

Parks and Recreation  
Top 10 List (September 2022)

<p>FLU-3.4.2</p>	<p>Build Maybranch bike trail for connectivity.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i></p> <p>A portion of the dedicated 1/8% Sales and Use Tax for parks improvements is allocated to complete Phase I of this project. This phase will effectively connect Riverfront Drive to Martin Luther King, Jr. Park. The extension of this dedicated sales and use tax through September 2030 will allow the final two phases of the trail to be complete. Phase II will connect Martin Luther King, Jr. Park to Creekmore Park. Phase III will pave the existing crusher dust trail that extends behind Girls, Inc., The Gregory Kistler Center, and Flocks Field at Kelley Park Ballfields, and terminating at South “O” Street.</p>
<p>PFS-2</p>	<p>Build consistency and trust with the public.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i></p> <p>Encourage citizen involvement in Parks and Recreation Commission meetings through promoting them on social media, the City’s website, and the City’s calendar. Continue to hold public meetings to gather citizen input regarding improvements to our parks and facilities. Continue to attend Ward meetings to engage with citizens and listen to their needs.</p>
<p>PFS-5.2</p>	<p>Increase the use of parks, open space, and recreational programming to improve the health of Fort Smith residents.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i></p> <p>Invest in Fort Smith’s existing park facilities by ensuring adequate resources are allocated to perform general maintenance and make improvements. Provide residents with both active and passive recreation opportunities.</p> <p>Grow Fort Smith’s trail system through the completion of the Maybranch Trail and Chaffee Crossing Trail Segments Two and Three.</p> <p>Continue to increase the number of recreational events hosted by the Parks Department. A strong volunteer base is needed to ensure these events are well-staffed and can accommodate a growing number of participants. We saw an increase in the number of local organizations volunteer their time for our City Play Day event. However, as our events continue to grow, so will our need for volunteers.</p>

PFS-3.2.3	<p>Transition from ADA accessibility to inclusion for individuals of all abilities in the renovation and development of all facilities, parks, and trails.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i>  Complete an evaluation of existing parks to identify and prioritize areas bring up to current ADA requirements and to improve inclusivity throughout the parks system. Focus on inclusivity for all future improvements to parks, trails, and facilities.</p>
FLU-1.4	<p>Ensure adequate, well-maintained infrastructure, public safety, and public facilities for all development and prevent development ahead of infrastructure and service provision.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i>  Focus on maintaining the existing parks infrastructure as opposed to further development. Ensure adequate staffing and resources are available to make our parks system a focal point of the city. Additional full-time staff for the Parks Department was recently approved by the Board of Directors. As our parks system continues to both improve and expand, additional funding for personnel and operating costs will continue to be needed.</p>
TI-1.4.4	<p>Identify and designate key pedestrian and bicycle routes for improvements to neighborhood connectivity and walkability, including access to service areas.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i>  Work with the Mobility Coordinator, trail interest groups, and citizens to update the Trails and Greenways Master Plan in 2023 to ensure the existing plan aligns with current priorities of the trails community and remains current.</p>
TI-5.1	<p>Continue to ensure that customers within Fort Smith have access to reliable water, sewer, drainage, solid waste services by reducing or eliminating deficiencies and gaps in infrastructure systems.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i>  Continued support of the Utilities Department’s efforts in satisfying the requirements of the Consent Decree.</p>
FLU-2	<p>FLU-2 Activate Fort Smith’s Scenic Riverfront.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i>  Complete the development of John Bell, Jr. Park. Work with the Advertising and Promotion department to attract large events to Harry E. Kelley Park throughout the summer and fall.</p>

FLU-3.2.3	<p>Create safe and attractive pedestrian and bicycle connections within downtown and riverfront, and between adjacent neighborhoods (bike lanes, trails, and complete sidewalks).</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i> Coordinate with other city departments (ex. Engineering and Streets) to identify opportunities to improve connections throughout the city. Look for cost-sharing opportunities to piggyback on existing projects to expand pedestrian and bicycle connections.</p>
ED-6	<p>Create a quality working environment that fosters an attractive sense of place.</p> <p><i>How is this accomplished?</i> Continue to implement the job salary study regarding City positions and identify funding sources to help increase employee pay and benefits to both attract new and retain existing City employees.</p>