



***Board of Directors and Parks Commission***

**Thursday, May 10, 2012, 6:30 p.m.**

**Elm Grove Community Center at  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Park  
1901 North Greenwood Ave.**

**Dinner Available at 6:00 p.m.**

1. Call to Order – Mayor Sandy Sanders
  
2. Introductions
  
3. Discuss and review parks capital improvement projects to be funded with revenue from the 1/4% sales tax
  
4. Establish project priorities for the first 5 years
  
5. Adjourn



## Memo:

May 7, 2012

To: Ray Gosack, City Administrator *Mike Alsup*  
From: Mike Alsup, Parks and Recreation Director  
Re: Proposed 2012, 5 year Capital Improvements Program

The Parks and Recreation Department's goals as identified in the Comprehensive Plan are to provide Regional Facilities, Trails and Greenways, and Neighborhood Parks. The Department's proposed 2012, 5 year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) reflects these goals and the proposed list of projects presented to the citizens in the recent tax extension vote for park improvements. I look forward to working toward meeting the overall goal of meeting or exceeding national standards.

### CIP Year One, 2013:

**Ben Geren Softball Fields** – This project includes two 225' softball fields, parking, concessions and restrooms. These facilities are part of the collaborative agreement with Sebastian County to provide amenities at Ben Geren Regional Park. The ball fields satisfy the City's obligation to the Sebastian County Girls Softball League for fields to replace the facility given to the National Cemetery for cemetery expansion. These fields also satisfy the City's obligation to provide replacement facilities for the conversion of the Andrews Field according to the State Outdoor Grant requirements allowing the City to apply for grants through this source. The conversion will be complete when the 51 acres along Riverfront Drive is developed.

**Feasibility Study** – It is recommended that a feasibility study be authorized to determine the demand for tournament sports facilities including typical costs to build and operate these type facilities.

**Parks Strategic Plan** – It is recommended that a strategic plan be authorized to provide direction, priority, and coordination of capital improvements to attain the goals expressed in the Comprehensive Plan. The parks last strategic plan was conducted in 1999. Many of the goals have been met, and conditions have changed necessitating a new plan.

**RVSC tournament softball facilities** - This project was proposed to the City by Lee Webb and Jake Files. It includes two quads of 225' softball fields including concessions, restrooms and other support buildings, parking, and other amenities with the intention of hosting tournaments during the weekends and league play during the week. This is a

tournament quality facility designed to attract teams from the region and around the United States promoting tourism in Fort Smith.

Creekmore Park Land Acquisition and Parking – Acquisition - Creekmore Park often times does not have adequate parking for events. Additional parking and maintenance storage is needed.

Operations and Maintenance – support for new facilities and construction

### CIP Year Two, 2014:

#### Neighborhood Parks -

Leo Fondren Park (across from Gerber) donated in 2006 by the Fondren family for the purpose of building a neighborhood park for the children who live in the area.

Texas Road Park (near Texas Road/Harvard Road intersection) donated by the developer in 2004 for a neighborhood park. This development has added over 400 homes. A neighborhood park is greatly needed in this area.

#### Trails and Greenways -

River West Trail – this trail was rated high priority due to its connecting Harry E. Kelley River Park, the National Historic Site, Downtown, and Fort Smith Park. The Rice Carden Levee Trail is a part of this trail. The property owners have provided temporary easements for this trail. The construction of this trail in its current planned location is dependent on approval of the fill material that has been placed along the river.

RVSC tournament softball facilities - Funding for this project will require two budget years.

Operations and Maintenance – support for new facilities and construction

### CIP Year Three, 2015

Soccer Fields and park along Riverfront Drive – this 51 acre tract was purchased from Kansas City Southern Railroad for the softball fields to replace Andrews Field. Currently soccer fields and/or other sports facilities have been proposed. In order to complete the conversion of Andrews Field, this property must be developed. The extension of Spradling Avenue is required with development of the property according to the purchase agreement. Engineering Department's CIP will provide this capital improvement.

Fort Smith Park Parking and Fishing Pavilion – many fishing tournaments are hosted using this park. Improvements to these facilities will help to provide for larger tournaments with tourism related benefits. The improvements include a substantial parking lot for trucks

and trailers, a pavilion for staging tournaments and space for a fish weigh in trailer, an additional boat staging area, and an accessible dock.

#### Trails and Greenways –

**Mill Creek South Trail** – this trail is rated as a Mid-Term Trail. Recent drainage improvements along Mill Creek and proposed improvements to Jenny Lind Road make this section of trail more feasible. This section of trail will connect Evans Boys and Girls Club to neighborhoods along Jenny Lind Road and commercial areas. The proposed route will follow Mill Creek from Boys Club Lane to Jenny Lind Road.

**Glass Pavilion Storage and Kitchen** – the Glass Pavilion was planned to be a support building for large outdoor events. The actual use has been primarily a site for family reunions, wedding receptions, and other large indoor gatherings. There is a need for a kitchen and storage. The proposal is to use the spaces on the north side of the building now covered in ivy for this use.

**Fort Smith Park Playground** – the playground at this community park has not been updated in many years.

**Creekmore Park Land Acquisition and Parking** – Construction - Creekmore Park often times does not have adequate parking for events. Additional parking and maintenance storage is needed.

**Operations and Maintenance** – support for new facilities and construction

### CIP Year Four, 2016

**Tilles Park Tennis Courts** – Resurfacing (color)

#### Neighborhood Parks –

**Briarcliff Avenue Park** (on Briarcliff at the creek) purchased by engineering as a part of flooding improvements and one lot purchased by the Parks Department in 2006 for the purpose of a neighborhood park. This part of the City is void of parks and rated a high priority area.

**Williamson Place** – (Old Highway 71 and Tennessee Circle) this property is proposed to be donated by the developer as a neighborhood park. This area of the City is in need of parks.

#### Trails and Greenways –

**Zero Street/Ridge Trails** – these trails are mid and long term trails on the Master Plan. However, the connectivity of existing trails and progress of development increase the need to build these trails. The proposal for this trail is to connect the Massard Road South Trail along Zero Street to Wells Lake Road at Zero Street in Chaffee Crossing, and to complete the Ridge Trail from

its terminus to Zero Street. This trail will connect Chaffee Crossing, the new location of a high school, neighborhoods, commercial and industrial areas. It will also provide a connection with Ben Geren Regional Park, McClure Amphitheater, and the Janet Huckabee Nature Center.

Wilson Park Playground and Pavilion – the playground at this neighborhood park has not been updated in many years.

Shade Structures – Creekmore Pool Wading Pool, Martin Luther King Jr. Park Splash Pad and Playground are heavily used park features. Shade structures will make these parks more user friendly through the hot summer months.

Creekmore Tennis Court Lighting and Surfacing – Currently the courts have recreation standard lighting, the plan is to increase lighting to NCAA standards. The courts have structural cracks, post stress concrete surfacing is recommended.

Kelley Stage and River Park Amphitheater – these improvements include replacing the cover for the amphitheater and improving the Kelley Stage adding support structures to hold speakers and lighting

Operations and Maintenance – support for new facilities and construction

## CIP Year Five, 2017

### Neighborhood Parks

Middleton Farms – (Howard Hill and Rye Hill East) this property is proposed to be donated by the developer as a neighborhood park. This area of the City is in need of parks.

### Trails and Greenways –

Chaffee West Trail – the recommendation for this near term trail is to follow Vache Grasse Creek from Chad Colley Boulevard at its southwestern most point to Taylor Avenue at its Fort Chaffee Boulevard crossing. This will connect the Chad Colley Trail, golf course, RVSC ball fields, and soccer fields.

Operations and Maintenance – support for new facilities and construction

Attachment

## PARKS PROJECTS FUNDED WITH REVENUE FROM 1/4% SALES TAX

|   |                | <u>Dec. 2012</u> | <u>Jan. 2013</u> | <u>Feb. 2013</u> |
|---|----------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Beginning Balance                         |                | 0                | 104,240          | 271,750          |
| Current Revenue                           |                | 204,240          | 237,510          | 179,777          |
| Total Resources Available                 |                | 204,240          | 341,750          | 451,527          |
| Expenses                                  |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Aquatics Center Operations                |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Ben Geren Park Ballfields                 |                | 50,000           | 50,000           | 105,000          |
| Sports Complex Ballfields                 |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Parks Maint. O & M Budget                 |                | 50,000           | 20,000           | 20,000           |
| Trails                                    |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Misc. Park Improvements                   |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Fort Smith Park Playground                |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Fort Smith Park Fishing Tmnt. Facilities  |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Creekmore Park Tennis Courts              |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Creekmore Park Land Acq. & Parking        |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Tilles Park Tennis                        |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Soccer Fields & Park Along Riverfront Dr. |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Wilson Park Playground and Pavilion       |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Neighborhood Parks                        |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Feasibility Study                         |                |                  |                  |                  |
| Parks Stratigic Plan                      |                |                  |                  |                  |
|   | TOTAL          | 100,000          | 70,000           | 125,000          |
|   | ENDING BALANCE | 104,240          | 271,750          | 326,527          |







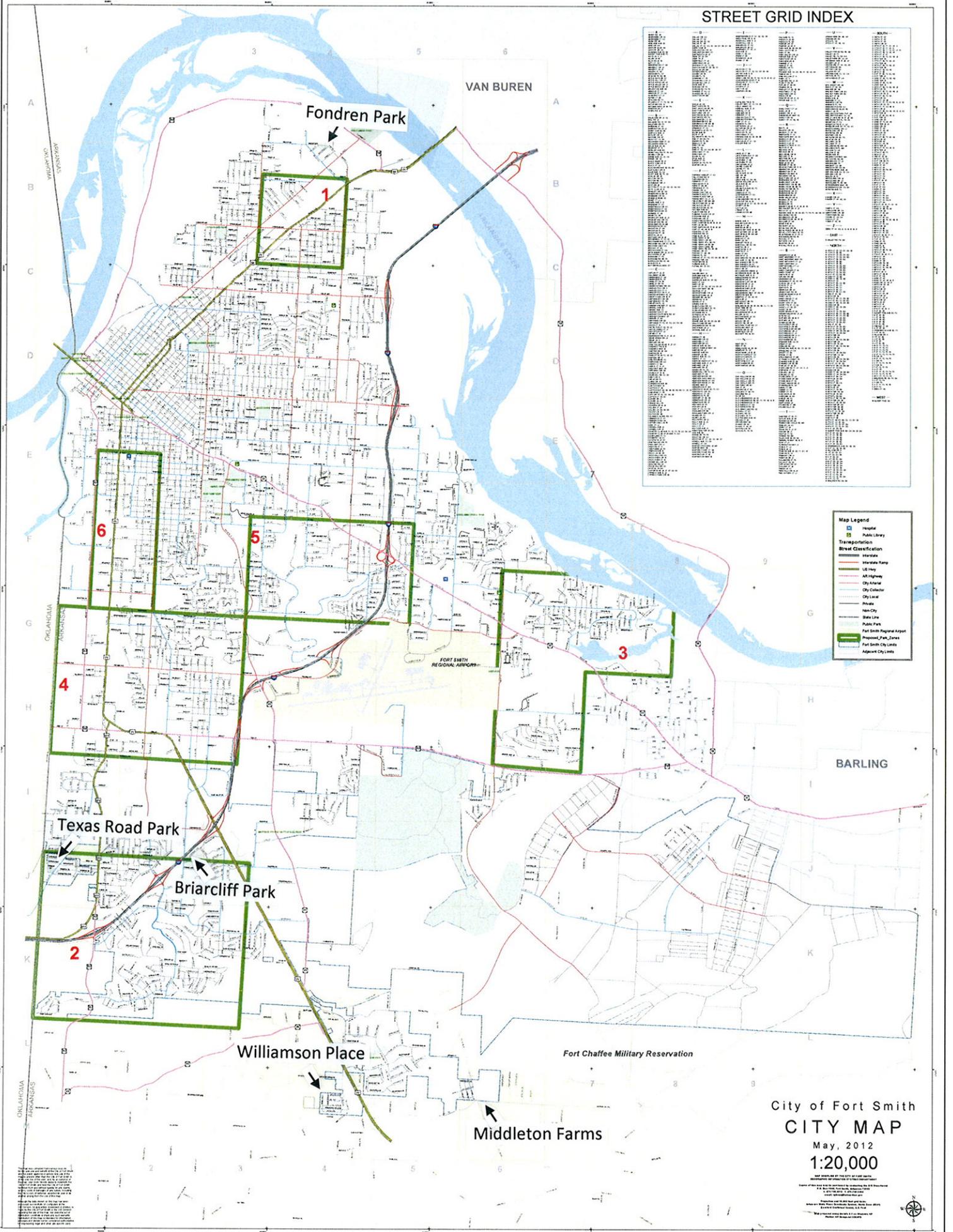


**PROPOSED to Parks Commission**  
Fort Smith Parks and Recreation Department  
2013, 5 Year Capital Improvement Program  
May, 2012

| 2013                                |                | 2014                                       |                | 2015  |                | 2016  |               | 2017                                |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|--|----------------|---|----------------|---|---------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Park Project                        | Amount         | Park Project                               | Amount         | Park Project                                | Amount         | Park Project  | Amount        | Park Project                        | Amount         |
| Ben Geren Softball Fields (2)       | 1,250M         |  |                | Soccer Fields & Park Along Riverfront Drive | 800,000        | Tilles Park Tennis Courts, Resurface                        | 25,000        |                                     |                |
| Feasibility Study                   | 50,000         | Neighborhood Parks Fondren, Texas Road,    | 300,000        | FSP Parking and Fishing Pavilion            | 200,000        | Neighborhood Parks. Briarcliff Williamson Place             | 300,000       | Neighborhood Parks, Middleton Farms | 150,000        |
| Parks Strategic Plan                | 100,000        | Trails & Greenways River West Trail        | 700,000        | Trails & Greenways Mill Creek South Trail   | 950,000        | Trails & Greenways Zero Street/Ridge                        | 1M            | Trails & Greenways Chaffee West     | 1M             |
|                                     |                |  |                | Glass Pavilion Storage and Kitchen          | 100,000        | Wilson Playground and Pavilion                              | 100,000       |                                     |                |
|                                     |                |  |                |   |                | Shade Structures at Creekmore Pool, MLK Pool and Playground | 75,000        |                                     |                |
| RVSC Tournament Softball fields (8) | 750,000        | RVSC Tournament Softball fields Completion | 850,000        | FSP Park Playground                         | 100,000        | Creekmore Tennis Court Lighting and Surface                 | 250,000       |                                     |                |
| Creekmore Park Land Acq & Parking   | 50,000         |  |                | Creekmore Park Land Acq & Parking           | 150,000        |   |               |                                     |                |
|                                     |                |  |                |   |                | Kelley Stage and River Park Amphitheater                    | 75,000        |                                     |                |
|                                     | <b>2,200 M</b> |  | <b>1,850 M</b> |   | <b>2,300 M</b> |   | <b>1,725M</b> |                                     | <b>1,150 M</b> |
| Operations & Maint.                 | 250,000        | Operations & Maint.                        | 350,000        | Operations & Maint.                         | 400,000        | Operations & Maint.   | 500,000       | Operations & Maint.                 | 600,000        |
|                                     | <b>2,450M</b>  |  | <b>2,200 M</b> |   | <b>2,700 M</b> |   | <b>2,225M</b> |                                     | <b>1,750 M</b> |
| Equipment                           | 200,000        | Equipment                                  | 100,000        | Equipment                                   | 100,000        | Equipment   | 100,000       | Equipment                           | 100,000        |

STREET GRID INDEX

|   |   |          |          |
|---|---|----------|----------|
| 1 | A | 101st St | 101st St |
| 1 | B | 102nd St | 102nd St |
| 1 | C | 103rd St | 103rd St |
| 1 | D | 104th St | 104th St |
| 1 | E | 105th St | 105th St |
| 1 | F | 106th St | 106th St |
| 1 | G | 107th St | 107th St |
| 1 | H | 108th St | 108th St |
| 1 | I | 109th St | 109th St |
| 1 | J | 110th St | 110th St |
| 1 | K | 111th St | 111th St |
| 2 | A | 112th St | 112th St |
| 2 | B | 113th St | 113th St |
| 2 | C | 114th St | 114th St |
| 2 | D | 115th St | 115th St |
| 2 | E | 116th St | 116th St |
| 2 | F | 117th St | 117th St |
| 2 | G | 118th St | 118th St |
| 2 | H | 119th St | 119th St |
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| 2 | J | 121st St | 121st St |
| 2 | K | 122nd St | 122nd St |
| 3 | A | 123rd St | 123rd St |
| 3 | B | 124th St | 124th St |
| 3 | C | 125th St | 125th St |
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| 3 | E | 127th St | 127th St |
| 3 | F | 128th St | 128th St |
| 3 | G | 129th St | 129th St |
| 3 | H | 130th St | 130th St |
| 3 | I | 131st St | 131st St |
| 3 | J | 132nd St | 132nd St |
| 3 | K | 133rd St | 133rd St |
| 4 | A | 134th St | 134th St |
| 4 | B | 135th St | 135th St |
| 4 | C | 136th St | 136th St |
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| 4 | G | 140th St | 140th St |
| 4 | H | 141st St | 141st St |
| 4 | I | 142nd St | 142nd St |
| 4 | J | 143rd St | 143rd St |
| 4 | K | 144th St | 144th St |
| 5 | A | 145th St | 145th St |
| 5 | B | 146th St | 146th St |
| 5 | C | 147th St | 147th St |
| 5 | D | 148th St | 148th St |
| 5 | E | 149th St | 149th St |
| 5 | F | 150th St | 150th St |
| 5 | G | 151st St | 151st St |
| 5 | H | 152nd St | 152nd St |
| 5 | I | 153rd St | 153rd St |
| 5 | J | 154th St | 154th St |
| 5 | K | 155th St | 155th St |
| 6 | A | 156th St | 156th St |
| 6 | B | 157th St | 157th St |
| 6 | C | 158th St | 158th St |
| 6 | D | 159th St | 159th St |
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| 6 | G | 162nd St | 162nd St |
| 6 | H | 163rd St | 163rd St |
| 6 | I | 164th St | 164th St |
| 6 | J | 165th St | 165th St |
| 6 | K | 166th St | 166th St |

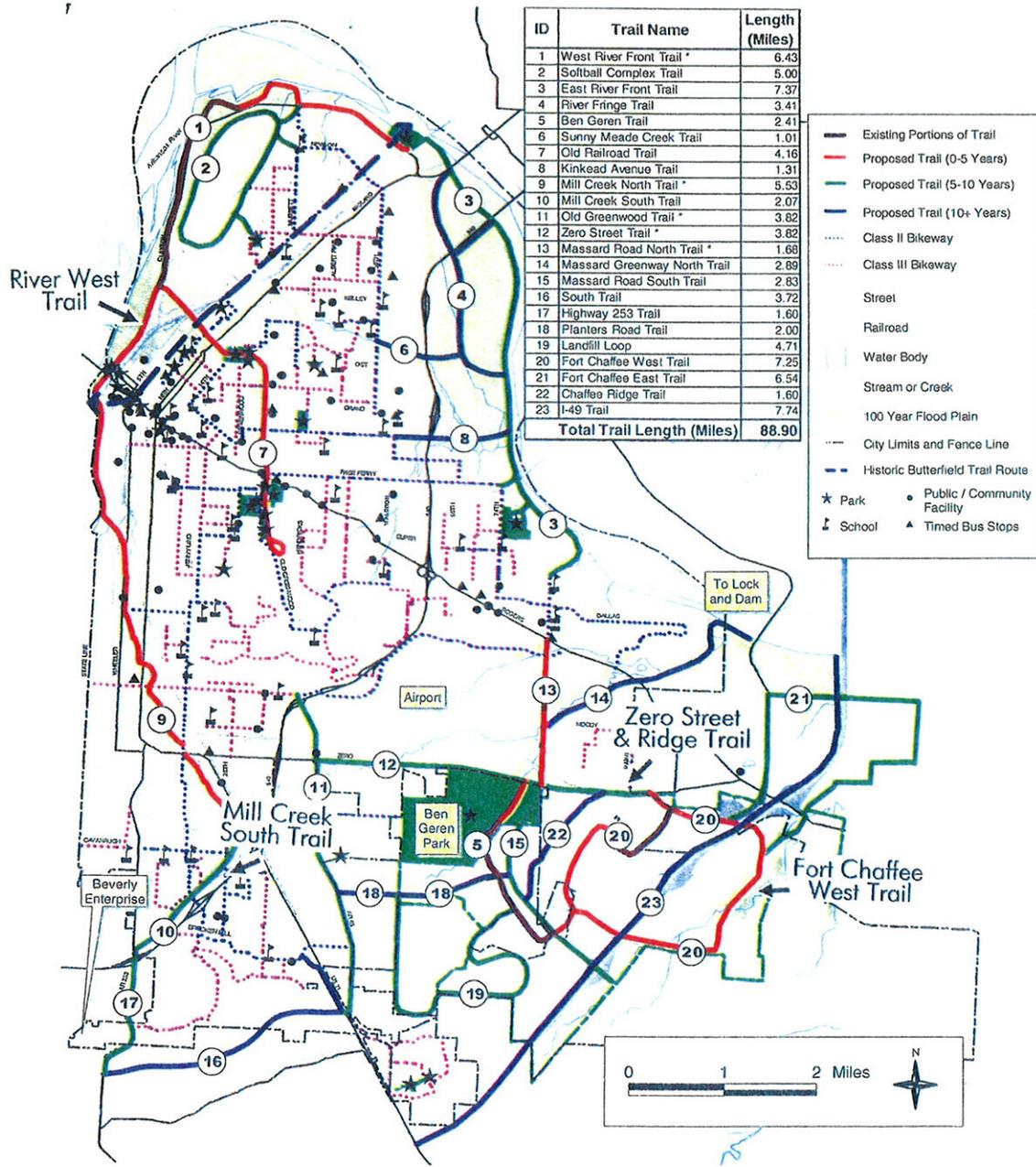


**Map Legend**

- Public Library
- Public Library
- Transportation
- Street Classification
- Interstate Ramp
- US Hwy
- Ark Highway
- City Arterial
- City Collector
- City Local
- Private
- Non-City
- Water Line
- Public Park
- Fort Smith Regional Airport
- Phased Park Zones
- Fort Smith City Limits
- Adjacent City Limits

City of Fort Smith  
**CITY MAP**  
 May, 2012  
 1:20,000





prepared for  
**City of Fort Smith, Arkansas**  
 5/10/04

## Trail Implementation Plan

Map 6.1