

Recreation Strategic Plan

FAQs from Round One Engagement

Q: Can you define what is considered within the scope of parks and recreation? Are greenspaces around schools and urban community spaces considered part of these discussions?

A: This plan is focused on four sites: the Middle School, Thornton Park, Chelton Park, and the STJ Community Building Quadrant. However, we may also add up to two additional sites to study and can include green spaces and urban spaces. We have not decided yet on any two additional sites. When evaluating the project sites, we consider the existing recreational facilities throughout the city, including those that the City owns and at the public schools.

Q: Can we have more Pickleball courts? Will indoor Pickleball courts be considered?

A: We are studying all recreational options. We will look at Pickleball, tennis and basketball courts, as well as playgrounds, walking paths, and other desired recreational facilities. Through this planning process, we will identify where Pickleball courts make the most sense. We will consider location, timing, and quantity of all desired recreation facilities.

Options for all facilities will be considered and guided by the ongoing community engagement process. If the community consensus is that our current facilities are not conducive for indoor sports such as Pickleball, tennis, or basketball, new indoor facilities will be considered.

Q: Will the overarching objective be to create a state-of-the-art facilities?

A: When Shaker renovates existing buildings or builds new recreation facilities, they will be state-of-the-art and built to serve the needs of the community.

Q: How is Shaker planning to finance improvements of recreation facilities?

A: This Recreation Strategic Plan will include cost estimates for the recommended facilities. After Plan completion, City leaders will discuss prioritization and funding of facility improvements.

Q: I am concerned on the impact of traffic flow if the Middle School is transformed into a recreation hub. Will the planning take into account such an impact?

A: If substantial changes are planned on the Middle School site, our City requires the approval of boards, commissions, and City Council. As part of those approvals, a traffic study would be required which would take into account changed traffic flow.

Q: Will there be a dedicated portion of the planning for the senior and/or elderly community?

A: We held a senior stakeholder group meeting, a senior Recreation Strategic Plan pop-up, had a substantial senior turn-out at our first public meeting, and we encourage seniors to weigh in on their needs. Since the pandemic, we have increased requests for senior adult programming and our facility and programming options.

Q. Will additional indoor and outdoor basketball facilities be considered?

A: We are studying all recreational options. We will look at basketball, tennis and Pickleball courts, as well as playgrounds, walking paths, and other desired recreational facilities. Through this planning process, we will identify where basketball courts make the most sense. We will consider location, timing, and quantity of all desired recreation facilities.

Options for all facilities will be considered and guided by the ongoing community engagement process. If the community consensus is that our current facilities are not conducive for indoor sports such as basketball, tennis, or Pickleball, new indoor facilities will be considered.

Q. Will teen facilities be considered?

A: We held a youth stakeholder group meeting and we encourage teens to weigh in on their recreation and leisure needs.

Options for all facilities will be considered and guided by the ongoing community engagement process. If the community consensus is that our current facilities are not conducive for teen activities, new facilities will be considered.

Q. Are existing amenities/facilities on each site staying as-is, being updated, or being relocated to other sites?

A. The purpose of the Recreation Strategic Plan is to provide a comprehensive analysis of recreation needs informed by robust community engagement to reflect the needs of all members of the community. The Plan will include a community needs assessment, evaluate existing conditions and trends, assess community needs for certain facility types and locations, and conceptual facility plans for each site. Options for maintaining existing conditions, updating facilities, and relocating or building new facilities will be considered.

Q. What is the timeline for the Recreation Strategic Plan and implementing its recommendations?

A. The Plan will take about one year to be completed, with the final plan expected for delivery in Spring 2025. After that, City leaders will determine the timing to undertake an Operations & Implementation Plan which may include a phasing plan, financing plan, and recommendations for partnerships and best practices.