



Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update

Council Study Session
August 25, 2026

Project Goals & Schedule





PLANNING FOR THE NEXT 10 YEARS



1

FOSTER A HEALTHY AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

Create opportunities for all people to be active, connected, and engaged.



2

ENHANCE ACCESS TO PARKS AND PROGRAMMING

Ensure everyone can enjoy quality parks, facilities, and recreation opportunities.



3

PROVIDE A SAFE COMMUNITY

Design, maintain, and operate parks and facilities that are safe and welcoming.



4

PROMOTE CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Protect our natural resources and promote sustainable practices.



5

STIMULATE ECONOMIC ACTIVITY AND FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Invest wisely to strengthen our community and support a vibrant local economy.



A COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED, IMPLEMENTABLE ROADMAP
for investment, operations, programs, and future growth.



WHAT THE MASTER PLAN WILL ADDRESS

A comprehensive look at our parks, facilities, programs, services, and operations to guide investment and decision-making for the next 10 years.



PARKS & FACILITIES

- Inventory of parks and facilities
- Condition assessment
- Reinvestment priorities



TRAILS & CONNECTIONS

- Trail system inventory
- Connectivity and access
- Opportunities for expansion



PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- Current programs and participation
- Community needs and interests
- Future program opportunities



COMMUNITY NEEDS

- Demographics and trends
- Resident and visitor needs
- Priorities and preferences



LEVEL OF SERVICE

- Parkland and facility access
- Service standards
- Gaps and areas for improvement



ORGANIZATION & OPERATIONS

- Staffing and capacity
- Operational efficiency
- Sustainability analysis



FUTURE INVESTMENT

- Capital improvement plan
- Land acquisition needs
- Implementation strategy



+ BRIDGEWATER CHANNEL FOCUSED STRATEGY AND CONCEPTUAL PLANNING



In-depth analysis of a premier recreation and tourism asset



Integrates recreation, businesses, events, operations, and environmental stewardship



Guides future development and investment decisions





PROJECT ROADMAP



SUMMER 2026
UNDERSTAND
What We Have

- Kickoff & project initiation
- Inventory & data collection
- Existing conditions assessment



FALL 2026
LISTEN
& Learn

- Survey & online input
- Needs assessment
- Organizational assessment



WINTER 2026/27
PRIORITIZE
& Plan Ahead

- Visioning & goals
- Level of service analysis
- Capital & land needs
- Bridgewater Channel planning



SPRING 2027
PLAN
& Recommend

- Develop recommendations
- Capital improvement plan
- Implementation strategy
- Draft Master Plan



MAY-JUNE 2027
ADOPT
& Move Forward

- Public review
- Council review
- Final Master Plan
- Plan adoption

Engagement Strategy





WHAT WE WANT TO LEARN



1. WHAT IS WORKING WELL TODAY?

What do you value most about our parks, facilities, trails, and programs?



2. WHERE ARE THE GAPS?

What needs improvement or is missing in our park and recreation system?



5. WHAT SHOULD THE FUTURE PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM LOOK LIKE?

What facilities, programs, services, and experiences do you want to see in the future?



3. WHAT SHOULD WE INVEST IN FIRST?

Where should we focus resources to have the greatest impact?



4. HOW ARE NEEDS CHANGING?

How are our community, recreation trends, and use of parks and facilities evolving?



6. WHAT SHOULD THE FUTURE OF THE CHANNEL LOOK LIKE?

What opportunities, improvements, and experiences are most important for the Bridgewater Channel?



YOUR VOICE. OUR PLAN.

Together, we're building a stronger future for Lake Havasu City.





ENGAGEMENT DESIGNED FOR DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES

No single engagement method tells the whole story.



LISTEN BROADLY



Statistically
valid survey



Online
engagement



GO TO THE COMMUNITY



Festivals +
community events



Drop-in
conversations



DIG DEEPER



Focus
groups



Stakeholder
interviews



WORK THROUGH IDEAS



Community
open houses



Visioning
conversations



Different methods help us hear from different people—and understand both broad priorities and the reasons behind them.





HOW WE WILL ENGAGE



FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

*Small group conversations
with key user groups.*



SPORTS FIELD USERS

Athletes, coaches,
and league representatives



AQUATIC USERS

Swimmers, boaters,
and water recreation users



GENERAL PARK USERS

Residents and visitors
who use parks and trails



OPEN HOUSES

Come one, come all!

Share feedback with interactive
engagement stations.



Ask
questions



Share
ideas



Provide
input



Help shape
the future



DROP-IN VISITS

We're going to you!

Stop by and share your thoughts
where you already are.



POOL DROP-IN

Conversations with
pool users



PICKLEBALL DROP-IN

Conversations with
pickleball players



HOW WE WILL ENGAGE

We will meet the community where they are.



RELICS & RODS



**CONCERTS
IN THE PARK**



**LONDON BRIDGE
PARADE**



**FALL
FUN FAIR**



**BALLOON
FESTIVAL**



WINTERFEST

HOW WE USE THESE OPPORTUNITIES



Quick
conversations



Survey
promotion



Priority
exercises



QR
access



One-question
intercepts



CHANNEL-SPECIFIC ENGAGEMENT

Focused conversations to
shape the future of the Channel.



FOCUS GROUP SESSIONS

Small group discussions with key
Bridgewater Channel stakeholders.



Channel Business Owners

Perspectives on operations and opportunities



Channel User Groups

Recreation users, boaters, and visitors



City Staff & Partners

Collaboration and coordination for the Channel



OPEN HOUSES

Come one, come all!

Interactive engagement stations to learn,
ask questions, and share ideas.



Benchmark Agencies



Benchmark Community Selection

Peer characteristics related to demographics, recreation demand, tourism, and community context

Agency	Type	Population	% 65+	Median Age	Sq. Miles	Tourist Dest.	What Makes It Unique / Relevant
Lake Havasu City, AZ	City	57,100	35%	55.4	46	Yes	Water recreation + tourism + seasonal population; lake/river boating, beaches, fishing, events, and winter visitors.
Prescott, AZ	City	45,800	41%	60.5	45	Yes	Historic mountain community + outdoor recreation; four-season climate, trails, open space, and a large retiree population.
Oro Valley, AZ	Town	47,595	35%	54.0	36	Yes	Affluent planned community + active recreation; Catalina Mountain setting, trails, cycling, golf, fitness, and strong municipal services.
Bullhead City, AZ	City	41,348	34%	54.2	59	Yes	Colorado River + Laughlin connection; river recreation, seasonal visitation, and a large older-adult/retiree population.
St. George, UT	City	108,713	22%	38.2	79	Yes	Rapid growth + sports/outdoor tourism; extensive trails, major sports facilities/events, golf, and proximity to Zion.
Palm Springs, CA	City	44,575	34%	56.6	94	Yes	Destination resort community + seasonal residents; resorts, golf, arts/culture, events, and tourism-driven recreation demand.
Ocala, FL	City	63,591	29%	38.3	49	Yes	Equestrian identity + growing retirement region; horse industry, springs, forests, trails, and nature-based recreation.



COUNCIL DISCUSSION

1

PRIORITIES



What are the most important issues you want this planning process to address?

2

VOICES



Are there groups, organizations, or perspectives we need to make a special effort to reach?

3

SUCCESS



A year from now, what would make you consider this planning effort successful?



Thank You

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