Lakeland PULSE Comprehensive Plan Parks and Recreation Subcommittee
Subcommittee Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 4:30 PM
City Hall, Lakeland TN 38002

Conference Room A

I. Working session to discuss Parks and Recreation component of the Lakeland PULSE Comprehensive Plan

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COMPREHENSIVE PLAN 2023

SEPTEMBER 2022

Parks & Recreation

Agenda

- **Introduction**
- **Brief overview of the Comprehensive Plan**
- Review related existing plans
- Vision building/Open Discussion (Opps/Constraints/Needs/Future)
- Next Steps/Expectations

Introductions

- Project team:
  - Lakeland City Staff
  - Kimley-Horn
  - Development-Studio, LLC
  - LRK

- Subcommittee Member Introductions

What is a Comprehensive Plan?

The City of Lakeland Comprehensive Plan will provide a vision for the future of the community along with the steps needed to make that vision a reality. The plan will place a strong emphasis on implementation to guide the City's near- and long-term decision-making and investment.

What is the Outcome of the Plan?

The key outcome of the plan will be a Future Land Use Map that will guide future growth and development in the City. A series of framework elements will be created in support of the land use strategies. These framework elements will touch on topics such as:

- Transportation and Mobility
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources
- Public Health and Education
- Housing
- Parks, Recreation, and Open Space
- Public Services and Utilities

- Previous Lakeland Comprehensive Plan updated in 2006

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Phase 1
Project Kickoff

Phase 1 will include meeting with the Planning Committee, notifying City Staff of the plan's initiation, and forming the Advisory Committee. In this phase, the project team puts together a detailed work plan and schedule that includes a Community Engagement Strategy. Finally, the project team starts collecting any needed data.

Phase 2
Baseline Conditions & Future Projections, and Visioning & Issues

The second phase revolves around developing an understanding of the current demographic, economic, and environmental conditions to project estimates of where we'll be and how things will look in the future. Following the first major round of public engagement, this phase ends by identifying the City's needs, building an ultimate vision, and supporting goals to guide the development of the plan.

Phase 3
Future Growth Strategy

In the third phase of the planning process, a land use analysis will be conducted to develop a conceptual growth strategy that sets the foundation to creating the Future Land Use Map. This process will be vetted by the public during our second community workshop. The outcome will be the Future Land Use Map, accompanied by strategies to guide land use.

Phase 4
Plan Development

In the fourth phase, the plan starts to come together with the creation of the various framework elements and their strategies. This phase also focuses on developing an action plan that lays out the agencies, resources, and time needed to implement the plan's strategies.

Phase 5
Reporting and Adoption

The final phase ensures the smooth and successful adoption of the Comprehensive Plan by allowing the opportunity for all parties and agencies to review and comment on the plan.

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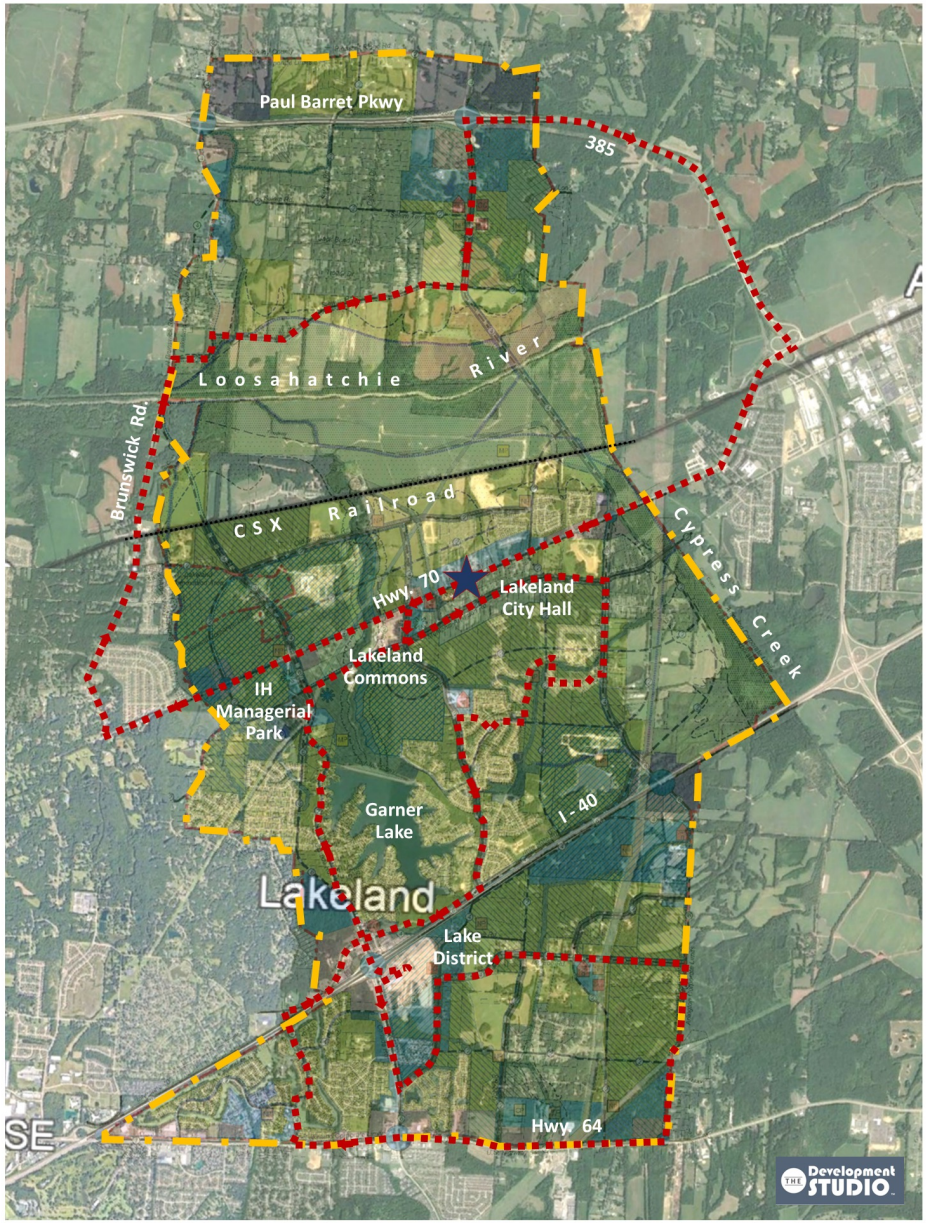
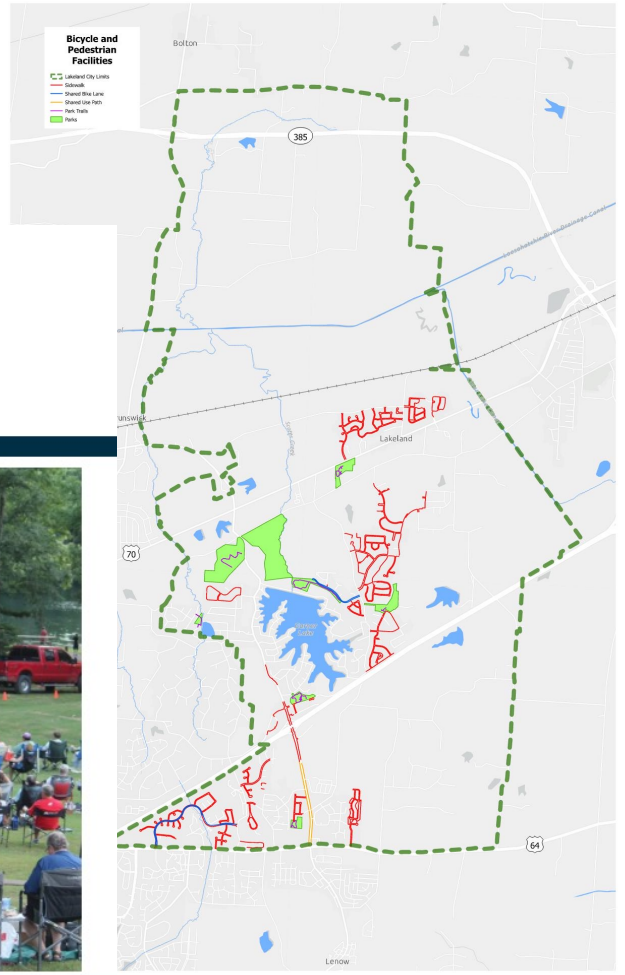
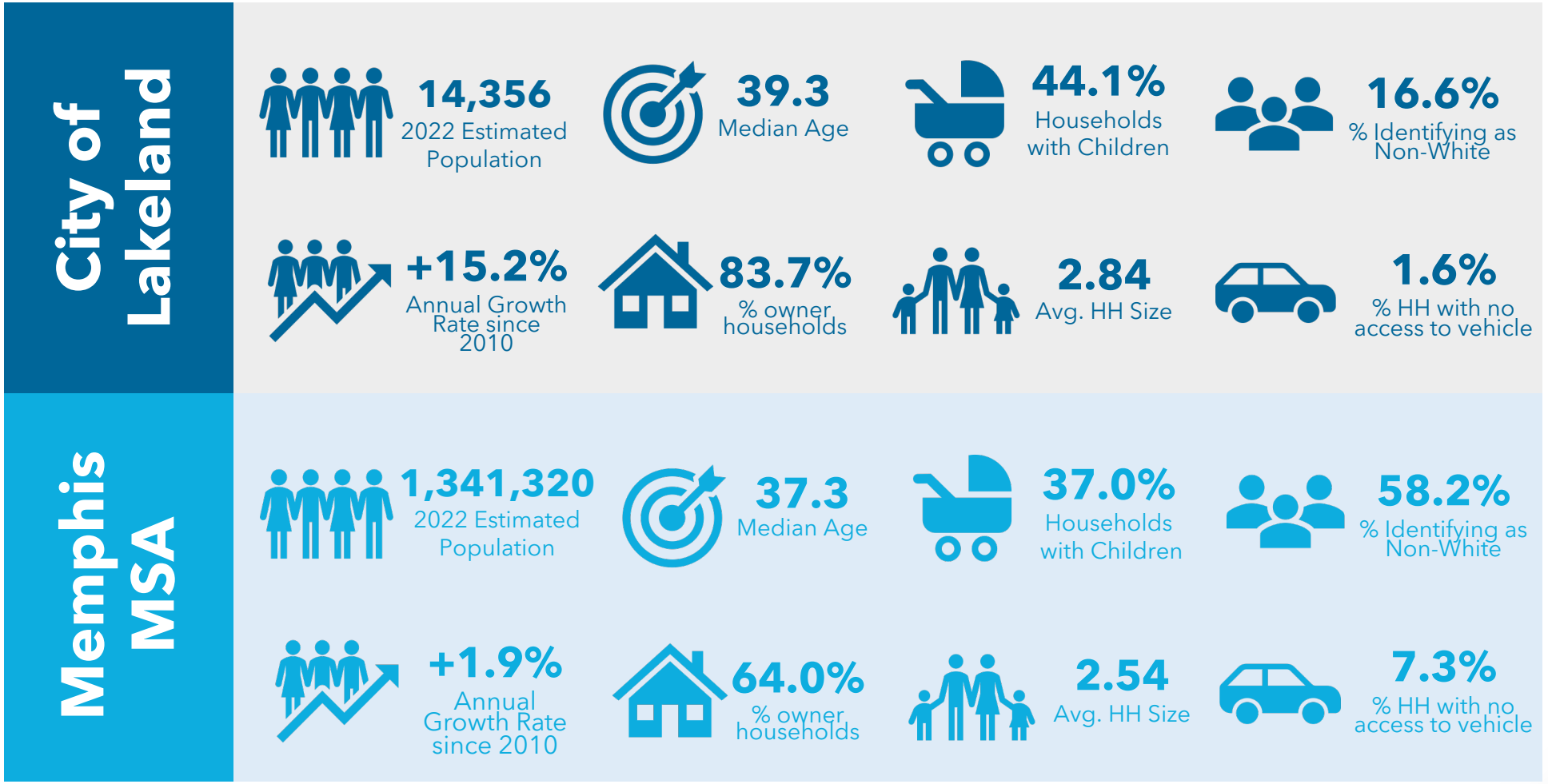


Parks and Recreation Master Plan

- **Community Feedback**
- **Implementation/Recommendations**
- Existing Parks
- New Facilities
- Staffing
- Programming

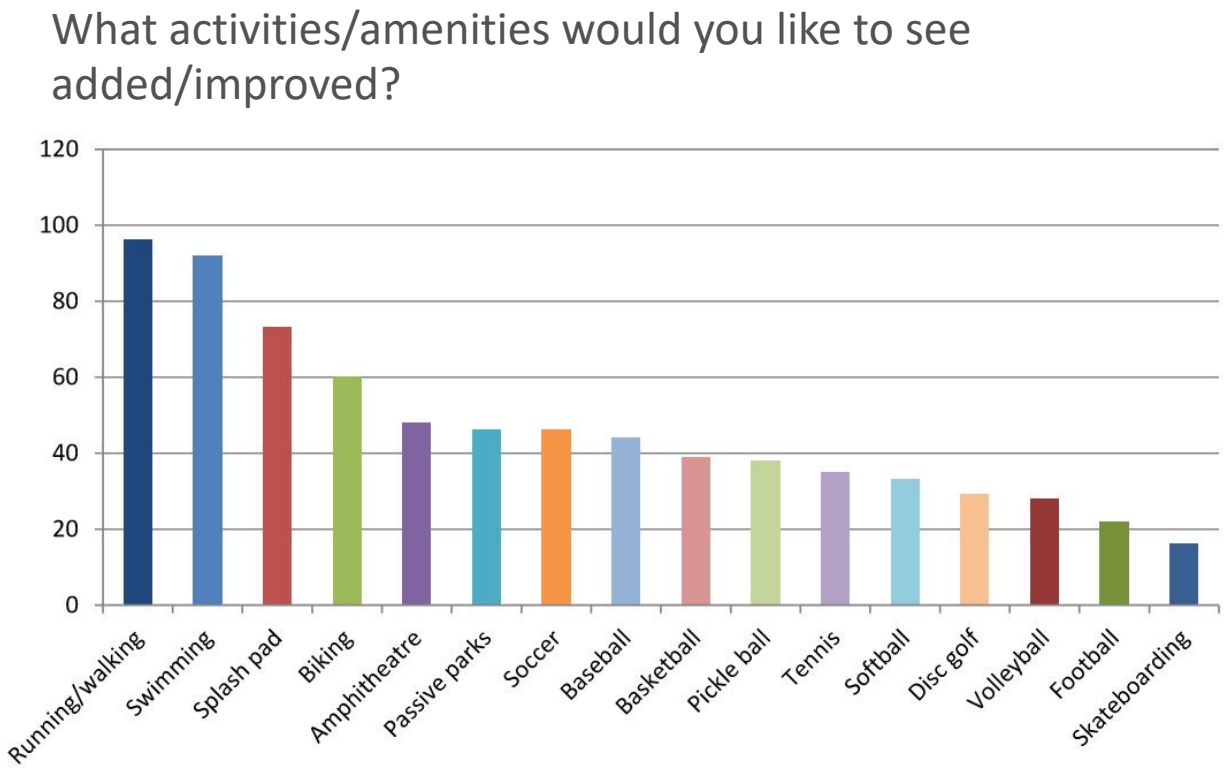


Demographics At a Glance



Public Input

- The survey results revealed running/walking, swimming, and splash pad as the top 3 activities/amenities the public would like to see added/improved.
- The community expressed a strong desire for a community center.



Implementation

- The Parks and Recreation masterplan determined four areas of park improvement:
- Existing Parks
- New Facilities
- Staffing
- Programming

Existing Parks

- Existing Park improvement projects were broken into High and Low priority recommendations.

PARK	HIGH PRIORITY RECOMMENDATION
City Hall Park	• Develop a Master Plan for the park • Repair walking path • Update and expand playground • Develop insect/pest control program • Greenway connection to Lakeland Town Square development and Lakeland Athletic Complex
Cool Springs Park	• Provide parking for the general public • Install exercise equipment along trail • Greenway connection to Lakeland Sports Complex
IH Managerial Park	• Upgrade parking in conjunction with New Canada Road construction • Install ADA accessible fishing pier • Greenway connection to Plantation Hills and Lakeland Sports Complex • Relocate maintenance facilities to the Sports Complex • Add additional event amenities such as restrooms, concessions/food truck accommodations
Oak Ridge Park	• Accessible route to the Seed Tick Road trail
Plantation Hills Park	• Develop a Master Plan for the park • Install new play equipment • Install rules and regulation signage • Greenway connection to IH Managerial Park • Install "sky-cop" or similar apparatus • Improve sight-lines through the park for security purposes
Windward Slopes Park	• Tennis Center expansion to include pickleball • ADA accessible route to playground • Sidewalk connection to Canada Road • Install fitness equipment along walking path • Install "sky-cop" or similar security apparatus • Install parking lot lighting
Zadie E. Kuehl Memorial Park	• Install pavilion seating • Update park benches • Sidewalk connection to Canada Road • Install restroom facility adjacent to playground
Lakeland Athletic Complex and Recreational Park	• Complete remaining phases of the complex • Greenway connection to IH Managerial Park and Cool Springs Park • Install "sky-cop" or similar security apparatus

New Facilities

- Additional facility needs were determined based on NRPA averages and projected growth.

Based on the benchmarks established by the NRPA Agency Performance Review, the following new facilities are recommending in Lakeland:

NEW FACILITIES	RECOMMENDATION
Community Center	• Select a community center site and plan for its construction • This community center will include an aquatic center
Lakeland Sports Complex	• Complete remaining phases of the Master Plan
Community Garden	• Provide a community garden space with staff to support
Greenways	• Provide greater connection between parks • Develop a Greenway Master Plan
New Parks	• As population increases, develop parks in under serviced areas
Racket Sports	• Develop a tennis center large enough to host tournaments (four courts) • Provide pickleball courts
Skate Park	• Currently depicted in the Lakeland Athletic Complex master plan
Playgrounds	• Install playgrounds as recommended in both the IH Managerial Park Master Plan and Lakeland Athletic Complex Master Plan
Nature Center	• Utilize and enhance existing wetland areas within parks to provide educational opportunities • Provide an arboretum in Cool Springs Park

Staffing

- Based on future growth and NRPA standards, staffing needs were determined.

RECOMMENDATION	FURTHER IDEAS
Hire additional staff to meet staffing metrics set by NRPA	• Hire additional staff over the next five years to meet the NRPA standard rate of 45% operations maintenance, 35% programming, and 20% administration
Delegate area-specific maintenance crews	• As maintenance staff increases, delineate maintenance zones that are assigned to specific crews
Enhance training program	• Provide additional training opportunities to enhance employee productivity and ensure consistent skill sets among staff
Community Center	• Provide full time staff for a future community center dependent on the final program
Volunteer Program	• Expand Keep Lakeland Beautiful to include an Adopt a Park program

Programming

- Site programming recommendations were made based on comparable "peer parks"

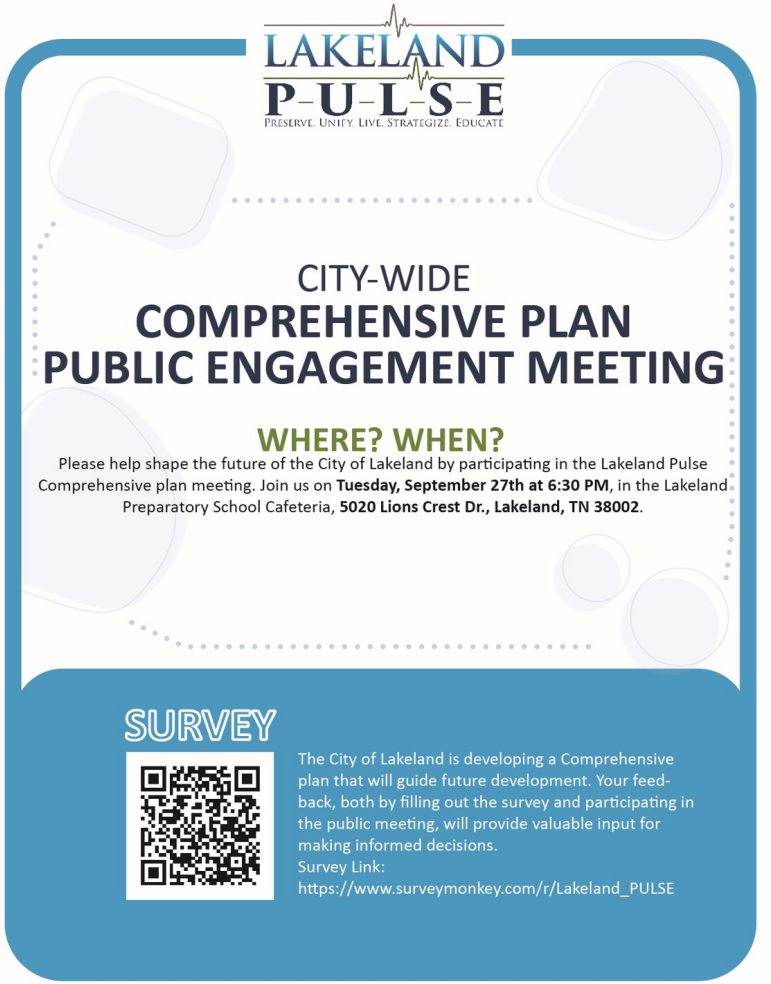
PROGRAM	PERCENTAGE OF AGENCIES WHO OFFER	LAKELAND CURRENTLY OFFERING?
Themed special events	83%	Yes
Social recreation events	83%	Yes
Team sports	85%	Yes
Fitness enhancement classes	67%	No
Health and wellness education	67%	No
Individual sports	64%	Yes
Safety Training	62%	No
Racket Sports	60%	Yes
Aquatics	55%	No
Performing arts	40%	No
Visual arts	43%	No
Natural and cultural history	37%	No
Cultural crafts	40%	No
Trips and tours	43%	No
Martial Arts	39%	No
Running/cycling races	41%	No
Golf	22%	No

Vision Building | Open Discussion

1. Review High and Low priorities as identified by the community in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan.

2. What is the general sentiment towards Lakeland's existing Parks?

3. Goal: Aligning community vision with Parks and Recreation priorities

Next Steps

- Public Meeting on September 27 at 6:30 at Lakeland Prep
- Survey online
- Expectations of Subcommittee Members – Champion of the Plan