weather. The basketball net will be replaced as soon as we complete painting on the pad.

**Proposal:** We will look for possible sponsors/donations and/or grant opportunities to complete this project.



## Arrowmines

### Action Plan Items

- 1) Clean up around creek (ongoing)
- 2) Paint basketball poles replace net
- 3) Paint court lines and 4square/hopscotch on court
- 4) Move baseball backstop
- 5) Add picnic tables
- 6) Add garbage can
- 7) Install parking area
- 8) Add signage
- 9) Add tire play feature

**Analysis:** Most all tasks these tasks have been completed. The work plan from 2017 suggested a port-a-potty for this location. The park is heavily used and needs a rest room facility. The playground equipment on site was donated and is in need of some repair. The swing sets need to be painted and the seesaw seats need to be replaced.

The only remaining task from the original plan that is not completed is to stripe the basketball court. Parks and Rec is currently in the process of painting the pads in all the parks and Arrowmines is in line to be painted as well.

**Proposal:** I would like to see better access to the nature trail located across the creek at the back of the park. Using an RTP grant in conjunction with sponsorships, donations and other financial avenues not only could we provide access to the nature trail but provide handicap accessibility to the playground equipment.

## Howard Field/Scout Hut/Dog Park

### Action Plan Items

- 1) Repair roof on Scout Hut... done
- 2) Replace or repair batting cage...
- 3) Outside fence...done
- 4) Bleachers... small set on site
- 5) Build restrooms... done
- 6) Repair/Replace second story of press box...

**Analysis:** The dog park is used by the community daily and requires regular maintenance. The hill/bank to the south of the dog park is covered with stones that are falling to the bottom. The area is difficult to maintain and needs to be addressed.

Howard field has not been used since 2019 but there are several potential association/leagues interested. The batting cage looks like it just needs to have the vegetation removed and be cleaned up. The safety nets along the outfield need attention. I will ask the association/league that is awarded use of the field to maintain and care for the nets. The second story of the press box has been removed.

The Scout Hut has had extensive repairs and is close to completion. The area around the hut needs to be cleaned up.

**Proposal:** Parks and Rec will look for opportunities through grants, sponsorships, volunteers and donations to replace the upstairs press box and clean up the dugouts and batting cage.

## Hay Long/Wall (Rotary Park)

### Action Plan Items

- 1) Move play ground equipment to drier location...
- 2) Clean out stream area...
- 3) Add pole to basketball court...
- 4) Paint pole... done
- 5) Add nets... done
- 6) Line court...
- 7) Install lighting...
- 8) Build bathroom...
- 9) Signage... done

**Analysis:** This is the most used playground in Mount Pleasant and a restroom facility should be available to park patrons. Additionally, this area needs a paved parking lot that is ADA accessible.

The playground equipment is in one of the drier spots in this park. The mulch around the playground was washing away from the equipment and into the drainage ditch. That, along with normal decay of organic mulch, had left a low spot right under the equipment that fills with water. Edging barricades have been installed around the playground equipment to keep the new mulch in place. 6000lbs of rubber mulch has been placed around the playground equipment and it no longer fills with water.

The basketball pad at this location is better suited for just one pole and is in line to be painted.

All the city parks have signs with park rules that state the parks are open from dawn to dusk. Parks are closed after dark so there is no need for additional lighting. There is electricity and lights at the pavilion.

**Proposal:** Using a NEEF grant in conjunction with sponsorships, donations and other financial avenues we could provide handicap accessibility to the playground and to the pavilion. Additionally, we would like to explore other avenues to purchase and install ADA inclusive playground equipment.

A parking pad should be poured at this location.

## Gardenia Park

### Action Plan Items

- 1) Build Bathrooms... done
- 2) Repair/replace backstop... removed
- 3) Add play ground equipment... swing set on site
- 4) Add basketball courts
- 5) Build shelter
- 6) Move tables for better use... done

**Analysis:** I see very little activity at Gardenia park but there is a lot of potential. Since the disc golf course has been relocated to this area, activity has increased.

**Proposal:** Parks and Rec has applied for a grant the past three years to assist with a pavilion and additional playground equipment. We are applying again this year. If we are awarded the grant it will allow for a pavilion, basketball court and playground equipment. The additions will be located on the north east corner of the park.

## Community Center

### Action Plan Items

- 1) Programming
  - a. Teen Center
  - b. Senior Center
- 2) Fitness
- 3) Activities
- 4) Splash Pad

**Analysis:** Due to Covid-19, it's hard to anticipate what we may or may not be able to do. The pandemic along with escalated material cost has made for delayed progress with the splash pad. The Splash Pad is scheduled for completion by November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

We need to grow both the senior and teen programs. Currently, they both currently lack structure.

We offer at least 5 spin classes every week. I would like to offer more spin classes as well as other fitness classes (Zumba, HIIT, Yoga, etc.).

**Proposal:** Parks and Recreation would like to host a scheduled activity every month along with reoccurring weekly activities. We have had a variety of very successful community events here at the center including dances, wet and wild water days, Halloween Haunted Trail, and Easter Egg Hunt. There are opportunities to host additional events that would continue to bring us together as a community.

## **Summary**

### **2017-2022 Strategic Plan**

New restrooms were built for Gardenia Park and Howard Field and are both handicap accessible. We need to look for possible outside funding (grants) to complete the bathroom project and build facilities at Arrowmine and Hay Long/Wall parks.

Howard Field and Gardenia Park have handicap access to the restrooms. There is also Handicap access to the pavilion located at Arrowmines Park. We need to make the pavilion and playground at Hay Long/Wall handicapped accessible and ensure accessibility to all parks. Outside funding (NEEF grants) may be available.

In order to make an uninterrupted trail connecting all parks, two major highways would need to be crossed, Hwy 166 (1<sup>st</sup> Ave) and Hwy 243 (Main Street). Although it isn't impossible, I feel our time would be better spent on making what we have more accessible with better parking and handicap accessibility. Connecting all parks within the city is not a valid option.

An ordinance was recently passed by the city commission and new park signs are up in all parks.

All parks should be clean and free of debris at all times. During the spring and summer seasons the grass should be cut and the grounds weeded and manicured as needed. The onsite restroom facilities should be cleaned and stocked with supplies. During the winter months all fence rows should be cleaned and all vegetation removed. The restrooms should be winterized and shut down until spring.

The dog park is complete and is used by the community on a daily basis. The park is maintained regularly and we are in the process of looking for sponsors for memorial trees or possible grants from the Tennessee forestry division. This park needs some shade trees.

Youth Soccer fields require a space of at least 50' x 80'. A practice field could be located at Arrowmines Park and we could possibly use the baseball practice fields as a dual use location.

Construction efforts on the Splash Pad are underway. Unforeseen events (Covid-19) has delayed progress. The expected completion date is November 2021.

NRPA recommends access to a public football field with a population of 20,000 or more. There is no plan at this time to incorporate a football field.

Picnic tables are available at all but one park location, Clark Mini-Park. A concrete or metal picnic table and trash receptacle at this location would be beneficial. The trash receptacle should have a lid as it will be out in the weather.

Boy Scout Hut renovations are underway. The scouts, along with community volunteers, are heading up this project and it is nearing completion.

Clean up is an everyday task. With better trash receptacles and a dedicated spot for trash disposal at each park, the amount of litter in the parks would be lessened.

Parking is an issue at all of our City's parks. New parking pads were added to Arrowmines, Gardenia and the Dog Park, however, spaces are limited. Barker and Brewer fields, as well as, Hay Long/Wall Park need parking lot attention. Rain water runoff has rutted the entrance to the ball field and there is no designated parking area. Hay Long/Wall Park, the Ball Fields, nor the onsite restroom facilities are handicap accessible. Look for possible grants (NEEF) to pave the entrance and parking area at both Barker/Brewer and Hay Long Wall Park and provide handicap accessibility

Tether Ball sets were to be purchased and installed in 2017 and the task has yet to be done. We will reach out to a local source and purchase the required poles for the tetherball sets. The balls and attaching rope are set to be provided from members of the community. Once the poles are in place the balls and ropes will be purchased and donated.

As we move towards implementation of the new five-year strategic plan, we should remain focused on the unfinished tasks of the 2017-2021 strategic plan with a continued focus of accessibility to all the parks. We should look for both internal and outside funding and ensure ADA accessibility to all parks.

All the basketball pads were set to have hopscotch and four-square lines painted on them. The paint has been donated and the lines will be painted as weather permits.

The playground equipment at Arrowmines was reclaimed and needs to be painted and some minor repairs need to be done.

## **Action Plan for new ideas 2022 Strategic Plan**

Complete existing Five-year strategic plan  
Relocate Disc Golf course  
Remove/Replace/Repair bent flag poles at Brewer Field  
Additional Bleachers at all ball fields  
Drainage issues at Hay Long/Wall  
Basketball court, pavilion and playground equipment at Gardenia  
Plant trees and bushes as obstacles for DG course  
Create selfie opportunities within the parks  
Better trash receptacles at all parks  
Pet waste receptacles at all parks  
Landscaping at all park entrances  
More community activities at the community center  
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Annually scheduled monthly events at the MPCC  
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## Summary

### 2022-2027 Strategic Plan

As we move forward, we will focus on the completion of the unfinished tasks from the 2017-2021 strategic plan.

The disc golf has been relocated to Gardenia Park. The course is complete and has tee boxes, obstacles and an information/kiosk sign with map and complimentary scorecards.

Brewer field had three flag poles, 2 of which were bent. These poles were straightened and new flags installed.

All three baseball fields were in need of additional seating. The old bleachers at the Mount Pleasant High School Football Field were donated to the Parks and Recreation Department. These bleachers were installed at the Brewer Field location. Howard Field is the only remaining ball field in need of bleachers. We will look for funding opportunities through fund raisers held at the ball field.

Hay Long/Wall (Rotary) Park has severe drainage issues. The park's open spaces, as well as the playground equipment, is swampy and wet more often than not. The drainage ditch has suffered from erosion and needs to be dug out. We should plant willow trees along the ditch bank to help control the erosion. We have requested free willow trees from the Tennessee Forestry Division to assist with this problem. The playground equipment is currently located in one of the drier spots, however the mulch was washing away into the drainage ditch. We have installed an edging barrier and Mount Pleasant Rotary Club donated 6,000lbs of rubber mulch which is now in place. This should help with the water issues.

Gardenia Park has a new swing set and gaga ball pit on site. This park would benefit from additional playground equipment. The past three years we have applied for a Healthy Places Grant from Blue Cross Blue Shield and have been denied all three times. We will continue to apply but should look for alternative financing possibilities. The park now has a disc golf course but also needs a pavilion and basketball pad, as well as additional playground equipment. A no-fly zone has been allocated in the North-East corner of the park for the future possibility of the new equipment. This will ensure disc golfers and playground patrons have dedicated spaces to enjoy.

Selfies are a big thing these days and selfie locations are sought after, i.e., the angle wings in Nashville. With landscaping, painted plywood and other materials, we could create selfie opportunities at each park.

Keeping the parks clean and free of litter is an ongoing task. I believe that with better trash receptacles in strategic locations the amount of time picking up trash in the parks could be reduced greatly. Several of the existing trash receptacle are open and fill with water. Not only are they difficult to empty but are also an eyesore.

We have a wonderful dog park that is used daily by citizens as well as visitors to Mount Pleasant. This park is equipped with pet waste receptacles. We should place pet waste receptacles at all park locations as pets are frequently seen in all of our parks. The new park signs with rules state all pet waste must be cleaned up.

All park entrances next to our signage should be landscaped using flowers and bushes. This small act would beautify our parks and truly say "Welcome".

Monthly events should be scheduled at the community center. I would like to post annually a list of the scheduled monthly activities. Not only would this give the community an idea of what's to come but would also help them better plan so that they can attend.

We have a small park off of Clark Street, at this time we refer to the park as the Clark Street Mini-Park. We should officially name the park and put up a sign with rules. Hop Scotch and Four Square should be painted on the basketball pad and a covered trash receptacle and picnic table placed on site.

The press box at Brewer field is in bad shape, it appears to have termite damage and a significant amount of rot. We should look into hosting tournaments to raise the money to replace or repair the building.

The Community Center has been given some much needed attention. The HVAC has been upgraded and the building has been equipped with internal as well as external security cameras. The East and West Halls have recently been painted and Wi Fi with a Firewall for security has been installed. We still need to address a few leaks around the doors and supporting columns. We also need to look into more efficient lighting.

We are currently working to build a relationship with Jan Graves who is in charge of the Maury County Senior program. We hope to obtain a better working relationship and hopefully the necessary funding to provide a true senior citizens program. The senior program should include transportation, food and scheduled activities.

Our 2019 ADA Transition Plan needs to be implemented and all parks need to be upgraded to ensure inclusion.

We would like to post an annual list of scheduled events to occur at the community center. This year due to Covid-19, we have been unable to host events. Next year if events are again possible, we should schedule an event to occur each month and post it in early January. This

will help make the community aware of the upcoming events and then they can plan accordingly.

We are looking into the possibility of outdoor stationary exercise equipment. The equipment could be located in the grassy area on the west side of the MPCC adjacent to the spin room. After the splash pad is finished, we may be able to get a health and wellness grant for the equipment.

Additional paved walking trails would be a wonderful addition to our parks. Both of our existing trails are heavily used. Parks and Rec is looking for financial opportunities via grants from NEEF and RTP to build new paved walking trails at Hay Long/Wall and Arrowmines Parks. With the addition of the walking trails, we can make the areas handicap accessible, connecting parking lots to playground equipment. We would also like to see better access to the nature trail located across the creek on the east side of Arrowmines Park.

Outdoor amphitheater was the second most requested thing from a recent community survey. The grassy area between Brewer Field and the Rotary picnic shelter would be an ideal location. The natural roll to the property would make for an excellent seating opportunity. A gazebo or other similar structure could be placed close to the existing playground. We could use this area for outdoor concerts as well as other outdoor productions.

Other notable Community Request...

Swimming Pool  
Skateboard Park  
Farmers Market

## **Conclusion**

The 2017 strategic plan needs to be completed as we implement the new ideas from 2022. The plan needs to be revisited on an annual basis and revised as needed. Through community support, volunteers and grant opportunities we should remain focused on making all Mount Pleasant Parks more inclusive and more inviting as to create and maintain opportunities for diverse recreational activities for both our citizens and visitors.