Rome Parks Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Public Meeting

September 2025

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Agenda

- *Project Team*
- *Project Overview*
- *Vision and Goals*
- *Inventory Review*
- *Preliminary Findings*
- *Schedule*

Project Team

City of Rome

City of Rome Department of Community and Economic Development
City of Rome Department of Parks and Recreation

Fisher Associates — Prime Consultant

Bill Sprengnether — *Project Manager*
Jimmy Lynch — *Designer*
Tyler Kuty — *Planner*

ETC Institute — Subconsultant

Jason Morado — *Vice President of Community Research*

Pros Consulting — Subconsultant

Leon Younger — *President*
Travis Tranbarger, CPRP — *Senior Project Manager*

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Project Overview

The Rome Parks, Open Space, and Trails (POST) Master Plan

1.) Builds off existing city plans
2.) Analyzes the level of service of POST amenities
3.) Analyzes the level of community satisfaction with POST amenities

The POST Plan will:

- Guide the next 15 years in future facility development, maintenance, and improvements
- Understand if there is an excess, gap, or just right makeup of facilities budget and staff.
- Provide recommendations on how to organize and strengthen the POST system

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Parks

Publicly owned spaces dedicated to recreation like playgrounds, dog parks, sports fields

Open Space
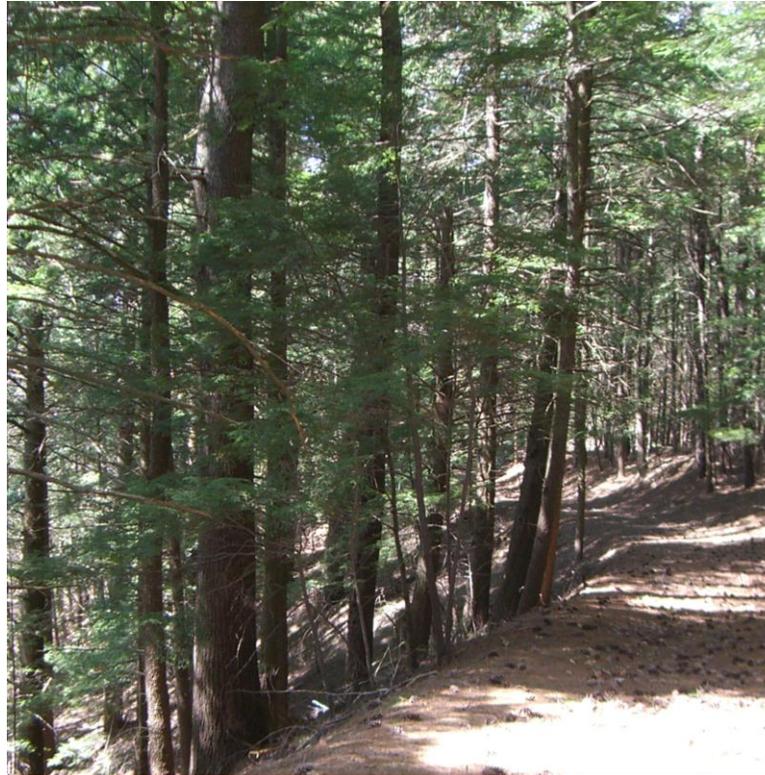
Amenities like schools and sports fields, golf course, cemeteries, and natural areas

Trails
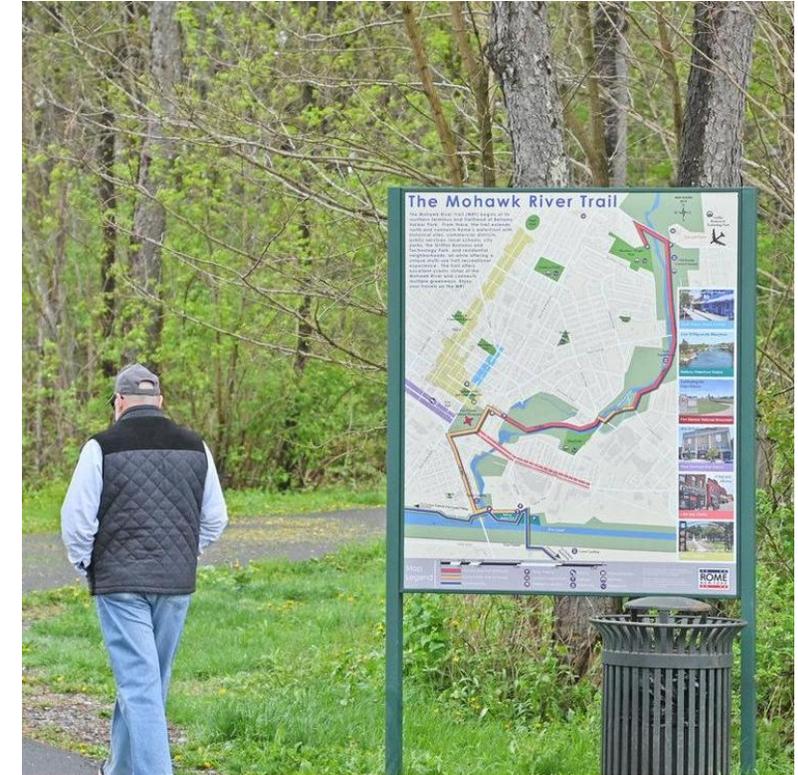
Linear paths for walking, biking, hiking and snowmobiling, including routes you might take to access parks

Vision and Goals

Vision

"
Rome Parks Outdoor Space and Trails (POST) system is a focus and point of **pride for the community.** The POST system is successfully **serving the local community** and **attracts visitors because** of its accessibility and variety **of offerings to all age groups and abilities.** The system **is well maintained** and offers a wide **variety of amenities without overextending** the ability of the city to care for and improve the system. Rome POST are **heavily used by the community** and groups for activities, sports, relaxation, and are **places of safe gathering** that highlight the local history heritage of the area.
"

Guiding Principles and Objectives

Develop a plan that reflects the needs of the community

- Developed from public and stakeholders' experiences
- Use data and experiences to focus on the fundamentals
- Prioritize recommendations based in measurable criteria

Create a roadmap for a bright future

- Provide actions with clear and concise recommendations
- Develop an identity for the POST system
- Match the resources, amenities, and needs of the system

Foster an environment inclusive of all users

- Promote a POST system that feels safe and connected
- Ensure that amenities for all ages and abilities
- reliably accessible for all users throughout the City

Inventory

Project Inventory

Rome Inside District – Parks and Recreational Assets
September 2025

Project Inventory

City of Rome Parks and Recreation Assets
September 2025
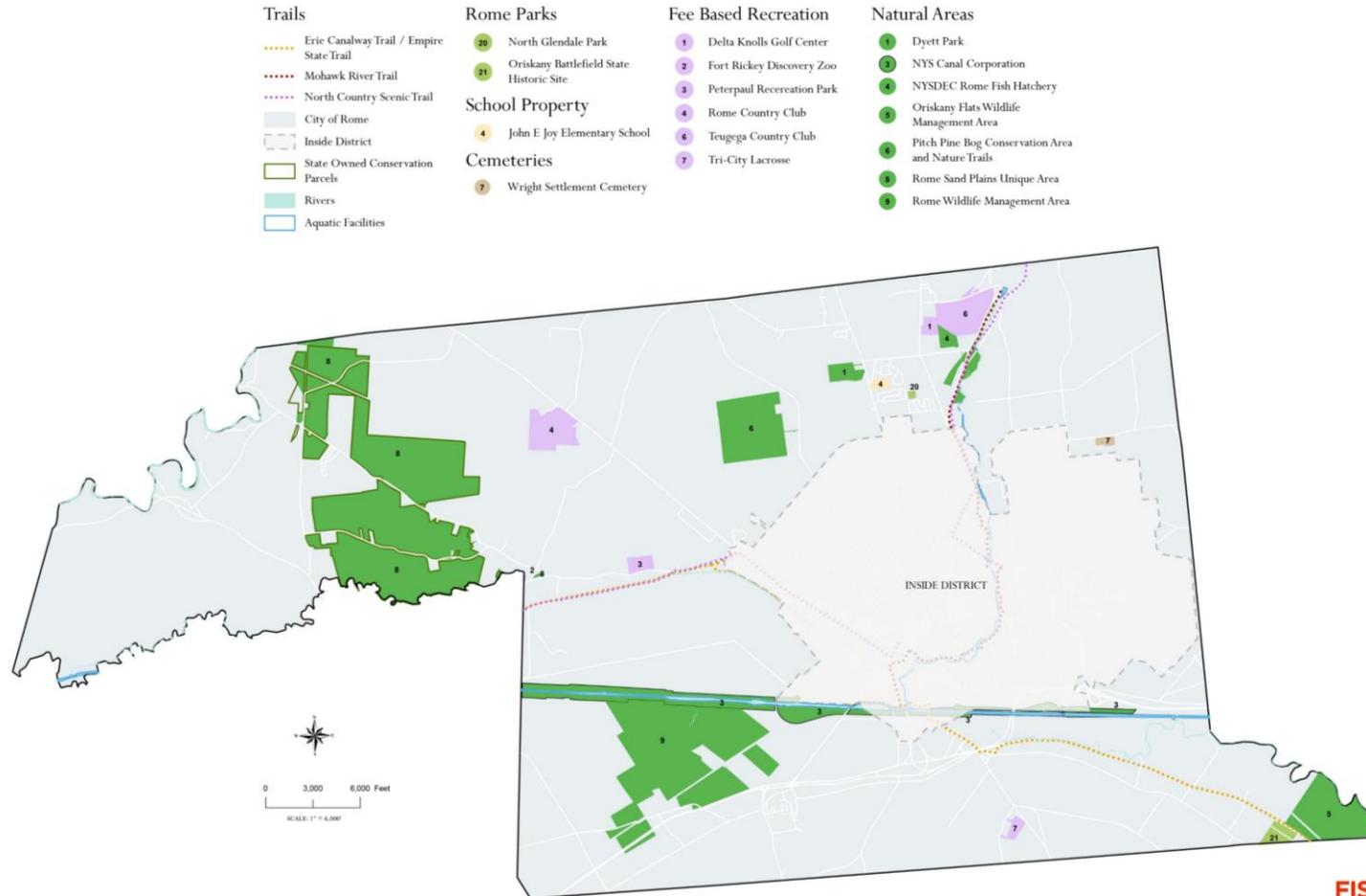
Preliminary Findings

Parks Usage – Cell Phone Data

Limitations

- Utilizes existing data to estimate foot traffic.
- Those without phones aren't counted

Findings

- **4% increase in visits from 2019-2024**
  - Parks and Open Spaces saw little increase
  - Trails and arenas saw a 35% increase
  - Bellamy Park, Kennedy Arena saw a large increase in visitors
  - Kost Field and Delutis Field saw a decrease in visitors
  - Community parks were stable
- **Decrease in visitors from Rome** (13440),
- **Few winter visits**

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Public Engagement

Suggestions from the public/focus groups

Bathrooms
Easily accessible, safe, and clean bathrooms

Multi-use trails
Biking and walking trails that connect residents with parks

Splash Pads
Small play areas with fountains

Level of Service (LOS) Analysis

Compares City of Rome to peer cities/towns

Regional Parks
Large parks that serve the entire city and surrounding area

Splash Pads
Small play areas with fountains

Playing Fields/Courts
Pickleball, tennis, and multi-purpose fields, **adult programs**

Gap Analysis

What is a Gap Analysis?

- **Looks at where parks, open spaces, and trails are in relation to people**
- Asks – Where are people traveling far for parks? Where are amenities clustered too close together? And where should new amenities go?

1. Parks
2. Trails
3. Playgrounds
4. Aquatic Facilities

Gap Analysis - Parks

Methodology

- Buffered distances from residential parcels.
- .25 mile – Desired distance
- .5mile – Acceptable distance   } Served
- 1mi – maximum walkable
- > 1 mi – Unserved

Findings

- Areas to the north and south of the city center may see gaps in parks access
- Outlying communities are largely unserved by parks.

City of Rome: Parks and Residential Parcels
- City of Rome
- Park Lands
- Inside District

Residential Parcels
- Less than 1/4 Mile from Park
- Less than 1/2 Mile from Park
- Less than 1 Mile from Park
- Greater than 1 Mile from Park

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, City of Rome, NY
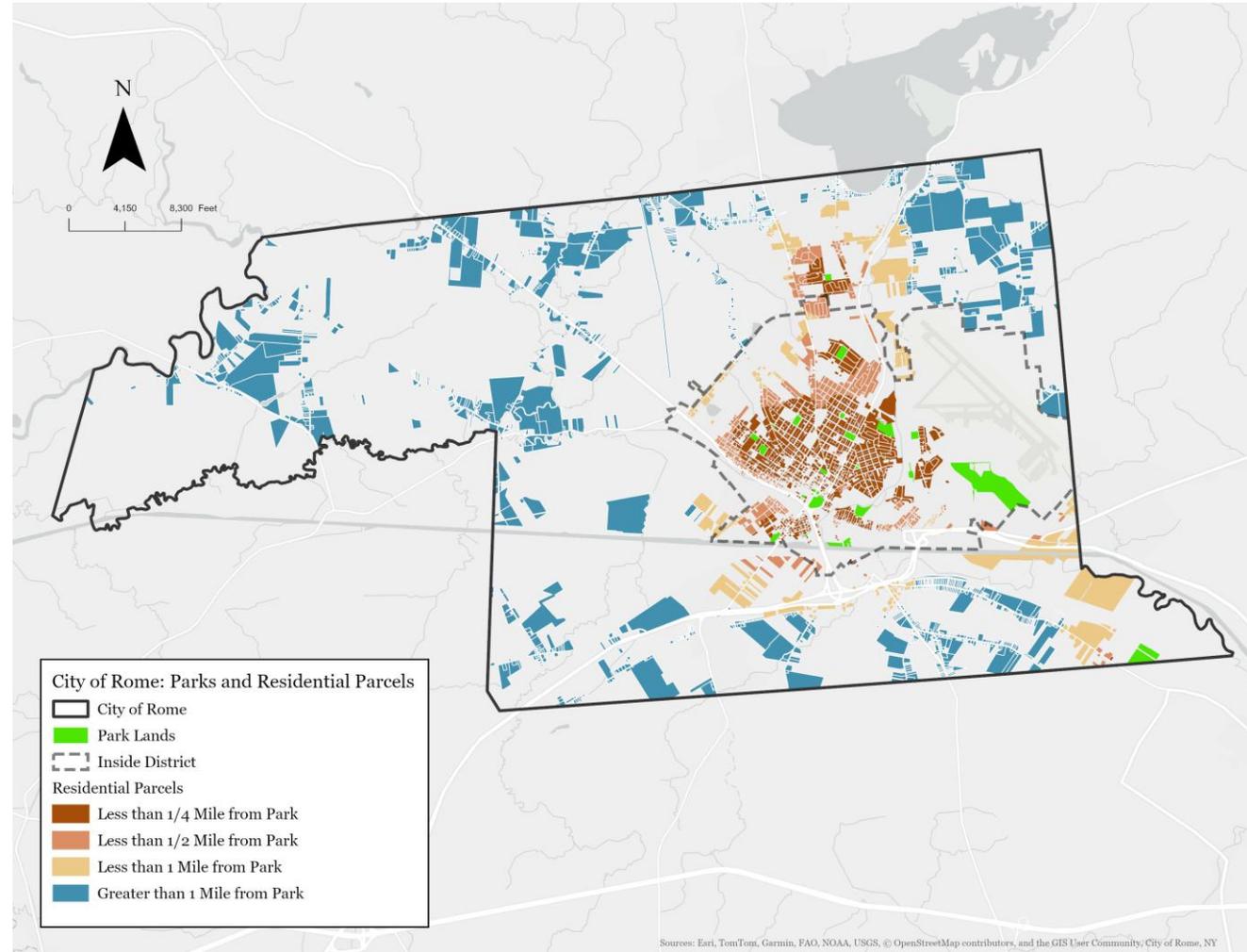
Gap Analysis – Trailheads

Methodology

- Buffered distances from residential parcels.
- .25 mile – Desired distance ⎫
- .5mile – Acceptable distance ⎬ Served
- > .5mi – Unserved

Findings

- Trails are **concentrated in the east** of the city, near resources such as **Griffis AFB, the Mohawk River, and the Erie Canal**
- Largest gap in the northwest of the city center, outlying communities

City of Rome: Trails - Distance from Residential Parcels

- • Access Point
- ★ Trail Head
- — Erie Canalway Trail / Empire State Trail
- — Mohawk River Trail
- — Griffiss International Sculpture Garden and Nature Trail
- ▢ City of Rome
- ⬚ Inside District

Residential Parcels
- ▰ Up to 1/2 Mile from Trail Head/Access Point
- ▰ Up to 1 Mile From Trail Head/Access Point
- ▰ Greater than 1 Mile From Trail Head/Access Point

Distance Buffers from Trail Heads
- — 1 Mile
- — 1/2 Mile

Sources: Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community, City of Rome, NY

Gap Analysis – Playgrounds

Methodology

- Buffered distances from residential parcels.
- .25 mile – Desired distance
- .5mile – Acceptable distance

  } Served

- > .5mi – Unserved

Findings

- Between parks and schools, the city is geographically well served with playgrounds
- Gap along the Chestnut Street Corridor
- Outlying communities are largely unserved

City of Rome: Playgrounds - Distance From Residential Parcels

- City of Rome
- Inside District
- Parks with Playgrounds
- Schools with Playgrounds

Residential Parcels

- Less than 1/4 Mile from Playgrounds
- Less than 1/2 Mile from Playgrounds
- Greater than 1/2 Mile from Playgrounds

Distance Buffers from Playgrounds (Miles)

- 1/2 Mile
- 1/4 Mile
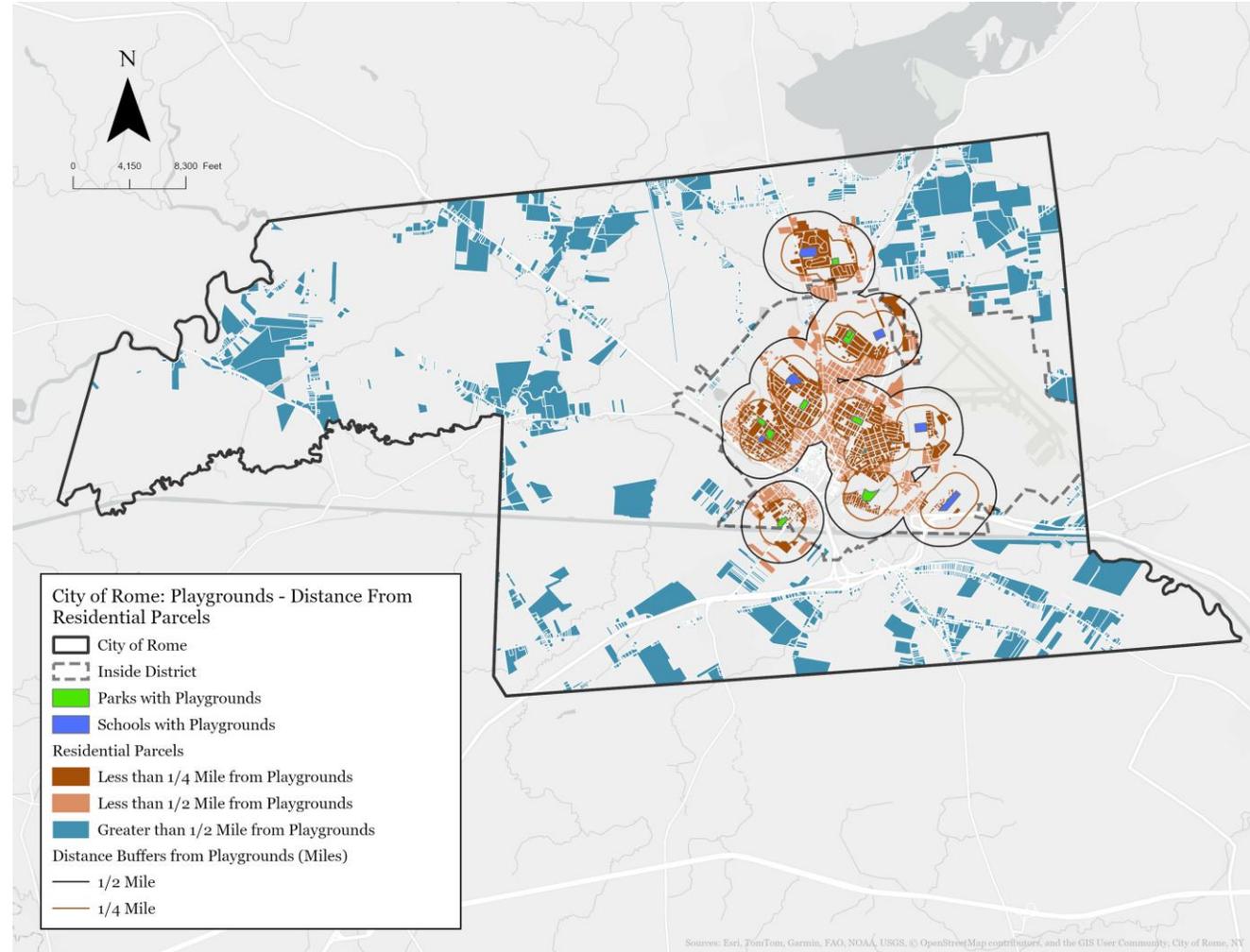
How were these findings used?

Inventory and Research

City of Rome Input and Information

Cell Phone Data
What and Where

Surveys
What and why

Gap Analysis
Where

Focus Group Interviews
What and Why

LOS Analysis
What and Where

Pop-ups and Tabling
What, Where, and Why

Trends, Issue, and Needs Analysis
- Common opportunities
- Common Challenges

Informs public engagement and future recommendations
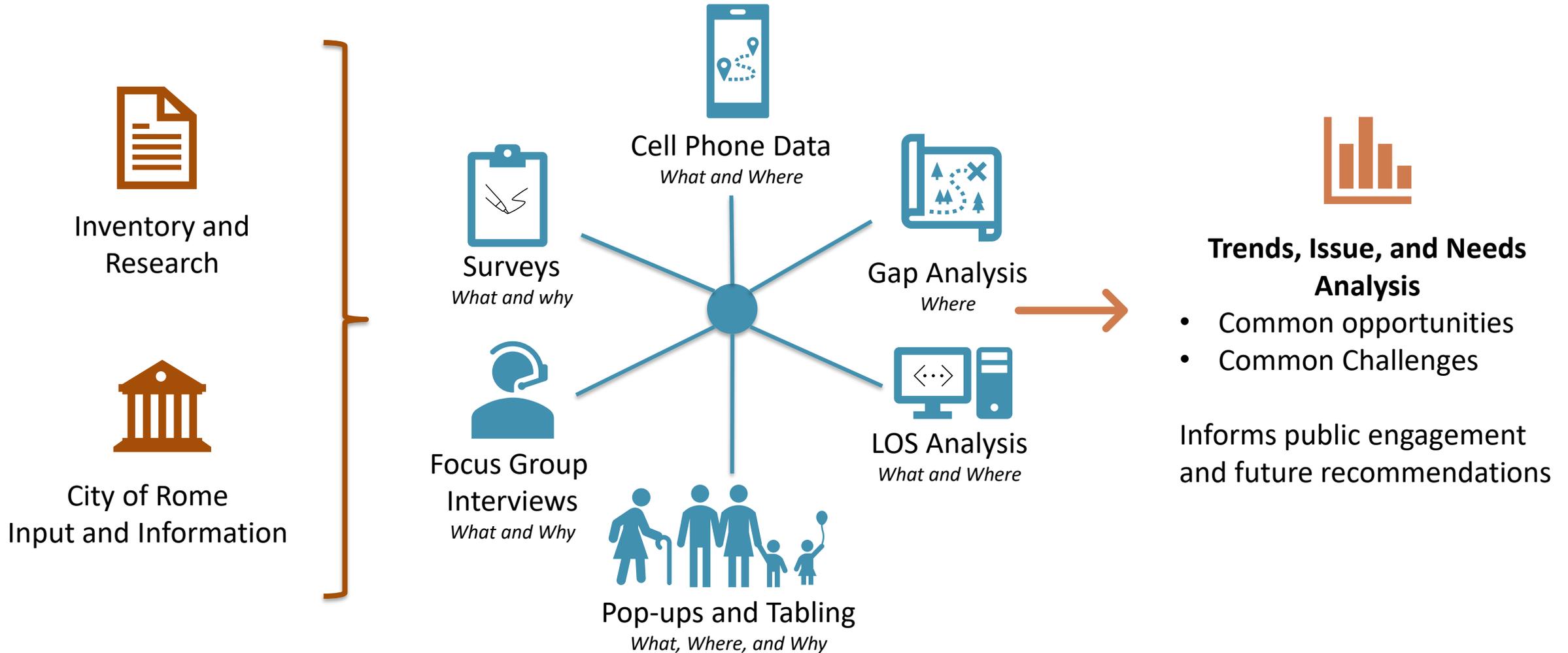
Overlapping **Opportunities**

What?

There is a need for a **regional** park.

There is a need for more programming for both youths and adults.

There is desire for more water activates, such as splash pads or amenities at pools.

Trails should connect the community to parks
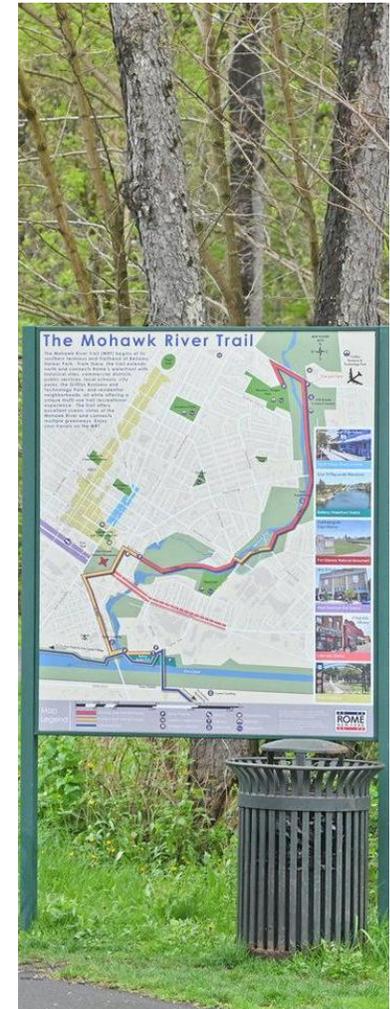
Overlapping **Challenges**

What?

Perceived safety at POST amenities.

Accessibility at parks is limited, particularly for mobility impaired populations, those on the autism spectrum, and families with children.

Youth sports are experiencing a decline in membership.
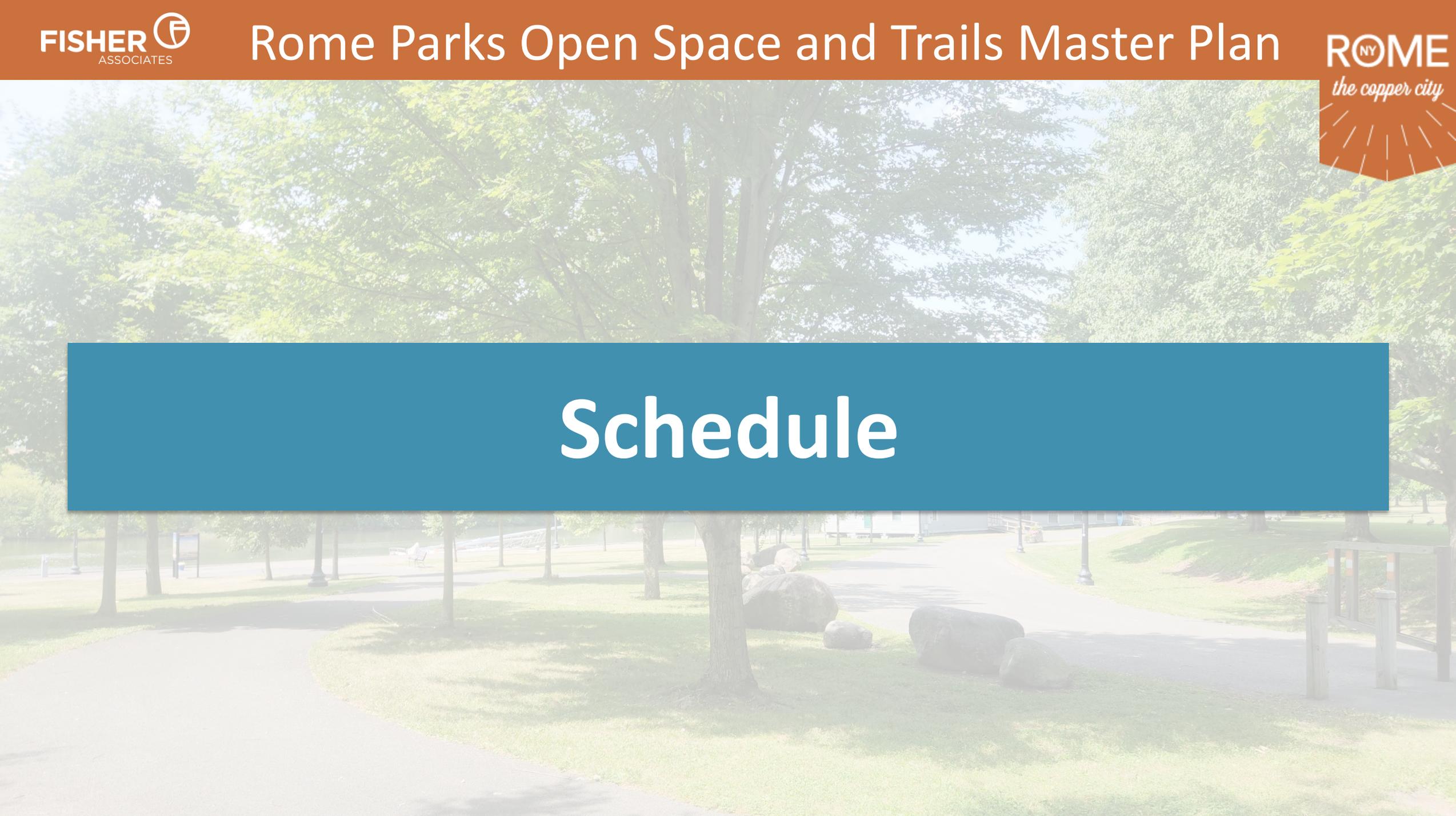
Schedule

Public Engagement to date

- **Pop-up events at community events** throughout Study

- **Focus groups**

- **Surveys**

Future Public Engagement

- **Public meetings** (2)

SPRING 2025
Pop-ups and Focus Groups
To gain project understanding, collect data/anecdotes

FALL 2025
Public meeting #1
To review inventory and preliminary trends

FALL 2025 *(upcoming)*
DRAFT recommendations
To review preliminary recommendations

LATE FALL/ EARLY WINTER 2025
Public Meeting #2
To review draft report

City of Rome

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