

2025 Parks, Recreation, Open Space, & Trails (PROST) Playbook

Town Council

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Introduction

The Erie Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Trails (PROST) ‘Connecting YOU to Fun’ Playbook serves as a strategic guide to enhance, expand, and sustain Erie’s parks, recreation, open space, and trails system. It provides a clear roadmap for decision making and investment over the next decade to ensure a balanced approach to growth, accessibility, environmental stewardship, and quality of life.

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook

2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan

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Acknowledgements

This plan would not have been possible without the input and support of Town Council, Board and Commission members, community participants, and staff. Erie Parks & Recreation sincerely thanks everyone who contributed their time, insight, and energy to its development. We look forward to implementing the community’s vision.

Connecting YOU to FUN Playbook

2025 Erie Parks & Recreation PROST Strategic Plan



Playbook Purpose

- Guides the next decade of PROST development.
- Updates the 2016 PROST Strategic Master Plan.
- Ensures high-quality services, balanced distribution of amenities, and strategic planning for operations, maintenance, staffing, and funding.



Project Timeline

Project Initiation

(Nov. 2024 - Feb. 2025)

Needs Assessment, Exploration, & Ideas

(Nov. 2024 - April 2025)

Draft - Final Plan Formation

(April 2025 - June 2025)

Plan Adoption

(Aug. 2025 - Sept. 2025)

The Playbook was developed through a collaborative process involving community input, data analysis, and alignment with national standards, including CAPRA accreditation from the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA).



Mission, Vision, & Goals

Mission Statement:

'Building community through the delivery of exceptional parks, open spaces, trails, facilities, programs, and services.'

Vision Statement:

'Discover your ExpERIEnce'.

Six Major Goals:



Goal 1: Equitable Access



Goal 2: Stewardship of Open Lands



Goal 3: Connected System



Goal 4: Community Identity



Goal 5: Fiscal Sustainability



Goal 6: Future Growth Resiliency



Community Engagement Plan (CEP)

- Community Questionnaire
- Stakeholder Interviews
- Focus Group Meetings
- Staff Focus Group
- Public Engagement Events
- Community Open House
- Online Engagement



Community Values & Top Priorities



- Expanded Recreation Facilities
- Aquatic Amenities
- Enhanced Trail Connectivity
- Preservation and Use of Open Space
- Cultural and Creative Spaces
- Inclusive, Family-Friendly Parks and Recreational Opportunities
- Sustainability and Smart Growth
- Maintenance and Facility Upkeep



2024 Magellan Survey - Overall

- November 2024 – Survey of **2,031 residents**
 - 96% familiar with amenities managed by PRD
 - 82% approve of how PRD manages parks and playgrounds
 - 79% approve of how PRD manages open spaces and trails
 - 76% approve of how PRD manages the Erie Community Center
 - 55% agree (31% Unsure/No opinion) that PRD is fiscally responsible



PROST Questionnaire

- Online questionnaire open for 14 weeks from February 21 to May 31
- 726 responses
- Key takeaways
 - Connectivity of trail system
 - Top barrier to program participation: Programs fill up too quickly
 - Top desired programs: Fitness & Wellness and Community Special Events
 - Top capital priorities: Outdoor community pool and second recreation center
 - 53% would vote yes for sales tax increase to fund parks and facilities

Existing Conditions Analysis + Future Needs

- Park Locations and Level of Service
- Facilities Needs
- Trail Network
- Open Space Areas
- Management Plans
- Population Growth
- Capacity Planning
- Age-Specific Services
- Affluence Driven Demand
- Equity Considerations
- Sustainable Investment
- Resiliency



Plan Recommendations: The Path Forward

- Plan for new parks and recreation facilities while maintaining current ones
- Enhance trail connections and accessibility
- Expand and diversify recreation programs
- Strengthen partnerships and collaboration
- Plan for financial sustainability and evaluate new funding sources and finance methods
- Strengthen organizational capacity
- Celebrate and capitalize on cultural resources



Overall PROST Map

This map shows existing parks, open space, and trails for Erie. It also serves as a roadmap to guide the locations and development of potential future facilities, parks, and trails.

Existing Waterways & Railroads

- Streams & Ditches
- Railroads
- Water Bodies

Boundaries

- Town Boundary
- Planning Boundary

Land Use

- Residential Land Uses
- Non-Residential Land Uses

★ Erie Community Center

● School Sites

Green Space

- Town Owned Parks
- Town Owned Open Space
- Private Green Space
- Other Open Space
- Golf Course
- Town Owned Undeveloped Park Sites
- Housing + Preserved Open Space

— Existing Trails

--- Future Trails

— Other Existing Trails

--- Other Planned Future Trails

■ Underpass

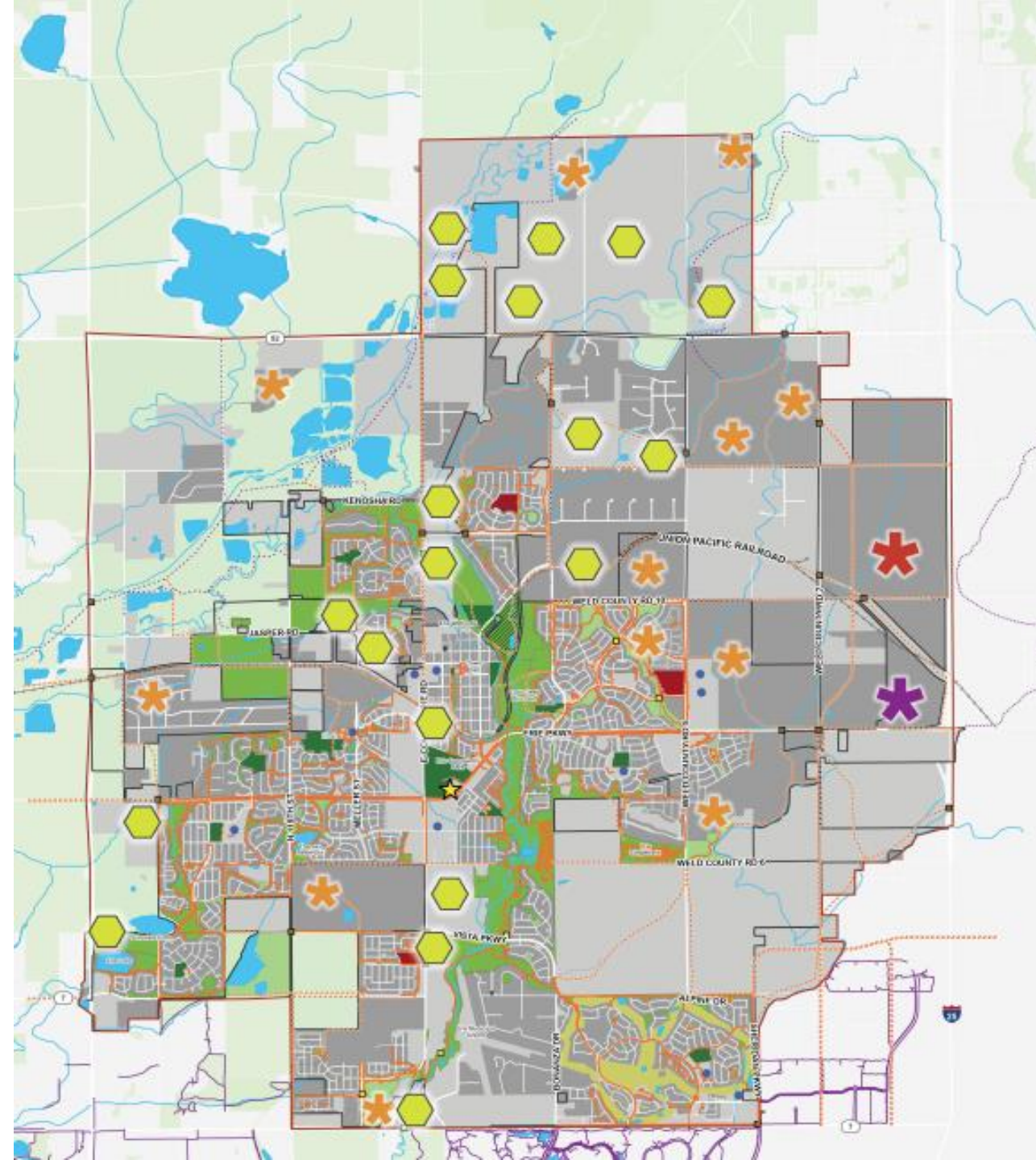
■ Proposed Underpass

★ Future Town Owned Community Park/Recreational Facility Opportunity

★ Future Town Owned Neighborhood Park Opportunity

● Future Town Open Space Opportunity

★ Potential Urban Recreation Facility



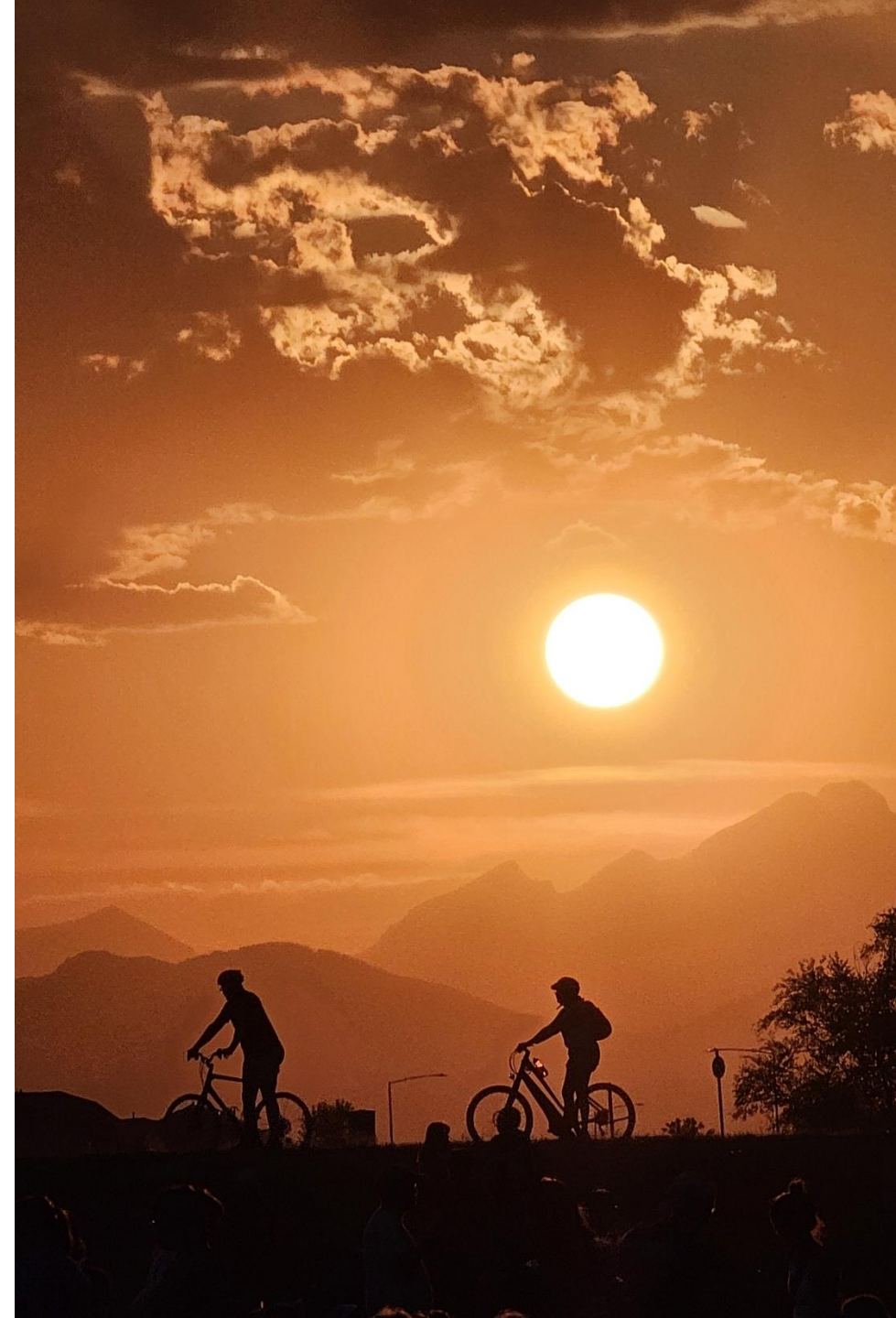
Action Plan

- Each action item is organized into five thematic categories:
 - Parks and Recreation Facilities
 - Open Space and Trails
 - Recreation Programs and Resources
 - Operations and Funding
 - Cultural Elements.



Plan Benefits & Impacts

- Charts an inspiring path toward a connected, vibrant, and resilient parks, recreation, open space, and trails system.
- Strengthens Erie's identity as a community that values health, nature, and shared experiences.
- Provides a clear framework for both immediate action and long-term success.



Implementation Plan

- Action Plan – detailed roadmap for implementing the Plan recommendations and establishes priorities for each element.
- Translates high-level strategies into specific, actionable steps with clear responsibilities and timelines.
- Action Plan serves as a practical management tool to track progress, assign responsibilities, and ensure accountability.



Call To Action



Questions & Discussion

