

RACE, POWER, AND PARKSPACE:
AFRICAN AMERICAN RECREATION HERITAGE INTERPRETATION PLAN

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CPLN 7610: Synthesis Studio II

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African American Recreation Heritage Interpretation Plan

Introduction

Project Narrative

Montgomery is well known in the history of the civil rights movement, especially for actions of Martin Luther King Jr., the Bus Boycott, and the walk from Selma to Montgomery. Fights for equality of access to education, transportation and voting rights are widely known. These are part of the stories we tell children growing up in school about the civil rights movement. These events from the 40's to 60's can sometimes feel like they are far in the past, even sometimes feeling resolved. As if those past injustices are unrecognizable human rights violations that don't happen in today's evolved world. Unfortunately, much of the conversation today has found that these historic injustices have not completely left us, as Michelle Alexander teaches us about the 'New Jim Crow' (NPR.org, 2012). These injustices which persist to today is exactly why EJI's museum and memorial is so significant and relevant.

Equal Justice Initiative (EJI) and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama has brought approximately six hundred and fifty thousand tourists to Montgomery since opening in April 2018. The City of Montgomery has identified the benefits of this civil rights tourism and has found there are gaps in preservation and interpretation which leaves tourist dollars on the table. The City of Montgomery has invited Becki Retzlaff and Binita Mahato's CPLN 7210: Synthesis Studio II to create interpretation plans to help fill these gaps. This report will focus on interpretation of segregation of parks as an underappreciated aspect of the civil rights movement in Montgomery, and racial injustice relating to recreation which still exists today.

Stakeholders Identified

Stakeholders in this project include the City of Montgomery, Montgomery County, Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce, Montgomery Convention and Visitor Bureau, Montgomery Planning Department, Montgomery Parks and Recreation Department, EJI, Montgomery tourists, Montgomery businesses, Black Owned Montgomery Business Network and Montgomery Residents. These have varying degrees of control and responsibility for the implementation of this project, ground level information about the present situation, and potential impacts and benefits resulting from this plan.

Purpose of this Report

The purpose of this report is to provide an interpretation plan for recreation for Montgomery, Alabama. Interpretation planning identifies stories and themes of meaning for cultural facilities (like parks) and determines the most effective way to communicate these messages to target audiences. This plan will be presented to the City of Montgomery as a structured vision for how to achieve the goals of effective interpretation.

Plan Methodology

This interpretation plan follows a process of plan-making that uses thematic approach to interpretation. The following steps were conducted:

1. history and significance, (using collected and original data to establish the narrative and determine significant sites),
2. site inventory and observation
3. analysis of target audiences,
4. interpretation framework and elucidating themes,

5. formation of recommendations, goals, and objectives,
6. developing a design scheme for effective interpretation, and
7. consideration of the management needs and resource considerations for implementation.

Data Collection

Data collection uses primary and secondary sources of data to (1) construct a picture of the history and significance of segregation of parks, and (2) identify and describe present racial injustices relating to recreation. Primary sources of data include creation of original geographic information systems (GIS) datasets, original photography of significant sites, site survey using a standard checklist, field notes and observations, and informal interviews and qualitative surveying. Secondary sources of data include peer-reviewed academic literature, web-based research, records from Alabama Department of Archives and History, the Montgomery 2040 Comprehensive Plan, existing GIS datasets, and historic maps and photography.

History and Significance

Civil Rights: History of Segregated Recreation

One perhaps lesser-known racial injustice which was perpetuated after the civil war was the segregation of parks and natural areas. Not only were black and white children supposed to attend separate but equal schools, they were also restricted by which play area they used. Access to parks, sunlight and natural areas is one of the most basic components of quality of life. Denying this based on skin color dehumanizes African Americans and people of color.

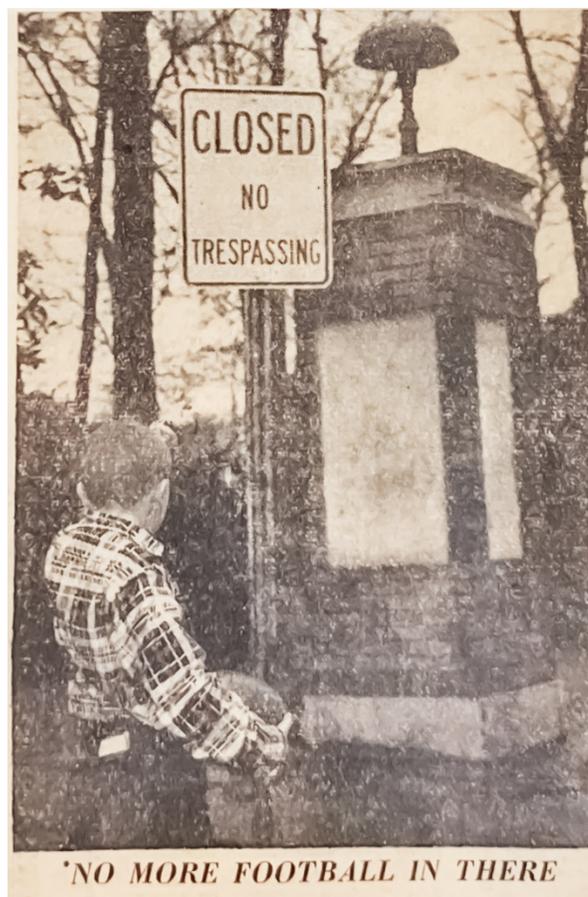


Figure 1. Photo taken after City of Montgomery closed all city parks, in an effort to avoid court-ordered integration resulting from *Gilmore v. City of Gilmore* 1959. Parks would remain closed for six more years, during which parks and recreation was defunded and dismantled, and segregated recreation continued through private facilities, including and especially the YMCA.

African American access to parks in the Jim Crow south was negligible, if it existed at all. Montgomery is no exception to this. The African American fight for dignity in access to parks happened alongside the fights for civil rights and equal treatment including desegregation of schools, fair housing, and voting representation. The desegregation of parks was also furthered by the same figures as well-known civil rights activities: Martin Luther King Jr., Georgia Gilmore, Ralph Abernathy, and Solomon Seay (Retzlaff 2019). At the time of *Georgia v. Gilmore*, the City of Montgomery had 14 total city parks, and all were segregated. Of these, only four were for African Americans: Washington Park, Kings Hill Park, Treholm Court Park, and

Mobile Heights Park (Gilmore v. City of Montgomery 1959). These parks afford opportunities for the experience of historic and cultural resources which are not available anywhere else in the world. The stories of these parks have yet to be represented to visitors of the parks. The injustices of the past are critically important lessons which we cannot hide from.



Figure 2. Georgia Gilmore, mother of Mark Gilmore, responsible for organizing legal action resulting in the integration of parks (Gilmore v. City of Montgomery, 1959, 1972). Gilmore also led, and funded the Montgomery Improvement Association from her home, selling food to support the Civil Rights Movement.

Racial Inequities Today

Although legal segregation ended in 1974, racial injustice continues to have a significant role in the opportunities and experiences of people of color in a variety of ways in recreation. According to Byrne and Wolch (2009), “a park is never neutral,” (745). Figure 3 shows the conceptual Byrne and Wolch created to understand racial inequities of recreation through lenses of environmental justice, cultural landscape, and political ecology.

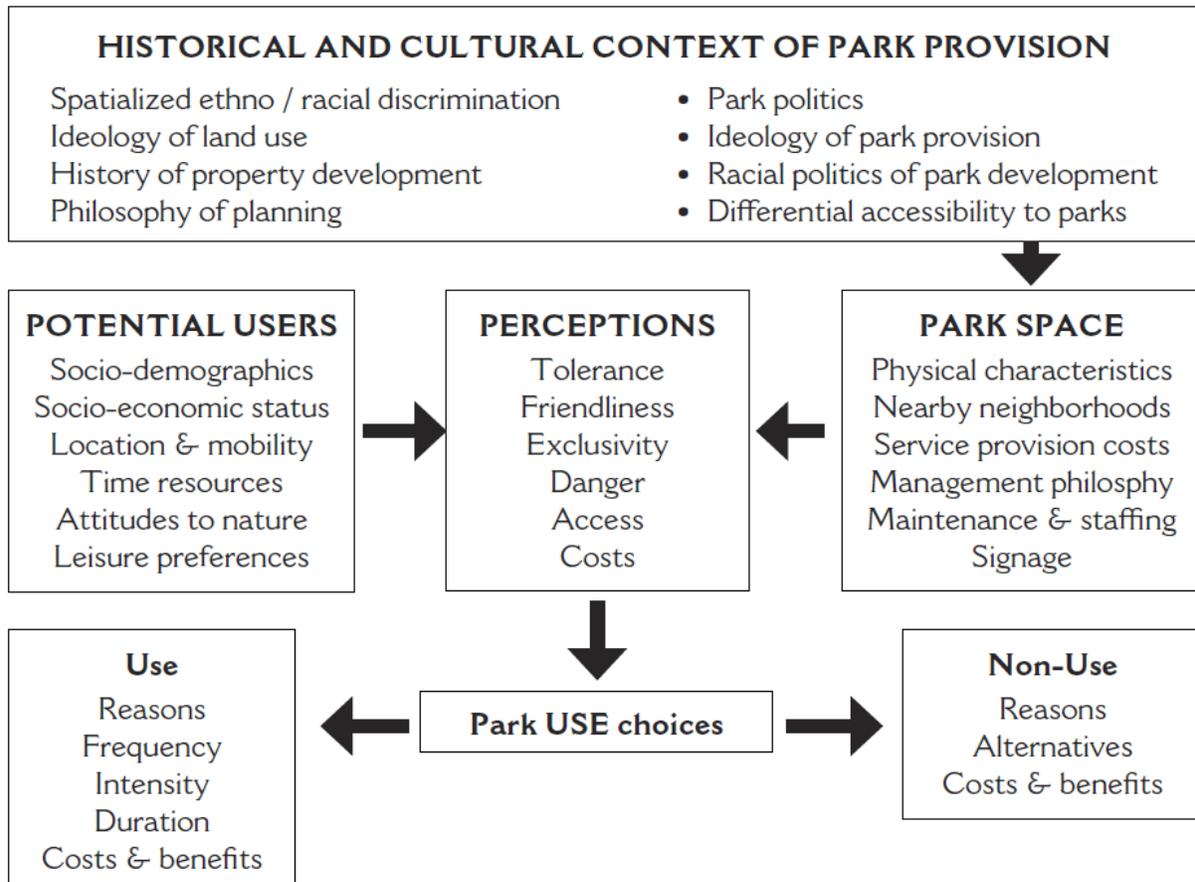


Figure 3. Conceptual model for space, race, and park use (Byrne and Wolch 2009, 751).

For example, the quality of neighborhood parks may be lower as the racial composition of people of color increases. Also, environmental justice concerns that people of color are disproportionately impacted by harmful environmental activities. In addition to these physical barriers of racial injustice, there are significant social barriers, like the development of parks according to racialized preferences, discrimination and interethnic conflict, and lack of equitable access to decision-making for recreation outcomes. Interpretation can bring attention to both the historical abuses and current structures of racism relating to recreation.

Site Inventory

Significant sites relevant to this interpretation plan include segregated parks and relevant civil rights sites. Through the review of historical documents, fourteen parks were identified as being segregated (Gilmore v. City of Montgomery 1959). In addition to these segregated parks, the civic rights sites of EJI museum and memorial, the house of Georgia Gilmore, and the house of Ralph Abernathy are included.

Ten segregated parks were white only (Bear Park, Bruce Field Park, Civic Park, Day Street Park, Diffly Park, Hamner Hall Park, Kiwanis Park, Oak Park, Perry Street Park, and Ridgcrest Park), and four black only (Washington Park, Kings Hill Park, Treholm Court Park, Mobile Heights Park). Figure 4 depicts these segregated parks on the map. Several of these parks have been destroyed or transferred ownership and no longer function as publicly accessible parks (Retzlaff 2019). These include Civic Park, Hamner Hall Park, Kiwanis Park, Perry Street Park, and Treholm Court Park. However, these sites may still be available for interpretation such as the Children's Center of Montgomery, Montgomery Police Academy, and Downtown YMCA.

Existing park sites were analyzed using a park quality assessment adapted from Gidlow's Neighborhood green Space Tool (NGST). The qualities measured are access, facilities, amenities, natural qualities, maintenance, signage, and overall scores. The scores of this analysis are included at the end of this report, in Appendix A. The sites were also recorded via photograph, note taking, and critical observation.

In addition to this site survey, I have performed an original GIS analysis of all city parks in Montgomery. I created an original dataset in this analysis, where I joined the locations of city parks to nearby census blocks within ½ mile distance. This allows the park to be understood by its immediate racial composition, and population density. I have also included an existing GIS

dataset which includes indicators for park facilities including: parking spaces, restrooms, ADA compliance, swimming, hiking, fishing, picnic, boating, hunting, road cycle, playground, golf, ski, soccer, baseball, softball, tennis, skateboarding, information and pets. The resulting Table is attached to Appendix A.

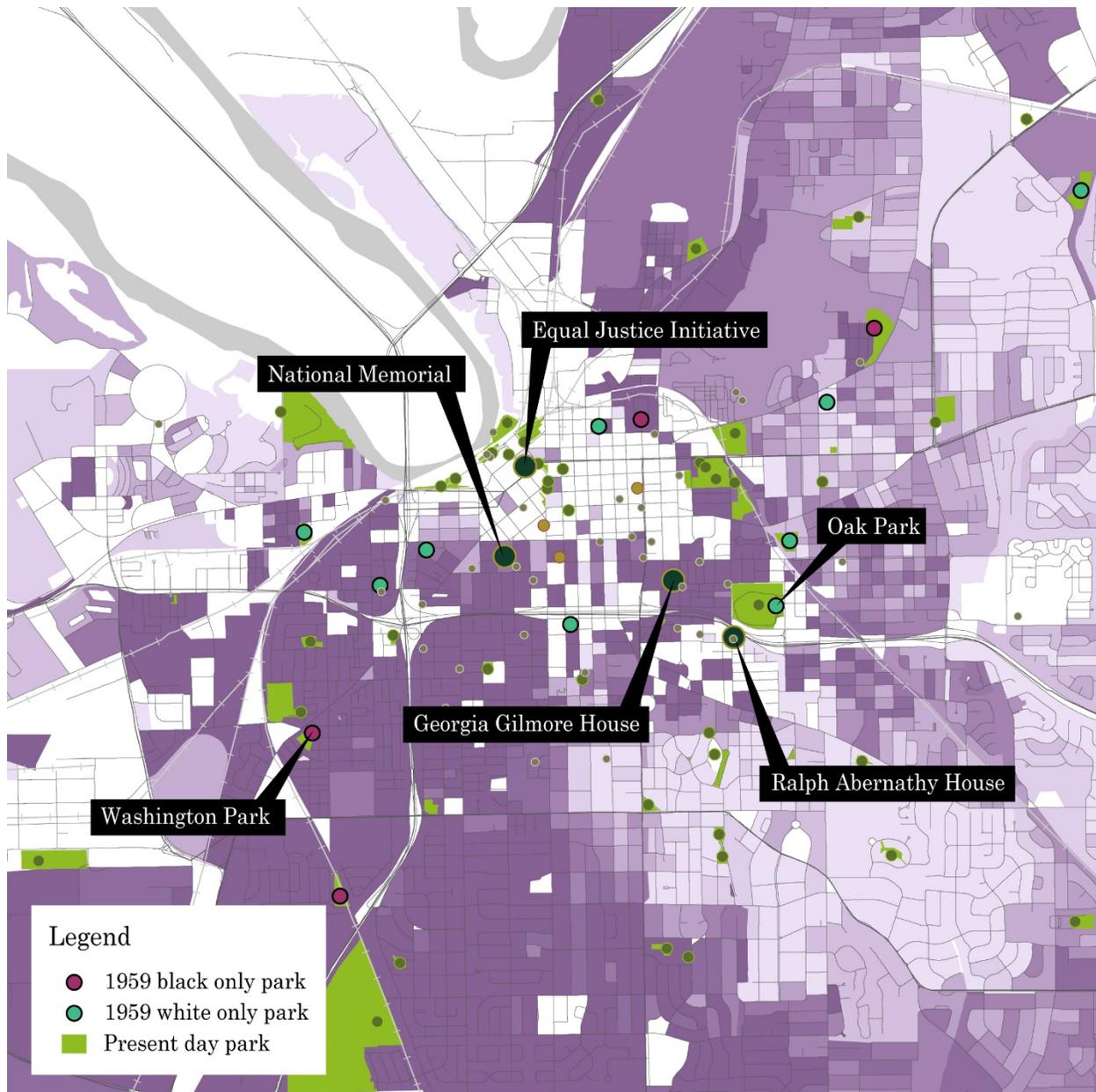


Figure 4. Race Map from 1950, with segregated historic parks, and current parks highlighted.

Target Audiences

Typically, target audiences identified for interpretation would be selected in an iterative process with community engagement, and stakeholder input. For the purposes of this report this process was replaced with research and intuition. I have identified four reasonable target audiences to analyze their needs for interpretive services. Target audiences here include those identified by EJI and the City of Montgomery (civil rights tourists, and separately considered school-age groups), as well as an audience targeted by the Forgiveness Project (community leaders), the current primary audience of the Parks and Recreation department (leisure residents). Each of these groups are racially heterogenous, and therefore additional specification of the messages and motivations of interpretation can be provided to support the plurality of ways which interpretation can occur.

Civil Rights Tourists

This group consists of people who live outside of Montgomery and visit either in single or multi-day trips, focusing their attention on sites of historic significance. The city has identified this group as a potential source of revenue supporting hospitality, retail, and restaurant land uses. This group has a need and expectation for digestible historical information. They frequently visit the state capital, and cultural institutions such as the museums. Some tourists have a high use of photography to document and share their experience. The EJI National Monument for Peace and Justice is increasingly at the top of the list of destinations for civil rights tourists and is spurring additional growth in this area. This group may travel alone, in couples, or in large organized groups such as in the existing bus and walking tours. This groups desires powerful emotional experiences and understanding of the past.

School-age Groups

School age groups are given special consideration, because younger age demographics have different needs and expectations for interpretation. This group usually travels in much larger groups, and there is an increased need for entertainment as attention spans are very short. This group desires fun activity-based learning at a fast pace. Leaders of school-age groups often pair school assignments with their field trips, so this group also needs age-appropriate curriculum which can be taught at a distance before and after the visit. This group has lower emotional capacity in the younger ages, so the heaviest topics of injustice need to be addressed with care.

Community Leaders

Community leaders are targeted audience because of their importance to inspire cultural change. This group is composed of a variety of individuals who are important socially through fraternal organizations, non-profits, political leadership, church organizations, and other business leaders. This group has the highest capacity to implement action which increases the goals of interpretation, but they also may have less desire to incorporate these goals into their existing missions and objectives. This group is educated, respected, and professional, and thus their need for interpretive services requires a high level of professionalism. Also, this group may have limited time, so interpretation needs to ‘get to the point.’ This group has existing social networks and behaviors of meeting and communicating. Interpretation needs to focus first to fit into these existing behaviors, rather than creating additional behaviors.

Leisure Residents

Leisure residents are existing users of City of Montgomery parks and recreation facilities. These include all ages and demographics, and they enter parks for diverse reasons, including

sports, dog walking, enjoying the day, exercising, and entertaining children, among others. This group has no prior desire for interpretive services, so similar to younger demographics of school-age groups, they have shorter attention spans, and greater need for entertainment. This group may also have lower capacity for emotional experience, as they are visiting the park for another reason. This group needs interpretation to happen in an easy, non-intrusive way through the parks they already frequent.

Interpretation Framework

Based on the history and significance of this topic, and the target audiences identified the following interpretation framework was developed. This framework was developed first by identifying the mission and vision statements for interpretation, then the stories and topics relevant to this topic were categorized into themes, and subthemes.

Mission Statements

- Protect, preserve and collect cultural artifacts, assets, and resources which tell the stories of African American Recreation including formerly segregated facilities, significant figures homes, social and cultural institutions, documents and photos, and events.
- Educate, inspire, and engage residents and visitors about the stories of African American Recreation in Montgomery before, during and after the Civil Rights era through interpretive services and media.
- Advocate for the equitable provision of inclusive, safe, and high-quality recreation facilities.

Vision Statements

- Every resident or visitor understands the role of African American recreation to the Civil Rights Movement.
- Acknowledgment, atonement, and reconciliation for the previous wrongs of the Jim Crow Era segregation of recreation facilities, and racial intimidation, discrimination and violence.
- A city where every neighborhood has access to a diversity of inclusive and high-quality recreation facilities with increased use and stewardship of facilities, increased satisfaction of minority preferences, better maintenance of facilities.

Theme 1. Segregation of Recreation and the Fight for Civil Rights

The public parks of Montgomery, Alabama set the stage for the fight for civil rights in African American access to recreation, influencing the integration of public parks and the prohibition of use by segregated groups throughout the United States.

Subthemes include:

- Share the hardships and injustices which were commonplace to African Americans seeking natural respite in Montgomery city parks
- Tell the history of the court cases and legal actions which resulted in integration of recreation in Montgomery
- Describe the lives and stories of prominent civil rights leaders which fought for integration, including the obstacles faced

Stories and topics include:

- Legal Segregation
- Montgomery City Ordinance

- Racially motivated violence
- Oak Park, Beating of Mark Gilmore
- Gilmore v. City of Montgomery 1959
- City of Montgomery Closes the Parks, Zoo
- Gilmore v. City of Montgomery 1974
- Smith v. YMCA
- Protests, Riots, Sit-ins and Wade-ins
- Georgia Theresa Gilmore, Martin Luther King Jr, Solomon Seay, Ralph Abernathy
- Montgomery Improvement Association, Club from Nowhere, Bus Boycott

Theme 2. Racial Inequities in Recreation Today

In Jim Crow Montgomery, African Americans experienced lower quantity, quality, and diversity of park space and recreation facilities available to them, and although legal segregation has ended and work has been done to improve facilities, there are still inequities which exist today.

Subthemes include:

- Investigate the myriad of factors impacting racial inequity of parks today
- Understand the role of historic/structural barriers, physical/spatial barriers, and social/cultural barriers

Stories and topics include:

- Racial Composition, Equitable Distribution
- Quality of Parks
- White Flight, Voluntary Segregation

- Friendliness, Tolerance, and Discrimination
- Stigma, Stereotypes and Perceived Safety
- SES and Cost of Entry, Cost of Transportation
- Public v. Private, Exclusivity and Membership
- Cultural Attitudes to Nature, Participation, Park Types and Park Uses
- Multi-Generational Impacts, Historic Impacts, Access to Decision-making
- Exclusionary Laws, Codes, and Norms
- Crime, Employment, Health, and Education

Recommendation, Goals, and Objectives

Recommendations, goals, and objectives are separated into emotional, learning and behavioral objectives for each theme.

Theme 1. Segregation of Recreation and the Fight for Civil Rights

Emotional objectives:

- Transform White Montgomerian Identity for a climate of tolerance, hope and empathy, self-forgiveness and responsibility
- Humanize, and empathize with African American victims• Invoke curiosity, open compassion for others
- Redirect the energy from hate into new meaning and significance in life
- Connect with African American resilience and community strength in the face of conflict, violence, crime, and injustice
- Reconcile with past injustices, find love and forgiveness

Learning objectives:

- Realize the amount of effort that the City took to avoid integration
- Recognize the value of natural areas for quality of life and why the constitution protects this from segregation
- Comprehend the experience of segregation as felt by African Americans, including acts of violence
- Connect the significant figures for integration of parks with the Civil Rights Era
- Understand the timeline of recreation in the Civil Rights Era
- Understand the court battles for integration of recreation

Behavioral objectives:

- Removal of honors and memorials for racists, enhanced existing and new physical reminders of the atrocities
- Increased visitation to other cultural institutions which preserve the heritage of African Americans
- Increased stewardship of parks and recreation facilities
- Stronger social bonds between racial groups and neighborhoods
- Increased use and participation in recreation facilities

Theme 2. Racial Inequities in Recreation Today

Emotional objectives:

- Transform White Montgerian Identity for a climate of tolerance, hope and empathy, self-forgiveness and responsibility
- Humanize, and empathize with African American victims
- Invoke curiosity, open compassion for others

- Acceptance of wrong-doings, guilt
- Connect with African American resilience and community strength in the face of conflict, violence, crime, and injustice
- Reconcile with current injustices, find love and forgiveness

Learning objectives:

- Recognize privileges experienced by most people
- Connect relationships between stereotypes and inequities
- Comprehend the experience of inequities felt by African Americans
- Understand how institutions can be racist without racist people
- Understanding of all the complex factors which impact equitable access to recreation today: historic/structural, physical/spatial, and social/cultural

Behavioral objectives:

- Share with social network and bring friends to experience interpretive services and media
- Saying sorry
- Increased use stewardship of parks and recreation facilities
- Advocacy for greater equity, giving greater voices and decision-making authority to minorities
- Restorative dialogue, restorative justice

Design Scheme

Existing Interpretive Services Analysis

Existing interpretation at Oak Park is limited to one historic marker, which remarkably avoids mentioning civil rights. See Figure 5. This historic marker at least topically mentions the

following stories identified through the interpretive framework: ‘City of Montgomery Closes the Parks, Zoo,’ and ‘Montgomery City Ordinance.’ Oak Park is the highest priority public space for interpretation of Theme A, yet it fails to explicitly name the court case which it addresses. There are several massive gaps in the interpretation here. The interpretation of this park would really benefit from additional appropriate signage, and perhaps some experiential technology like an app or audio-tour which allows visitors to have a first-hand experience of the park.



Figure 5. Historic marker present at Oak Park.

The present state of Washington Park doesn't tell us what the park quality originally was, or how that compared to Oak Park and other white-only parks. The historic marker also fails to mention the racial nature of the historic significance of the park, and simply brushes past it. This is overall a nice park, and the additional presence of the interpretive themes would really make a difference. Zero stories identified by the interpretive framework are present on site.



Figure 6. The historic marker at Washington Park.

Existing interpretation for virtual visitors is extremely limited. Theme A (Segregation of Recreation) and Theme B (Recreation Inequities Today) are both niche topics which are not considered as part of the city's civil rights offerings (see <https://visitingmontgomery.com/play/see-and-do/civil-rights1>). The encyclopedia of Alabama has one or two articles about Georgia Gilmore, her court case, and the resultant integration of parks. These stories are not presented in city-owned online websites or social media. The stories about current racial inequality (such as EJI memorial) do not present the stories of recreation inequities. Virtual visitors would really benefit from interpretive services about these stories, such as dedicated websites, interactive maps and timelines, and downloadable brochures and curricula.

Case Studies

Unity Park, in Greenville, North Carolina, presents a useful case study of the transformation of a public park. Unity Park honors the historic disadvantages of majority black neighborhoods while addressing current inequities such as housing affordability and gentrification. This project combines several city-owned parcels and over 40 million dollars of funding to create a new park which holds a vision for the future and allows interpretation of the past. This site builds a literal bridge between black and white neighborhoods, separated by wetlands. Sculptural towers and public art allow interpretation of the meaning of building inclusive park space which addresses current inequities. The idea 'unity' is for diversity and inclusion to shine, allowing black and white children to play together. The park also accentuates benefits to local businesses and is partially funded by private developers. This may present a challenge to inclusivity however, because selling naming rights to wealthy donors in and of itself may challenge authentic territory of the park by marginalized populations. This is a great example of a physical site design to share stories and present new narratives, especially as in a memorial or public art.

The Forgiveness Project is an international organization which addresses unresolved grievances in survivors and perpetrators of crime. This organization uses stories to create restorative narratives which can transform lives and build a climate of tolerance, resilience, hope and empathy. The organization uses multiple platforms: publications and educational resources including the forgiveness toolbox, exhibitions, public conversations, courses, events, and intensive-group programming. This organization is helpful to understand some of the virtual ways to present stories identified in the interpretive framework. There are also a variety of person-to-person interpretive services which are exemplified by this organization.

Audience-specific Interpretive Services

- School-age Groups
 - Brainstorm
 - Intensive group programming curricula (before and after visitation)
 - Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park
 - In-park programming and events: hands-on activities
 - In-park programming and events: theatrical reenactments, performance art
 - Museum-style Object based exhibit kiosk
 - Website experience and social media
 - Signage, display panels, and markers
 - Priorities (quality of experience, feasibility, accessibility)
 1. Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park
 2. Intensive group programming curricula (before and after visitation)
 3. Website experience and social media
- Civil Rights Tourists
 - Brainstorm
 - Signage, display panels, and markers
 - In park self-guided tours: app-based, QR codes, sound system
 - In car self-guided tours: GPS-based, audio based
 - Website experience and social media
 - Memorial site, public art
 - Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park
 - In-park programming and events: theatrical reenactments, performance art

- Priorities (quality of experience, feasibility, accessibility)
 1. Signage, display panels, and markers
 2. Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park
 3. Website experience and social media
 4. In park self-guided tours: app-based, QR codes, sound system
- Leisure Residents
 - Brainstorm
 - Signage, display panels, and markers
 - Memorial site, public art
 - Museum-style Object based exhibit kiosk
 - Website experience and social media
 - In-park programming and events: hands-on activities
 - In-park programming and events: festivals, art walks, community events
 - Priorities (quality of experience, feasibility, accessibility)
 1. Memorial site, public art
 2. In-park programming and events: festivals, art walks, community events
 3. Signage, display panels, and markers
 4. Website experience and social media
- Community Leaders
 - Brainstorm
 - Intensive group programming curricula (before and after visitation)
 - Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park
 - Website experience and social media

- Signage, display panels, and markers
 - In-park programming and events: festivals, art walks, community events
 - Memorial site, public art
 - Stewardship initiatives: park clean-ups, landscape improvements
 - Public conversations
- Priorities (quality of experience, feasibility, accessibility)
 1. Intensive group programming curricula (before and after visitation)
 2. Public conversations
 3. In-park programming and events: festivals, art walks, community events
 4. Stewardship initiatives: park clean-ups, landscape improvements

Audience-Theme Matrix

	Themes		Audiences			
	Theme A	Theme B	School-age Group	Civil Rights Tourist	Leisure Resident	Community Leader
Website experience	X	X	X	X	X	
Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park	X	X	X	X		
Intensive group programming curricula (before and after visitation)	X	X	X			X
Signage, display panels, and markers	X	X		X	X	
In-park programming and events: festivals, art walks, community events	X	X			X	X
Public conversations	X	X				X
In park self-guided tours: app-based, QR codes, sound system	X	X		X		
Stewardship initiatives: park clean-ups, landscape improvements		X				X
Memorial site, public art	X				X	

Table 1. Theme-Audience sets and Interpretive Services Matrix

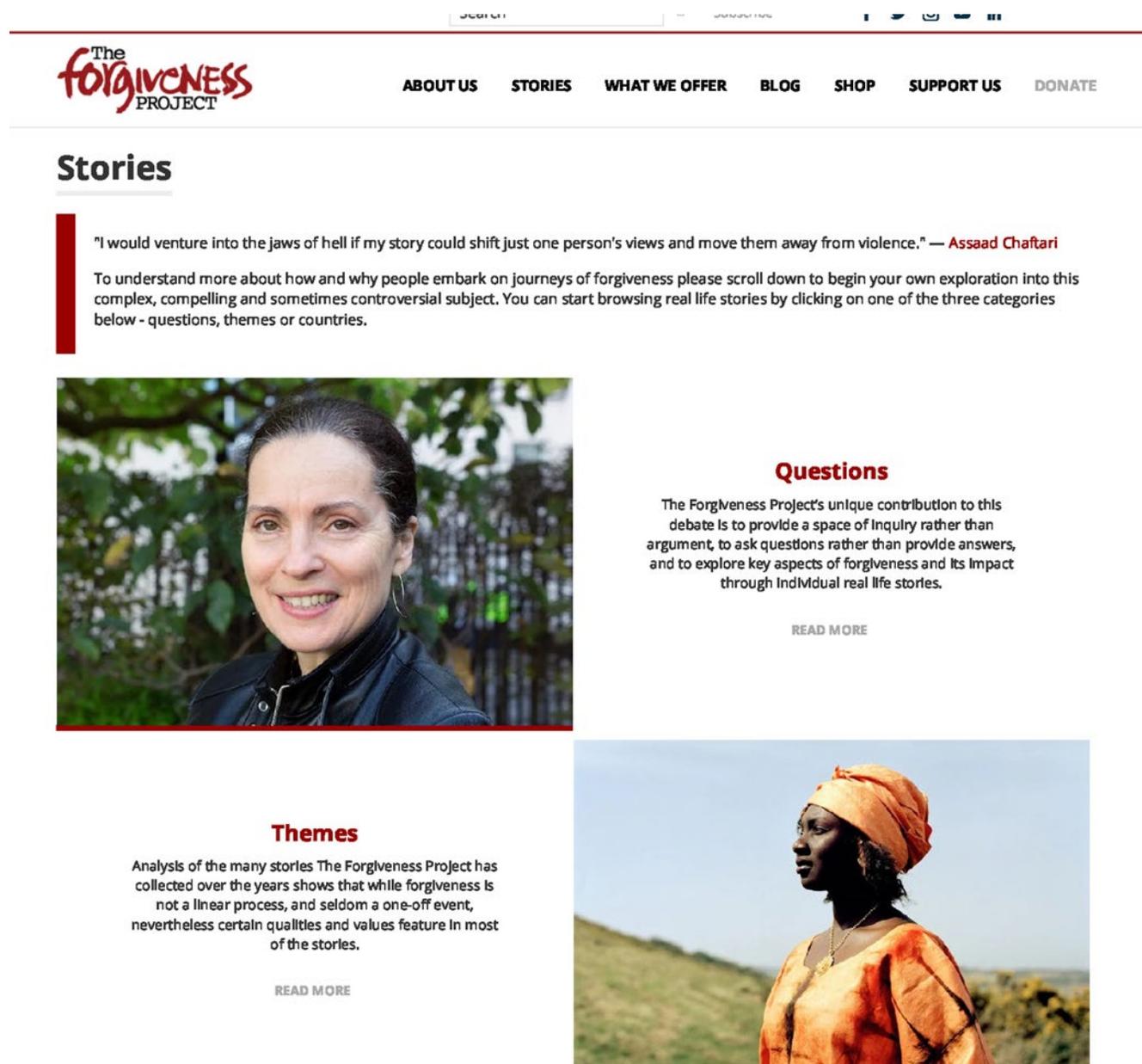


Figure 7. Example website experience obtained from the Forgiveness Project.

A website experience is the highest priority, due to its capacity to work for nearly all target audiences, and express both themes. The Forgiveness Project is a great example of a way to depict themes, subthemes, and stories of sensitive content to a variety of audiences. The website for the AARHIP could have similar layout and user experience. The focus on

individual's stories and topics as part of the bigger picture is extremely helpful. A website also allows linking to other resources, providing digital downloads, and multi-media experience of historic and current segregation.



Figure 8. Picture of Michelle Browder of More than Tours. Example of guided tours with a professional interpreter.

Professional interpreters offer a valuable experience to many target audiences. Specifically attracting existing walking tour professionals (including Michelle Browder) is a high priority for interpretation. This is a great service to offer to tourists and school-age groups. This type of service can easily be combined with local businesses, especially black-owned hospitality and restaurant businesses.

Figure 9 shows some walking tours which have been identified. Walks are categorized by specific topics and stories to understand subthemes. Dark blue is the police brutality trail honoring Mark Gilmore, yellow is the Georgia Gilmore and Montgomery Improvement

Association trail, Red is the march to the capital trail, and cyan is the long and hot trail to recreation.

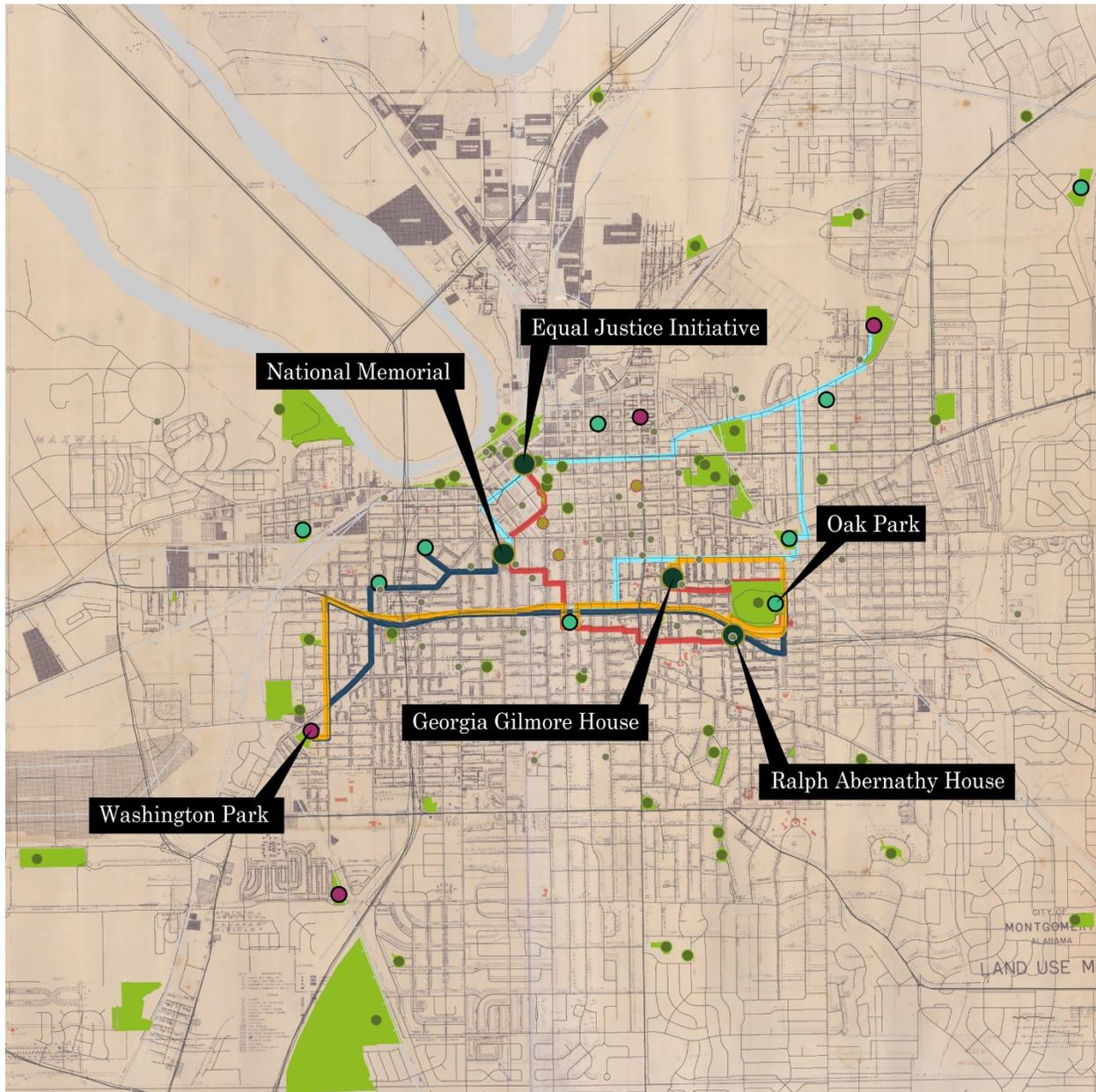


Figure 9. Proposed walking trails for guided tours with a professional interpreter, including historic segregated parks and the 1950 map of racial composition.



Figure 10. Proposed signage, display panels, and markers.

The update and redesign of signage, display panels, and markers is another top priority for interpretation. This works to express the themes through attractive visual media. This type of service is a one-time cost, which works 24/7 without any additional inputs from the implementation team. This is an important service to tourists and residents alike.

Implementation

Implementation Chart

Goal	Strategies and Policies	Responsibility	Resource
General Improvements	Streetscape Improvement Plan	ALDOT, Planning Department	Staff, Capital
	Community Engagement, Public Input to Interpretation Plan	Planning Department, SPV	Staff, Meeting Space
Interpretive Services	Website experience	SPV, EJI, Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery Convention and Visitor Bureau	Staff, SPV General Fund
	Guided tour with professional interpreter at Oak Park	More than Tours, EJI, City of Montgomery	Capital, Grant Offering
	Intensive group programming curricula (before and after visitation)	SPV, Alabama State University	ASU Partnership Fund
	Signage, display panels, and markers	SPV, Historic Preservation Commission	Staff, Historic Preservation Fund
	In-park programming and events: festivals, art walks, community events	SPV, Parks and Recreation Department, Montgomery Convention and Visitor Bureau	Staff
	Public conversations	Residents, Churches, Social Organizations	Time, Meeting Space
	In park self-guided tours: app-based, QR codes, sound system	SPV, Historic Preservation Commission	Staff, SPV General Fund
	Stewardship initiatives: park clean-ups, landscape improvements	Residents, Churches, Social Organizations	Time, Meeting Space
	Memorial site, public art	SPV, EJI, Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery Convention and Visitor Bureau	Time, Funding
	Evaluation	Community Engagement, Public Feedback after installation	Planning Department
Maintenance	Landscaping and cleaning	Parks and Recreation; Alabama Historical Commission	Staff

Table 2. Implementation Chart for all proposed elements of the AARHIP.

Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)

The SPV is an essential component of the AARHIP. This SPV is the designated non-profit which public and private funding is funneled. The SPV has staff and is able to implement and operate the interpretation services. The City of Montgomery Council, Parks and Recreation Department, Planning Department, Alabama Historical Commission, and the EJI shall compose the board of directors of the new SPV. This group will coordinate efforts between all stakeholders to prioritize interpretation goals.

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Appendix A. Site Inventory

Site Survey Data

For the site inventory, I have visited Montgomery City Parks with my group in Natural Areas, Gabbie and Brad. We took a tour through Montgomery including stops at Fitzgerald Park, Cloverdale Park, Vickers Park, Oak Park, Cypress Nature Park, Wright Brothers Park, Western Hills Park, and Washington Park. I have personally visited Kings Hill, O'Connor Tennis Center, Day Street Park, and Diffly Park to include in this study. Six of these are of importance to my project due to being segregated, Oak Park, Washington Park, Kings Hill, O'Connor Tennis Center, Day Street Park, and Diffly Park. These sites were analyzed using a park quality assessment adapted from Gidlow's Neighborhood green Space Tool (NGST). The qualities measured are access, facilities, amenities, natural qualities, maintenance, signage, and overall scores. The sites were also recorded via photograph, note taking, and critical observation.

	Access	Facilities	Amenities	Natural Qualities	Maintenance	Signage	Overall
indicator description	surroundings, roads, sidewalks, trails, paths, parking, bike	type of park: sport, play area, fitness, open space, pool	seating, picnic table, garbage cans, lighting, toilets, water fountain, shelter/shade, grills	open space, water, wildlife, vegetation	litter, dog mess, drug abuse, graffiti, vandalism, general landscape	entrance sign, info/education	aesthetics, safety, perceived, size, usage
Park Name	Access	Facilities	Amenities	Natural Qualities	Maintenance	Signage	Overall
Cloverdale	lack of parking, church, path dirt/gravel, lack of connecting sidewalks	open space	5 trash cans, 2 dog bags, 1 water fountain (broken), 5 benches, no lighting	open space, vegetation, birds	well maintained	entrance sign, no education signage	aesthetic - 8, safety - 8.66, usage - mid
Vickers	lack of parking, sidewalks connecting on neighborhood side	open space	2 trash cans, 1 dog bag, 5 benches, 1 picnic table, 2 light poles	open space, birds, vegetation	low maintained, litter	entrance sign, mileage sign	aesthetic - 4.66, safety - 6, usage - low
Western Hills	good sidewalks and connectivity to neighborhood, shared parking with church	sport, play area, open space, tennis, basketball, playground	3 trash cans, 4 benches, 1 picnic table, 2 grills, no lighting, no dog bags	lack of trees/shade	middle maintained, some litter	2 signs	aesthetic - 5, safety - 7.33, usage - mid
Washington	good parking, low connectivity, gate closed off that would connect to bike rack	open space, play	4 trash cans, 5 benches, 16 picnic tables, 6 light poles, 1 grill, 2 shelters, 1 bathroom, no dog bags	open space, vegetation	low maintained, litter, drug use	poor signage, bad attempt of historic signage	aesthetic - 6.33, safety - 5.66, usage - low/mid

Table 1a. Site Survey adapted from Gidlow et al. 2012.

	Access	Facilities	Amenities	Natural Qualities	Maintenance	Signage	Overall
Oak	good parking, street parking and interior parking, good trails, bike racks, strong fence around the entire property	sport, play area, fitness, open space, badmitten, playgrounds, work out bars, planetarium	several shade/shelters, plentiful picnic tables, plentiful benches, grill, swing benches, grills, water fountains, lighting poles, toilets, garbage cans	open space, water, wildlife, vegetation, flowers, botanical garden, turtle habitat, woodpeckers	some litter, some drug use, toilets not maintained very dirty, landscape is good	entrance signage, arch, historic marker (poor), educational signage, botanical signs, biblical garden signs	aesthetic - 7.33, safety - 5.66, usage - high
Cypress	bad access, no vehicle access, no people access, river you cant cross, thick vegetation	open space	none	open space, water, wildlife, vegetation, native habitat old growth cypress	litter, graffiti,	none	aesthetic - 6.66, safety - 4.66, usage - low
King Hill	good parking including handicap, bike rack, sidewalks only on southeast side not neighborhood side, paved trails and stairs with rails inside, barb wire fence and wood fence surrounding	sport, play area, fitness, open space, 2 basketball courts, playground with swings, work out equipment, baseball field, open lawn	8 benches, 1 community center buildings, 2 pavilions (1 badly damaged), 2 grills, 7 trash cans, 2 trash bins, 1 water fountain, very well lit	old trees, shady, open space, lots of birds, dogs barking	low/middle maintenance, damage to pavillion and fences, weeds and unkempt lawn, litter	one sign facing road, main community center building	aesthetic - 5.33, safety - 5, usage - low
O'Connor Tennis Center	great parking including handicap, chain link fence or wood fence surrounding, bad sidewalk network only one southerly	sport, 12 tennis courts, tennis hitting cage, playground at church across street	2 wooden pavilions, 1 community center building, 10 picnic tables, 3 brick wood grills, good lighting above courts only	some mature old trees, occassional birds	very well maintained, well kept grass, no litter	one entrance sign for cars, community center has city seal and looks well used	aesthetic - 6, safety - 7.6, usage - very high

Table 1b. Continued

	Access	Facilities	Amenities	Natural Qualities	Maintenance	Signage	Overall
Day Street	Sidewalk present but very busy road with low visibility and no crossing, fenced and gated all sides, no bike rack, no trails, no parking	play area, basketball court, swing set, open space	4 benches, no trash cans, no water fountain, good shade, not developed much, no bathrooms, no lighting	open space, good mature trees, lots of birds, boring shrubs, no flowers	low maintenance, needs mowing, litter	one sign, very hard to see	aesthetic - 4.6, safety - 6, usage - very low
Diffley Park	no sidewalks, good parking including handicap, slow street traffic, access from boys and girls club, some paved trails	baseball field, playground, open space, tennis court at boys and girls club fenced off	2 picnic tables, 2 benches, 2 trash cans, 2 port-a-potty, good lighting	open space, old trees, birds active	low, lots of litter	one sign facing street	aesthetic - 4.3, safety - 6.3, usage - medium low

Table 1c. Continued.

Selected Park Study

Washington Park

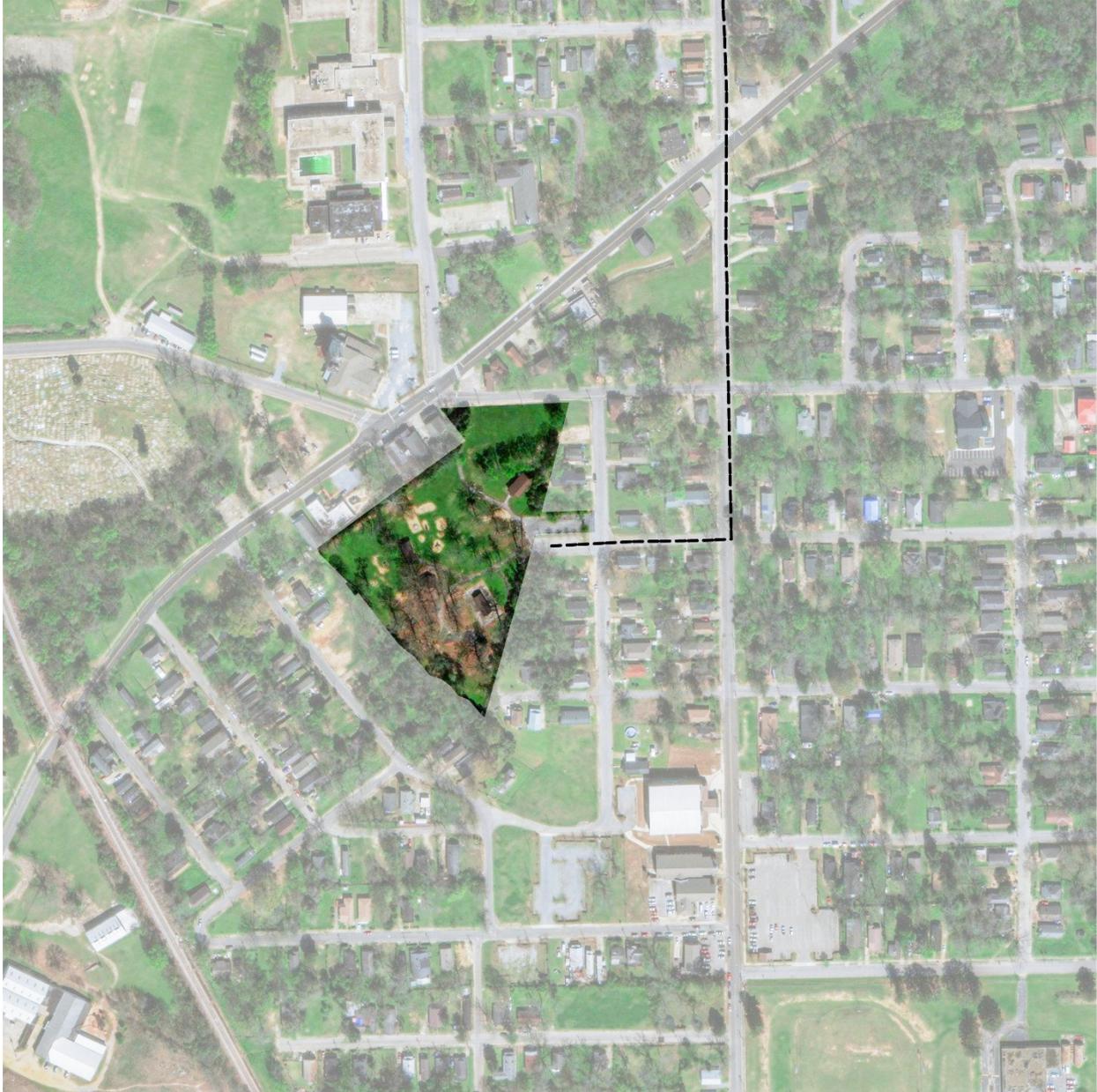


Figure 1. Aerial Map of Washington Park.

Washington Park is one of the African American only parks during the segregation era. This park is today in a predominately black neighborhood. This park has nice amenities, but there is more to study about the park. There is a historic marker at the park which says that

renovations occurred in 1982. This would be many years after the court-mandated integration of Montgomery's parks. The present state of the park doesn't tell us what the park quality originally was, or how that compared to Oak Park and other white-only parks. The historic marker also fails to mention the racial nature of the historic significance of the park, and simply brushes past it. Access to Washington Park is limited by the fencing and hedges surrounding the park, yet when you are inside it feels open and spacious. This is overall a nice park, and the additional presence of the interpretive themes would really make a difference.



Figure 2. The historic marker at Washington Park.

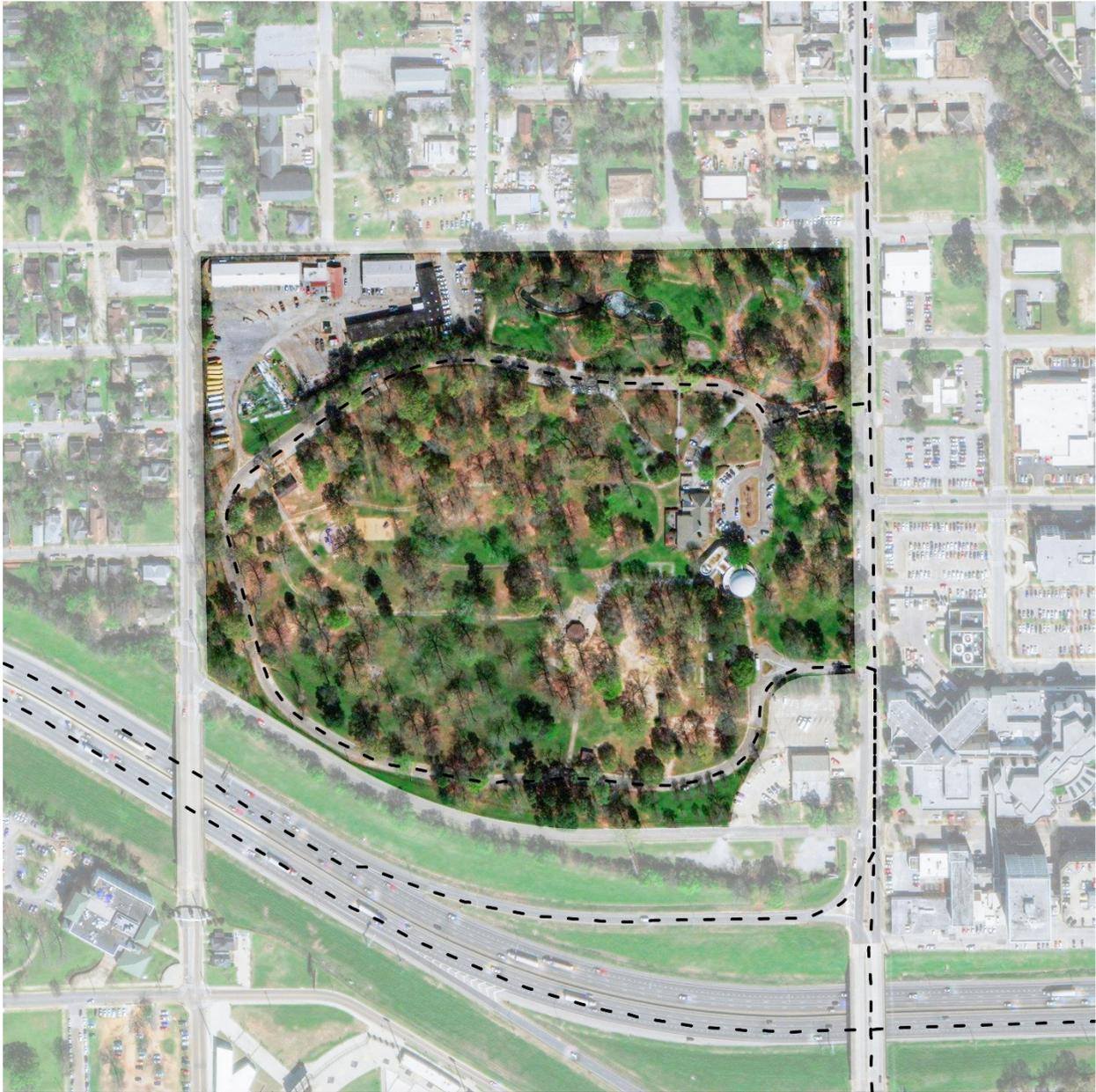
Oak Park

Figure 3. Aerial map of present-day Oak Park.

Oak park has a particularly rich history for this topic and must be addressed accordingly. Oak Park is one of the 10 white-only parks cited in the 1959 Gilmore Case. Georgia Gilmore's son Mark Gilmore is the reason the case began. Mark was taking a shortcut through the park and he got beaten and arrested, just for the color of his skin not being allowed in the park. Mark's

mother Georgia garnered the attention of several important civil rights leaders and began legal proceedings about the injustice of the segregation policy. Ultimately, Gilmore's case is the reason the Montgomery's parks are integrated today.

Today, the park is quite nice. There is adequate play area and playgrounds. There are beautiful planted beds and botanical gardens, wildlife, turtle habitat, and open grass to run. There are plenty of shade structures, bathrooms, benches, and grills. There are some concerns with low maintenance, however, and, there is a massive fence which surrounds the property that makes it a bit difficult to enter.



Figure 4. Historic marker present at Oak Park.

This park also has an existing historic marker, which remarkably avoids mentioning civil rights. See Figure 4. The interpretation of this park would really benefit from additional

appropriate signage, and perhaps some experiential technology like an app or audio-tour which allows visitors to have a first-hand experience of the park.

GIS Analysis of All Montgomery Parks

The following tables (2a – 2e) were created using original analysis and existing GIS datasets, acquired through Goodwyn, Mills and Cawood (GMC). Spatial analysis combines racial composition from Census Blocks within half a mile of the parks. This data calculates population of African Americans divided by total population of these blocks to create a percentage African American for each park. Table 2a shows the column headers for the rest of the table.

Table Key	
A	% AA, <.5 mile radius
B	Parking Spaces
C	Restrooms
D	ADA Compliant
E	Swimming
F	Hiking
G	Fishing
H	Picnic
I	Boating
J	Hunting
K	Road Cycle
L	Playground
M	Golf
N	Ski
O	Soccer
P	Baseball
Q	Softball
R	Basketball
S	Tennis
T	Skateboard
U	Information
V	Pets

Table 2a. The key to understand the table 2b – 2e column headers.

Facility Name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Army Learning Arts Center	33%	70	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Audubon Park	19%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
AUM/Ron Nunn Complex	17%	300	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	5	2	N	N	N	N	Y
Bark Park	48%	0	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Bellinger Hill Park	47%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Blount Cultural Park	44%	0	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Brenda Bonner Park (Forest)	16%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Brewbaker Park &	67%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Catoma Park Ball Fields	28%	60	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	4	4	N	N	N	Y	N
Chisholm Community	39%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	N	N
Cloverdale Park (Church)	22%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Cloverdale Road Park	14%	0	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
College Street Park	25%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Country Club Drive Park	32%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Court Square	17%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Cramton Bowl	34%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Crump Senior Center	14%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Dannelly Park	31%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	3	3	Y	N	N	N	N
Darrington/Ritchie Park	90%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Day Street Park	50%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Dean Fain Park	7%	400	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	4	4	N	N	N	N	N
Diffley Park	38%	0	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Dr. Robert B. Adams Park	36%	0	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
E.A.T. South Downtown	25%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
E.D. Nixon Community	63%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N
Earl D. James Center	33%	30	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Emory Folmar Soccer	23%	300	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	10	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Exchange Club Park East	8%	0	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	N	N
Fairview Environmental Park	82%	0	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Fitzgerald Park	24%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Floyd Community Center	56%	60	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N

Table 2b. City of Montgomery Parks, facilities (GMC) by Percentage African American.

Facility Name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
Forrest B. "Buddy" Watson	15%	230	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	7	7	N	N	N	N	N
Fox Hollow Park	10%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	4	4	N	N	N	Y	Y
Gateway Park	77%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	2	Y	N	N	Y	N
Goodwyn Community	7%	20	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	7	7	Y	N	N	Y	N
Goodwyn Park (Ball Fields)	7%	200	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	7	7	Y	N	N	Y	N
Harriot II	4%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
Hayneville Road Community	23%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Hayneville Road Park	50%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Highland Gardens	45%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Homeview Park	31%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
Houston Hill Community	42%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Hunter Station Community	27%	18	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Hyde Park (Burbank)	59%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
Ida Belle Young Park	63%	200	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	Y
Jackson Ferry Road Park	30%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	Y
James A. Shannon Park	78%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	Y
King Hill Community Center	36%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Kiwanis Park	12%	14	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
Lagoon Park	21%	1100	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	6	6	N	N	N	Y	Y
LeGrande Park	27%	0	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2	2	N	N	N	Y	Y
Leu Hammonds Park	76%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	2	2	N	N	N	Y	Y
Lister Hill Plaza	13%	0	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	Y
Louis Armstrong Memorial	41%	0	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	Y
Loveless Community Center	71%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
McIntyre Community Center	74%	0	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Milo Howard Park	26%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
Montgomery Zoo	45%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	N	N	N	Y	N
Multiplex at Cramton Bowl	38%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Myrtlewood Drive Park	8%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Newtown Community Center	70%	30	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Oak Park	48%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	1	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	Y

Table 2c. Continued

Facility Name	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
O'Connor Tennis Center	47%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N
Old Selma Road Community	26%	20	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	1	N	N	N	N	N
Paterson Field	32%	300	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Pecan Grove Park	23%	0	N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Pete Peterson Lodge	19%	0	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Peter Crump Park	93%	0	Y	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	3	N	N	N	N	N
Powder Magazine Boat	20%	0	N	N	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Regency Park Community	55%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	Y	N	N	Y	N
Ridgecrest Park	85%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Riverfront Amphitheater	5%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N
Riverfront Park	10%	0	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Riverwalk Stadium	9%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	N	N	N	N	N	N
Rosa L. Parks Park	85%	0	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Rotary Dog Park	11%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Seth Johnson Park	87%	128	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	3	3	N	N	N	N	Y
Sheridan Heights	61%	100	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	2	Y	N	N	Y	N
Smiley Court Community	67%	50	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	2	2	Y	N	N	Y	N
Therapeutic Recreation	58%	60	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	Y	N
Thomas Calhoun Jr. Park	63%	50	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y
Thompson Park	14%	300	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	10	10	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Tuscaloosa Park	43%	0	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Union Station Train Shed	9%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Vaughn Road Park	25%	60	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Vickers Park	44%	0	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Virginia Estates Park	93%	0	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
W.A. Gayle Planetarium	46%	0	Y	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	Y
Wares Ferry Park	64%	0	N	N	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y
Washington Park	87%	30	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Western Hills Park	61%	70	Y	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N
Willie Cook Community	79%	0	N	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	Y	N	N	N	Y
Woodcrest Park	51%	50	Y	Y	N	Y	N	Y	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	1	1	1	N	N	Y	Y

Table 2d. Continued

	V	Y	Y
	U	N	N
	T	N	N
	S	N	N
	R	N	N
	Q	N	N
	P	1	N
	O	N	N
	N	N	N
	M	N	N
	L	Y	N
	K	N	N
	J	N	N
	I	N	N
	H	Y	Y
	G	Y	N
	F	Y	N
	E	N	N
	D	Y	Y
	C	Y	Y
	B	0	0
A	28%	25%	
Facility Name			
Woodmere Park			
Wright Brothers Park			

Table 2e. Continued