

# **TOWN of SALTILLO, TENNESSEE**

## **2024**

### **PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEMWIDE PLAN**

#### **Preliminary Draft**

**This is a draft to be reviewed by the public and discussed at a Public Meeting planned for 3-19-2024, 6 pm, Saltillo City Hall. Format, pictures, content etc. will be finalized after the public input meeting.**



# **Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan Acknowledgements**

## **Board of Mayor and Aldermen**

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Mayor</b>    | <b>Greg Billings</b> |
| <b>Alderman</b> | <b>Randy Carter</b>  |
| <b>Alderman</b> | <b>Karen Mainard</b> |
| <b>Alderman</b> | <b>Teresa Morgan</b> |
| <b>Alderman</b> | <b>Nathan Reeves</b> |
| <b>Alderman</b> | <b>Carolyn Wood</b>  |

## **Park and Recreation Systemwide Plan Focus Group**

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# **Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan**

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# **Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan**

## **Introduction**

Saltillo virtually is a “town on the River”. Situated outside a northern to eastern bend and flow of the Tennessee River, much of what drives the town economically, socially and recreationally is originated from the river. The town with a population of 423, is constantly looking at ways to maximize opportunities for the city and its residents.

The Saltillo, Tennessee Board of Mayor and Aldermen determined that a comprehensive Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan would be beneficial to the Town of Saltillo. The development of a systemwide plan would provide leadership the current conditions of park amenities, amenities the citizens would like to see added as well as provide a strategic approach to address further parks and recreation development. To be eligible for grants offered through the Recreation Resources Division of TDEC, applicants must have a current Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan. Completion of a systemwide plan would qualify the Town of Saltillo to apply for Parks and Recreation grants in 2024 and through 2029, and an update of the plan will allow Saltillo to apply for grants through 2034. The current practice of TDEC/RRD of offering grants for parks and recreation projects on a yearly basis, positions Saltillo to take advantage of every financial opportunity available.

Support and many hours of work by the leadership and citizens has made completion of this document possible and many are listed on the Acknowledgement page. The high level of involvement by the residents of Saltillo ensures the result is a document developed by and for the residents of the Town. The Systemwide Plan for the Town of Saltillo displays a ten-year vision for parks and recreation services as well as a framework and roadmap to accomplish the plan’s objectives. The planning process included an assessment of current facilities and programs as well as future recreational demands of the public. Numerous community input meetings, unique to Saltillo, were conducted as well as interviews and professional evaluation processes to create a document that will be useful daily for the development of leisure services for the Town of Saltillo.

While the Town of Saltillo has enjoyed parks for years, the opportunity to update existing parks and create new opportunities will provide enhanced quality of life for present and future citizens. The purpose of this plan is to give the Town of Saltillo a guide they can use, monitor and update to plan for future to meet the leisure needs of their citizens.

# **TDEC Recreation Resources Division**

## **Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan Requirements**

### Minimum Criteria

Strategic Planning type component including a focus group that represents a cross section of the community. A Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, and Threat (S.W.O.T.) Analysis is often included. **Pages 13-18.**

Community Recreational Needs Assessment/Survey **19**

Facility inventory with facilities and current conditions included **Page 23**

Parks and Recreation Program offerings list **Page 75**

Short, Mid, and Long-Term Goals **Page 76,**

Public Input on the final draft of the plan to be: **Posted 3/12, 2024, Meeting-Week of 3/18,2024**

Acceptance of plan by Organization's Governing Board **April 2, 2024**

The Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan must be created or updated with the criteria above within the last 5 years and it must be accepted by the governing body between May 4, 2019, and May 3, 2024.

## **Tennessee Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan**

**Excerpts of the SCORP Plan will be added here.**







## **Executive Summary**

To be added after 3/19/2024

## Saltillo, Tennessee

### Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan Community Input Meetings

#### 10-17-12:00 pm Community Input Meeting,

| Priority                     | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Total Total Rank |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| Walking/Connector Trails     | 2 | 4 |   |   | 20               |
| Updated Playgrounds          | 1 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 14               |
| Full-Service Community Cntr  | 2 |   |   | 5 | 13               |
| Marina/Campground            |   |   | 3 | 4 | 10               |
| Improve Dock*                | 1 | 1 |   |   | 7                |
| Water/Fishing Access*        | 1 |   | 1 |   | 6                |
| Programs & Activities        |   | 3 | 2 |   | 5                |
| Splash Pad                   |   |   |   |   |                  |
| TRIP Director/Park Position  |   |   |   |   |                  |
| Pickleball/Senior Activities |   |   |   |   |                  |
| Outdoor Basketball           |   |   |   |   |                  |
| Athletic Facilities          |   |   |   |   |                  |
| Exercise Trail               |   |   |   |   |                  |

\*Similar, could be combined

## 10-17- 5 pm Community Input Meeting,

|                                     |   |   |   |   |    |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|
| New Floating Dock*                  | 7 |   |   |   | 28 |
| New Playgrounds                     | 1 | 5 | 2 |   | 23 |
| Community Center (full-service)     | 1 | 3 | 3 |   | 16 |
| Pool                                | 2 | 1 |   | 2 | 13 |
| Non-Motorized Launches*             | 1 | 1 | 1 |   | 9  |
| Repurpose Park Areas                |   |   | 3 | 2 | 8  |
| Repurpose Park areas                |   |   | 3 | 2 | 8  |
| Smoother Trail                      |   | 1 | 1 |   | 5  |
| Basketball Court                    |   |   | 1 | 2 | 4  |
| Greenway/Trails                     |   |   | 1 | 1 | 3  |
| Disc Golf                           |   |   |   | 2 | 2  |
| ADA                                 |   |   |   | 1 | 1  |
| Access to Water*                    |   |   |   | 1 | 1  |
| School Building                     |   |   |   |   |    |
| (Redefine,Repurpose,Structure, Use) |   |   |   |   |    |
| Community Garden                    |   |   |   |   |    |
| Golf                                |   |   |   |   |    |
| Miniature Golf                      |   |   |   |   |    |



## Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan

### Combined Community Input Meetings Results

| <b>Town of Saltillo Community Input Meetings Combined Results</b> |       |      |       |      |
|---|-------|------|-------|------|
| Item  | Mtg 1 | Mtg2 | Total | Rank |
| Updated Playgrounds   | 14    | 23   | 37    | 1    |
| New Floating Dock   | 28    | 7    | 35    | 2    |
| Full-Service Comm. Center   | 12    | 16   | 29    | 3    |
| Walking/G-Way/Connector Trails                                    | 20    | 3    | 23    | 4    |
| Pool/Aquatics   | 0     | 13   | 13    | 5    |
| Marina/Campground   | 10    | 0    | 10    | 6    |
| Non-Motorized Launches  | 0     | 9    | 9     | 7    |
| Repurpose Park Areas  | 0     | 8    | 8     | 8    |
| Water/Fishing/Access  | 6     | 1    | 7     | 9    |
| Programs and Activities   | 5     | 0    | 5     | 10   |
| Improve/Smoother Existing Trail                                   | 0     | 5    | 5     | 10   |
| Disc Golf   |       | 2    | 2     | 12   |
| ADA Improvements  |       |      | 1     | 13   |
|   |       |      |       |      |

## **October 17, 2023 Community Input Meeting**

Salttillo, Tennessee

Main Street Stage

12:00 Noon

A Community Input meeting was held in Salttillo, TN at the Main Street Stage on October 17th, 2023 at 12:00. The meeting was the first meeting to collect information for the Town of Salttillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan. The meeting consisted of about 10 residents from the community, as well as Mayor Billings and Alderman Morgan. The participants were led through a strategic planning component that included a SWOT Analysis (Strength-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) related to parks and recreation in Salttillo.

The participants then identified 13 parks and recreation facilities, programs, activities or opportunities they would like to see made available in Salttillo. Participants then voted for their four top priorities out of the 13 items suggested by the group. The top five items included: A New Floating Dock, New playgrounds at both Salttillo Community Center Park and Lincoln Park, A Full-Service Community Center, Swimming Pool, and Non-Motorized Water Access.

A theme throughout the meeting focused on maximizing the potential of the river and Salttillo Landing, updating the equipment in the parks, . A repeated statement in the meeting was, “we want things to do and places to gather”.

## **October 17, 2023 Community Input Meeting**

Salttillo, Tennessee

Main Street Stage

A Community Input meeting was held in Salttillo, TN at the Main Street Stage on October 17th, 2023 at 12:00. The meeting was the first meeting to collect information for the Town of Salttillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan. The meeting consisted of 11 residents from the community, as well as Mayor Billings and Alderman Morgan. The participants were led through a strategic planning component that included a SWOT Analysis (Strength-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats) related to parks and recreation in Salttillo.

The participants identified 16 items they would like to see in Salttillo and distributed votes to 12 items. The top five items were: Floating Dock, New Playgrounds, Community Center, Pool, and Non-motorized launches.

In addition to river access the theme was providing opportunities in the parks for residents of all ages and interests.

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## **SWOT Analysis**

A Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threat Analysis was conducted at both of the input meetings held for the Town of Salttillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan. The SWOT exercise was used to develop a framework for identifying and analyzing Salttillo's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. The analysis increased awareness of the factors that will accompany decisions as Salttillo moves forward to develop parks and recreation opportunities for their citizens and the

surrounding communities. The following items were identified by the participants of the input meetings.

### **STRENGTHS**

Location as a river community  
Small Community  
Safe Community  
Diverse Community  
Hardin County Growing 7-9% in next 10 years  
Saltillo Growing  
Tennessee Riverline

### **WEAKNESSES**

Lack of Street Identification  
Distance to Amenities  
Lack of Activities for Children to Adults  
Empty Storefronts  
Aging Park infrastructure, Lack of Preventive Maintenance  
Anti-Growth

### **OPPORTUNITIES**

Grants  
Word of Mouth Communication  
Community Growth  
Location to Tennessee River  
TVA Presence

### **THREATS**

Funding for Parks  
Limited tax base



# Community Recreational Needs Assessment

## City of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan Survey Results

As part of the Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan, the City is distributing this survey to collect input from the citizens of Saltillo and the users of park facilities within the city. Please fill out the survey and send or deliver to Saltillo City Hall. Thank you for your participation. Circle one answer for each question, unless other instructions are provided.

1. Where do you live?
  - a. Saltillo 26
  - b. Another area in Hardin County 1
  - c. Outside of Hardin County
  
2. How would you describe your relationship with Hardin County?
  - a. Full-time resident 25
  - b. Part-time resident 1
  - c. Non-resident 1
  
3. What race/ethnicity best describes you?
  - a. Black/African American 2
  - b. White/Caucasian 25
  - c. Asian/Pacific Islander
  - d. Latino/Hispanic
  - e. Native American
  - f. Other
  
4. How many people live in your household?
  - a. 1 5
  - b. 2 15
  - c. 3 4
  - d. 4 2
  - e. 5 1
  - f. 6
  - g. More than 6
  
5. How satisfied are you with the parks and other recreational facilities in Saltillo?
  - a. Highly Satisfied
  - b. Satisfied 9

- c. Neutral 9
- d. Unsatisfied 5
- e. Highly Unsatisfied 4

If you are unsatisfied, let us know why below:

1. All of the playground equipment is broken and there isn't enough variety for all ages.
2. Park Equipment is old and not in good shape. Equipment does not meet the needs of the community.
3. There is nothing here that attracts people besides retirees, and that is ok if it is just a retirement community.
4. We need upgrades throughout the park. The equipment is probably not safe for children.
5. Everything is old and falling down.

6. How often do you visit the following places? (select the best option per row)

|                                     | Weekly | Monthly | Quarterly | Yearly | Never |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|-----------|--------|-------|
| <b>Lincoln Park</b>                 |        |         |           |        |       |
| Pavilion/Picnic Area                | 1      | 3       | 4         | 3      | 16    |
| Playground                          | 3      | 0       | 1         | 2      | 22    |
| Basketball Court                    | 1      | 1       |           | 2      |       |
| <b>City Park / Community Center</b> |        |         |           |        |       |
| Walking/Running Trails              | 6      | 4       | 4         | 7      | 6     |
| Pavilion/Restroom                   | 3      | 1       | 3         | 6      | 13    |
| Playground                          | 3      | 3       | 4         | 8      | 9     |
| Swings                              | 2      | 2       | 3         | 5      | 15    |
| Picnic Area                         | 1      | 3       | 6         | 5      | 12    |
| Ballfield                           | 2      | 3       | 2         | 6      | 13    |
| Senior Center                       | 5      | 1       | 4         | 7      | 10    |
| <b>Saltillo Landing</b>             |        |         |           |        |       |
| Boating                             | 10     | 2       | 3         | 3      | 8     |
| Fishing                             | 6      | 5       | 2         | 3      | 10    |
| Picnic Area                         | 11     | 6       | 2         |        | 7     |
| Walking Trails                      |        |         |           |        |       |

Are there other parks or recreational facilities in the county that you visit? If so, please indicate the place (and the frequency with which you visit it) in the box below.

1. Savannah
2. Shiloh
3. Savannah Waterpark
4. Saltillo Landing

7. Are Saltillo's parks and recreational activities accessible to all, regardless of age, race, religion, national origin, or physical ability?

- |                        |    |
|------------------------|----|
| a. Highly Accessible   | 6  |
| b. Accessible          | 10 |
| c. Neutral             | 8  |
| d. Inaccessible        | 2  |
| e. Highly Inaccessible | 1  |

8. Are you in favor of new or existing financial methods to expand and enhance recreational activities in Saltillo?

- |        |    |
|--------|----|
| a. Yes | 23 |
| b. No  | 4  |

9. How important do you think it is to provide new or improved parks and recreational facilities and activities for our community?

- |                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| a. Highly Important   | 19 |
| b. Important          | 4  |
| c. Neutral            | 2  |
| d. Not Important      | 1  |
| e. Very Not Important | 1  |

10. If you have any additional thoughts pertaining to Saltillo's parks, recreational facilities, or future programs / activities, please provide them in the box below:

1. Parks need to be updated
2. The Park equipment should include activities for all ages
3. Saltillo should focus its efforts on more important issues-there's not enough kids here to support putting a ton of money into parks. Saltillo Landing is a parking lot-not a park.
4. Need a water park.
5. This program is not worthy of the money. Existing facilities are under utilized. With the exception of the boat ramp area, but, Saltillo doesn't own that. There are other areas more deserving of our tax dollars. Such as additional police officers. Crime prevention, ordinance enforcement, parking for town businesses, and access to water for all households.

Drunkenness and criminal behavior run rampant in Saltillo and leadership is worried about parks? It's just nonsense.

6. Need increased handicapped/senior access to all areas. Especially the boat ramp and picnic area.
7. Improved access to seniors.
8. A walking trail would be wonderful. With no sidewalks it is dangerous to walk from Saltillo City Park to town and to landing. That would help with our parking issues in town. We have walking groups.

# Salttillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan

## Park Evaluation & Facility Inventory

### Salttillo Lincoln Park

Lincoln Park is a 1.9 acre park on Washington Street which includes playground equipment, pavilion and restrooms and a basketball court. As per the park inventory, some equipment needs to be removed, repaired or replaced. The neighborhood park is in a great location close to residents and has great potential.

| Lincoln Park Facility Inventory   |      |      |      |            |  |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|------|------------|--|
|                                   | GOOD | FAIR | POOR | ADA ISSUES | COMMENTS                                 |
| Park Sign                         |      |      | X    |            | Needs Replacement                        |
| Parking Areas                     |      | X    |      | X          | Needs Grading, ADA signage/access        |
| Elevated Playground               |      |      | X    | X          | This area needs to be removed/repurposed |
| Metal Structure/Swings Playground |      | X    |      | X          | Removal or repair, needs surface, access |
| Wood Playground Structure         |      | X    |      | X          | Removal or repair, needs surface, access |
| Tube Slide                        |      | X    |      | X          | Needs surface and access                 |
| Basketball Court/Goal             |      | X    |      | X          | Needs access                             |
| Pavilion/Restrooms/Picnic tables  |      | X    |      | X          | ADA Issues                               |
| Area Lighting                     |      | X    |      |            | Needs Repair                             |
| Lawn Area                         | X    |      |      |            |  |



























## Salttillo City Park

Salttillo City Park is a 5.8 acre park located on Tennessee State Highway 69. True to its name, it has functioned as a city-centered park for years. As detailed below, it includes a wide variety of equipment and facilities, many of which need to be removed, replaced, repaired or addressed in some manner. As per the park survey included in this plan, the park is used often with the walking trail receiving the most use, but some of the equipment is beyond useful service or no longer used. This plan offers a great opportunity for the park to reinvent itself to better serve the current needs of Salttillo's citizens. The old school-community center is also part of the park as is the Salttillo Senior Center and Emergency Fallout Shelter.

## **Community Center/City Park**

| <b>Community Center/City Park Facility Inventory</b> |             |             |             |                   |   |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
|  | <b>GOOD</b> | <b>FAIR</b> | <b>POOR</b> | <b>ADA ISSUES</b> | <b>COMMENTS</b>                                       |
| <b>Park Sign</b>                                     | <b>X</b>    |             |             |                   | <b>Not viewable from road.</b>                        |
| <b>Parking Areas</b>                                 |             | <b>X</b>    |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>ADA signage/access needs to be designated</b>      |
| <b>Walking Trail</b>                                 | <b>X</b>    |             |             |                   |   |
| <b>Bleachers</b>                                     |             | <b>X</b>    |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>Ok condition but 5 row does not meet standards</b> |
| <b>Picnic Tables</b>                                 | <b>X</b>    |             |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>Ok, but no access or ADA tables</b>                |
| <b>Ballfield/Dugouts</b>                             |             | <b>X</b>    |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>ADA issues</b>                                     |
| <b>Restrooms</b>                                     |             | <b>X</b>    |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>Needs access</b>                                   |
| <b>Pavilion/Picnic tables</b>                        | <b>X</b>    |             |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>ADA Issues, access and no ADA tables</b>           |
| <b>Grill</b>   | <b>X</b>    |             |             | <b>X</b>          |   |
| <b>Slide and Platform Playground</b>                 |             | <b>X</b>    |             | <b>X</b>          | <b>Needs ADA surface and access.</b>                  |



|  |   |   |   |   |                                  |
|--|---|---|---|---|----------------------------------|
| Former Tennis Court                      |   |   | X | X | Removal, Renovation, Repurpose   |
| Swings                                   |   |   | X | X | Removal                          |
| Ship Playground                          |   | X |   | X | Needs access and surface, repair |
| Hardin County Cannery                    | X |   |   |   |                                  |
| Community Center, Senior Center, Shelter |   | X |   | X | ADA Issues, future use issues    |













































































### Salttillo Landing

Salttillo Landing is owned by the State of Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and is located at the eastern end of Main Street. The area is 2.55 acres and the city is presently in the process of developing an agreement-lease that would allow the city to apply for grants to improve the park. As per the park survey, the park is used often and citizens would like to see more access.

| <b>Salttillo Landing Facility Inventory</b> |             |             |             |                      |                 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|
|   | <b>GOOD</b> | <b>FAIR</b> | <b>POOR</b> | <b>ADA<br/>ISSUE</b> | <b>COMMENTS</b> |
| <b>BOAT RAMP</b>                            | <b>X</b>    |             |             |                      |                 |
| <b>BOAT DOCK</b>                            | <b>X</b>    |             |             | <b>X</b>             |                 |
| <b>PARKING AREA</b>                         | <b>X</b>    |             |             | <b>X</b>             |                 |
| <b>PICNIC TABLES</b>                        | <b>X</b>    |             |             | <b>X</b>             |                 |
|   |             |             |             |                      |                 |









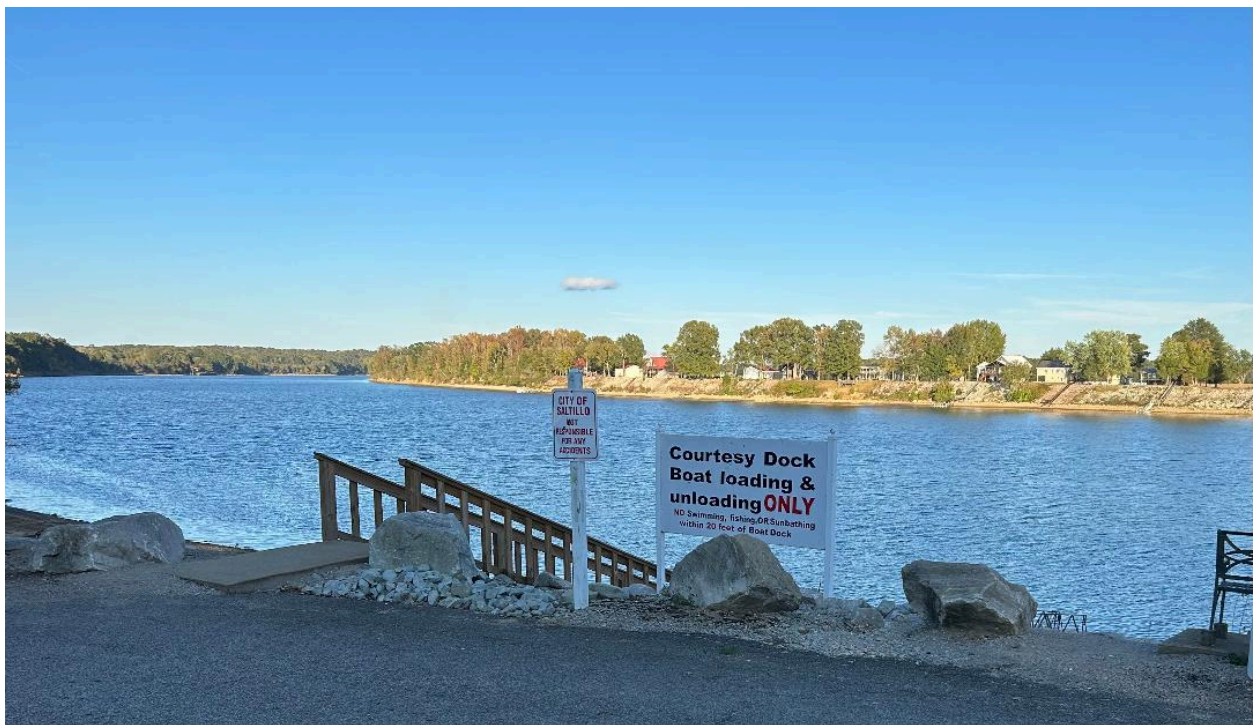
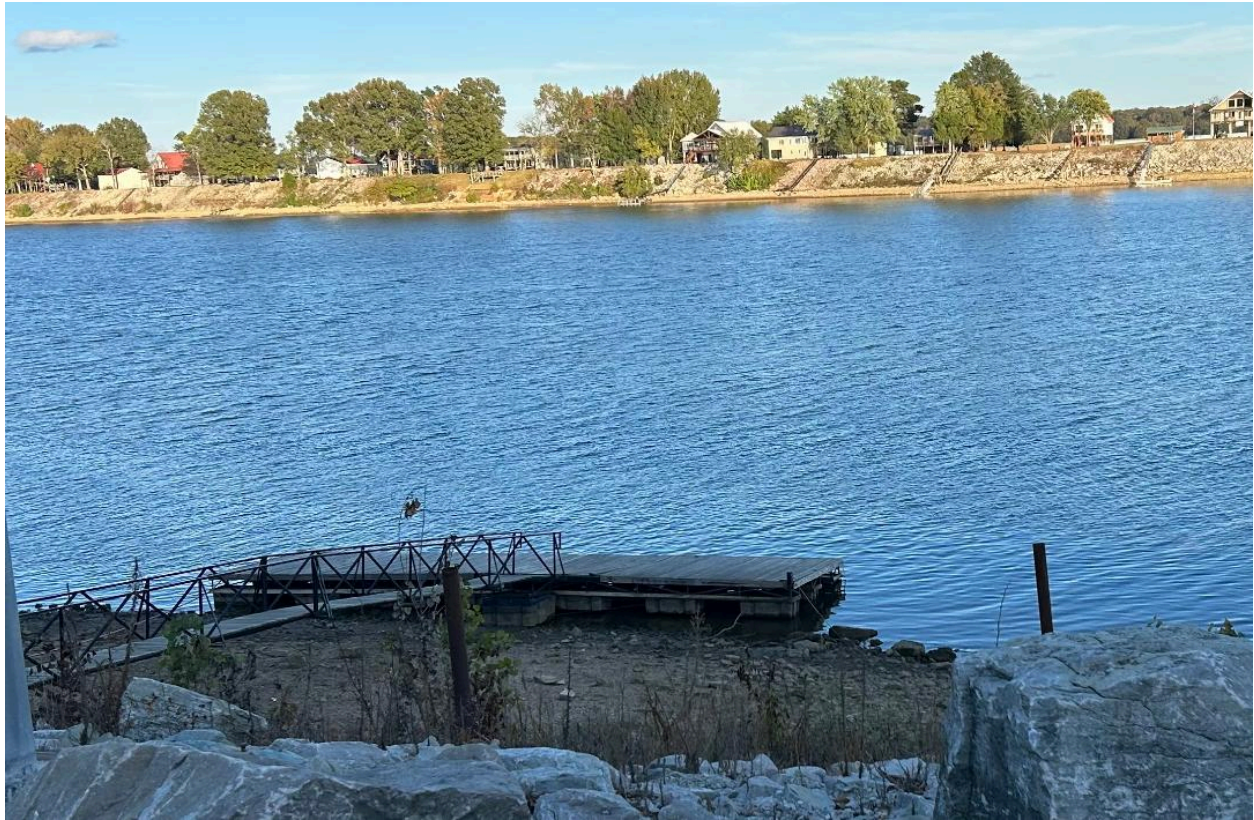
















### Salttillo Main Street Stage and Farmers Market

This area is located in the middle of the Saltillo business district and is a great location for festivals, activities and events. The area includes a Farmers Market, Main Street Stage and a Trolley Stop.

| SALTILLO MAIN STREET |      |      |      |              |          |
|----------------------|------|------|------|--------------|----------|
|                      | GOOD | FAIR | POOR | ADA<br>ISSUE | COMMENTS |
| STAGE AREA           | X    |      |      | X            |          |
| PLANTERS             | X    |      |      |              |          |
| PARKING AREA         | X    |      |      | X            |          |
| fARMERS MARKET       | X    |      |      |              |          |
|                      |      |      |      |              |          |











## **Findings, Themes and Recommendations**

### **Preliminary Draft**

#### **Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

The Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan details many ideas to improve leisure services for the Town of Saltillo and the surrounding area. Saltillo's location on the Tennessee River, north of Pickwick Lake and south of Kentucky lake make it an attraction for those passing through on the river or by road will fuel growth to the area. One of the challenges of small towns like Saltillo, is the small city staff to move the details of the plan forward in the present and future in a sustainable manner.

An Advisory Park and Recreation Board or Committee appointed by the BMA could serve as a consistent catalyst to implement the plan. There are hundreds of park boards and committees in Tennessee which have proved to be successful and invaluable for their Communities.

Park Boards can be as small as five or seven members or larger and are allowed as per T.C.A. 11-24-05. The boards usually have staggered, rotating terms and work closely under the direction of the BMA. Most park and recreation boards have a designated alderman as a voting or advisory member of the board. TDEC-RRD offers park board training through their PARTAS consultants.

A sample of responsibilities of a Parks and Recreation Board in Saltillo could include, but not be limited to:

- Development of Rules and Policies to be submitted to and approved by the BMA.
- Develop an Annual Report of the Status of Parks and Recreation for Saltillo.
- Serve as or recruit Park Ambassadors to assist with parks and programs.
- Develop and assist in implementing Special Events, Activities, Programs and activities in the parks and facilities.
- Develop an adoption program to pay for selected items to enhance and improve parks.
- Recruit and attract Park Grants, Sponsors for Special Events, Activities, Programs and Events in the parks.
- Continually maintain, monitor and update the 2024 Parks and recreation Systemwide plan.
- Sponsor Park Improvement days and activities.
- Serve as a conduit to the community to continue and ensure the parks serve the needs of the citizens and the community.
- Serve as ambassadors of parks in Saltillo and promote park events and activities through the city website, Facebook or other public communication venues.

## **Funding**

Funding for Parks and Facilities, Programs, Activities and Maintenance is always a challenge for communities. There always exists a constant competition for dollars within a government entity. However, for a very small town such as Saltillo, the challenge to provide dollars for all aspects of government is magnified. The result is usually underfunded and poorly maintained parks which are not providing sufficient leisure services for their community. Funding is the lifeline which can prove to be the lifeblood of a successful plan or the deterrent to reaching the goals developed by the community. These facts make Funding one of the most important aspects of a successful parks and recreation department and as well as being able to implement components of the Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan. For that reason, a consistent, innovative effort and approach must be sustained to continually leverage and advance funding for parks facilities and for the Town of Saltillo.

- **Grants**

The Town of Saltillo, the Park Board (if established) and other town supporters should constantly be looking for grants and dollars available to the town for parks and recreation facilities, programs and activities. The Town should continue their relationship with the Southwest Development District, TDEC RRD PARTAS Consultant Andy Baker, Hardin County Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development partners and others to identify, leverage, and optimize grant opportunities. There can be opportunities where the value of one grant can serve as the match of another, especially when partnering private or federal dollars with state dollars.

TDEC-RRD alone has 4 annual or bi-annual grants, LWCF, LPRF, RTP and the TRIP grant. The Town should be as aggressive as possible in applying for their selected grant using the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan as a guide and support.

Blue Cross Blue Shield grants are being received by the communities across the state as they are building outstanding playgrounds and splash pads.

The Center for Disease Control issues Obesity Grants through the University of Tennessee Extension service. Saltillo should keep in touch with UT to determine if Hardin County is an eligible county. Hardeman County has been a recipient of numerous Obesity Grants, and currently, Decatur, Henderson, Crockett and Haywood are West Tennessee counties receiving Obesity Grants.

If the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Board is established, it should have their TDEC-RRD-PARTAS consultant meet with them at least annually to discuss grant opportunities, as well as numerous other parks and recreation subjects.

- **Local Park and Recreation Fund Grant Pending Legislation**



Presently, it is difficult for small towns to match the mandated 50% of Local Park and Recreation Fund. There is a bill introduced in the 2024 legislative session which would allow counties and cities in distressed counties to only be responsible for a match of 10% of the total grant project for Local Park and Recreation Fund Grants. While the bill has not passed through the legislative process at this time, the fact that the legislature realizes the 50% match is a challenge for small and rural communities across Tennessee is a huge encouragement for the Town Of Saltillo. While Hardin County is not presently a distressed County, it has been recently and the legislature could amend the bill, if approved in the future. There is also an amendment to the bill that would use the present TDEC Affordability to Pay Index that is used with the department's State Revolving Loan Fund. Saltillo presently has an API of 60, Hardin County, 30 and Savannah, 10. This bill is being legislated now so the city should monitor the movement. This section will be updated before the plan's final approval.

### **Parks and Recreation Wish List**

Developing and maintaining parks is a challenge for communities all across the nation. Many have developed a "shopping list", "wish list", "support our parks list" to develop a mechanism for the private sector to help purchase items needed in their parks. The City and/or Parks and Recreation Board can develop a list of items needed at the parks. This can be park benches, garbage cans, water fountains, most any amenities needed in Saltillo Parks. A list should be made of professional items selected by the city with the cost of each item. Individuals, organizations, churches, businesses, etc, can make a donation (tax deductible) to the city for the item they choose to sponsor. The city purchases and installs the item, and some even put a small plate designating the name of the donor. It is important for the city to choose the items to ensure quality and consistency. Some items may be larger. Some departments have a list of items supporters can purchase for parks through Amazon.

All across Tennessee, there are Kiwanis Gazebos, Rotary Park, etc. where organizations, churches, businesses, etc. sponsor an item in the park, or even develop and maintain a park at their expense, such as Rotary Park in Erin, TN.



### **Walkable Town, Trails and Greenways**

Throughout the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan input process, facilities for walking, running, and biking were mentioned often. Saltillo is fortunate to have a small walking loop around Saltillo City Park. However, in many cases, citizens have to drive to the park to walk. Walkable cities is a term that is used often across the country and cities are working to create connectivity throughout their footprint to connect residents to parks, other neighborhoods, schools, churches, retail, restaurants, etc. It is a popular concept that would certainly work in a town of only 3 square miles.

- Connecting Saltillo Landing, City Park and Lincoln Park to downtown Saltillo was mentioned often in the Systemwide Plan input process. The walkable path



conduit of these parks with downtown would connect many residents to city destinations and make much of Saltillo a walkable friendly community. The town and the Parks and Recreation should make trails a priority as they move forward with grants and development. The Town could work towards applying for a Recreation Trails Grant, as soon as 2025 to fund the first phase of a trails plan, which could include connecting downtown with Saltillo Landing. RTP grants only require a 20% match from applicants.

Connections many times take innovative thinking, easements and even leases, the Town should be creative when planning for these connectors. When driving through towns, it is amazing how much trails, greenways and blueways are being used, not only to connect parks, but subdivisions, schools, churches, retail, etc..

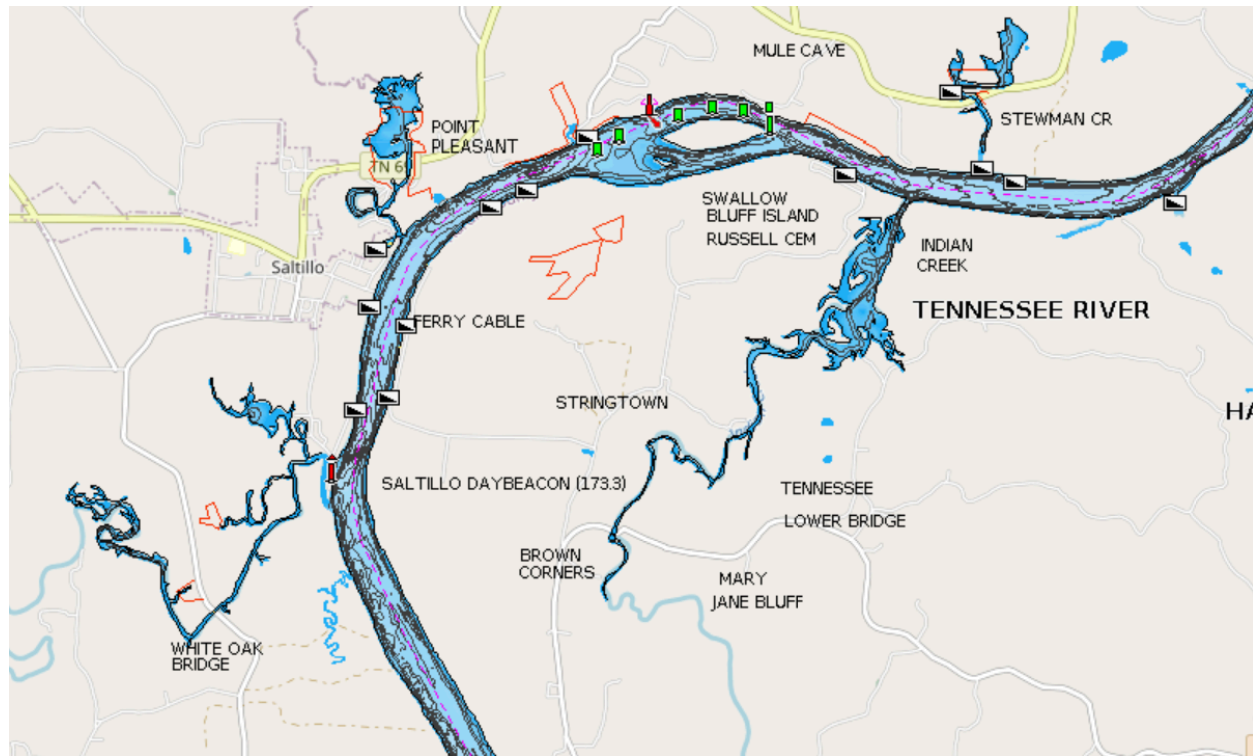
### **Saltillo, Town on the River**

Saltillo IS a town on the Tennessee River. The area was originally founded by Thomas Shannon, who arrived in the area on a Keelboat in 1822 and due to its strategic location, a Smith Hawkins store-house was built to distribute dry goods to the area. Since that time, Saltillo has been affected by the river and it continues to be an economic and social driver for the city and region. The Tennessee Riverline encourages use of the river and Saltillo Landing, provides access to the river for a large area of West Tennessee, as well as river users from Mississippi and Arkansas. The Town of Saltillo has developed relationships with the Tennessee Riverline, Tennessee Valley Authority, Tennessee Valley Authority and other organizations to leverage relationships that will be beneficial to the Town of Saltillo, the Tennessee River and the organizations. Saltillo should continue to build these partnerships as well as showcase the river to promote economic development and the town. The river should always be a focus as Saltillo makes decisions for parks, greenways, festivals, programs and activities. Throughout the Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan, residents emphasized better access to the river, especially those without boats. Floating docks, paddle launch access and other venues should continue to be considered and promoted.





- Tennessee River Line Map



### **Upgrade to Parks and Revisioning**

A constant theme throughout the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan input process, was a need to upgrade all of the parks in the Town of Saltillo. Residents feel the facilities and activities are outdated and beyond their useful purpose. Many of the present facilities are not used any longer, and the areas should possibly be repurposed. The Parks and Recreation Survey Facility Use Report supported the meetings input by showing very little use of many areas.

- The Facility Inventory process of the systemwide plan shows many of the facilities and activities at the park are below present standards, lacking access and far beyond their useful purpose. Many of these items should be removed and new items should be provided.
- The ballfield area of City Park is not used on a regular basis. The grassy area is a perfect setting for outdoor events and could be further enhanced with electrical infrastructure to support events, festivals and concerts and possibly a stage or portable stage as well.
- If established, the Parks and Recreation Board, using information in the TSSP and by consulting with their PARTAS representative, could work with the Saltillo BMA to identify a new vision for the unused park areas and facilities. Emphasis

can be made towards identifying areas of need from the TSSP and repurposing and revisioning these under-used areas with items supported by the communities. Saltillo has adequate park space for its present residents, the space just needs to be designed to meet the present leisure needs of the community.

- Remodel restrooms in City Park and Lincoln Park and bring them to ADA standards.
- A feature many parks across the nation are now offering is wifi. This allows park visitors taking a break to use their electronic devices or just use a park bench in a beautiful park setting to catch up on items or business.

### **ADA & Access**

The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination based on disability. It affords similar protections against discrimination to Americans with disabilities as the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which made discrimination on race, religion or sex, national origin, and other characteristics illegal.

Many of the facilities in Saltillo's parks were built long before 1990 ADA Law. Cities are now required to have a plan to address the ADA issues within their corporate limits. The vast majority of the facilities in the parks do not meet ADA standards and citizens echoed this need throughout the input process. Saltillo should continue to make all park facilities and activities accessible. All grant projects, whether Federal or State, require the construction of ADA accessible facilities, components, access, and parking, so grant projects will assist in addressing the ADA issues in Saltillo's parks. RRD has trained ADA staff which can assist the town in identifying ADA issues and the best way to meet ADA compliance, so they should be used as a free resource.

### **Maintenance**

The best park and recreation facilities and areas can quickly become unusable, unsafe and unused without proper maintenance. Regardless of the size of a city, standard park maintenance is imperative, and all government entities with parks should develop a park maintenance plan. Not only does a maintenance plan provide safe and clean areas and parks, it also helps prevent injuries and accidents in the parks.

- All Local Park and Recreation Program (LPRF) grant applications now require applicants to have an approved maintenance plan for their parks. Your PARTAS representative can provide you information where city employees, a park board



or committee can develop a maintenance plan designed for Saltillo and meet the grant requirements..

- The RRD Division of TDEC requires a Post Completion Inspection of all grant projects every five years to ensure grant facilities are maintained at an adequate level.
- Park Cleanup Days  
Many Communities have spring and fall community cleanup days. This is another program that can be led and promoted by the Park and Recreation Advisory Board. Citizens join city staff to use a few organized hours to clean-up and fix-up city parks. Usually refreshments are provided and volunteers feel like the parks truly are theirs to care for and promote. It can also serve as a project day to plant trees, support wildlife by planting butterfly plants, building bee boxes, bird houses or bat houses, clean up waterways, or build a community garden in the raised area at Lincoln Park! Many communities use cleanup days with great success.

### **Programs, Special Events, Activities**

Saltillo presently hosts an annual River Day Festival, Tennessee Poker Run and a Primitive Arts Heritage Festival each year drawing thousands of people from other states and the region. The Town of Saltillo Systemwide Plan input spoke loudly that the citizens enjoy the present programs and activities and would like to see other opportunities provided throughout the year, not only events, but regular activities. These groups can be organized by the city, park and recreation board, volunteers or a combination of these. Some ideas would include:

- Walking Clubs  
Walking groups can be scheduled at City Park and set during the week and times and days can vary to accommodate participants schedules. This activity can be free and advertised through the city. Walking clubs are a popular activity for all ages, but especially in communities with a senior citizen population like saltillo.
- Holiday/Seasonal Activities  
Events can be focused around holidays such as easter egg hunts, halloween, July 4th, etc. The city can partner with groups, churches, volunteers and sponsors to provide these opportunities for the community.
- Fitness and Exercise Classes  
The city can organize a variety of fitness classes by contracting with a nearby fitness instructor. Usual arrangements include the instructor retaining a percentage of the registration fee and the city providing the venue. Many times, these activities are held at outdoor venues such as parks, parking lots, etc. The auditorium in the community center could be used as well.
- Other Program Opportunities

All types of arts, craft, painting, floral arrangements, bow making, etc can be offered by contracting with an instructor. The city, parks board, etc. can measure specific interests of the residents and determine instructors available in the area.

**River Festival, Parade or other event PICTURE inserted here**

### **Strategic Decision Making**

As the city moves forward with implementation of the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan, momentum will follow and interest will grow. It will provide the city an opportunity to build on the momentum and implement many of the items identified in the plan. Working with a park and recreation board, the city can fine tune the short-mid-long term goals of the plan to identify possible grants, sponsors, etc to identify funding and timing of each project development. Taking advantage of every opportunity will be important to the success of parks and recreation moving forward.

### **Community Center**

One item the city needs to look at short and long term, is the community center. An assessment needs to be made of the building to determine deferred maintenance and bringing it to ADA and other standards. Programming currently takes place at the facility in the gymnasium, senior center and auditorium. While many of the program items listed in the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide plan could be housed in an updated facility, operation, maintenance and staff expense would be very challenging for a city the size of Saltillo. Grant funds are available to refurbish a facility such as the community center, or, if is determined it would be better to demolish the building, grants funds are available as well, as long as the remaining use is used for parks and recreation purposes.

This is not a decision to be taken lightly, but should garner study and evaluation to determine the best plan moving forward,

**Community Center PICTURE inserted here**

### **Future Park-Land Acquisitions**

The City of Saltillo should always be open to opportunities to purchase new land to expand their park footprint to fulfill the Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Plan but also to take advantage of opportunities that would enhance the quality of life for its residents. Former rail lines, abandoned factories and buildings, vacant pieces of land, etc are a few of the items that can be reinvented for successful park projects.



- One such facility for Saltillo could be the former marina area. Its location to the city and its access to the Tennessee River makes it a very unique property that has numerous recreational possibilities.
- Saltillo Landing features some water access at this time but has unlimited possibilities for pedestrian, non-motorized watercraft launching, floating fishing dock, small pavilions, landscaped areas, even restrooms and utilities. The City is already taking steps to secure the use of Saltillo through an agreement that would allow them to acquire state grants for possible projects.
- There are also former easements in the city that could be advantageous as well. These are just two examples of possible land acquisitions, but the city should always be aware of land opportunities. RRD grants are available for land acquisition.



Google Maps



## [Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Programs Offerings List](#)

Saltillo Senior Citizen Center Programs

River Day Festival

Tennessee River Poker Run and Primitive Arts Heritage Festival



## Town of Saltillo Parks and Recreation Systemwide Plan Short-Mid-Long Range Goals and Importance Priorities

|                                 | Highest Priorities   | Priorities  | Important  |
|---------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <b>Short Term<br/>1-3 Years</b> | Updated Playgrounds<br>New Floating Dock<br>Walking Connector Trails<br><br>ADA Improvements | Non-Motorized Launches<br><br>City & Lincoln Park Improvements<br><br>ADA Improvements  | Water-Fishing Access<br><br>Programs-Activities<br>Community Center Decision<br><br>ADA Improvements                   |
| <b>Mid Term<br/>3-5 Years</b>   | Walking Connector Trails,<br><br><br>ADA Improvements  | Marina-Campground Property Acquisition<br><br>City & Lincoln Park Improvements<br><br>Park Amenities<br>Exercise Eq, Pickle-Ball, Equipment<br><br>ADA Improvements | Water-Fishing Access<br><br>Programs-Activities<br>Improve Trails<br>Community Center Decision<br><br>ADA Improvements |
| <b>Long Term<br/>5-10 Years</b> | Full-Service Community Center<br><br>Walking Connector Trails<br><br><br>ADA Improvements    | Aquatics-Splash Pad-Pool<br><br>City & Lincoln Park Improvements<br><br>Park Amenities<br>Exercise Eq, Pickle-Ball, Equipment<br><br><br>ADA Improvements           | Disc Golf<br><br>Improve Trails<br>Community Center Decision<br><br><br>ADA Improvements                               |