



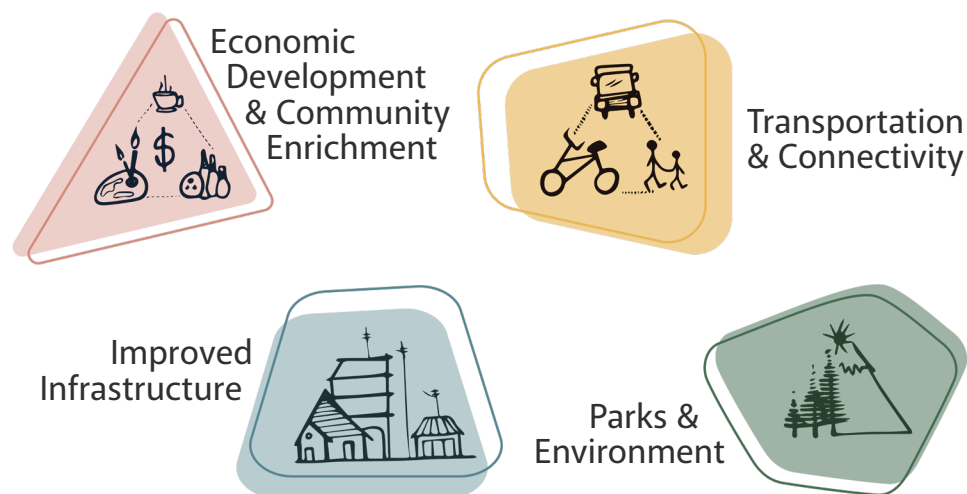
Parks & Recreation Element

Element Purpose:

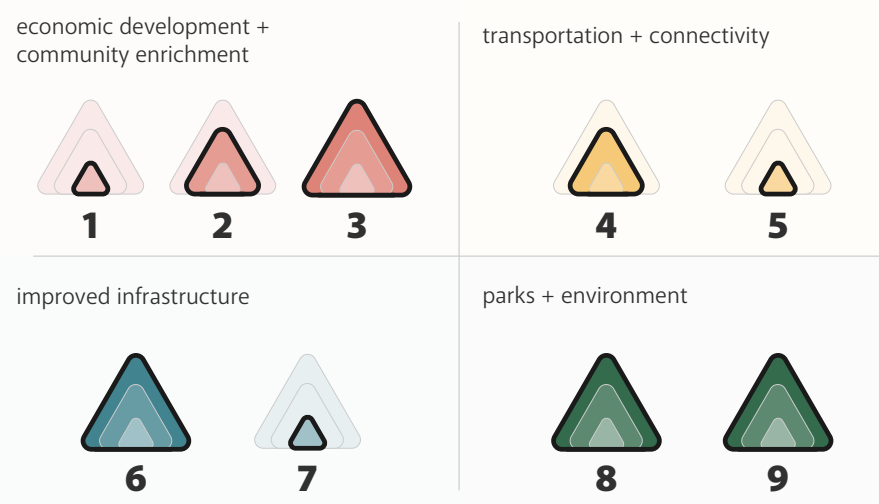
The Parks & Recreation Element aims to enhance Sultan’s public spaces for community, ecological, and economic benefits, aligning with the city’s 2044 Vision. As Sultan grows, parks will serve as crucial areas for community engagement, cultural enrichment, and climate resilience, particularly in flood mitigation. This element focuses on preserving Sultan’s unique landscape while expanding opportunities for recreation and play, ultimately improving the quality of life for residents.

The element sets forth goals and policies to improve existing parks, plan for regional tourism, create accessible family-friendly spaces, expand trail networks, and integrate ecological design. These initiatives will help Sultan attract visitors, support local recreation, and strengthen community bonds.

How it relates to Sultan’s Community Vision:



Relationship to Vision Strategies (Nine Big Ideas):



Key:



Why does the Parks & Recreation Element matter:

The Parks & Recreation Element is essential to the comprehensive plan because it addresses multiple facets of Sultan’s growth and development. Parks and recreational spaces are not only vital for community well-being and cultural enrichment but also play a significant role in economic development and environmental sustainability. By enhancing existing parks and planning for new ones, this element ensures that Sultan remains an attractive place to live, work, and visit, thereby supporting the city’s long-term vision for 2044. It also promotes regional tourism, improves accessibility for families, and integrates ecological design to mitigate climate impacts, making it a cornerstone of the comprehensive plan.

What’s New:



1. Enhanced Park Amenities: The element emphasizes improving existing parks to better serve the community by adding more amenities for recreation, gathering, and relaxation. This includes new play equipment, trails, lighting, benches, and safety features.

2. Regional Tourism Development: The element outlines a strategic focus on using parks to attract regional tourists, particularly those traveling through Sultan on US-2. By planning impactful parks rather than making piecemeal improvements, Sultan aims to draw visitors for activities such as hiking, water sports, and fishing.



3. Accessible Family Parks:

The introduction of Mountain View Park as Sultan’s first Neighborhood Park highlights a commitment to providing accessible parks with amenities like playgrounds and walking paths for families, especially in areas currently lacking such facilities.



4. Expanded Trail Networks: There is a strong emphasis on expanding trail networks to support safe walking and bicycling routes. This aligns with the broader transportation plan and enhances connectivity within the city.



5. Ecological and Environmental Design:

Incorporating ecological features into parks, such as flood mitigation through river-adjacent parks and educational elements about local waterways and habitats, underscores the element’s commitment to environmental sustainability.