



BIG COTTONWOOD REGIONAL PARK

2025 MASTER PLAN

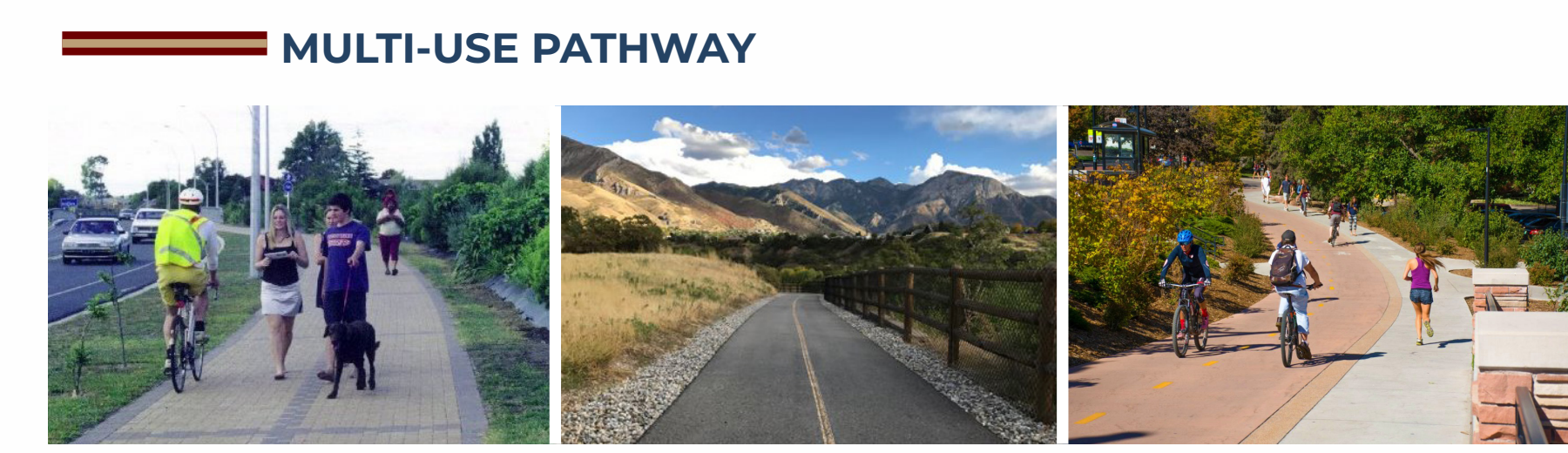
Project Overview

The Big Cottonwood Regional Park Master Plan outlines a range of proposed enhancements aimed at improving the experiences of a wider range of users within the regional park. This updated plan is essential to effectively guide the future development of the park and to establish realistic budgetary expectations.

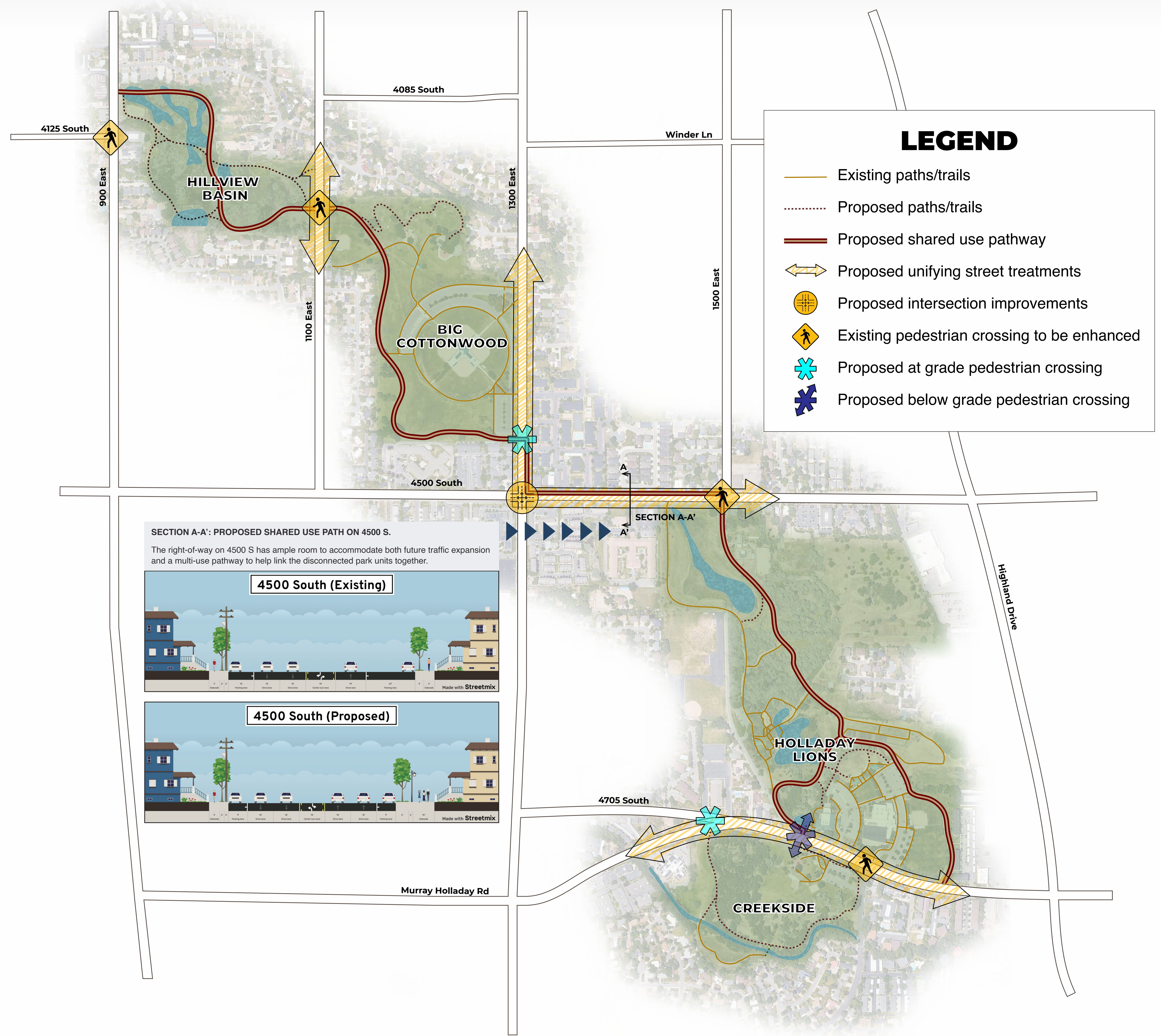
- MASTER PLAN UPDATE GOALS:**
1. Build on the goals and ideas established in the 2010 Master Plan.
 2. Improve and enhance park connectivity.
 3. Celebrate the park's current atmosphere, identity, and biodiversity through quality and responsive recreation design.
 4. Place special emphasis on the provision of multi-purpose park features and amenities.
 5. Improve and enhance desired amenities including paths, nature viewing opportunities, and unstructured play areas.

Park Connectivity

Big Cottonwood Regional Park is perceived as four separate parks — Hillview Basin, Big Cottonwood, Holladay Lions, and Creekside. Limited connectivity between and within the four park units impacts the overall experience of park user groups. A focus of this plan is to improve pedestrian and cyclist connections through trail and pathway enhancements. The corresponding map and example imagery below illustrate the proposed improvements.



Park Connectivity Concept Map



Park Connectivity Strategies

A. PARK BRANDING AND MANAGEMENT

The current name of Big Cottonwood Regional Park (BCRP) causes confusion among the public. Most people perceive Big Cottonwood Park as a separate developed area and do not recognize its relation to the other park units. Additionally, the arrangement and character of the four park units are not seen by most park users as a single park, but rather as a chain of independent and unique spaces.

B. PARK CONNECTIVITY

When asked to rate the importance of park connectivity, almost 65% of survey respondents considered it important for the future needs of the park system. A major goal of this plan is to improve connections between the four park units, making it easier and safer for pedestrians and cyclists to access the entire park system. The plan includes ideas for trails, paths, street treatments, pedestrian crossing enhancements, and other connectivity strategies (presented in the corresponding map at left). Example images of these improvements are provided to help visualize potential options and strategies.

C. TRAIL SYSTEM

- Trails are essential for connecting park spaces and surrounding neighborhoods. They serve a dual purpose: (1) forming part of the community's active transportation system and (2) offering recreational opportunities for park users through activities such as walking, biking, and other small-wheeled recreation.
- ▶ **Multi-Use Trail** – this trail facility is intended to link the four park units together. The proposed route for this "spine" of the park trail network generally runs from Murray-Holladay Boulevard through Holladay Lions and Big Cottonwood Parks to 900 East, with a section paralleling 4500 South and 1300 East between park units. The trail is intended to be a paved surface such as concrete or asphalt, 8-12 feet in width, and may also have a soft surface shoulder for runners.
 - ▶ **Soft Surface Trails** – soft surface trails are intended to provide leisurely walking routes in less developed portions of the park. They are typically eight-foot wide and constructed of compacted crushed stone.
 - ▶ **Sidewalks** – paved sidewalks provide important connectivity between more developed park amenities. They may range in width depending on anticipated use. Most importantly, new sidewalks in the park should provide ADA-compliant accessible routes from buildings and parking areas to other developed portions of the park.
 - ▶ **Boardwalk** – boardwalks are to be used in place of pavement in sensitive wetland areas of the park. They may be constructed of wood or composite decking, and should generally be 5-8 feet in width, but may include expanded deck areas for overlooks and seating. Railings should be provided adjacent to areas of standing water.
 - ▶ **Mile Markers** – mile markers should be provided at standard intervals along key trail routes to provide distance measurements to trail users. This has been particularly requested in the Big Cottonwood unit.

D. PEDESTRIAN CROSSINGS

The County should work closely with local municipalities and UDOT to oversee projects for pedestrian crossings and sidewalk improvements related to BCRP. When an opportunity arises to collaborate with these other jurisdictions, the County should use these projects to enhance park access and pedestrian safety.

It is recommended that traffic lights be used to manage pedestrian crossings at busy roads, either as part of the intersection or as standalone signals. Additionally, a study should be conducted to investigate the implementation of a grade-separated crossing under Murray-Holladay Boulevard to connect the Creekside and Holladay-Lions areas.

E. PARK ENTRIES

Park entry points are crucial for guiding park users and should offer a clear welcome experience. Enhancements to these entry points should provide clear visual cues of arrival and be improved with amenities such as:

- ▶ Entry plazas
- ▶ Seating Areas
- ▶ Themed Plantings
- ▶ Welcome Signage or Kiosks

HILLVIEW BASIN UNIT

BIG COTTONWOOD REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Hillview Basin

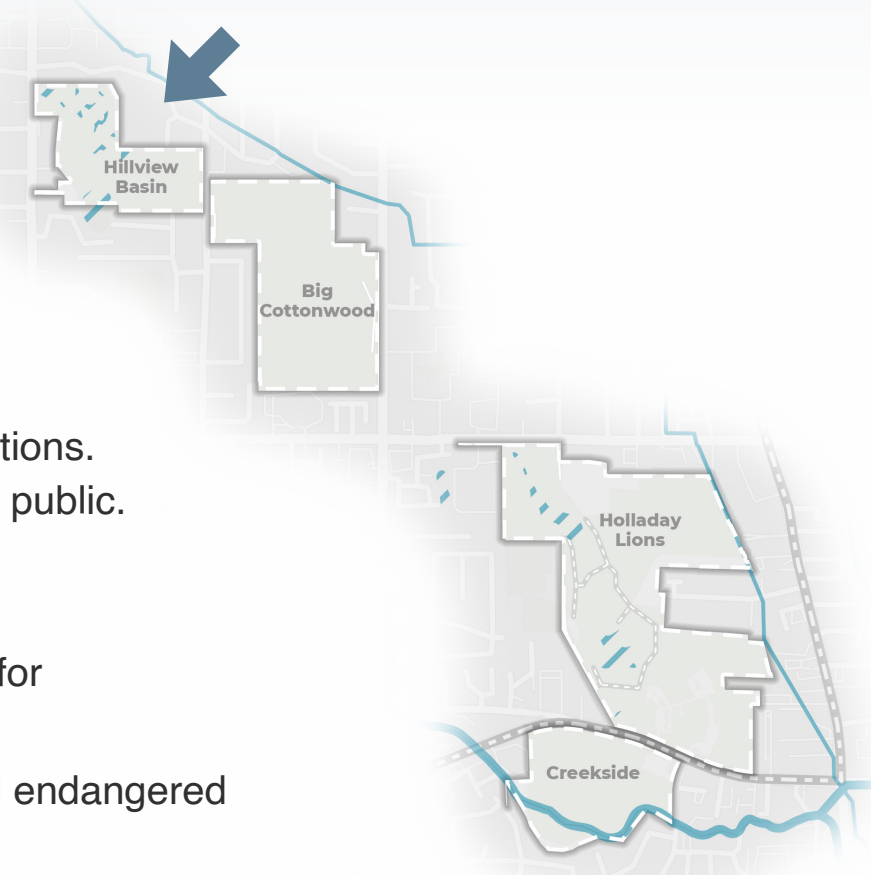
25.2 ACRES

Area Snapshot

Hillview Basin, the smallest and northernmost park unit, features seasonally flooded wetlands and a variety of unique and sensitive ecologies and vegetation including rare and threatened plant populations. The site is currently leased for equestrian use and is not open to the public.

Existing Park Amenities

- ▶ The site is not accessible to the public as it is currently leased for equestrian use.
- ▶ Know location for diverse plant communities including rare and endangered plant species.



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

A.

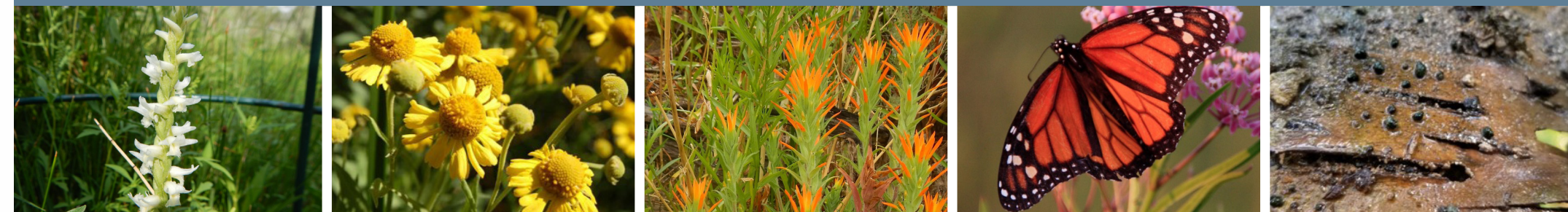
Site Management Model



- ▶ Develop and adopt a site management plan that accommodates the public and collaborative restoration projects with community partners. Consultation with a professional biologist and ecologist should be conducted prior to any restoration efforts to determine how to best manage this area for optimized plant health. Determine best management approaches and partnerships using natural systems.

B.

Critical Habitat Conservation



- ▶ Prioritize conservation of natural systems as the primary use of the property.
- ▶ Embrace Hillview Basin's identity as a critical habitat for native and rare plant species.

C.

Visitor Access



- ▶ Establish visitor access by constructing boardwalks and soft surface trails, including accessible trails and a multi-use pathway (linking all four park segments).
- ▶ Develop east and west end parking trailhead areas for a capacity of +/- 20 cars total.

D.

Public Education and Exploration



- ▶ Integrate opportunities for public education and nature exploration including interpretive signage, outdoor learning, and natural play elements.



BIG COTTONWOOD UNIT

BIG COTTONWOOD REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Big Cottonwood

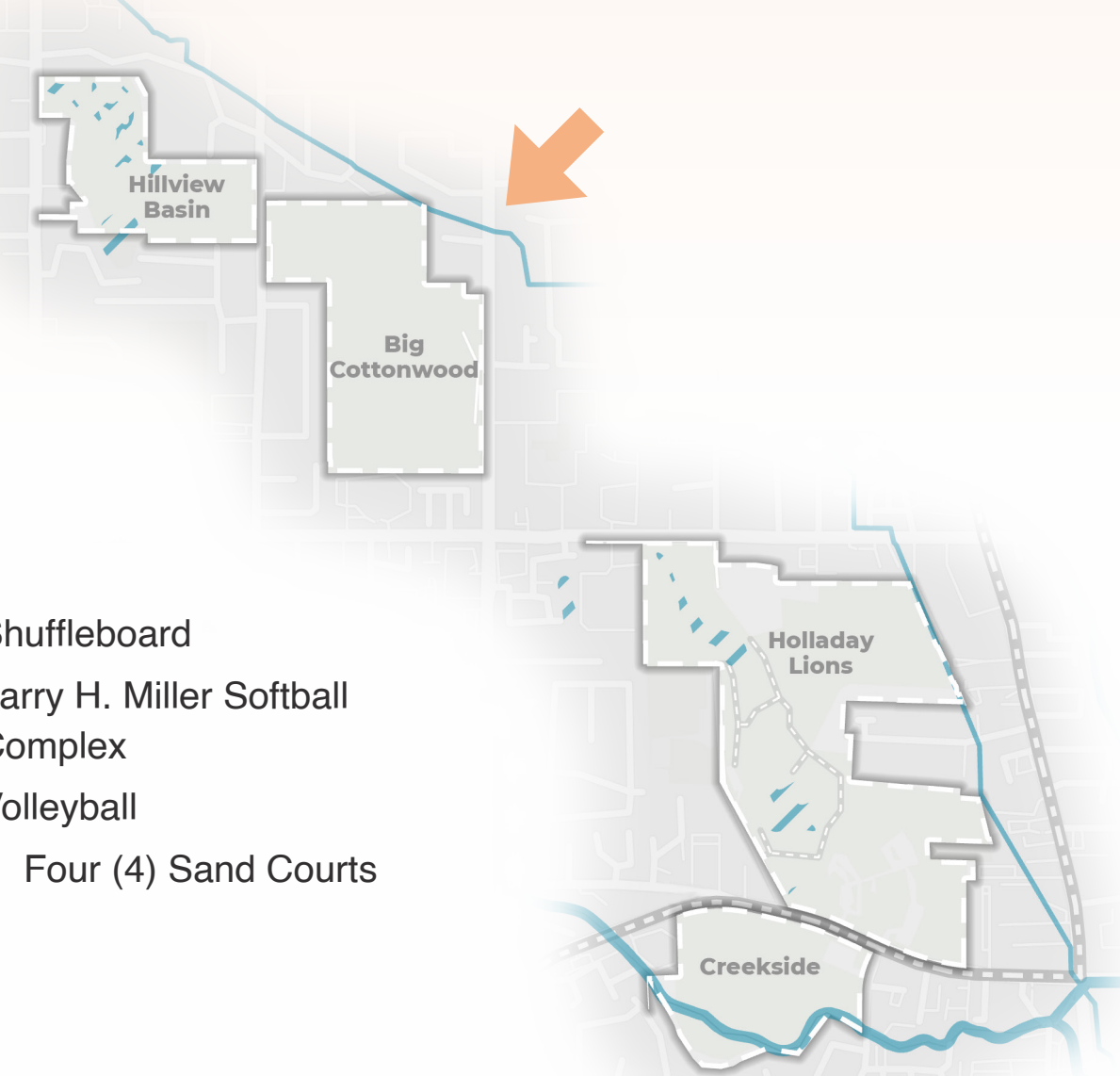
47.5 ACRES

Area Snapshot

The Big Cottonwood unit, positioned directly southwest of Hillview Basin, stands as the second largest park segment. It comprises two main areas: the Big Cottonwood pavilion and the Larry H. Miller Softball Complex. The Big Cottonwood pavilion is characterized by historic design elements and amenities — many of which are outdated or in need of maintenance. The softball complex is in good condition, however the space outside the complex is inefficient and lacks clear programming.

Existing Park Amenities

- ▶ Restrooms
- ▶ Pavilion
- ▶ Seats 210
- ▶ Eight (8) 16' tables
- ▶ Four (4) 8' tables
- ▶ Electrical outlets and lights
- ▶ Amphitheater-style seating area
- ▶ Picnic Tables and Benches
- ▶ BBQ Stands
- ▶ Walking/Jogging Paths
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Sports Field
- ▶ Baseball
- ▶ Softball
- ▶ Shuffleboard
- ▶ Larry H. Miller Softball Complex
- ▶ Volleyball
- ▶ Four (4) Sand Courts



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



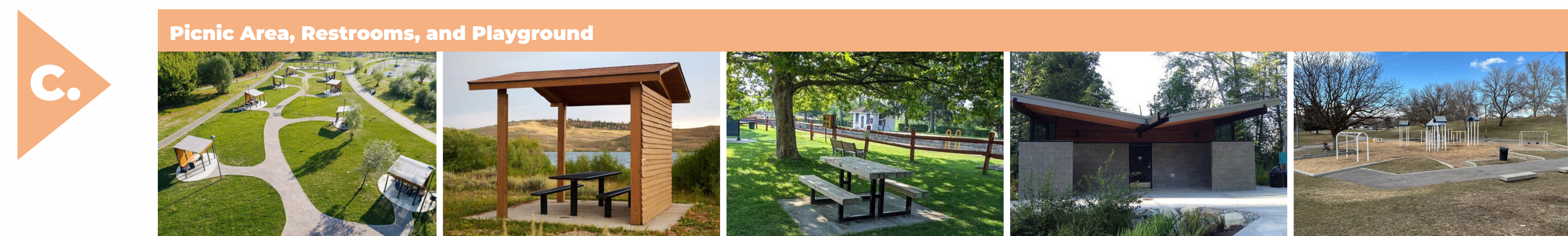
The Larry H. Miller Softball Complex is a relatively new facility and well-used. As a core amenity of the park, it is intended to remain as a key softball venue for the region. Proposed improvements to the softball complex area include:

- ▶ Install a small playground off the southwest walkway of the softball complex.
- ▶ Install additional trees in spectator areas to provide shade.
- ▶ Expand existing parking the west and southeast of the softball complex.

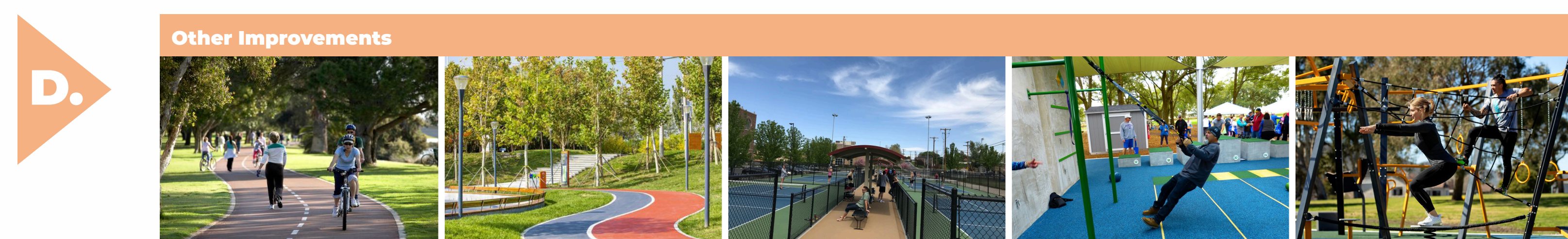


The historic pavilion area is architecturally significant and proposed to remain. Some investment should be made in rehabilitating the structure, including structural repair, weatherproofing, upgraded electrical services, and new furnishings, so it can continue to serve another generation of group gatherings. Other improvements to the pavilion area include:

- ▶ Restore the existing historic pavilion.
- ▶ Upgrade adjacent areas with contemporary games and activities such as cornhole, ping pong, foosball, or gaga ball, while retaining the hexagonal walls and seating elements that complement the pavilion.
- ▶ Upgrade the volleyball court to a full-size sand court and integrate it with the surrounding activities.



- ▶ Install paved, accessible walking paths to improve access.
- ▶ Plant additional large shade trees and install smaller picnic shelters.
- ▶ Upgrade the existing restroom.
- ▶ Note that upgrades to the existing playground were underway during the formation of this plan.



- ▶ Install a shared-use pathway (linking all four park units).
- ▶ Install eight pickleball courts north of the softball complex.
- ▶ Integrate an outdoor gym area south of the northwest baseball field to provide additional recreational amenities to adult age-groups. The existing baseball field in the northwest portion of the park is to remain and be rehabilitated, including new fencing and seating areas as required.
- ▶ Expand the existing parking near the northwest baseball field.



HOLLADAY LIONS UNIT

BIG COTTONWOOD REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

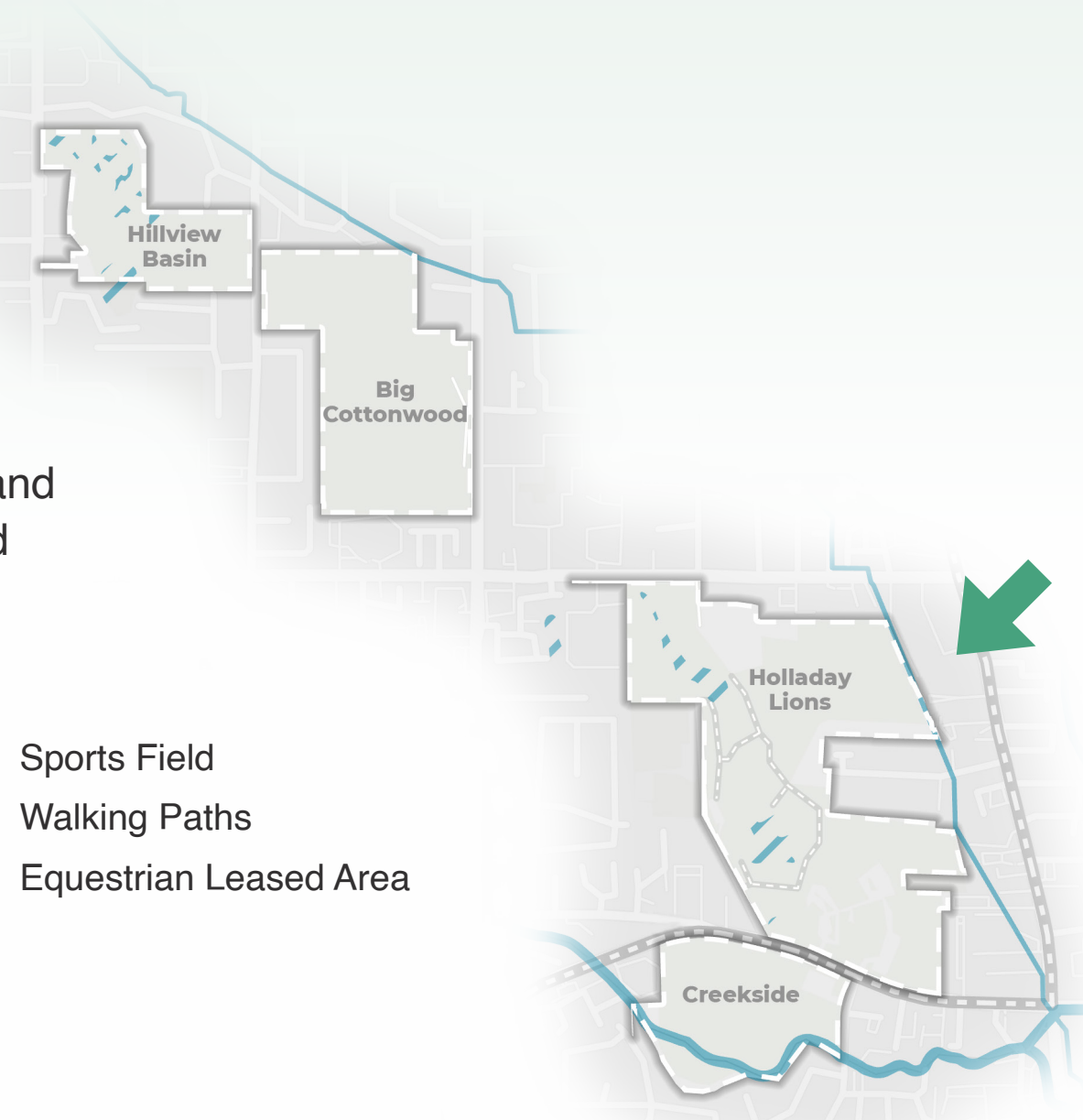
Holladay Lions 89.1 ACRES

Area Snapshot

The Holladay Lions unit is the largest park segment at nearly 90 acres and is composed of six main areas: a meadows/basin area, an equestrian leased area, a wetland area, an urban farm area, a densely vegetated wetland area, and a sports field area.

Existing Park Amenities

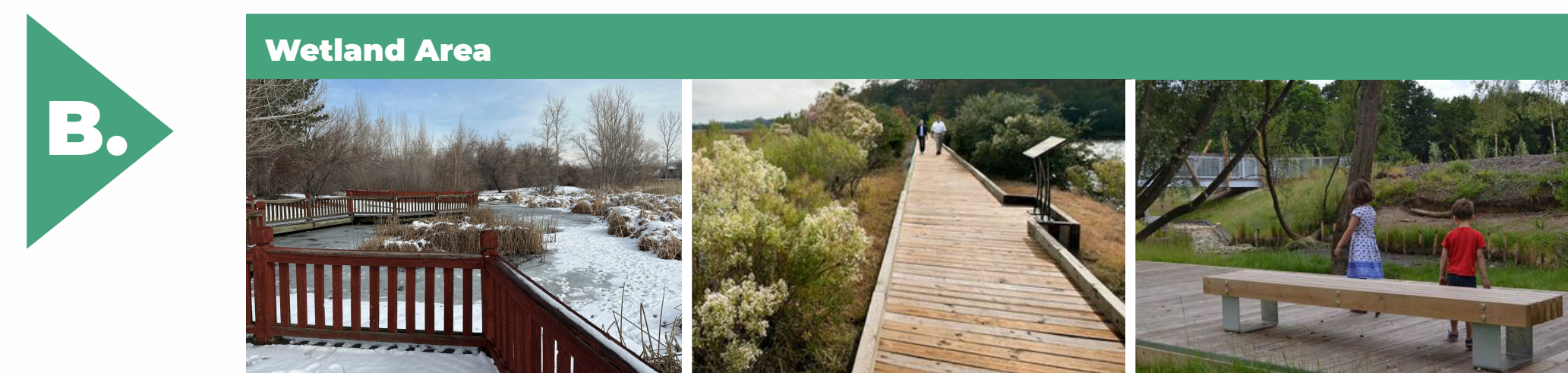
- ▶ Recreation and Senior Centers
- ▶ Restrooms
- ▶ Agricultural Leased Area
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Sports Field
- ▶ Walking Paths
- ▶ Equestrian Leased Area



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS



- ▶ The meadow at the north end of Holladay Lions serves as a vital component for stormwater management and should remain undeveloped. Integration of a trail connection along the west and north sides of the meadow will create a complete loop circuit.
- ▶ The naturalized wooded areas north of the wetlands offer significant open space and ecological advantages. However, many of the tree species in these areas, such as Russian Olive, Siberian Elm, and Tamarisk, are invasive non-natives. A phased succession strategy should be adopted to restore native tree species while preserving canopy and coverage. Existing walking paths are to be maintained, with the addition of a new system of soft-surface walking paths where necessary.

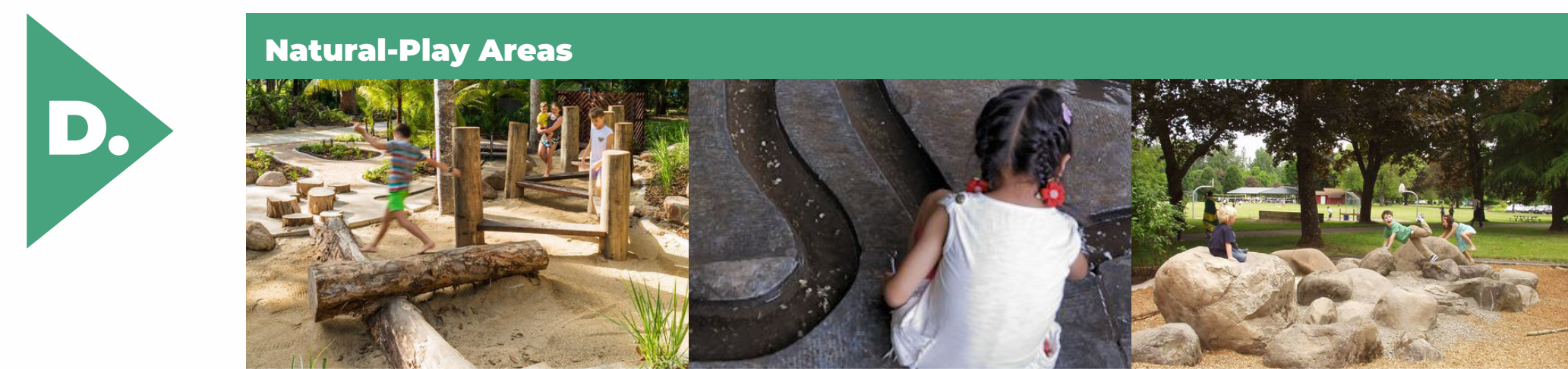


The wetland areas in Holladay Lions play a crucial role in providing ecosystem services to the region, such as stormwater management and habitat for a diverse range of species. It is important to protect and enhance these natural areas by removing invasive species and restoring native vegetation. Before undertaking any restoration efforts, it is recommended to develop a management plan. Proposed wetland area improvements include:

- ▶ Retain and enhance user access.
- ▶ Rehabilitate or reconstruct boardwalk overlook.
- ▶ Incorporate soft-surface walking paths and additional boardwalk trails.
- ▶ Provide seating areas and interpretive signage along walking paths.



- ▶ The agricultural area north of the recreation center is a location set aside for agricultural leases.
- ▶ The large stand of trees to the east of the agricultural leased area includes a stand of old-growth Gambel Oak Trees. These trees should be protected and supplemented with additional trees and soft-surface pathways for public exploration.
- ▶ The existing baseball field east of the recreation center is recommended to become part of the multi-use field, expanding that programmable multi-use space.



The playground area adjacent to the wetland overlook is dated and in need of upgrade. Focus should be connection with nature and include elements of nature based play. The playground should include accessible play equipment and features using natural materials such as wood and boulders where possible. Additional natural play could be installed north of the existing play area. Proposed playground area improvements include:

- ▶ Upgrade existing playground to more nature-based play equipment.
- ▶ Explore incorporation of interactive water play with the adjacent small stream.
- ▶ Restore the fountain on the north side of the play area.
- ▶ Upgrade/rehabilitate the existing restroom.



- ▶ Construct a destination inclusive playground north of the recreation center parking lot, adjacent to the Lions Club building. The large playground will include equipment for a range of age groups, with a focus on inclusive and accessible play elements.



- ▶ Develop a management plan for the area currently leased for equestrian use. The plan will determine the best approach to actively manage the flora and fauna of the area and how lease holders can actively participate in the management of the space as a collaborative model.



CREEKSIDE UNIT

BIG COTTONWOOD REGIONAL PARK MASTER PLAN

Creekside

27.8 ACRES

The Creekside unit is the second smallest and southernmost park segment. The site is composed of two main areas: the Creekside pavilion area and the historic Walter Morrison disc golf course.

Existing Park Amenities

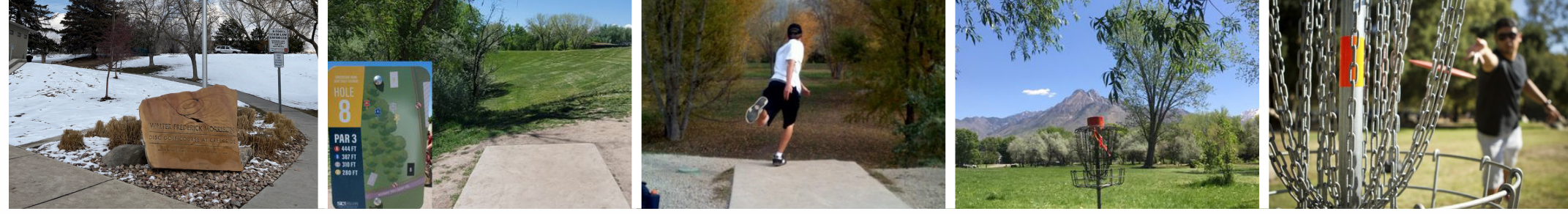
- ▶ Disc Golf
- ▶ Restrooms
- ▶ Pavilion
- ▶ Playground
- ▶ Volleyball



PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS

A.

Disc Golf Course



- ▶ The Walter Frederick Morrison Disc Golf Course is the signature feature of Creekside Park, renowned locally and across the country by the disc golf community. Historically, this course has coexisted with a number of other park uses which were in conflict. Major course improvements to infrastructure and course layout were made in 2024 and conflict between users in the park has been minimized.
- ▶ It is recommended to monitor the course layout adjustments to determine if conflicts will be minimized in the long term. One option to consider is to relocate and consolidate non-disc golf amenities near the pavilion, essentially dedicating Creekside almost entirely to disc golf use.

B.

Pavilion and Adjacent Amenities



- ▶ The historic pavilion at Creekside is architecturally significant and intended to remain due to its popularity and use. It is recommended that some reinvestment be made into rehabilitating the structure, including structural repair, weatherproofing, upgraded electrical services, and new furnishings, so it can continue to serve another generation of group gatherings.
- ▶ If disc golf conflicts are encountered, the area downhill and to the south of the pavilion could be adjusted to make way for the disc golf facilities. The former fire pit area, playground, and sand volleyball courts are potential candidates for relocation to the east hillside between the pavilion and restrooms, making them accessible to both disc golf and pavilion patrons.
- ▶ The existing parking area is proposed to remain in its current footprint.
- ▶ A new perimeter path is proposed to allow access to Big Cottonwood Creek for all park visitors. This path may require the installation of a footbridge and special care will need to be given to avoid conflicts with disc golf.

