

Parks and Recreation Facilities

The Existing Parks and Recreation System

Park Land

The City of Knoxville's parks and recreation system is currently comprised of 99 parks, totaling 2,363+ acres. Parks are classified by eight categories to assist with management and maintenance operations:

Minipark

- Smallest park (typically 3 acres or less)
- Designed to serve residents who live within walking distance (may have little to no parking or located in a residential neighborhood)
- Little to no programming or reservable amenities

Neighborhood Park

- Larger than minipark and typically has more amenities (typically 3-10 acres)
- Designed to serve residents who live within walking distance (may have little to no parking)
- Little to no programming or reservable amenities

Community Park

- Larger than neighborhood parks, typically 10+ acres
- Serve a broader population and purpose and offers a wider range of activities/amenities than neighborhood parks

Signature Park

- Typically a large park – 50+ acres (although can be any size based on overall draw)
- Serves entire city by providing a wide variety of outdoor recreation amenities
- Generally has programmable and reservable amenities

Nature Conservation Park

- Set aside to preserve natural or cultural resources, landscapes, and open space or provide enhanced aesthetics
- Use for recreation may be hiking, biking, etc. compared to other typical park amenities
- Usually include dedicated watershed or natural/non-developed or unbuildable/ undevelopable

Special Use Park

- Intended for specialized (examples include Safety City Park and Chilhowee Park) or single-purpose recreational activities, such as athletic fields, dog parks, skate parks, or golf courses

Greenway

- Linear parks usually next to watershed, railroad, or other resources that enhance the park experience
- May be used for transportation as well as for recreation, typically narrow unless connected to a larger park

Future

- Parks that are planned and/or in development with funding sources identified

**KNOXVILLE'S PARKS AND RECREATION
SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS**

 **99 Parks**
2,363 acres

66 Playgrounds

**26 Basketball
Courts**



**38 Tennis
Courts**



60 Baseball Fields

8 Dog Parks

3 Golf Courses



**19 Rectangle
Fields**

4 Spray Fountains



 **208,000+ sf**
of Indoor Center Space

Indoor Facilities

The system includes 26 indoor facilities that offer a range of indoor uses, such as recreation centers, community centers, and arts centers, and which provide residents with over 208,000 square feet of indoor space. These facilities range from the Larry Cox Senior Center, which offers senior services and a kitchen, to the South Knoxville Community Center which includes an indoor gym, community rooms, and an indoor fitness area, to the Williams Creek Community Center and Pool, which includes indoor pickleball courts and an ADA-compliant pool for adaptive programming.

Other Parks and Recreation Providers

Other public and semi-public parks and recreational resources are also located throughout the City of Knoxville and just beyond its boundaries, which are patronized by Knoxville residents. These include facilities provided by the County, UT, adjacent cities, the State, and organizations like the YMCA, the Greening Youth Foundation, and the Boys & Girls Clubs.

Figure 2.3n depicts the City's parks and recreation system while Figure 2.3o includes an inventory of the system.

Paths & Trails

The City of Knoxville has an expansive and diverse system of paths and trails. From Greenway shared use paths that offer biking and walking routes to destinations across the City, to walking paths within parks, to hiking and mountain biking trails weaving across the City's Urban Wilderness parks, there are hundreds of miles of trails to explore, with new segments regularly being added.

Paths and trails are classified under the following three categories:

Greenways

- Typically 10-12' paved, shared use paths (for mixed bike and pedestrian traffic) that are separated from vehicular traffic in their own right of way or as a sidepath adjacent to a road (protected by curb or barrier).
- These paths may run through parks, but typically extend for multiple miles connecting neighborhoods and destinations throughout the city.
- Paths may be a minimum of 8' and are occasionally unpaved, but feature compacted aggregate suitable for most bikes
- Designed to serve both active transportation (commuting) and recreation (exercise).
- Trailheads often feature parking, drinking fountains, and bike maintenance equipment.

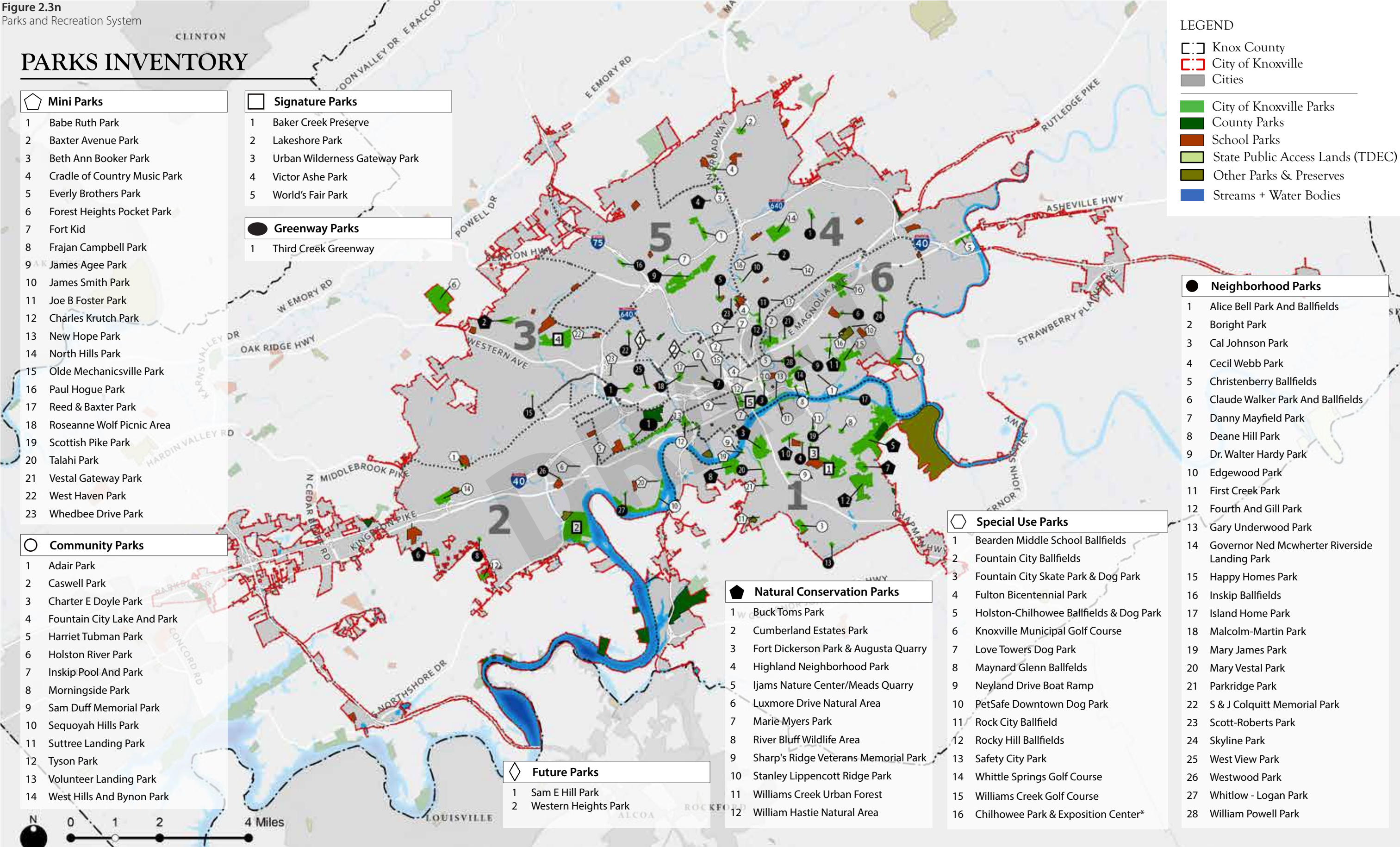
Park Loop Greenways

- Same physical standards as Greenways, but these paths are located entirely within one park, without existing Greenway connections beyond the park.

Walking Paths, Hiking trails, MTB & Multi-Use Trails

- This category covers the broad range of remaining paths and trails in parks that are designed for recreation activities.
- Walking paths are typically 5-8' paved paths in parks that provide pedestrian connections to the various facilities within a park.
- Hiking trails are typically 3-6' unpaved trails for hiking in Nature Conservation Parks, occasionally in other park types.
- Mountain Biking (MTB) trails are typically 3-6' unpaved trails designed for mountain bikes featuring maintained natural surfaces and some wooden boardwalk sections, as well as jumps and other obstacles.
- Multi-Use Trails are typically 5-8' unpaved trails designed for both mountain biking and hiking.

Figure 2.3n
Parks and Recreation System



*Chilhowee Park & Exposition Center is on land owned by the City, but at the time of inventory (2025) it was under management by a city contractor, ASM Global. Knoxville DPR provides no operations or management of the property, besides boxing programs. Chilhowee Park is planned to transition to Community Park status on 7/1/2026 and the City is working with community members to determine the future of the park

Fig. 2.3o Parks and Recreation Master Plan Inventory (continued)

[illegible]

Fig. 2.3.k Park Evaluations (continued)			TOTAL SYSTEM AVERAGE	SITE AMENITIES AVERAGE	SITE FURNISHINGS AVERAGE	SITE GENERAL HARDSCAPE LANDSCAPE AVERAGE	SITE EVALUATION AVERAGE	PROXIMITY/ ACCESS/ LINKAGES	Visibility From A Distance	Ease In Walking To The Park	Clarity Of Information/ Signage	Ada Compliance	Lighting
LEGEND													
Score													
Performance	System	Site											
Excellent	5.0	3.0											
	4.0												
Fair	3.0	2.0											
	2.0												
Poor	1.0	1.0											
-	n/a												
PARK NAMES	TYPE												
Fountain City Ball Park	Special Use Park	2.1											
Fountain City Park	Neighborhood Park	4.2											
Fountain City Skate and Dog Park	Minipark	2.5											
Fourth and Gill Park	Minipark	4.4											
Frajan Campbell Park	Minipark	2.7											
Fulton Bicentennial Park	Neighborhood Park	1.8											
Gary Underwood Park	Neighborhood Park	3.2											
Gov Ned McWherter/ Riverdale Landing	Neighborhood Park	1.9											
Happy Homes Park	Neighborhood Park	2.0											
Harriet Tubman Park	Neighborhood Park	4.1											
Highland Neighborhood Park	Minipark	2.1											
Holston -Chilhowee Ballfields	Minipark	2.2											
Holston River Park	Community Park	3.8											
Inskip Ballfields	Minipark	2.8											
Inskip Park	Community Park	4.0											
Island Home Park	Neighborhood Park	3.5											
James Agee Park	Minipark	3.9											
James Smith Park	Minipark	3.6											
Joe B Foster Park	Minipark	2.4											
Lakeshore Park	Signature Park	4.9											
Love Towers Dog Park	Special Use Park	3.6											
Luxmore Drive Natural Area	Nature Conservation Park												
Malcom Martin Park	Community Park	3.6											
Marie Myers Park	Nature Conservation Park	2.2											
Market Square Park	Signature Park	3.8											
Mary Costa Plaza	Special Use Park	2.5											
Mary James Park	Neighborhood Park	2.9											
Mary Vestal Park	Community Park	2.6											
Maynard Glenn Ballfields	Minipark	2.4											
Morningside Park	Community Park	4.2											
New Hope Park	Neighborhood Park	3.2											
North Hills Park	Minipark	3.7											
Oakland Park	Neighborhood Park	2.5											
Olde Mechanicsville Park	Minipark	2.3											

COMFORT AND IMAGE	COMFORT AND IMAGE												USES AND ACTIVITIES AND SOCIABILITY							
	First Impression/ Overall Attractiveness	Feeling Of Safety	Cleanliness/ Overall Quality Of Maintenance (Exterior Site)	Cleanliness/ Overall Quality Of Maintenance (Interior Site)	Comfort Of Places To Sit	Protection From Bad Weather	Evidence Of Management/ Stewardship (Exterior Site)	Evidence Of Management/ Stewardship (Facility/ies Interior)	Ability To Easily Supervise And Manage The Park Or Facility (Interior)	Condition And Effectiveness Of Any Equipment Or Operating System	Branding	Mix Of Uses/ Things To Do	Level Of Activity	Sense Of Pride/ Ownership	Programming Flexibility	Ability Of Facility To Effectively Support The Current Organized Programming	Marketing Or Promotional Efforts For The Facility Or Activities			
2.4	2	5	4		1	2		2	2		1	1.6	2	1	2		1			
4.7	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5		5	3	3.3	4	2	5	2	2			
2.4	3	3	4		2	1	3				1	3.3	4	3	3					
4.6	4	5	5		4	5						5.0	5	5	5					
3.1	3	2	4		3		4		4	3	2	1.6	2	1	2	2	1			
1.9	1	4	1		2	1	1		4		1	1.6	3	1	1	2	1			
2.7	3	4	3	2	4	2	3	1	4		1	3.3	4	3	4	4	1			
1.8	2	1	1		2	1	1		3	3	2	1.8	3	2	1	2	1			
1.9	1	3	1		2	3	1	2				2.0	4	1	1					
3.9	4	4	3		3	5	4			4		4.8	5	5	4	5				
2.5	3	3			1	1	3		4			1.7	1	1	2	1	1			
2.7	3	5	3	1	1	1	4		5		1	1.8	2	1	3	2	1			
4.0	5	5	4	4	5	5	4	4	4	2	2	4.3	5	5	4	5	2			
2.7	1	5	4	1	5	1	1	3	5		1	2.8	3	5	1	4	1			
4.4	3	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5	4	2	4.7	5	5	5	4	4			
3.7	4	5	5		4	1	4		4	3	3	3.3	4	4	4	4	1			
4.1	5	5	5		5	1	5		3			3.8	4	5	5	4	1			
3.8	4	4	3		2	4	5	5	5	2										
3.2	2	3	3		5	5	1					1.8	4	1	1	2	1			
4.9	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	4	5	5	5.0	5	5	5	5	5			
3.6	4	4	5	4	4	1	3	3	4	5	3	3.3		3	4	1				
4.1	4	5	5	5	4	4	4			2		3.7	4	1	3	5	4			
2.2	3	1	3		3	1	2		1	3	3	2.8	4	3	3		1			
3.6	4	5	3		3	4	4		5		1	4.0	4	5	5	3	3			
2.6	2	5	3		3	2	2				1	2.0	3	1	2	3	1			
3.2	3	4	4		4	1	3		5	3	2	2.5	3	2	3	2	1			
2.5	2	2	2		3	3	2			4	2	2.0	3	2	2	2	1			
2.6	3	4	2		2	3	2		3	3	1	1.5	1	1	1	4	1			
3.8	5	4	5	3	4	4	3		3	4	3	4.5	5	4	3	5	5			
3.6	2	4	4		2	5	3		5	4	3	3.2	3	2	4	3	3			
4.4	4	5	5	5	5	3	4	4	5	5	3	3.3	2	2	5	2	4			
2.9	2	3	3	4	3	1	3	4		4	2	2.3	3	1	3					
2.6	2	5	2		3	1	2		5		1	1.6	2	2	1	2	1			

Figure 2.3v
Park Scores Map

PARK SCORES

Performance	Score
Excellent	5
	4
Fair	3
	2
Poor	1

Signature Parks
1 Baker Creek Preserve
2 Lakeshore Park
3 Urban Wilderness Gateway Park
4 Victor Ashe Park
5 World's Fair Park

Mini Parks
1 Babe Ruth Park
2 Baxter Avenue Park
3 Beth Ann Booker Park
4 Cradle of Country Music Park
5 Everly Brothers Park
6 Forest Heights Pocket Park
7 Fort Kid
8 Frajan Campbell Park
9 James Agee Park
10 James Smith Park
11 Joe B Foster Park
12 Charles Krutch Park
13 New Hope Park
14 North Hills Park
15 Olde Mechanicsville Park
16 Paul Hogue Park
17 Reed & Baxter Park
18 Roseanne Wolf Picnic Area
19 Scottish Pike Park
20 Talahi Park
21 Vestal Gateway Park
22 West Haven Park
23 Whedbee Drive Park

Community Parks
1 Adair Park
2 Caswell Park
3 Charter E Doyle Park
4 Fountain City Lake And Park
5 Harriet Tubman Park
6 Holston River Park
7 Inskip Pool And Park
8 Morningside Park
9 Sam Duff Memorial Park
10 Sequoyah Hills Park
11 Suttree Landing Park
12 Tyson Park
13 Volunteer Landing Park
14 West Hills And Bynon Park

Natural Conservation Parks
1 Buck Toms Park
2 Cumberland Estates Park
3 Fort Dickerson Park & Augusta Park
4 Highland Neighborhood Park
5 Ijams Nature Center
6 Luxmore Drive Natural Area
7 Marie Myers Park
8 River Bluff Wildlife Area
9 Sharp's Ridge Veterans Memorial Park
10 Stanley Lippencott Ridge Park
11 Williams Creek Urban Forest
12 William Hastie Natural Area

Greenway Parks
1 Third Creek Greenway

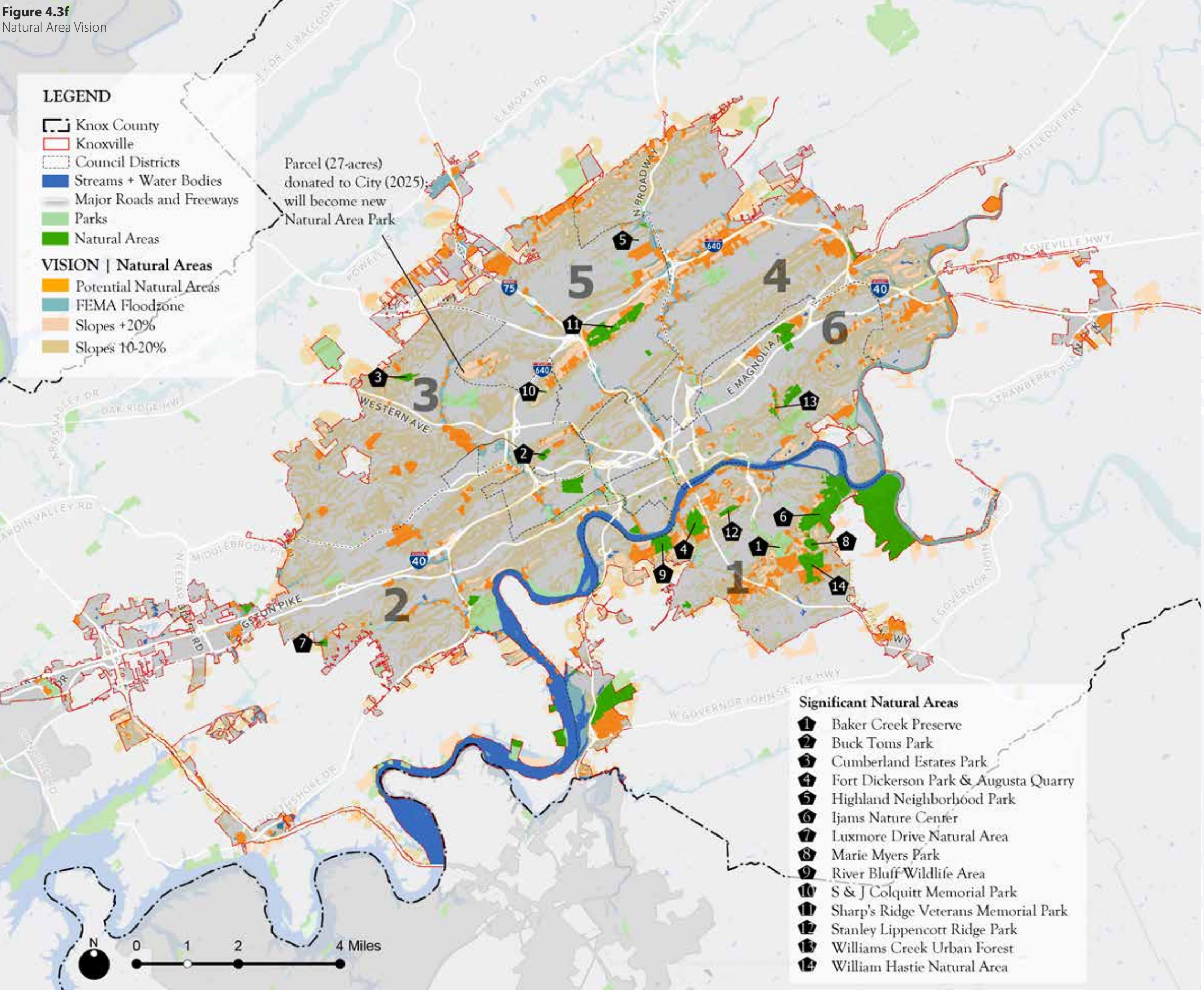
Special Use Parks
1 Bearden Middle School Ballfields
2 Fountain City Ballfields
3 Fountain City Skate Park & Dog Park
4 Fulton Bicentennial Park
5 Holston-Chilhowee Ballfields & Dog Park
6 Knoxville Municipal Golf Course
7 Love Towers Dog Park
8 Maynard Glenn Ballfields
9 Neyland Drive Boat Ramp
10 PetSafe Downtown Dog Park
11 Rock City Ballfield
12 Rocky Hill Ballfields
13 Safety City Park
14 Whittle Springs Golf Course
15 Williams Creek Golf Course
16 Chilhowee Park & Expo Center*

LEGEND

- Knox County
- City of Knoxville
- City Council Districts
- Streams + Water Bodies
- Major Roads + Highways

Neighborhood Parks
1 Alice Bell Park And Ballfields
2 Boright Park
3 Cal Johnson Park
4 Cecil Webb Park
5 Christenberry Ballfields
6 Claude Walker Park And Ballfields
7 Danny Mayfield Park
8 Deane Hill Park
9 Dr. Walter Hardy Park
10 Edgewood Park
11 First Creek Park
12 Fourth And Gill Park
13 Gary Underwood Park
14 Governor Ned Mcwherter Riverside Landing Park
15 Happy Homes Park
16 Inskip Ballfields
17 Island Home Park
18 Malcolm-Martin Park
19 Mary James Park
20 Mary Vestal Park
21 Parkridge Park
22 S & J Colquitt Memorial Park
23 Scott-Roberts Park
24 Skyline Park
25 West View Park
26 Westwood Park
27 Whitlow - Logan Park
28 William Powell Park

Figure 4.3f
Natural Area Vision



Objective 3.2: Increase access to water.

The Tennessee River is an important ecological, recreational, and economic asset for the City of Knoxville. Recognizing the value of the river, the Tennessee RiverLine is reframing the river corridor as “a continuous river park for exploration, health, learning, and connection—welcoming everyone to experience the beauty and richness of the Tennessee River Valley” through access to a variety of natural resource-based recreation activities. These activities include, amongst others, access to the river through paddling, fishing, boating, and more.

Increasing access to the Tennessee River and appropriate connecting creeks is critical for advancing the Tennessee RiverLine’s vision as well as addressing residents’ desires to increase access to water via motorized, non-motorized, and passive uses. Figure 4.3g identifies existing and potential areas of water access. Subsequent pages also include illustrations from the Governor Ned McWherter/ Riverside Landing Park + Downtown Water Trail Conceptual Plan. Implementing these and other proposed projects will help grow access to the Tennessee River.

- **Action 3.2.1 – Confirm and prioritize water access opportunities.** Further explore, confirm, and prioritize potential areas for increased water access for non-motorized, motorized, and passive uses.
It will be important for the Integrated Capital Parks and Recreation Capital Projects Committee to review these projects, prioritize them, and present them to the public through a public engagement-based park site master planning process.
- **Action 3.2.2 – Formalize the protection and acquisition of lands that maximize opportunities for increase water access.** Explore strategies to obtain potential parcels for water access including, but not limited to conservation easements, acquisition, transfer of development rights, etc.
- **Action 3.2.3 – Develop water access plans with the community.** Develop community-based conceptual water access plans and construction documents based on available capital and management funding.