



2024 Parks & Recreation Master Plan



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Executive Summary

With its vision of being the Premier City, the City of Bettendorf has a long history of supporting a comprehensive parks and recreation system. The city is projected to experience significant growth in the coming decades, especially in the northern and eastern growth areas identified in the 2024 *Premiering Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan*. With an expected population increase of 5,000–10,000 residents above the 2020 population of 39,102, the existing parks, trails, and recreation system will face additional strain. As a result, an expansion may be necessary to align with the overall goals of the comprehensive plan.

In support of the comprehensive plan, this document seeks to highlight the needs, goals, and vision for the parks and recreation system within the context of the city as a whole. Parks are a strong attractor for prospective residents looking to relocate, and are often the so-called front door to city government. Declaring a comprehensive vision consistent with the comprehensive plan provides the framework for achieving a cohesive community character.

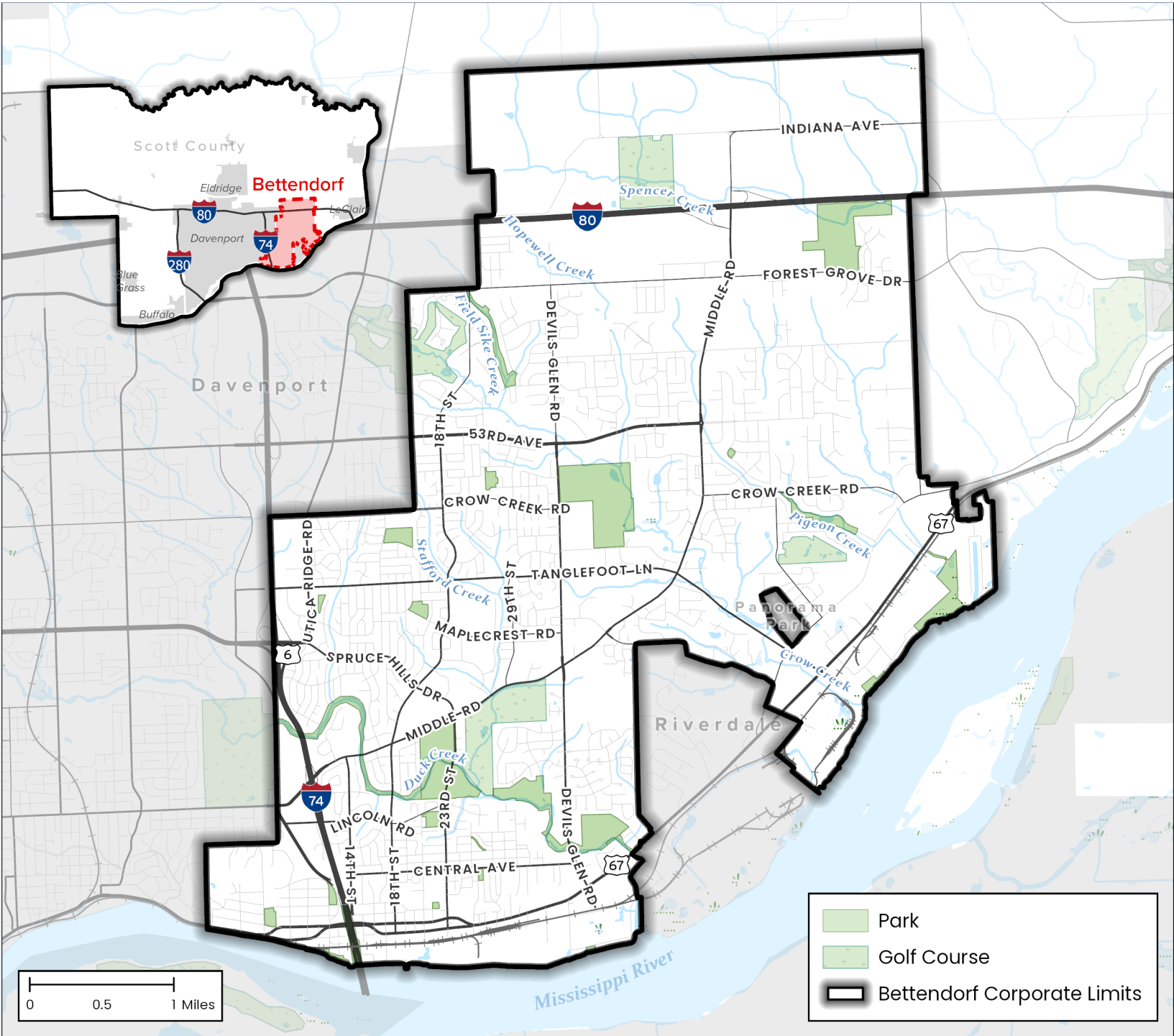
This document is an update to the 2017 *Parks & Recreation Master Plan*. The objectives for this update include:

- Update existing plan to address changing conditions and development since 2017

- Review guiding principles, goals, and objectives for existing recreation infrastructure and future development
- Determine priorities for the next five to ten years based on input from the comprehensive plan, *Parks Strategic Plan*, and input from staff, the plan steering committee, and the Parks Advisory Board

During the planning process, feedback from staff, the plan steering committee, and the Parks Advisory Board showed a strong sense of pride in Bettendorf's park quality and a commitment to upholding the department's high standards for future generations. Park amenities and facilities address most of the needs of Bettendorf residents. However, it was noted that constant feedback from residents is necessary to ensure that the desires of current residents are being addressed.

Bettendorf's increasing population has sparked discussions about the need for more parkland to meet the current standards of park space per resident. To achieve the goals outlined in the Comprehensive Plan, it may be necessary to expand the parks system. Completing Forest Grove Park presents a clear opportunity in the near-term to address the needs of current and future residents. The park can potentially have a lasting



impact on the entire community with achievable signature components. While expanding park offerings presents opportunities, it also comes with increased costs.

Recommendations

The planning process generated certain recommendations to achieve the goals outlined in this plan and the comprehensive plan. Based on the input from the groups mentioned above, the following proposals speak to the diverse and evolving characteristics of Bettendorf's parks.

- **Review and Update the Forest Grove Park Master Plan and implement the plan for the park's development**
- Consistent feedback on the future of Bettendorf parks noted the as-yet unfilled potential of one of the city's newest parks. The opportunity for a lasting, unique, and signature experience was discussed among all groups providing input. Staff and other stakeholders should review the Forest Grove Park Master Plan and establish a plan to implement the proposed improvements or determine alternatives with achievable timelines.
- **Create Naturalized Parks or Greenways**
- Transform parks with limited active recreational value into naturalized spaces or greenways to enhance passive recreation opportunities. Many parks, shaped by evolving development trends or changing surroundings, may have diminished recreational value. However, these spaces can still offer significant benefits as passive

open spaces and greenways, contributing positively to the environment and the residents of Bettendorf. Fully embracing the naturalization of certain parklands and open spaces will benefit both neighbors and the environment.

- **Establish Separate Budgetary Funding Mechanisms for capital projects and maintenance tasks**
- Ongoing maintenance incurs significant costs for the city. City staff have noted challenges in budgeting for both maintenance and capital expenses under a single item. Separating these costs in the budgeting process will provide a clearer picture of the Parks Department's needs and may help secure external funding for park improvements.
- **Regularly Solicit and Review Input from the Parks Advisory Board and the Public**
- Maintain open and ongoing communication between residents, department staff, and Park Advisory Board members to gauge recreation demand within the city. Regular surveys and reports from the Park Advisory Board will keep the department informed about trends and new recreational preferences.

Conclusion

Parks and recreational offerings are a great strength for the City of Bettendorf. However, issues of service levels and diversity and geographical distribution of amenities will present challenges as the city continues to grow.

- New park land has been identified as essential as the city continues to grow, but fully utilizing existing park land, like Forest Grove Park, presents near-term opportunities and efficiency gains for Bettendorf.
- Maintenance must be addressed with any potential expansion of park facilities to maintain high standards and service levels. All new facilities must consider a maintenance schedule for the useful life of amenities. Many new, exciting opportunities exist for park expansion, but existing parks in established neighborhoods must not be overlooked.
- Parks and recreational opportunities are a major draw for people moving to Bettendorf. Continued investment will elevate this asset's distinction even further.

Future Vision and Goals

City of Bettendorf Vision Statement:
The City of Bettendorf is the most livable community with rich educational, cultural and recreational opportunities where we enjoy a vibrant riverfront and a growing, competitive business environment. We take pride in our great community.

Plan Purpose

A parks and recreation master plan is intended to serve in concert with complementary plans, such as the comprehensive plan and strategic plan.

This plan is prepared to support the city's overall vision to create a vibrant and welcoming community, where residents can utilize a park and recreation system that serves their and their neighbors' needs. The community's vision is supported in this plan by the goals and objectives set out and endorsed by the plan steering committee. The goals and objectives from the previous plan in 2016 were reviewed and expanded by the committee with insight from national trends and standards and the needs, desires, and aspirations of the citizens and users of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system.

Community Wellness and Active Lifestyles

An active and healthy community serve to create connections among Bettendorf residents,

resulting in a well-rounded and fulfilling lifestyle. Achieving regional and national health goals, both physical and mental, helps the city achieve its vision of creating the most livable community where residents take pride in where they live. Recreational pursuits are ever changing, and the Parks and Recreation Department must monitor emerging trends. Some sports and physical activity diminish in popularity over time, while new ones take their place, as demonstrated by the soaring interest in pickleball in Bettendorf and across the country. Communities monitor trends and use them to make decisions on retaining programs and facilities and/or providing new opportunities to support wellness and active living.

The link between physical inactivity and health effects are well-documented. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week and muscle-strength activities two or more days a week. For children and adolescents, 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day is recommended.

The 2021 *Quad Cities Community Health Assessment* noted factors positively associated with adult physical activity are higher education and income, enjoyment of exercise, expectation of benefits, belief in ability to exercise, history of activity in adulthood, social support, satisfaction with facilities, enjoyable scenery, and safe neigh-



borhoods. The report noted that 26.1% of Scott County residents meet the physical activity recommendations set by the CDC. In addition, participation in

physical activity often has a social aspect, which can aid in improving mental health. The *Community Health Assessment* estimated that 22.2% of Scott County residents believe their mental health is “fair” or “poor.” The observation was a statistically significant increase from the previous assessment in 2018.

Coverage

The *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* covers current city limits and future growth areas, as envisioned in *Premiering Bettendorf - A Comprehensive Plan for 2045*. The *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* covers the same geographic area for future land expansion in the city to address needs today and in the future. It also provides an inventory of existing parks, facilities, and recreation programs, and recommends future plans and recreation opportunities.

Community Wellness and Active Lifestyles

An active and healthy community connects Bettendorf residents and contributes to a well-rounded lifestyle. The city aims to achieve

regional and national health goals and create a highly livable community. The Parks and Recreation Department monitors emerging trends in recreational pursuits to support wellness and active living. The link between physical inactivity and health effects is well-documented, and the CDC recommends specific activity levels for adults (150 minutes per week) and children (60 minutes per day). Factors positively associated with adult physical activity include higher education, income, enjoyment of exercise, and social support. However, only 26.1% of Scott County residents meet the CDC’s physical activity recommendations, and an increasing number report fair or poor mental health. Parks and trail facilities will help Bettendorf residents achieve physical activity recommendations and build strong social connections.

Vision for the Future

The vision for the City of Bettendorf is one of aspirational development and high quality of life. Parks and recreation often are the face of the community, and an important attractor to potential residents looking to relocate. Bettendorf is viewed as a community with high quality parks and recreational offerings. The mission and vision of the Parks and Recreation Department are in the box to the right. These, likewise, speak to a future where citizens benefit from a recreation network that benefits the mind, body, and community.

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) makes the case that parks and recreation are essential services. The impacts of parks and recreation include physical health, community impact, environmental impact, child develop-

Mission: The mission of Bettendorf Parks & Recreation is to provide accessible, diverse, and inclusive experiences that enhance the quality of life and create a sense of place and community for all.

Vision: Bettendorf Parks & Recreation is recognized as a champion for community and personal growth through lifelong recreational experiences.

- Community Character recommended actions:
 - Enhance character of streetscapes (“Transportation Character”)
 - Invest in place-making elements for Bettendorf’s activity centers (“Place Character”)
 - Implement the trails plan in concert with the greenway preservation plan (“Green Character”)
 - Acquire new park land as Bettendorf grows (“Green Character”)
 - Establish a parks and trails land acquisition plan
 - Update the Parks and Recreation Master Plan
 - Implement existing parks plans
-

ment, and economic impact. The *Premiering Bettendorf – A Comprehensive Plan for 2045* groups parks and recreation with quality of life attributes. The recommended actions of the Community Character chapter of the plan are in the box to the left.

Plan Goals and Objectives

To provide desirable, quality, and accessible parks and recreation opportunities for citizens of Bettendorf and other park users in the metropolitan area, goals and objectives have been refined from the *2017 Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* as part of the update process. Goals are used to support the community vision. Objectives are used to attain the goals noted.

Parks and Recreation Goals

- 1. Consistency** Establish consistency between the *Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Master Plan* and other local, regional, and state plans. (*Examples include the city’s comprehensive plan, and Parks and Recreation Programming Strategic Plan.*)
- 2. Opportunity** Plan for and set aside land for the developing needs in parks and recreation,

and protect natural resources for existing and future citizens of Bettendorf. The comprehensive plan estimates an additional 188 acres of new park land by 2045 to cater to the increasing population. Work with property owners and developers to procure targeted land when necessary.

- 3. Health** Provide facilities and programming to encourage active lifestyles and support community health and well-being. Support diverse parklands including natural parks and active parks, such as those with courts, playgrounds, and shelters.
- 4. Livability** Enhance the physical beauty and quality of life in the City of Bettendorf through a well-maintained, safe, and comprehensive parks and recreation system.
- 5. Connectivity** Use the parks and recreation system to connect residents both socially and physically, as well as active areas to natural areas. Utilize an established visual theme for streetscapes to connect residential and commercial areas to recreational areas.

Parks and Recreation Objectives

In order to achieve the aforementioned goals, a series of objectives has been established. These objectives are designed to be measurable and concrete, allowing the Parks and Recreation Department to demonstrate progress towards meeting the broader community aspirations. The parks and recreation system operates as an interconnected network, catering to the needs of both residents and visitors. This system comprises parkland, trails, amenities and equipment, facilities, and programs under the purview of the Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department. The following outlines the objectives of this plan, categorized according to their overarching function.

Policies Summary

When developing a parks and recreation system, it's essential to consider key policies. These policies provide a framework for achieving goals and align with the plan's focus areas and objectives. They should be developed and implemented by elected officials with input from the public to guide the creation of new parks and recreation opportunities while preserving existing infrastructure integrity. The following essential policies ensure a balanced allocation of land and facilities to meet the community's needs.

System Policy – Utilizing objective and clear processes, standards, and criteria for decision-making will ensure the success of Bettendorf's parks and recreation system in meeting the plan's goal themes of consistency, opportunity, healthy, livability, and connectivity.

Opportunities for All – The parks and recreation system should not alienate any demographic group. It should provide opportunities for all persons regardless of age, race, creed, sex, economic status, or ability. The development of ADA-accessible infrastructure should be integrated into newly-constructed infrastructure, while updating current infrastructure where needed to accommodate the prescribed requirements.

Proper Distribution – The parks and recreation system must be a unified development with the areas properly distributed and continuity maintained within the community. Facilities should be appropriately located within the area that they are intended to serve and must have safe and adequate access. Pocket neighborhood parks are strongly desired within walking distance of all neighborhoods (approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile to a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile radius). The size of such parks can range from small open spaces with benches to playgrounds and shelters.

Resource Evaluation – An analysis must be made of all resources available in the community, including, but not limited to flood plains; mature woodlands and forest areas, marshlands, and bluffs; unique ecological areas; historical and archeological sites; vacant lots; and lands that may be reclaimed for recreation. Where lack of space is critical, alternative use of facilities, such as parking lots should be considered.

Citizen Involvement – There should be comprehensive citizen involvement during all phases of the planning effort through neighborhood groups, citizen task forces, or the most effective means

Accessibility & Connectivity

Create safe pathways to and within parks for all ages and abilities

- *Suggested measurement:* Number of walk audits conducted near and within parks
- *Suggested measurement:* Percent of population within 1/4 mile of a neighborhood park or 1 mile of a community park

Coverage

Locate park facilities strategically or in close proximity to compatible residential and commercial areas

- *Suggested measurement:* Percent of population and/or employees within 1/2 mile of a park or trail
- *Suggested measurement:* Percent of land in the city within 1/2 mile of a park or trail

Provide diverse programming options to create community connections

- *Suggested measurement:* Variety of programs offered
- *Suggested measurement:* Number of age groups/ demographics served

Health

Foster community-wide opportunities to improve mind, body, and social wellness of residents

- *Suggested measurement:* Percent of residents using parks and trails
- *Suggested measurement:* Track health metrics such as those found in the *Quad Cities Community Health Assessment*

Cost-Effectiveness

Evaluate cost recovery, value, and return on investment, as capital investments should be commensurate with need, and should balance market demands

- *Suggested measurement:* Analysis of cost or revenue per person or participant
- *Suggested measurement:* Revenue generated as a percent of costs

Desirability

Inform department decisions based on input from community, Parks and Recreation Staff, and Park Advisory Board

- *Suggested measurement:* Community assessments or surveys
- *Suggested measurement:* Annual reviews and strategic goal-setting meetings by the Parks Advisory Board

Impact

Develop a park and recreation system to maximize reach and effectiveness of facilities and programs

- *Suggested measurement:* Number of housing units not located within 1/4 - 1/2 mile of a neighborhood park
- *Suggested measurement:* Qualitative assessment of reach (attendees, visitors, members) or user counts

Investment

Base capital decisions on planned analysis and prioritization of operating, maintenance, improvements, acquisition, and development costs and revenues

- *Suggested measurement:* Number of cost-benefit analyses conducted
- *Suggested measurement:* Cost recovery of events and programming over time

that can be established for mutual cooperation and adequate communications. Public input can be continuously collected throughout the year and not strictly during plan update processes.

Relationship with Other Agencies – There should be cooperation and coordination with other agencies responsible for the planning, administration, and/or operation of parks and recreation services. This includes other public bodies and voluntary, private, church, and business agencies. Inter-governmental coordination may be necessary for parks lying on the edge of Bettendorf city limits or to develop recreational facilities that may serve as regional destinations.

School-Park Coordination – Wherever possible, outdoor recreation and open space areas at the neighborhood and community levels should adjoin and be planned in conjunction with public and private schools. This can avoid duplication of facilities and compound benefits to make schools park-like in character and provide additional assets to the community that they serve. Consideration should be given to joint planning, financing, acquisition, programming, and maintenance to ensure the most effective use of school buildings and grounds.

Parks and Facilities Policy – Integration is needed for planning and funding decision-making processes related to parks and facilities operations/maintenance, acquisition, and development to provide a balance between system preservation and growth to meet residents' needs.

- **Architectural Barriers** – Special efforts should be made to provide for easy access to and the use of all facilities by the elderly, disabled, very young, and other less mobile groups in the community. To ensure that recreational opportunities are available to these and any other groups:
 - All recreation and park facilities should be required to develop and implement a schedule designed to eliminate architectural barriers and provide integrated facilities.
 - Representatives from organizations working for people with disabilities should be asked and encouraged to attend public hearings, meetings, etc., to express their park, recreation, and leisure needs.
 - Bettendorf Park Advisory Board members, city staff, and elected officials must be aware of the existing federal and state legislation that requires barrier-free facilities where state and federal funds are used.
 - The Bettendorf Park Advisory Board should reach out to disabled individuals or groups for guidance concerning the identification of architectural barriers within their jurisdiction and for information of how best to eliminate them.
- **Loss of Park and Recreation Land** – All park facilities, outdoor recreation, and open space land should be protected against encroachment and non-recreation-related purposes. It should not be considered the “path of least resistance” for highways, city streets, public

utilities, and public buildings not suitable for recreation-related purposes or activities.

Programs Policy – The parks and recreation system should facilitate programming at facilities to be effective toward realizing the plan goals.

- **Integrate Health-Related Components** – Integrating health-related components, such as recreational opportunities for children, infrastructure such as exercise equipment at the park, and an increase of trails, will aid in decreasing negative health-related effects such as adult and child obesity. The development of pocket neighborhood parks will improve accessibility for more residents in the community. Coordination with health-related agencies will help to maximize efforts and increase the needs and issues residing in the community.

Land Policy – Integration of planning and funding decision-making processes related to parks and facilities land acquisition is needed to meet residents' current and future needs.

- **Planning Ahead** – Advanced acquisition based upon a comprehensive parks and recreation plan is essential. Unless sites are acquired well in advance of burgeoning growth, land costs may prohibit their acquisition. An analysis should be made on an ongoing basis of recreation activity needs and trends in order to project space facility requirements realistically.



- **Consideration of Park Uses Best Suited to the Soil** – The land or site should be evaluated to identify the appropriate recreational uses of the site based in part on soil types. The county soil survey will provide detailed soil information, which can be used to determine the suitability of tracts of land for certain recreation activities.
- **Parkland Acquisition Policy** – Acquisition of land for new trails and parks can take place through policies related to land development. A policy will help ensure the goals of the comprehensive plan to “acquire new parkland as the community grows.”

Background and General Information

3

Parks Governance

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide accessible, diverse, and inclusive experiences that enhance the quality of life and create a sense of place and community for all. The department director provides daily oversight of the department and reports to the city administrator. It is the duty of the Park Advisory Board to discuss, review, and advise on policies concerning facilities, operations, department programs, and events. Ultimately, all policy and budgetary decisions are made by City Council.

Relationship with Surrounding Area

Bettendorf's location in the Greater Quad Cities Region allows residents to benefit from recreational opportunities in neighboring communities. From traditional parkland to an interconnected trail network, residents of the Quad Cities frequently take advantage of regional amenities.

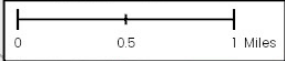
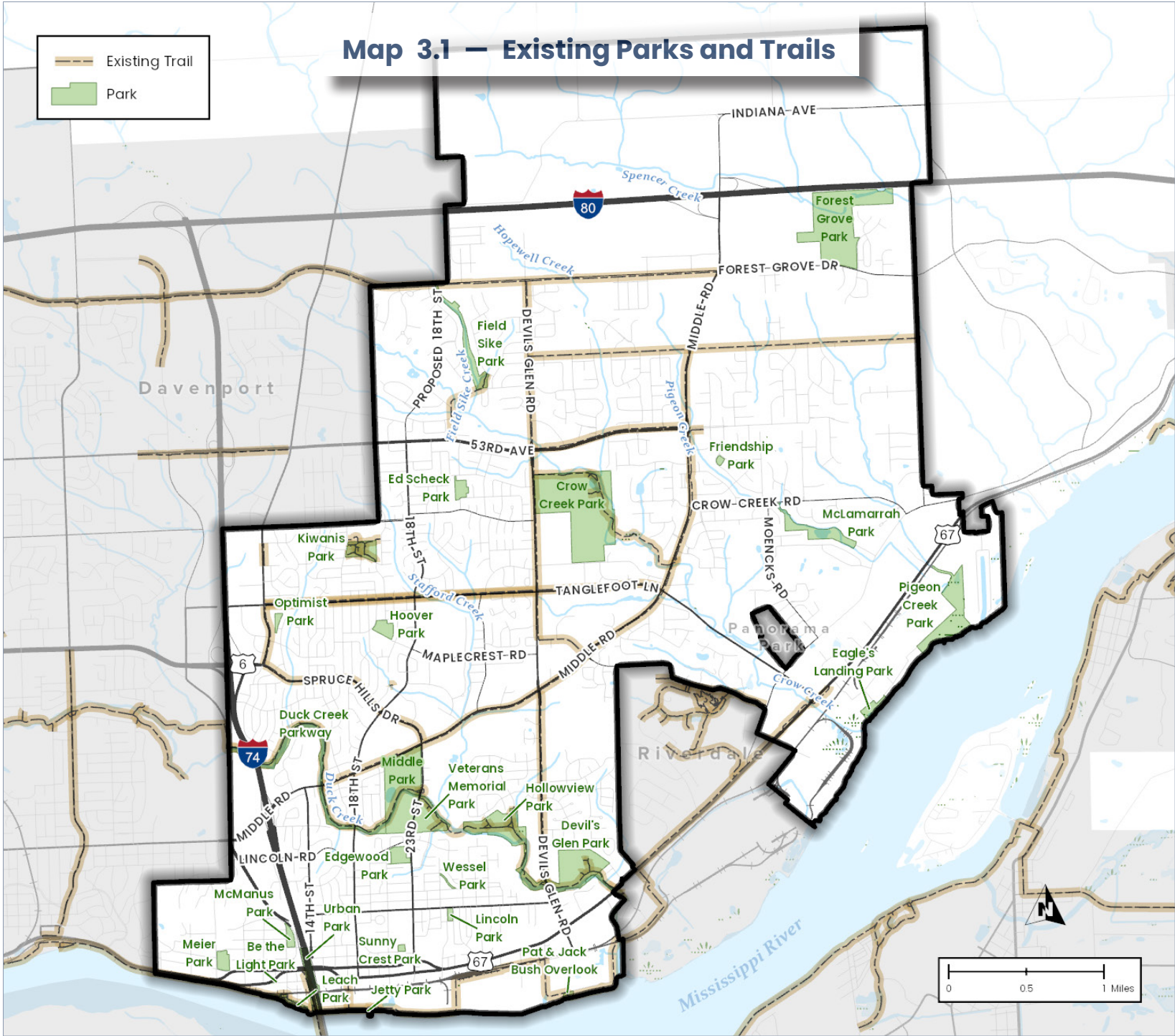
Interconnectivity of amenities and infrastructure is represented by the extensive trail network in the Quad Cities Region. Users can traverse multiple communities relatively seamlessly, which benefits the entire region. Further, large open spaces, such as Scott County Park, provide amenities that may not be offered in the urban area, such as equestrian trails and multiple campgrounds. As the cities of Bettendorf and LeClaire grow toward one another, there may be increased inter-jurisdictional use of recreation facilities.

Inventory

There is an inventory of the existing parks and recreation facilities of the city included in Chapter 6 of this plan. Map 3.1 – Existing Parks and Trails illustrates where the existing recreation areas are located.

Map 3.1 — Existing Parks and Trails

Existing Trail
 Park



Natural Characteristics

The natural features of Bettendorf impact the recreational opportunities the city can offer. For example, the terrain and drainage play important roles in the city's development and the recreational options it can provide. The hills and creeks offer unique benefits for park development, providing interesting features for residents and users. Examples include the Duck Creek Trail and Crow Creek Park. The city's temperate continental climate with hot, humid summers and cold winters can create challenges and opportunities in dealing with the current weather conditions. Staff must plan for all seasons to provide for year-round enjoyment. The vegetation in the area also plays an important role in maintaining the parks and provides a unique aesthetic that can position the city uniquely as it markets itself. Developing resilient parks will prepare the city for extreme weather conditions.

Demographic Characteristics and Trends

In order to develop a viable master plan, it is crucial to assess not just the current residents' ages and locations, but also the anticipated future population. Location and age composition are both important since small and medium-sized parks must be located near people and designed

with facilities compatible to the desires and capabilities of nearby residents. Large parks draw from all or most of the community; thus, citywide figures must be evaluated.

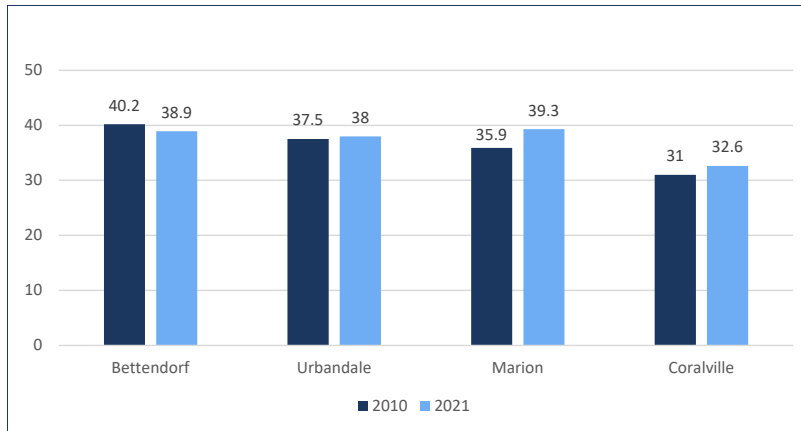
Population Characteristics

Based on Bettendorf's demographics, the City of Urbandale, a suburb of the Des Moines Metropolitan Area, has been selected as a peer comparison city. Comparing Bettendorf with a city of similar status summarizes how parks and recreation in Bettendorf is scoring in relation to a peer community. Bettendorf will also be compared to its neighboring community, Davenport, although there are significant differences in size and population, as well as Scott County and the State of Iowa.

The City of Bettendorf has a high percentage of people 49 years of age or younger. Data shows that 33% of the population is between 25 and 49 years of age. This is similar to the age distribution for all of Scott County and the State of Iowa. The next largest age cohort is residents 19 years of age or younger at 28.5%.

Bettendorf's median age is 38.9. The median age is similar to those in other jurisdictions as Figure 3.1 exhibits.

Figure 3.1 – Median Age by Peer Community

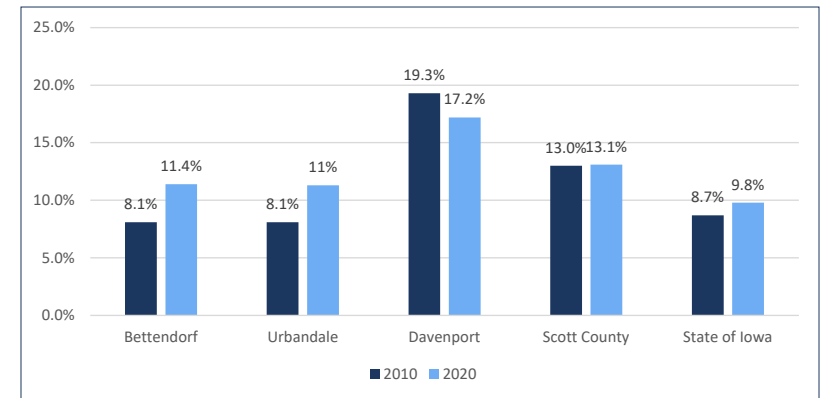


Source: 2010 and 2021 Census Bureau

Gender populations have remained stable over the last 10 years from 2010 to 2020 with the female population remaining at 51.2% of Bettendorf's total population. The Census Bureau showed a decrease in the percentage of residents over the age of 5 with a disability, from 9.29% in 2010 to 8.2% in 2020

Figure 3.2 outlines a comparison of the percent minority in five different jurisdictions. Bettendorf is very comparable to Urbandale but below the county and the state.

Figure 3.2 – Percent Racial Minority by Peer Community

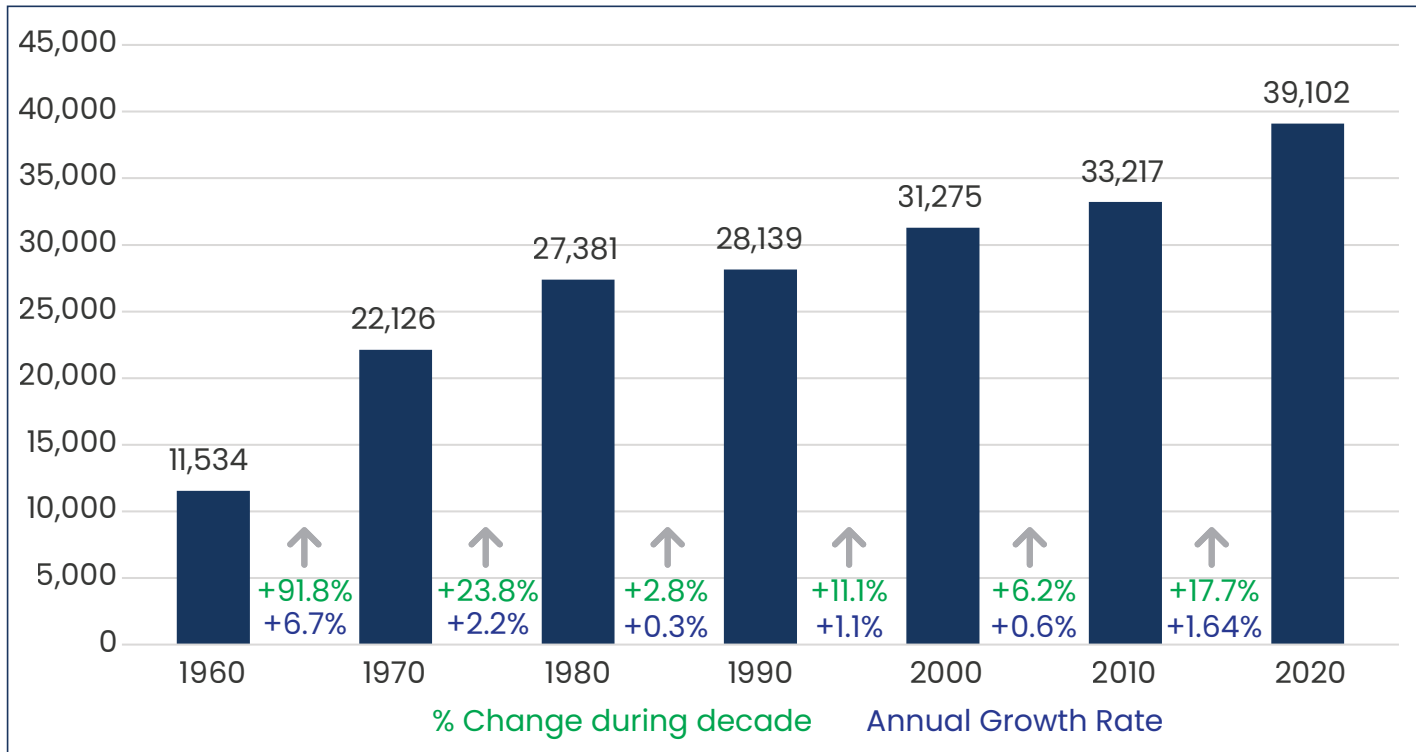


Source: 2010 and 2020 Census Bureau

Trends and Forecast

The population of the City of Bettendorf has increased dramatically since 1960. Figure 3.3 outlines Bettendorf's historical population change from 1960 to 2020. The population increased by 17.7% from 2010 to 2020. The city is expanding and developing its future land use which will likely lead to another large increase in population by 2030.

Figure 3.3 – Bettendorf Historical Population Change (1960 – 2020)

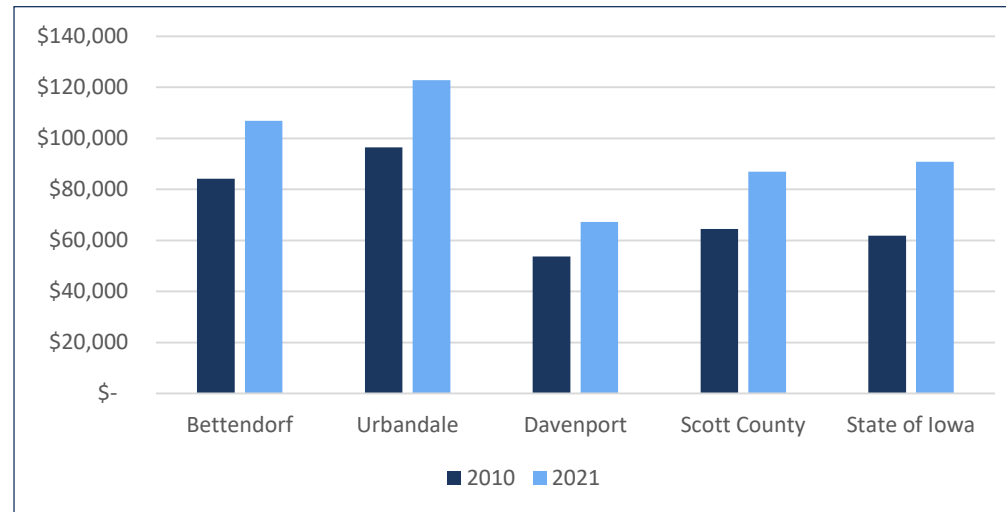


Source: U.S Census Bureau, RDG Planning – Premiering Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan 2045

Income and Educational Attainment

The City of Bettendorf's median family income (two or more related individuals) increased 27% from \$84,142 in 2010 to \$106,843. Comparatively, Urbandale's median family income is \$122,790. Figure 3.3 compares the 2010 and 2021 median family income for five jurisdictions. Bettendorf families with incomes between \$35,000 and \$49,999 make up 6%, 13% have incomes in the range of \$50,000 to \$74,999, and 71% have a median family income of \$75,000 or greater.

Figure 3.4 – Median Family Income by Peer Community



Source: 2010 and 2021 Census

In 2020, Bettendorf's labor force contained 18,620 persons – 91.0% of Bettendorf males and 77.8% of females ages 20 to 64. There were 9,470 persons between the ages of 16 and 64 who were not in the labor force. Over 25% of the labor force was employed in education and health and social services in 2020, 16.5% were in manufacturing, and 14.5% were in wholesale or retail trade.

Safety

The City of Bettendorf is rated as the 4th best place to live in Iowa by Niche.com. This site helps people choose where to live and where to send their kids to school. Bettendorf is rated as the number one best place to live in the Quad Cities, also rated by Niche.com. Ratings depend on the performance of items, such as public schools, housing, jobs, crime/safety, cost of living, and so forth. Park Advisory Board members have also expressed how safe their neighborhood parks are. One of the only concerns they have is that some residents treat the parks unpleasantly. These actions include vandalism and littering. The Park Advisory Board members expressed that this may be due to a lack of supervision in the parks. The board suggested adding security cameras to help solve the problem.

Community Health Assessments

In the 2018 *Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, 2nd Edition*, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reports adults need at least 150 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week and muscle-strength activities two or more days a week. For children and adolescents, 60 minutes or more of physical activity each day is recommended. According to the CDC, 37.4% of adults and 17.0% of adolescents were reported as obese in Iowa. In the same report, 49.1% of adult Iowans were aerobically active for 150 minutes per week and 25.7% of adolescents were physically active daily.¹

The 2021 Quad Cities Community Health Assessment, funded by Genesis Health System and UnityPoint Health-Trinity, noted that 23.1% of adults meet the recommended levels of physical activity, slightly lower than Scott County at 26.1%, but slightly higher than the rest of the country at 21.4%. Access to parks, recreational opportunities, and trails can provide residents with low-barrier entry to physical activity. The quality of life in a community is often associated with available and accessible amenities, including parks and recreational trails.

Recreation Considerations

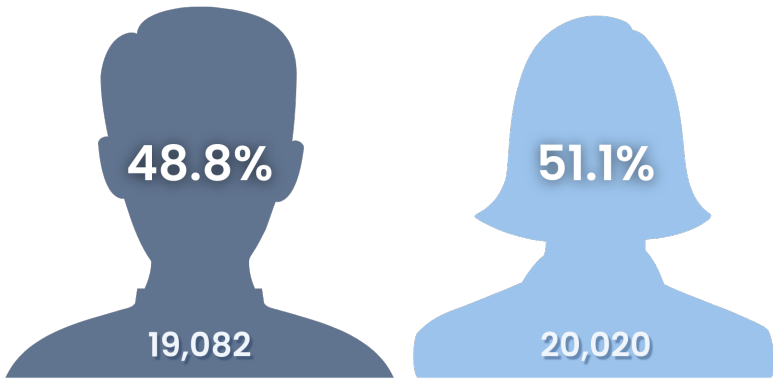
Studies on leisure time activities indicate that there is a correlation between the amount of disposable income and educational attainment with the demand for the type of leisure activities. Considering median age, age distribution, income, and educational attainment, it is expected that high quality recreational opportunities will be needed to meet the demands of all age groups in the City of Bettendorf. The population of Bettendorf is expected to continue to grow at a significant rate. This will increase the pressure on the Park Board to maintain and provide a full range of recreational opportunities and facilities. Refer to Tables 3.2 and 3.3 and Figure 3.4 for a breakdown of demographic figures and statistics.

¹ Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity. Data, Trend and Maps [online]. [accessed Mar 07, 2024]. URL: <https://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpao/data-trends-maps/index.html>.

Table 3.1 – Income and Education Figures

	Bettendorf		Scott County	
Income	Dollars		Dollars	
Median Household Income	\$89,375		\$65,566	
Median Family Income	\$106,843		\$86,890	
Educational Attainment	Number of Residents	(% of Population)	Number of Residents	(% of Population)
Persons 25 Years of Age or Older	26,161	(66.9%)	118,214	(67.6%)
Less than 9 th Grade	191	(0.7%)	2,378	(2%)
High School Graduate	4,720	(18%)	32,952	(27.9%)
Some College, No Degree	4,745	(18.1%)	25,128	(21.3%)
Associate Degree	2,576	(9.8%)	13,273	(11.2%)
Bachelor’s Degree	7,888	(30.2%)	25,050	(21.2%)
Graduate or Professional Degree	5,488	(21%)	14,644	(12.4%)

Source: 2021 Census Bureau



Median Age: 38.9

Race/Ethnicity	Population	Percent
White	32,204	82.4%
Black	1,455	3.7%
American Indian / Alaskan Native	92	0.2%
Asian	2,413	6.2%
Hispanic or Latino Origin of Any Race	2,056	5.3%



15,708

Households



2.48

Average Household Size

10,542

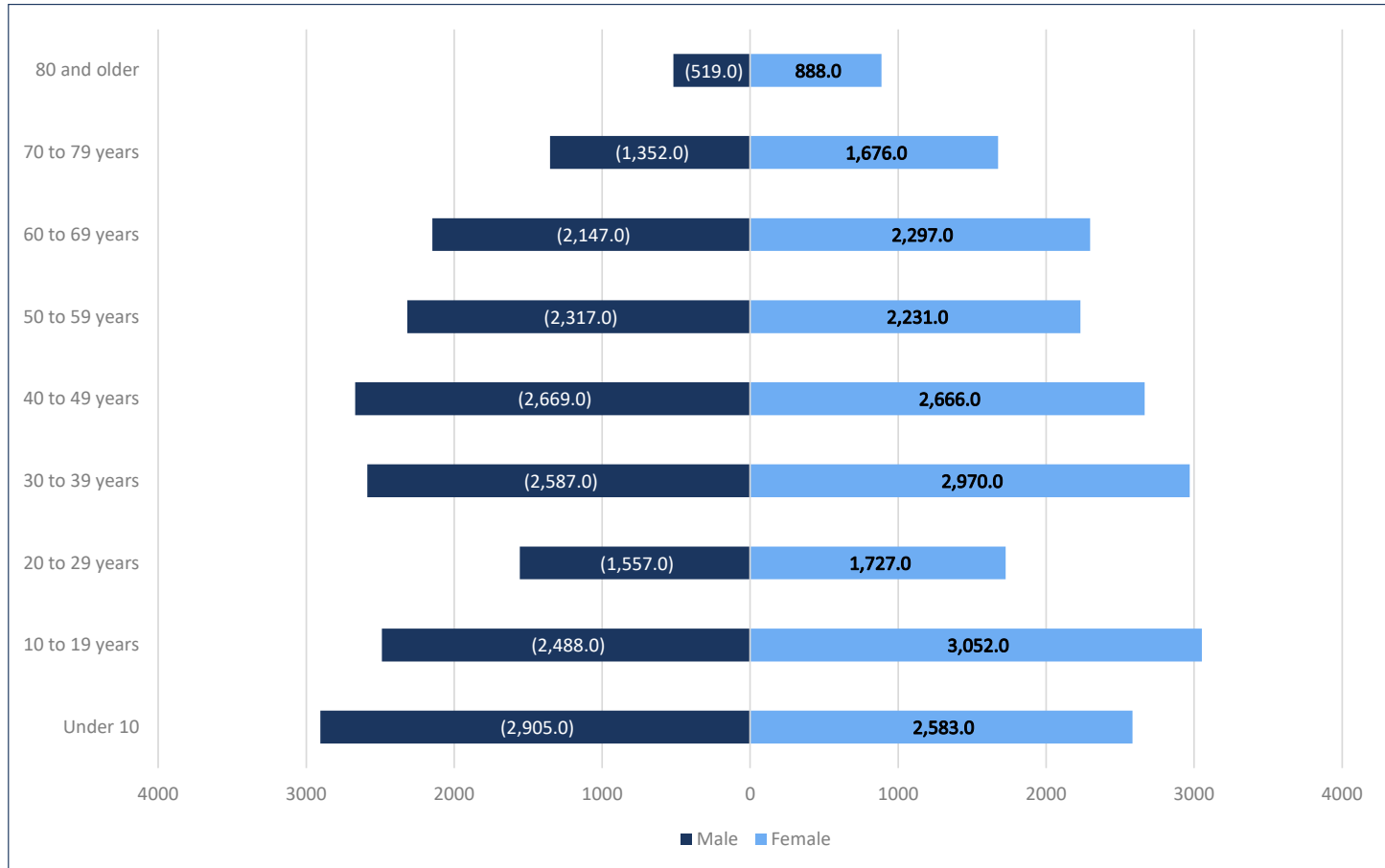
Families



3.09

Average Family Size

Figure 3.5 – Population Pyramid



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2010 and 2020

Needs Analysis

4

Introduction

This section reviews guidelines and considers input collected through the Park Advisory Board and Plan Steering Committee that further assist in determining the current and future park and recreation needs of Bettendorf residents. Section 3 covering “Coverage Area & Geography,” “Natural Characteristics,” and “Demographic Characteristics and Trends” stresses those characteristics that have implications for parks and recreation, and identifies physical constraints and potentials for development. However, other criteria assist in analyzing the current and future needs of those who utilize parks and recreation facilities.

Guidelines, Accessibility, & Inclusion

Organizations that plan from a firm set of principles stand to benefit from increased continuity over time. Sustainable parks and recreation systems address the economic, physical/environmental, and social needs of the community. Guidelines provide background data and information to assist decision-makers with the benefit of nationwide research and surveys. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) serves as a national organization that promotes public parks, recreation, and conservation. Through research and surveys, the data that has been collected by NRPA, including from Bettendorf, serves as insight for the department and the city as it continues to grow and develop.

Other sets of guidelines, such as those published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) regarding transportation facilities, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO) offer guidance for transportation and trail-related projects. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has offered guidance for using federal monies through documents published in September 2015 entitled “Bicycle and Pedestrian Provisions of Federal Transportation Legislation.” FHWA recommends a flexible approach to both funding and designing bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Physical, Natural, and Social Setting

Bettendorf’s parks and recreation are highly valued by residents, significantly enhancing the city’s quality of life. Public input and surveys, such as for the Premiering Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan (2024) and Programming Strategic Plan 2024-2026, consistently highlight the importance of these amenities, with many residents citing them as a key reason for choosing to live in and move to Bettendorf. However, concerns about the maintenance of existing parks and the continuity of services were noted.

Environmental stewardship is a critical focus, evidenced by the management of the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) infestation. The EAB has devas-

tated millions of ash trees across the Midwest, including in Bettendorf, leading to significant tree removal costs. The city has budgeted over \$100,000 for tree removals through FY27/28. This effort is essential to prevent public safety hazards and maintain the aesthetics of parks and streetscapes.

Efforts to incorporate native plants in parks aim to promote the health and diversity of ecosystems, reduce reliance on irrigation, and improve water quality. This strategy also supports pollinators like the monarch butterfly, whose populations have declined significantly. Parks staff must remain diligent in their awareness of potential infestations and blights that may affect public facilities in the future.

Age is another important consideration in parks planning. The age distribution in Bettendorf is somewhat polarized, with larger proportions of children under the age of 20 and adults over the age of 30, as shown in Figure 3.4. Map 4.1 depicts the median age by Census Block Groups. Younger than average areas can be seen downtown east of I-74 and west of 18th Street north of Duck Creek. Higher than average median ages can be found in the southwestern area of the city, east of Moencks Road and north of I-80, although the northern growth area is expected to change demographically as more homes are built.

AARP's Livable Communities initiative aims to create neighborhoods where people of all ages can be active and independent. It involves making parks accessible by various modes of transportation and ensuring that they accommodate the needs of people with disabilities in compliance

with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. This initiative supports aging in place, allowing residents to remain in their homes and community while benefiting from their social networks.

Equitable access to parks is crucial for an inclusive community. Outreach may be needed in lower-income areas to ensure full participation in park programs and events. The percentage of households living below the poverty level can be seen in Map 4.2. Prioritized investments in neighborhood parks will help ensure all residents have access to recreational opportunities.

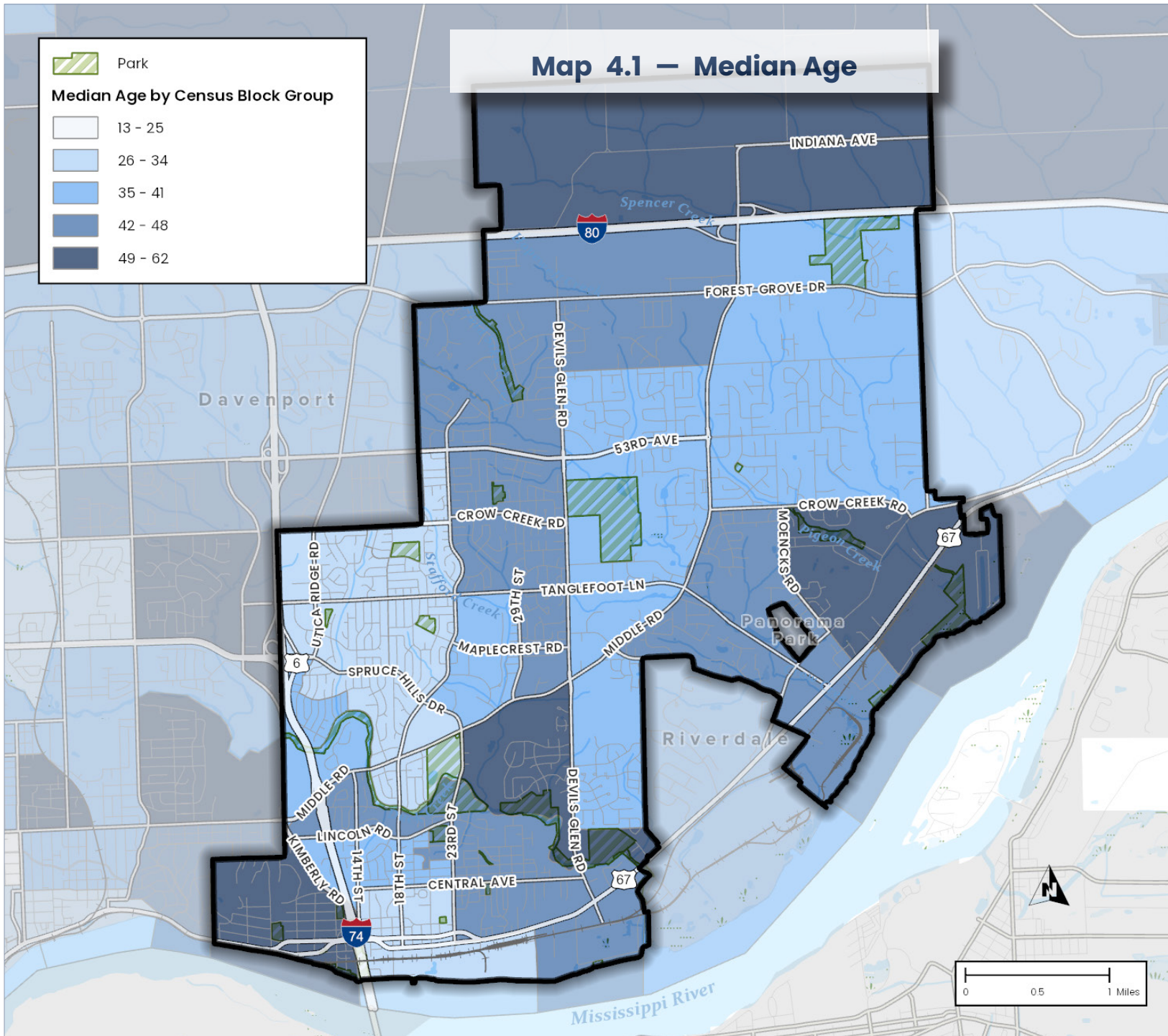
Plan Input

Input for this plan was received from the Park Advisory Board, city staff, and the plan steering committee. Additional input was received through the city comprehensive plan process and the parks strategic plan. To avoid duplication, this section will not highlight the input received, but rather outline when the opportunities were made available to provide public input.


The Park Advisory Board conducted a SWOT analysis to evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats that the city's Parks and Recreation Department needs to consider when making decisions. Input and opportunities were provided to board members throughout the planning process, allowing them to contribute important information for inclusion in the plan.

The city staff played a crucial role by providing input through interviews and technical expertise related to parks, park facilities, and long-term planning goals. They emphasized the importance of aligning the plan with other planning docu-






Map 4.1 – Median Age

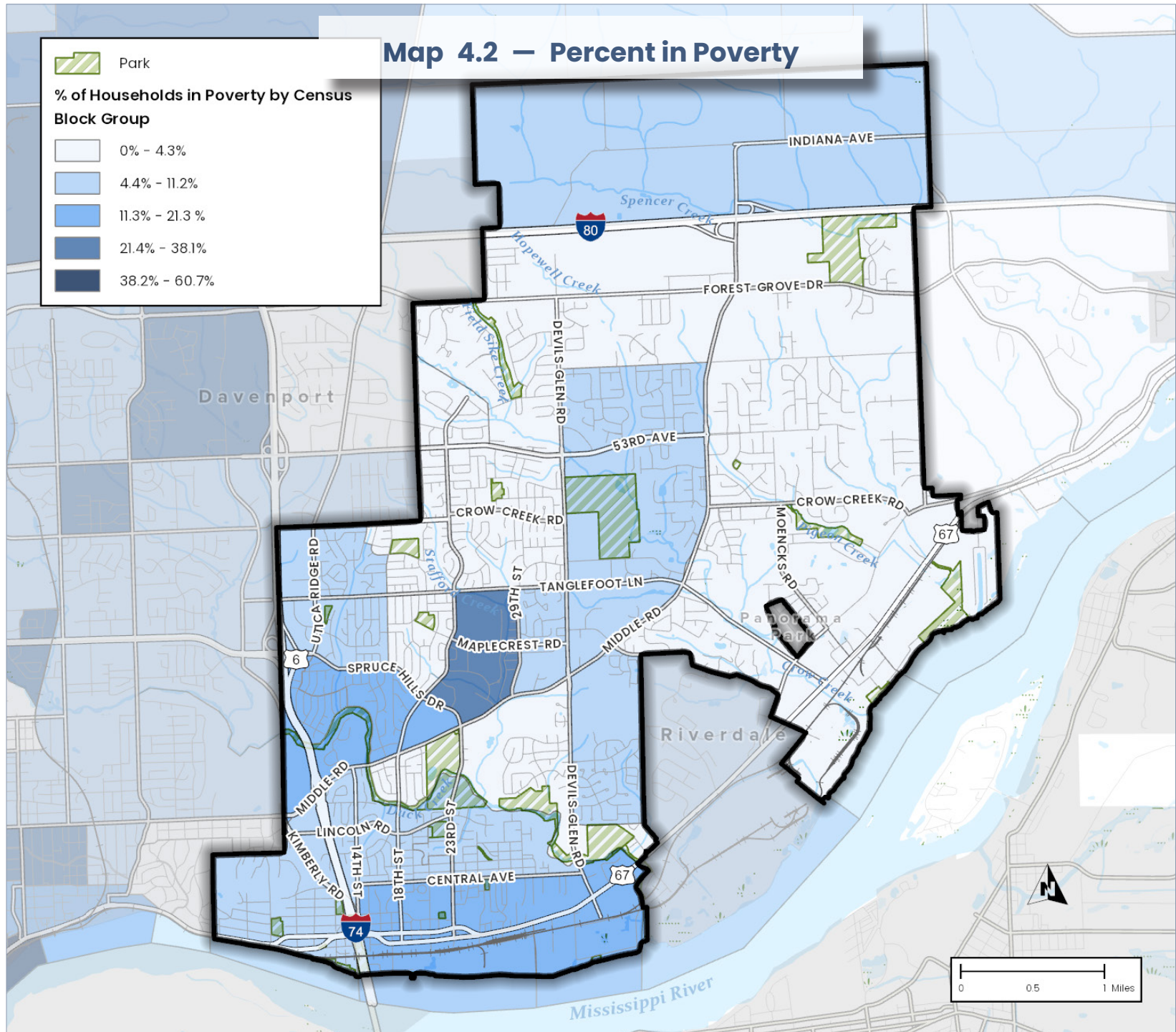


Map 4.2 — Percent in Poverty

 Park

% of Households in Poverty by Census Block Group

-  0% - 4.3%
-  4.4% - 11.2%
-  11.3% - 21.3%
-  21.4% - 38.1%
-  38.2% - 60.7%



ments and also served as liaisons for the Park Advisory Board to keep them informed about the plan’s progress.

A plan steering committee was established to give an official voice to the plan’s development, comprising city staff from various departments, city council members, and Park Advisory Board members. Two committee meetings took place in the spring and summer of 2024. The discussions during these meetings focused on reviewing plan goals and objectives outlined in Section 2, identifying priority areas for the plan, providing guidance for Forest Grove Park, and offering input on other park amenities. Feedback from the Park Advisory Board meeting and two steering committee meetings are provided in Appendix A.

In addition, comments and input received through other recent plan updates were incorporated into this plan. Those plans include the *Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan (2024)* and the *Parks and Recreation Programming Strategic Plan (2024)*. The former is the overarching document providing the city a vision to guide the development and declare priorities for the next 20 years. The latter reviewed the programming functions of the Parks and Recreation Department and provides detailed survey information.

Bettendorf Community Center

The current facility that houses the Parks and Recreation staff is the Bettendorf Community Center. Built in the 1940’s, the Community Center is well past it’s prime and is showing it’s age. The outdated facility isn’t ADA accessible, features dated amenities and is beginning to fail structurally.

In the 2024 Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan, residents were polled on a variety of subjects related to the department including questions about the current facilities the department offers. An excerpt of their final summary reiterates the need to prioritize evaluation and future planning for facilities the department will operate:

“When rating the importance of each (current facility), the Community Center rated the highest followed by Palmer Hills Golf Course, and Frozen Landing, although with minimal differences between the ratings. When we compare ratings on importance with quality, we see a potential need to improve the quality of the Community Center.”

Any replacement facility should carefully consider the costs of both the initial capital investment and ongoing operating budget. Funding sources would need to be sought creatively relying heavily on private donations or grant funding.

Current and Future Trends

City parks and recreational facilities should reflect the interests of the residents and be able to adapt to changing needs. The Parks and Recreation Department can stay updated by gathering public input and conducting surveys to understand the evolving interests of the community. For example, the growing popularity of pickleball since 2020 has led to the need for facilities, such as tennis courts adapted for pickleball. This sport has attracted both older and younger residents due to its easy learning curve and social aspects. Eight Dedicated pickleball courts were constructed at Forest Grove Park in 2020 in response to the growing demand from the public.

As Bettendorf grows, there is an increasing importance to retain the same high level of service that residents have come to expect. The city's population is expected to grow by an estimated 8,000 residents by 2035. The National Recreation and Parks Association recommends approximately 10 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents. Bettendorf currently has approximately 15.6 acres per 1,000 residents.

The addition of Forest Grove Park in the last 10 years provides a large, community park for the northern tier of the city. The growth areas north of I-80 and between Criswell Street and Wells Ferry Road will be well-served by it. However, a number of smaller neighborhood parks in new subdivisions will be required to maintain the recommended acreage of park land in the city and offer residents recreational opportunities close to home. The easy accessibility of neighborhood parks supports the plan goals of livability and connectivity. Required set-asides for greenspace and parks could be combined from multiple subdivision developments to create larger, more robust parks and greenspace for the benefit of new and existing residents.

The City of Bettendorf's parks and recreation facilities are widely recognized as strengths in other planning documents. However, there are still opportunities to enhance the overall experience for residents and visitors. Several parks and recreation facilities in the city are getting old and will need significant upgrades or replacement in the near future. One such facility is the Bettendorf Community Center that caters to a diverse range of community needs, particularly for seniors, small affinity groups and organizations, and seasonal

youth volleyball programming. The Community Center also offers many other year-round indoor programs. Any changes in the services offered at this facility need to consider its location and its importance to underserved populations. The department is committed to replacing and updating aging park structures and amenities. Adhering to a planned replacement schedule will help guide citywide capital planning.

The City of Bettendorf has invested in alternative transportation throughout the community, providing choices for commuting and recreating that do not require an automobile. This is of great importance for people without access to or the ability to drive an automobile, which includes children, seniors, and people who cannot or choose not to own a car. The movement toward Bicycle Friendly Community status by the League of American Bicyclists has affected all 50 states. Bettendorf was first awarded bronze status by the League in Fall 2015. The report card offered by the League to encourage the improvement of the bicycling environment provided feedback on areas where the city could improve the situation for bicyclists. The feedback included increasing bicycle parking and educational opportunities, closely aligning with the overall goals of the Federal Highway Administration's Strategic Agenda for Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation (2016): improved networks, safety, equity, and trips.

Land Acquisition

The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is "to provide accessible, diverse, and inclusive experiences that enhance the quality of life and create a sense of place and community

for all.” As Bettendorf is a growing community, periodic review of park facilities in growth areas must be conducted to ensure the department’s mission is fulfilled to the greatest degree possible. This section identifies areas of growth or potential growth within the community as it relates to parks and recreation.

The information provided in this section is not the only option for the Park Advisory Board and City Council when analyzing land acquisition for future parks and recreation. All options should remain open due to changes in property ownership and intended land use over time. What may appear today as an improbable area in which to acquire property could be a top priority for purchasing land in the future.

Location Identification Process

Established residential areas lacking adequate open space and the projected growth areas over the next 20 years were the main variables used to identify potential land acquisition sites within the community.

A few Bettendorf neighborhoods lack access to a nearby park. The city’s goal is to have all residential areas within ¼-mile to ½-mile walking distance of a neighborhood park. The Comprehensive Plan identified the following neighborhoods as lacking access to a neighborhood park: Hillside Drive Neighborhood, Devils Glen Road and Middle Road, Crow Creek, and North of 53rd Avenue. As a result, in some cases, the acquisition of land by the city may be necessary to achieve that goal. Map 4.3 identifies areas in the city that are top priority, high priority, and considered other priority for land acquisition. The city recognizes that the acquisi-

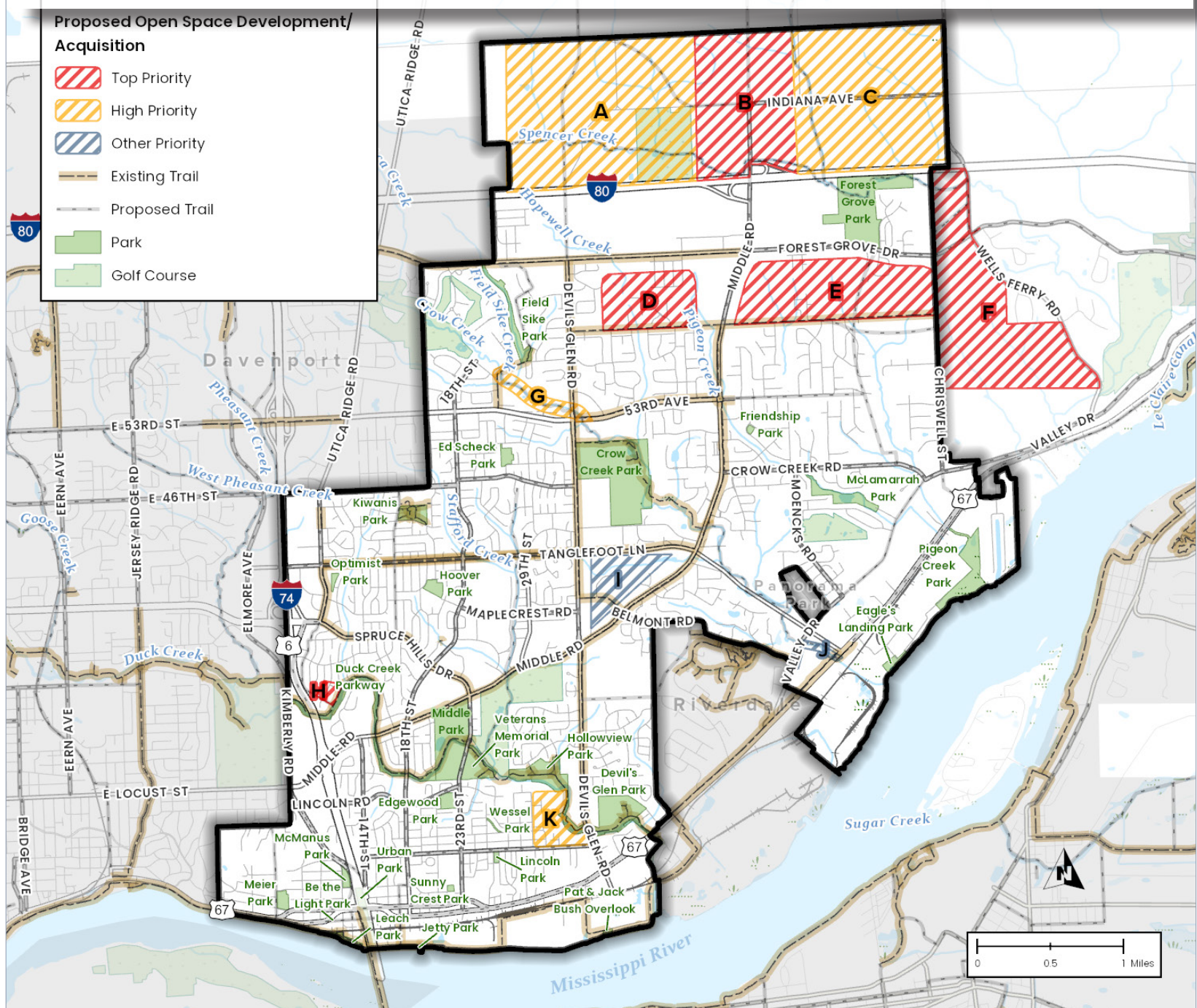
tion of all land cannot happen short-term, thus the reasoning for the higher prioritized land areas.

During the planning process, identifying other obstacles to park access should be a priority. For planning purposes, the community has been divided into neighborhoods. Major arterial roadways, forming obstacles or barriers, or suppressing pedestrian access to parks and recreation areas (most notably children, elderly, and physically impaired residents) may be used to demarcate the neighborhoods. Through this process, neighborhoods with inadequate parks and recreation opportunities have become identifiable. It may become clear which neighborhoods have inadequate parks and recreation opportunities.

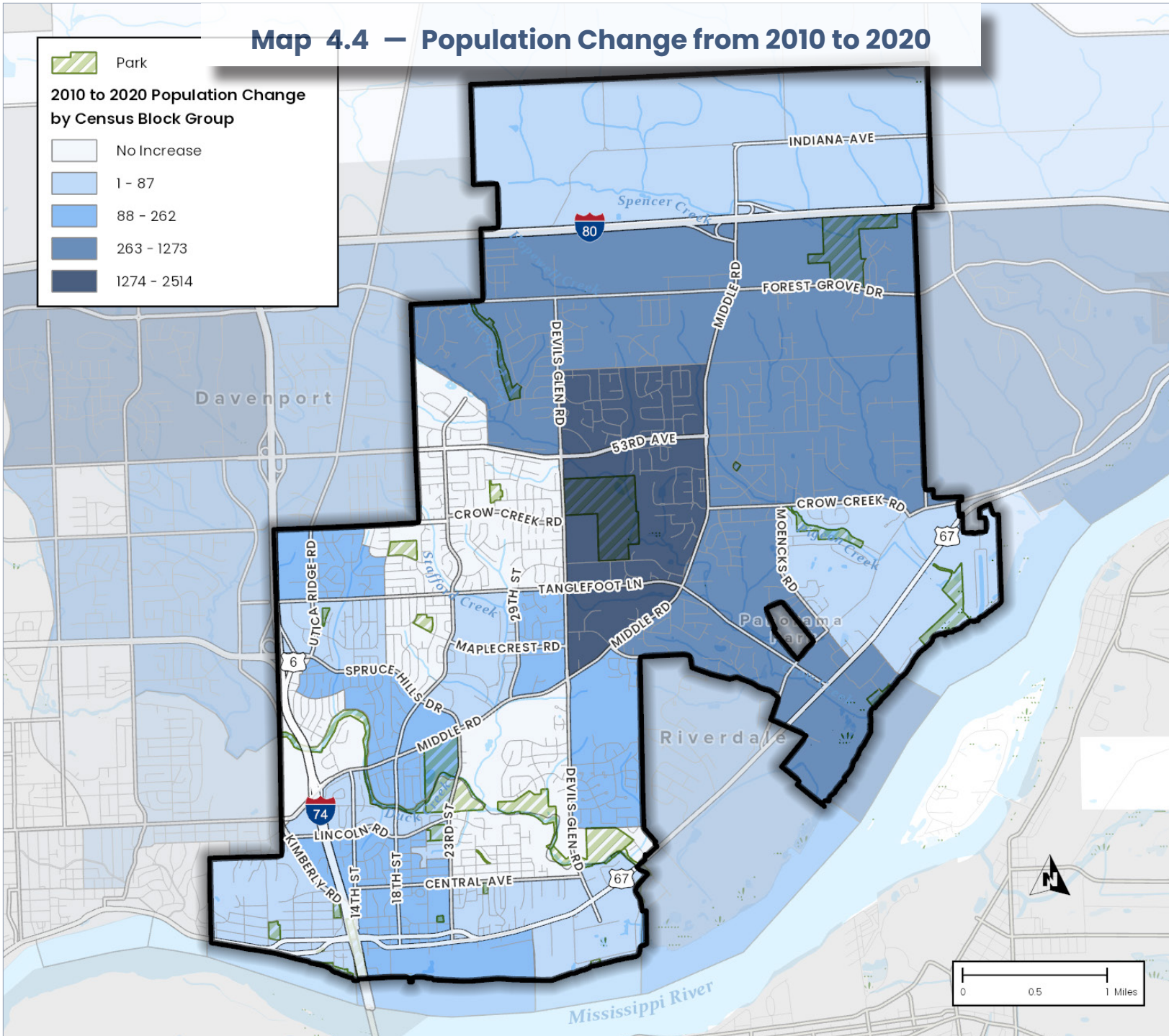
For the most part, the City of Bettendorf serves the needs of the current population well, with the exception of some of the newly-developed or developing areas. These growth areas, mainly to the north, represent the most challenging areas of the city in regard to addressing access to parks and recreation opportunities.

As noted in Section 3, the population of Bettendorf grew by 18% between 2010 and 2020, significantly outpacing the growth in Scott County as a whole, which experienced growth of 7.6%. The change in population by Census block groups can be seen in Map 4.4. Areas east of Devils Glen Road saw the most growth. Notably, much of the fastest growing areas benefit from the proximity of Crow Creek Park, which offers a diverse array of recreational opportunities. The 2024 *Premiering Bettendorf Comprehensive Plan* provides population projection scenarios through 2045 in Figure 1.1. The plan estimates that the city will grow above 50,000

Map 4.3 — Proposed Areas for Park & Open Space Acquisition and Development



Map 4.4 – Population Change from 2010 to 2020



residents by then, assuming growth rates of the past 10 or 20 years.

Acquisition Area Locations and Descriptions

Area: A – This area contains a portion of the northern growth area north of Interstate 80 to the city limits. It is currently characterized as agricultural, and includes the privately-owned Hidden Hills Golf Course. Development in this area is anticipated to occur following initial growth in Area B. The area is located outside of existing neighborhood and community park service areas. Acquisition of new land for open space should be a priority before or during the development of the area.

Area: B – Area B is a high-priority area due to the expected significant growth in commercial and residential development. Development is projected to continue from the Forest Grove Drive corridor north past Interstate 80 following the construction of a lift station. The city currently owns some land east of Middle Road, but additional parkland may be needed as part of the area is not currently served by existing park service areas. The trail network is planned to be extended under Interstate 80 as part of the Middle Road Interchange reconstruction project, and there is potential to expand the network further in the growing areas of the city within Area B.

Area: C – Area C is situated to the east of Area B and is expected to undergo growth in the coming years, similar to Areas A and B. It comprises the eastern part of the northern growth area, separated from Forest Grove Park by Interstate

80. Without new pedestrian access, reaching the area without a vehicle will be difficult. The small creeks in the area present opportunities for expanding the city's greenway infrastructure, which would benefit storm resiliency and water quality. As the City of LeClaire expands westward, the Indiana Avenue corridor will establish a direct connection between the two communities, impacting the usage of recreational opportunities in the area. Area C is also adjacent to the growth area just west of Wells Ferry Road (Area F), and the underpass of Interstate 80 on Wells Ferry Road will provide connections to that growing part of the city.

Area: D – Area D is located west of Middle Road, between Hopewell Avenue and Forest Grove Drive. The area has experienced residential development in the past decade, with more anticipated in the near future. There may be limited opportunities to include recreational facilities in the area in the coming years, which is why the area is a top priority. The addition of a small pocket park would significantly benefit the new residents and extend the neighborhood park service area to an area that currently lacks such a facility. Hopewell Elementary School, which is located in this area, provides recreational opportunities for school children.

Area: E – Area E is undergoing residential and commercial growth. It is situated to the south of Forest Grove Drive, between Middle Road and Criswell Street. Adding a pocket park or a neighborhood park in the area would be advantageous, especially since the regional Forest Grove Park is in close proximity. Establishing safe access to Forest Grove Park from Area E would greatly

benefit the residents of the homes under construction and also improve multimodal transportation access to the commercial area near the TBK Sports Complex. As is the case in Area D, the pace of development necessitates quick action to incorporate parkland before the whole area is built out.

Area: F – Area F is considered one of the city’s areas with the highest potential for growth and, thus, a top priority. Anticipated development will encompass residential, commercial, and institutional uses. The area offers easy access to Forest Grove Park, and introducing neighborhood parks would be advantageous for residents. Neighborhood parks have the ability to provide a wide range of small-scale amenities. For example, adding features such as a splash pad would complement the current offerings at Forest Grove Park. Additionally, the historic Forest Grove School in the area is a cultural amenity that can be enhanced by improving access and incorporating supplementary amenities. Future plans for the area also designate space for greenways and conservation subdivisions, opening up opportunities for natural and passive recreational activities.

Area: G – This linear corridor is recognized for the potential recreational benefits along Crow Creek. Primary interest is the potential to extend the multi-use recreational trail along the linear greenway from 53rd Avenue to Field Sike Park.

Area: H – Area H is in the Hillside Drive Neighborhood, which is east of I-74 along Duck Creek. This area is located in the flood buy-out zone as a response to repeated flooding. The open space created by these buy-outs can be transitioned

to a naturalized area with water quality and flood resiliency benefits. Passive recreation opportunities may be strengthened through native plantings and water quality initiatives, while active recreational use may continue as the Duck Creek Trail winds its way along the creek corridor.

Area: I – This is an area that is east of Devil’s Glen Road and west of Middle Road. Several residential areas around this busy intersection lack nearby access to a neighborhood park. Vacant parcels reside in the area, which the city should consider purchasing for neighborhood parks or mini-parks. Impacts from past land uses may limit future development potential for certain parcels in the area.

Area: J – This area would allow development of the multiuse recreation trail along the Crow Creek greenway from Valley Drive to State Street.

Area K – This area located north of Central Avenue, east of 30th Street and to the southwest of the Duck Creek Parkway, is a possible location for open space acquisition. Opportunities may exist in this area to obtain land for the development of park and recreation space. Consider acquisition of property owned by the Church of Latter-Day Saints or other parcel(s) in the vicinity. This section of the community has relatively easy access to Duck Creek Parkway. However, the procurement of a parcel and development of a neighborhood or mini-park in this area has merit and would provide additional services to the residents of Bettendorf.

Land Acquisition Priorities

The areas identified in the previous section are those where a need has been established for the acquisition and potential development of future recreation and park space. These areas have been prioritized as *Top Priority*, *High Priority*, or *Other Priority* based on input from the plan steering committee and the following criteria that are listed in no particular order:

1. Cost
2. Availability
3. Projected Population Growth
4. Current Need/Demand
5. Relationship to Existing City Plans
6. Expected Benefit to Bettendorf and Bettendorf Residents

Top Priority Areas:

Area B, Area D, Area E, Area F, Area H

High Priority Areas:

Area A, Area C, Area G, Area K

Other Priority Areas:

Area I, Area J

Future of Forest Grove Park

One of the city's newest parks, Forest Grove Park, was the subject of much discussion during input sessions, as it remains under development. The TBK Bank Sports Complex, located 1.5 miles away, has undergone significant development since the

establishment of the park, causing a reconsideration of the park's intended purpose. Initially, the Forest Grove Master Plan recommended a combination of active and passive recreational amenities.

The park was acquired to serve the needs of residents in the city's northern growth areas. It is the second largest park in the city and offers diverse possibilities due to its varied topography and natural setting. However, despite aggressive development in the surrounding area, the park's development has been static since the last Parks and Recreation Master Plan update in 2017.

The privately-owned TBK Bank Sports Complex attracts both local and out-of-town sports groups and residents of the Quad Cities for sports leagues and programming throughout the year. Although it brings in hundreds of visitors for events and tournaments, these amenities are generally not available for casual use by the general public.

Forest Grove Park has the space to accommodate a multitude of recreational opportunities, including already-existing amenities such as playgrounds, pickleball courts, and support structures, as well as passive areas for bird watching and hiking. The following sections identify potential amenities that the city could pursue as part of the build-out of the park. This high-level discussion may be part of a focused review of the *Forest Grove Master Plan*. Active and passive pursuits are discussed below.

Active Recreation

Active recreation are those activities that provide for exercise or play for park users. Such activities could include soccer fields, playgrounds, basketball courts, workout equipment, and other athletic amenities. Parks departments must weigh the anticipated user demographics when selecting which amenities to provide.

Feedback received from the Plan Steering Committee indicated a desire for unique and diverse amenities in the park that will attract visitors as well as serve local needs. Athletic fields were subject to discussion among the committee. Some members were in favor of adding more athletic fields, while others were not. One consideration is that there are multiple other locations throughout the city that offer opportunities for athletic pursuits, so adding more would not create the unique character that committee members desired for Forest Grove Park. Committee members largely agreed that walking and hiking trails, a bike park or pump track, and a ropes course or “ninja playground” would create a unique park atmosphere that would draw visitors in, while also creating a tranquil oasis in the northern tier of the city.

Different types of trails could be included within the park, such as paved walking trails, hiking

trails, and possibly mountain bike trails. To create the mountain bike trails, the department could partner with Friends of Off-Road Cycling (FORC) to build support from the community and ensure that many people would use this new amenity.

Passive Recreation

The natural setting of the northern tier of Forest Grove Park provides opportunities for more passive enjoyment for visitors. Spencer Creek meanders through the park, and offers educational opportunities through interpretive signage. Information about the plants and animals in the park could be added through the use of QR codes to provide visitors with an enriching experience without a significant financial impact or harming the natural environment. Such an effort can be made in concert with establishing an arboretum to provide further enhancement opportunities.

Additional opportunities may result indirectly from development pressure both up- and downstream in the Spencer Creek watershed. The creek’s flow may be altered to accommodate flooding pressures from increased development. In such a scenario, the creek may be dammed and create an area conducive to fishing and wildlife viewing.

Strategies for Implementation

The City of Bettendorf's Parks and Recreation Department is tasked with providing residents and visitors locations, services, and facilities that contribute to community wellness, active living, and overall well-being. The goals for implementing the vision address consistency, opportunity, health, livability, and connectivity. Ongoing and periodic review of this plan and its goals, objectives, and strategies will ensure its lasting relevance as the city continues to grow.

On-Going Strategies

Input received for this plan update indicated strong support in maintaining the high standards of park quality and recreational opportunities in Bettendorf. Ongoing strategic investment will help the city maintain the overall service as the city grows to the north and east, while long-term planning will ensure that established parks are refreshed at the right time. In conjunction with the Park Advisory Board, this will require regular departmental review and evaluation of the park sites and the amenities offered, review of maintenance and operational practices, the effectiveness of marketing and outreach, and managerial efforts. Ongoing implementation strategies to retain a quality parks and recreation system will include:

- Preserving and maintaining parks, equipment, and facilities

- Supporting existing parks and recreation programming
- Continuing marketing and outreach to maximize usage and participation
- Monitoring parks and recreation trends and assets to address effective management of the system
- Monitoring effects on the parks' environment related to invasive species, climate and storm effects, and environmental quality

Plan Review

It is recommended that department staff, with input from the Parks Advisory Board, review the goals, objectives, and policies in this plan on an annual basis. This review should confirm or alter those items. If an alternative direction is desired, new implementation strategies should be determined to further the overall goals of the city.

Performance-based objectives can form the basis for reviewing and measuring success in implementing this plan. In Section 2, suggested measurement criteria were outlined to offer the department a series of data points from which to track its progress. Measuring success varies by criterion, but could include number of participants in a program (impact) to the persons within a distance from a park and/or recreation facility (access). The suggested measurements can

be used to guide decision-making and quantify success toward plan objectives: Accessibility, Desirability, Impact, Cost-Effectiveness, Coverage, Connectivity, Investment, and Health.

The following policy categories provide a framework to guide decision-making over the next 10 years or more.

- **System Policy** – Utilize objective and clear processes, standards, and criteria for decision-making to ensure the success of Bettendorf’s parks and recreation system in meeting the goal themes of consistency, opportunity, health, livability, and connectivity.
- **Parks and Facilities Policy** – Integrate planning and budgeting processes related to parks and facilities operations, maintenance, acquisition, and development to provide a balance between system preservation and growth to meet residents’ needs.
- **Programs Policy** – Facilitate programming at parks and facilities to be impactful on the plan goals.
- **Land Policy** – Integrate the planning and budgeting processes for acquiring land for parks and facilities to meet the current and future needs of residents.

Capital Planning and Facilities/ Services Review

The City Council evaluates programs and expenditures annually through a budget process. A Community Improvement Program (CIP) is a tool used to plan for larger capital expenses over a

period of time, often five years. This document is examined each year, and there is an opportunity to plan for greater cost and larger park facilities improvements, new construction, or land acquisition as part of this process. The annual budget review process examines the needs of public facilities and services related to maintenance, operations, and program expansions. Input from staff and the Park Advisory Board informs the decision-making conducted by the City Council. Separate capital and maintenance funds within the CIP may help the department plan for future needs, such as replacing amenities and expanding offerings for parks and recreation infrastructure.

Strategic Planning and Work Program Development

To achieve city goals and align with the City Council’s priorities, the plan will need to be continuously refined. In 2023, the city conducted a strategic planning process to assess public priorities and perceptions of parks and recreation programs, as well as to gather input on desires for the future. Wastyn & Associates, the consulting firm, facilitated eight focus groups and conducted a survey that received nearly 2,500 responses. The report captured various insights, including the following:

- Older adults are the least likely to use parks, although 93% did
- Crow Creek Park, Forest Grove Park, and Veterans Memorial Park received the highest quality ratings

- Respondents rated safety, maintenance, playgrounds, and restrooms as most important to them and tennis courts and pickleball courts as least important
- Respondents saw a large need to improve restroom facilities, followed by safety, lighting, and maintenance
- There is a potential need to improve the quality of the Community Center
- The most likely to participate in programs were 18-25-year-olds, while people older than 65 were least likely
- Respondents wished to see the city provide more funding and support to Parks and Recreation and to provide more adequate access to parks and recreational facilities in all parts of the city
- Of 12 possible future projects or activities, “More park activities for older kids (e.g. 10-15-year-olds)” and “Upgrade indoor facilities” were rated as the highest priorities; “Add dog parks” was rated as the lowest priority by a wide margin

It is recommended the city tap community volunteers with expertise and interest in the areas of priority to develop task forces or working groups to move priorities forward. Resources needed to pursue volunteer-based community planning and implementation require a task or project champion or leader to whom the groups would

report their recommendations, such as the Park Advisory Board.

Short-Term Strategies (0-5 Years)

The short-term implementation strategies refer to projects, actions, or purchases expected to take place within the next five years. The specific timelines for these activities may change due to factors like workload, funding, and shifting priorities. At the park and facility level, short-term strategies are detailed in the park inventory in Section 6. The overall implementation strategies for the next five years are identified, followed by implementation activities aligned with the plan policies.

- Continue expansion of bike lanes, trails, and shared-use paths in growing areas of the city
- Complete construction of The Landing, including the pool and wintertime amenities such as the ice-skating rink
- Implement park facility replacements based on end-of-useful-life benchmarks and staff recommendations
- Determine implementation timeline for future Forest Grove Park phases
- Implement Urban Park beautification improvements
- Continue observation of park usage – effects, congestion, capacity, and alternatives

System Policy (0-5 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council	Continue implementation of nonmotorized transportation alternatives through expansion of bike lanes, shared-use paths, and trails to maximize connectivity and opportunities for walking and bicycling outlined in the city's transportation plan. Planned locations include Middle Road (Hopewell Avenue to Forest Grove Drive)
City Council, Park Advisory Board, Staff	Review the Forest Grove Park Master Plan (2012) and determine implementation timeline
City Council, Park Advisory Board, Staff	Look for opportunities to partner with other public or private organizations in the development of parks, facilities, trails, and programming.
Park Advisory Board	Continue solicitation of feedback and citizen involvement as part of parks and recreation system planning.
City Council	Monitor staffing needs as parks and recreation system expands and demands for services and commitments increase.
Park Advisory Board and Staff	Evaluate the effects of popular parks' usage related to capacity, congestion, and alternative options within the parks system. Evaluate high-use assets and whether these can be duplicated elsewhere in the existing park system. Examples given in the public input process included the popularity of splash pads and the concurrent use of tennis and pickleball courts.
City Council and Staff	Update business plans for facilities and programs with cost recovery goals. Focus on core services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department, addressing markets served, program trends, cost-of-service to provide, market duplication, pricing based on cost recovery, standards, and life cycle of current services.
City Council	Establish separate capital and maintenance funds within the Community Improvement Program (CIP)

Parks and Facilities Policy (0–5 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Staff	Continue to maintain quality parks and recreation facilities to a high standard. Replace or improve equipment to address safety, aging, trending opportunities, and out-of-date issues. Note specific parks and facilities considerations in Section 6 related to the park inventory.
Parks Department Staff	Monitor effects on the parks' environment related to invasive species; diseases or parasites; climate and storm effects or hazards; environmental quality of water resources, such as creeks, streams, ponds and lakes; and tree management.
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Further explore cold-season activities to build off momentum of facilities such as Frozen Landing and the Bettendorf Winter Carnival.
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Consider next steps related to the downtown urban park development, such as lighting and public art.
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Continue phased development of Forest Grove Park. Develop updated plan based on current and future conditions and demand. Explore partnerships with nature groups for passive recreational experiences and with active recreation groups, such as bike and running clubs, for input on active recreational components.

Programs Policy (0–5 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
Park Advisory Board and Staff	Continue parks and recreation programming to support plan goals. Monitor programming for effectiveness and changing community needs, desires, trends, and innovations.
Park Advisory Board and Staff	Evaluate opportunities for additional programming related to particular seasons, holidays, trends, and/or festivals.
Park Advisory Board and Staff	Streamline and expand marketing outreach to encourage participation in programs and overall park usage.

Land Policy (0–5 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
Planning and Public Works Departments	Examine the accessibility to parks with a comprehensive sidewalks analysis, identifying potential hazards and barriers.
Park Advisory Board	Review recommendations of the comprehensive plan related to land acquisition.

The Park Advisory Board, in cooperation with the City Council, uses investment-planning tools, such as the city’s Community Improvement Program (CIP) and Parks and Recreation Department operations and maintenance budget, to implement priorities based on available funding or the city’s ability to secure user fees, grants, donations, or other resources. The city’s CIP is one

source for short-term major parks and recreation investments. From Fiscal Year 2023/24 through Fiscal Year 2027/28, major parks and recreation improvements greater than \$49,000 are summarized in Table 5.1. Anticipated investments are well over \$7 million in improvements and upgrades.

Table 5.1 – Five-Year Capital Improvements for Major Parks and Recreation Projects (Greater than \$49,000) Fiscal Years 2023/24 to 2027/28

Project Type	Anticipated Investment
Road Bike Lanes/Trails	\$2,500,000
Equipment/Shelters	\$600,000
Frozen Landing Replacement/Upgrade	\$4,000,000
Resurfacing Courts/Surfaces	\$300,000
Park Improvements	\$300,000
Total	\$7,700,000

Source: City of Bettendorf

The Parks and Recreation Department operations and maintenance budgets are another source of short-term activities during this period of time. The Parks and Recreation Department’s maintenance budget is approximately \$1.2 million annually.

Mid-Term Strategies (6-10 Years)

Mid-term implementation strategies are defined as those projects, actions, or purchases that are anticipated to occur in the next 5 to 10 years. Targeted timelines may fluctuate based on a number of factors, such as workload, funding, and

changes in priorities. At the parks and facilities level, mid-term strategies are outlined within the park inventory in Section 6 starting on page 49. Key overall implementation strategies in the next five years include:

- Make plans and proceed with recommendations for improving or replacing park facilities at the end of their useful life
- Expand bike lanes, trails, and shared-use paths in growing areas of the city
- Implement Urban Park improvement strategies, and continue ongoing maintenance

- Proceed with the implementation phases of Forest Grove Park
- Address the high usage of popular parks with alternative solutions or expanded offerings elsewhere

System Policy (6-10 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Work to implement non-motorized transportation alternatives through expansion of bike lanes, shared-use paths, and trails to maximize connectivity and opportunities for walking and bicycling, including providing access to parks and other facilities.
Park Advisory Board	Revisit, review, and update the <i>Parks and Recreation Master Plan</i> .
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Foster opportunities to partner with other public or private organizations in the development of parks, facilities, and programming.
Park Advisory Board	Continue solicitation of feedback and citizen involvement as part of the parks and recreation system planning.
Park Advisory Board	Monitor staffing needs as the parks and recreation system expands and demands for services and commitments increase.

Parks and Facilities Policy (6-10 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Continue to maintain quality parks and recreation facilities. Replace or improve equipment to address safety, aging, and out-of-date issues. Note specific parks and facilities recommendations in Section 6 related to the parks/facilities inventory.
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Determine direction for parks facilities requiring improvements versus replacement. Develop investment strategy to maintain those facilities, such as the Community Center and Golf Course.

Programs Policy (6-10 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Continue to initiate and expand upon innovative programming opportunities in the city for all age groups, including youth and seniors, informed by strategic planning efforts.
Park Advisory Board and Staff	Evaluate need in regard to city staff based on the city's population growth and growth in parks and recreation opportunities.

Land Policy (6-10 Years)

Key Contacts	Implementation Activities
City Council and Park Advisory Board	Work to implement non-motorized transportation alternatives through expansion of bike lanes, shared-use paths, and trails to maximize connectivity and opportunities for walking and bicycling.

Long-Term Strategies (>10 Years)

Long-term implementation strategies are defined as those projects, actions, or purchases that are anticipated to occur more than 10 years from plan adoption. At the parks and facilities level, long-term strategies are related to larger investments and time for planning, engineering, and construction. Key overall implementation strategies past the 10-year horizon include:

- Implement feasible facilities improvements and/or replacement
- Facilitate acquisition of parkland to address community coverage and expansion

Potential Funding Sources

The following discussion attempts to analyze the ways in which various financial methods can be used to implement the plan. Actual use in the future will depend on the policies adopted by the City Council and deployed by city staff.

Current Revenues – The primary benefit of funding parks and recreation upgrades from current revenues is that it is more cost-effective in the long term since interest charges can be avoided. This type of financing is most suitable when expenses are recurring, which is not typically the case in the realm of parks and recreation development.

Borrowing – Deficit financing is sometimes utilized to fund the purchase of land and the development of recreational amenities. Selling bonds that will be repaid using future revenues can support the construction of recreational facilities in cases where current needs surpass existing revenues. Furthermore, bond financing offers a fair way to distribute the costs of parks and recreation facilities among present and future users. However, a drawback of financing recreation improvements through bond sales is the considerable amount of potential funds lost to interest charges.

Grants-In-Aid – To aid local governments and private individuals in the development of recreation and open space areas, the federal and state governments have instituted various financial assistance programs. Some programs require local matching dollars (a percentage of the total project to be cost-shared), and in many cases the grantee will have to assume 100% of the project costs up front, then request reimbursement of the awarded grant amount. The assistance programs in the following list are by no means exhaustive of the available sources the city can and should pursue to aid in funding parks and recreation-related projects. Most of the programs are highly competitive and require submission of a thorough and concise application. At a minimum, several months should be devoted to the application preparation process, and the city should be ready to proceed with the project if awarded funds. Some of the funding assistance opportunities the city may be inclined to pursue include:

- **Transportation Alternative Set-Aside Program (TASA)** – Under the federal transportation bill, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), TASA authorizes funding for programs and projects defined as “transportation alternatives,” including on- and off-road pedestrian and bicycle facilities; infrastructure projects for improving non-driver access to public transportation and enhanced mobility; community improvement activities, such as historic preservation and vegetation management; environmental mitigation related to stormwater and habitat connectivity; recreational trail projects; safe routes to school projects; and projects for planning, designing,

or constructing boulevards and other roadways largely in the right-of-way of former divided highways. Projects funded under this program require a 20% local match. Many trails in the Quad Cities have been funded in part through the TASA program or its predecessors.

- **Recreational Trails Program (Federal)** – This federal program funds the development and maintenance of motorized and non-motorized recreational trails and trail-related projects within the State of Iowa. It is administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation. Applications are accepted annually. A minimum 20% match is required for projects.
- **Recreational Trails Program (State)** – Administered by the Iowa Department of Transportation, this program funds trail development and land acquisition on a statewide competitive basis. This state program requires a minimum 25% local match (volunteer services and other state grants are not eligible as matching funds). Proposed projects must be part of a local, area-wide, regional, or statewide trail plan.
- **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)** – The LWCF Grant Program is a federal program that provides funds to incorporated cities and county conservation boards for projects that include the acquisition and/or development of land for outdoor recreation. The renovation of existing facilities is also eligible. This program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and requires 50% local participation. Funding assistance is provided

on a reimbursement basis. Funding assistance is population based.

- **Resource Enhancement and Protection Program (REAP)** – This state program is administered by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and funds land acquisition and development projects that have a positive impact on the environment. This program is funded on a competitive basis. In 1994, a 54-acre parcel was acquired at Crow Creek Park with assistance from the REAP program. The Crow Creek Park Quarry Restoration and the Forest Grove Park natural area were also supplemented through this funding program.
- **Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Fund** – Iowa cities, counties, nonprofit organizations, or school districts may receive grants, loans, forgivable loans, and loan guarantees from the Community Attraction and Tourism (CAT) Program. The objective of the CAT Fund is to provide financial assistance for community-sponsored attraction and tourism projects. CAT projects may include, but are not limited to: museums, theme parks, cultural and recreational centers, heritage attractions, sports arenas, and other attractions. Applications are reviewed by the CAT Committee, a committee of the Iowa Economic Development Authority Board, which considers the application information as well as the location of the project, the geographic diversity of the applications, and whether the applicant has received financial assistance in the past. CAT funds may comprise up to 20% of the total project cost.
- **Riverboat Development Authority** – The Riverboat Development Authority is a local Scott County entity that distributes a portion of the proceeds gained from the Rhythm City Casino. Types of activities that are funded include riverfront development, economic development, neighborhood development, arts, culture, heritage, education, and human services. Applicants must be located in the Quad Cities metropolitan area and provide programs or services in or to residents of Scott County, Iowa.
- **Scott County Regional Authority** – The Scott County Regional Authority is a nonprofit corporation affiliated with the Isle Hotel Casino Bettendorf that distributes a portion of the proceeds gained from the casino. Types of activities that are funded include riverfront development, economic development, neighborhood development, arts, culture, heritage, education, and human services. Applicants must be located in the Quad Cities metropolitan area and provide programs or services in or to residents of Scott County, Iowa. Joint applications can be submitted with the Riverboat Development Authority, on their respective forms, for large projects or programs.
- **Other** – The State of Iowa offers additional grant and funding assistance programs through various state agencies, including the Department of Transportation, Department of Natural Resources, and the Iowa Economic Development Authority. There are also numerous not-for-profit groups such as America Walks, Smart Growth America, and AARP, as

well as agencies, private corporations, and federal government programs that could be considered as potential funding resources.

Gifts and Trusts – Another method for enhancing the park and recreation system is through donations of land or money. Encouraging contributions through estate planning is another method

of financing the acquisition, improvements, and maintenance of parks and recreation facilities. Trusts and endowments play an important role in providing park and recreation facilities in various communities across the nation.

Focus Areas and Park Inventory

6

The City of Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department envisions the consideration of modern and contemporary amenities that align with the growth of the community. Each park is unique to its neighborhood citizens and location within the city. These elements will be considered in any future parks renovation, restoration, or expansion. Some possible amenities for future consideration include, but are not limited to:

- Splash Pads
- Climbing Walls
- Ninja Courses
- Pump tracks
- Mountain Bike Trails
- Cricket Fields
- Drone Areas
- Ropes Courses
- Hard Court Recreation Areas
- Modern Shelters & Restrooms
- Modern Playground Equipment
- Accessibility

Parks and Recreation Facilities Inventory and Coverage Area

In order to determine the adequacy of a recreational program or the number and size of existing parks and recreational facilities, it is necessary to conduct an inventory. This section lists a comprehensive profile of existing parks and facilities, their locations, existing amenities, and their approximate size. Surrounding facilities are also taken into consideration regarding their amenities and coverage area.

Map 3.1 in Chapter 3 provides an illustration of existing park facilities within Bettendorf. Map 6.1 profiles the service or coverage area for each park facility. This plan utilizes park facility location and amenities provided as additional variables in determining the service area for each existing park and recreation facility. For example, Crow Creek Park, Devils Glen Park, Middle Park, and Veterans Memorial Park are large and diverse enough to serve the entire community but also provide sufficient amenities to serve as neighborhood parks. Figure 6.1 showcases the existing amenities in all parks.

Overall Considerations for all Parks

During multiple steering committee meetings, there were a few overall park considerations noted. These considerations include: specialization, more field variety, partnerships, connections, and

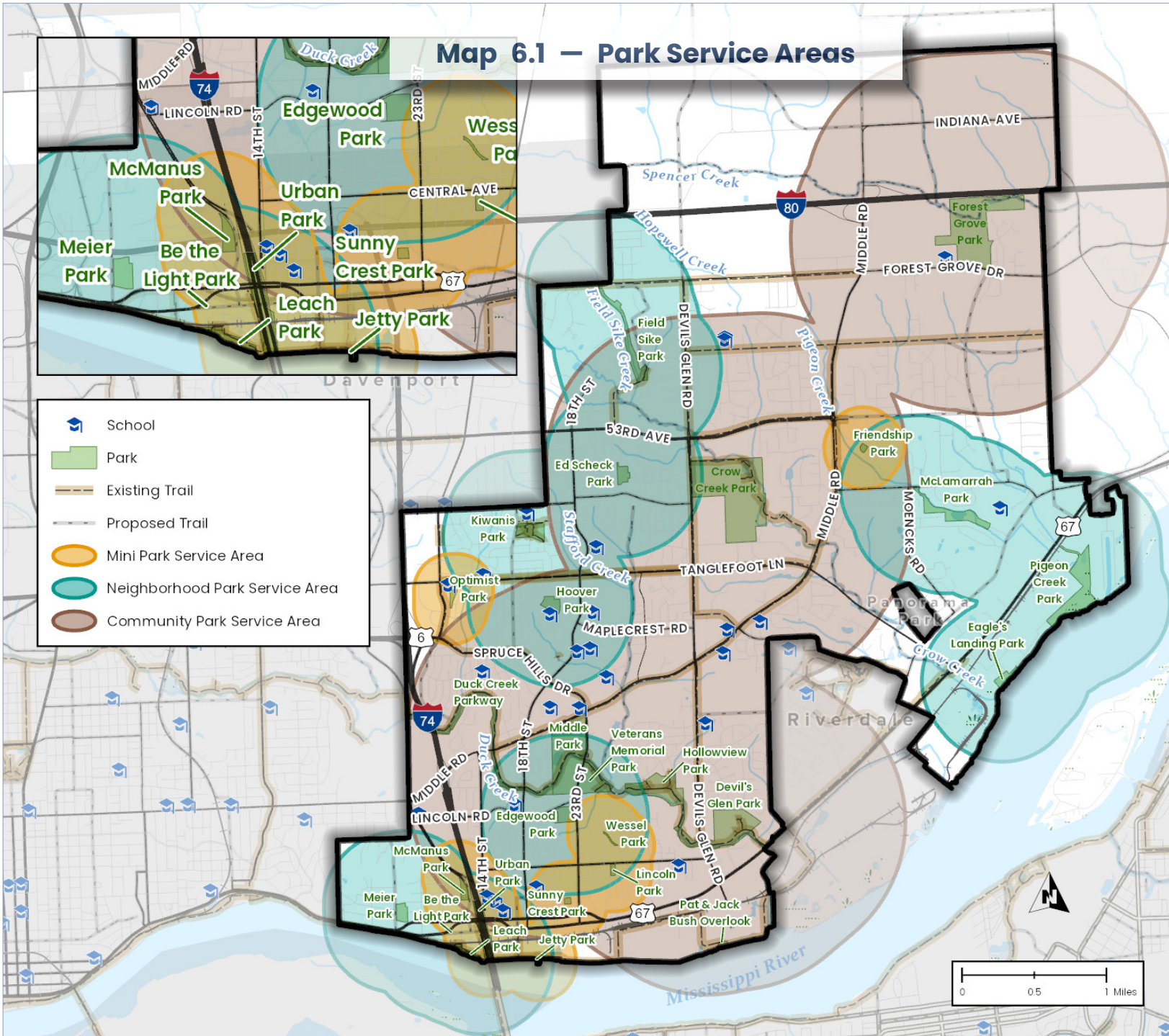
adjusting facility rentals. All these considerations have a common theme of enhancement. Bettendorf is a rising city that is constantly adapting to its population growth. These considerations can provide additions to parks that enhance user abilities and continue to make Bettendorf a thriving city.

Summary of Individual Park Considerations

Individual park considerations and a prospective time frame have been established for guidance in implementing the proposed improvements.

Maps for each park accompany the respective narrative portions. Each park has a detailed figure representing what amenities currently exist there. An analysis was done to determine what type of amenities should be in each park. Amenities like benches and walking trails were added as considerations to parks in census blocks that had a higher percentage of 65 years and older. Amenities like splash pads, tech equipment, and playground equipment were added as considerations to parks in census blocks that have a higher percentage of 18 years and younger.

Map 6.1 – Park Service Areas



Be the Light Park

State Street between 10th and 12th Streets

Be the Light is one of the city's newest neighborhood parks near the heart of downtown Bettendorf and provides recreation space with picnic tables and benches.

Short Term Considerations

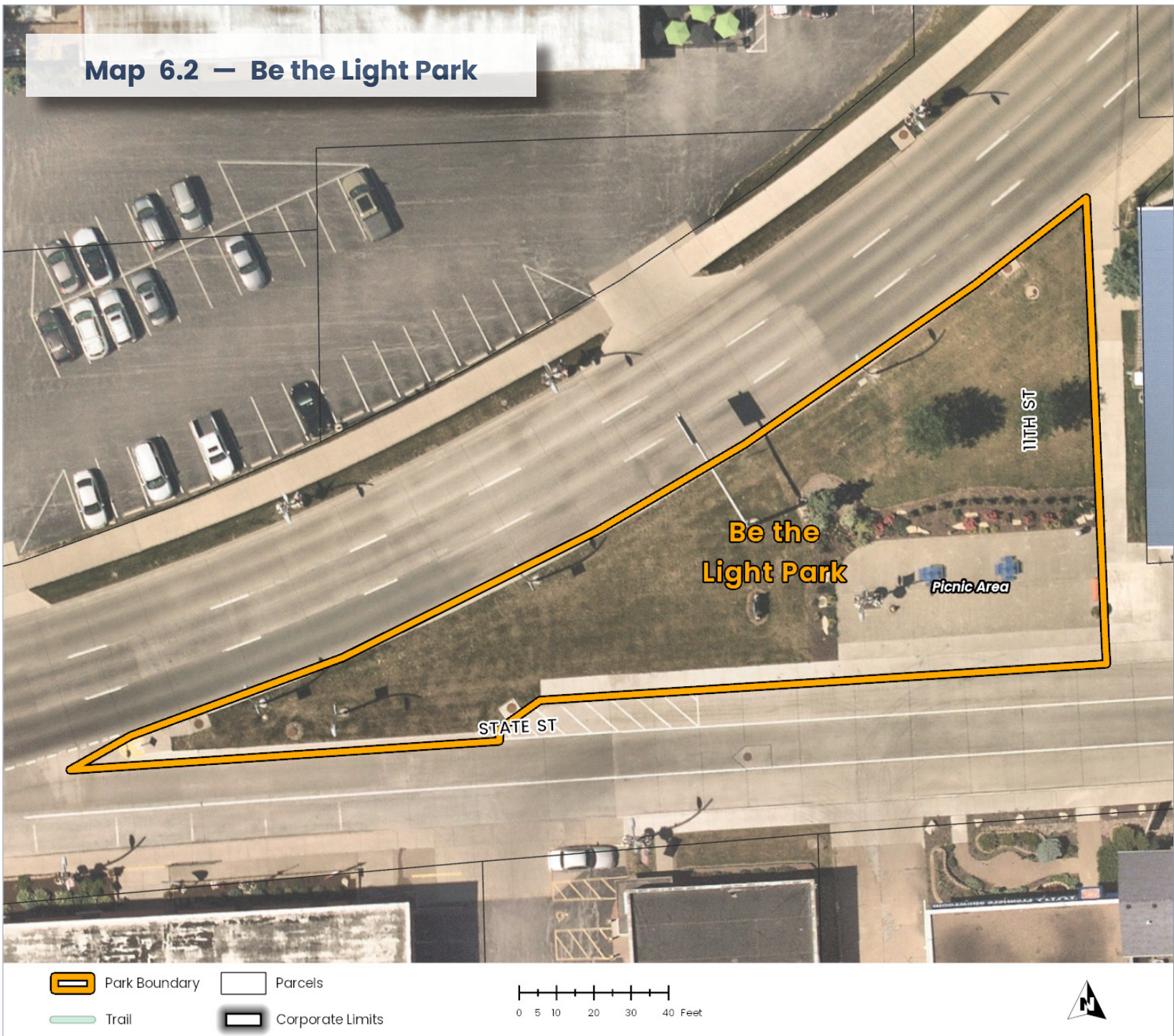
- Promote activities

Long Term Considerations

Table 6.1 – Be the Light Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	0.08 Acres
Picnic Tables	2
Benches	Yes
Parking	On-Street
Landscaping	Yes

Map 6.2 — Be the Light Park



Crow Creek Park

4800 North Devils Glen Road

With entrances on both Devils Glen Road and Tanglewood Road, Crow Creek Park is a multiuse park that is heavily visited. The Large Urban Park sits in the center of Bettendorf and is home to eleven ball fields, two adult fields, five youth fields, multiple playgrounds, several shelters, a fishing pier, and a dog park.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Upgrade and increase utilization of the greenspace near Post Office
- Flood Mitigation for bike path between lagoon and Middle Road
- Renovate shelters and restrooms
- Reset parking blocks
- Enhance wayfinding signage
- Replace playground
- Add large art structures
- Sprinkler system repair/replacement
- Bus stop window replacement inside large dog park
- Add trees and shelters to dog park
- Upgrade lights

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add more restrooms
- Work to reduce invasive plant growth in natural areas
- Renovate or move skatepark
- Replace Field #1 dugouts
- Replace Pavilion roofs
- Add an entrance to the park on Tanglewood Road, so that visitors can travel from the Devils Glen Road entrance to the Tanglewood Road entrance

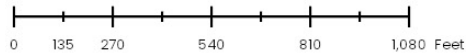
Table 6.2 – Crow Creek Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	135.7 Acres
Ball Fields	11* (5 Lighted)
Soccer Fields	3 to 5
Flag Football Fields	2
Picnic Shelters	7
Playgrounds	2
Restrooms	5
Drinking Fountains	11
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Quarry Pond	1
Fishing Pier	Yes
Trails	3
Concession Stand	1
Skate Park	1
Dog Park	1
Gazebo	1
Scenic Overlooks	3
Parking	350 Spaces
Dekhockey Courts	2
Batting Cages	2
Shed	1

Map 6.3 — Crow Creek Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



Devils Glen Park

1101 Devils Glen Road

Devil's Glen Park is a Community Park located near the eastern section of the Duck Creek Parkway. The park is home to many acres of open space, an archery range, a baseball field, three shelters, a disc golf course, and a playground.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Poison ivy mitigation
- Upgrade drinking fountains
- Address stone shelter near park entrance; refurbish or demolish

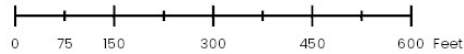
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Evaluative material condition of shelters and roofs
- Improve native plantings
- Add nature labels along trail
- Renovate Disc Golf Course
- Add more benches

Table 6.3 – Devils Glen Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	41.2 Acres
Ball Fields	1* (Lighted)
Picnic Shelters	4* (Grills)
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	2* (1 Accessible)
Drinking Fountains	4
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Parking	110 Spaces
Indoor Archery Range	1
Disc Golf Course	1
Fire Pit	Yes
Shed	1
Monarch Garden	1

Map 6.4 — Devils Glen Park



Duck Creek Parkway

Davenport to Riverdale

Starting in Davenport and making its way through Bettendorf into Riverdale, Duck Creek Parkway is a Special Use Park that runs alongside Duck Creek for several miles through multiple parks. The Parkway includes a paved trail that is used by walkers, joggers, and bikers.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Monitor material condition of signage and benches for phased replacement
- Monitor low lying areas along bike path for silt after heavy rains
- Periodically check the bicycle repair station for maintenance
- Replace bicycle repair station air pumps
- Add more park benches
- Add more bike repair stations

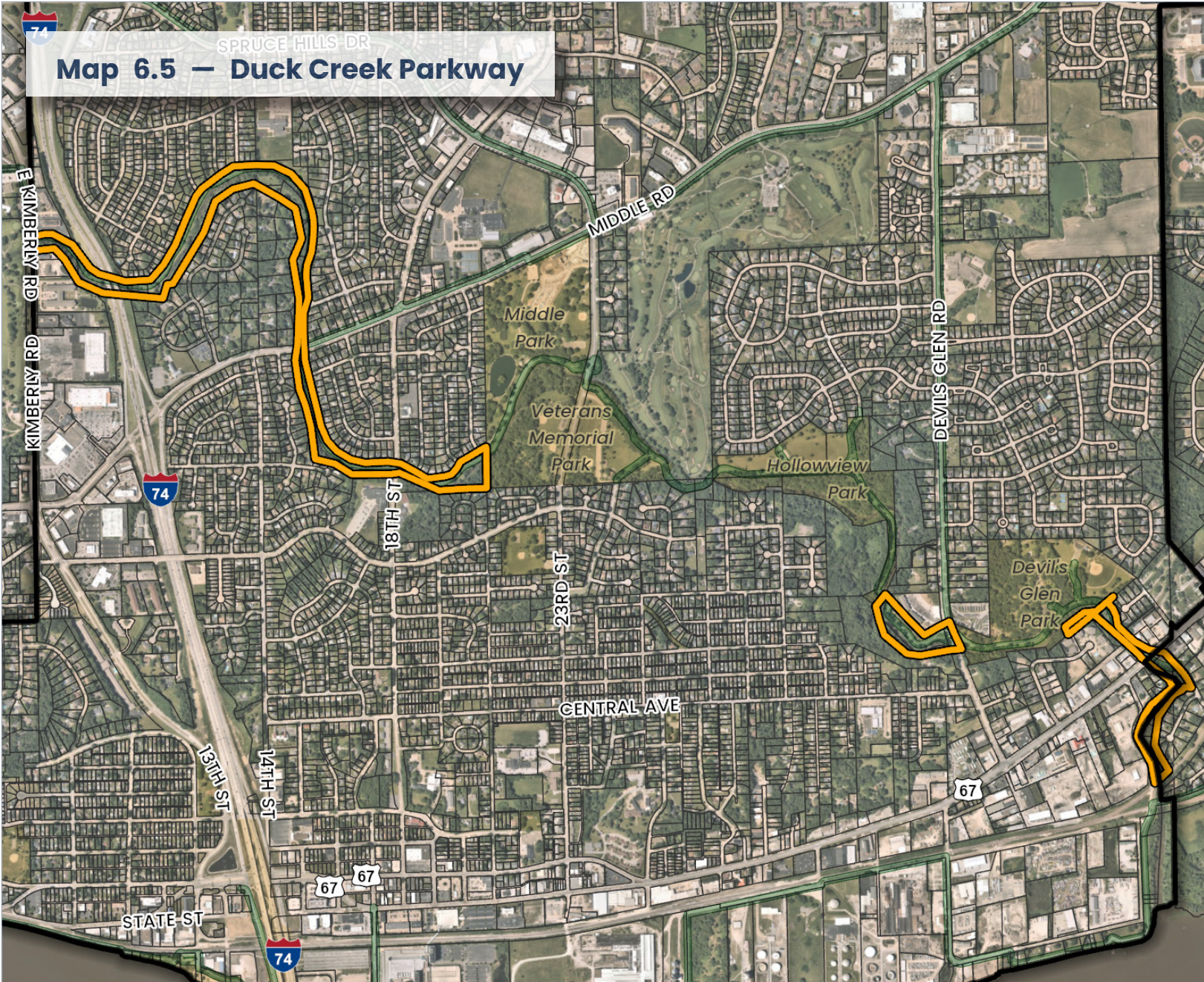
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Enhance beautification with the addition of flower beds and tree plantings

Table 6.4 – Duck Creek Parkway Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	54.9 Acres
Trails	1* (5.95 miles)
Signage	Yes
Benches	Yes
Landscaping	Yes
Natural	Yes

Map 6.5 — Duck Creek Parkway

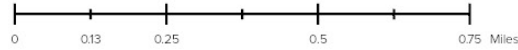


Park Boundary

Trail

Parcels

Corporate Limits



Eagles Landing Park

2731 62nd Street Court

Eagles Landing Park is a Neighborhood Park located near the Mississippi River in Bettendorf's south-east corner. The Park is home to open space, a couple of shelters, restrooms, and a boat launch.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Replace the dock and outhouse bathroom

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add more walking paths
- Add more benches
- Add a small garden

Table 6.5 – Eagles Landing Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	6.8 Acres
Picnic Shelters	1
Restrooms	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Walking Path	1
Gazebo	1
Parking	20 Spaces
Boat Launch Dock	1
Courtesy Dock	1

Map 6.6 — Eagles Landing Park



Ed Scheck Park

4792 Mayfield Drive

Ed Scheck Park is a Neighborhood Park located near the center of Bettendorf. The Park is home to a baseball field, batting cages, a shelter with restrooms, and a playground.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Replace playground; consider a modern style for all ages
- Upgrade swing set
- Upgrade baseball fencing and dugouts
- Enhance landscaping
- Add native plants
- Repair areas of deteriorating concrete in and around the shelter

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Develop a walking trail that connects neighborhoods
- Replace shelter roof

Table 6.6 – Ed Scheck Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	5.9 Acres
Ball Fields	1
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1
Drinking Fountains	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Parking	30 Spaces
Batting Cages	Yes
Bull Pins	Yes

Map 6.7 — Ed Scheck Park



Edgewood Park

1400 23rd Street

Located off 23rd Street, Edgewood Park is one of Bettendorf's oldest parks that currently acts a connection between the homes on 23rd Street and 21st Street. The Neighborhood Park is home to a baseball field, a basketball court, a tennis/pickleball court, a playground, open space, and a shelter with restrooms.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

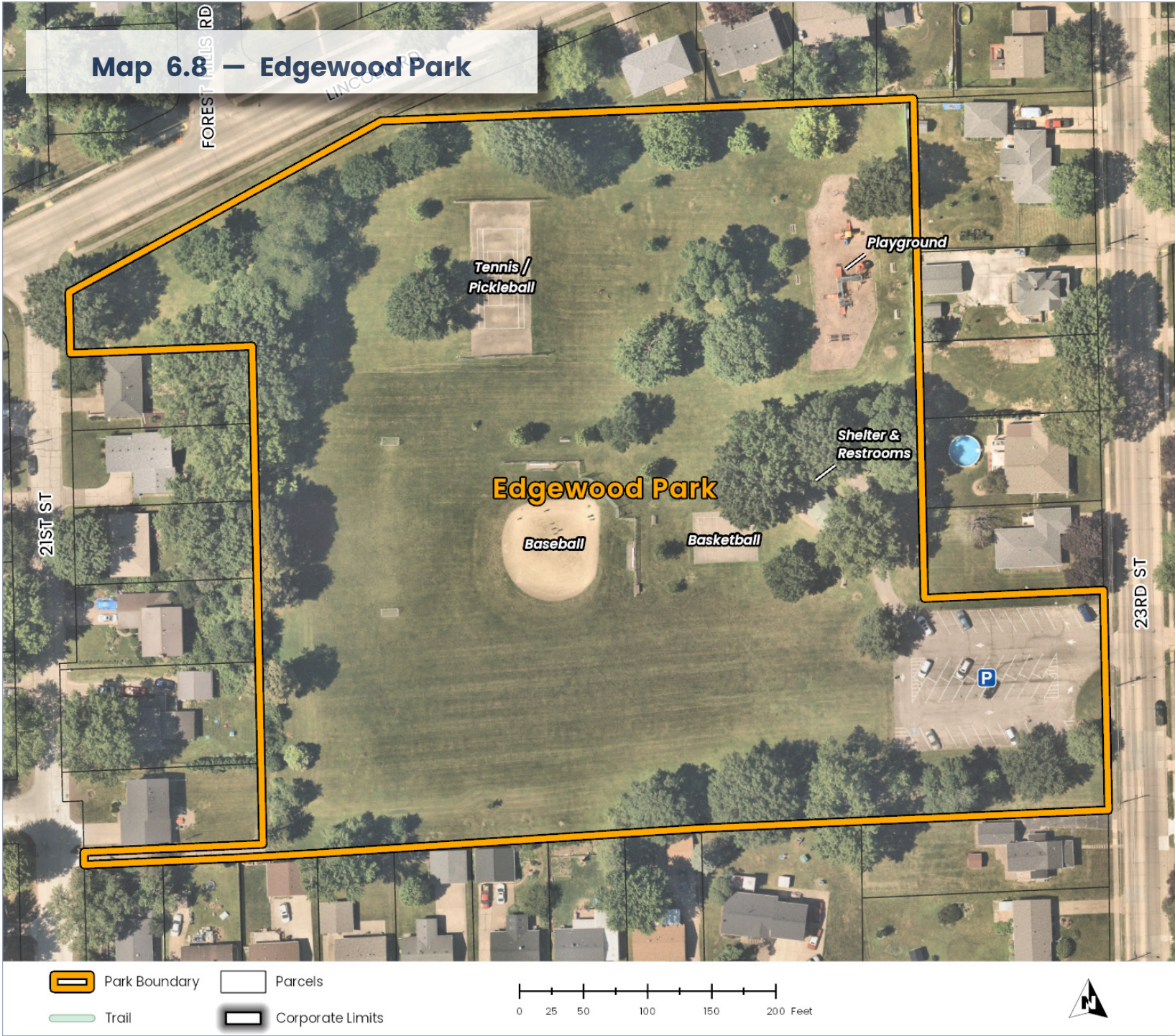
- Replace or update playground equipment
- Upgrade existing shelter or construct new shelter with electricity
- Upgrade tennis/pickleball court, and fencing, consider 2nd court
- Replace bathrooms
- Refurbish and restripe basketball court. Consider expansion to full court
- Install drinking fountain including dog and water bottle stations
- Install additional lighting and cameras
- Plant trees on south perimeter

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Use open space to expand shelter and add/expand other hard court sports
- Add another shelter

Table 6.7 – Edgewood Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	7.5 Acres
Ball Fields	1
Tennis Court	1* (With Pickleball)
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1
Drinking Fountains	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Parking	50 Spaces



Field Sike Park

Field Sike Drive & Marynoel Avenue

Field Sike Park is a Special Use Park located in northern Bettendorf that sits between two residential areas. Along with the Barcelona Street Side path that leaks into the south side of the Park, Field Sike Park also has a playground and a shelter with restrooms.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Monitor material condition of bathroom and bathroom roof; repair if needed

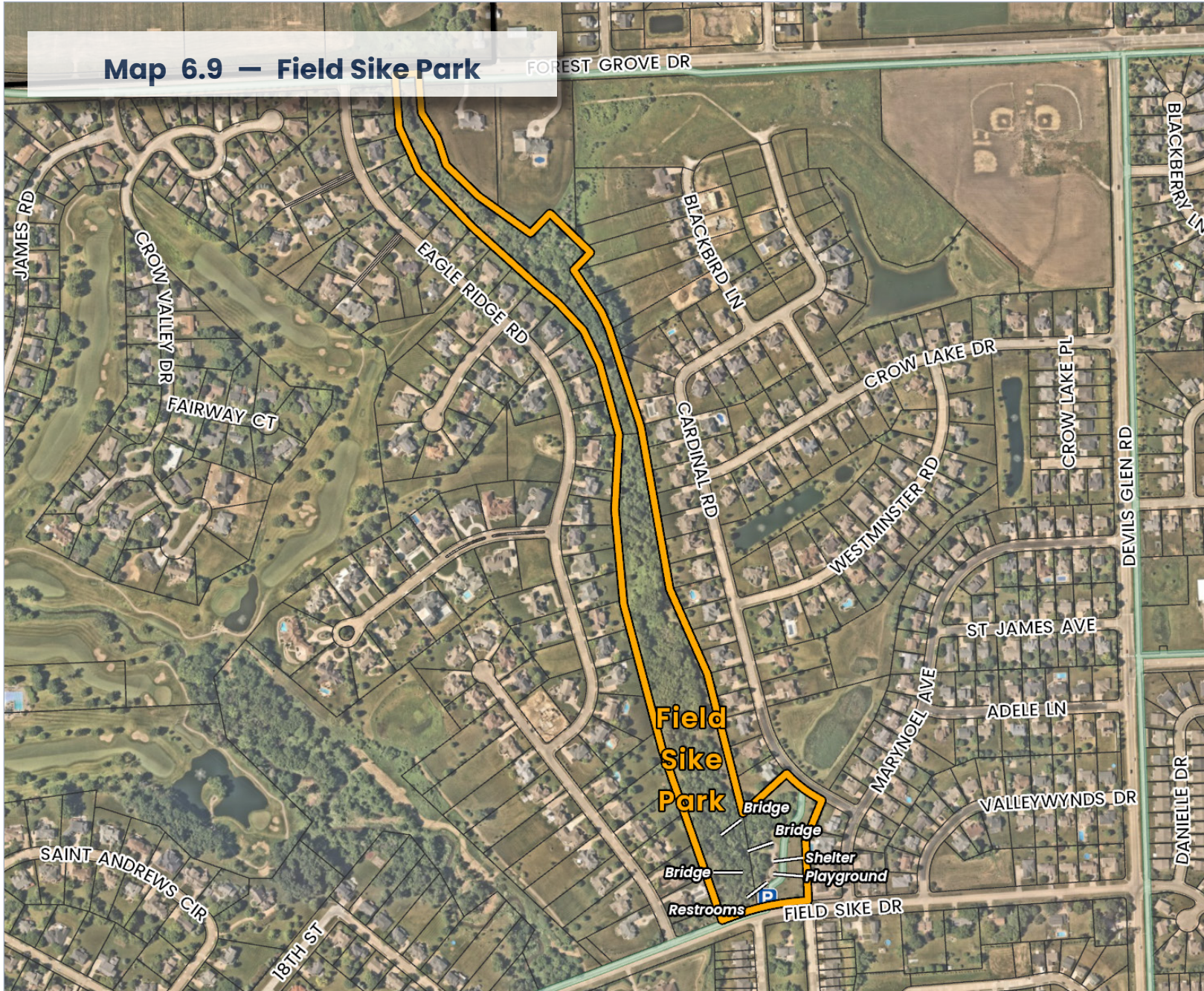
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Monitor material condition of rubber service playground matting; repair if needed

Table 6.8 – Field Sike Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	18.8 Acres
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Walking Path	1
Natural	Yes
Parking	5 Spaces

Map 6.9 — Field Sike Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



Forest Grove Park

6000 Forest Grove Road

Forest Grove Park is located in northern Bettendorf. The Large Urban Park has shelters, a basketball court, pickleball courts, a playground, restrooms, and multiple grills. See Section 4 (page 34) for discussion on Forest Grove Park.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Review and update Forest Grove Park Master Plan
- Add additional shelters with one being a concession stand
- Connect to Forest Grove School House
- Monitor the growth of tree plantings to develop future shaded areas
- Add new trees to fill the shade gaps as necessary
- Establish a cross-country, hiking, or mountain bike trail

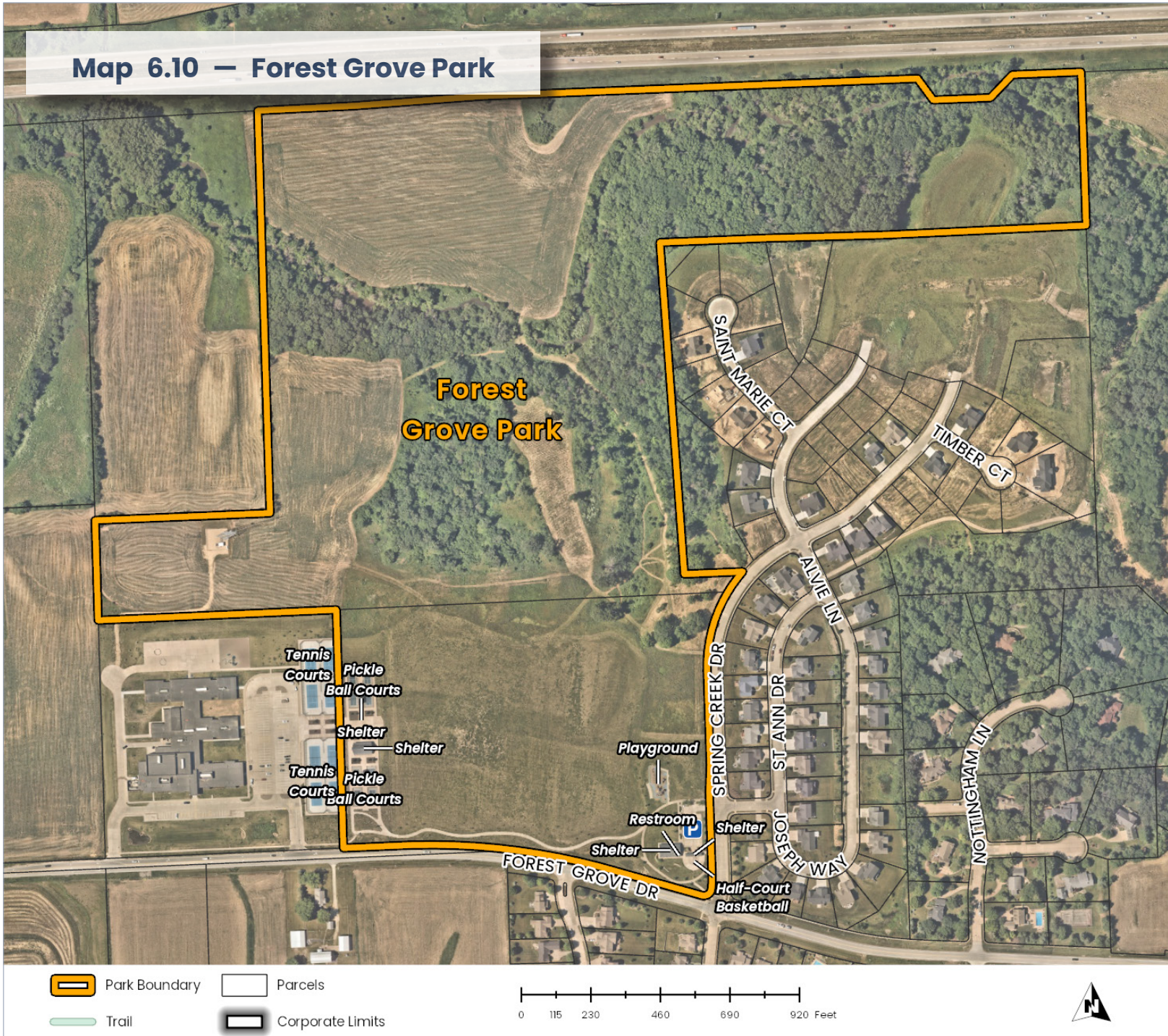
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Monitor material condition of the pavilion and rubber matting of the playground and refurbish if required
- Establish scenic overlooks
- Construct bridges over Spencer Creek
- Network to surrounding parks
- Create a fishing pond
- Expand the playground

Table 6.9 – Forest Grove Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	100 Acres
Basketball Court	1* (Half Court)
Picnic Shelters	1* (Pavilion)
Playgrounds	1
Parking	26 Spaces
Walking Paths	1

Map 6.10 — Forest Grove Park



Friendship Park

5038 White Post Road

Friendship Park is located in the eastern part of Bettendorf. The Neighborhood Park is home to a playground, a sand volleyball court, open space, and a shelter.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Update play equipment
- Replace the current playground surface with rubber matting
- Enhance landscaping/native plants/beautification
- Add shaded structures near playground
- Replace small “ride on” play structures with more modern playground features

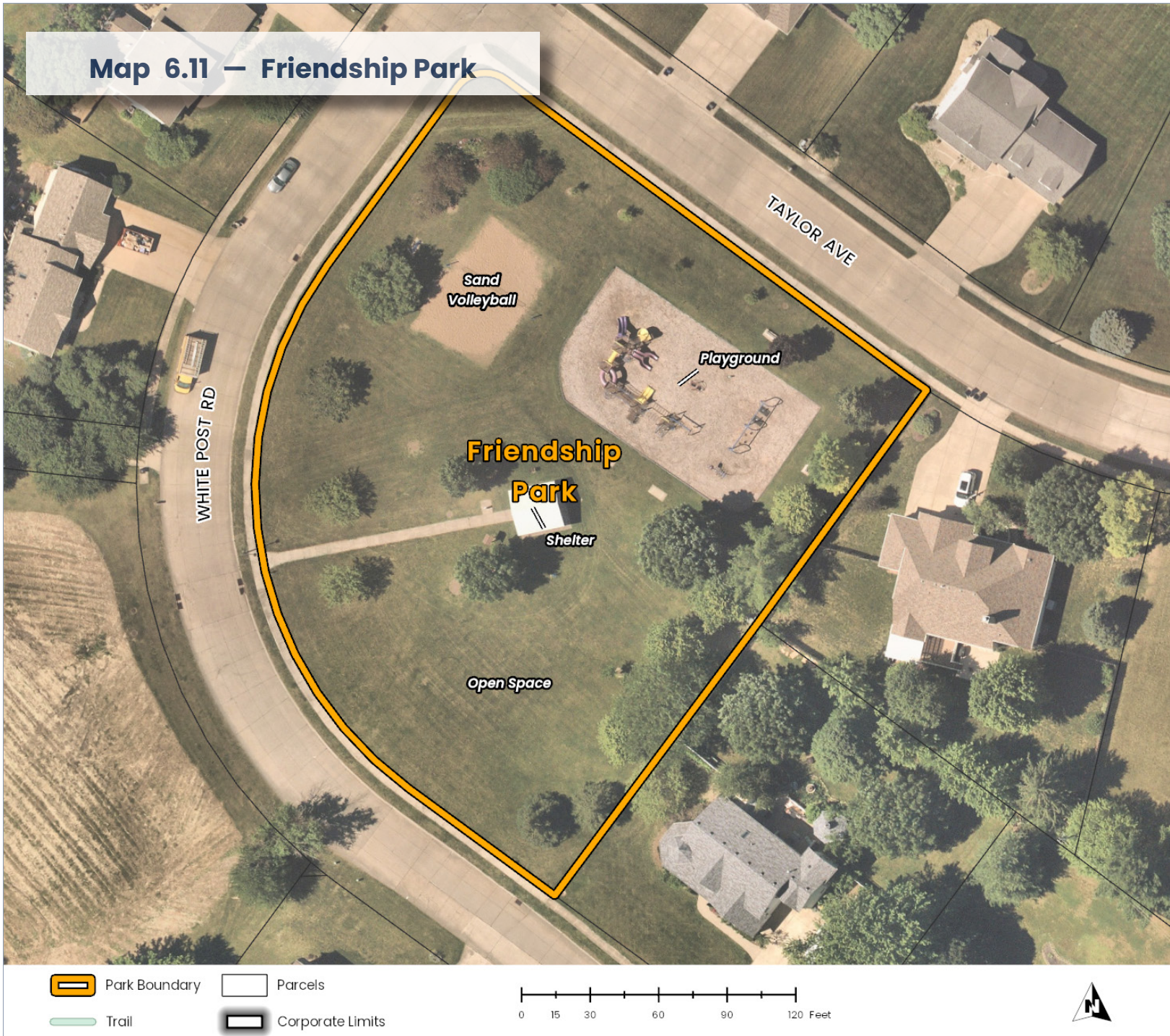
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add other amenities
- Install a restroom
- Monitor material condition of picnic tables and benches and replace them as required

Table 6.10 – Friendship Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	1.4 Acres
Sand Volleyball Court	1
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes

Map 6.11 — Friendship Park



Hollowview Park

1700 Sun Valley Drive

Hollowview Park is located west of Devils Glen Road and sits off of Sun Valley Drive. The Community Park has a shelter, a playground, restrooms, and a trail that runs throughout the entire park.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Add trees that maintain healthy wood
- Enhance wayfinding signage along the bike path

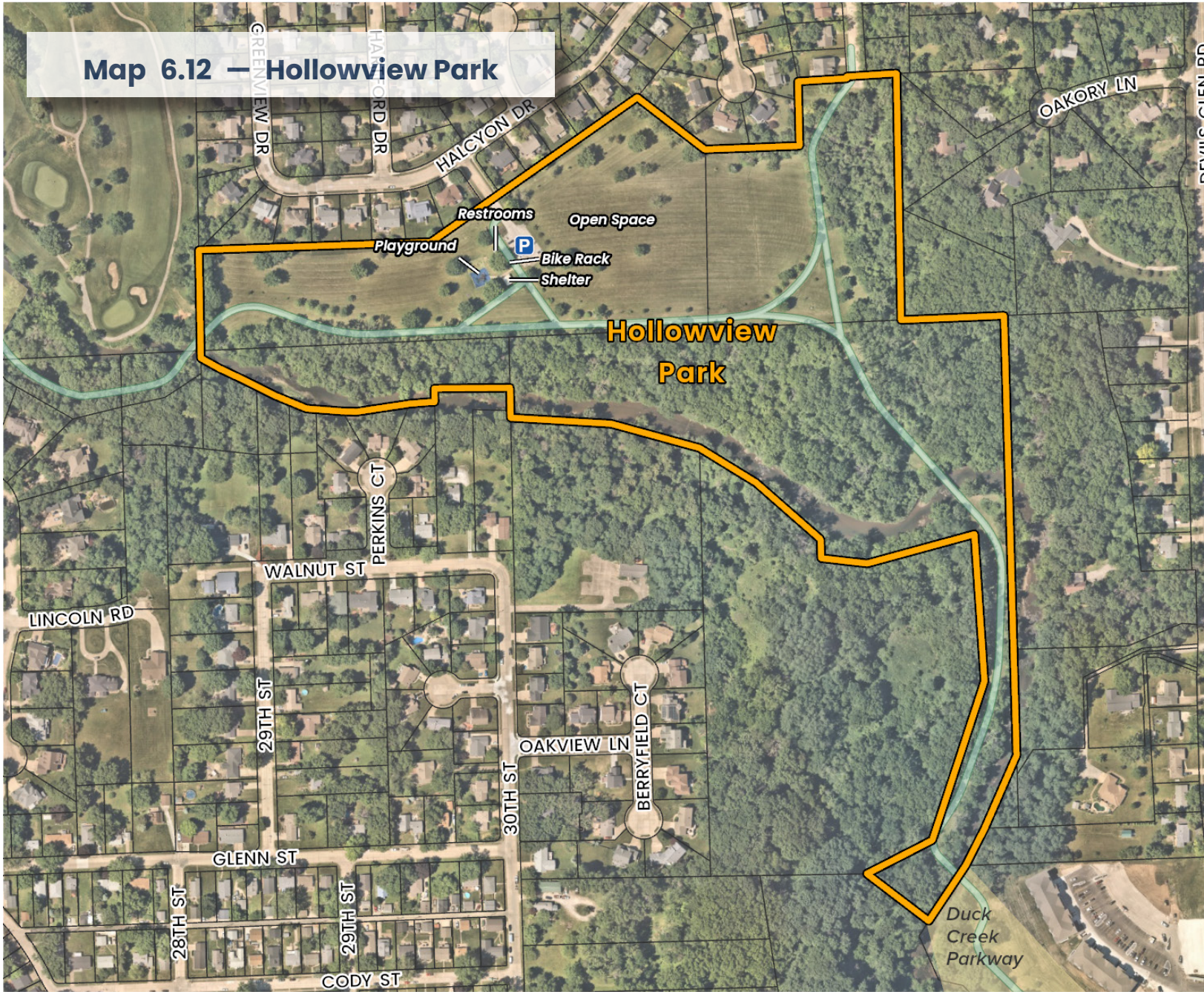
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add more benches

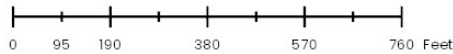
Table 6.11 – Hollowview Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	36 Acres
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1* (Waterless)
Drinking Fountains	1
Trails	2
Parking	20 Spaces
Passive/Open Space	Yes

Map 6.12 — Hollowview Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



Hoover Park

3223 South Hampton Drive

Hoover Park is a Neighborhood Park located just south of Tanglefoot Lane. The Park is home to a playground, a baseball field, a tennis/pickleball court, restrooms, and a shelter for group gatherings.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Replace playground woodchips with rubber
- Renovate the blacktip paths
- Renovate restroom vent and other maintenance needs
- Replace fencing for baseball dugouts and tennis courts
- Refurbish tennis courts

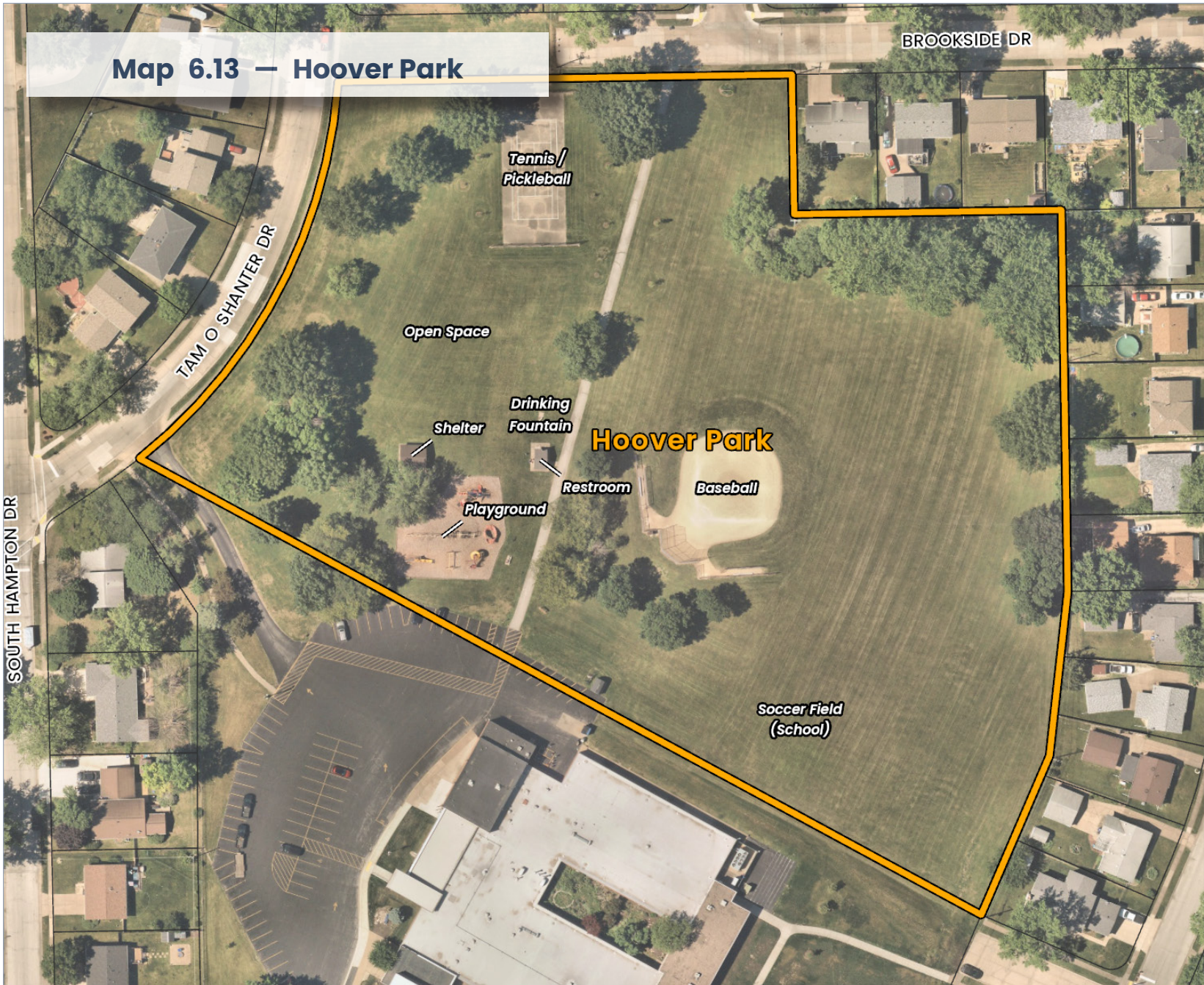
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Renovate shelter
- Replace playground
- Update drinking fountain outside restroom
- Update baseball field
- Update tennis court
- Add more flower beds or trees
- Consider a splash pad

Table 6.12 – Hoover Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	6.9 Acres
Ball Fields	1
Soccer Fields	1* (School)
Tennis Court	1* (With Pickleball)
Pickleball Court	1* (With Tennis)
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1* (Waterless)
Passive/Open Space	Yes

Map 6.13 — Hoover Park

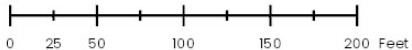


 Park Boundary

 Parcels

 Trail

 Corporate Limits



Jetty Park

Mississippi Riverfront near the Isle Casino

Located on the banks of the Mississippi River near the Isle Casino, Jetty Park is one of Bettendorf's smaller parks. The Neighborhood Park has a recreation trail, a fishing pier, and multiple scenic overlooks.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Maintain natural features and emphasize passive use and benefits

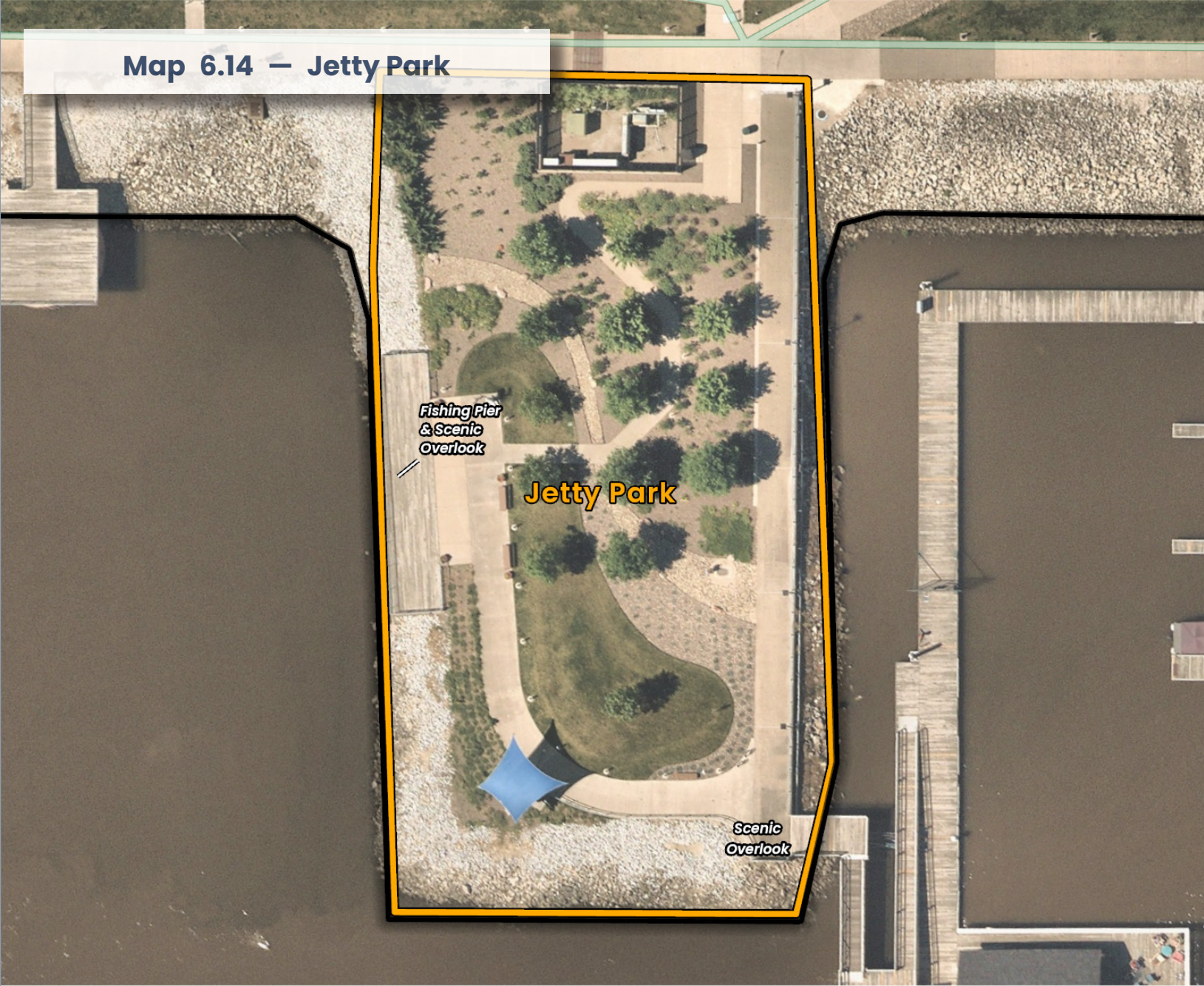
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Install QR codes for native plants and wildlife
- Phase replacement of benches, décor, and replace overgrowth as needed
- Partner with the Isle Casino to enhance park features

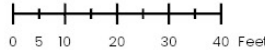
Table 6.13 – Jetty Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	.4 Acres
Fishing Pier	Yes
Walking Path	1
Scenic Overlooks	2

Map 6.14 — Jetty Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



Kiwanis Park

4223 Greenbrier Drive

Located in west Bettendorf, Kiwanis Park is full of activity. The Neighborhood Park has six pickleball courts, two tennis courts, a basketball court, a baseball field, a playground, and a shelter with restrooms.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Replace playground
- Upgrade worn and dated signage
- Repair and address Greenbrier street crosswalk, missing speed radar caution sign, and cover water valve piping.
- Schedule phased replacement of wooden benches that are dated
- Evaluate hard courts for resurfacing

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add more benches
- Resurface basketball and other hard courts

Table 6.14 – Kiwanis Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	13.1 Acres
Ball Fields	1* (Lighted)
Basketball Court	1
Tennis Court	2
Pickleball Court	6
Picnic Shelters	1* (Grill)
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1
Drinking Fountains	2
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Walking Path	4
Parking	25 Spaces

Map 6.15 — Kiwanis Park



CINDY CT

GREENBRIER DR

Tennis Basketball

Playground

Restrooms Shelter

Baseball

Kiwanis Park

Pickleball Courts

QUEENS DR

BOSTON DR

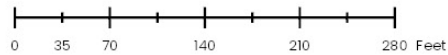
PROVIDENCE DR

Park Boundary

Parcels

Trail

Corporate Limits



Leach Park

100 12th Street

Leach Park is a Neighborhood Park located on 12th Street just west of the I-74 bridge. Not only does Leach Park have the scenic views of the Mississippi River, but the park also has shelters, a boat ramp, a recreation trail, a fishing pier, and grills.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Incorporate I-74 Bridge and Urban Park under the bridge into the overall park maintenance plan
- Create an urban landscape study to determine plantings that are native to the area
- Discover how to deter geese away from the sidewalks
- Add greenspace that withstands flooding
- Update the cracked sidewalks
- Develop the flower beds with more perennials and less annual flowers and refresh the

faded stenciling on the lock and dam visual aids

- Remove large structures along walking path
- Renovate the small round gazebo areas and have them incorporate the large concrete pads

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Install bicycle racks and bike repair station
- Evaluate phased replacement of the boat ramp dock and potential for dredging along the boat ramp area

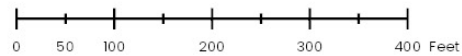
Table 6.15 – Leach Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	6.1 Acres
Fishing Pier	4* (1 Handicapped Accessible)
Gazebo	2
Boat Launch Dock	1
Courtesy Dock	1
Plaza Area	1
Restrooms	1
Drinking Fountains	2
Outdoor Art	Yes
Trails	14
Parking	25 Spaces

Map 6.16 — Leach Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



Lincoln Park

951 27th Street

Lincoln Park is located south of Central Avenue in southern Bettendorf. The Neighborhood Park is home to a splash pad, a shelter, a basketball court, a playground, and open space.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Replace playground
- Address the splash pad sprinklers that overshoot
- Add more seating areas
- Add more shaded structures
- Update signage
- Add more off-street parking spaces
- Install drinking fountain including dog and water bottles stations
- Install additional lighting and cameras
- Add electricity to picnic shelter

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Update the play center and the ground cover under the play center

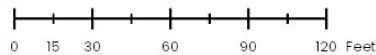
Table 6.16 – Lincoln Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	1.7 Acres
Basketball Court	1* (Half Court)
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Walking Path	1
Splash Pad	1
Parking	12 Spaces
Restroom	1

Map 6.17 — Lincoln Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



McLamarrah Park

4100 Pinebrook Lane

Located in eastern Bettendorf, McLamarrah Park is one of the cities few Special Use Parks. McLamarrah Park is green space situated between a slew of residential development with a pond for fishing.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

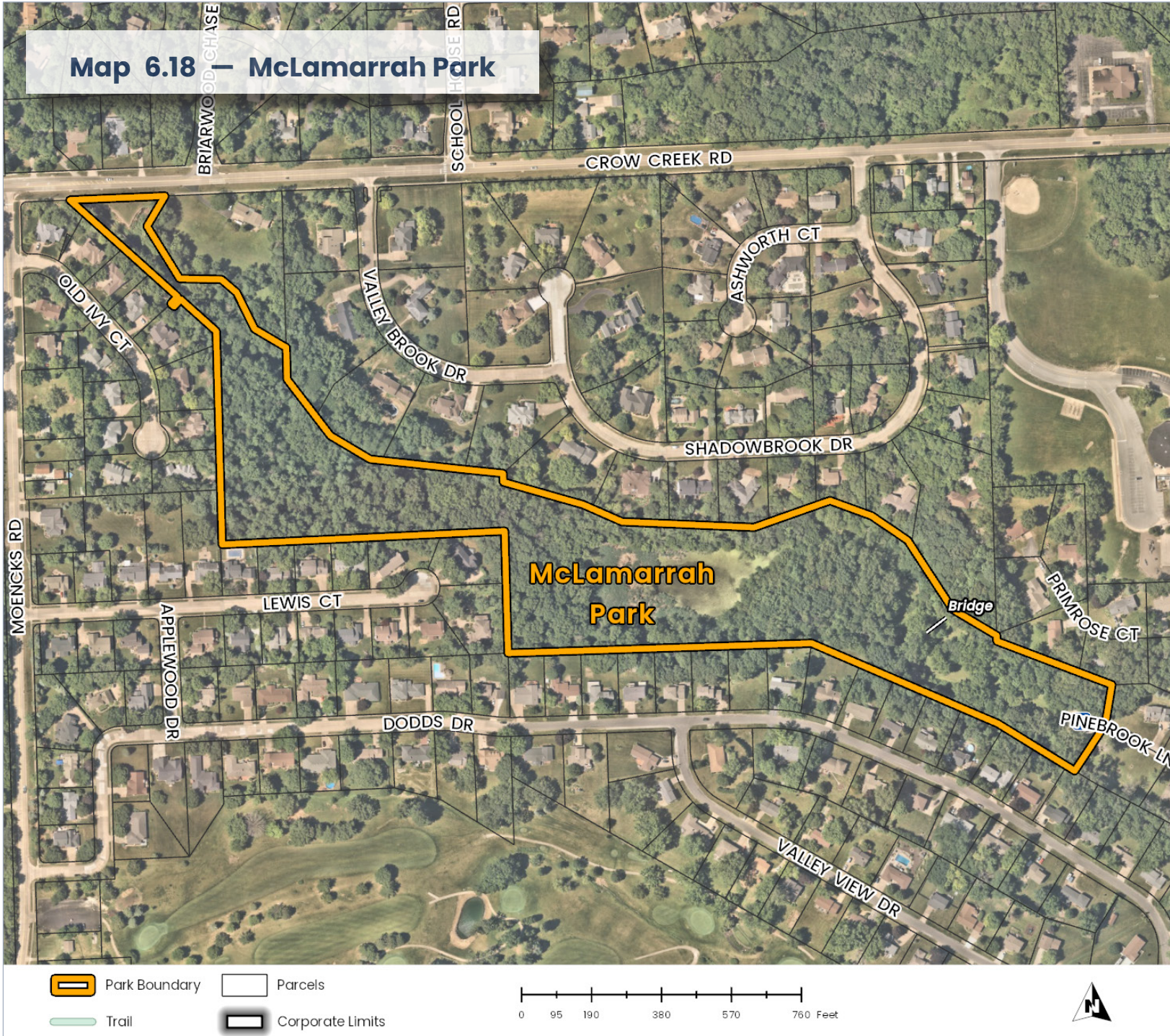
- Receive grant funding to provide more maintenance equipment to maintain the area
- Monitor or replace the wood on the bridge
- Add more signage
- Add QR codes for park information
- Refurbish trail
- Conduct poison ivy mitigation
- Remove the picnic table near the entrance
- Reclassify as nature area/conservation/greenway

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add a map that illustrates the trail system

Table 6.17 – McLamarrah Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	19.2 Acres
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Trails	1
Parking	15 Spaces
Natural	Yes



McManus Park

1200 Mississippi Blvd.

McManus Park is located in southern Bettendorf. The Neighborhood Park is home to multiple shelters, a basketball court, a tennis court, multiple playgrounds, restrooms, and grills.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

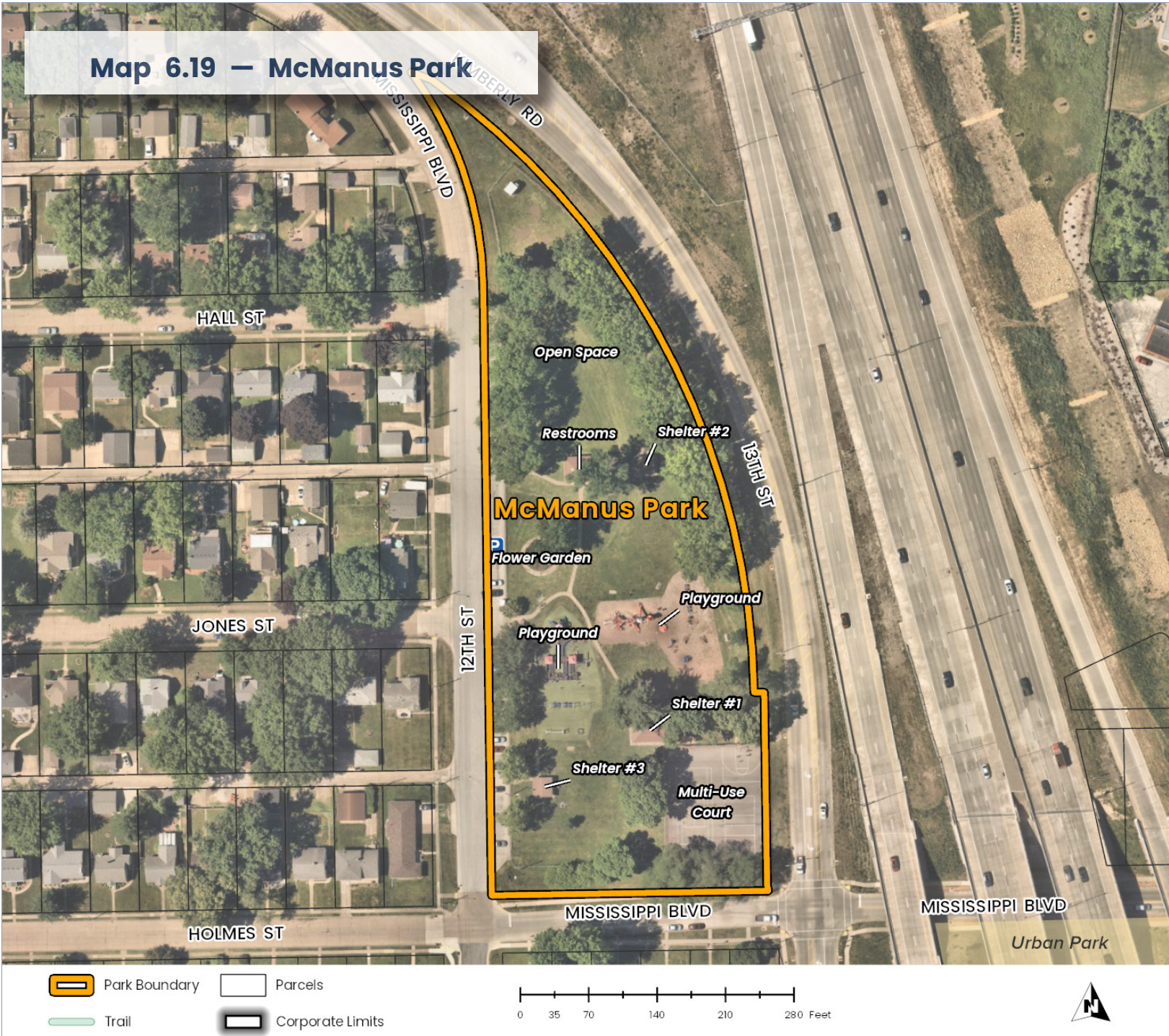
- Replace both playgrounds
- Add in a rocket-themed playset with a new playground
- Renovate restrooms
- Evaluate material condition of shelters and refurbish as needed
- Add environmentally friendly plantings for butterflies in the planter area
- Install drinking fountain including dog and water bottle stations
- Install additional lighting and cameras

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Evaluate playground equipment and surface for phased replacement
- Add environmentally friendly plantings for butterflies in the planter area

Table 6.18 – McManus Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	3.9 Acres
Multiuse Court	1
Picnic Shelters	3
Playgrounds	2
Restrooms	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Parking	50 Spaces
Flower Garden	1



Meier Park

601 Holmes Street

Meier Park is located in southwest Bettendorf. This Neighborhood Park has shelters, a ball field, a tennis/pickleball court, restrooms, a playground, and a monarch garden.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Extend the season for restroom access
- Increase security lighting on the east side
- Install additional lighting and cameras
- Upgrade baseball facilities including covered dugouts

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

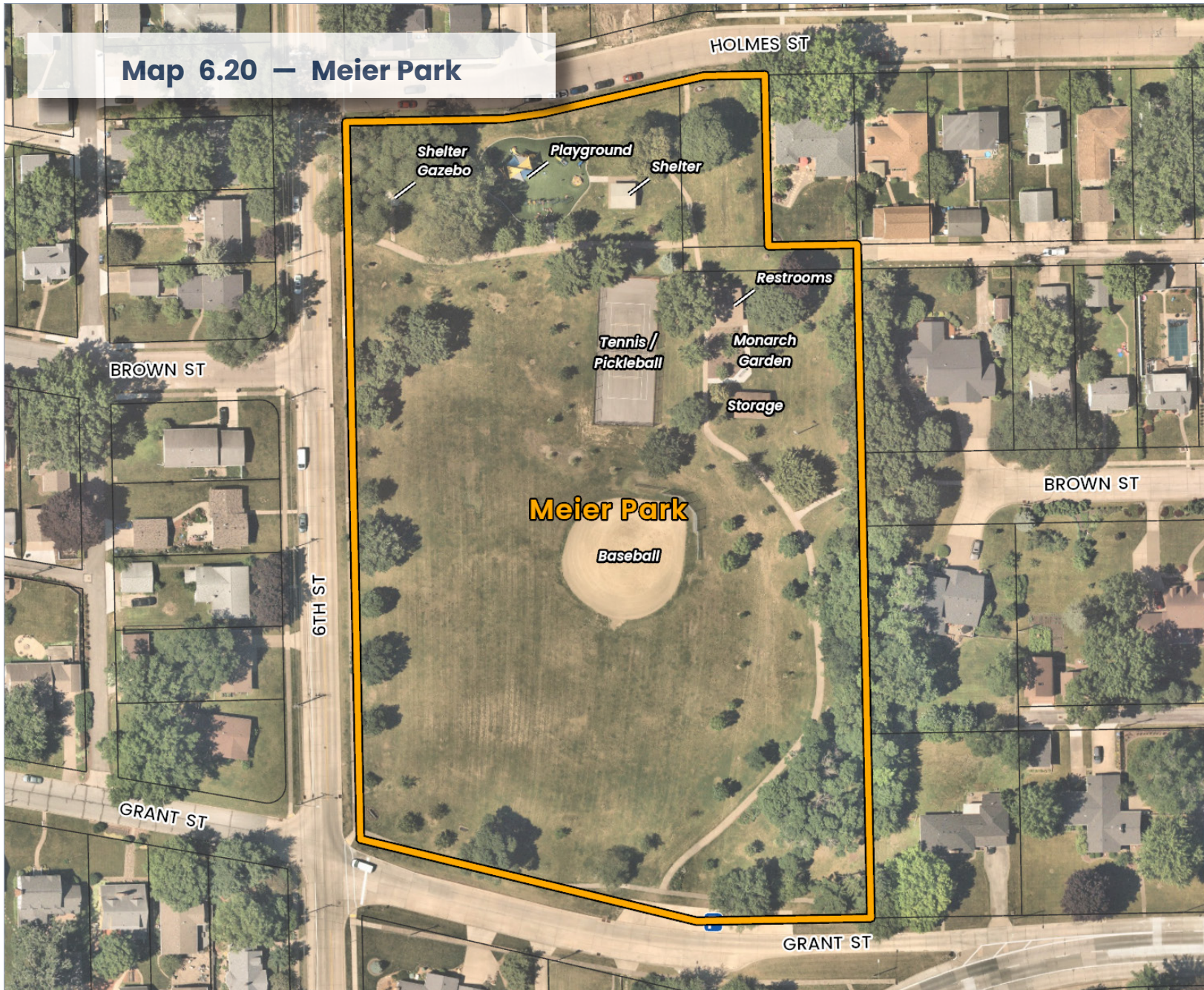
- Create a wetland natural amenity
- Add additional trash cans
- Renovate shelter
- Consider adding additional shelter or phase replacement of small round gazebo for larger structure

Table 6.19 – Meier Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	6 Acres
Ball Fields	1
Tennis Court	1* (With Pickleball)
Pickleball Court	1* (With Tennis)
Picnic Shelters	1* (Grill)
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1

Amenities	Amount
Drinking Fountains	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Gazebo	1
Parking	10 Spaces
Storage Building	1
Monarch Garden	1
Walking Path	1

Map 6.20 — Meier Park

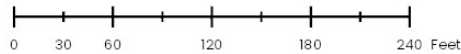


 Park Boundary

 Parcels

 Trail

 Corporate Limits



Middle Park

2407 Middle Road

Located on Middle Road, Middle Park is one of Bettendorf's Community Parks. The park is home to The Landing, which is newly constructed with the cooperation from Bettendorf Parks and Recreation and the YMCA. Middle Park also has the Centennial Garden, shelters, ball fields, a disc golf course, a fishing lagoon, a playground, open space, and a recreation trail.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Increase maintenance in the lagoon area

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Replace playground
- Implement roller skating in the summer
- Renovate Disc Golf Course

Table 6.20 – Middle Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	43.6 Acres
Ball Fields	2
Picnic Shelters	3* (Grills)
Playgrounds	1
Drinking Fountains	3
Passive/Open Space	Yes
Trails	1
Gazebo	1
Parking	260 Spaces
Disc Golf Course	1
Centennial Garden	1
Lagoon	1* (3 Acres)
Ice Skating	Yes
Aquatic Center	1* (Splash Landing)

Map 6.21 — Middle Park



- Park Boundary
- Parcels
- Trail
- Corporate Limits



Mississippi River Trail (MRT)

Headwaters to the Gulf (Bettendorf segment)

The Mississippi River Trail travels from Lake Itasca in Minnesota to Venice, Louisiana. A little over three miles of the trail passes through the City of Bettendorf.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Restripe
- Enhance wayfinding signage
- Enhance tree plantings and landscaping along trail area

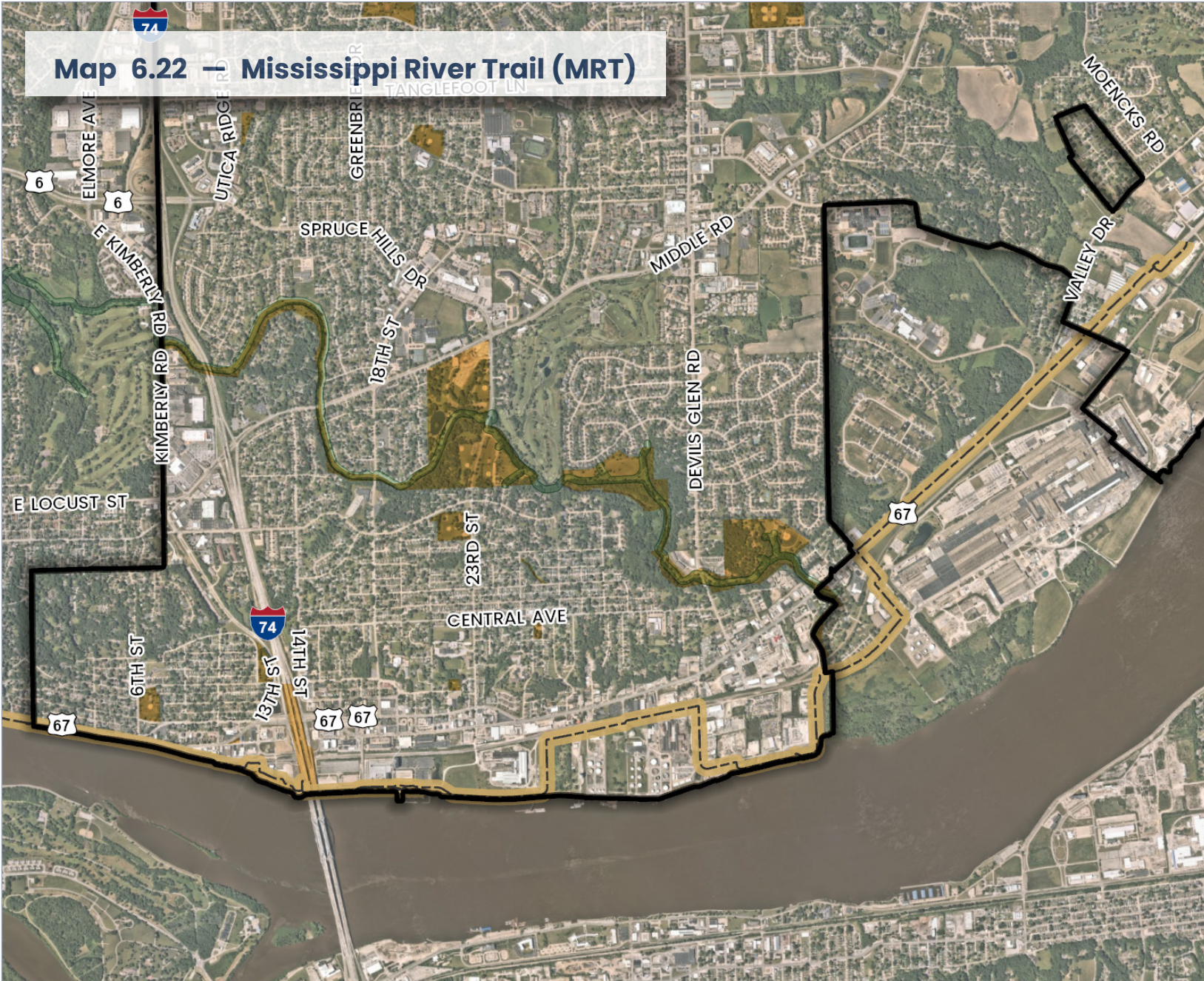
Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Resurface older sections of trails
- Expand to the Bettendorf/Scott County border
- Coordinate with Scott County and the City of LeClaire on trail connectivity

Table 6.21 – Mississippi River Trail Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Trails	1* (3.3 Miles)
Natural	Yes

Map 6.22 — Mississippi River Trail (MRT)



Optimist Park

1130 Belair Road

Optimist Park is a Neighborhood Park located near Utica Ridge Road. The Park sits between commercial buildings and residential homes. Optimist is an open park with generous greenspace.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Remove shelter
- Reclassify as nature area/conservation/greenway

Table 6.22 – Optimist Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	2.2 Acres
Picnic Shelters	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes

Map 6.23 — Optimist Park

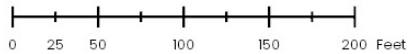


 Park Boundary

 Parcels

 Trail

 Corporate Limits



Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook

3735 Elm Street

Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook is a Neighborhood Park located south of the U.S. 67 and Devils Glen Road intersection. The Park sits next to the Mississippi River.

Short Term Considerations

Long Term Considerations

- Update pier amenities
- Update shelter

Table 6.23 – Pat and Jack Scenic Overlook Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	0.87 Acres
Picnic Shelter	1
Restrooms	1
Fishing Pier	Yes
Trails	1
Benches	Yes
Scenic Overlooks	1
Parking	11 Spaces

Map 6.24 — Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook



Pigeon Creek Park

6729 Marigil Lane

Pigeon Creek Park is located near the Mississippi River in eastern Bettendorf. The Special Use Park is dozens of acres of green space and native vegetation with a recreation trail, fishing, and restrooms.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Update signage
- Work on MRT connection with signage
- Cut the overgrowth back and apply poison ivy mitigation in the higher foot traffic areas

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Add native plantings
- Enhance the fishing experience by trimming overgrowth

Table 6.24 – Pigeon Creek Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	41.1 Acres
Restrooms	1
Natural	Yes
Trails	1
Gazebo	1
Scenic Overlooks	1
Parking	20 Spaces

Map 6.25 — Pigeon Creek Park



Sunny Crest Park

2204 Grant Street

Sunny Crest Park is located north of the Bettendorf Community Center. The Neighborhood Park is home to a playground, open space, a basketball court, and a shelter.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

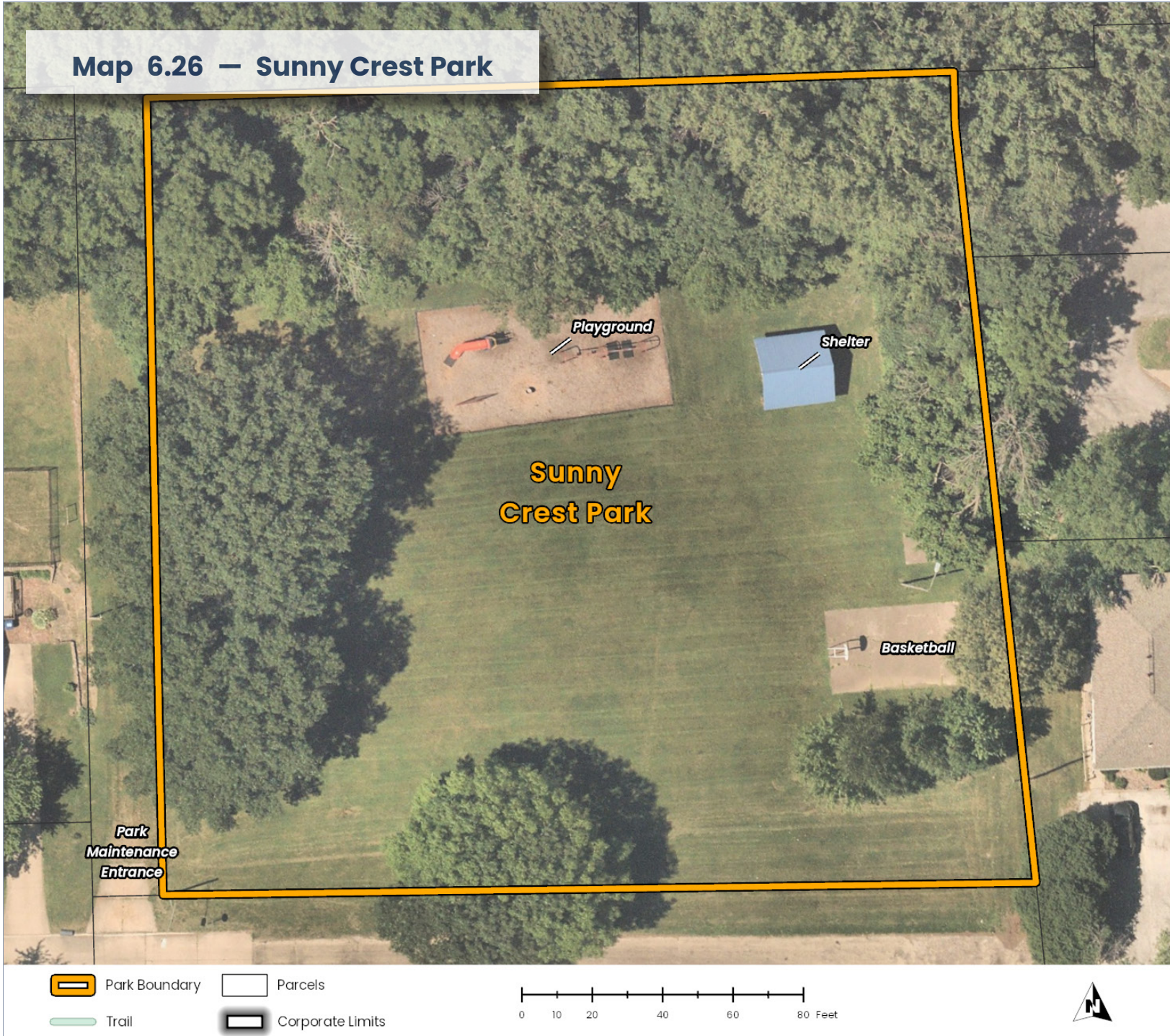
- Remove dead trees where needed

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

Table 6.25 – Sunny Crest Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	1.2 Acres
Basketball Court	1
Picnic Shelters	1
Playgrounds	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes

Map 6.26 — Sunny Crest Park



Urban Park

Grant Street Under I-74

Urban Park is located on Grant Street under the I-74 bridge. The main amenity of this Neighborhood Park is the pedestrian trail used by walkers, joggers, and bikers.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Establish a long-term maintenance plan
- Incorporate I-74 Bridge and Leach Park under the bridge into the planned pollinator areas
- Promote recreation activities in greenspace

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Connect to Leach Park
- Plant and maintain trees and grass
- Add small water features
- Add benches
- Add a pedestrian overpass on Hwy 67
- Explore possibility to electrify the park

Table 6.26 – Urban Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	14.8 Acres
Walking Path	1



Veterans Memorial Park

1645 23rd Street

Veterans Memorial Park is south of Middle Park. As the second most visited park after Crow Creek Park, the Community Park is home to the Bettendorf Veterans Memorial, a shelter, a bandshell, ballfields, sand volleyball courts, a playground, a recreational trail, open space for soccer, disc golf, restrooms, and grills.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Develop a sustainable plan to maintain garden and landscaping at the Veteran Memorial site
- Establish additional shade structures
- Monitor the development of trees and plant new trees as necessary
- Repair or remove swamp sump pump and remove electric meter
- Remove volunteer trees along cattail bed

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

- Establish oak trees
- Renovate band shell
- Renovate shelter
- Renovate Disc Golf Course
- Increase illumination at the bandshell

Table 6.27 – Veterans Memorial Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	46.9 Acres
Ball Fields	3
Sand Volleyball Court	2
Picnic Shelters	1* (Pavilion)
Playgrounds	1
Restrooms	1
Drinking Fountains	1
Passive/Open Space	Yes

Amenities	Amount
Trails	1
Parking	150 Spaces
Disc Golf Course	1
Outdoor Art	1* (Military Veterans Memorial)
Bandshell	1
Sledding Hill	1
Gaga Pit	1

Map 6.28 — Veterans Memorial Park



Wessel Park

2720 Oak Street

Wessel Park is located in southern Bettendorf. Once an actual park with playground equipment and a basketball hoop, the Neighborhood Park is now green space wedged between residential development that receives very little, if any, foot traffic.

Short Term Considerations (0 – 5 Years)

- Reclassify as nature area/conservation/greenway

Long Term Considerations (6 – 10 Years)

Table 6.28 – Wessel Park Amenities

Amenities	Amount
Park Size	0.8 Acres
Natural	Yes
Bio-Swales and Rain Gardens	Yes

GLENN ST **Map 6.29 — Wessel Park**

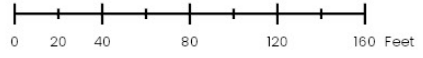


 Park Boundary

 Parcels

 Trail

 Corporate Limits



Operations and Maintenance

The Park Advisory Board is appointed by the mayor and members have three-year terms. It is the duty of the Park Advisory Board to discuss, review, and advise on policies concerning facilities, operations, department programs, and events. Funding for current parks and recreation opportunities is examined and approved by the Bettendorf City Council.

All Bettendorf Parks Maintenance employees ensure the upkeep of maintenance and safety at each park and facility while providing the best possible product to the residents. Current upkeep of maintenance and safety are a success and should continue. Usage of the parks systems has tremendously increased within the last decade. Parks are being used more and have new users. Without proper upkeep, parks will begin to see unmet maintenance needs.

Safety is an area in which both the Park Advisory Board and the Parks and Recreation Department would like to see increased funding. Since parks are being used more often, events like vandalism and property damage have increased. It is recommended that additional surveillance cameras be put in place as well as motion sensors. These additions would decrease unwanted acts in the parks.

Funding for utilities varies between each park. Splash pads are subject to higher utility costs. Having a variety of amenities throughout the parks will help balance utility costs.

The urgency of park clean-up after parties is a concern that needs to be addressed. Having staff members prepared to clean up once an event has concluded will eliminate the amount of litter disposed of in the parks.

Restrooms, shaded structures, and unified signage are also a huge need at all parks. All parks should have an ADA restroom facility. All parks should provide some shaded structures, especially parks that host summer camps. Unified signage was an idea mentioned by many at each steering committee meeting. These signs will help residents identify where Bettendorf parks are located and the signs will provide an aesthetic that connects to all of the parks.

Programming and Partnerships

Currently, the Bettendorf Park and Recreation Department administers numerous recreation programs for the community. Recreation programs are available to both active and passive recreation enthusiasts without discrimination to gender, physical ability, race, or any other demographic characteristic.

As Bettendorf's population has grown over the past decade, there have been several additions of new recreation opportunities within the Parks and Recreation Department. Table 6.30 highlights the seasonal recreation activities that are offered. Bookings for these activities have also increased due to the high demand. The department may need to consider expanding available bookings for their programs to meet the demand. Bookings have also increased for site rentals; shel-

ters, fields, and courts. The department should study the current booking system and determine if other park facilities can be added to bookings or expand booking times. The idea of reserving recreation space is a possible option. These areas would be select open green spaces that can be booked out for activities.

It is recommended that the Park Advisory Board work jointly with the local school officials in planning future recreational activities within the City of Bettendorf. Bettendorf residents could benefit from such cooperation. The partnership will open the opportunity for additional indoor facility rental. There are current opportunities for residents to use outdoor school facilities when school is not in session. Several parks are near schools, and there should be consideration on implementing unified signage across all parks that distinguishes what is school property and what is park property. Table 6.31 provides a list of public school recreation facilities made available by each school located in Bettendorf. Map 6.31 illustrates the location of each school park and its accompanying service area.

User experience is a crucial factor in how Bettendorf parks are perceived by residents. All Bettendorf Parks and Recreation Department employees are committed to providing the best user experience for their park visitors. Activities that enhance the user experience in parks include technology and beautification, such as murals and gardens.

Partnerships are another way to enhance user experience in the parks. The city could create

partnerships with the local school districts to help maintain park space. School and community clubs that have an interest in nature activities such as gardening and preservation could also be assistance with this. Partnerships would enhance community members' quality of life and their connections with the parks.

The city could also consider further partnerships with the YMCA. The Bettendorf YMCA is located near the Devils Glen Road and Tanglefoot Lane intersection. The YMCA offers many fitness classes that residents can use. If there is a high demand for a particular activity and requires additional recreation space, the partnership will allow activities to be added at the YMCA.

Living Lands and Waters is another partnership that could be enacted to help enhance natural areas in the parks, especially in flood-prone areas. The agency's efforts to "reestablish native, nut-bearing, hardwood trees along waterways and within communities" would benefit a number of parks, such as Eagle's Landing Park, Field Sike Park, Forest Grove Park, and Pigeon Creek Park.

Cross promotions at the parks would provide a great deal of marketing and outreach in the community. Hosting events would invite new visitors into the park system and increase park traffic. If events are being hosted by other entities at the parks, having a park employee present will ensure operations are running smoothly. Cross promotions lead to possible partnerships with other area agencies including United Way and Trees "R" Us.

As mentioned in the overall considerations for all parks, specialization is something the Parks and Recreation Department would like to heavily consider and possibly accomplish. This would establish specific parks to offer a specialization. For example, Crow Creek could have a specialization in baseball, whereas Forest Grove could specialize in hiking or other leisure activities. Forest Grove is Bettendorf's newest park and is near the new TBK Sports Complex. TBK opened in 2018 and is southwest of the I-80 Middle Road interchange. Forest Grove Park could provide visitors to TBK with a less intense, more natural setting. Table 6.29 outlines some fields and courts that TBK offers.

Table 6.29 – TBK Sports Complex Amenities

8 Indoor Court
1 Indoor Field
2 Outdoor Soccer Fields
10 Outdoor Baseball/Softball Fields
5 Outdoor Sand Volleyball Courts

Table 6.30 – Recreation Programs and Activities

Season	League	Age Group
Youth Leagues		
Spring/Summer/Fall	Bettendorf/PV Youth Baseball	Grade 1 – 9 & Ages 15 – 20
Summer	Co-Ed Coach Pitch Baseball	4 – 7 years
Summer	Co-Ed Coach Softball	4 – 7 years
Fall	Flag Football	6 – 10 years
Winter	Little All Stars Basketball	6 – 11 years
Spring/Fall	Youth Soccer	4 – 14 years
Adult Leagues		
Fall/Winter	Adult Basketball	18+
Spring/Summer	Adult Co-Ed Slow-pitch Softball	18+
Fall	Adult Co-ed Slow-pitch Softball	18+
Summer	Adult Kickball	18+
Summer	The Forge Putting League	18+
Golf		
Spring/Summer	Ladies Golf Clinics	18+
Spring/Summer	Men's Golf Clinics	18+
Spring/Summer	Palmer Hills After School Golf	8 – 13 years
Tennis		
Summer	Kickoff Tennis Camps (Tennis Tots)	5 – 12 years
Summer	Kickoff Tennis Camps (Intermediate/Advanced Junior)	12 – 18 years
Summer	Tennis (Beginners)	5 – 7 years
Summer	Tennis (Beginner/Intermediate)	8 – 18 years
Summer	Tennis (Advanced)	12+
Summer	Tennis (Top Guns Junior)	10 – 16 years
Summer	Tennis (Top Guns Elite)	13 – 17 years
Summer	Tennis Outdoor Adult Drop-In Clinic	18+

Season	League	Age Group
Other Sports		
Fall	Archery for Adults	17+
Summer	Challengers Soccer Camp	8 - 17 years
Summer	Explore Archery Camp	8 - 16 years
Summer	Learn Ultimate Frisbee	5 - 17 years
Spring	Little Hitters Baseball Clinic	6 - 12 years
Spring	Little Hitters Softball Clinic	6 - 12 years
Winter	Little Kickers Indoor Soccer	Pre K - 5 th grade
Spring	Little Poms Cheerleading Clinic	4 - 11 years
Winter	Little Kickers Soccer Clinic	4 - 8 years
Spring	Little Spikers Volleyball Clinics	6 - 12 years
Winter	Rookie Rugby Class	1 st - 8 th grade
Summer	Sports and Games	6 - 12 years
Winter	Skiing and Snowboarding Clinic at Snowstar	7+
Summer	Youth Pickleball Camp	8 - 15 years
Spring	Youth Running Camp	8 - 14 years
Spring	Youth Pickleball 102	10 - 14 years
Spring	Senior Pickleball 101	55+
Miscellaneous		
All Season	Adult-Child Half Pint Cooking Classes	Kids: 4 - 8, Adults: 18+
Spring/Summer	Babysitting For Success	10 - 14 years
All Season	Crocheting for Beginners	12+
Fall/Spring	Golf Cart Tours	All Ages
Fall/Winter	Junior Chefs Cooking Classes	6 - 12 years
Spring	Magicians Academy	All Ages
Winter	Mesmerica	6+
All Seasons	Miss. Ashley's Tumbling Classes	2.5 - 13 years
Spring /Summer	Safely Home Alone	8 - 12 years
All Season	Young Artists Paint Parties	7 - 14 years

Season	League	Age Group
Spring	Wine: Discover and Learn	21+
Fitness/Wellness Classes		
Spring	Golden Fit (Senior Fitness Class)	55+
Summer	Mississippi Valley Track Club	9 – 18 years
Summer	Senior Walks with Becky	55+
All Seasons	Yoga in the Park	Varies
Community-Wide Activities		
Summer	Bettendorf Park Band	High School +
Winter	Frozen Landing/Ice Skating Rink	All Ages
Summer/Fall	Healthiest State Walk	All Ages
Summer	Movies in the Park	All Ages
Spring/Summer	Storytime In the Park	All Ages
Winter	Winter Carnival	All Ages
Events for Those with Special Needs		
Fall	Country Hoedown Dance	All Ages
Spring	Spring Formal	18+
Spring	St. Patrick's Day Dance	All Ages
Summer	Summer Bash	All Ages




Table 6.31 – Public School Recreation Facilities

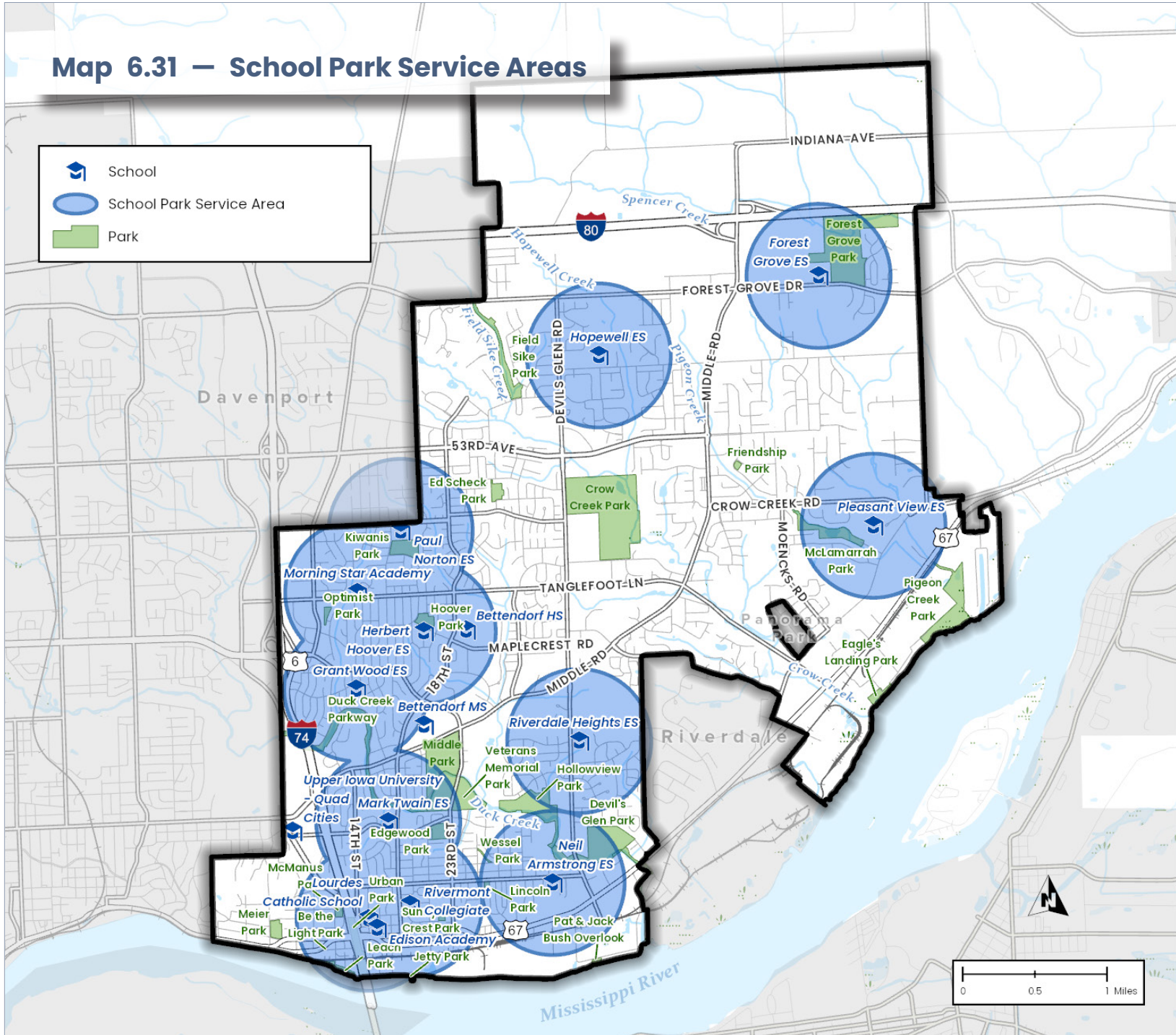
School	Location	Amenities
Bettendorf High School	3333 – 18 th Street	1 Football Stadium (Seats 6,000 & Equipped w/ 8-lane All-weather Track) 3 Athletic Practice Fields 1 Baseball Field 2 Softball Fields 1 Soccer Field 12 Tennis Courts 1 Indoor 50-Meter Swimming Pool 4 Basketball Courts 1 Weight Training Room 1 Wrestling Practice Room
Bettendorf Middle School	2030 Middle Road	4 Athletic Fields 6 Tennis Courts 6 Pickle Ball Courts 4 Indoor Basketball Courts 1 Weight Training Room
Neil Armstrong Elementary School	3311 – Central Avenue	3 Basketball Hoops 3 Playground Facilities 1 Indoor Gymnasium
Herbert Hoover Elementary School	3223 South Hampton Drive	3 Playground Facilities 4 Basketball Hoops 1 Indoor Gymnasium
Paul Norton Elementary School	4485 Greenbrier Drive	3 Playground Facilities 1 Playing Field 5 Basketball Hoops 1 Indoor Gymnasium

School	Location	Amenities
Mark Twain Elementary School	1620 Lincoln Road	2 Basketball Hoops 1 Playing Field 1 Softball Field 3 Playground Facilities 1 Indoor Gymnasium
Grant Wood Elementary School	1423 Hillside Drive	1 Playground Facility 2 Basketball Hoops 1 Playing Field 1 Indoor Gymnasium
Pleasant Valley High School	604 Belmont Road	1 Football Stadium (Seats 5,000 & equipped w/ 8-Lane All-weather Track) 2 Athletic Practice Fields ("The Pit") 1 Baseball Field 2 Softball Fields 1 Soccer Field 8 Tennis Courts 1 Indoor 25-Meter Swimming Pool 2 Indoor Gymnasiums 4 Basketball Courts 1 Weight Training Room
Pleasant View Elementary School	6333 Crow Creek Road	2 Playground Facilities 2 Baseball/Softball Fields 1 Playing Field 1 Indoor Gymnasium
Riverdale Heights Elementary School	2125 Devils Glen Road	4 Basketball Hoops 2 Playground Facilities 1 Baseball/Softball Field 1 Soccer/Open Play Field 1 Indoor Gymnasium

School	Location	Amenities
Hopewell Elementary School	3900 Hopewell Avenue	1 Indoor Gymnasium 3 Basketball Hoops 1 Playground Open Play Field
Forest Grove Elementary School	6100 Forest Grove Drive	1 Indoor Gymnasium 8 Tennis Courts 8 Pickleball Courts 3 Basketball Hoops 1 Playground

Map 6.31 — School Park Service Areas

-  School
-  School Park Service Area
-  Park



NRPA Guidelines

National standards are one way in which a community may compare their current parks and recreation facilities to those of other communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) has collected data from hundreds of park and recreation providers for decades. For much of that time, NRPA provided national standards as barometers for agencies to measure themselves. However, in recent years, the association has moved away from prescriptive measures toward guidelines that agencies can review to “identify areas of excellence and areas for potential improvement.” As the *2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review* states: “there is no one-size-fits-all solution for maintaining and improving a park and recreation agency.”

Bi-State Regional Commission completed an inventory of existing outdoor park and recreation facilities within the corporate limits of Bettendorf. The location of each area was identified, and facilities open and available to the public were noted for each location. When inventorying existing parks and recreation facilities, the total land acreage was determined. This inventory will serve the community in planning and implementing future park and recreation development and acquisition.

In the *2024 NRPA Agency Performance Review*, it found that for jurisdictions between 20,000 and 49,999 residents, the median number of residents per park was 2,062. Using Bettendorf’s 2020 population of 39,102, the city had 1,397 residents per park (including the two regional recreational trails, Duck Creek and the Mississippi River Trail), which is lower than the median peer agency. This suggests the city has a suitable number of parks per resident currently. Two factors should be noted with this figure: the make-up or type of park, such as Wessel Park, which does not see many visitors and may be reclassified as a natural area or greenway in the future, and the city’s expected population growth in coming years. As noted elsewhere in this plan, as the city grows, there will be an increasing demand for park and recreation opportunities.

Bettendorf has a strong balance of neighborhood and community parks, along with additional special areas and facilities. Table 6.32 offers insights into the desirable size and population served for the different classifications of parks. Table 6.33 lists the park names and acreage under their park function classification.

Table 6.32 – Standards by Classification and Population Ratio as Recommended by the National Recreation and Park Association

Classification	Acres/ 1000 Pop.	Desirable Size Range	Service Area	Bettendorf Comparison
Neighborhood Parks	1 – 2 acres/ 1000 pop	5 – 30 Acres	¼ to ½ mile (walking distance)	Bettendorf is currently served by 17 parks; 80 acres; 2.0 acres per 1,000 residents
Community Parks	5 – 8 acres/ 1000 pop	30 – 50 Acres	½ to 3 Miles	Bettendorf is currently served by 4 parks; 168 acres; 4.3 acres per 1,000 resi- dents
Large Urban Parks	Variable – no set standard	50 – 75+ Acres	Within ½ hr. Drive Time	Bettendorf is currently served by 2 parks; 232 acres; 5.9 acres per 1,000 residents
Special Use Parks	Variable – no set standard	Variable – depending on specialized use	Variable – usually with- in communities	Bettendorf is currently served by 5 parks; 134 acres; 3.4 acres per 1,000 residents

Source: National Recreation and Park Association

Neighborhood Parks – A neighborhood is often defined as the one-fourth to one-half mile service area from an elementary school and should contain enough persons to support the school facility. A neighborhood park is between five and thirty acres in size and is used both as a passive and active recreation area serving the immediate neighborhood. A neighborhood park may contain a playground that is an active recreation area primarily serving the needs of the five to thirteen-year-old age group. A neighborhood play field provides space for active play such as baseball and football for children, teenagers, and young adults and is commonly included in the development of a neighborhood park. Ease of access and walking distance are critical factors in locating a neighborhood park. A person's tendency to use a neighborhood park is greatly reduced if they per-

ceive it to be difficult to access, not within a reasonable walking distance, or if there are boundary restrictions such as main thoroughfares or difficult terrain to cross that may inhibit walkers from safely reaching the park.

Community-Wide Parks – A community-wide park serves a broader purpose than a neighborhood park. Its focus is meeting community-based recreation needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. A community-wide park is usually for both passive and active use with a recommended size of at least 30 to 50 acres. A community park should serve two or more neighborhoods, be serviced by arterial and collector streets, and be easily accessible throughout its service area. Parking lots should be provided as necessary to accommodate user access. Community-wide parks typically cover a

1/2 to 3-mile service area and are accessible by car, bicycle, or on foot.

Large Urban Parks – Large urban parks serve a broader purpose than community parks and are used when community and neighborhood parks are not adequate to serve the needs of the community. The focus is on meeting community-based recreational needs, as well as preserving unique landscapes and open spaces. The large urban park is usually a minimum of 50

acres, with 75 or more being optimal. They are typically within a half-hour drive time for users and usually serve the entire community. Adequate off-street parking should be available for users of these parks and their facilities.

Special Use Parks – Specialty use parks meet a niche recreational need for the community, such as a sports park or wilderness area.

Table 6.33 – Park Name and Size

Acreage	
Large Urban Parks	
Crow Creek Park	135.7
Forest Grove	95.8
Total Large Urban Parks	231.5
Community Parks	
Devils Glen Park	41.2
Middle Park	43.6
Veterans Memorial Park	46.9
Hollowview Park	36
Total Community Parks	167.7
Neighborhood Parks	
Be the Light	0.08
Eagles Landing Park	6.8
Ed Scheck Park	6
Edgewood Park	7.5
Friendship Park	1.4
Hoover Park	6.9

Acreage	
Jetty Park	.4
Kiwanis Park	13.1
Leach Park	6.1
Lincoln Park	1.7
McManus Park	3.9
Meier Park	6
Optimist Park	2.2
Pat and Jack Bush Scenic Overlook	0.87
Sunny Crest Park	1.2
Urban Park	15
Wessel Park	0.8
Total Neighborhood Parks	79.95
Special Use Parks	
Field Sike Park	18.8
McLamarrah Park	19.2
Duck Creek Parkway	54.9
Mississippi River Trail (MRT)	3.3 Miles
Pigeon Creek Park	41.1
Total Special Use Parks	134
Total All Parks	613.15

