



MAYOR BRETT P. SMILEY  
CITY OF PROVIDENCE



# Providence Parks

## Strategic Plan

### **Purpose – *Why we exist***

We are the essence of Providence, where every park is not just a space, but a shared moment of connection in the lives of our community.

We create and maintain exceptional, accessible, responsive spaces that serve as the foundation for wellbeing, quality of life, and environmental stewardship. Providence parks are where lasting memories are made—reaching out through generations as part of our city's living legacy.

### **Vision – *What we are striving to accomplish***

To be the city's most cherished asset, creating parks that are more than spaces—they are living parts of Providence that reflect our shared history, our diverse present, and our future aspirations.

### **Strategy – *How we will achieve our vision; our roadmap for the future***

#### **Priority 1 – Maximize Our Parks' Value.**

Maximize the value of the investments we have made in our parks by transitioning from new construction to ongoing excellence, ensuring that our parks continue to feel fresh and valuable overtime.

- Plan for the lifecycle of park assets and amenities by developing holistic proactive strategies to ensure long-term functionality and sustainability.
- Highlight the value of past investments through visible, high-quality upkeep that excites and engages the community.
- Build on our foundation with upgrades and programming that adapts to evolving community needs, enhances accessibility, and increases the value and impact of parks over time.

#### **Priority 2 – Share our Story.**

Foster a deep sense of ownership and pride by building a compelling narrative around the parks' importance to the community and their role in enhancing public wellbeing.

- Inspire community pride and build momentum by celebrating our natural assets, park investments, and venues, while engaging residents and welcoming visitors from near and far.
- Create consistent, unified messaging to showcase how parks serve as community anchors and contributors to well-being.
- Evaluate and demonstrate the impact of the Parks department by using meaningful data to highlight outcomes to the public, policymakers, and funders.

#### **Priority 3 – Build a Generative Future.**

Cultivate strategic partnerships, diversify revenue streams, and plan proactively to ensure long-term sustainability and continuing meaningful impact.

- Plan for long-term sustainability by diversifying budgets for park upgrades ensuring financial nimbleness for future needs.
- Collaborate effectively to amplify resources and support iconic projects while laying the groundwork for future initiatives
- Expand revenue through diverse sources that align with the department's mission.



# Providence Parks

## Ethos



### Seeds of Stewardship

We see the land as a partner—not a backdrop. We care for our parks in relationship with the environment and the community, making decisions that support both ecological health and personal wellbeing, now and into the future.



### Roots of Providence

Our parks\* are the roots of our city. They provide places where people connect, grow, and find respite, enriching the city across generations.



### Rings of Reliability

Our work builds year after year, like the rings of a tree steady and enduring. This reliability is the foundation of public trust and the continued success of Providence's parks.



### Branches of Belonging

We believe parks should reflect the diversity of Providence. We are committed to equity and inclusion—ensuring that everyone, in every neighborhood, has access to welcoming, vibrant, and safe public spaces.



### Leaves of Innovation

We embrace creative, forward-thinking approaches to caring for our parks. From sustainable practices to new technologies and evolving methods, we grow through continuous learning and improvement.



### Canopy of Care

Just as a forest canopy offers shelter and connection, our Parks Department nurtures the city. By investing in our teams and offering programs that support our neighbors, we show that when we care for Parks, our city thrives.



### Design Thinking



a tree combined with the letter P for Providence and Parks

The Parks Department is a tree with our community at the center as the roots that ground us. Each circular bough represents collaboration, trust, and the exchange of ideas.

Together, these overlapping circles create a broad, interwoven canopy that supports and strengthens our city. We are resilient, always growing, anchored in service, and reaching toward a shared future.



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\*parks, venues and spaces under the purview of the Board of Park Commissioners